



Experience Israel Tour May 14 – 26, 2023 General Information

1. MANAGED MISSIONS

All travelers must register for the trip via Managed Missions (pinehillchurch.managedmissions.com/ourtrips). Select "Apply" and complete registration which will include a \$500 deposit. If you do not have a Managed Missions account, please follow the prompts to create one. You will be guided through the following:

- Enter your email address. A link to set up a password will be sent to you.
- Set your password.
- You will be guided to the application for the trip and instructed to fill out personal information.
- You will be required to pay the \$500 deposit before submitting your application.
- The application will be sent to Engage Lead, Tiffany Gardner, for approval.
- Remember your password for your personal Managed Missions account.

2. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All travelers must have a passport valid at least through six months after their departure from Israel. European, U.S., Canadian and South American passport holders need no visa to enter Israel. For other nationalities, check with the nearest Israeli consulate. We suggest that you make a photocopy of your passport picture/information page and put it in your suitcase. A lost or stolen passport is trouble and having a photocopy will help speed up the replacement process.

3. HEALTH

There are no particular health issues associated with travel to Israel. If you have any special medical issues, please consult with your physician before traveling. **COVID updates on a regular basis.**

While almost all prescription drugs are available in Israel, if you are taking any prescribed medication, please bring a sufficient supply with you (and extra glasses and lenses). It is recommended to bring along copies of your prescription and, if you have an unusual prescription, carry a letter from your physician explaining your need for the drug. As an extra precaution, carry the generic names of your medications with you because pharmaceutical companies overseas may use different names from those used in the United States. **To prevent problems if your luggage is lost or misrouted, keep medications in their original containers and pack them in carry-on luggage.**

If any medical problem does arise in Israel, Keshet will arrange medical care for you at your expense. Israel has the highest ratio of doctors to potential patients in the world, but we hope that you do not give them any business during your visit. Please check with your health insurer regarding coverage for foreign travel.

4. TRIP INSURANCE IN ISRAEL

- ✓ **Company** | Faith Venture | Brotherhood Mutual
- ✓ **Plan Name** | Premium Protection Plan
- ✓ This plan is the BEST coverage option that is part of your payment for the trip. You should not need to purchase any additional coverage for any reason.
- ✓ See your personal policy.

5. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Israel is as safe as most cities in the world. Nevertheless, we recommend that you take usual traveling precautions, such as keeping a separate copy of your passport, not carrying open bags which are a temptation to pickpockets, not leaving your property lying around, etc. We particularly advise keeping your cash and credit cards in money belts and bringing a photocopy of your passport in case you need to replace it quickly. Please do not accept parcels from strangers who ask you to deliver them to Israel. You will be asked about this before boarding the plane and it is best to be able to answer truthfully. While in Israel do not leave parcels, knapsacks, or other baggage unattended in public places.

6. MONEY

You can generally obtain Israeli shekels from most Israeli ATM machines with credit card. You may also use VISA, Mastercard and American Express cards for nearly all transactions in Israel over \$20. There are also many official moneychanger establishments throughout the country should you wish to exchange American cash dollars for Israeli shekels.

7. RESOURCE MATERIALS

- ✓ [The New Christian Traveler's Guide to the Holy Land](#) Charles H. Dyer & Gregory A. Hatteberg
 - Complete with maps, charts, and color photos
 - Travel tips on packing, safety, weather, photography, and more
 - Devotional guide for spiritual preparation
- ✓ [The Gospel of Matthew](#) | Read through the entire Gospel at least three times.

8. ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The electrical current in Israel is the European standard 220 volts rather than the US standard 110 volts. Please make sure that whatever electrical appliances you plan to plug-in here in Israel (camera, video chargers, laptop, cell phone, etc.) can accept 220 volts electricity. You will also need a plug adapter to match the Israeli electrical outlets. You may also run appliances on a current transformer that will convert the 220 volts to 110 volts but for the health of your appliances, we do not recommend this.

- ✓ USA to Israel 110V to 220V and 50 Hz = Type H
- ✓ OREI 2 in 1 USA to Israel Travel Adapter Plug (Type H) - 4 Pack, Black

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Israel has one of the most sophisticated communications networks in the world and one of the highest per capita numbers of cellphones and computers of any country in the world. Please note that given the proliferation of cell phones, public pay phones are becoming more difficult to find. The country code for Israel is 972. The area code for Jerusalem is 2, for Tel Aviv is 3, for the south is 8 and for Galilee is 4.

If you are planning to bring your laptop computer with you, wireless connections are generally available (for a fee) at the hotels that you will be staying at. There are also internet cafes in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as well as internet computer stations at the hotels.

10. WEATHER

Israel has a Mediterranean climate characterized by long, hot, dry summers and short, cool, rainy winters, as modified locally by altitude and latitude. About 70 percent of the average rainfall in the country falls between November and March; June through August are usually rainless. **Day Time: 75-85 degrees | Evening Time: 55-70 degrees.**

What to Wear: Warm clothing, especially for the evenings. Some summer clothing for places where it will still be warm. Don't forget sunscreen, sunglasses, water shoes, your bathing suit and a sun hat/cap.

11. WATER

The arid climate in most of Israel means that one loses fluids without necessarily noticing. In other words, your body can require you to drink without making you thirsty. Tap water in Israel is generally as fit to drink as tap water elsewhere and bottled water is widely available.

12. HOURS & TIME

Please check the time difference according to your time zone. The 24-hour time format is used in Israel (i.e., 3:00 PM is 15:00) and the European date format is used in Israel (day, month, year (i.e., March 27, 2018 is 27/03/18).

The Israeli workweek is Sunday through Thursday with the "weekend" falling on Friday and Saturday, coinciding with the Jewish Sabbath. Stores are generally opened Sunday thru Thursday 9-7 and on Fridays from 9-2. Most of the stores, banks, and offices are closed on Saturdays.

13. CELL PHONE

There are many places where you can purchase a sim card in Israel that will work a week, two weeks or a month. It can be purchased in the airport or in the city. The guide can recommend places where you can buy them

14. ITEMS PROVIDED

- ✓ 4 Luggage Tags
- ✓ Travel Insurance Document | Travel Insured International
- ✓ Travel Pouch | Passport and Travel Documentations
- ✓ Pen | For filling out travel and immigration documents
- ✓ Devotional Journal

15. TRAVEL DAYS | Pit Stop & Lunch

- ✓ Lunch on the road to and from Chicago O'Hare | **ON YOUR OWN**

16. PACKING TIPS

Luggage

- ✓ 1 Personal Item | Purse, Backpack, Small Duffle
- ✓ 1 Carry On | 22 x 14 x 9 | No more than 50 lbs.
- ✓ 1 Checked Bags | No more than 50 lbs.

Airplane | Dramamine / Bonine – sleep aid for the plane. If you experience swelling in your lower legs and feet at any time, you may want to invest in compression socks for the almost 12 hours of flying.

Hotels | Most hotels do not provide washcloths. May want to purchase a package of cheap washcloths, use, and leave them behind.

Backpack | A small hand towel is handy to have in your backpack as you travel throughout the day in Israel. Wet wipes / Kleenex to carry (daily) in your backpack for restrooms that are not stocked.

Inclimate Weather | Umbrella, rain poncho, windbreaker.

Electrical Adapter | See previous notes for electrical appliance.

Clothing | Informal casual clothes | The climate changes throughout the country so you will want to have a variety from long pants / jeans to capris / shorts. Layers are best.

- ✓ **Ladies** | Some places require you to have your shoulders covered so short sleeve shirts may be better than tank tops.
- ✓ **Shoes** | Sturdy walking shoes, water shoes and a comfortable pair for the evening.
- ✓ **Religious Attire** | Appropriate clothes for visit of religious places.
- ✓ **Western Wall** | Ladies need to have their knees covered.
- ✓ **Capernaum** | Everyone needs modest clothes, knees and shoulders should be covered.
- ✓ **Hezekiah's Tunnel** | If you have pants with zip-off legs, these are very helpful if you are going to go through the tunnel.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

Qumran

This location has a great shop for Dead Sea skin care products | Ahava. Ahava is a company that has an agreement with the government to refund the **VAT tax on purchases over 400 shekels**. Ahava is available in many places but it is beneficial to buy all those products in the same location to get this refund. **You cannot add purchases from different stores together.**

Mount of Temptation

This is the first place you will see fresh squeezed pomegranate juice. Try it and if you like it keep an eye out for it at other places throughout the tour.

Seeds of Hope

This gift shop helps to support the ministry of Seeds of Hope. Many items can be found here from Shofar, soap, carvings, books, jewelry, dates, magnets, etc. Shop here to support one of Pine Hills Church's partners, "Little Hearts" Learning Center

Dead Sea

The changing room is not private. Be prepared to "bare it all". The dressing rooms do not have private stalls.

Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee

Daniel, the boat Captain will have CDs and handmade pendants available at the end of the trip.

Capernaum

Everyone needs modest clothes, knees and shoulders should be covered

Nazareth Village

This is a nice shop with Christmas cards, soaps, calendars, communion items, Hebron / Phoenician glass. Proceeds go to support Nazareth Village.

Western Wall

Ladies need to have their knees covered and men need to wear a Yarmulke or Kippah that can be purchased there.

Mount of Olives | Garden of Gethsemane

There are many street vendors with inexpensive shawls and handbags.

18. FOOD RESTRICTIONS

If you have allergies or dietary restrictions, please let me know by April 15, so we can update hotels and restaurants.

19. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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