



Israel • Egypt • Jordan

In a short time from now, you will walk in the land where our Lord and Saviour walked when He lived on this earth. The place He was buried, resurrected, and lived again...you will walk where Jesus walked. You will see where Moses lived and where he led the children of Israel out of bondage, through the desert and plains of Jordan and across the Jordan into the Promised Land. Your life will never be the same again.

My Epic Tours

EpicTOURS Travel Newsletter

296 Blue Heron Road - Dover, Delaware 19904

The Land Where It All Began

Emergency Phone Numbers

Leave a copy of page 3 with your friends, family and loved ones in the event of an emergency.
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Weather in Israel

Is it hot? Cold? When will I need a sweater? How many nights in Jerusalem?
Page 1



Luggage requirements, Passports & More

Did you know that you can only check one piece of luggage and that it must be 44 pounds and under? Read on.
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Pictures of Previous Trips



Get a preview of where you will visit and what you will see.
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Time of Departure & Arrival

You will find flight numbers and times as well as airport codes.
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Suggestion

Keep this newsletter with you on the trip and refer to the next day's sites. Use it as a point of reference for your daily devotions.



ISRAEL - EGYPT - JORDAN

The Journey Begins

Get ready for the experience of a lifetime when you will see the sites of the Bible and witness first hand the actual places of the Old and New Testament.

It will not be long until we will meet at the departure city to begin an exciting journey to the land of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as Moses and the prophets. As the time approaches to begin preparation, we would like to thank you for joining us on this exciting tour. We have personally planned the itinerary to include those places we have read in the Scripture so many times. All along the way, we will have special times of prayer and Bible reading as the trained guide provides the historical information. Be sure to take a 'light weight, compact' Bible that will be easy to read, but not be too heavy to carry around.



We will visit sites previously only read about. By faith, we have believed in our hearts that they are real. The faith we've experienced will take on a tangible touch of reality. We will see, feel, taste and know that our faith is based on the true and living Word of God.

LET US SHARE SOME TIPS

EpicTOURS would like to share some tips as you prepare for the tour. The most common mistake is packing too much, so here is a list to assist:

THE WEATHER (Sample)

April - May: General Weather Description: The nicest season of the year, with very comfortable weather. Temperature in Tel Aviv is usually between 16 to 24 Degrees centigrade which are 61 to 75 Degrees Fahrenheit. Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are approx. 3 degrees centigrade colder (5.5 Degrees Fahrenheit), and Eilat is usually 3 degrees centigrade warmer. **(What to Wear:** On some of the days you may want a long t-shirt and light jacket, while on other days a short sleeve t-shirt will do. So, Bring a good range of generally light clothes.)

November-December: General Weather Description. There is a wide range of temperatures. Jerusalem has daytime highs of 67 degrees Fahrenheit and lows around 54 degrees. So, the days can be pleasant but the nights are cool enough for a jacket or light weight coat. The range of lows and highs in Galilee is 59 to 78 degrees. At the Dead Sea it is 65 at night and 80 degrees or higher in the day. Generally, daytime temperatures will be very pleasant: 60 to 70-ish, but hot at the Dead Sea.

CLOTHING

Pack a minimum of clothing. You can hand wash with adequate time for drying at each hotel. Therefore take a small ziplock bag of washing powder instead of eight changes of clothes.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly suggest travel insurance. If you need assistance in purchasing travel insurance please contact your Travel Agent or you can go to BerryTours.com to book yourself.

ZIPLOCK BAGS

Speaking of ziplock bags. When you pack, anything that is liquid (shampoos, lotions, etc.) should be placed in a ziplock bag. It prevents soiling other things if the lid comes off or the luggage gets smashed under other luggage.

LUGGAGE

Remember **YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED ONE PIECE OF CHECKED LUGGAGE AND IT MUST NOT EXCEED 44 POUNDS IN WEIGHT** when fully packed. They **WILL** weigh your luggage and you will be at the mercy of the agent at the counter if it is over by even one or two pounds. You will have to pay overage fees that are expensive if you go over 44 pounds. So, weigh carefully and accurately. Your carry-on bag does not count in those 44 pounds. However, we caution you about packing too much in a carry-on bag because you will want to have space to pack your souvenirs over there to come home. A tip about space: Pack a couple shoe boxes with your favorite snacks in your luggage (one in the suitcase and one in the carry-on). When you go shopping, you can use the boxes for fragile things, or throw them away and use the space for your treasures. It is always fun to share snacks on the plane and in the bus...and it cuts down on lunch expenses, too. However leave room for honey sesame bars along the way in Israel, a personal favorite of mine.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

When you pack your clothes, place a clear plastic (dry cleaner) bag over EACH piece of garment. Then, roll them up and place in the luggage. You will discover few, if any wrinkles, when you arrive at the hotel. Just shake out, and place in the closet, and you will not have to press garments. (That is, unless you pack cottons that wrinkle when you look at it!)

WALKING SHOES

All shoes should be walking shoes! You do not need dress shoes. Sneakers, Rockfords, Areosols or any other shoes you have already 'broken in' and do not hurt your feet will be fine. This is NOT the time for new shoes. Save those for Easter.

HARD SHELL OR SOFT SHELL LUGGAGE

It is best to use hard shell luggage. Fabric/soft luggage offers no protection to the things you pack

inside. Your luggage will be stacked five and six pieces tall, so whatever is on the bottom will be smashed if it is not in a hard shell Samsonite type pieces. Also, weigh your luggage before you pack it. Some luggage is 15 pounds empty! Choose a light-weight suitcase. Also, place a strap around the outside in order to protect the contents if the luggage pops open. Straps can be bought where luggage is sold. **DO NOT LOCK YOUR LUGGAGE. SECURITY AT THE AIRPORT DEMANDS ACCESS TO THE CONTENTS, EVEN WHEN YOU ARE NOT PRESENT.** PLACE ALL VALUABLES, SUCH AS JEWELRY, in your carry-on luggage and/or purse. **PACK ALL GELS, LIQUIDS, LOTIONS, TOOTH PASTE, SHAVING CREAM, FACE CREAM, HAIR SPRAY, ETC. IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE.** It is NOT permitted in any carry-on luggage or purse.

CASUAL CLOTHES VS. DRESS CLOTHES

There is no occasion for neck ties or dressy clothes. The only time you may want to deviate from casual is for dinner in the evenings. But this is left up to the individual preference. Most times we just wash up and go straight to dinner in whatever we've worn all day. You will not feel 'out of place' in the dining room in sneakers and whatever you have worn all day.

CAMERAS AND PHOTOS

Please take a digital camera as opposed to film. Film is very expensive overseas and you won't want to add to the weight of packing lots of film. Digital cameras are lightweight, compact and with the additional memory disks can hold thousands of pictures. **TAKE SPARE BATTERIES FOR YOUR CAMERA.**

SOUVENIRS

Israel is known for its high quality diamonds. We will probably stop at a 'diamond factory' so you can treat yourself or your sweetheart to a diamond. There are many great souvenirs, like olive wood items, that range from inexpensive to more expensive. If souvenir funds are limited, some people just collect a small pebble or stone from significant places and use a permanent marker to inscribe the name or Scripture that it represents. It will look great in your curio cabinet at home. Alabaster boxes are great, too, but they are heavy if you buy more than a couple.

MONEY

We suggest that you take \$100 in \$1 bills. It is much easier to shop using \$1 bills. Also, 2 liter bottles of water can be bought for \$1 at many places. **DO NOT TAKE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH.** Use Travelers Checks or the **NEW CASH CARDS** available from American Express and/or AAA. Keep travelers check receipts in a place you can access them if you lose your travelers checks. Do not carry your receipts in your purse or wallet. Leave them in your luggage in case you need the numbers on them for replacing travelers checks that are lost or stolen.

WATER

We recommend that you drink **ONLY BOTTLED WATER** after you leave home. Some people never have an intestinal problem but it is better to be safe than sorry.

SPEAKING OF SORRY

Medication and food. Please remember to pack Immodium tablets.....enough to stop the problem at the first hint of a problem! **DO NOT EAT FRESH FRUIT AND/OR LEAFY VEGETABLES OUTSIDE OF THE HOTEL DINING ROOM.** And, be sure you take enough of your prescription medicine for ten days. It is also wise to pack a tube of Cortisone Cream/First Aid Cream. You cannot buy it over the counter in Israel. You need a prescription to get many things we take for granted here.

YOUR LUGGAGE FLYING IN TO JFK

If you are flying into EWR/JFK/PHL TO MEET THE GROUP, check your luggage only to EWR/JFK/PHL. Claim it at EWR/JFK/PHL baggage claim and bring it to the group meeting place at the airline counter. If you arrive before the group arrives, then wait for us. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHECK IN FOR THE FLIGHT TO TEL AVIV.** We will handle the check in as a group. (*Don't forget Dramamine!*)

CARRY ON BAGS

You are permitted one carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a purse OR a 'over the shoulder bag'. **Two items only** may be carried on the plane!

LUGGAGE TAGS

Place luggage tags on your suitcase and carry-on. When we meet you, we will give you a colorful item to attach to the luggage that will help us identify our luggage upon arrival in Tel Aviv as well as transfer to hotels.

WAIST PURSE RECOMMENDED

We recommend that each person wear a 'waist purse' to carry your money and passport. It works better for securing your funds and passport than a wallet and/or purse. Ladies, you may carry a purse in addition to your 'carry-on' bag, but it must not be unreasonably large, and for your sake, not heavy. When you are touring each day, it is safe to leave your purse and/or bags on the coach, but your money should always be strapped on your waist.

COFFEE AND TEA

Some people like a cup of coffee and/or tea when they wake up in the morning. If so, you should take a small travel electric gadget (available in luggage stores, usually) to heat water in a cup (take your own - plastic, of course) and your favorite brand of coffee/tea. If you use Splenda, TAKE IT! They will have artificial sweetener in the dining room, but it will not be Splenda! However, some hotels are



Jerusalem

*But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.
Matthew 5: 34-36*



Beth'Shean



Ride a camel across the Sahara or on the Mount of Olives - incredible!



Walk back in time thousands of years

already supplied but not guaranteed at each stop. you will be charged for coffee and sodas at dinner. Sodas can be as much as US\$4.00 per can. Coffee is not cheap either. It comes with breakfast but not at dinner. Take powdered Crystal Light to add to your water glass and.....wa la....you have iced tea.

ELECTRIC CONVERTERS AND ADAPTERS

Pay attention here! **An adapter is NOT a converter!**
CONVERTER: To convert the electric current from 221 to 110.

ADAPTER: The plug that "adapts" the American two-prong plug to the style of plug that will fit the outlets there. You will need a CONVERTER and a plug adapter for Israel (available in luggage stores). The adapter plug provides a way for your appliance (curlers, hair dryer, shaver, etc.) to fit the supply of electric that is channeled through the Converter. Most times you get adapters for several countries when you buy the converter. Radio Shack has sets with all of the above. Note: Buy 1600 watts to handle the hair dryer and curler sets. Anything less than the 1600 watt type may burn out. If your converter is the type that uses a fuse, take spare fuses.

PHONE NUMBER FOR EMERGENCY

Before you leave home, give the phone number of EpicTOURS to your family and/or friends. If there is an emergency that requires contact with you, EpicTOURS will coordinate that information. EpicTOURS emergency phone numbers are 972-54-2696062 Israel/Steve or 972-54-6806829 Israel/Janet.

PHONE CALLS FROM ISRAEL/EGYPT/JORDAN

It is very expensive to make calls from Israel to the United States. Tell your family and friends they probably will not hear from you for ten days. Just send them a post card! (Example: *During one of the our past trips a traveler called from the states to Israel and the call was over \$200.00.*) If you must call then buy a phone calling card but make sure it can be used from a pay phone. Some cards have restrictions from calling from pay phones or public phones. Also, keep in mind that even if you have a phone card and you make the call from your hotel room there may still be a charge to your room for that call. *Calling are cards are specific to each country.*

PASSPORT - IMPORTANT

Keep your **Passport** in your possession and on your person at all times. **DO NOT PACK IT IN YOUR LUGGAGE!!**

NAME BADGE

EpicTOURS will provide you with a name badge. When you arrive in Tel Aviv, please begin wearing your badge from this point forward. It identifies you as a tour group member. You will not be permitted to board the plane, the coach or the dining room for meals without the badge. It is your meal ticket, your bus ticket and your admission ticket to all sites.

GROUP PROCESSES

It is important to listen and follow instructions when they are given to the group. For example, when you arrive, you will be asked to identify your

'checked bag' after it comes off the belt. As soon as it is identified by you, the porter will place it on the trolley with other bags. Further instructions will be given the group upon arrival which will make the process flow smoothly as we move from place to place, bus to hotel, hotel to bus, etc. Be prompt, have your bags ready at the time requested, and follow instructions each day. You will be given specific instructions each time we deal with immigration and customs. If you follow the instructions, everything will flow smoothly.

TIMES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

ALL PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE AT THE AIRLINE CHECK-IN COUNTER NO LATER THAN FOUR HOURS FROM DEPARTURE.

Do not attempt to check in for the flight. The group check-in will be handled by us after all passengers have arrived at the terminal. Please have your Passport available in a secure place.

Should you have any questions about the tour and/or your preparations for departure, feel free to call us at 302-526-5237. We look forward to a wonderful time of inspiration, Biblical education, fun and fellowship with each of you.

