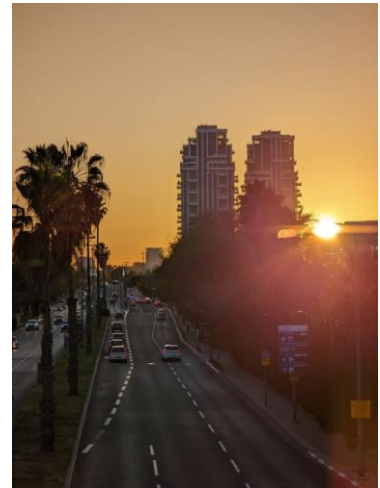


Report Israel

I attended Tel Aviv University (TAU) for one semester in the summer semester of 2023. But before it started, you had to fight a little through all the organizational stuff, which seems like a lot at first, but since you can't do everything at once anyway, it spreads out well and I can say this much in advance, it was definitely worth it.

One week before I started my studies I went to Tel Aviv, where I lived in a community house in Jaffa, the old part of Tel Aviv. The location was awesome in many ways, as you could be at the beach in 3 minutes, in Old Jaffa in a few minutes and in the flea market district, where there were many cute little alleys and a very relaxed atmosphere with many cafes, bars and restaurants. Also Florentin, the alternative/hipster neighborhood was 10 minutes walking distance. There are many young people and also many cool bars clubs and restaurants. The only downside was that TAU was 10 km away to the north, which means at least a 45 minute bus ride (depending on traffic) or about 35 minutes by bike.



Otherwise, I'm a person who always has a bit of a hard time with new people and making new friends, but in Tel Aviv it went almost more or less by itself. Whether in the university or in the house where I lived, there were a lot of cool people who were all different but I'm sure everyone will find like-minded people in Tel Aviv.

The university itself had a very nice, but also large and at the beginning a bit confusing campus, but after 2-3 weeks you find your way around. There were also events on campus every few weeks, ranging from concerts to markets or theme weeks (e.g. Mexican week with food stands and Mexican music). In my courses I liked some better than others, but in general I can say that all the professors I had made an extremely educated impression and I perceived them as very good lecturers. I can highly recommend the course "Psychological Challenges of Families" by Dr. Ilan Tabak Avram to anyone studying something social or going towards psychology.

But even so, the effort for the university was moderate, except for the exam period of course, which allowed you to travel a lot in the country and also to get more familiar with Tel Aviv. The first 4 weeks we were in Tel Aviv on the weekends, checking out the city and the bar and club scene. On the weekends after that we almost always went on excursions. Since the country is not very big you have the possibility to go everywhere in the country and it is even worth it if you only have 2 days because the travel times are not that long. Of course Tel Aviv is the perfect location for this. And you have everything from ski areas, to field landscapes, to beaches, to deserts. My favorites were the Golan Heights, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, as it is just something unique.

We had 2 weeks of Passover, or Easter vacation, and used the time to go to Jordan, which takes about 6 hours from Tel Aviv. Jordan is also a very beautiful and special country. The highlights were Petra and Wadi Rum, a red desert area where we slept in a cave and had the clearest starry sky at night that I have ever seen. Also highly recommended (the whole country)!

One weekend we also went to the Sinai, which already belongs to Egypt but was also very impressive and perfect for diving and snorkeling.

I also think that you should take a look at the Palestinian cities and make your own impression on the spot. It also helped me to understand the whole conflict better, because in Israel you only get one side and the Palestinians tell you the whole thing from their point of view.

A not so nice experience I had then also and namely were attacked after the Easter / Passover vacations Tel Aviv from rockets from the Gaza Strip. This was very scary at first, as I had never experienced anything like it before, but when you see how calm and relaxed the Israelis are about it, it calms you down too. In Israel they have the Iron Dome, which is the world's best missile defense system and you really only have to protect yourself from the pieces of debris that can fall down.

In itself, you can say Tel Aviv is a city where there are a lot of young and international people and you never get bored because there is always something going on.

