



TRIP PREPARATION INFO

BEFORE YOUR TRIP...

- ☐ Make sure you have your **PASSPORT**. During the trip, it is recommended that you keep your passport with you at all times. It is also a good idea to pack a photocopy of your passport and have a photo of it on your phone just in case it gets lost.
- ☐ BEFORE you travel to Israel, you must submit an application for an [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) (ETA) for 25NIS (approx. \$10). Print or take a screenshot of your application number that you will receive via email after submitting your application.
- ☐ Make sure all checked **LUGGAGE** and carry-on bags have an identification tag with your name, address, and phone number. Confirm with your airline what your luggage allowance is. For international flights, most allow 1 free checked bag (50lbs) and one carry-on bag.
- ☐ If you want unhindered access to your phone, make sure you contact your cell carrier to make sure that your international day package is activated in your plan. Free **Wi-Fi service** is commonly available at the locations we will be staying, including the airport.
- ☐ You may want to consider informing your **credit card** company and your bank (if you plan on using your debit card) that you will be traveling overseas. Most major credit cards are accepted in the majority of stores, shops and restaurants we will be visiting.
- ☐ To help prepare your heart and mind for what is in store for you on our pilgrimage to the homeland of Jesus, I recommend reading any one of the books I've listed at the bottom of the FAQ section at [ajourneytotheholyland.com](#). It is also recommended that you read at least one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and the book of Acts.
- ☐ **APPROPRIATE APPAREL & PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS:** Daily temperatures on our trip will range from the mid-70s to low-80s. If you ever wanted to be Indiana Jones (or his love interest), this is your BIG opportunity! On a few days shorts and sleeveless shirts are acceptable, but on most days we will be visiting Christian holy sites that require shoulders and knees to be covered (particularly for the ladies). Additionally, on the day we visit the Temple Mount, the Muslim authorities require that women's ankles, shoulders, and neckline to be covered, so please plan to bring a scarf or shawl. Lastly, just a reminder that we will be eating Shabbat dinner in someone's home when we are in Jerusalem, so you may want to be sure to pack at least one extra shirt/blouse that will be clean for that evening.
- ☐ Here are some additional recommendations on what to bring:
 - ☐ Travel-pack/small backpack that you can use to carry all of your essential stuff that you will need with you throughout the day
 - ☐ Water bottle. You can also purchase bottles of water on our bus for \$1/each as needed.
 - ☐ Sunscreen
 - ☐ Bathing suit (You do *not* need a beach towel)
 - ☐ Hat and sunglasses

- ❑ Pocket flashlight if you plan on walking through Hezekiah's Tunnel (small ones for a few shekels can be purchased in the City of David gift shop)
- ❑ Your everyday toiletries (*shampoo, toothbrush, etc.*)
- ❑ All the hotels have hairdryers in the rooms or you can request one at the front desk
- ❑ Towelettes and travel tissue packs
- ❑ 4 oz or smaller bottle of laundry detergent if you want to wash anything in the sink and hang to dry
- ❑ Type H Plug Adapter (<https://en-us.wikiconnections.org/power-supplies/continents/asia/what-can-i-connect-to-an-israeli-power-supply>)
 - You will **not** need a power converter
- ❑ Phone charger and cords
- ❑ Wristwatch
- ❑ Granola/Power bars or trail mix can be a great snack food in the afternoon
- ❑ Bible—*preferably an actual one, but you can also use your Bible app.*
- ❑ Small notebook or journal to take notes
- ❑ And of course...**COMFORTABLE FOOTWEAR.**
 - Athletic or hiking shoes
 - Closed-toe hiking sandals that can be submerged in water (e.g. Teva, Keen, etc.) are often a good option, especially if you plan to hike through Hezekiah's Tunnel and/or float in the Dead Sea
 - You may also want to bring different footwear for your evenings at the hotel (e.g., sandals, loafers, flip-flops, etc.)
- ❑ If you need extra support while walking or standing, consider bringing lightweight collapsible hiking poles, which can be purchased at stores like [REI](#) and [L.L. Bean](#).

ARRIVING INTO ISRAEL

- ❑ **Unless you plan to arrive into Israel a day or two early, it is recommended that you schedule your flight to arrive sometime between 9am and 4:30pm on Thursday, November 4th.** After all of the flight arrival information from our group has been gathered, we will schedule a shuttle transfer to our hotel based on the majority of arrival times. You will be informed several weeks prior to your arrival if your flight will be included in that transfer.
- ❑ **If your flight does not arrive during that pre-determined time window, you will need to get a taxi to the [Daniel Herzliya Hotel](#) (Eli Landau 60 st, Herzliya, Israel).** All taxis from the airport are required to accept credit cards, but be sure to confirm with the driver beforehand. The cost will be approximately \$50. You may also want to consider using [Gett](#) (Israel's version of Uber). All international flights arrive into Terminal 3.
- ❑ **On November 4th, we will plan to have dinner together in the hotel dining room at 7pm, but we will meet in the lobby beginning at 6:30pm before heading to the dining room.** If, for some reason, you arrive at the hotel after 7pm, just head to the dining room to get yourself dinner. If you're interested in watching the sunset at 5:45pm over the Mediterranean before dinner, the boardwalk along **Acadia Beach** just outside of the hotel is a perfect place to do so.
- ❑ **Please plan to have your luggage to the bus between 7:30-7:45am for an 8am departure on Friday, November 5th** to our first stop on our [itinerary](#). In the very unlikely event that you don't make it to our hotel in Herzliya in time for our departure that morning, please let your tour leader know ASAP. We will interface with our agent at [Eshet Incoming](#) to see what transportation arrangements can be made to assist you in getting to our next hotel near Tiberias. The least-expensive option would be to use the [public transportation system](#).

DURING YOUR TRIP...

- The **currency** in Israel is the Israeli New Shekel (ILS) and the current exchange rate is approximately 3.0 ILS to 1 US Dollar. You will not need a lot of shekels during your trip (most shops and restaurants will take your USD and give you change in ILS), **but it is recommended that you use your bank debit card to withdraw 500 ILS (that's approx. \$165)/per person at the beginning of your trip from the ATM at the Ben Gurion airport.** There is also a currency exchange at the airport. If you need more during our trip, there will be a few ATMs and currency exchange centers available. Also be aware that most shops. Most hotels will also exchange your currency at the front desk, but also be aware that most shops/restaurants will accept US dollars and will give you shekels in change.
- **Thank you in advance for making every effort to be on time to the bus and at other meeting times throughout our tour.** Please understand that time spent waiting for someone in one location will often result in less time at our next destination, or in missing one altogether.
- Time will be given at most locations for you to shop, but typically no more than 15-20 minutes.
- Tourists can qualify for a VAT (**Value Added Tax**) refund of 17% when they make a purchase of 400 ILS or more at a participating store. Look for the "tax refund for tourists" sticker on the door or ask before your purchase for the VAT form. That form will then be submitted at the airport prior to check-in at the VAT kiosk, where you will then receive a receipt that you will take to the VAT refund counter after you pass through passport control.
- **RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR TIPPING**
 - In your travel package we have included money for the tips to the dining room servers, so there is no need to tip there. However, if you ask for a special favor of a maid or porter, you should tip these people as you would at home. You may also want to leave something (\$5/day) in your room at the end of your stay in each hotel for the maid service. If luggage porters assist with taking your luggage on/off the bus, your tour leader will tip them. But if you ask them to take your luggage to your room instead of taking it yourself, please be sure to tip them accordingly.
 - If you eat at a restaurant outside of the hotel, it is common practice to tip your server 12-15% (not 18-22% like we do in the U.S.). But if you use your credit card, make sure you ask them to add the tip *before* they run your credit card (*you can't write it on the receipt afterwards like we do here in the U.S.*).
 - At the end of the tour, it is custom to tip both the driver and the guide. Please bring a couple of envelopes with you (you can also get envelopes at the front desk of one of our hotels). The recommended minimum amount for your **tour guide is \$10 per person/per day**. For the **driver, it is \$6 per person/per day**. Our tour will be 9 days, so plan on approximately \$90/per person for your guide and \$50-55/per person for your driver. You are also welcome to give them more if you want. They are worth every shekel! **Tips can be given in dollars and/or shekels.**

RETURNING HOME...

- Use [Gett](#) or speak to the front desk at the Prima Kings Hotel about scheduling a taxi to the Ben Gurion Airport. If needed, you can leave your bags at the hotel during the day on November 2nd.
- When you get to the Ben Gurion Airport, you will check in at the ticket counter as you would at any other airport before you proceed to security and the terminal.
- If you are entitled to a VAT Tax Refund as a result of a purchase made at a qualifying shop, you must get that refund certified *before you check in your luggage*. VAT Tax kiosks are located just inside the entrance of the departure terminal.

- ☐ If you have extra shekels, they can be exchanged into US currency at the exchange in the departure terminal (after you pass through security). There are also several cafes and shops in the terminal to spend your last shekels at.