

# ROYAL BEACH HOTEL PAMPERS TRAVELLERS AT TEL AVIV SEASIDE



ROCHELLE LASH  
*Hotel Intel*

Royal Beach Hotel Tel Aviv is an architectural standout along the city's dynamic Mediterranean beachfront promenade.

It's the flagship of Isrotel's Exclusive Hotels, which is an upgraded fleet of spa and cuisine establishments in compelling locations.

Royal Beach's design focuses on light and space, especially in the three-storey lobby.

It's an Isrotel, which is one of Israel's top-rated chains, so service and cleanliness are next to godliness, and guests' requests and comments are treated seriously. The food is outstanding — fresh, creative and made with love.

**The scene:** A superior, full-service hotel, Royal Beach is popular for the Carmel Forest Spa and lots of dining and drinking at West Side Restaurant, Kitchen and Bar, as well as the Gin Bar TLV and the outdoor Chill Out Café.

The hotel has 230 contemporary suites and rooms with mesmerizing views of either the sea or the urban landscape of Tel Aviv. Most have balconies and some upgraded rooms have access to the 18th-floor Executive Lounge and the spa's Turkish bath and sauna. Both are valuable perks.

The Executive Lounge is a tranquil area with balconies overlooking the Mediterranean, and it's reserved for ages 18 and over. It has an open bar with a

cocktail of the day, specialty coffees and a buffet of garden-fresh salads, cured salmon, cheeses, hot dishes and pastries, updated throughout the day, and prepared in its own kitchen.

At centre stage, Royal Beach's pool and kids' pools are shaded but surrounded by a sun-lit, wraparound deck.

The Royal Beach also is a cultural standout for its DigiArt exhibition of about 600 works — photography, videos, animation and prints — by talented young Israeli artists. Yes, everything is for sale.

One showpiece titled Storm of Brains is a large sculpture of human arms reaching skyward from a chess board, which is meant to say that we're still better than AI.

**Dining:** Like most hotel restaurants in Israel, Royal Beach is kosher, so dairy and meat are served in separate restaurants, and on Fridays and Saturdays they serve only Sabbath meals.

The West Side Restaurant, Kitchen and Bar is a delight, with the scenic backdrop of the beach and sea across the street. The Mediterranean dinner menu features mackerel tartare, roasted eggplant, beef carpaccio, sweetbreads, grouper, lamb chops and steak.

The Gin Bar TLV is for mixology, mingling and a casual fish/dairy menu of bruschetta, fish 'n' chips, cheese tortellini and pizza. One stellar spirit is Akko Gin from the craft distillery Jullius in Kibbutz Hanita in the Galilee. Bartenders add botanicals like cinnamon, coriander or red chili for distinctive drinks like the Diamond Fizz with lemon and the Clover Club with red berry purée.

West Side's breakfast is an extravaganza: Nespresso coffee,



Royal Beach Hotel Tel Aviv, at right, is the flagship of Isrotel's Exclusive Collection. Its upscale rooms offer guests some stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea. ROYAL BEACH HOTEL TEL AVIV

eggs benedict with salmon, brioche French toast, plus popping fresh fruit and salads, and baskets of pastries and cheesecakes that would make any baking expert jealous.

Mediterranean delicacies include shakshuka, tahini, cured salmon, herring, cheese pies and dates.

The ChillOut Bar is a pool-side source for a perky Mango Margarita plus bites like salmon skewers and the Heat and Spice platter of garlic and chilis.

**Spa life:** A wellness sojourn starts with sauna and steam rooms at the hotel's Carmel Forest Spa, and winds up with spa treatments like Swedish or hot stone massages, reflexology and aromatherapy. The Short & Sweet series offers restorative neck-and-shoulder or foot massages.

**Nearby:** The long, beautiful stretch of Tel Aviv's Mediterranean beach is a main draw, and

## IF YOU GO

Air Canada flies non-stop, Montreal to Tel Aviv (YUL-TLV, up to four times a week) and Toronto to Tel Aviv (YYZ-TLV, up to seven days a week, depending on season). Signature Class has lie-flat seats. Bell offers new free messaging for Aeroplan members on most flights (aircanada.com).

**Royal Beach Hotel Tel Aviv:** 03-7405000, isrotel.co.il; 19 Hayarkon St. (Herbert Samuel Boardwalk), Tel Aviv, Israel. Accessible. Kosher. Isrotel Exclusive also includes Beresheet Hotel at the Ramon Crater, Orient in Jerusalem, Cramim Spa & Wine Hotel

in the Jerusalem Hills vineyards; Carmel Forest Spa Resort, south of Haifa; and Mitzpe Hayamim in Galilee's farmland.

**Prices fluctuate and are approximate:** from \$470 CND (summer rates might be higher); including in-room Nespresso, bottled water, evening turn-down, pools (April-Oct.), gym, synagogue. Extra: spa sauna/steam, approx. \$18 CND (Executive Rooms have free access); 24-hour in-room dining; business services. Watch for last-minute specials.

**Israel tourism:** goisrael.com

there are surfing and paddleboarding at centres like Galim Surf School at Gordon Beach (galimsurf.com).

The renowned Carmel Market is a half-kilometre away, and other neighbours include the quaint, artsy district of Neve Tzedek,

home to restaurants, bars and the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theatre; HaTachana, an old train station now housing restos, bars and festivals; Old Jaffa; and famous Rothschild Boulevard, bordering the White City treasure of Bauhaus buildings.



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- ✓ WITH THE MOTHER
- ✓ KETO FRIENDLY
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★★★★★

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- Paula

★★★★★

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- Wendy



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