

HOLY LAND

In a short time from now, you will walk in the land where the 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.

www.MyEpicTOURS.com

ISRAEL/JORDAN Newsletter

Holy Land Issue

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?

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Luggage requirements, Passports & More

Did you know that you can only check one piece of luggage and that it must be 50 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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Trip Itinerary

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.

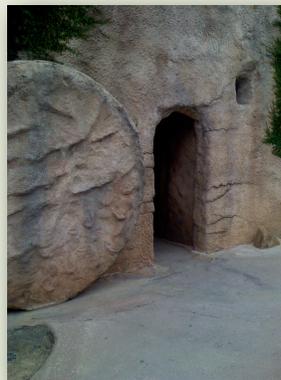
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The Journey Begins

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 miracles of Jesus Christ.

In a few weeks we will meet at your airport to begin an exciting journey to the land of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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

We 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

There is a wide range of temperatures in Jerusalem so we suggest you check your favored app for current weather conditions. The days can be pleasant but the nights can be 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 in most of the country, but hot at the Dead Sea. Again, these temperatures may change so do some research on your own to be prepared.

CLOTHING

Pack a minimum of clothing. You will be on the Mediterranean coast one night, Tiberias two nights, and then in your hotel in Jerusalem for four nights (More nights if you're taking the Jordan Luxury Tour.) You can hand wash with adequate time for drying. 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 us today and we'll be glad to assist you, or you can go to www.myepectours.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 50 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 50 pounds. So, weigh carefully and accurately. Your carry-on bag does not count in those 50 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. **These weights are based on certain airlines, so make certain you check YOUR airline for correct baggage limitations.*

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!)

NOTICE: *Take wash (face) cloths. Some hotels in the Middle East DO NOT supply wash cloths with the linens, they only furnish hand towels and bath towels.*

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. *Talk to your Tour Host regarding this subject.*

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 unless you check with the guide in advance. 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.

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! Remember, whatever you carry with you will be your 'weight' to carry throughout the tour!

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. Never count money in public.

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 already supplied but not guaranteed at each stop.***

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



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



View from Netanya Hotel at sundown



Riding camels on Mount of Olives

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. **CAUTION:** Many tour members report problems with electric converters and adapters that are purchased at Radio Shack.

PHONE NUMBER FOR EMERGENCY

Before you leave home, give the phone number/ email address 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 number is 302-200-3742 which will ring in Israel.

PHONE CALLS FROM ISRAEL

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 while you're away. 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 from Israel then buy a phone calling card or a SIM card

but make sure it can be used from a pay phone or that your cell phone is unlocked (Call your cell phone provider). 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.

PASSPORT - IMPORTANT

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

NAME BADGE

JET/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 in the Holy Land or the dining room for meals with the badge. It is your meal ticket, your bus ticket and your admission ticket to all the sites in Israel.

GROUP PROCESSES

It is important to listen and follow instructions when they are given to the group. For example, when you arrive in Israel, 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 in

Tel Aviv that 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

Please refer to your Tour Leader for up to the minute airport and travel information.

ALL PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE AT THE CHECK-IN COUNTER earlier than flight times.

Do not attempt to check in for the flight by yourself. The group check-in will be handled by your Tour Leaders 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, you should contact your Tour Leaders. We look forward to a wonderful time of inspiration, Biblical education, fun and fellowship with each of you.

PROJECTED ITINERARY

Please refer to www.MyEpicTours.com for current itinerary and up-to-date information.