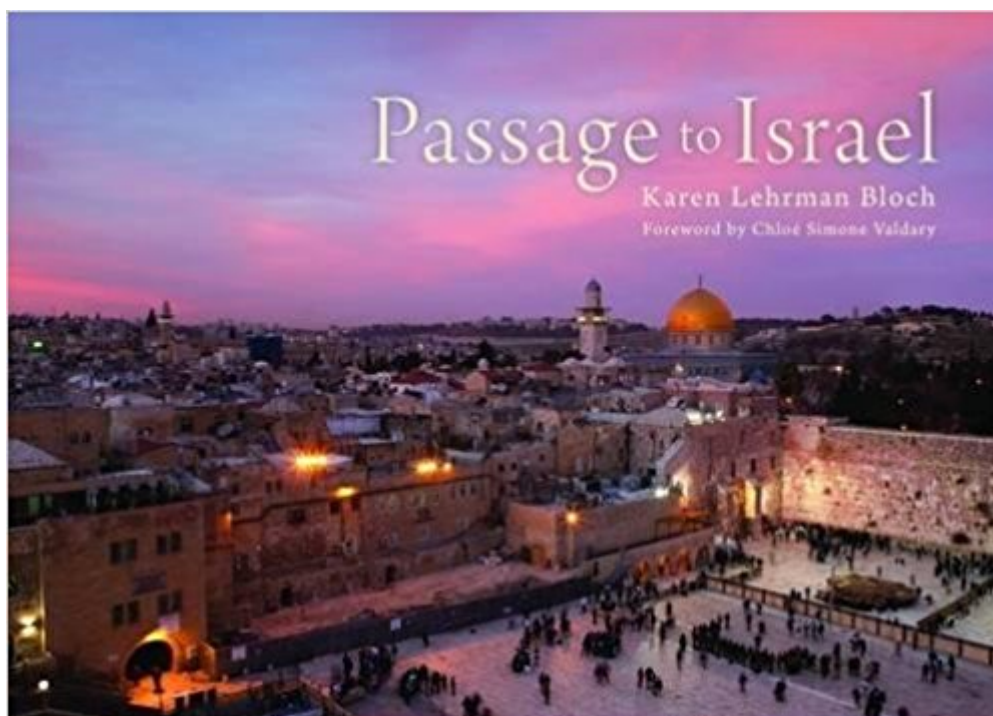


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# Passage To Israel



## Synopsis

Bursting with lush, vibrant photographs, *Passage to Israel* is a timeless tribute to one of the world's most soulful, resolute, and newsworthy countries. Divided into sections on Land, Light, Life, and Soul, the stunning images featured inside capture Israel's glorious landscapes, its city life, its culture, and its people. From an enchanting sunset over the Dead Sea to the lively city life of Tel Aviv, from colorful marketeers to families in prayer at the Western Wall, this incredible volume moves beyond the typical postcard images of the country to showcase the character of its people and the sanctity of the land they are so resolute in preserving. Contributors to *Passage to Israel* include thirty-four innovative and groundbreaking photographers, and nearly two hundred of their images are featured inside. Also included are a moving foreword by acclaimed activist Chloë Simone Valdary and an enlightening introduction by the author's renowned cultural critic and curator that provide a fascinating frame for the photographs. For a country roughly the size of New Jersey and only formally declared a state in 1948, Israel is easily the world's most controversial land. It regularly faces violent attacks and political pressure, yet its people refuse to be silenced. They will protect their borders and they will continue to persevere. For those who've been to Israel and those who've yet to make the trip, here, at last, is a truly immersive experience, an inspiring visual connection to a remarkable, but faraway land.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With *Passage to Israel*, Karen Lehrman Bloch has captured the many sides of

Israel's incredible land and people. Whether you live in Israel, visit often, or have never been, the photography gives you a heightened glimpse into the depth and diversity of a land that speaks to the modern and the mystical. Matisyahu, musician; Israel is a beautiful country. You wouldn't know that from watching the evening news, but in *Passage to Israel* you will experience Israel's gorgeous natural beauty and its stunning architecture, both ancient and modern. William Meyers, photography critic for the *Wall Street Journal*; *Passage to Israel* captures the beauty, breadth, and timeless power of Israel better than any book I know. Karen Lehrman Bloch reminds us why this singular land has stirred such passion for thousands of years. Bruce Feiler, *New York Times* bestselling author

Karen Lehrman Bloch is a cultural critic, a curator, and the author of *The Inspired Home: Interiors of Deep Beauty*, *La Formentera: The Woodland Refuge of Juan Montoya*, and *The Lipstick Proviso: Women, Sex & Power in the Real World*. Her essays and commentary have been featured in media such as the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *Vogue*, *Metropolis*, and *Tablet*. She lives in New York City. Chloë Simone Valdary is a Tikvah Fellow at the *Wall Street Journal* working under the auspices of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Bret Stephens. In 2013, she was named one of the top one hundred people positively affecting Jewish life in the *Algemeiner*. Her work as a Zionist thinker and human rights activist has been featured in media such as *Huffington Post Live*, *Israel Hayom*, the *Jerusalem Post*, and the *Daily Beast*. She lives in New York City.

From the Dedication, Forward and Introduction to the final exquisite photo, this book is a stunningly beautiful view of the land of Israel and its people. I ordered the book off , it arrived in 2 days and after looking at its breathtaking beauty, I immediately ordered a copy for my Torah teacher who was born in Jerusalem. She was so moved by the book and used it that night in her teaching about Israel's borders as outlined in Genesis 15. As you leaf through the pages, you will see with your own eyes why the author cited the Talmud and wrote in her introduction, "Ten measures of beauty descended upon the world, nine were taken by Jerusalem". It belongs on the coffee table of every Jew, Christian and other supporters of Israel, and unlike most books of its kind, you will look at it again and again. Do yourself a favor and buy several copies to keep on hand as gifts. You will make people very happy!

How is it that, year after year, the UN "World Happiness Report" is

ranks Israel as one of the world's happiest nations? Israel, a country with compulsory military service, enemies bent on its destruction, and three national days of mourning. Readers looking for an answer to this paradox will do no better than to acquire a copy of Karen Lehrman Bloch's tour through the astonishing varieties of nature, life, creativity, and faith that define Israel. In her acknowledgments, Bloch writes that inspiration for the book came not only from lovers of Israel (Jewish, Christian, and Muslim) but from the lies and distortions that form part of the daily output in most of the global media. She also reveals a powerful idea at the book's heart: "Israel is indeed a mirror to one's soul. Those who see the beauty, who stand up for the truth, who understand the meaning, will never regret where they stood in this moment of history, when silence is not an option."

As a life-long student of photography, I was taken by this book's ability to capture the essence of Israel: A country rich in cultural vibrancy and colorful landscapes. I can't recommend highly enough this artfully curated study of diversity in action. The Israeli people and her vivid topography makes for compelling subject matter. It is a high quality visual collection of prints that truly lifts the spirit and transports the soul.

This is not a typical "postcard" photo book; these photos have a much deeper beauty and tell a meaningful story of Israel's remarkable diversity and rich, abundant culture.

Wonderful images, however, I am very disappointed in the quality of the printing. The colours are often flat, greyed as though the cheap paper had sucked all the life out of the inks. I gave the book four stars for content..rich, sensitive, artistic, revealing many parts of Israel that tourists never think of visiting. The production values might rate one and a half stars. Shame.

This is a great purchase if you love Israel or if you just love magnificent photography! Having visited Israel I was amazed at the diverse cultures that thrive there - and this book depicts that, along with the incredible range of landscapes that exist in this tiny country. Treat yourself to this uplifting book.

Mediocre imagery, uninspiring subject matter. Truly a plain book of photography commonly seen in home pictures dressed up in a beautiful cover belying it's prosaic interior.

I purchased this book and it's everything I had hoped for and more. The photographs do an

amazing job of capturing the diversity, beauty, and soulfulness of Israel. I'm going to purchase as gifts for Hanukkah.

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