

THE ISRAEL [[ENCOUNTER]]

WELCOME

We are so excited that you will be joining us for an experience of a lifetime as we discover together the wonders of the Holy Land. These will be life-shaping days as we experience many of the places where Jesus walked and ministered throughout His life on earth. We are confident that this experience will deepen your walk with Jesus and transform the way you read Scripture and worship. We can't wait for you to join us!

1. SUGGESTED PACKING LIST FOR THE ISRAEL ENCOUNTER

Important Documents & Items:

- Passport (valid until at least 6 months after return date)
- One other form of personal ID (ex: driver's license)
- Health insurance card
- Credit/debit card (American Express, Master Card and Visa cards are widely accepted)
- Copy of passport and travel insurance documents
- The Israel Encounter Name badge and luggage tags

Clothing:

- Casual and loose-fitting clothing that can be layered to cover knees and shoulders**
- Sweaters/coat/ jacket
- Long jeans/pants/shorts and/or capris
- Comfortable walking shoes/sneakers
- Hat for shade/Sunglasses/Sunscreen
- Bathing suit, towel, water shoes and plastic bag (should you choose to participate in the Dead Sea experience)
- ** For Ladies: shawl, scarf, or cardigan that can be wrapped around shoulders or head if needed at holy sites

Other:

- Backpack or other small, personal bag/purse
- Bible, journal, and pen
- Headphones
- Camera, phone and/or tablet
- Non-prescription and prescription medicines and photocopy of prescription(s)
- Toiletries and personal hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer

2. SECURITY

As a whole, Israel is a safe country, but your safety remains the greatest importance to us. All Israeli guides are experienced leaders who maintain “situational awareness” at all times and itineraries are created to avoid any areas of concern. If any issues arise while we are in the country, adjustments to the schedule will be made to keep everyone on the Holy Land tour safe. All security-related decisions are re-evaluated in real-time, with our priorities being the safety of our team, participants and the integrity of their Israel experience (in that order).

Before departing for the tour, we encourage you to register yourself and anyone traveling with you in the STEP through the State Department. This will allow you to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Israel before and while you are traveling. You can register for STEP at step.state.gov/step/

3. SECURITY INTERVIEW AT THE AIRPORT(S)

Security measures in Israel are similar to those in the United States. Be prepared for questioning at your airport of departure or stop-over. Questioning may be more intense if:

1. Your passport contains a stamp of a country where the majority of its citizens are Muslim
2. Your name sounds Middle Eastern

Security questioning ensures safety. Please be patient and understanding if questions seem personal. Keshet Journeys is the ground operator for the Israel Encounter Tour. You may be questioned again upon arrival in Israel passing Passport Control. In an emergency, call us at +972 52 485 7069 (Cheryl Meskin)

4. KESHET JOURNEYS TRAVEL APP

A few days before the start of the Israel Encounter Tour, you will receive information from PREMIER with download instructions and a log-in for the Keshet Journeys Travel App. In this App, you will find your individual itinerary, contact details and additional general information about Israel. Once downloaded, the App will also function offline. WIFI will be available on our buses and in the hotels.

5. ISRAEL ENCOUNTER TOUR CREDENTIALS

You will receive an Israel Encounter Tour name badge via mail from PREMIER. You must wear your credential at all times. This helps us identify your group, informs us of your bus number and gets you into events at a faster pace.

6. LUGGAGE TAGS

As you travel, please make sure all your pieces of luggage have the Israel Encounter identification tags, that will be mailed to you prior to the trip. These are important so that your luggage is easily identifiable during hotel transfers. Please place on your luggage when you arrive and collect your luggage at the Tel Aviv airport.

7. ISRAEL ENCOUNTER TOUR

PLEASE NOTE: If you purchased a group flight through Premier your tickets have been issued and you should have received your confirmation code from VIP Travel via e-mail last week. If you have not already done so, please access your flight information now to make sure that all information is correct. You may also enter Frequent Flyer, TSA pre-check, Global Entry information when logging in at this time.

ARRIVAL DAY (November 14th from 6:00 am onwards)

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, right after passport control and getting your luggage off the luggage carousel, please enter the main arrivals hall. On your right side, you will see the Aroma Espresso Bar. Behind the bar, next to the group exit gate 24, you will find an Israel Encounter Tour desk. For your reference, please check the picture below:

From the hospitality desk you will be escorted to your bus.

For arrivals before 1:00 pm we will have a short tour before checking in to the hotels.

Check in for the hotel is not available before 3:00 pm on November 14th.

ARRIVAL BEFORE November 14th at 6:00 am:

For all above arrivals please make sure that you have booked your pre nights. There will be a transfer for you from the airport to the hotels on November 14th at 4:00 pm.



Israel Encounter Tour Hospitality Booth Meeting Point

DEPARTURE DAY (November 21st ONLY)

Airport security requests tourists to arrive at the airport 3 hours prior to their departure. This means that the departure from Jerusalem needs to be 4 hours before.

Further departure details and times will be provided to you during the tour

8. MONEY

Currency Exchange – Israeli currency is the New Israeli Shekel. Shekel bill denominations are: 200, 100, 50 and 20 shekels. Shekel coin denominations are: 10, 5, 2, 1, ½ and 10 agorot. There are 100 agorot in 1 shekel.

Most restaurants, museums and stores accept major credit cards. Money can be exchanged at the airport, post offices, banks and at licensed money changing shops found in most downtown areas and malls. Hotels will offer to exchange money, but at a less advantageous rate. ATM cards or credit cards may not work at every ATM machine.

About a week before you travel you will want to notify your bank and/or credit card companies of your dates of travel to ensure you don't have any issues while in-country.

As of Oct 10th, 2019, the current exchange rate is 1 Israeli New Shekel to 0.29 US Dollar.

9. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- You can request wake-up calls at the hotel reception desk.
- Please allow yourself time to eat and use the facilities before departure time. Your guide will be waiting in the hotel lobby to escort you to your bus. Your bus number can be found on your name badge. Your guide will tell you in advance when to be on the bus each morning. We will be leaving ON TIME every day. Participants who are late are responsible for joining the group at the group's next destination at their own expense. Make sure you take everything you need for the day with you (money, camera, medicine, water, sun screen, glasses, sweater or jacket, hat etc.)
- Every participant will be given a personal headset, also called a Whisper, which will allow you to hear the information and instructions your guide is giving at all times.
- Check-out on the last day of the trip, November 21st, is at 11:00am. You need to vacate your room at that time. Make sure you take all of your belongings.

For those whose flights are departing later in the day and who want to do more sight-seeing or shopping, the hotel provides a locked storage room where you can put your luggage until you need to depart for the airport.

10. USEFUL INFORMATION WHILE IN ISRAEL

Dress for Holy Sites – Modest dress is mandatory at all churches and holy sites, and this applies to both men and women. This means that everyone's knees and shoulders must be covered during your visit to those locations. You may wear sleeveless shirts, shorts or jeans with holes in them at regular sites and on the bus, but a sweater or jacket will be required to cover your shoulders before entering a holy site.

At Jewish holy sites, such as the Western Wall, it is mandatory for men to cover their heads. You can wear your own hat, or the Jewish religious doorkeeper will give you a paper kippa (yarmulke) to cover the top of your head. At Christian holy sites, especially inside churches, hats are not allowed, and it is mandatory for men to uncover their heads. Your guide will give you instructions about the appropriate clothing for the next day's activities. Please follow the instructions provided to ensure that you can participate in all of the scheduled activities.

Electrical Appliances – In general, you will need adapters for small voltage or dual voltage devices like computers or small digital cameras. Large voltage items like hair dryers, flat irons etc. will need converters. *Apple made iPhone and Computer chargers work with just an adapter. Hair dryers and flat irons will likely catch fire or melt in many of these places. All of our hotels will have hair dryers in the rooms.

We suggest that you purchase an all-in-one universal plug adapter. You may find several shapes and sizes, but they will all allow you to plug in your devices in Israel.

Kosher – Traditional Jews observe the Kosher laws limiting certain foods. Among non-kosher, or prohibited foods, are pork, any meat that has not been ritually slaughtered, shellfish and any meal that combines dairy with meat. Therefore, in Kosher Hotels, breakfasts are dairy and dinners are meat.

Safety and Security – Generally speaking, Israel is as safe as or safer than most countries around the world. Nevertheless, we recommend that you take usual travel precautions: keep a separate copy of your passport; do not carry open bags which are a temptation to pickpockets; do not leave property lying around; do not leave knapsacks or baggage unattended in public places.

Tipping – All tips have been covered as part of your Holy Land package, however if you would like to leave a tip, it is customary to tip 12% to waiters in

restaurants where “service” is not included in the bill. Standard tips for the tour guide, bus driver, Hostess, bell staff and waiters at included meals have been included in your Holy Land package.

Travel Insurance – We encourage you to consider travel insurance to cover any unexpected costs incurred before or during your trip. A travel insurance plan can help to protect your trip investment with coverages related to flight delays, travel injuries and illnesses, unpredictable weather, lost or delayed baggage, and more. You can purchase travel insurance through Travel Guard or through any company of your choice.

Water – The arid climate in most of Israel means that your body can require you to drink without feeling thirsty. Water in Israel is generally safe to drink. Bottled water will be available on your tour buses for no extra charge.

Weather – Israel has a Mediterranean climate. Daily temperatures in November can range from 55-80°F depending on the time of day and specific location. The sun feels stronger in Israel, so we suggest that you wear a hat and sunscreen at all times while outside. As departure approaches, you can check expected weather [here](#).

Shabbat – Shabbat is the seventh day of the Jewish week and a day of rest in Judaism. Shabbat is observed from sunset Friday until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night. On this day, much of Jerusalem closes early in the evening to allow Jewish families the opportunity to gather and celebrate Shabbat together for a full 24 hours. You may notice in Israel many hotels change one or two of their elevators to “Shabbat Elevators” which automatically stop at every floor.

We are excited about our journey to Israel with you. If you have any questions, please let us know info@premiercruises.com or 1-800-889-5265.

Shalom!
PREMIER