

Helpful Hints for Travelers

Bible Lands Tour — Israel and Jordan

Led by Ferrell Jenkins

April 28 – May 11, 2010

Note: Some of you have traveled many places and may take this information for granted. I have updated this information to reflect some of the important things you need to know **Please read carefully.**

This publication contains the information you need to know in order to get ready for the tour. In order for it to be as pleasurable as you wish, it will be necessary for you to make adequate preparation. Read the material carefully. It should answer most of your questions and give you several helpful hints.

1. Passport. Secure your passport as early as possible. It is the most important item in getting ready to make the tour. The application must be obtained and submitted in person at your nearest Passport Office. You must have a birth certificate with a seal in it. You will need two photos as specified in the application. It is usually not difficult to find a photographer who knows how to prepare passport photos. Some drug stores, copy shops, AAA, and other places do them in a matter of minutes. The total cost of the passport is \$97 for a new passport which is valid for 10 years. To those who already have passports: Be sure your passport is valid for six months beyond our return date. The cost of passport renewal is now \$67. Take extra passport photos with you (in a separate place from your passport) in case your passport is lost or stolen during the tour. Another good idea is to carry, in a separate place, a photocopy of the page in your passport which shows your photo and identification information.

2. Visas. The visa for Israel is available free of charge upon arrival in Israel. Several Arab countries will not allow a person into their countries with a passport containing an Israeli stamp. We always suggest that you ask for an “outside stamp” when you arrive in Israel. We will try to remind you of this at the appropriate time. (*In August 2008 I was told that Israel will no longer give outside stamps. I suppose one would simply get a new passport to visit Syria or Lebanon.)

3. Airport Taxes and Other Fees. The United States and other countries charge a tax prior to departure from the

country. The total taxes for this tour amount to \$500 for each person and is added to your invoice. This also includes Israeli departure fee and the Jordan visa.

4. Tips. Throughout the years I have learned that it is necessary to tip guides, drivers, and waiters in order to have a good tour. My procedure is to collect this in advance. For this tour we are collecting \$120 from each traveler for this purpose. This does not include personal gratuities which you may want to give for some special favor shown you.

5. Meeting in Atlanta. Plan to be at the gate in the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport at least **two to three hours prior to departure** on April 28. Here is the flight schedule as it now stands:

Departure from Atlanta:

Apr. 28 – DL 152 – 10:30 pm – Ar. Tel Aviv – 5:20 pm next day.

Departure from Tel Aviv:

May 10 – DL 153 – 11:35 pm – Ar. Atlanta – 5:50 am next day.

Flight schedule is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes. Please don't take a chance on a close connection with your domestic flight!

6. Domestic Air Travel. Arrangements for this tour have been made through Nawas International Travel, a company we have used for many tours. They are not a travel agency, but a tour wholesaler and do not make domestic ar-

Books

See the section on Reading Suggestions (#25) and the arrangement we have for you to buy these books at a discount.

Our Website

tours.biblicalstudies.info

Check the website regularly for updates, and new travel links of interest.

rangements. You should make your arrangements with your local travel agent or directly with the airline.

Please remember that our international flights are subject to change. We advise that you not book your domestic flights too early. **You will not have your international ticket until about two weeks prior to the tour.** Several domestic carriers have special offers for seniors. Check with your travel agent or the airline for details. Allow plenty of connection time.

7. Health Regulations. No shots or vaccinations are required for this tour. A Tetanus booster is suggested every 10 years.

8. Cameras. Be sure you have used your camera and know how it operates. If you have a fairly **new, expensive, foreign made** camera it would be a good idea to take a copy of the receipt with you. You want to avoid paying duty when you return to the USA. Ideally you could register your camera, or other electronic equipment, with Customs before you leave the USA. You must have the equipment with you at the time you register it. **Easy approach:** carry your receipts.

9. Digital Cameras. If you carry a digital camera or a camcorder be sure you have enough batteries, a charger that will operate on 220 volts, electrical adaptor plug (see tip # 20), and **memory**, memory, memory. **Hidden Hint:** I think that later you will be disappointed with a camera of less than 5 million megapixels. When I made slides I would typically take 350 to 400 picture on each tour. With digital photography I make between 3500 and 4000 images.

Batteries. Don't take a chance with dead batteries. Replace the batteries in your camera before you go. Be sure to carry spares. The size you need may be difficult or impossible to locate.

Film. I have deleted the section dealing with film cameras. If you still use one you will know how to find the film.

10. Baggage. Each passenger is allowed to check one bag with a maximum weight of 50 pounds and 62 linear inches (total length + width + height). You are allowed one carry-on and a personal item (purse, brief case, camera case, laptop computer, or similar item). Check Delta's web site (delta.com) for full information. Pack light. It will make your trip more enjoyable. Delta now has a fee on the first checked bag on a domestic flight. I *think* if you check your baggage direct from your hometown to Tel Aviv the charge

will be waived. Currently there is no charge for the first bag on Delta international flights.

11. Money. I no longer recommend traveler checks, but if you think you need them get them in denominations of \$50 or larger. The commission rate for exchange is high. Most of your travel arrangements are prepaid so there is no reason for you to carry large amounts of currency. You will need money for lunch and whatever shopping you wish to do. Take at least 25 or more \$1 bills for small purchases. Major credit cards (Visa, Master Card and American Express). American Express is not as popular with many merchants. Many shops we visit will take your personal check. Take along a few personal checks just in case you decide on an unexpected purchase. Local currency may be taken from an ATM machine, but you must have your pin number. Be **sure** that you contact your bank (or card company) prior to departure to tell them where you will be.

Dollars are widely used in Israel. It will not be *necessary* to change your dollars into NIS (New Israeli Shekels), but you will receive NIS in change.

12. Mail. Forget it. Use the Internet and the telephone. Our guide in Israel usually has for sale some phone cards that can be used to call the USA from any pay phone.

Email. You may have opportunity to access the Internet several times during the tour. If your Internet provider does not have web-based Email I suggest you set up an account with Gmail or Yahoo.

13. Insurance. Luggage insurance is recommended. You can buy it and/or accident insurance for the number of days of the tour. Nawas International has a policy available for this tour. **Trip cancellation/interruption** insurance is included in their policy and is a good idea in the event of a sickness or emergency in the family. A copy of the application form will be sent to you. Be sure to read the information and then make your decision. Nawas International provides flight insurance in the amount of \$100,000 for each passenger on the international portion of the tour.

14. Duty Free Purchases. Purchases up to \$800 per person (with some exceptions) are now allowed back in the U.S. duty free. Additional purchases up to \$1000 are charged a flat 10% duty. You may have certain gifts mailed from a foreign country to the U. S. duty free. We suggest you get the booklet *Know Before You Go* from U. S. Customs, P. O. Box 7407, Washington, D.C. 20044. It is free. You may read it or download a copy in PDF at this site:

<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/>

15. Pack Light. The most typical mistakes for unseasoned travelers is to take too many clothes. If your suitcase is loaded with clothes when you leave, where will the souvenirs go?

16. Washing. Take a clothes line. An elastic one requiring no pins is ideal. Take Woolite or packets of powdered soap. Pack liquids in plastic bags. Take a washcloth if you need one. They are not commonly provided in the hotels. A few plastic bags may come in handy in the event that some clothes don't get dry in time for hotel departure.

Laundry. When we are in a hotel for two days or more you can send clothes out with one-day service.

Throw Away Clothes. Some travelers take older clothes, wear them, and then leave them in the hotel room. You can be sure that they will be put to good use by the people who clean the rooms. Our guide in Israel is willing to take clothes we wish to leave and give them to a charity he knows.

17. Personal Items. Take small sizes of personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and cosmetics. Take a few home remedies. It is a good idea to take along an antibiotic for infections, etc. Take a remedy for dysentery with you — just in case. A good prescription remedy is Lomotil. Imodium AD (capsules) seems to be effective. Carry medicines you need with you rather than in your suitcase. A suitcase can get separated from you. Some travelers have suggested taking prescription medications in their original containers. I carry only the amount of various medications that might be needed in a small pill case I bought at a luggage store. Be sure to label everything and take a copy of the prescription information with you.

18. Beauty Shops. Beauty shops are available in the major cities and in many of the hotels.

19. Weather. The (approximate) minimum and maximum temperatures for some of the cities to be visited are as follows: Tel Aviv, 60° – 78°; Tiberias, 62° – 89°; Jerusalem, 56° – 77°. The warmest area we will visit will be the Dead Sea area where the temperature will average between 75° – 93°. The average for Amman is 57° – 85°. Rain is unlikely in May. The most concentrated rainfall comes between December and February. A small umbrella is good for rain or sun protection. More information is available at *Helpful Travel Links* on our website: tours.biblicalstudies.info.

20. Food. The food should be excellent throughout the tour. I always take a few of my favorite snacks. They are es-

pecially nice for the coach tours. As you use these, the space will be available for souvenirs, etc.

21. Travel goods. If you can not find what you need locally we suggest you contact Magellan's and ask for a catalog. Their number is 1 800 962-4943. On our travel web page you will find a link to their web site along with several other good suppliers.

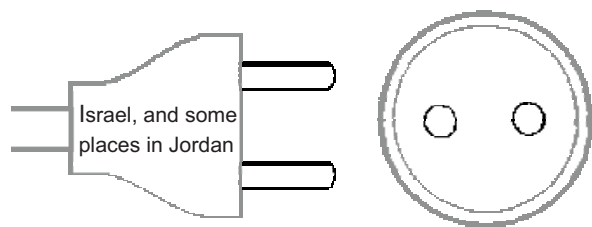
22. Souvenir Bags. Carry some small self-closing plastic bags with a 3" x 5" card inside each. As you collect seashells, stones, pieces of pottery, and other items. you can keep them separate with details of place of origin, etc.

23. Electrical Appliances. Current varies in different countries. The voltage in Israel and Jordan is 220. Israel uses a round-pronged, 3-pin plug. Jordan uses a round-prong, 2-pin plug. Secure a transformer and a set of adaptor plugs if you plan to carry any electrical appliances. These can usually be secured from a luggage store. Many electrical appliances (hair dryers, razors, etc.) can be run on 110 or 220. In this case a transformer is not necessary. I like to carry a short extension cord. The plugs never seem to be in the right position.

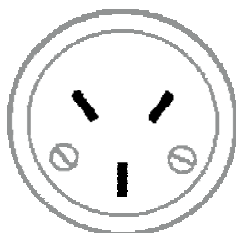
Most new electronic equipment (battery rechargers, laptop computers, and video cameras) will run on either current. You will need an adaptor. Transformers and adaptors are usually available at Wal-Mart, luggage stores, electric razor shops, Radio Shack, etc. See #21 for another source. **Hidden Hint:** I have found the two-prong plug to be the most useful. On the website we have listed some sites with good info on this. Start with www.kropla.com. **See the diagram at the top of the next page.**

24. Clothing Suggestions. The most important factor in a travel wardrobe is a basic color scheme. Shoes and other accessories should be chosen in a color that blends with the entire wardrobe rather than different color sets that add weight. Clothing should be chosen for comfort, style and easy packing.

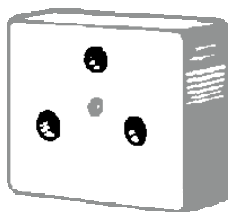
For Women: Select garments that serve various purposes. A well-cut sheath with matching jacket is good for wear any time of the day and appropriate for evening wear too. Separates provide for greater flexibility. Skirts and blouses or shells should be selected to mix and match with scarves, pins, beads, or belts for variation. Wash and wear skirts, blouses, and under garments are best. Jersey dresses take less space than bulky knits. The lighter weight knits are very good. A good, comfortable pair of broken-in walking shoes for sightseeing is a must. A pair of folding slippers in



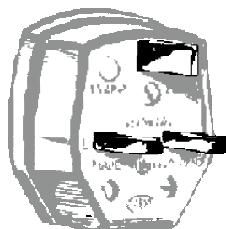
Israel



Jordan



Jordan



Visit www.kropla.com
for full info.

your tote bag will add to your comfort on the flights and motorcoaches. A sweater is important for cool evenings and for travel comfort. Just remember that it might be hot by day, but cool at night.

The suggestions below are based on the experience of other travelers. You must give careful thought to your travel wardrobe and make your own decisions. These lists include items you will be wearing when you leave the United States. But remember to pack light.

For the Ladies: Hose; 3 sets of under garments; 1 sweater; 1 pair of dress shoes; 1 pair of sturdy, comfortable walking shoes; 1 pair folding slippers; 1 pajamas/robe; 4 to 6 daytime outfits (pant outfits or skirts, blouses and shells. Mix and Match is best); 2 outfits for evening wear (not formal), preferably with jacket or sweater. A crushable hat, like a Tilley hat, to protect from the mid-day sun might be nice. Some religious buildings we enter require women to have their shoulders covered.

For the Men: 1 sweater or London Fog-type jacket; 1 suit or 1 sport coat, 2 pair trousers (or similar mix and match combination). It will likely be cool enough for a jacket in the evening. Jeans, or pants you feel comfortable in for daily wear. 4 shirts; 4 pair of socks; 4 sets of underwear; 4 hankies (disposable mansize Kleenex hankies might be better); 1 pajamas; 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes. I like to have a second pair to wear on the flights and in the hotels. A good hat, like a Tilley, is a great idea. (See the web page for the link to Tilley.)

25. Reading Suggestions. For each trip we update our *Guide for Bible Land Travel*. We will plan to mail this to you with the tickets a few weeks prior to the tour.

There are some excellent books we suggest for your study before and during the tour. We are now able to make available to you most of these books through Amazon at a 20% or more savings. Elizabeth and I order from Amazon and enjoy their selection, ease of ordering, fast delivery, etc. Go to our tour web site and click on the **Travel Book Store** for books we suggest. Click on one of them and go directly to Amazon to complete your order. Below is a list of books which we recommend for your use.

Baly, Denis. *Basic Biblical Geography* (Fortress) paperback. Brief introduction. Any books by Baly can be helpful.

Beitzel, Barry J. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands* (Moody). A complete atlas of Bible lands.

Dyer, Charles H. and Gregory A. Hatteberg. *The Christian Traveler's Guide to the Holy Land*. Broadman and Holman, 1998.

Eyewitness Travel Guides. *Jerusalem & the Holy Land*. DK Publishing. The plans are beautiful. **Excellent.**

Frank, Harry Thomas (ed.). *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (Broadman). Concise atlas; excellent maps.

Hoppe, Leslie J. *A Guide to the Lands of the Bible*. Liturgical Press., 1999. Covers Israel, Jordan, and other areas.

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land* (Oxford), paperback. **Excellent. The best.**

Page, Charles R. and Carl A. Volz, *The Land and the Book* (Abingdon).

Ullian, Robert, ed. *Israel: Past and Present*. A beautiful guide to the 16 top archaeological sites in Israel. Overlays illustrate how the sites looked in ancient times.

Vos, Howard F. *The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands* (Hendrickson). This is the completely revised 2003 edition. The book was originally published in 1967, edited by Pfeiffer and Vos. **Excellent.**

The books we have listed above are not typical travel books, but accurate, scholarly books, but many are written in a popular style. Travel books can be helpful, however.

Many sites we will visit will offer small booklets about those places.

If you can only buy a few books, I suggest Murphy-O'Connor, Eyewitness Travel Guides, and Hoppe.

Some of the popular travel guides that provide good info include: *Let's Go Israel*, *Fodor's*, *Lonely Planet*, and *Rough Guides*. The last two guides are intended primarily for individual travelers, but I find them very helpful.

For Jordan I suggest *Footprint Jordan Handbook*, *Lonely Planet Jordan*, and *The Rough Guide to Jordan*.

The following book is out of print, but you might locate a used copy. It is one of the finest books available for the Bible land traveler. Miller, Max. *Introducing the Holy Land* (Mercer, 1982).

26. Jet Lag. If you have traveled across several time zones by plane you know what "jet lag" is. The human body works on a pattern of rhythms which govern such activities as sleeping, heartbeat, digestion, etc. When these patterns are interrupted the result can be fatigue and mental disorientation, commonly called "jet lag." If you can gradually go to bed earlier and rise earlier you will be in good shape for a trip. (Not very practical, I find.) After a good night of rest along the beautiful Mediterranean we probably won't have much trouble.

27. Cell Phone Rental. Later, by Informational Bulletin, I will provide some info on cell phone and wifi air card rental.

Please be mindful that these *Helpful Hints* are based on our best information at the time of preparation. All items regarding airline schedules, fares, government regulations, taxes, health requirements, currency exchange rates, etc. are all subject to change. The weather is subject to change too! We will try to keep you informed of changes through our informational bulletins.

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Travel Website:

Internet: tours.biblicalstudies.info

Travel Blog: ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com

Email: ferrelljenkins@gmail.com

Good Travel Information

Here are some web sites and addresses where you can get good booklets, maps, and other information about the places we will visit.

Israel Tourist Information

Website: www.goisrael.com

Click on Christian Interest, and then Planning your trip, then Order information kit.

By mail: If you live in the east:

Israel Government Tourist Office

800 Second Ave.

New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212 499-5650

By mail: If you live in the west:

Israel Government Tourist Office

6380 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1718

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Phone: 323 658-7463

Jordan Tourist Information

Website: www.seejordan.org

Jordan Tourism Board North America

6867 Elm Street – Suite 102

McLean, VA 22101

Email: info@seejordan.org

Toll free phone: 877 733-5673

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