Lonely Planet

Hebrew

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

Contact lonelyplanet.com/contact

acknowledgments

This 3rd edition of Lonely Planet's *Hebrew phrasebook* is based on the previous edition by the Lonely Planet Language Products team and authors Justin Ben-Adam (Rudelson) and Ilana Wistinetzki.

about the authors

Justin Ben-Adam (Rudelson), formerly Justin Jon Rudelson, was born in Beverley Hills, California. He is also the author of Lonely Planet's *Central Asia phrasebook*. He holds a doctorate in Social Anthropology from Harvard University, and speaks more than 20 languages.

Much of Rudelson's work has pursued bridging relations between Israel and China. This is appropriate, since Xinjiang, China, where Rudelson has done extensive work with the Uyghur Muslims, lies halfway between Beijing and Jerusalem. He introduced Israeli irrigation systems to the deserts of China, helped retrieve the remains of an Israeli tourist from the Xinjiang–Tibet border, initiated research missions of Chinese desert scientists to Israel, and brought about the first Hebrew language courses ever taught in China, at Beijing University. But his greatest accomplishment and joy is the bridge of love he has built with his wife, Chelle.

While working in China in 1985, Rudelson met Ilana Wistinetzki, the only Israeli student in China, while she was studying at Beijing University. They shared the same hope for bridging China–Israel relations, and both rode their bicycles though the streets of China singing Hebrew songs at the top of their lungs. As fate would have it, Ilana later went on to teach Beijing University's Hebrew courses. Over the years they have kept in touch, sharing wild tales of Israel's oft-times bizarre waltz with China. Their co-authorship of this book is yet another chapter in this unfolding saga.

Ilana Wistinetzki was born in Tel Aviv and grew up in Givataim. At age 27 she exchanged the Mediterranean spell with the charms of Paris, where she went to study Chinese. She has been a student of Chinese ever since.

from the authors

In his odyssey with the Hebrew language, which began at age 20, Justin gives his greatest thanks to Rabbi Michael Paley, his rebbi while he was an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. Rabbi Paley filled him with the desire to learn the language of his wandering

ancestors and with the joy of Jewish learning, even when all he could do during worship services was to rock back and forth in his chair, smile and hum.

In Israel, Justin's tremendous love goes to Monette, Christian, Moshe and Keren Seboun, who gave him a home in the Holy Land and welcomed him from his wanderings abroad with hearts filled with love and understanding. He gives his thanks to those who helped him recover the Hebrew language lost during the Jewish Diaspora to his ancestors. These include Ulpan Akiva in Netanya, Dana Stern, and especially Ronit Feingold. He gives his huge khibukim to the entire Feingold family of Nataf, including Haim, Ronit, Daniel, Tal and Irit. They invigorated his love of Hebrew during his stay in New Orleans and in Israel taught him that his destiny is to be a citizen of the world. May melakh rats forever!

Justin's contribution to this book is dedicated to his wife, Chelle 'Che' Rudelson, who is the love of his existence.

The opportunity to work with Justin, whom Ilana Wistinetzki first met in Beijing in 1985, was her greatest motivation to embark on this project. But her part in this book could not have been accomplished without the help of very dear and close friends. Peter, her charming prince who, not least, cracked off-handedly the mysteries and vagaries of the software; Talya, who always remembered the words she didn't; her brother Yoram and nephew Idan, who updated her on idioms; Susan her enthusiastic student and friend who, together with Noa, provided a list of dishes; and, last but not least, Cristina in Paris, who needs to refresh her Hebrew vocabulary.

She dedicates this book in memory of her father, Johanan Wistinetzki, whose love for languages was second only to his love of music.

acknowledgments