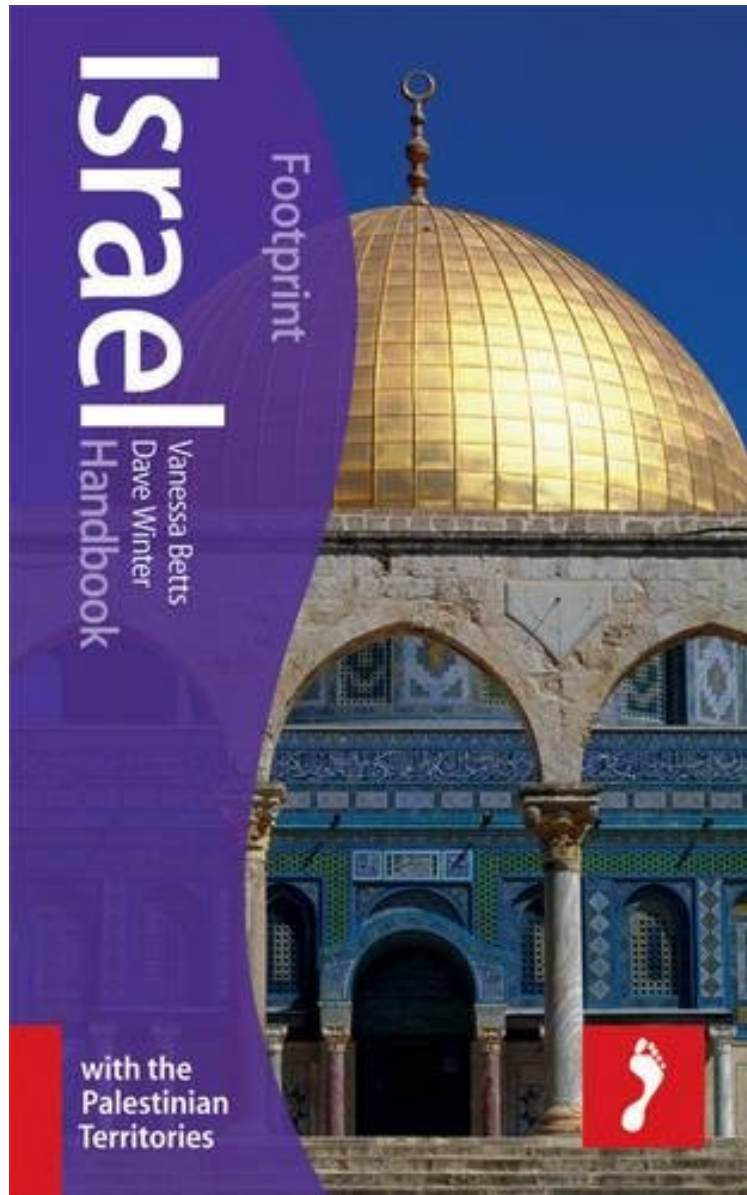


[Free] Israel Handbook, 3rd: Travel guide to Israel (Footprint - Handbooks)

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Vanessa Betts, Dave Winter
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Vanessa Betts, Dave Winter : Israel Handbook, 3rd: Travel guide to Israel (Footprint - Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Israel Handbook, 3rd: Travel guide to Israel (Footprint - Handbooks):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Thorough, Reliable, and Cultural/Religiously Conscious Travel Companion
By John
When planning my trip to Israel (and the territories), I scoured through every travel book I could find. While I did not have much information about this book, apart from the official preview, I decided to take a chance with the Footprint and I'm thrilled I did. The Footprint proved to be the most thorough travel book I have ever used (and I have a bookshelf dedicated to travel books). This book seemed to be the only travel book that acknowledged that most travelers to the region have a strong religious and/or cultural motivation for going. Many of the other travel books I looked at tried to write a travel book for the Holy Land the same way they do their books about Disney World, and it just does not work. The following are my pros and cons.
Pros: Thorough cultural and religious background information (Israeli, Palestinian, Jewish, Christian, Islam, Baha'i, etc.) Well organized - arranged by region with a summary table of contents at the beginning of each section Great maps and walk-throughs of dozens of main sites References religious texts when appropriate (to describe a religious site) - Tanakh/Old Testament, New Testament, Quran Detailed information of hundreds of sites Many tips and tricks included Hardback, Perfect size, narrow enough to drop into a cargo pocket Good sense of humor List decent variety of choices for food/lodging/sites
Cons: Lacks a language section - key phrases and words in Hebrew and Arabic would have been very helpful Lacks a site/restaurant/lodging ranking system (such as stars or "editors' picks") Street maps show names for only main roads (a complaint lodged against almost all Israel travel books, though a major one) UK English and abbreviations (if you speak US English) - Really only the occasional UK English abbreviation was an issue
Summary: All in all, this is one of the best travel books I have ever used. It is obvious that the writers spent a significant amount of time on the ground as well as in the library. I highly recommend it.
Background information of Reviewer: Young, international travel-enthusiast, Christian, and budget-conscious. *Though it must be stated that it is impossible to write a book about the Holy Land (or anything for that matter) without one's personal biases showing through, the authors go to great extent to limit this. In my opinion (biased as well), the bias really only shows up in the quantity of information, rather than the quality of it. That is, the sections covering Judeo-Christian sites seem to be more expansive and detailed than those of Muslim origin. Considering that the book targets a western audience, this should not present a problem to most readers.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Travel Guide and historical resource...
By RangeRyder
This is an excellent "touring" book. Small enough to put in a handbag, or knapsack. Well documented, laid out and informative. I have found it to be very historically accurate. Probably the best planning guide to lay out a trip to Israel. Israel is a changing country from an archeology perspective and am awaiting the next release of the book to see what places I can plan for my next trip. I have several "tour books" of Israel, none of them can be compared to this book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Cheryl
FABULOUS BOOK!!!

A tiny country of outstanding natural beauty and incredible history and heritage, Israel has been charming visitors for years. Whatever draws you to this fascinating destination, Footprint's Israel Handbook has it covered. Having been missing from the bookshelves for sometime, it has been fully revised and updated, providing comprehensive coverage on where to eat, sleep and party, all the best sights and just how to get around this tiny country. The guide opens with a beautiful colour section full of inspirational photographs and advice to help you plan your trip giving you a flavour of the best things to see and do. The guide then includes carefully selected itineraries giving you advice on how to get the best out of your stay whether you're travelling for a week or a month. From the rolling green hills of Galilee, to the barren landscape of the Negev desert this guide provides extensive, thoroughly researched information which will help you plan your trip as well as advise you on the ground. The Essentials section provides great advice on how to get there and how to get around as well as information on sleeping, eating, drinking and shopping giving you an idea of what you can expect to pay. The heart of the guide is broken in to the key regions of Israel Jerusalem, West Bank, Dead Sea Region, The Negev, Gaza, Tel Aviv/Jaffa, Mediterranean Coastal Strip, Haifa the North Coast, Galilee, The Golan - and gives you comprehensive information on each of the regions. Each regional section has an overview map, local information on how to get around with transport and street maps where relevant, a short history of the region, thorough advice on what to see and do and a directory of key local information on banks, embassies, internet cafes, medical and even laundry services. There is a full-colour mini atlas which has maps of each region to help you get your bearings. Whether you want a sun-and-sea beach break, are on a religious pilgrimage searching out spirituality, have your backpack strapped on and a limited budget in your pocket, or are a fitness fanatic craving strenuous hiking and biking, Israel really does have it all and Footprints fully updated 3rd edition will show you how to make the most of your trip.

About the Author
Vanessa Betts is a writer and editor from England. She went to India in 1997, as the first stop on a round-the-world ticket, and then found out that nowhere else could quite compare. After time spent living and working in Australia, Egypt and England she has been based in India, chiefly in Kolkata, since March 2006. Vanessa now lives in Israel.