



EL ALs History

- EL AL was established in 1948 as the national airline of Israel and since then has become a prestigious international carrier.
- In September 1948 EL AL operated its festive maiden flight, bringing home Israel's first President, Professor Haim Weizmann, from a diplomatic visit to Geneva. As the Swiss did not allow military planes to land in its territory, the young company embarked on a whirlwind operation that successfully converted a military Skymaster DC-4 into a civilian aircraft. "Rehovot" was the name given to the plane that opened the era of EL AL's civilian flights.
- One year later the airline began to operate commercial flights to Rome and Paris. Before that, however, in early 1949, it took part in Operation Magic Carpet, which brought the Jews of Yemen to Israel. EL AL owes its name to David Remez, the first Minister of Transport, who based the name on a passage from the book of Hosea.
- In May 1960 EL AL assisted in the capture and transfer of Nazi criminal Adolph Eichmann from Buenos Aires to Jerusalem, where he was put on trial.
- In 1968, EL AL experienced the first of many acts of terrorism that have been perpetrated against the airline. On 23 July, the only successful hijacking of an EL AL aircraft took place, when a Boeing 707 carrying 10 crew and 38 passengers was taken over by three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The aircraft, EL AL Flight 426, which was en route from Rome to Tel Aviv, was diverted to Algiers by the hijackers. Negotiations with the hijackers

lasted for 40 days. Both the hijackers and the passengers, including 21 Israeli hostages, were eventually freed. The hijackers were said to have believed Israeli General Ariel Sharon was on the flight.

EL AL aiding Aliyah

- From 1950 to 1956, EL AL flew more than 160,000 immigrants from Yemen, Iran and India to Israel, as part of Operation Magic Carpet and Operation Ezra and Nehemia.
- The fall of the Iron Curtain was one of the major events of the decade and as early as January 1990, EL AL marked a historic inaugural flight to the capital of the former Soviet Union, Moscow bringing thousands of Russian Jews to Israel.
- Another emotional moment in EL AL's long history was recorded on May 24, 1991 when a Boeing 747 carried a record number of people - 1,087 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. The flight from Addis Ababa to Israel was part of Operation Solomon, which brought the remnants of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel. In the operation, about 51,000 immigrants were airlifted from Ethiopia.

EL ALs world records

- In June 1961 the airline operated its first nonstop flight from Tel Aviv to New York. The flight set a world record at the time as the longest commercial non-stop flight that lasted 9:33 hours.
- In 1988, EL AL broke their second record for the longest continuous flight: 7,000 miles in 13:41 between Los Angeles and Tel Aviv.
- On May 24, 1991 a Boeing 747 carried a record number of 1,087 people – Jewish immigrants from Ethiopia to Israel.