

General Packing Guidelines

WEATHER:

The weather is normally a little warmer in March than what you are use too in Missouri. But it can be hot with no rain. (Masada)

Plan for cool nights. Bring light jacket/long sleeve shirt. The evenings are a bit cooler than normal. After midnight, things will cool down to high 50 degrees each night. You might be comfortable in a T-shirt in the evenings, but a breeze can potentially cause a chill (like when we are returning from the evening sound and light show).

Hats – Sunscreen and drinking plenty of water are the keys to success! You will probably receive a baseball type Sar El tourist cap when we arrive.

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 bringing back.

Do NOT bring expensive jewelry, watches, etc. Any material item that is precious and dear to you, or something you cannot replace ... leave at home. Security of your valuables, ID, passport, credit cards and money is your responsibility. Take advantage of your room safes 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. 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 collar shirt and any 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-Delarosa is one of these days)

When we visit the Wailing Wall of the temple mount, men will need to cover the top of their head. A plain baseball cap, 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!

Consider packing discrete clothing where you won't stick out in the crowd. Please, no tank tops. Non-offensive t-shirts are okay.

Bring swim suit (and a plastic bag for when wet) for the Dead Sea swims and Baptismal site. Remember ... appropriate modest swim wear is highly encouraged. (Pack it in your carry on if you want to swim in the Mediterranean Sea our first night in Israel.)

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. Bring reading material, noise canceling headsets (if you need them), 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 no more than 50 lbs with total dimensions of no more than 61 inches without additional charges.

Currently it is unpredictable as to regulations for ION & lithium batteries. I recommend all batteries be in your carry on. They are not permitted in the luggage compartments as they may not be pressurized and have the potential to become a fire hazard.

GENERAL TOPICS:

Place one copy of your passport, State ID, Travel Insurance card, and Yosher Tours Point of Contact in EACH bag. Place them in an easily accessible pouch. This will help to speed up return 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. They may require you to send your dirty laundry out to be laundered for a fee. Hence, sink washing recommended above.

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

Footwear. Plan 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. For the Dead Sea (if the opportunity presents) beach slippers (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 (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. But, anticipate modest clothing for the Via Delarosa walk and Sabbath evening/day. Changing is always possible in bathrooms, not the most comfortable but adequate. Do not be surprised if logistics calls for ALL MEN OFF THE BUS events for quick comfort changes, and perhaps vice versa.