

Experience Israel 2010

Tour conditions and FAQ about your 2010 tour of the Holy Land

This document has extremely important information. A trip to Israel is not only the “trip of a lifetime,” it is also an expensive investment. Read these details carefully, and be sure you understand all your obligations of travel.

This tour is scheduled for Friday, June 4 through Thursday, June 17, 2010.

Cost of the tour: \$3,590 per person.

Cost includes:

- Round-trip, one-way airfare from Atlanta to Tel Aviv, on Delta.
- All transfers abroad and touring by luxury, air conditioned motor coaches.
- All entrance fees, luggage handling at hotels and airports abroad (tips included)
- Breakfast and dinner each day
- Taxes and service charges in hotels and restaurants
- Services of our professional tour guide, licensed by Israel.
- Lodging each night in Israel. (See itinerary for lodging details.)
- Tips for tour guide, bus driver, and hotel staff (\$137)
- Bottled water on the bus.

Cost does not include:

- Optional trip insurance (visit <http://www.insuremytrip.com> for several options and www.travelexinsurance.com for the preferred choice of our tour company, Bound to Travel).
- Lunch each day. We will try to keep these expenses as low as possible, perhaps even buying fruit, snacks and drinks from a market for a make-shift “picnic” lunch on some days.
- Any tips needed for personal requests outside normal service.
- Personal offerings at any places of worship (like the Garden Tomb).
- Souvenirs.

Costs that could change:

- If the tour company changes its price because of radically fluctuating currency rates, the increase will be passed along to the traveler. (The odds are very slim that this could happen, but the tour company reserves this right.)

- If Delta adds a fee (for luggage, as an example), that cost would be passed along to the traveler. Fuel surcharges, which have been added at the last minute on past trips, *are included* in this price. At the composition of this document (August, 2009), Delta was not charging for up to two bags per traveler, with a 50-pound weight limit per bag. Carry-on bags were also allowed, at the time of this document's inception.
- In the unlikely event that this tour does not gather at least 25 travelers, the price of the trip *could increase*. At that point, travelers would also have the opportunity to withdraw from the trip if desired.
- The airport departure taxes are estimated to be \$80 and included in the quoted price. However, these taxes are set by country, and could change before our trip takes place. If the taxes change, up or down, we'll either issue a refund, or charge an increase.

Single-room supplement:

If a traveler desires a single room, the extra cost is \$499.

Only the first 30 seats are guaranteed

This tour has a limit of 50 passengers. The first 30 seats are guaranteed at the quoted price. Securing additional airline seats *could* increase the quoted price of the trip. Every effort will be made to keep the price of the trip the same for additional passengers beyond the first 30. The best way to guarantee getting this trip at this price is to register early.

Our flight schedule for travelers leaving from Atlanta:

- Depart Atlanta Friday, June 4, at 10:30 p.m. (Our group must be in Atlanta Airport by 7 p.m.) We arrive in Tel Aviv Saturday, June 5 at 5:20 p.m., Israel time. Flight duration: 11 hours, 50 minutes.
- Depart Tel Aviv Wednesday, June 16, 11:35 p.m., Israel time, and arrive in Atlanta at 5:50 a.m. June 17. Flight duration: 13 hours, 15 minutes.
- Israel is 7 hours ahead of US Eastern time.
- For travelers in the Warner Robins area, there will be shuttle options from and to Shirley Hills Baptist Church. Details will be available closer to the trip. Past shuttles have cost \$20 to \$30 each way, per person.

Deposit and payment schedule

DEPOSIT: A deposit of \$500 per person is due with a completed registration form to secure a place on this trip. In the case of a cancelation, \$100 of this deposit is non-refundable.

PASSPORT: A copy of your Passport, valid at least six months after your travel,

must be sent in with final payment. If you already have a valid passport, please include a copy of it with your registration.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

\$ 500 due with registration
\$1,000 due Dec. 31, 2009
\$1,000 due Feb. 28, 2010
Balance due April 2, 2010

SEND PAYMENTS TO:

Experience Israel
Attn: Pastor Andy Cook
Shirley Hills Baptist Church
615 Corder Road
Warner Robins, GA 31088

CANCELLATIONS & CANCELLATION FEES:

If you have to cancel your trip for any reason, some of the money you've invested cannot be returned.

Up to 90 days prior to departure:	\$100.00
90-45 days prior to departure:	\$250.00
45-30 days prior to departure:	30% of tour cost
29-15 days prior to departure:	50% of tour cost
14 days or less:	100% of tour cost

In addition, any fees charged by the airline for flight changes or cancellation will be the responsibility of the traveler.

A reminder: Purchasing trip insurance is the only way to cover unexpected cancellations, medical emergencies during the trip, or the cost of emergency travel home during the tour.

FAQ

Q: May I choose my roommate for this tour?

A: Absolutely. The tour books two to a room. If you don't have a roommate, we'll match you up with another traveler of the same sex. Accommodations can be made for three travelers in the same rooms

Q: May I have my own room, without a roommate?

A: There is an additional cost of \$499 for the single-room supplement. Let us know if you choose that option.

Q: Where do I send my money for this tour?

A: Make checks out to “Experience Israel,” and send them to

Experience Israel
Attention Pastor Andy Cook
Shirley Hills Baptist Church
615 Corder Road
Warner Robins, GA 31088

It’s a good idea to keep careful records of your application, and all payments. See deposit and payment schedule in the Tour Conditions. Our tour arrangements are being handled by Bound to Travel, a travel agency in Fullerton, California.

Q: What if I need to call home?

A: Your tour host will have a cell phone that you may use in the case of an emergency. Your family will have the number to that phone, also to use in case of an emergency. If you need to rent a cell phone for this trip, visit www.travelcell.com, www.israelcellrentals.com, or one of the several other cell-phone options on the Internet. There is very limited e-mail access in most of our locations. The seven-hour time difference between the countries, and our one-the-road schedule also makes communication difficult while on this trip.

Q: What if I have an emergency on this trip?

A: First of all, we’ll do everything we can to take care of you and your family. Israel has excellent hospitals and medical care, for instance. If you purchase the travel insurance, you’ll have more peace of mind about being able to cancel your trip at the last moment, paying for medical care, or returning home in case of an emergency at mid-trip.

Q: How much luggage should I take?

A: As little as possible. We must limit each traveler to **one bag** (50-pounds or less) and carry-on luggage as allowed by Delta, [within Delta’s limits](#). Even though Delta allows *two* bags up to 50 pounds each, our bus will not hold more than one bag per traveler, and our arrangements for porters at the hotels also allow for only one large bag per traveler. Think like a seasoned traveler and pack very lightly. Although it is pricy, there are options for washing clothes – or having them washed – at many of the places we stay. Light laundry can be washed in your room. If you plan on returning home with many souvenirs, pack an extra bag within your first bag for the return trip, when you might not mind carrying so much weight. But stay aware of Delta’s luggage regulations, which could change before we travel. We’ll inform the group of any such change as soon as we hear of it.

Q: What kind of hotels will we have?

A: One night, we'll be in a tent! We'll have overnight stays at "Days-Inn" quality hotels at Tel Aviv and the Dead Sea, we'll stay four nights in a beautiful kibbutz on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and then four more nights in an extremely nice hotel in Jerusalem. All of the hotels have pools, one of them overlooks the Mediterranean Ocean, and the kibbutz is on the coastline of the beautiful Sea of Galilee.

Q: What's the weather going to be like?

A: It'll be hot. We're going in early June, so we hope to avoid the worst of the heat. But expect temperatures to be in the 90's, and topping 100 in the desert. Humidity is high in some areas, but compared to Georgia in the summer, Israel is dry. It is not impossible for the heat to top 110, but again, we're going in the very first two weeks of the hot season.

Q: What's the trip going to be like?

A: Start exercising now. We will be hiking in the desert, through the Judean Wilderness, along nature trails, exploring a few caves, and walking around the hills of Jerusalem. We would expect to walk five or more miles a day, though we'll not do more than that at a time. We will climb at least two mountains, Mt. Carmel, and the rock fortress of Masada. We will climb Masada at sunrise, in order to beat the heat, and in order to see one of the most spectacular sunrises you'll ever witness. It takes between 30 minutes and an hour for most people to climb Masada, and about 90 minutes to climb Carmel. We will provide you with all the water you need, but it'll be your responsibility to stay hydrated, and to be in shape before tackling this trip. As you prepare, be sure to including climbing in your exercise routine, even if it's simply finding a building with several stories of stairs, and climbing them. You've probably seen [the video promoting this tour](#), which has scenes of travelers on a similar tour (2008) talking about the rigorous nature of the trip. If you've not seen it, take eight minutes to do that now.

Q: What if I sprain my ankle and can't make a hike?

A: First of all, your ankle will really hurt. And second, you can take our tour bus to the finish line. There, you can wander around at your leisure. But obviously, the learning value of any hike or climb will be in the hiking, or the climbing. *Do not go on this trip if you cannot walk at least five miles fairly comfortably.*

Q: Will I like the food?

A: No traveler has ever died of hunger on a tour of Israel! Our breakfast and dinner buffets (cost included in your tour) will have dozens of items to choose from. We'll stop at restaurants or markets along the way for lunch, but you are not required to eat there. Some travelers – like your tour host – eat a lunch of fruit and light snacks, for instance. If you want to skip the evening buffet, there

are endless opportunities for dining in most areas we'll visit, but at your own expense. The included meals are at our lodging locations.

Q: What about a passport?

A: You've got to have a valid passport, one that will be valid six months after the completion date of our trip. [Click here](#) to visit the official site for US passport information. A copy of your passport will be required before the final payment is made for this trip.

Q: Will we be safe?

A: That's the question you'll be asked several times before leaving for Israel. Upon returning, you'll almost certainly agree with past travelers who say they felt safer in Israel than they do in the USA. Security at all locations will be visible and thorough, all for our protection. Your bags will be searched thoroughly. We will be in an easily identifiable tour bus, and known, therefore, as a friend of everyone in Israel. All parties take extreme care of their guests. Once we're through customs, we will probably not be delayed because of security again until we're ready for the flight home. If you'd like to talk with past travelers about this issue, or any other issue, contact your tour host for some names and contact information.

Q: Could our trip be canceled or changed because of war?

A: Yes. Whether that war breaks out in Israel, or at home, we can't control some events. In the event of catastrophic circumstances, we will do our best to rearrange our schedule, make other arrangements, and seek full restitution of any funds. However, this is a fact of life here and abroad. We cannot foresee future events, or how they will impact us. Read your travel insurance provisions carefully for any details about this possibility. Unless the United States State Department forbids Americans from traveling to Israel, it's unlikely travel insurance would be required to pay for such an incident. The State Department has not made that decision in past times of conflict, although it does issue a standard warning that cautions American travelers about any trip to the Middle East. In the face of such warnings, try to remember that 9 million people live in Israel today, sending children to schools, going to work, and dropping by hardware stores on the way home for the parts needed to repair a leaking toilet. Despite the negative news coverage this small country receives, *Israel is not a war zone*. Our tour host has made seven trips to Israel in recent years, and has taken his wife, his daughters and his friends. Nevertheless, the honest answer to this question – could our trip be canceled or changed because of war – has to be yes. Should that happen, we would deal with such a situation as best we could.

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: Contact your tour host. The 2010 tour will be his eighth trip to Israel in the past 11 years. The best way to contact him is by e-mail (acook@shirleyhills.com) or by his cell phone (478-954-3885).

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