

General Packing Guidelines

WEATHER:

The weather is normally a little warmer during the day in Israel than the Midwest. However, the evenings are a bit cooler than normal. After midnight, things will cool down to high 50 degrees each night. Rain is likely during the spring. Recommend a light waterproof jacket and/or a long sleeve shirt. You might be comfortable in a T-shirt in the evenings, but it can become chilly in the evenings. During the day, hats and sunscreen and drinking plenty of water are the keys to success!

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

The MOST important rule. The 50% Rule! Lay out all of your clothing for 12 days ... then put half of it away! Plan to double / triple wear some of your clothes. Wash what you need in your hotel sink. No one will judge you. It is about being efficient and wise. Less is more. Plan ahead for your 50-pound weight limit for the return trip. 1/3 of your checked bag should be empty for those gifts and clothing items you will be purchasing.

Do NOT bring expensive jewelry, watches, etc. Any material items that are precious to you or something you cannot replace ... leave these items at home. Security of your valuables, ID, passport, credit cards and money is your responsibility. Take advantage of SAFES in your room each time you exit the room. Israel is a safe place and we have 4- and 5-star hotels ... but never bet on chance.

Casual is the word for Israel. Consider packing discrete clothing where you won't stick out in the crowd. Please, no tank tops. Non-offensive t-shirts are okay. Modest wear for Holy Sites and Sabbaths is the covering of shoulders and knees, and no open toed shoes. For men I recommend an open collared shirt and one pair non-blue jean pants. Ladies can wear a blouse and free flowing skirt, even the one you use to throw on to go into holy sites. (Via-Delatorosa, Wailing Wall and Temple Mount)

When we visit the Wailing Wall of the temple mount, men will need to cover the top of their head. A plain baseball type cap or small knit cap will work. Don't worry about looking-feeling odd, you won't ... and it is an experience you will never forget. Don't let pride get in the way of a once in a lifetime experience!

Bring a swim suit, an old towel and a plastic bag for when you are wet from the Dead Sea swim, Jordan River Baptismal site, and a Mediterranean Sea our first night in Israel (if you choose). Remember ... appropriate modest swim wear is encouraged. Bring an old towel, something you can throw away before the return flight home.

CARRY ON LUGGAGE:

Plan on a carry-on bag and a backpack/computer type bag for the flights. Carry-on should be no bigger than 22 inches. Pack **ONE** days clothing, and **TWO** days of toiletries and required medications. While it is unlikely your luggage will get lost, plan ahead as it reduces your stress level if it does occur. Liquids are limited 3-ounce bottles. Recommend reading material, noise canceling headsets, music or game devices and snacks. Consider a small travel pillow. (It is a long flight!)

CHECKED LUGGAGE:

At the present time, airlines allow one piece of luggage that weighs no more than 50 lbs, with the total dimensions (L + W + H) of no more than 61 inches without additional charges. Currently ION & lithium batteries are not permitted in the luggage compartments. Recommend all batteries be in your carry on.

GENERAL TOPICS:

Place one copy of your Passport, Travel Insurance card, Hotel Summary Sheet, and Yosher Tours Point of Contact in EACH bag. Place them in an easily accessible pouch. This will help to speed up the return and/or delivery to you if your luggage is lost or left behind.

In Israel, your luggage will be loaded on the bus when you arrive, transferred to each of your hotels, and returned to the airport on your departure from Israel.

Most hotels do not have washers and dryers for the guest to launder their own clothes. Plan on sending your dirty laundry out to be laundered if you need it. Sink washing and air drying overnight is recommended.

Normal prescription medications can be packed in a pill case or small zip lock bag. If you are under doctors' orders for a controlled substance, keep them in the original prescription bottle.

Footwear. Plan for comfortable walking/hiking type shoes that take up the least amount of luggage space. These can be used for the entire trip; general hiking, archeological sites, walking/touring modest sites and Sabbath walks. Open toe'd shoes are not encouraged. For the Dead Sea, Jordan River, close toe'd water shoes are encouraged.

Bring 2/3 European type electrical adapters per room.

Bring a small flashlight in your carry-on and while touring.

If you wear glasses, bring a second set (or old pair) just in case they get lost or broken.

Make or take a small first aid kit (aspirin, band aids, blisters, etc.)

For the flight you want to bring something long sleeve in case it gets cold. It can also be used as a cover up into the evening when we are in the Desert or in Jerusalem when we visit the City of David Sound and Light Show.

As a tourist in Israel, you can be as casual as you like, even in nice restaurants etc. The only restrictions are religious sites. Prepare for the ability to slip on shirts, skirts and long pants over shorts for short duration religious site visits. You will need modest clothing for the Via Delarosa walk and Sabbath (Friday evening through sunset Saturday). Changing is possible in bathrooms, but not always the most comfortable. Do not be surprised if logistics calls for ALL MEN OFF THE BUS events for quick comfort changes, and perhaps vice versa.