



Travel to Israel

The Trip of a Lifetime!



TLC Holyland Tours

P. O. Box 14757 | Knoxville, Tennessee 37914

TIP of the day: Download the Mobile Passport App

QUESTIONS Specific to TLC Holyland Tours

PHYSICAL CONDITION

The physical demands of a group tour to Israel require good health – able to climb stairs and ascend grades without assistance, walk 3-5 miles throughout some days at a moderate pace on uneven terrain, and able to transport your own luggage.

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT

To reserve a space a reservation form and \$500 deposit are required per person. No phone reservations are accepted. Register online where your deposit can be paid by credit card or send registration with a check by mail.

Late Registration begins the day after full balance due date and incurs a \$150 penalty. Full payment is due. Deposit means still applies, balance and late fee may be mailed by check.

CREDIT CARD

Deposit of \$500 is payable online by credit card. Balance is due by check.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Passport copy (photo page)
- Proof of Trip Insurance
- Emergency Information sheet: include Insurance company claim address & any personal travel numbers
- Personal flight arrangements (if applicable)

**SEND TO: TLC Holyland Tours,
P.O. Box 14757, Knoxville, TN 37914**

PAYMENT

Statements are sent following any payment received. One billing will be sent approximately 115 days before departure, due in full 95 days before departure. **Each tour's due date is on their page: tlcholylandtours.com.**

Late penalty: There is a \$150 late fee per passenger. After the due date, *TLC Holyland reserves the right to cancel unpaid reservations without notifying passenger.*

TRIP INSURANCE is required by TLC Holyland Tours

Your insurance does not cover you outside the United States. Israel requires trip insurance covering covid costs. The purchase of Trip Insurance is for your personal protection and assistance. Insurance is available directly through the TLC Trip Insurance link to Trip Mate, or through any provider of your choice. Save all receipts, tickets, and travel billings in case of a claim.

CANCELLATION must be in writing by email or letter – no text/call

\$175 cancellation fee for any reason. Additional cancellation schedules and penalties are on page 4 of your tour brochure.

TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

See page 4 of your tour brochure.

SEATING REQUESTS

If a medical condition requires specific seating, send a doctor's letter by payment due date for submission to airline. Selecting seats is no longer an option in group travel.

SEATING UPGRADE INQUIRY

All inquiries will be sent at one time, approximately 75 days before departure. You will be notified of cost and if agreed to will be billed at that time for confirmation, payable on receipt. Upgrades are non-refundable.

LUGGAGE

Luggage on tours must fit in the limited space under the coach, so each passenger may have: 1 checked bag, 1

carry-on bag, and 1 smaller additional item. **See airline website for weight and size restrictions.**

COMPLIMENTARY ITEMS:

You receive before departure

(by mail or at a final tour meeting: **two luggage tags, journal with pen, and a nametag lanyard /wallet** (the perfect size to hold your passport)).

You receive upon landing:

As soon as you board our coach: a **sturdy canvas backpack with padded straps, a cap, and a map.**

AIR MILES MAY NOT BE USED FOR GROUP TRAVEL. See online disclaimer.

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL



Frequently asked questions

Airline App

Download the airline app to receive periodic flight updates. Recommend this to whomever is picking you up upon landing in the US.

Cash

US Dollars spend with no problem in Israel. No currency exchange is needed. Carry ones in a front pocket for street vendors.

Courtesy please

Be on time. Don't talk over your guide or host. Move as a group. These

courtesies allow the group to see and experience much more during the tour.

Credit cards

Most cards are accepted everywhere. We recommend you carry two. Call your card company before departure to ensure they know the traveler is you.

Daily seating

There are no assigned or permanent seats on the coach. First come basis.

Electronics

Think about smaller hand-held electronics instead of full sized laptops.

Electric current

Israel's voltage is 220 volts (USA is 120). **Bring an adapter /converter** to convert 220 volts to 120.

Flights

Outbound flights are 10 – 10.5 hours and inbound flights are 11 – 12.

Flight schedule

Flight schedules can change up to the time of ticketing, which occurs approximately 14 - 30 days before departure. Leave room in planning for a possible 30 minute addition or loss of time. TLC has no control over these schedules or changes.

Food

Food is fresh, plentiful, and delicious. Bottled water is available for \$1 per bottle as you enter and exit the coach. Staying hydrated is very important.

Lunch

Lunch is your responsibility and is generally \$12 – 15 each meal.

Meals

Water is included with meals. Expect to pay \$2.50 - \$3 for other beverages.

Medical equipment on flights

Airlines have requirements/restrictions regarding medical equipment such as C-pap machines. **If needed, each passenger is responsible** to contact the airline for information approximately 2 weeks before departure.

Medicine / Health

Israel is a modern developed country

with some of the most advanced medical treatments in the world. Regardless, bring medications you may need while traveling such as anti - nausea, headache, sleep, stomach aides, etc. and *keep them accessible during daily travel, not packed in bags.*

Money / Exchange Rate / Currency

Dollars spend as easily as shekels; change will likely be in NIS. Daily exchange rates are posted in numerous places on the web.

Passport

Israeli law requires your passport be valid for six months beyond the date of arrival in Israel. **CHECK YOURS NOW.**

Prescriptions / Medication

Carry prescriptions in original containers (request pharmacy refills in smaller bottles prior to tour departure.)

Safety

Our drivers stay with and lock the coach at every stop. It is safe to leave items on the bus.

Shopping

Group shopping times are built into the tour schedule. DO NOT wander off to shop on your own.

Snacks

Pack snacks for the bus (and flight).

Time difference

Israel is 7 hours ahead of EST.

Tips

Tips are included in your final billing

and will be distributed on your behalf. Passengers are responsible to tip for *personal* services received such as laundry service, room service, etc.

Vaccine for COVID is not required
SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Due to the pandemic, this information may change infrequently. View airline sites, USA requirements online, as well as those for Israel.

Visa / Immunizations
None are required for US citizens.

No driver's license or visa is required. (Immunizations are only required *if* you recently visited areas with outbreaks of yellow fever, cholera or Ebola.)

Weather
Excellent information for weather:
www.weather-it-is-israel.com.

Wi-fi
Available in most hotel lobbies at no charge and on the touring coach (when near towers).

WHAT TO WEAR

Clothes: Think layering, especially in the winter. (Add gloves and a scarf.)



Shoes: Take an additional pair of walking shoes.

Modest Dress is best. *When in doubt leave it out.* No low-cut tops, short shorts, or halters. Carry a scarf or shawl just in case it's needed. Ladies, consider packing a skirt or dressy pair of slacks in case the group is invited to a special event (not required).

Touring Clothes: Dress comfortably. You will walk and climb on and off buses a lot. Be comfortable. Israel is not a fancy society.



Essentials any season Sunscreen Swimsuit Umbrella
Cords/chargers Hand sanitizer Hat/visor Kleenex Sunglasses

Seasonal Attire

If you are visiting Israel in the winter or early spring (Dec. - Feb.) **PLAN TO DRESS IN LAYERS &** bring mid to warm clothing, a lightweight coat or jacket, raincoat and/or windbreaker and perhaps earmuffs as well. Weather in Israel is not as cold as in Europe, but days can be rainy and cold, and Jerusalem is almost always windy.

If visiting during the summer (April – Oct.) bring lightweight clothing: short-sleeved and sleeveless shirts, shorts, sandals, beach shoes and a bathing suit. Also pack a sweater or jacket, since nights in the mountains and the desert can be cool. *Again, think layering.*

PACKING TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Don't overpack.
- Take less than you think you will need.
- Wear everything more than once.
- Pack similar items in zip lock bags; socks together, underwear together, etc. It keeps your suitcase organized throughout touring and saves room.
- Roll your clothes or fold them to stand on their side so you see each item in your open suitcase instead of digging through stacks. Travel and mornings are simpler.
- Leave expensive jewelry in the USA.
- Wash cloths are not offered in all Middle Eastern hotels. You may wish to take some and dispose of them along the way.
- Leave room in luggage for souvenirs, and ship larger purchases back to the US.
- *Save the expandable option on your suitcase for use as you return home.*
- Ladies, a small flat-style purse, can fit inside the **“one smaller personal item*.”**
- Only liquids 3 ounces or less (travel or trial sizes) can be in the carry-on and all liquids must fit TOGETHER in **one quart-size clear-zipper bag** which **MUST** be accessible during security check. **This means that only travel-sized cosmetics can be in the CARRY-ON bag.**
- Place liquids over 3 oz. in large zip lock bags and **place in CHECKED bag.**

LUGGAGE (DO NOT LOCK)

All full-sized liquids, gels, lotions over 3 ounces must be packed in checked luggage.

**Tie a readily identifiable ribbon or scarf to each of your pieces of luggage and plan to use the TLC Luggage tags provided.

CARRY-ON BAG

Include items you cannot live without (in case luggage is lost)

- Bible
- Charger cords, hair styling tools
- One full change of clothes & shoes
- Windbreaker
- Foldable umbrella (for rain or as a sunshield in hotter months)



ADDITIONAL ITEM: *Think oversized-purse or tote bag, camera case, laptop bag, etc.*
Consider including:

- If you chill easily, bring an extra travel blanket for the plane and warm socks.
- In flight, inflatable neck pillows are great.
- Include breath mints (your neighbor will love you).
- *Fit a small flat style purse *into* your additional bag for easy access instead of taking a large separate purse.

TLC TRAVEL TIPS

To save time reentering the US through customs, consider downloading the Mobile Passport App...see cbp.gov.

Your passport is used for airport check-in to receive your boarding pass.

- Using an airport luggage cart is *highly recommended* after arrival in Israel.
- There is no need to exchange currency or purchase traveler's checks.
- Remember you are a guest in a foreign country.
- Phone use: consider utilizing **WhatsApp** – it is free.



Luggage Identification

- Use your TLC luggage tags.
- ****Consider placing a piece of brightly colored ribbon on your bag handle; 300 black suitcases look amazingly alike when on the luggage carousel.**
- Put a photocopy of passport and contact information **INSIDE** all luggage. Leave a copy of passport, emergency info at home with family or friend.

Allow time for delays

- Check bags minimum of one hour before any domestic flight.
- Arrive 4 hours before international departures.
- Check bags a minimum of 2.5 – 3 hours before international flight.
- If airline luggage check-in time limitations are not met, they have the right to refuse to check baggage without a signed release of liability from you.
- Electronics (iPad, iPhone, laptops) must be removed from carry-on at initial security screening. Keep them readily accessible.

Returning home

- Do not place fragile items inside your checked bag. If it is too large to place in your carry-on, have it shipped back to the US.
- Do not joke about bombs. Israeli security is **stringent**.
- Security instructions will be given on the drive to the Ben Gurion airport.

Before departure you will receive information sheet(s) with contact numbers for TLC, our land partner, and hotels with itinerary, web and street addresses, the dates you will stay at each, and the final flight schedule.

Leave a copy with family in the US. You will also receive a list of your group's electronic ticket confirmations as a *back-up for check-in* at the airport.