

Travel Tips

What to pack.

From my past experience, winter is not extreme and on many days it can be hot and sunny. So you need to plan for a range of temperatures – dress in layers!

Short-sleeved shirts, hiking shorts, light slacks or jeans as well as a warmer pair. a couple of sweaters or warm jacket, since nights can be cool.

A raincoat, (travellers poncho) good walking shoes, an umbrella, gloves, a scarf. Weather in Israel is not as cold as it is in Europe, but days can be rainy and cold.

It's a good idea to bring a small bag or back pack for day trips.

Bring a bathing suit to experience the Dead Sea and Galilee, since it is warm enough to swim there even in the winter.

Sunscreen, a sun hat, and sunglasses are essential items throughout the year.

For entry into a Mosque shirts with sleeves and ladies will need a light scarf.

You will need good walking shoes and a lot of water, either in a canteen or in several bottles. Plan on buying a couple of bottles of water a day. I also find a few small sealable plastic bags handy for snacks.

A copy of the front pages of your passport and your birth-certificate. This can be handy you lose your passport and need a replacement.

Safe Travel

As always when travelling overseas it is important to heed advice about safety. Each individual on the tour accepts responsibility for their own preparation and ordinary care for personal safety. During the tour it may be necessary to rearrange the program if issues of safety arise. At all times we will be advised by our local tour operators and will take no unnecessary risks. We will not be travelling into or near the Gaza Strip but will visit some locations in the West Bank such as Jericho and Bethlehem.

Please read the Australian Government Website about overseas travel warnings and note any changes that may occur regarding Israel and Jordan.

Travel Advice: <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/>

Israel Travel: http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Israel_Gaza_Strip_and_West_Bank

You can set up an account to receive updates on travel advice to Israel.

Another useful site is the Israel Tourism site for tips on weather, etc.

MONEY

Major expenses have been covered already. Each day you will need to purchase a light midday meal and water. On days when you have some free time you may wish to visit a special museum. It is likely that you will want to purchase some books and souvenirs that are only available in Israel – remember to leave room for this when packing.

Since we will be away from major commercial centres there will not be ready access to banks. Never carry money or purse in an outer pocket. If you have pocket inside a zippered jacket that will suffice, or some sort of travellers pouch that can be worn under clothing.

Travellers Cheques are useless, so cash or Credit Cards are best. The preferred currency is US Dollars some of which could be changed to Shekels in Israel.

Notre Dame Hostel where we stay in Jerusalem have safes at reception. Two or three may need to share so perhaps bring an envelope with your name. This will depend on availability.

HEALTH

Before travelling I recommend you visit your local doctor to check up on any health concerns and it is a good idea to have a letter from your doctor about any medications you are packing and something in case of nausea due to travel sickness.

The “Travel Doctor” is also a good place for advice re immunisations and these offices are in each state - <http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/>

Emergency Contact person. Email to mary.coloe@acu.edu.au

I suggest you leave a copy of your itinerary, which you will receive from Maureen O’Dwyer with a contact person at home. I also leave a copy of my passport front page and birth certificate.

I will need the name, address, phone and email of your contact person in case of accident or illness. It can also be helpful if you bring with you a list of any medical issues and medications you take in case of emergency. This can be in a sealed envelope and given to me or another traveler. These are all just precautions when travelling which may never be needed, but it is better to have them just in case.

Your name:

Emergency Contact: Name

Address

Phone

E-mail.