

Shoel U'Mashiv

Sea You Later: A fishing trip on Chol HaMoed Sukkos

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Q - "If I am going to be in the middle of the ocean on a fishing trip during *Chol HaMoed Sukkos*, do I need to be concerned about having *Mezonos* outside of the *Sukkah* or should I just bring other stuff?"

A - What food requires a *Sukkah*?

The *Shulchan Aruch O.C.* 639:2 says that one is allowed to eat fruits, vegetables and less than a *K'Beitza* (volume on an olive) of bread outside the *Sukkah*. However, he adds that it is meritorious for a person to eat and drink exclusively in the *Sukkah*. The *Mishnah Berurah* 639:15 quotes the *Magen Avraham* that more than a *K'Beitza* of any of the five grains should not be eaten outside of the *Sukkah*. Therefore, the *Mishnah Berurah* 639:16 says that one who eats *Mezonos* should recite the *Bracha* of *Leishev B'Sukkah*.

Who is exempt from eating in the *Sukkah*?

The *Mishnah Sukkah* 25a says those who are traveling for the sake of a *Mitzvah* are exempt from the *Sukkah*. The *Gemara Sukkah* 26a also quotes a *Beraisa* that says travelers who are not traveling for the sake of a *Mitzvah* are exempt from the *Sukkah* during the daytime, but not at night. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein in *Igros Moshe O.C.* 3:93 says the leniency of traveling not for the sake of a *Mitzvah* is limited only to business travelers, but a person traveling for leisure is not exempt from the *Sukkah*.

What should our friend do?

It is clear from the above discussion that since their trip is one of leisure, they should not eat *Mezonos* during the trip outside of a *Sukkah*. The *Gemara Sukkah* 23a says that one can build a *Sukkah* on a boat. However, since this is just a day trip and they are chartering the boat, that solution would be impractical. What I advised was to take items that are allowed to be eaten outside the *Sukkah*: chicken, meat, fruit, etc., as well as any drinks.