

# ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation. For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end.

Psalm  
48:12-14



## Israel in Depth Study Tour!

### Walk as Jesus Walked

Welcome! We are delighted that you have chosen to participate in Come and Learn to Walk Israel in Depth Study Tour! As we travel together throughout the Land of the Bible, from as far south as the Negev to Galilee in the north, we will experience the stunning beauty of Israel.

The Land of Israel allows us to read the Bible in 3D, stepping into a full scale relief map of the Biblical story, to experience the sights, smells and sounds of the Bible and modern time. Through our geographical exploration, we will span the Biblical history of the Israelites, from Abraham to David to Jesus and the Second Temple Period. Our tour will for-

ever provide you with the ability to place the Biblical events back into their historical, geographical and cultural context.

God could have chosen any place and any people to tell His story . . . together may we discover His wisdom in choosing Israel, both the Land and the People, to bring about His covenant of love to the nations.

### What to Bring

Please follow carefully the checklist provided in your Study Guide Book. The trip is very casual so expect to wear light pants or shorts and a t-shirt daily except in a few religious sites, and all of

Jerusalem, where a “modesty kit” is required, (meaning long pants and covered shoulders). Zip off pants work well and many women find a long loose skirt useful over shorts, weather permitting.

### Climate

The temperature will be hot but the evenings can be cool, along with air-conditioned hotels and buses. Bottled water will be provided for you daily and it is very important that you drink a lot of water each day. Electrolyte replenishment through supplements like Gatoraid or Gu can be very helpful. A full brimmed hat is highly recommended.

## Heart

Israel is an ancient land and archaeological ruins built over 2000 years ago did not meet handicap accessible requirements then or now. Get ready to hike! Every site in Israel requires walking, whether at a museum or the Temple Mount. Physical exercise before the trip that prepares you for 4-6 miles of walking per day is highly recommended. The more you prepare your body, the more you will be able to enjoy the trip and increase your learning and retention.

## Feet

We cannot overemphasize the need for good walking shoes that are broken in and provide good support. Because we will be “learning with our feet,” unprepared shoes and feet could cause a loss in learning. Following these few guidelines will help to make your trip, and the experience of the entire group, thoroughly enjoyable. A very good pair of hiking boots, plus an additional pair of walking shoes will suffice. Walking sandals like Keens, Tevas, or Chacos are also nice for water stops.

## Gadgets and Gear

Cameras are highly encouraged and your photos will be fantastic tools to share your experience back home. Make sure to pack your camera in your carry-on bag and not your checked bag. Once our trip has begun, you may not have the opportunity to replenish specific supplies so please make certain you have all of your accessories prior to your departure. The bus will be a safe place to keep your bag with any valuables. You will not need any specialized gear for the trip.

## Geography

During the course of our trip, we will introduce you to the basics of historical geography in the Bible. However, you will find it very helpful to familiarize yourself with some of the basic maps and information provided in your study guide. What may appear to be cold facts here will be very helpful on-site.

## Our Day

The daily pattern for most days will be as follows:

**Wake Up:** 6:00AM

**Breakfast:** 6:30 AM

**Begin Day:** 7AM at the bus

**Morning Session:** Involves walking, teaching, discussion, and exploration.

**Lunch:** Provided in the field. (In light of our demanding schedule, we recommend bringing along a powerbar or snack for between meal times).

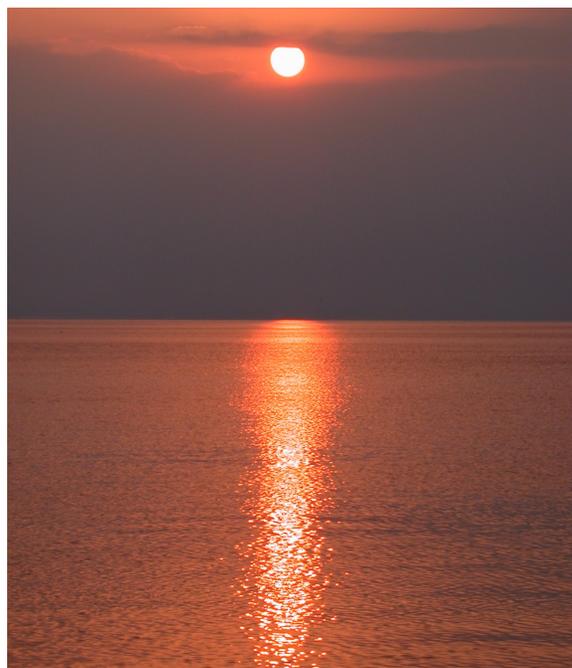
**Afternoon Session:** Activities similar to the morning.

**Return to Hotel:** 5-6 PM

**Dinner** upon return.

On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of Egypt into a land I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands.

Ezekiel 20:6



# What to Pack!

Below is a suggested check list for packing and preparing for your upcoming Israel Study Tour! Check with your airline provider but typically luggage is restricted to one suitcase (50lbs), one carry-on and a personal bag (backpack, purse, etc.) If you plan to purchase souvenirs, you may want to pack an additional collapsible bag for your return home. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions. Looking forward to exploring the Land with each of you!

## Currency

Dollars are accepted at many establishments in Israel. You will receive change in Shekels (NIS). Water, coffee, tea and often juice will be provided at meals for free. If you plan to purchase soft-drinks or additional drinks, single dollar bills are helpful for small purchases. Major credit cards are accepted for purchases at most establishments; check with your credit card company regarding any additional surcharges for international purchases. ATM's are available in the city centers and will dispense shekels. Notify your bank and credit card company of your upcoming travel in order to prevent account closures for unusual activity.

## Passport and Identification

You will be carrying your passport with you at all times. There are many different ways to carry your passport and whatever you feel most comfortable with is recommended. I carry mine in a pocket in my backpack/day bag. We suggest you make two photocopies of your passport: one to leave with a friend or family member back home and one to give to someone traveling with you on the tour. It is also recommended that you bring one additional form of identification, like a drivers license. You may also want to leave a photocopy of any documents or credit cards with someone back home so that in case of loss, the details can be reported easily and quickly.

## Phone Calls from Israel

Calls home from the hotels are very expensive. Contact your cell phone provider to determine international calling rates on your plan. You can also rent a phone for your visit: <https://www.amigo-us.com>

## Laptops, Cameras, Electronics

Many prefer to bring their laptops along to Israel. Internet access is available at most hotels but it depends on the hotel whether or not it is provided free of charge and how reliable it may be. Your valuables, like a laptop, will be very safe in your carry-on on the bus during our day excursions. If you plan to store valuables in your hotel room, bring a small lock to put on your luggage and lock it prior to departing for the day. Theft is not more common in Israel, however, valuables left out are subject to crimes of opportunity, just like in the U.S. Some of the hotel rooms provide safes.

Electronic Accessories (electric current is 220 volts. This is a picture of an adapter that will attach to your two-pronged U.S. plug in order to fit into an outlet in Israel. Check with your particular electronic devices to see if anything additional is needed. Adapters are available quite cheaply on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



Camera

Accessories for Camera (batteries, cords, memory cards, etc)

**The following items will be provided for you by mail, in advance of our departure. Please bring them along with you on the Tour.**

- Study Guide with Map (shipping to homes prior to departure)
- Name Tag (to be worn when traveling for group identification)
- 2 Luggage Tags (attach to checked luggage and carry-on)

### **Carry-On Bag**

- Passport, ticket, wallet
- Any over the counter or prescription medication you are taking. (In case of lost luggage, make sure that any necessary items are packed in your carry-on). Those who have trouble sleeping on planes, may want to bring along Tylenol PM or Simply Sleep, also made by Tylenol.
- Jacket / Sweater / Rain poncho ... we may encounter April showers so be prepared.
- Neck Pillow
- Ear Plugs or Eye Mask if desired.
- Ear phones
- Comfy Socks for kicking off your shoes during flight
- Travelers often experience swelling of the ankles/feet on the plane. Besides getting up frequently during the flight and stretching, consider purchasing circulatory socks, available at the drug store.
- Camera (Carry-on bag; like other valuables, please do not pack in checked luggage)
- Gum/Snacks
- Laptop (if you plan to bring one)
- Water Bottle. Due to security restrictions on liquids, bring an empty water bottle to fill it up once past security and on the plane. You will also use it during our travel in Israel. Nalgene (hard plastic) bottles are available for purchase at Amazon.com or your local REI.
- Pen/Pencil/Highlighter/Study Guide (will be sent to you)
- Small pocket or electronic Bible to read along on site.



### **Packing List**

- Backpack or Day Hiking Pack. Every day, we will explore the Land. You will want to carry your study guide, pen, camera, wallet and water bottles.
- Swimsuit
- Wide-brimmed hat
- Small Flashlight
- Sunscreen
- Snacks (granola bars, trail mix) We will have three delicious meals a day, however you may want to snack in between while we are out in the field.
- Powdered Gatoraid or sports drink to mix into water bottle if you prefer over water.
- Sunglasses
- Personal First-Aid Kit (including Band-Aids, first aid ointment, blister care, diarrhea/stomach medication (Pepto/Immodium) aspirin, personal medications, nail clippers, etc)
- Walking Shoes/Boots and Sneakers with Good Traction

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- Hiking / Athletic Socks
- Walking Stick - Optional. Some participants already have a telescopic walking stick, (like a ski-pole) they walk or hike with - this is not required but you are welcome to bring yours along if you so desire.
- Sandals, flip flops, or comfortable shoes for relaxing and time at the beach/pool.
- Water shoes. There are a few occasions when you may want to have shoes you can wear in water, like Tevas or Chacos or Keens. Old tennis shoes, your sandals, flip flops are options; whatever you don't mind getting wet and you can walk in a bit.

Clothing:

The trip is casual so light pants or shorts and a t-shirt daily is fine except in a few religious sites, and all of Jerusalem, where a “modesty kit” is required, (meaning long pants and covered shoulders). Zip-off pants work well and many women find a long loose skirt useful over shorts. You may also like to bring along a few items (shirt/skirt/scarf) to keep aside for dinners and time not studying in the field. Laundry services are available in the hotels but tend to be expensive. Many participants bring some Woolite to wash clothing in the tub and hang out to dry overnight, though with the weather being cooler, that can be a challenge this time of year. To increase drying time, roll the wet item up in a towel, place it on your bathroom floor and stomp on it a bit to remove any excess water, then hang dry. A plastic bag for dirty or damp clothes is helpful to keep them separate.

- Cosmetic Kit (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, razor, etc).
- Wet wipes and/or antibacterial gel
- Small Tissue Packs & little baggies for any waste.

**Day of Departure:**

Arriving to a domestic terminal a minimum of 2 hours prior to departure, or 3 if your flight is international. Proceed through Security towards your Gate Assignment.

**Security Line:** If you are traveling with any liquid, gel, toothpaste, lotion, etc., the travel sizes must be 3.4 ounces or less, which can be purchased at any drug store. All toiletries must fit comfortably in one, quart size, clear plastic zip-top bag, as seen below. When going through Security, the zip-top bag will need to be presented separately from your other items, along with your laptop or other electronic items.

**Arrival in Israel:**

**A Word about Security:** Israeli trained security personnel will be asking you a series of questions prior to boarding your Israel bound flight, as well as once you arrive in Israel. If you are stopped by security, remain calm. Their job is to make you flustered to try to ascertain any security risk. Remember that they are keeping us all safe and are providers of the best security in the world. Stay patient, calm and kind, even if your flight departure is approaching. It will all work out.

**What to Expect:** When you arrive in Israel, you will disembark your plane and make your way to passport control. Once through passport control, you will claim your luggage. Free carts are available to your

right as you enter into the baggage claim area. Restrooms, water fountains and a lost luggage department are in the baggage claim area should you need any assistance. Once your luggage is claimed, you will proceed through the “Nothing to Declare” green colored doors out to the airport lobby.

### **Ben Gurion airport to Tel Aviv Taxi**

As you exit into the front lobby, there are more restrooms and a cafe to your right. If you are waiting for other travelers, please wait at this cafe. If you are going directly to the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv, simply walk out the front doors and grab a taxi. If traveling with a group, you can share a cab. The rate will vary depending on the number of persons and bags, approximately \$30 - \$40.



Once you arrive at the hotel, you’ll be able to check in under your own name. Dinner will be provided in the hotel dining room that evening. The tour group will meet for breakfast in the hotel at 6:30AM on Sunday, June 21, checking out and bringing your luggage to the lobby. Be ready to be on the bus at 7AM and prepared to hike as we go explore our first stop together!

Contact Danielle (650-455-2324) or Kevin (650-455-2326 cell) if you have any questions.