ISRAEL



Source: esri

General

Israel - officially the State of Israel - is located on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has land borders with Lebanon in the North, Syria in the Northeast, Jordan in the East, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the East and West, respectively, and Egypt in the Southwest. Israel has an area of 2.21 Mha (million hectares) with, in 2024, a population of 9.4 million, which means 4.3 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2024).

Climate and geography

Despite its small size, temperatures in Israel vary widely, especially during the winter. Coastal areas, such as those of Tel Aviv and Haifa, have a Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers. The area of Beersheba and the Northern Negev have a semi-arid climate with hot summers, cool winters, and fewer rainy days than the Mediterranean climate. From May to September, rain in Israel is rare (source: Wikipedia).

Israel is located in the Levant area of the Fertile Crescent region. It is home to a variety of geographic features, from the Negev Desert in the South to the inland fertile Jezreel Valley, mountain ranges of the Galileo, Carmel and towards the Golan in the North. The coastal plain on the shores of the Mediterranean is home to most of the nation's population. East of the Central Highlands lies the Jordan Rift Valley, which forms a small part of the Great Rift Valley. The Jordan River runs along the Jordan Rift Valley, from Mount Hermon through the Hulah Valley and Lake Tiberius to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the surface of the Earth. Further south is the Arabah, ending with the Gulf of Eilat, part of the Red Sea (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

According to the Group Polder Development (1982) polders exist north of Lake Tiberias. With a surface levels of 190 - 210 m-MSL. This are most probably the lowest polders on Earth.

General characteristics of the polders in Israel are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

Location of the polders in Israel as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polders in Israel is shown in Figure 1.

There are no pictures by Prof. Adriaan Volker or by Prof. Bart Schultz.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands

Henkin, E. 1987. *Twenty-five years of drainage in Israel*. In: J. Vos (ed.). Twenty-five years of drainage experience. Proceedings, Symposium 25th International Course on Land Drainage, 24-28 November 1986. International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement (ILRI) and International Agricultural Centre (IAC). Wageningen, the Netherlands.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2024. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2024 revision*. New York, USA.



Figure 1. Location of the polders in Israel (source: esri – Batavialand)

Bart Schultz

Lelystad, October 2026

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Israel

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Polders north of Lake Tiberias			RLL	32° 54' N	35° 37' E	-210	Agriculture
Total							

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake