

Getting to the Dead Sea

While being a major attraction for tourists, the Dead Sea suffers from a somewhat limited accessibility using public transport, so some pre-planning is advised. Here are some pointers:

From Ben-Gurion International Airport, take a train to Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

From Tel Aviv there are three main options:

1. A direct bus (line 421) departing from the bus terminal adjacent to the *Tel Aviv-Savidor Merkaz* train station (platform A10) twice a day.
2. A train to *Be'er Sheva Merkaz* followed by a bus (line 384) from the adjacent central bus station five times a day.
3. A train to *Lehavim-Rahat* followed by a bus (line 400) once an hour (coordinated with train times, but note that this bus serves the hotel area only)

From Jerusalem, Bus line 486 operates approximately once an hour (depending on the time of day). Line 444 is also possible, but less recommended.

There are very few ways of getting to the Dead Sea during evenings and nights. Last bus departures are 15:35 (line 384 from Be'er Sheva), 16:45 (line 486 from Jerusalem), and 19:45 (line 400 from Lehavim-Rahat). After these hours, expensive taxis are the only option.

Arriving at the airport early in the morning? Consider taking the night bus (Line 469) directly from the airport to Be'er Sheva and continue with Line 384 departing from Be'er Sheva at 6:20.

Please make notice that bus drivers in Israel no longer accept cash. You will need to pre-purchase a plastic *Rav-Kav* card and upload it with cash before your journey. Alternatively, apps (Moovit and HopOn) allow paying with your smartphone.

For more information and up-to-date timetables of public transport in Israel, consult <https://bus.gov.il/?language=en#/>.

Important! Opening and public transport hours

The Jewish weekend is Friday through Saturday, with the workweek starting on Sunday. The Sabbath begins on Friday at sunset and ends on Saturday at sunset. Therefore, all public services (including public transport) and most businesses close in Friday afternoon. Some (e.g., public transport) reopen on Saturday after sunset, but many others (mostly small businesses) open only on Sunday morning. Hotels and most businesses in the Dead Sea hotel area operate as normal or almost as normal during the Sabbath. Additionally, note that public transport is exceptionally crowded on Sundays before 10:00.