

Things to do before you travel to Israel

- Check your current passport for expiration date. (*Make sure it is valid for 6 months upon return flight*). If you do not have an up-to-date passport you will want to apply for it now. A Passport 'mail in form' is available at the post office or on line at:
<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html>
- Check any needed medical prescriptions for ample supply. Ask your Doctor for a prescription of antibiotic and fill it to bring with you in case you get sick. Keep them in the original containers (*for customs officials*). Vitamins do not need to be in original containers.
- Set up house sitting arrangements for your home, if needed. Put a hold on your mail, etc. Call your credit card company and inform them of your travel dates and destination so your card doesn't get cancelled. Also, make sure it does not expire during your Israel trip.

Passport

Make three color copies of your passport picture page. Please make sure CCBF has one of those color copies, leave one copy with someone at home and keep the third one with you (*separate from your passport*). If you lose your passport, it's easier to get a new passport if you have this copy.

Luggage

- You are allowed to check in ONE suitcase, which must not exceed 62 in. (height + width + length). The airline may refuse to accept luggage larger than this.
- Your ONE carry on must not exceed 39 in (height + width + length) and must fit under the seat in front of you. *Keep in mind that the flight is long and the more legroom you have the more comfortable you will be.*
- Additional carry-ons may need to be checked in. In addition to one carry on, women are allowed a normal size purse.
- On the tour bus in Israel, luggage storage space is limited. Only one suitcase per person will fit in the bus luggage compartment. Bus storage space is limited to the under seat space in front of you and the shallow space above your head.
- Porters are tipped based on one suitcase per person. You are responsible for tips for additional pieces at all times.
- When you check in at the airport, make sure the airline properly tags your luggage. The destination city code on the tag is TLV (Tel Aviv). **Never** discard your ticket until you have your luggage with you.

Travelers' Psychosis – The Jerusalem Syndrome

- Sometimes tourists, in the excitement of being in a foreign country, temporarily fail to exercise the same caution they use at home. Here are a few things to remember:
- Stay with the group and avoid straying off on your own. If you do wander off, please know you are on your own and can take a taxi back to the hotel.
- Don't follow friendly people away from the group because they have an *"uncle who has a shop where you can find a great deal."*
- Always keep your belongings in front of you with your arms folded across them when walking through crowds. Keep your wallets in your front pants pockets. It is recommended to separate your money, not keeping it all in one place.
- Because Muslim men think that Western women's clothes are "loose and immoral" we ask that you dress modestly at all times. No religious symbols on clothing or jewelry are allowed in certain areas.
- Be sure you drink plenty of water on the plane and on the buses during the tour to avoid dehydration. There will be bottles of water available on the bus for \$1 each – you will pay the bus driver directly.

Electrical Appliances

You will need an adaptor (Israel uses 220 volts instead of 110) and converter (*their wall receptacles require a plug with two round pins*) to use electrical appliances and recharge batteries. Travelers' hair dryers, curlers, irons, etc. need to have a switch for 110 or 220 volts. *Blow dryers are provided in all hotel rooms.*

Medicines

- Inform your Doctor you are traveling to Israel. Be sure to pack enough prescription medications to last through the tour in original bottles.
- Have your doctor write a re-fill prescription for life-dependent medications in case they are lost or damaged in travel. Not all prescriptions are interchangeable. Your doctor will be able to advise you.
- If you are allergic to any medicines, please keep a list of these with your passport.
- You may need a prescription for medicines in Israel which are sold over the counter in the U.S. Please pack items *such as* Advil, Tylenol, antacids, anti-diarrhea, stool softener, cough syrup, decongestant, cough drops, water pills if your ankles swell, etc.

If you suffer from carsickness, PLEASE bring along any medication you use to prevent this on the bus, boat and plane.

Clothing

- **ALWAYS pack fewer clothes and bring more money than you think you'll need.**
- Temperatures range from the low 40's to the mid 70's, so pack appropriate clothes that you can mix and match. It is possible to experience rain and even snow at this time of year, or...temperatures in the 90's.
- Dress in layers (T-shirt, pants or long skirt, plus sweater, sweatshirt, plus warm jacket or trench coat).
- Bare midriffs and short shorts are not appropriate for this tour. Shorts may not be allowed in some areas, but are in others (*use discretion or just wear long pants to be safe*).
- Pack a lightweight poncho or travel raincoat, warm gloves, a scarf or cap, and a small umbrella.
- A hat and sunglasses (plus sunscreen) are also highly recommended. Check the weather report a week or two before your departure. (www.accuweather.com)
- **Comfortable walking shoes** are essential (*i.e. jogging/walking shoes, hiking shoes, etc., not sandals or high heels*).

Money

- We suggest you take enough money to pay for items that are not included in this trip such as: lunches, snacks, beverages, room service, laundry, souvenirs, and other items. Lunch and snacks/coffee alone should run about \$20-\$35 per day.
- The US dollar is accepted almost everywhere in Israel. Bring smaller bills (*\$5's, \$10's, \$20's*) including about \$50.00 in one dollar bills. Change is always given in Shekels.
- It usually costs 1-2 shekels to use the restrooms and they do not always have toilet paper or paper towels (*recommended to bring travel sized Kleenex & hand sanitizing wipes for hands*)
- Visa and Master Card are accepted in most places and using a card will allow you to dispute any incorrect charges. **American Express is NOT accepted.**

Things to Avoid

- Do not come on the tour if you have had a fever or any symptoms of sickness up to 24 hours before departure. (*Travel Insurance is strongly recommended*).
- While alcohol is available, this is a non-alcohol, non-smoking tour.
- Due to close quarters and sensitivity, please do not wear perfumes of any type on this tour.
- Do not bring anything with you that you cannot afford to lose.
- Avoid the temptation to give money to the beggars.
- Avoid friendly embraces from strangers, *especially the children*. Pick-pockets are in the crowded areas.

Do not criticize the country, the people, and the food. If you have a problem, please see your bus pastor.

Tips for the Guides

You will become very fond of your bus driver and tour guide by the end of the tour. Sometimes, tour members want to take a collection on the bus to give to the driver and the guide to show their appreciation. This is totally acceptable. However, please know that Coral Travel provides tips for the bus drivers and the tour guides so a collection is not *necessary*.

Tickets

- You will receive your airline ticket from your the leader upon arrival at the airport if you are departing with the group.
- If you are leaving from an airport other than that used by the main group, you will receive your tickets via UPS approximately one week before departure. *Note: We cannot send tickets to a P.O. Box.*
- Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, Coral Tour's representative will collect the tickets for your departure and hold them until the return flight.

Airline Seating

We regret that we are unable to secure specific airline seat assignments as the airlines dictate when and to whom seats are assigned. If traveling with a spouse, family member or friend, check to see if your seat assignments are adjacent at the time of check in at the airport. The clerk at the counter can tell you if you are seated together and if not, can *possibly* make requested changes.

Security

- Have your passport and travel documents readily available at check in, placed in carry on or purse, NOT in your luggage.
- Be prepared, you may be subjected to a body check by metal detector, body scan or physical means if necessary. Be patient and prepared to open all luggage for inspection at check in. Agents may open all packages, including gifts, at this time. Remember, this is for safety reasons.
- Do not accept anything presented to you.
- Please do not say or do anything during security checks that may cause delay in departure. NEVER JOKE about hijacks or bombs, etc. Airline and security personnel take these matters very seriously.

Precautions

Do not leave your luggage, passport, jewelry, money, checks, cameras, computers or purses in your room unattended.

Room Etiquette

If you are an early riser but your roommate is not, please make sure that you do not disturb them. If you know you snore please provide your roommate with earplugs.

Beverages

Coffee is usually included with breakfast and dinner. Soft drinks are not included with any meals. The water is safe to drink in the hotel dining rooms.

Options for Calling Home

A call from your room through the hotel switchboard is VERY expensive. You can call your cell phone provider and request an *international calling plan* before leaving for Israel. You can also contact Coral Tours and request an "Amigo" phone if you do not have international ability on your cell phone (*this will be an additional cost*).

Shopping

- This is not a shopping tour but you will have plenty opportunity for shopping.
- There will be opportunities to shop on your own in the evening after the tour in Jerusalem. There will also be a few opportunities to go with the Tour Guide in Jerusalem in the evening, but these shopping trips are optional and are not part of the tour.
- All sales are final and each individuals responsibility. If a problem with your purchase develops later, the guide is of little assistance and CCBF has no ability to help out.
- For your protection, if you make a major purchase, be sure to keep the name of the salesperson and the store name, address and phone number. Make sure they will stand behind their product. It is best to purchase only items that you can take with you.

We hope you will enjoy your tour of Israel. If you do not expect things to be just like they are at home, and try to ignore inconveniences, you will enjoy the differences between the countries. If there is a problem, please talk to the tour guide and he or she will help you. ~ Shalom!

SUGGESTIONS OF THINGS TO TAKE

1. Bible
2. Passport
3. You will be provided with a notebook. You will want to take a pen and highlighter
4. Money (more than you think you will need in small bills)
5. Sunglasses, plenty of sunscreen, lip balm, shade hat, hand sanitizer
6. Substantial amount of pocket size Kleenex (for restrooms)
7. Wrapped candy, cough drops, and snacks for bus rides
8. Extra batteries and memory cards for camera
9. Compact folding umbrella for rain or excessive sun
10. Prescription medicines in *original* container
11. Hand & body lotion (*Israel has a very dry climate*)
12. Small Ziploc Baggies for rocks, shells, and other souvenirs, plus a felt tip marker
13. Shampoo, conditioner, soap w/container (*Hotel has sample size products*)
14. Modest swimsuit, cover-up, small towel, river shoes
15. Small detergent (*for hand washables*)
16. Monthly necessities for women
17. Clothing that you can layer and that is comfortable
18. Airplane shoes (comfortable), walking shoes
19. Inflatable head rest and eye shades for long overseas plane ride
20. Adaptor (220 volts) and converter for electrical appliances

