

# The Holy Land's best budget bites

One of the best things about Tel Aviv is its gastronomy; it's full of eclectic dishes from around the world, some found in tiny eateries hidden in the city's markets.

Text and photos by Cindy-Lou Dale

➔ Tel Aviv can be a pricey city, but hidden in the cracks is a vibrant scene of budget eateries that reflect the diverse cultural and culinary landscape. Skip the tourist traps and explore Tel Aviv like a local—here are 13 tables where you'll enjoy delicious meals, spending just a few shekels.

## PORT SAID, STREET FOOD

Har Sinai 5 (next to the Great Synagogue)

If you are looking for a restaurant that represents Tel Aviv, Port Said is it—a buzzing hipster atmosphere, a DJ tucked into a corner, and a delicious take on middle-eastern food. The menu changes daily and includes sharing portions of freshly-sourced local food, served with dollops of rich and creamy tahini sauce.

## VITRINA, BURGERS

54 Ibn Gabirol

Topped with arugula, purple beet ketchup and creamy, garlic mayo, Vitrina has the best gourmet burger I've ever eaten. Their fries are a combination of regular and sweet potato fries topped with herbs, spices and lemon zest. If that doesn't get your juices going, try one of their 14 varietal sausages.

## CAFE XOHO, INTERNATIONAL CAFÉ

Gordon 17

This is a local gem tucked into a Tel Aviv side-street with laid back funky art, a sleepy house cat and an eclectic chalkboard menu with listing of comfort foods and a juice bar. Their vegan "mushroom bacon" has a bit of a cult following. Be sure to try their delicious all-day breakfast and of course their famous cookies!

## THAI HOUSE, THAI FOOD

Bograshov 8

If you're looking for an authentic Thai dining experience, this is it. The



Some of these are typical "hole-in-the-wall" joints; others need finding. When you're searching for that perfect bite, slow down and look around—you might miss out on something delicious.

restaurant itself makes you feel like you are on a remote Asian beach. The food perfectly satisfies any craving with its extensive menu and great exotic drinks. Best is to go with some friends and order everything to share.

## HAPIZZA, ITALIAN FOOD

Bograshov 51

There is no way you can walk through HaPizza (which is always packed) without getting an instant craving for a cheesy slice. Their thin-crust pizzas are delicious, perfectly seasoned and dressed in delicious, Italian sauce and contemporary toppings. No wonder they're known as one of the best restaurants in Tel Aviv.

## BENEDICT, ALL-DAY BREAKFAST

Rothchild 29

This is a breakfast institution that serves breakfast 24/7. Remember to book in advance or be prepared to queue. Benedict's is jam-packed with every single comfort food possible: whether it is towering pancakes, eggs Benedict, French toast or shakshuka, here breakfast knows no boundaries.

## MEZCAL, MEXICAN FOOD

Chaim Vital 2

Mezcal is probably the most original Mexican food you'll get in Tel Aviv (as explained by a fellow Mexican diner). Their food is delicious; their mojitos magical; salsas are just what you want; with fun vibes, set in a casual atmosphere. Try some of their exotic dishes!

## KITCHEN MARKET, FUSION FOOD

12 Hangar, Shuk HaNamal

Kitchen Market is a contemporary fusion restaurant found above the farmers' market in Port. This market-to-table restaurant serves up seasonal dishes bursting with creative gourmet cuisine.

## MOON SUSHI, SUSHI BAR

Bograshov 50 and Pinsker 30

If you are looking for exotic sushi combinations, check out Moon. Their menu is extensive and portions are small so you'll get to taste many new flavors. Sushi is delivered via a conveyor belt, which is a great solution if you're not sure what to order, or you don't want to wait too long. On Sunday's every conveyor belt dish has a fixed price of 12 NIS.



**ANASTASIA, VEGAN RESTAURANT**  
Frishman 54

Voted "Best Vegan Restaurant in Tel Aviv," Anastasia has a delicious and nutritious breakfast with loads of tasty dips, nutritious salads and incredible cakes. Everything is in super-abundance: from space to light, to the health-savvy staff and the extensive vegan menu.

**DALLAL, MEDITERRANEAN,**  
Shabazi 10

Dallal, a beautiful hideaway, is known for their special breakfasts. The atmosphere is relaxed and the décor, meticulous. The food choices are simple, but with a delicious gourmet twist that reflects its surroundings. For to-go treats, stop at the Dallal Bakery.

**GOOCHA, SEAFOOD,**  
Dizengoff 171

This is the place for lovers of seafood. The menu ranges from light and fresh to well-seasoned and decadent. It is one of the few places in Tel Aviv where you can get good seafood at a fair price. It's popular among the locals, so you may need to indulge in some window shopping while you wait for a table. Do Belgium waffles with caramelized bananas for dessert!



**VONG, VIETNAMESE FOOD**  
Rothschild 15

As the first Vietnamese kitchen in Tel Aviv, Vong is an authentic addition to the culinary scene. Always with a lively crowd, Vong is full of energy and great food from an extensive menu covering everything from wild and spicy to mild and delicious.

Some of these are typical "hole-in-the-wall" joints; others need finding. When you're searching for that perfect bite, slow down and look around—you might miss out on something delicious. ❖



Get tasty in Tel Aviv and get your Hebrew on. WOW air now offers cheap flights to Israel from the USA and Canada up to four times a week, all year round.

**WOW** Curious about our new service to Tel Aviv? Go to [wowair.com](http://wowair.com) and find out more about our flight schedule and available connections. Our inaugural flight to Tel Aviv is September 12.



**APOTEK**  
KITCHEN+BAR

**THE HOME  
OF ICELANDIC  
SEAFOOD  
AND LAMB**

APOTEK Kitchen+Bar is a casual-smart restaurant located in one of Reykjavik's most historical buildings. We specialize in fresh seafood and local ingredients prepared with a modern twist.

APOTEK KITCHEN+BAR // Austurstræti 16 // 101 Reykjavik // [apotek@apotekrestaurant.is](mailto:apotek@apotekrestaurant.is) // [apotek.is](http://apotek.is)

