

2023 Michigan-Israel Women in Mobility Delegation

October 28 - November 2, 2023



407 E. Fort Street, Suite 205, Detroit, MI 48226



Detroit, MI - USA



Tel Aviv - Israel

October 2023

Greetings, Mobility Delegation:

The Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA) is thrilled to welcome you as an integral part of the 2023 Michigan-Israel Women in Mobility Delegation! The current delegation for this mission represents a wide range of perspectives from the Mobility sector, aligning with an itinerary that is equally diverse.

Name	Organization	Title
1 Justine Johnson (co-chair)	State of Michigan	Chief Mobility Officer
2 Janine Ward (co-chair)	State of Michigan	Program Manager, Office of Future Mobility & Electrification
3 Britany Affolter-Caine	University Research Corridor	Executive Director
4 Yansong Chen	Ricardo	SVP of Global Technology & Strategy
5 Sarah Cicotte	Ann Arbor SPARK	Mobility Director
6 Ann Larson	Intermode	Co-Founder
7 Maureen Marshall	CALSTART	Senior Director, Midwest Region
8 Lauren Mattar	NextEnergy	Technical Project Manager
9 Michele Mueller	MDOT	Sr. Project Manager Connected and Automated Vehicles
10 Anindita "Anne" Partington	University of Michigan	Managing Director, Tauber Institute for Global Operations
11 Praveena Ramaswami	EAVX	Communications Manager
12 Victoria Shkreli Pacilli	Magna International	R&D Manager
13 Katie Soven	Newlab	Head of Membership, Detroit
14 Victoria Waters	MCITY	Assistant Director

The following pages provide an overview of the itinerary and additional guidance that covers an array of topics to help you prepare for this trade mission. Prior to departure, you will be provided a letter stating the purpose of your travel for you to include with your passport.

Thank you once more for joining us on this momentous mission. Together, we are building partnerships that will not only lead to more robust mobility solutions and further empower women in the mobility sector but also introduce you to innovative approaches that can bolster your organization's contribution to advancing the innovation ecosystem in Michigan and beyond.

Your Partner in Innovation,



Scott Hiipakka
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Israel Business Accelerator

Shalom and Welcome!

Below is some basic information to prepare for your trip to Israel.

Passports

We suggest that you keep a digital image of your passport on your phone with you at all times. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after your day of departure from Israel. Prior to departure, you will be provided a letter and itinerary to carry with your passport that outlines the purpose of your travel to Israel.

Visas

Passports of American citizens will be given a permit upon arrival in Israel.

Local Weather

Jerusalem

- At the end of October/beginning of November, the average high temperature is 80 degrees and the low is 56.

Tel Aviv

- At the end of October/beginning of November, the average high temperature is 85 degrees and the low is 63.
- For current local conditions, the delegation website has a link to the current weather forecast or consult your favorite weather app.

Time Zones

Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) to Israel Daylight Time (IDT) is a **7-hour time difference**.
9 AM EST = 4 PM IST

Hotels in Israel

- **Jerusalem**
The Mamilla Hotel - Shlomo ha-Melekh St 11, Jerusalem / Phone: +972-2-548-2200
- **Tel Aviv-Jaffa**
David Intercontinental Hotel - Kaufmann St 12, Tel Aviv-Jaffa / Phone: +972-3-795-1111

For Further Contact

- **Naomi Miller, Director of Israel Partnerships, MIBA** +97250-6337846
- **Liza Yedwab, Israel Operations, MIBA** +97252-8029829
- **Krista Siefert, Director of Operations, MIBA** +1-734-904-4837
- **Scott Hiipakka, CEO, MIBA** +1-248-303-4618

We Suggest You Bring the Following Items

- Two days of clothing in your carryon luggage, including your personal medications, in case of luggage delay
- Backpack for carrying whatever items you may need for the day
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Comfortable hat
- Light jacket
- Umbrella
- Bathing suit and workout clothes (pool and gym at the hotels); if going to the Dead Sea, bring waterproof shoes/sandals
- Sun block (SPF 30+)
- Over-the-counter meds (Tylenol, Dayquil, Band-Aids, etc.)
- If you use an EpiPen, please bring extra as there is a shortage in Israel.
- Travel adapters for smartphones, chargers and laptops; the UAE (plug type G) and Israel (plug type C and H). Both countries operate on a 230V supply voltage.
- Most of the buses on the trip will have a USB outlet, but to be sure that your phone is charged, we recommend that you bring a portable charger power pack.
- Snacks for yourself (granola bars, trail mix, etc.)
- Please note: Cannabis and CBD are not legalized in Israel and cannot be brought into the country

Mission Clothing Guidelines

When visiting religious sites such as the Western Wall or churches, it is advisable to avoid short skirts, above knee shorts, and sleeveless shirts. Women should cover their shoulders and knees when visiting these sites. When visiting Jerusalem, it's best to bring long, lightweight layers to cover up.

Day 1: Sunday, October 29, 2023

Arrival and dinner in Jerusalem: casual attire, comfortable clothing, and walking shoes. A light jacket or sweater should be accessible for the evening.

Day 2: Monday, October 30, 2023

Day of touring in Jerusalem: Casual attire for touring, comfortable clothing, and walking shoes for the day of touring in the Old City. Knee length shorts acceptable for holy sites. Long pants for women and shoulders covered. Smart Casual attire for dinner. A light jacket or sweater should be accessible for the evening.

Day 3: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Day of touring in Masada and Dead Sea: Casual attire for touring, comfortable clothing, and walking shoes. For the Dead Sea - waterproof shoes/sandals, bathing suit, hat, and sunscreen. Smart casual attire for dinner. A light jacket or sweater should be accessible for the evening.

Day 4: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Smart casual attire and comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the meetings. Comfortable walking shoes and casual clothing for the culinary tour in the evening.

Day 5: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Smart casual attire for the meetings. Comfortable travel attire in carry-on for overnight flight.

Other Important Tips

- The flights are quite comfortable, but some frequent travelers find that bringing the following in your carry-on bag will help: an over-the-counter sleeping aid (if you take Ambien please make sure you are comfortable taking it and have no adverse reactions), a book, change of clothes, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, hand cream, hand sanitizer, and an energy/snack bar.

Luggage

Regarding checked luggage:

- Delta First Class – 2 suitcases of 70 lbs and 62 inches
- Delta Coach – 1 suitcase of 50 lbs, 62 inches
- We recommend bringing a small day pack or backpack to carry around your daily essentials when touring: wallet, water bottle (Bottled water will be provided on the bus), camera, hat, etc. This bag can double as your carry-on for your flight.
- The bottom line is – PACK LIGHT!!
- Our experience has been that misplaced luggage (meaning that it does not arrive on the same flight as the group) is not common but can happen. The luggage usually arrives within a day or two. Nevertheless, it is recommended to pack 1-2 days of clothing in your carry-on.

Medications

If you take medication or will be taking medication while in Israel, you should bring that medication with you in your carry-on. It is also wise to have a copy of the prescription with you. If you generally carry medication without complete packaging, bring the page that explains the exact chemical makeup of the medicine and dosage.

Travel Insurance

Many of you may have purchased travel insurance with your plane ticket. You also may wish to purchase travel insurance that covers expenses not covered by airfare insurance. While we cannot endorse specific companies, some travel insurance options include battleface, Faye, and Travelex.

Health Insurance

Additionally, you may wish to check with your health insurance plan to ensure they offer international coverage. If you are not covered through your insurance, you may wish to purchase travel health insurance as well.

Eyewear

If you wear contact lenses, bring a pair of glasses for emergencies; the dust from the Israeli desert may present a problem with contacts. Lenses that can be chemically cleaned are most convenient. Furthermore, we suggest you bring your prescription with you in case of loss or damage.

Safety and Security

Our program is carried out in compliance with the strictest possible safety guidelines. While Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are considered safe cities to walk and tour on your own, please consult with Israeli staff before heading to an unfamiliar area.

Electrical Appliances

The electric current in Israel is 220-240 volts DC (In the US, it is 110 volts AC) single phase, 50 hertz.

Transformers that convert voltage are available at most electronics stores. Many appliances require special transformers. Smartphones and tablets are dual or universal voltage; for these appliances, only an adapter to Israel's electrical sockets is required.

Credit Cards and Cash

Credit cards are recommended for shopping and extra hotel expenses. If you plan to use your credit card at ATMs or when purchasing goods, it is advisable to inform your bank that you will be traveling abroad so that they don't block your usage. You will want money for gifts, extra snacks, and miscellaneous items.

The shekel (NIS - New Israeli Shekel) is Israel's legal tender. You can exchange money at the airport. We do not recommend using hotels to change your money due to their high exchange rate. The current rate is \$1 US = 3.66 NIS.

Tips and Gratuities

Please note that we will ask that you contribute to the gratuity for our bus driver for the week. The guideline would be \$10-\$15 for each of the 5 days of transportation so please bring \$50-\$75 in cash (US dollars are fine and even encouraged!). Gratuities will be collected during the week.

Food

The food in Israel will be slightly different from what you are used to, from the Middle Eastern falafel and shawarma to buffet-style breakfasts. Tasting other foods will hopefully become part of your Israel experience, so take this opportunity to explore a new cuisine. All meals are included in the program, including an extensive and creative daily "Israeli breakfast." We will do our best to accommodate any special dietary requests that you included in your registration form.

WhatsApp Group

- If you have not already done so, please download WhatsApp on your cell phone. This will be our main method of communication once the trip commences.

Delegation Website

- To find the itinerary, meeting briefings and bios, local weather, delegates, and delegation handbook, please visit the website mibaisraelmission.com.
- **We recommend adding the website as an icon to your phone for easy reference throughout your trip** (see directions below).

IPHONE:

1. Launch **Safari** app. *Please note that this does not work from the "Chrome" app.
2. Enter into the address field the URL of the website you want to create a shortcut to. Tap **Go**.
3. Tap the icon featuring a right-pointing arrow coming out of a box along the top of the Safari window to open a drop-down menu.
4. Tap **Add to Home Screen**. The "Add to Home" dialog box will appear, with the icon that will be used for this website on the left side of the dialog box.
5. Enter the name for the shortcut using the on-screen keyboard and tap **Add**. Safari will close automatically and you will be taken to where the icon is located on your iPad's desktop.

ANDROID:

1. Launch the Chrome app. *Please note that this does not work from the device's native web browser app.
2. Open the website or web page you want to pin to your home screen.
3. Tap the menu icon (3 dots in upper right-hand corner) and tap Add to Home Screen.
4. You'll be able to enter a name for the shortcut and then Chrome will add it to your home screen.

What to Expect When You're Connecting

If you've never had the chance to connect with Israelis in the past, this guide is intended to give you a quick overview of what you could expect to make sure the experience is a great one for all involved. Keep these tips in mind not only during this trip - but as you continue these relationships beyond the mission trip.

Time Difference: Israel is 7 hours ahead of the Eastern Standard Time Zone. Thus, meetings are best scheduled between 8AM and 10AM ET (3PM-5PM IL). Of course, Israelis are fully aware of this time difference and will often flex their schedules to accommodate meetings with Americans. Also note that while Israel does participate in Daylight Savings Time, they 'spring forward' a few weeks after the U.S. and fall back about a week earlier - so take care when scheduling meetings in March and the last week of October to ensure you are on the same page.

Work Week: The Israeli work week is Sunday through Thursday. Israelis don't do business on Friday or Saturday, as this is the Jewish Sabbath day. Keep that in mind when suggesting potential meeting days.

Dates: Israelis follow the European convention of Date-Month-Year when referencing dates. So, instead of September 13, they would write 13 September. This is usually straight-forward, just be wary of using the numerical notation of a date - where May 4th is 5/4 - to an Israeli it is 4/5. It's best to spell out the month to avoid confusion.

Holidays: It's a good practice to be cognizant of the various holidays celebrated in Israel. September can be a challenging month of the year to schedule meetings as many of their federal holidays take place then. Depending on how they fall on the calendar, there can be as few as 12 working days in the whole month. In addition, the days they celebrate in Israel are sometimes slightly different than the Jewish holidays celebrated in the U.S.

Videoconferencing (Zoom, Teams, GotoMeeting, etc) is encouraged over a phone call as the face-to-face aspect is valuable in not only establishing a connection but can also help understand each other's accents.

Attire: Dress casually. Israelis, other than politicians, rarely wear a suit and tie. A button-down shirt is sufficient for most meetings.

Israelis are generally quite direct in what they have to say. Openness and honesty are often valued. Direct personal questions are common and should not be taken as offensive. Expect business to be straightforward and emphasize the “bottom line.”

It's recommended not to discuss Israeli government, politics, or religious issues during a business meeting. However, listen carefully if your Israeli partner starts talking about these topics and try to remain neutral on the subject to avoid causing offense.

Respect the religious background of your business partner. Religious Jews, for instance, won't shake hands of members of the opposite sex in this way. When working with religious colleagues, it is important to be aware that they will not be available on the Sabbath (sundown on Friday until Saturday evening). It is customary to ask if there are special requirements when serving food or drink, as some Israelis observe the dietary laws of Kashrut (Kosher).

Don't be offended if an Israeli invades your personal space, stay where you are. Personal space is much smaller in Israel than in North America and Asia, and Israelis will put a hand on your shoulder or your arm during conversation. There is also more physical contact, and conversations often involve gestures and touching.

Israelis are very warm and honest. If they invite you out to dinner or to their home for a meal, they are being genuine.

Safe Travels! נסיעה טוב