

2018 ISRAEL INFORMATION, “FINE PRINT” & TRAVEL TIPS

TOUR MEMBERS MUST BE FIT TO TRAVEL

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, those needing oxygen, wheelchairs, or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting to their experiences. The level of activity for this tour ranges from moderate to strenuous, daily, and the pace is moderate to fast. Any physical limitations, health conditions or disability, requiring special attention, should be reported to the CFNI tour director, Marianne Allen at hospitality@cfni.org at the time the reservation is made. All team members must be able to move around by themselves and be able to handle their own luggage. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour member for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. **Travelers who need such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion.**

ACCOMMODATIONS

Price is based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than double. While CFNI will try to match roommates, CFNI cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 35 days prior to departure, and if one is not available or you request a single room, the following charges of \$880 during the basic week; \$300 for England extension will be applied. The Travel Protection Plan is paid in addition to initial deposit or tour payments prior to the final payment for overage to be in effect.

PAYMENT

A full deposit of \$500 per person is required by Oct. 30, 2017. Once you select the tour dates and or extension to England, you may pay in full or payments are due December 30th, January 30th, February 28th, and final payment March 30th, according to the price of the tour you've selected.

PRICE INCREASES

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

VISA AND TRADITIONAL PASSPORTS

Travel outside of the United States requires a traditional passport book that is valid at least the next **six months following your entry date to your travel destination**. No visas are required for entrance to Israel for U.S. citizens. For more specific visa requirements, please contact the relevant consulate for your updated information. Christ For The Nations is not responsible to provide any travel documents to any of our destinations, including visas, about any necessary travel documentation/visas required to enter these countries.

If you are traveling outside the United States via air travel, you will need a traditional passport book as a **passport card is not valid for air travel**. Passport cards are only valid for Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

HEALTH & IMMUNIZATION CONCERNS WHEN TRAVELING

To be sure you're travel worthy, speak to your doctor before your departure. Vaccinations or shots are not needed to visit Israel or England. However, should you need any medications, be sure to carry it with you. Also take some of the following items along for any emergencies; diarrhea medicine (liquid or tablets), allergies, medications, and any other personal hygiene products you may require.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (ILLNESS OR DEATH)

We strongly suggest purchasing appropriate trip insurance covering medical, baggage and trip cancellation as needed. You may purchase travel insurance from **Royal Lane Travel, Judy Paletti, agent at (214) 340-2030**.

1. Coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full.
2. Premium is based on Total cost of trip and is non-refundable.
3. Coverage begins when your premium payment is received by the insurance company (Separate from deposit payment and clearly designated as your Travel Protection Plan premium.)
Coverage is not available for those living outside of United States.

CANCELLATION FEES

100% OF Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Plan, provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is insurable.

WITHOUT TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable administrative fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following charges: 104-60 days=\$400; 59-45 days=\$600; 44-31 days=40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure=%100 of total cost. Submit cancellation

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Roundtrip flights will originate from Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport. The airfare included in the tour price is based upon the Super Advance Purchased Excursion fare in effect at the time of the printing and is subject to change. The tariff governing this airfare contains conditions and restrictions on its use. Once "printed," airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter.

DEVIATIONS

Deviations from the standard tour program must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees, if applicable. Transfer for passengers who deviate are not included.

TIPS AND GRATUITIES

All tips and gratuities are covered in the cost of the tour. Voluntary “Love Offerings” for tour guide and bus driver can be extra.

BAGGAGE

Transatlantic flights allow one (1) checked piece of luggage per person with a maximum travel weigh of 50 lbs. and luggage dimensions of 62 linear inches. (1) Carry-on bag with a maximum travel weigh of 18 lbs. and luggage dimensions of 22 inches x 14 inches x 9 inches. Airline baggage fee will apply for extra bags and overweight bags. ***Please make sure you label your luggage with your current information and place inside of your luggage an extra itinerary of the tour and the name of the travel company, SAR El Tours.*** In case your luggage is lost, the itinerary will have the names of the hotels and your tour company, so your luggage will be delivered to you while in Israel and/or Holland. You can purchase a luggage tracker for around \$40 U.S. on the web. This is a very neat device and could come in very handy in case your luggage is misplaced by the airlines.

AIRPORT SECURITY LEAVING THE USA

Security checks are routinely carried out for your protection and safety. Expect to be asked about the contents of your luggage – whether you packed your bags yourself and were they in a supervised place before reaching the airport. Do not take any mail, packages or unknown items from anyone before or after arriving at the airport.

ISRAEL’S BORDER PROCEDURES – PASSPORT CONTROL

Upon arrival to Israel, visitors need to present their passports and entry forms; forms will be given on board your flight.

TOURIST VISA

Upon entering the country, you will be given a Tourist Visa. **Put this inside your passport.** If you prefer not to have your passport stamped when entering Israel, make sure you hang on to the small piece of paper stamped by the border agent instead. You will need it when departing the country.

ISRAEL CUSTOMS UPON ARRIVAL

- A dual-channel customs clearance system operates in all Israeli airports and at the Rafah Terminal – Israel’s southern border crossing. Visitors without any Goods to Declare may pass through the Green Channel upon exiting the Arrivals Hall. Passengers bringing in

new commercial products, even if exempt from duty, must declare them and use the Red Channel.

- For further information please contact The Department of Customs:
www.mof.gov.il

ARRIVAL AND HOTEL TRANSFERS

Our tour company in Israel is **SAR EI Tours**, and their representative will meet the team immediately after passport control upon your arrival in Israel. He or she will lead the group to the bus where our guide and driver will be waiting for you. For travelers arriving in Israel on their own, arrange for a private transfer (please contact our office for more information), or take a local taxi or shared 'sherut' to your destination.

LAND TRANSPORTATION

SAR EI Tours – uses modern air-conditioned motor coaches. Smoking is never permitted while on board the motor coach.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The price is based on two persons sharing a twin bedded room with private bath, in the hotels selected for the tour. A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of \$880. A tour participant must pay this supplement when he/she is the sole occupant of assigned accommodation. Please note the term "single" refers to a person traveling alone and not as reference to marital status. **SHARED ROOM:** If a roommate is requested and one cannot be confirmed prior to the tour, the tour participant must pay the single supplement in order to receive final documents. If CFNI succeed in finding a roommate, but one of the parties intending to share the room should cancel, the remaining party must pay the single room supplement. CFNI is not responsible for roommate assignments that do not work out.

DEPARTING ISRAEL VIA BEN GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Airline Check-in: Passengers must check in at Ben Gurion International Airport at least **three hours prior to departure time.**

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) REFUND

Tourists Tax Refund. According to the **Value Added Tax (VAT) Law**, a foreign tourist can benefit from a zero rate of VAT on various services obtained and purchases made during a stay in Israel.

Israel's value added tax stands at **17 percent**, but if you're a tourist, don't sweat it — when you return to the airport for your departing flight, you can get the **tax refunded** on many big-ticket purchases by following several simple steps. A VAT refund form can be filled out, if your purchase is over \$100. Only purchases of more than \$100, made at participating stores, are eligible. Before plunking down your cash, look for the **"tax refund for tourists"** sticker on the store's front door.

A standard receipt is not enough to ensure your refund, so even if the store's employee tells you otherwise, *insist they write you out a special tax-refund invoice*, also known as a **Change Place tax refund form**. The form must be **pre-printed with the store's name**. If an employee tries to make an excuse as to why they can't provide you with the special form, you can use it as an opportunity to bargain for a lower price or take it as a sign that you should shop elsewhere.

TO GET YOUR VALUE ADDED TAX MONEY REFUND – Upon departure at airport

1. **Visit the Tax Refund booth at the Ben-Gurion Airport departure hall in Terminal 3.**
2. **Present both the receipts themselves as well as the items you purchased.**
3. Make sure to **pack your new purchases in your carry-on baggage**, so you'll have it on hand when you arrive for departure at the airport
4. Show your **tourist visa** to claim your refund. If you prefer not to have your passport stamped when entering Israel, make sure you hang on to the piece of paper stamped by the border agent instead.

Be aware that your refund is subject to a service commission, and it can fluctuate depending on the current exchange rate of your home currency and whether or not the money is returned to a credit card. Check with the teller to see how you can incur the lowest possible charge.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Security checks are carried out routinely for your protection and safety. Expect to be asked about the contents of your luggage – was it packed by you and in a supervised place before reaching the airport. Do not take any mail, packages or unknown items from anyone either before or after arriving at the airport.

UPON ENTERING THE U.S.

If you purchased any type of fruit, meats, etc., you must report this on your documents. In order to bring in dates, figs or fruit, they must be vacuumed sealed. Fresh fruits can and will be confiscated at DFW International Airport. If you do not report food items, you can be subject to a very large fine.

DUTY FREE ITEMS

A returning U.S. resident is allowed \$800 in purchases duty free. Gifts may be mailed to the U.S. duty free, but are limited to \$100 per person, per day.

CREDIT CARDS

All major credit cards are accepted – American Express, Visa, Diner's Club, Eurocard and VISA. Travelers checks are mostly accepted, but personal rarely.

Inform your credit card offices that you will be out of the country and the dates you will travel to Israel and England. Let them know you may be using your credit card in Israel, England and during travel (including airport stops). Unusual activity is a sign of a breach of security. If the credit card company is not aware of your plans, in order to protect you, they may suspend your card automatically.

ISRAEL CURRENCY AND BANK INFORMATION

The currency in Israel is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS). Each shekel is divided into 100 'agurot' (singular 'agura'). NIS bills are in denominations of 200, 100, 50, and 20 shekels. Coins are in denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 shekels and 50 and 10 agurot. One may bring an unlimited amount of local and foreign currency into Israel in cash, Travelers Checks, letters of credit and State of Israel Bonds. Foreign currency may be exchanged at any bank, post offices, foreign exchange depots and some shops. You may need your passport for exchange.

- Main banks are Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank, United Mizrahi Bank, Mercantile Bank.
- Bank operating hours (generally): Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **ATM'S** – The most convenient way to obtain currency is through Bank ATM machines, which may be found all over Israel. Credit cards are accepted so enter your 4 digit numeric pin number and receive shekels debited in U.S. dollars to your account. The exchange rates are fine at the local banks.
- Most stores take U.S. currency (The one dollar bill can be used to purchase items such as bottled water and soft drinks.) You can exchange dollar bills into local currency at airports, hotel, and banks. Whenever you exchange dollars, keep the receipt given to you. You will then be able to convert any remaining currency back into dollars when you leave the country. Most stores love U.S. dollars, but you can sometimes get better bargains if you pay in the local currency.
- Carry and guard your passport, pocketbook, purse, and other valuables very carefully. Keep your valuables in the safe at the hotel. Never leave them in your hotel room or luggage. Purchases can be made with major credit cards; however, do not take unnecessary credit cards.

ENGLAND CURRENCY

The currency used in England is the Pound. Upon arriving in England, our tour guide will arrange the best place to exchange U.S. dollars to Pounds. ATM machines are very common in England or just use your credit card.

ELECTONIC APPLIANCES IN ISRAEL

Electric current in Israel is 220-volts A.C., single phase, 50 cycles which requires special adapter plugs with round prongs. If you intend to take appliances (hair dryer, electric razor, iron, hot water coils for tea) that are suitable for both 110 and 220 volts, make sure to carry a set of adapter plugs. If your appliance is for 110-volt only, you will also need a converter. Never plug your 110-volt appliance into a 220-volt outlet without a converter; it will work at twice its speed for a few seconds – and never work again!

ELECTRONIC APPLICANCES IN ENGLAND

American appliances run on 110 volts, while in European appliances are 230 volts. Today's gadgets are "dual voltage," which means they work on both American and European current. If you see a range of voltages printed on the item or its plug (such as "110 – 220"), you're OK in Europe. Some older appliances have a voltage switch marked 110 (U.S.) and 220 (Europe) – switch it to 220 when you are in Europe

Electricity in England is **230 Volts**, alternating at 50 Hz cycles per second. If you travel to England with a device that does not accept **230 Volts** at 50 Hertz, you will need a power plug adapter and voltage converter. You can find the voltage converters or the combo plug adapters/converters at AMAZON.COM

In England, the power sockets used are of type G. This socket has no alternative plugs. Your appliances with plug A or B will not fit. Below is the correct power socket **type G** for England.



SIGHTSEEING

Tour schedules are planned many months ahead, but occasionally there are changes made to your scheduled sightseeing and/or advertised visits. Your tour guide or CFN host will notify you of all changes.

NEWSPAPERS IN ISRAEL

Local, international newspapers and periodicals are readily available in a number of languages. For English, look for the Jerusalem Post or Haaretz English Edition; this comes bundled with the International Herald Tribune.

TIME DIFFERNECE IN ISRAEL

Israeli Standard Time is eight hours ahead of Central Time in the U.S.A.

TIME DIFFERNECE IN England

England Standard Time is six hours ahead of Central Time in the U.S.A.

ISRAELI EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Police: Dial 100 or www.police.gov.il

Ambulance: Dial 101 or www.101.up.co.il

Fire Brigade: Dial 102

ENGLAND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Police, Fire or Ambulance: Dial 999

Non emergency Police: Dial 101

Non emergency medical help: Dial 111

TELEPHONE USAGE AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Call your mobile phone carrier for special rates while in Israel and England.
- **Calling from U.S. to Israel**, just follow these simple dialing directions:
 1. First dial 011, the U.S. exit code.
 2. Next dial 972, the country code for Israel.
 3. Then dial the area code (1 digit)
 4. And finally the phone number (7 digits).
 5. Sample call
If the phone number is 123 4567 and the caller is from the U.S., dial
Tel Aviv city code (3) 011 + 972 + 3 + 7 digit phone number
Jerusalem city code (2) 011 + 972 + 2 + 7 digit phone number
Tiberias city code (4) 011 + 972 + 4 + 7 digit phone number
- **Calling from Israel to the U.S.**, just follow these simple dialing directions:
 1. first dial 00+1+area code + local phone number
- Dialing the U.S. from Israel: AT&T, Sprint and Verizon all have toll-free access numbers in Israel. Ask your hotel operator how to dial directly from your room. If dialing from a public phone, check the instructions on your calling card (which will tell you to dial either: 012, 013, or 014 for overseas) and then continue with a 1 for the United States, followed by the area code and phone number.
 - Calling cards: Public phones in Israel operate with calling cards, which are available at your hotel, local post office and newsstands throughout the country.
 - Internet access in Israel: Some hotels have pay-for-access in their rooms, or have service available in the lobby or hotel business center. Many hotels now have free WIFI as well. You can also access the Internet by stopping in for a cup of coffee at Aroma or other local cafes – enjoy your espresso along with free WIFI service for customers

POSTAL SERVICE

Stamps, envelopes, picture postcards and greeting cards may be easily purchased at your hotels and local post office. The post office sells phone calling cards and can help with money transfers as well.

WEATHER IN ISRAEL DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

The weather will vary from the Dead Sea, where temperatures will reach 99 to 100 degrees to Jerusalem, where the temperature during the day can be 75-90 degrees. At night, it can be very cool and even cold. You will want to bring a jacket and layer your clothes accordingly.

WEATHER IN ENGLAND DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

Good news! June is usually a sunny month with a total of 14 hours of sunshine. The average day temperature is between 65 and 70 degrees and in the evening the average is 54 degrees.

DON'T FORGET

- Please make certain that you have a **valid passport**.
- **If you are not a U.S. citizen, check to see if you need a visa**, if so, make certain it is valid and you do not wait until the last minute to file for visa. (It takes time)
- Please do not forget your passport and flight tickets.
- We **HIGHLY** recommend that you keep a **photocopy of your passport** in your purse or wallet.
- Please pack medications in your carry-on bag and not checked luggage.
- Never leave your passport, valuables or money in your hotel room, unless placed in the safe.
- **Water Bottle** – you will carry your water daily. You can fill it at the hotel and save money or purchase water from your bus driver or grocery store.
- **Please** plan on drinking a lot of liquid (water) on the plane. The flight is long so you will want to maintain hydration.

MISC

- Please **bring money** for lunches, bottled water, laundry, telephone calling cards, souvenirs and all other personal expenses.
- Please bring a generous supply of **\$1 bills** for street vendors.
- Don't forget to pack your **cameras**, chargers, and cables
- For those being water baptized in the Jordan River, please pack a swimsuit. Baptismal robes will also be available to go over the swimsuit.
- Bring your Bibles, journals and other reading materials for the tour and airplane flights.
- A money belt that fits under your clothing is recommended.
- Bring a day bag to carry personal items and water bottles on the tour bus.

WHAT TO PACK

- Leave your valuable jewelry at home
- Bring AC adapters and Convert Box
- All essential prescription medications in their original bottles. Also bring a copy of the generic names for each and pack in carry-on luggage
- Items to help your rest/sleep on transatlantic flight (e.g. eye mask, neck pillow, ear plugs, extra socks)
- Sunglasses and a hat. You'll find the sunlight is stronger than what you're accustomed to, even in the winter. A hat is also useful for protection from the sun.
- Two (2) pairs of comfortable walking shoes, sneakers and sandals.
- Swimwear is appropriate year-round, whether it's to splash in the hotels' indoor pools or hit a beach on a warm, winter day in the southern part of the country.
- Pack water shoes for the beach and baptism at the Jordan River

- Sunscreen and insect repellent are useful items as well.
- Water bottle – it's a dry country and you should be drinking regularly.
- Layer, layer, layer (you can shed clothing and leave it on our protected motorcoach)
- The dress is casual. Most people wear jeans, slacks and capri pants on the trip. No spaghetti strap blouses for women.
- Even the congregation services are very casual.
- Small umbrella and light weight rain coat for (England)
- Hand sanitizer, small package of Kleenex
- Carry a “modesty kit” for visiting holy sites or traveling in Arab or conservative Jewish areas. For instance, when visiting the Western Wall, it is mandatory for a female to wear a scarf in order to gain access. A modesty kit for women should include slacks or a wrap-around skirt (below the knee), a blouse that covers the shoulders, a hat or scarf for the head. A kit for men should include long pants and a shirt that covers the shoulders. Carry these items on the bus, and your guide should let you know when to wear it.
- TIP: Unfortunately, luggage occasionally gets lost or misplaced. Pack a carry-on bag that includes some necessities for a few days – a change of clothes, all medications, spare contact lenses or glasses, all forms of money and any important documents. Bring a Hebrew/English dictionary – it's great to have along, although most Israelis can speak a smattering of English.

KEEP UP WITH YOUR BELONGINGS

Leave valuables, including items of sentimental value at home! Always double check your belongings before you leave the planes, hotels and buses. Always check your safe at the hotel to assure it is empty. Make sure you have your passport, money, phone, charger and electrical adapter/converter box and camera before leaving your hotel room. Neither CFNI nor does Sar El Tours assume responsibility for lost items or luggage.