

# ***KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!***

Dear Traveler,

On behalf of all our staff here in the States as well as in Israel, we wish to thank you for booking with Friendship Tours. The leader in Christian Pilgrimages. We wish you a safe and happy journey as you travel through the land of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

1. Friendship Tours will provide economy class air transportation from Washington, Dulles to Tel Aviv on British Airways,
2. You are traveling on British Airways. Since you are traveling as a group, seat assignments have been made by the airline. You will be seated together as a group. Couples and roommates are seated together. Please contact the airport check-in staff for any changes you wish to make.
3. Your luggage will be checked all the way to Tel Aviv from the city of origin. Same thing on the return, your luggage will be checked through from Tel Aviv to your destination. Do not lock your suitcase before checking in luggage. Airport security will do random luggage checks and break the lock or not allow your luggage to go onboard the plane. Please keep all luggage unlocked at all times. (TSA locks are okay) Each person is allowed to check in one standard size suitcase weighing no more than 50 pounds. One carry on bag not to exceed 15 pounds.
4. You cannot use air miles to upgrade to business class on the type of fare we have used. You will need to book your travel with the airline directly if you wish to use air miles. Airlines do not work with us on air miles.
5. **Your passport is required to have 6 months left before expiration from the date of your return.** No immunizations are required. But please check with your physician.
6. Put a photocopy of your passport in the bottom of your suitcase in case you lose it or it gets stolen. This will make the process of getting a new one issued much quicker.
7. We suggest you carry some over the counter medicine for minor ailments. Please ensure you carry all your prescription medication in your carry on luggage and not in your checked luggage. Just in case your luggage gets misplaced, you will still have your daily medication on you. Make sure you have the generic name of the medication. **Please do not ever carry anything for anyone known or unknown.** This could endanger your life and cause you serious problems.
8. It is suggested that you call your Credit Card Company and inform them that you are planning to travel out of the country and will be using it. Many times they will reject your card at purchase thinking it has been stolen. This is strongly advised. Write down the numbers of the credit cards you will be taking with you and the emergency number to call in case lost or stolen. Put this in your suitcase or a different place from where you are keeping your cards.
9. Buffet breakfasts and dinners are included on your tour. Soft drinks and bottled water with meals are not included in your tour cost. You will be billed for this. **Coffee is not included with dinners.** You will be billed for it. Coffee is included with all breakfasts.
10. You can bring snacks as long as they are in sealed bags from the store. No fresh fruit or vegetables.
11. Buses in Israel will be selling bottled water on board. Please do not consume foods on the bus. Snacks are fine.
12. The temp in Israel will be in the mid 60's during the day to low 50's at night.
13. Clothing on the tour is casual. Jeans and shirts are fine for men and women. **Your guides will advise you of any required attire when entering certain religious sites.** We

suggest you carry two pairs of good walking shoes that you have been wearing for a while. Don't try and break in a new pair on the tour.

14. You will be responsible for all lunches, which will average between \$15 to \$18 depending on what you buy.

15. All hotels have a business center that is equipped with computers and internet access. Charges vary from hotel to hotel. There also are Internet cafes in Jerusalem.

16. The official currency in Israel is the Shekel. They will accept U.S. Dollars but the change will be given back in local Shekels.

17. We suggest you shop only at authorized Friendship Tours shops. The quality of goods are guaranteed and the prices are fair. If you have any large purchases shipped home and they are damaged or there are any shipping issues, you have recourse with our authorized shops.

### **Caprice Jewelers & National Diamond Center, Tiberias**

**Ahava Beauty supply – Dead Sea Outlet**

**Lama Brothers, Bethlehem**

**Sheweki Souvenirs, Jerusalem**

***You are free to shop wherever you wish. But do not recommend shopping in the Old City. The items are all poor imitations of the real thing and you will pay less. These items will not last! We receive constant complaints!***

We have way too many complaints from disappointed clients who have no options when they purchase from other shops and get charged much more, receive inferior products and often times, merchandise does not arrive. We at Friendship are unable to help in this situation.

18. Notify a neighbor you will be gone and give them a contact number in case of an emergency with your home. (You may want to show them where water and gas shutoff valves are located.)

19. For your safety and security, Israel airport security is very tight. Please offer your utmost cooperation to the security staff. They are very kind and are doing a great job of making sure you are safe. Do not joke with them. Answer all questions to the point and remember, when they search your luggage, it's not about you and it certainly is not personal. They do this with most passengers traveling to the States.

20. Friendship Tours highly recommends Trip Insurance. **Go over the coverage's offered** and contact the insurance carrier with any questions you may have. Mail your completed application and check directly to the insurance company. **Trip insurance may be purchased till the day before departure.**

***Thank You for Traveling with Friendship Tours!***

