



Preparing for Israel

Important things to know!

Religious Diversity

- ◆ **Jews – 76%**
 - Ultra-Orthodox
 - Orthodox
 - Secular / Cultural
- ◆ **Muslim – 17%**
- ◆ **Christians – 2%**
- ◆ **Druze / Other – 5%**



Languages

- ◆ Hebrew
- ◆ Arabic
- ◆ English
 - Required in school
 - Spoken everywhere
- ◆ Signage in all three



Weather

◆ Galilee

◆ Avg. High: 73

◆ Avg. Low: 63

◆ Jerusalem

◆ Avg. High: 65

◆ Avg. Low: 50

◆ Dead Sea

◆ Avg. High: 81

◆ Avg. Low: 64



Before You go

- ◆ **Passport must be valid for six months after last day of travel**
- ◆ **No Specific immunizations required**
- ◆ **Conference Booklet – Early October**
 - Tour schedule
 - Hotel information
 - Understanding weather forecasting, traffic signs, etc.
 - Passenger List
- ◆ **You'll receive a Travel Document package approx. 3 weeks before departure**

Physical Fitness

- ◆ Prepare for physical activity
 - Standing for several hours each day
 - Walking at a modest pace a few miles each day
 - Climbing and descending steps
 - Unpaved, uneven or rocky walking surfaces
 - Getting on and off busses
 - Get fit for Israel!



Physical Fitness

◆ Combat Jet lag

- Rest up before you leave!
- Take a personal pillow, earplugs / headphones and eye mask
- Stay hydrated
- Stretch and move during the flight
- Get sunlight upon arrival



Documentation

- ◆ **Passport**
- ◆ **Hard copy of airline e-ticket confirmation or itinerary**
- ◆ **Mark all luggage clearly with name and address (Inside and out); add distinguishing mark to black suitcases**
- ◆ **When you arrive in Israel, rather than receiving a stamp in your passport, you will be given a small card with your information. Keep this with your passport at all times; it must be shown at a checkpoint before departure.**

Items to Pack

- ◆ Casual clothing
- ◆ Light sweater or jacket
- ◆ Bathing suit (& cover-up)
- ◆ Modesty kit to carry with you
 - Women: clothing below the knee, covering for head and shoulders
 - Men: long pants, shirt sleeves
- ◆ Light raincoat or small umbrella
- ◆ Comfortable walking shoes
- ◆ Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- ◆ Minor first-aid care (band-aids)
- ◆ Charging cables
- ◆ Small day bag or backpack
- ◆ Color copy of your passport photo page



Recommended Luggage

◆ One Checked bag

- Use only TSA-approved locks
- Visit www.tsa.gov
- Check your airline's website for restrictions



◆ One Carry-on (+ personal)

- Identification
- Passport & color copy
- Travel documentation
- Snacks
- Essential toiletries
- Change of clothes
- Medications (in original container)
- Valuables and electronics

Daily Bag or Backpack

- ◇ **Sunglasses**
- ◇ **Sunscreen**
- ◇ **Long-sleeve shirt, sweater, or light jacket**
- ◇ **Modesty kit (guide will tell you the day before)**
- ◇ **Bible (if not on phone), notebook, & pen**
- ◇ **Necessary medications**
- ◇ **A light snack (that won't melt)**
- ◇ **Camera**
- ◇ **A lightweight bag to carry a few of these items at various stops**



Cash, Credit Cards and Money

- ◆ Most businesses in Israel accept U.S. credit (not debit) cards
- ◆ Leave unnecessary cards of every kind at home
- ◆ Notify credit card companies of travel plans
 - Check the international exchange fee for your card
- ◆ Get foreign currency from your bank before departure
- ◆ ATMs are available



Cash, Credit Cards and Money

◆ Tipping

- Inspiration covers all tips and gratuities for the tour and travel
- When dining on your own, acknowledge service with a 10-15% tip

◆ Taxes

- The VAT rate in Israel is approx. 16-20%; tax is usually included in the price rather than added at checkout
- To qualify for a VAT refund, you must spend at least \$100 in a single transaction at a VAT refund certified store



Electronics

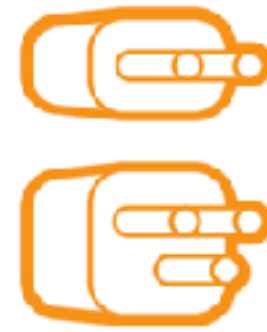
- ◆ **Adapters – enable the plug on your device to fit international outlets (\$3-5)**



Typical electrical outlets in Israel are round with three receptacles.

**220V/
50Hz**

The standard voltage used in Israel.



Electrical plugs in Israel have either two or three prongs.

Electronics

- ◆ **Converters – need for non dual-voltage appliances (\$40-50)**
 - Many devices have dual-voltage chargers and don't need a converter
 - Often dual-voltage appliances are less expensive than a converter
 - Do not use non-dual voltage electronics without a converter!
- ◆ **Consider bringing a small power strip if you need to charge multiple devices at once.**
- ◆ **Charge your devices every night.**
- ◆ **Blow driers are provided in hotel rooms.**



Cell Service

- ◆ Contact your provider regarding international service
- ◆ Disable automatic updates
- ◆ Consider renting a mobile phone for international travel
 - i.e. www.gcellular.net
 - www.cellularabroad.com
- ◆ Dallas is 8 hours behind Israel



Food & Drink

- ◆ Expect large breakfast and dinner buffets
- ◆ Jewish dietary law mandates the separation of dairy products from all meats (e.g., cream for coffee if a meat is served; no cheese with meat).
 - Breakfasts are dairy-based
 - Dinners are typically meat-based
- ◆ The water in Israel is safe to drink.



Other

- ◆ **Some public restrooms require a fee of one shekel**
 - Keep a few shekel coins with you at all times!
- ◆ **May choose to carry tissue, wipes and/or hand sanitizer**



Safety and Security

- ◆ **IDF - Presence of armed military personnel**
 - One reason why Israel is so safe!
- ◆ **Israel is Security-Conscious**
 - Street crime is rare
- ◆ **Use Caution & Common Sense**
 - Secure passport and valuables
 - Avoid traveling alone
 - Follow guides' instructions
 - Remain vigilant in crowded places



Questions

