

20-08-2009

Mr. Noaz Bar Nir  
Director General  
Israel Ministry of Tourism

משרד  
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**RE: CLARIFICATION ON TOURISM PASSAGE BETWEEN  
ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

During the past few days articles have been published regarding the above and we have received many questions asking if tourists visiting the Palestinian Authority could visit Israel and vice versa.

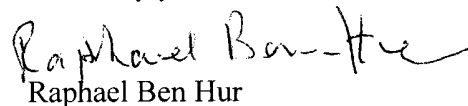
We checked these issues with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the clarification that we received from the Director of the Border Control and Crossings Department in the Ministry of Interior, *A tourist stating at the border that his entrance is to areas under the control of the 'Palestinian Authority only' will have his passport stamped with this stipulation. A tourist stating that he wishes to enter Israel and the Palestinian Authority will have his passports stamped as a regular tourist, which is a B2 Visa.*

The significance of this is that there are no limitations on tourism travel and tourists receive the visa type according to what they state.

In addition, such restrictions do not apply to those landing at Ben Gurion Airport and are relevant only to those arriving through the Allenby Bridge.

As such, there is no hindrance to tourism passage in Israel and the tourism sites in Bethlehem and Jericho. On the contrary, we see a continual rise in the number of tourists to these sites.

Sincerely yours,



Raphael Ben Hur

Senior Deputy Director General  
Of Operations, Standardization and Quality of Tourism

Cc:  
H.E. Stas Misezhnikov, Minister of Tourism  
Mr. Ami Etgar, Director General of the IITA  
Mr. Oren Drori, Senior Deputy Director General of Marketing and Head of the Marketing Administration  
Mr. Ram Listman, Deputy Director of Operations  
Mr. Pini Shani, Deputy Director of Marketing  
Ms. Nancy Shedlaz, Director of Tourism Facilitation