

EATING IN ISRAEL:

Breakfasts and dinners are kosher in our hotels. Lunches are on your own. Kosher options are available on route and in most multi-selection food courts.

Restaurants: Customary rate for tipping in Israeli restaurants and cafes – 15%.

Wait-staff tips must be left in cash; they cannot be added to a credit card bill. Almost every restaurant in Israel has menus in English. Occasionally, the spellings or translations can be a bit strange, but these can provide amusement as well as charm. Israelis generally eat later than Americans; usually becoming crowded around 9pm or later.

Food Allergies– bring index card listing allergies and their translation in Hebrew



WATER:

Tap water is officially drinkable throughout Israel, but bottled mineral water is widely available. Remember to drink more liquid than usual to combat the effects of dehydration.

TAXIS:

Drivers must operate the meter for trips within the city. Locals do not tip taxis; the common practice is to round up to the nearest shekel.

DOWNLOAD TAXI APP – GETT (operates like Uber)

HELPFUL PHRASES:

- Boker Tov good morning
- Erev Tovgood evening
- Laila tov good night
- Shalomhello, goodbye; peace
- Toda Raba..... thank you
- B'vakasha please, you're welcome
- Ken.....yes
- Lono
- Ka'mah? how much? how many?
- Ma Shlomcha? (masc.)..... how are you?
- Ma Shlomech? (fem.)how are you?
- Ani rotza (fem.)I want
- Sh'mimy name is
- S'licha sorry/excuse me
- Shirutim bathroom
- Ani alergi l'botnimI'm allergic to peanuts.



ELECTRICITY– European System 220V

To charge electronic devices in Israel you will need transformer and an assortment of adapters to fit Israeli outlets (available at Target, Amazon, Walmart). Most power sockets in Israel have three pinholes, but many of them will work with double-pin European plugs. Please note that many newer devices– I Phones/ I Pads are compatible with the European system of 220V, however you still need adapters and USB cords to charge your devices. Shaver outlets in the bathrooms at our hotels are compatible with American shavers. Hair dryers are provided at the hotels.

WIFI/HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Available at hotels, many public areas, and on our motor coaches.

CALLING HOME:

Contact your cell phone provider to find out what's included in your plan.

Download WhatsApp or Viber to message or call friends or family FREE using Wi-fi. Please note that your friends and family must have the same App that you are using to communicate.

RECOMMENDED READING:

To enhance your Israel experience we recommend the following books:
The Source, by James Michener – a masterful journey through Israel's history.
Exodus, by Leon Uris – the popular novel which vividly describes the founding of Israel in 1948.
The Case for Israel, by Alan Dershowitz



Israel Travel Tips

Israel enjoys long, warm, dry summers (April-October) and generally mild winters (November-March)

WEATHER HI/LOW	TEL-AVIV	TIBERIAS	JERUSALEM	EILAT
MARCH	69/51	72/51	61/47	79/56
APRIL	72/54	80/56	69/53	87/63
MAY	77/63	89/62	77/60	95/69
JUNE	83/67	95/68	81/63	99/75
JULY	86/70	98/73	84/66	103/77
AUGUST	86/72	99/75	86/66	104/79
SEPT	89/69	95/71	82/65	98/75
OCT	83/59	89/65	78/60	92/69
NOV	76/54	78/59	67/54	83/61
DEC	66/47	68/53	56/47	74/51

WHAT TO PACK

Adult Tours:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- The Dead Sea —Bathing suit and water shoes that stay on your feet.
- Bathing suits, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- 3 Nicer Outfits for two Friday Shabbat Dinners and 1 Celebration Dinner in Jerusalem



Religious Sites: *applies to women only* **shoulders & knees must be covered**

- Bottom - Knee length shorts/capris/pants/skirts
 - Top-shoulders must be covered -Shirt with sleeves (no tank-tops) – lightweight shawl
- The Great Synagogue of Jerusalem: if you plan to attend services please dress for Shul- no pants

Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Family Tours:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- The Dead Sea -Bathing suit & water shoes that stay on your feet.
- Bathing suits, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- 2 Friday Night Shabbat Dinners- Dress Nicely
- Celebration Party - Cocktail Party Attire
- Ceremony on Masada - Bar/Bat Celebrants wear White/beige attire
- Tallit: You will have the opportunity to purchase one before the ceremony or the Rabbi will have one available to use during the ceremony.



December Family Tour:

Unpredictable weather

(40s-60s. Strong chance for rain)

- Coat (Warm clothing, layers)
- Umbrella, gloves, scarf and other warm clothing
- 1 Friday Night Shabbat Dinner – Dress Nicely
- Masada – Casual attire – Dress according to weather – white not required
- Tallit: You will have the opportunity to purchase one before the ceremony or the Rabbi will have one available to use during the ceremony

LAUNDRY: *Good News!*

½ way through the tour we organize laundry service for the group. The service will be explained on the tour. The approximate cost per bag (plastic bag provided in hotel closets) 80nis (shekels) or \$25.00 per bag. Only Israeli shekels accepted – no credit cards. In addition, all the hotels offer valet laundry and dry-cleaning services but quite costly.

Please note that laundry service not available on 12 day sequence tours.

MONEY:

The **Shekel** is Israel's currency. The rate of exchange fluctuates and approximately 3.75 shekels = \$1.00. We recommend that you bring **\$500.00 per person cash**, along with major credit cards. Upon arrival convert \$100.00 to shekels to be used for smaller items/incidentals.



ATM MACHINES:

ATMS are everywhere. Your debit card must be part of an international network; most are, but if you are not sure, ask your bank. ATM instructions begin in Hebrew and will automatically switch to English once you enter your card PIN number. If your PIN number is more than 4 digits, change it to 4 digits at your bank **before** you leave for Israel. ATMS only give shekels NOT American dollars \$.

BONUS Gratuities Guides & Drivers:

\$80.00 per person to guide

\$40.00 per person to driver

Counselors on Family Tours — at your discretion

Please show your appreciation at the end of the tour!

Saturday Optional Tours Offered:

(cash only collected on the tour— no credit cards)

Tel Megiddo & Druze Village—\$50.00 per person

Christian Sites Old City Tour—\$50.00 per person

SAFES:

All the hotels have safes in the rooms (except the Kibbutz).

Videographer/Photographer Services

(Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Tours)

Offered on the tour in Israel

Professional video and pictures of the Bar & Bat Mitzvah ceremony on Masada and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration Party

\$350.00 per family (minimum 10 families)

Cash or personal checks accepted done in Israel on the tour paid directly to the photographer

Package includes HD video and DVD with pictures from Masada and Celebration Party.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:

One suitcase & one carry-on bag per person.

Suitcases exceeding 50 pounds may be subject to airline fees upon check-in, and carry-on bags must be able to be stowed under the seat or in the overhead bin. Please review guidelines of the air carrier.

Porterage included on the tour for one suitcase only per person. Excess luggage will be subject to charges up to \$50.00 per piece.

Please note: Overhead space inside the bus is more restricted than on the airplane. The carry-on used for the plane may not be the bag for everyday needs and suggest that you bring a small carry-on for everyday use. Many pack this smaller bag in their suitcase.

LUGGAGE TAGS & NAME TAGS:

We will be mailing you 2 luggage tags and 1 name tag per person in final documents about one month prior to departure. Name Tags must be worn



during the tour for both security and identification at many of the sites in Israel. Place the luggage tags on your suitcase and carry-on, prior to departure, and pack the name tags to be worn on the tour.

PASSPORTS:

You must have a passport that will remain valid throughout the trip and for an additional **six months post tour**. Every traveler (including children) must have his or her own passport. No visa or inoculations are required to visit Israel.

V.A.T.:

Value Added Tax refunds are redeemed at Ben Gurion airport on departure from Israel only at VAT Counters. You must have the item purchased along with the VAT receipt to receive refund.