



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



# ISRAEL TOUR

NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> –  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What type of clothing do I need to bring?** In December the weather in Israel can alternate daily. It is still before the rainy cold months, but after the unbearable hot summer. It also depends where in Israel you are traveling; the north will be colder, especially at night. It's the time of year where you don't need a heavy coat but some sort of outer layer is needed. In general the weather is a bit unstable during the first half of December. It can get rainy and cold or sunny and warm. It's best to take varied clothes with you, for example T-shirts with multiple layers and a coat and umbrella too. A good fleece jacket will be acceptable. If you tend to often feel cold you might want to bring a heavier coat.

### **What is the average temperature for November/December?**

The temperature ranges from lows of 55 degrees at night with the possibility of highs of 75-80 degrees during the day. It may be rainy, so come prepared for rain. The Dead Sea area has ideal winter—warm and sunny with year-round swimming (day time highs of 75-80 degrees). Bring casual clothing as no suits, ties, or dresses are required and jeans are acceptable. You will need a jacket for the mornings. It is best to wear slacks or pants because shorts cannot be worn into some of the holy sites. Also, it is best **not** to have sleeveless shirts, such as tank tops because, again, some of the holy sites will not allow you in with bare arms. Short sleeved shirts and t-shirts are acceptable. If women wear clothing with shoulders exposed, they should cover their shoulders to enter the holy sites. For men, head coverings are required at holy sites, and are provided. Most importantly, make sure you have comfortable, broken-in walking shoes. If you are planning to be baptized in the Jordan River, please remember to bring a swim suit.

### **Should I bring bottled water?**

No, the water in the hotels is safe to drink and bottled water is sold everywhere.

### **How much spending money should I bring?**

The tour cost includes breakfast and dinner daily and 120 in tips that will be paid on your behalf to tour guides in Israel. Therefore, the only money you need to bring is for your lunches and souvenirs. It will cost between \$5.00 to \$15.00 per day for your lunch. American dollars are accepted everywhere, therefore you will not necessarily need to exchange money. It is a good idea to take your money in a zippered pouch that fits under your clothing. These can be purchased at most travel stores. Credit and debit cards are accepted in most stores. Large sums of money should be in the form of traveler's checks. By popular demand, we will be shopping, including a diamond center with fine jewelry and diamonds at incredible prices.

**Is the electrical system in Israel different, and if so, what do I need to bring?** The electrical system in the U.S. operates on 110 volts, and Israel uses 220 volts. Adapter kits containing converters and foreign plugs are available at consumer electronic stores or a travel/luggage specialty store. The converter is necessary only if you are taking appliances that do not have 110/220 options such as electric razors, curlers, etc. Many hair dryers come already equipped with a 110/220 switch. Even if appliances are equipped with the 110/220 option, you will still need an adapter.

**Are special immunizations required?**

No vaccinations are required for entry into Israel, but it is a good idea to check with your personal physician to see if any are recommended.

**What can I expect with Luggage Check-in? (for persons travelling from North America)**

Each passenger may bring two checked bags per person, with total dimensions not exceeding 106 inches (length plus width plus height) together on both pieces, and they must not weigh more than 50 lbs (23 kilos) per piece. Dimensions on the first piece should not be more than 62 inches and the second piece should not be more than 55 inches. Again, **it is best to check your luggage all the way through to Tel Aviv** (see above information).

**What can I expect with Luggage Check-in? (for persons travelling from all other areas except Brazil)**

Each passenger may bring two check-in bags per person, with total dimensions not exceeding 106 inches (length plus width plus height) together on both pieces and they must not weigh more than 44 lbs (20 kilos) per piece. Dimensions on the first piece should not be more than 62 inches and the second piece should not be more than 55 inches. Again, **it is best to check your luggage all the way through to Tel Aviv** (see above information).

**What can I expect with Carry-on luggage?**

Each passenger may carry on one piece per person, with total dimensions not exceeding 45 inches (length plus width plus height) and should not weigh more than 15 lbs. Be sure to have identification on the inside as well as on the outside of ALL pieces of your luggage. It is a good idea to double tag the outside of your bag in case one of the tags becomes detached during transit.

**What Passport and Visa Information is required?**

A valid passport is required for international travel. U.S. citizens will be issued a visitor's visa free of charge at the port of entry in Israel. You do not need to apply for one in advance. **If you hold a passport from another country other than the U.S., you are responsible to find out if an advance visa is required.**

**What if I am meeting the group in Tel Aviv?**

If you are a land package participant and flying separately, you can either meet us at the Tel Aviv airport upon our group arrival, or you can meet us at the hotel in Jerusalem. **If you choose to fly separately, you will be responsible for your own taxi fare to and from the hotel.**

**Why is the itinerary “subject to change”?**

The travel itinerary is subject to change due to changes in weather, safety, large numbers of tour groups and for many other reasons that may require us to change the course or order of the sites we had planned to see. This is at the discretion of the tour leaders and JVMI staff and you will be notified of any changes we need to make.

**Is it safe to travel to Israel? What happens if there is a dangerous situation?**

Jewish Voice Ministries International and our President, Jonathan Bernis have taken over 20 tours to Israel. With this knowledge and experience we have developed solid partnerships with tour companies and residents of Israel. We feel confident that the current situation in Israel is safe and we have been assured by the Department of Tourism in Israel that travel to Israel is safe.

In the event that the level of safety in Israel changes and becomes threatened, Jewish Voice Ministries will not risk the safety and security of our participants and staff. Therefore, we will cancel the tour and all monies paid to Jewish Voice Ministries International for the Israel Tour 2012 will be refunded at that time.

\*\*\*See detailed cancellation policy for more information.

**SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING**

**Medicines:** For some people, the change in climate and food could upset their system. We suggest you bring the following: aspirin or Tylenol, cold/sinus remedies, cough drops, medicine for diarrhea and upset stomach or motion sickness, and any special required medication. Make sure all medicines are in their original containers and are clearly labeled.

**Toiletries:** Bring your own shampoo, soap, etc. The hotel will provide these, but you may want to have your own brands. It is also a good idea to bring tissues as some of the restrooms at the tourist sites run out of or do not provide toilet paper.

**110/220 Converter and Plugs:** Adapter kits containing converters and foreign plugs are available at consumer electronics stores or travel/luggage specialty stores. The converter is necessary only if you are taking appliances that do not have the 110/220 switch such as electric razors, curlers, etc.

**Short Extension Cord:** We suggest you bring an extension cord because outlets are often found in strange places.

**Earplugs, Eye Masks and Extra Glasses:** Earplugs and eye masks can be helpful for sleeping on the plane, as well as in the hotel. We suggest you sleep on the plane to avoid jet lag. Bring an extra pair of glasses or contacts, if possible.

**Extra Copy of Your Passport:** Bring a photocopy of the first two pages of your passport. You will need the information if you lose your real one. Keep it separate from your original.

**Cameras, Video Cameras and Film:** Don't forget to bring your camera, you will want to capture this beautiful city and these memories forever! Photography is readily available for purchase as well as an array of videos, slides, photographs and post cards.