



LET'S VISIT ISRAEL

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This board book introduces very young children to Israel through the various ways by which people are transported through the country.

ABOUT THE PLACES MENTIONED

Ben Gurion Airport

Israel's international airport, located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, is named after Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion.

Jerusalem

The capital of Israel, Jerusalem, which means City of Peace, is home to more than 700,000 people. The "Old City" is located in the walled eastern section of the city and includes the Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian Quarters. The Jewish Quarter is home to the Western Wall, the retaining wall and last remaining piece of the Second Temple (destroyed in 70 C.E.).

Kibbutz

Kibbutz is Hebrew for "collective settlement." While the *kibbutzim* (plural) of the past were often based on a system of shared property and centered on agriculture, many have left their socialist roots and have expanded to include other types of industry, such as textiles.

Beersheva and Eilat

Beersheva is the 5th largest city in Israel and the largest city of the Negev -- the desert in Israel's south. Eilat is the port city at the southern tip of Israel, bordering the Red Sea.

Masada and The Dead Sea

Built by the Roman King Herod as a winter getaway, Masada is an archeologically-rich fortress perched atop

a plateau south of Jerusalem. In 73 C.E., a group of Jews sought shelter there from Roman troops. It borders The Dead Sea, which is so salty that it causes people to float and is uninhabitable by fish.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Let's Visit Israel is a delightful board book which yields a great deal of information about Israel through its text and pictures.

With very young children, point out:

- types of transportation --airplane, bus, tractor, boat, car, cable car and camel -- seen throughout the book.
- colors of the countryside (gray concrete, reddish brown hills, green grass, blue sea, etc.).
- various ways of getting around (flying, driving, riding, floating, walking, etc.).

Older children may enjoy:

- talking about Israel's unique landscapes (hills, old cities, lush greenery, water, desert, ancient fortresses, and, of course, The Dead Sea)
- discussing which of these places they would most like to visit as a family.
- discovering more about the places pictured.
- finding the places mentioned on a map of Israel.
- coloring a map of Israel.
- helping you make Israeli foods.
- learning about the history and construction of Ben Gurion airport.