BLUE DIAMOND TRAVEL

The Israel Experience Traveler Guide

The Israel Experience | February 13–23, 2027

Dear Traveler,

We are glad you have chosen to join The Israel Experience. The schedule is full, so this guide answers common questions and explains how to prepare for a comfortable, meaningful trip.

Is It Safe to Go

No tour operator can guarantee safety. Conditions in Israel and the surrounding region can change quickly, and government advisories may restrict travel to particular areas. Blue Diamond Travel monitors guidance from the U.S. Department of State, Israeli authorities, airlines, hotels, and our local partners. We may change, postpone, or cancel activities if conditions warrant. Before departure, review the current U.S. travel advisory and enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at step.state.gov.

How Much Spending Money Should I Bring

The tour price covers three meals per day, hotels, scheduled transportation, guides, site admission, service charges, and standard gratuities. Personal purchases are not included, including snacks or beverages between meals, souvenirs, laundry, phone charges, room service, and personal medical expenses. Credit cards and USD are widely accepted, but a small amount of Israeli currency could be useful for minor purchases.

Blue Diamond Travel provides gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel staff, food-service staff, and baggage handlers. You may give an additional personal gift if you wish, but please do not organize a group collection or make other travelers feel obligated to contribute.

How Should I Prepare

Bring a small Bible or Bible app. We will provide a tour notebook for notes, memories, and Scripture references. Background films or reading about biblical history, modern Israel, and the Holocaust may also help you understand what you will see.

This trip requires regular walking, uneven surfaces, steps, and getting on and off the motor coach. You may remain on the bus for some stops, but anyone who needs assistance must travel with a companion who can provide it. Begin a comfortable walking routine before the trip if your health permits.

Food and Medicine

Bring enough prescription medication for the entire trip, plus a reasonable extra supply in your carry-on bag. Keep medicines in their original labeled containers and bring copies of important prescriptions. Israel has modern medical services and pharmacies, but the tour cannot guarantee that a particular medication will be immediately available.

Meals will offer a broad selection of fruit, vegetables, breads, meats, cheeses, and desserts. Most meals are kosher, so meat and dairy products may be served separately. Tell Blue Diamond Travel about food allergies or dietary needs before departure. We will request accommodations, but cannot guarantee that every kitchen will be free of allergens.

Shopping

Many sites have gift shops, and similar merchandise appears throughout the trip. Compare quality and prices before buying, keep receipts, and use care when bargaining with street vendors. Ask whether a store participates in Israel's tourist VAT-refund program before making an eligible purchase.

The Most Important Group Courtesy

Please be on time. A short delay for one traveler reduces everyone's time at the next site. You are welcome to sit out an activity, but tell the tour leader in advance and return to the bus at the stated time.

Passports and Entry Authorization

Blue Diamond Travel requires your passport to remain valid for six months after the trip. For this itinerary, renew any passport that expires before August 26, 2027. Visa-exempt travelers must also obtain an ETA-IL through the official Israeli government site, israel-entry.piba.gov.il. Petra Extension travelers must also meet Jordan's current entry requirements. Send copies of your passport information page and ETA-IL approval to kelly@thegreatesttrip.com. We will confirm entry requirements again before departure.

Packing and Travel Tips

- Pack comfortable, casual layers and a light rain jacket. Bring clothing that covers shoulders and knees for sites that require modest dress.
- Bring supportive walking shoes and a bathing suit to wear under the robe provided for the Jordan River baptism.
- Israel uses 230-volt electricity. Most phone and tablet chargers accept dual voltage, but check each device and bring a suitable plug adapter. Use a voltage converter only when the appliance requires one.
- Keep your passport, medication, valuables, and one change of clothes in your carry-on bag.
- Israel will be eight hours ahead of Little Rock during the trip, while Jordan will be nine hours ahead. Confirm the local time before calling home.
- Provide Kelly with your complete flight itinerary so airport transfers can be coordinated.

We are grateful that you have chosen to be part of this experience. We hope the trip deepens your understanding of Scripture and gives you memories you will treasure.

Shalom,
Blue Diamond Travel