

Frequently Asked Questions - 2024



Topic	Answer
TRIP COSTS	See Cost Estimator for detailed costs.
FINAL PAYMENT DUE DATES	TBD but generally 90 days before tour.
WHAT IS INCLUDED	See itinerary & cost pages
WHAT ISN'T INCLUDED	See itinerary & cost pages
MIN/MAX TRAVELERS	Minimums & maximum # of travelers apply and can impact cost.
TOUR PROVIDER	America Israel Tours (americaisrael.com) Excellent tour company offering a great value experience and amazing operational support in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Greece, & Turkey!
TOUR PARTICIPATION	We expect travelers to participate with the group each tour day. Travelers are not permitted to go off on their own (except in evenings or non-touring time). All travelers may stay in the hotel until well.

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WHO CAN TRAVEL	Anyone who can manage their travel and time independently is welcome. Travelers should be healthy enough to walk comfortably over uneven terrain, climb and descend stairs, sit for bus rides, manage their own luggage at airports, and enjoy long days with walking up to 3 miles. We suggest that children do not travel. Anyone from any church or location can join us. Singles or couples are welcome. All travelers must have someone designated to help them if needed (not Debbie).
TRIP ITINERARIES	See the Itineraries. --You can combine tours – just add costs. -Tours may fill quickly ; max 45 per tour (usually). Spaces are allocated based on registration timing.
VISAS & PASSPORTS	All travelers will need a passport that expires at least 6 months AFTER we arrive home. Visas for Egypt will be provided by our tour partners. You will need to register online for an entry authorization to Israel, an entry visa for Turkey, and possibly a European Union entry authorization depending on your flights.

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Topic SAFETY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Answer

We have been traveling to the Middle East since 2018. We have had NO safety issues or cause for concern on any trip, even when going to Gaza or the Lebanon & Syrian borders. Travel advisories are monitored and, if our in-country itinerary must be adjusted, it will be. U.S. tourists are valued and accommodated. We cannot guarantee anything, but we do not expect any issues. The trip would only be cancelled if the U.S. government prohibits citizens from traveling to countries on our itinerary.

GLOBALENTRY/ TSA PRE-CHECK

Travelers can use these if you have them for Customs when returning to the U.S. but they are not recognized in other countries. We recommend downloading Mobile Passport to ease passage into and out of countries.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended. See the Travel Insurance page.

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FLIGHTS	See the Flights page for options.
LUGGAGE	We suggest that you pack very light in one 21-22" carry-on size wheeled bag and a backpack/tote. You do not need excess clothing or gear as clothes can be washed at some hotels. Take a small packable bag with a "sleeve" (to put over your luggage handle) for dirty laundry and things you buy. See the Packing List for more information. Pack an AirTag or Tile for luggage tracking if desired.
ROOMMATES	If needed, we may be able to help you find one among solo travelers or you can pay the supplement to room alone. Costs are based on two people per room. Triple occupancy is not generally available.
HOTELS	Hotels are moderate 5* (Israel standard, similar to U.S. 4-4.5*), and well located. Wi-fi, hair dryers, and toiletries are usually available though some items must be requested at arrival. Laundry is a hotel service; machines are not available to travelers.

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Topic MEALS & BEVERAGES

Answer

Breakfast and dinner in the hotel are provided each day - buffet style with many choices . Special dietary needs or food allergies can be accommodated within the available food options. Lunch is eaten out each day (\$8-15) as a group. Non-water beverages are extra cost. Cold bottled water is available on the bus for a nominal cost in Egypt, Israel & Greece; free in Jordan. Breakfast usually starts at 6am (eat any time after), lunch is around 1pm, and dinner begins at 6 through the evening.

RESTROOMS

The sites we visit have public restrooms available and reasonable stops are made to use them.

TERRAIN

These tours require a lot of walking (average 3 miles per day) on uneven terrain, up and down hills as well as on flat ground. You will need shoes with good soles & tread to walk on asphalt, concrete, dirt, gravel, sand, and through water. You can hike at Masada but you can also take the gondola to the top. In some areas, non-walking transport can be arranged if you need it.

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WHAT TO WEAR	<p>See the Packing List.</p> <p>Modest clothing is essential. Women must have shoulders and knees covered at times most days (scarves over sleeveless is ok). Please do not wear gym clothes (except at Masada), short shorts or short skirts, or see-through clothing. Golf attire is fine. Backpacks and gear can be safely left on the bus. Passports should stay with you at ALL times.</p>
MONEY	<p>American money is acceptable everywhere though Euros are preferred in Greece. You can use credit and debit cards in most areas (not with street vendors). You will need cash for lunches, bottled water, and some optional shopping. You can use local currency if you wish; order it at your bank. ATMs can be used. Suggested cash: \$250-\$300 per week. Notify your banks/card issuers of your travel plans.</p>
ELECTRICAL OUTLETS	<p>You will need a power adapter (Type C, two round prongs, for EU use). You will also need a power converter if you take a hair dryer or shaver (not recommended). Take cables for device charging + a 4' or longer cable for the bus outlets under the seats.</p>

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CELL PHONE SERVICE OPTIONS	You can add an international data plan through your wireless provider or use only Wi-Fi. All hotels + some sites & buses have Wi-Fi.
IMMUNIZATIONS	<i>Ask your doctor what he/she recommends for your unique health conditions. COVID is not required.</i> Tetanus + all standard US vaccinations are recommended, not required. Check this site for more information: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destination/s/list/#group-g
BUSSES	All busses are modern, clean, and most have Wi-Fi & charging ports on board. Some have bathrooms and some do not. Seats are 2x2 in each row with an aisle between. Depending on the number of travelers, you may or may not be seated next to someone else. Storage racks are available above your seat. Cold water is available on the bus or may be included.

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COMMUNICATION	<p>You will hear from Debbie often. 😊</p> <p>We will have a few gatherings before the tours to get to know each other and share information.</p> <p>We will have a Facebook to share photos during the trip with family & friends while touring. We will use <u>WhatsApp</u> for group messaging in advance & while on tour. It's also great for FREE calls & texts home while traveling if both people have it. Check TravelerJourneys.life for information!</p>
CANCELLATION	<p>America Israel Tours has cancellation policies that should be considered before you pay your final payment. Deposits are non-refundable. AIT has been very fair with our groups & individuals but travel insurance is your best option for being reimbursed if you cancel. We want you to be committed to the travel as a lot of time goes into preparing for your tour once you pay a deposit.</p>

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SCRIPTURE READING & DEVOTIONS	For Israel, we will provide a list of Scripture for each site and all travelers will have a chance to read and, as time permits, give a devotion.
RELIGION OF GUIDES	Our tour partners typically espouse the faith of their home country but are well trained in Christian beliefs. We expect them to teach from a Christian perspective and relate information about each site in that context.
FREE TIME	Some tours have FREE time built in and most evenings are free for you to do as you wish. We encourage you to research the areas around your hotel (especially in Jerusalem) to determine where you might like to eat or shop on your own time.