

## Great Ideas

**VERIFY THAT YOUR PASSPORT WILL NOT EXPIRE UNTIL SIX MONTHS AFTER YOU RETURN HOME.**



**LUGGAGE**  
USE HARD-SHELL,  
LIGHTWEIGHT  
LUGGAGE



**TRAVEL INSURANCE**  
HIGHLY  
RECOMMENDED



**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**  
LEAVE COPIES OF  
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS  
AT HOME

# TRAVEL TIPS



## Holy Land Tour Travel Tips

- Verify your passport will not expire until at least six months after you return home.
- For best travel, use hard-shell, lightweight luggage. No locks needed or permitted at Security check points.

**Do not pack your  
Passport IN your  
luggage**

- Recommend purchasing Traveler's Insurance, verifying types of cancelation and medical coverage. Go to [myepictours.com](http://myepictours.com) and click on **TRAVEL INSURANCE** at the top right of each website page. The sooner you purchase the insurance the less expensive it will be so we strongly encourage you to do this asap.
- Leave **copies** of your travel documents including; a copy of your passport, itinerary, tickets, and emergency telephone number with someone at home.
- Your Passport should be packed in your purse/waist purse, NOT in your luggage.

Clearly **label** your suitcase inside and outside (name, home address, phone number and destination) and outside (name and destination). Put a photocopy of your **itinerary** on top of your clothes inside your suitcase. Include a copy of your passport and travel tickets in your suitcase in case your documents get lost or stolen.

Strong luggage tags should be attached to the main handle of your luggage and carry-on. We will provide color coded markers in order to quickly identify our luggage on conveyor belts in the airports.

**Carry-On luggage.** One Carry-on luggage, plus a personal item, such as a purse or backpack. Do not over pack it! Leave space for your souvenirs. For a carry-on, a spinner with 4 wheels is the easiest to manage for the long walks in the concourses at the airports. Review airline's online baggage and carry-on policy for size and weight limitations. Be sure it will fit in airplanes overhead bin. Your carry-on bag should contain everything you will need on the way to your destination, such as essential **medication**. Bring a copy of a prescription list as well. Medication should preferably carry pharmacy labels.

**Waist Purses** are HIGHLY recommended during tour days. 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. Never count money in public. Men must not carry money and passport in pockets. All persons should wear a waist purse that fits neatly in front or under your clothing. The point is to create a means of securing your passport and money on your person, but out of sight. Pickpockets will not be challenged to take your valuables and money if you follow this advice.

#### **CLOTHING:**

**Color** is also important. White clothes will not stay white long and black will absorb the heat and may cause discomfort. Light colors or mid-tones are best. Casual comfortable clothes – lightweight easy-care

## *Label your luggage clearly*



Clearly label your suitcase inside and outside. Put a photocopy of your itinerary on top of your clothes, inside your suitcase. Include a copy of your passport and travel tickets in your suitcase in the event your documents get lost or stolen.

## Place clear dry-cleaning plastic bags over each garment



Do not take large amounts of cash. Do take a few \$20 along with \$50 in one-dollar bills. There are many 'dollar moments' along the way....like bottled water or a pack of postcards.

clothing. Use Mix/match to avoid quantities of clothing. MINIMUM number of clothing! You will regret bringing all that stuff you didn't really need. Wearing the same item several times is acceptable. The Dead Sea area can be warm, and evenings can be cool. Pack a light jacket or sweater. Don't overpack. Take a travel clothesline and pins to hang clothes at night to dry.

**Sunglasses**, sunhat, and sunscreen are essential on this tour.

**Women** visiting religious sites should cover legs, cleavage and shoulders (even arms in some mosques). Eastern Orthodox sites might require women to wear a skirt and/or to cover their heads. If we tour the temple mount, a modest skirt (below knees) is required. A light shawl that can serve as a wrap or headscarf is a useful aid for modesty. There are many different religions in Israel and Jordan. Some are very offended by western clothing. We are in their country as visitors, dress modestly so as not to offend anyone.

**Men** will find that shorts may not be acceptable at some religious sites. Men should cover their heads in mosques and synagogues (but not in churches). At some Jewish sites (such as the Western Wall) a kippah (skullcap) is provided free. Don't overpack.

Wear comfortable walking shoes. No occasions for dress-up. Casual/sport is fine for dinner. You will feel right at home with other dining guests. No NEW shoes that haven't been 'proven comfortable'.

A lightweight Bible or Bible phone App is acceptable (able to use offline)

A journal/notebook that fits into a pocket or purse

Small travel size laundry detergent (place liquids in Ziploc bag) Powder is more safe against spillage.

Pack a couple of shoe boxes with snacks in luggage, eat and share on the tour, then use empty boxes to pack souvenirs

Place clear dry-cleaning plastic bags over each hanging garment to prevent wrinkles. Lay flat and roll up to place in luggage

Pack all gels, liquids, lotions, toothpaste, creams, shampoo, hair spray, etc. in your checked luggage, NOT IN CARRY-ON BAG OR **PURSE**. Place items in Ziploc bags to prevent leakage.

**Prepare your prayer list ahead of time for our prayer visit to the Western Wall.** Write names or prayer request on a small piece of paper, small enough to fold and place in the cracks of the rock wall. Be sure to have your written prayers with you when we tour Jerusalem.

**Phone camera or a digital camera** with supply of batteries and/or electric charger. Be sure your camera/cards will hold a thousand photos!

**DO NOT TAKE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH.** A Few \$20s along with \$50 in

one-dollar bills. There are many dollar moments, like bottled water or a pack of postcards.

Debit or credit cards are widely accepted. Contact your bank or credit card provider to place a Travel Alert on your cards. Provide the days and countries you will be touring. Verify your contact telephone information is up to date at your bank.

**Wash Cloths/face cloths are not** provided in most hotels. Take an inexpensive 10-pack of dollar store type wash cloths.



Pack a small **first aid kit** in your suitcase. Over the counter medications are not readily available for; diarrhea, headache, inflammation, insect bites, upset stomach, motion sickness, colds or allergies.

If you are partial to specific types of coffee or tea first thing in the morning, bring your own tea bags, coffee bags (just like tea bags with coffee grounds), plastic spoon and mug. Take your own coffee creamer in individual packs. Electronic gadget can be purchased at travel/luggage stores to place in a mug and heat water. It is a simple cord with a heating element on the end that you place into a cup of water and 'wa-la', it heats it up! However, most hotels have electric water kettles.

Artificial sweeteners such as Splenda or Stevia products are not readily available. Pack your own in your luggage and carry just what you need daily.

**PAY ATTENTION!** You will need an electric **converter** and an **adapter** for electronic devices. There is a difference between an electric converter and an adapter. A **CONVERTER** converts 220 TO 110. The **ADAPTER** simply adapts the plug to fit the foreign socket. You will need BOTH. Converters/Adapters can be purchased at Best Buy or Amazon. Good types will list countries in product details. Don't skimp on the price, get the best.

**IN AN EMERGENCY** you can use **WHATSAPP** (free app for all smart phones) and send a message to +972549056414. (You will need to save this number in your CONTACTS before attempting to send a message in WHATSAPP.) If you use iPhone then you can send an iMessage to this number as well. No charge. If WHATSAPP or iMessage is not available then you can call toll-free to this USA number 305-501-3356 but be aware of the time difference. We will reply the moment we receive the message.

Cell phone usage is very expensive overseas. Contact your Cell phone provider to see what plans they have available for overseas coverage during the tour. Some providers have a daily usage fee or a set usage fee. Internet/WiFi (WhatsApp) calls at no charge. Internet is available on the bus and in the hotels.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If your smart phone is **UNLOCKED** (check with your cell provider first) then you can purchase an Israeli SIM card much less expensive than the plans offered by USA cell companies. The pre-paid loaded SIM will be delivered to you by your Tour Guide upon landing in Israel. Simply go to MyEpicTours.com and click on the SIM icon at the top of the page.

EpicTours will provide you with a lanyard and name badge. It will be **YOUR IDENTIFICATION AS A MEMBER OF OUR TOUR GROUP**. It **must** be worn from the time we arrive at the departure city until we return. It is your meal ticket, your bus ticket, your entrance ticket and hotel/baggage identification ticket.

**Pack your luggage one week prior to departure.**

Then, unpack about half of what you packed, and it should come out about right. You don't need five pairs of slacks/skirts and ten shirts. A FEW of each is enough! We will not be holding fashion contests! Be comfortable. If you take too much, about the second day, you will confess "they told me so!" as you lug it around, up and down, in and out of the coach!

Weigh your luggage after it is packed. **GO ONLINE TO THE AIRLINE'S BAGGAGE POLICY** – read the weight and dimensions carefully. Convert the numbers to pounds. **DO NOT LEAVE HOME WITH THE FULL WEIGHT ALLOWANCE BECAUSE** when you

add your purchases/souvenirs to the luggage coming back, you will be over-weight and the airlines will charge you a hefty price.

Passengers are urged to arrive at the departure city and at the check-in counter four hours before flight time. If you are flying in, give yourself plenty of time in the event of a possible delay, cancellation, or change in terminals.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHECK IN FOR YOUR FLIGHT TO ISRAEL.** Epic Tours personnel will be present to guide every movement, inform and coordinate the group check-in. Epic Tours will not be sending your tickets to you for the flight to Israel. Your Epic Tours hosts will be present to manage the exciting experience of your pilgrim journey to the Holy Land and Jordan.

Detailed maps will be available when we arrive in Israel as well as a light-weight bag for shopping convenience.

