

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

US and Canadian tourists must carry proof of citizenship. A valid signed passport with an expiration date at least **six months beyond the tour return date** and **one blank page for entry stamp** is required. Proof of a return ticket is also required.

**VISAS:** A tourist visa is required for Canadians and Americans visiting Jordan and Israel/Palestine.

## JORDAN REQUIREMENTS

You will obtain a tourist visa upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport. This is included in your tour fare and your guide will obtain your visa on your behalf upon arrival.

## ISRAEL REQUIREMENTS

Starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, it is mandatory that travellers be in possession of an **Electronic travel authorization (ETA-IL)** for travel to Israel. The ETA-IL costs 25 NIS (~\$10 CAD / ~\$7 USD) and will be valid for 2 years, or until your passport expires. It will allow you a stay of up to 90 days per visit. Read more about the ETA-IL [here](#) and submit your application [here](#).

**Once you have obtained your ETA-IL, please send a copy to our office.**

## CURRENCY, ATM MACHINES & CREDIT CARDS

**CASH:** In Israel/Palestine the local currency is the new Israeli shekel (NIS) while the Jordanian dinar is the local currency in Jordan. **US dollars are widely accepted in all tourist locations in each country, however local currency is generally preferred.**

We recommend that you request crisp new US dollar bills in denominations of one, five, and ten dollars from your local bank. Our recommended distribution is as follows:

\$30 in one-dollar bills

\$50 in five-dollar bills

\$50 in ten-dollar bills

Smaller denominations are ideal for buying water and for making small purchases, as change is given in local currency.

If you want to check current rates at the time of travel a good website to use is

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>. You will be given opportunity upon arrival in each country to exchange USD for local currency or withdraw funds from an ATM.

**ATMs:** ATMs are available in larger cities and in airports. Check with your bank for more specific details about using ATMs such as the network your bank supports, PIN numbers, etc. To discourage thieves, it is best to not visit ATMs unaccompanied.

**CREDIT CARDS:** Visa, MasterCard and American Express are the most widely used credit cards. Use may be restricted in small businesses, such as open marketplaces and street vendors. Credit cards should be protected by **RFID-blocking sleeves** so they cannot be scanned, and your payment information stolen. You can find RFID-blocking sleeves at most luggage stores. Do not use your credit card in questionable shops and never let your card out of your sight. Non-essential cards can be left at home. It is recommended to bring your driver's license in case you are asked for additional photo ID, and your health card in case of an emergency.

Before leaving home, **we encourage you to consult with the bank that has issued the credit cards and debit cards you will be using as you travel.** Today banks have a variety of fraud detection systems so we advise you to be sure you will be able to use your cards. You should also have an out-of-country contact phone number available in case any cards are lost or stolen.

### LANGUAGE

In Israel/Palestine there are three languages spoken—Hebrew, Arabic and English. Jordan's official language is Arabic.

### COMMUNICATION

**Internet:** There will be opportunity to access the internet while on tour. Most hotels and some buses may have Wifi available.

**Phone:** North American cell phones are not automatically equipped to make international calls. If you plan to use your cell phone on tour, please check with your wireless service provider for direction regarding international calling.

### TIME ZONES

Israel/Palestine and Jordan are seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). Therefore, when it is 10:00 pm. in Israel/Palestine or Jordan it is 3:00 pm (EST) in Ontario or Pennsylvania.

### CLIMATE & CLOTHING

June is a summer month in Jordan and Israel/Palestine. Daytime temperatures range between 23-33°C (74-91°F), so be sure to pack light clothing. Nighttime temperatures generally drop to as low as 19°C (65°F). June is a very dry, sunny month: rarely will you experience rainfall.

Plan to take a variety of casual clothing that is easy-care, comfortable and doesn't show the

dirt. A good pair of walking shoes is highly recommended. **Sunscreen, sunglasses and hats are essential** to protect against the sun, and lightweight, light-coloured long sleeve shirts are also recommended for the same purpose.

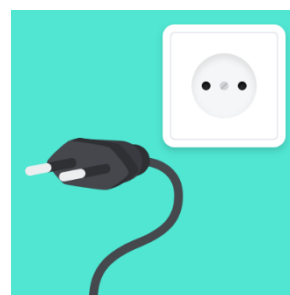
It is recommended to bring a **washcloth** along, as some hotels may not provide them. Also, lighten your suitcase by packing quick-dry clothing and a small container of **laundry detergent**. Clothing can be hand-washed and hung to dry quickly in the dry climate. It is useful to pack a ten-foot lightweight cord to improvise a wash line.

### ELECTRICAL CURRENT

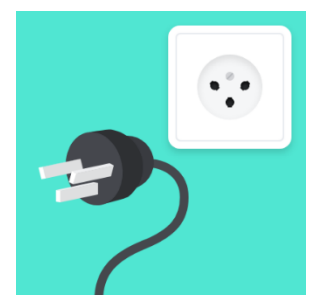
Standard voltage in Jordan & Israel (230V) is higher than in North America (120V), and different adapters are used here as well. If you wish to bring appliances you already own and they are not designed to operate on either 120 or 230 volts by the flick of a switch, you may need a **voltage converter** as well as a **plug adapter**.

Palestine and Israel operate on a **230V supply voltage and 50Hz**, and there are two associated plug types: **types C and H**.

Jordan also operates on a **230V supply voltage and 50Hz**. For Jordan there are five associated plug types: **C, D, F, G and J**.



Type C



Type H

The most common adapter for Israel/Palestine would be a **“round pin plug”**, but this can change from hotel to hotel.

Converters and adapters should be available for you to purchase at major department stores, electronic shops or stores that specialize in selling luggage. But before you purchase a converter, be sure to check the label on your appliance. Some appliances never need a converter. **If the label states 'INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz' the appliance can be used in all countries in the world.** This is common for chargers of tablets/laptops, cameras, cell phones, and toothbrushes.

Read more about converters/adapters [here](#).

## **CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS & EXPECTATIONS**

Public toilets may charge a small fee, so it is good to have coins available. Also, be prepared to pay for water at restaurants.

At **holy sites** it is required for men to wear long pants, not shorts, and women must cover their shoulders and knees. Dresses, skirts, capris or pants are acceptable for such visits. A lightweight scarf also comes in handy in order to cover shoulders when needed. Head coverings are generally not necessary, except at the Western Wall. Head coverings for men will be provided, but ladies should come prepared with a scarf.

## **WATER PURITY**

We do not advise that you drink water from the tap. While tap water in Jordan and Israel/Palestine is safe for washing up or brushing your teeth with, consuming it comes with a risk of developing illness. Bottled water will be available to you daily. Restaurants also exclusively serve bottled water.

## **MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS**

Although there are no required vaccinations for entry, please make sure you are **up to date on your routine vaccinations.**

It is highly recommended that each participant **seek the counsel of their personal physician and/or a travel clinic prior to their departure** for an individual health assessment to determine if there are other vaccinations or medications recommended for your travel destination. Show your doctor your tour itinerary so they can see where you will be travelling. If you get inoculations, have them recorded on an International Inoculation Certificate. Please take your doctor’s advice!

We suggest you **plan ahead for getting your vaccinations.** Some may require more than one injection. Note that some vaccinations should not be given during pregnancy or to people with allergies. Discuss this with your doctor.

Information about immunizations and travel clinics is available from the following:

### **USA**

#### **Centers for Disease Control**

1-800-311-3435, [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

#### **Travel Clinics in USA**

[www.cdc.gov/travel/travel\\_clinics.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/travel_clinics.htm)

#### **Passport Health USA**

1-800-499-7277, [www.passporthealthusa.com](http://www.passporthealthusa.com)

(list of all travel clinics in US and will do telephone consultation with travel health specialist)

### **CANADA**

#### **International Association for Medical Assistance for Travellers (IAMAT)**

(416) 652-0137, [www.iamat.org](http://www.iamat.org)

#### **Travel Doctors Group**

[www.tmvc.com.au](http://www.tmvc.com.au)

## Health Canada's Travel Medicine Program

for list of travel medicine clinics, (613) 957-8739

### Health Canada's web site

[www.TravelHealth.gc.ca](http://www.TravelHealth.gc.ca)

It is advisable to take along enough prescription medicine for the whole tour and a **written prescription** from your doctor for each medicine. If any of your medicines contain habit-forming drugs or narcotics, take precaution to avoid misunderstanding by properly identifying all drugs. Do not remove the drugs from their original containers and carry only the necessary quantity. These safeguards could save you considerable trouble.

### PROTECTING YOURSELF

Before you leave on your tour remove any unnecessary cards from your wallet and leave them at home. Photocopy your passport ID page and any credit or debit cards (both sides) that you plan to take with you. Keep a copy (or more) separate from your wallet for quick reference should your cards be lost or stolen. Leave a photocopy with friends or family at home.

Pickpockets are more common here than in the USA, especially in public spaces like airports and train stations. Carry billfolds in the front inside pocket of a jacket or front pants pocket as opposed to your back pocket. Consider a money belt (obtainable at AAA stores, for example) for excess cash. Beware of a common pickpocket ploy which is to announce that pickpockets have been observed in the area. People instinctively touch their pockets to check and the pickpockets then know where you keep your valuables.

You may consider **registering your travels with your government**. This will allow your government to notify you in case of an emergency abroad, a personal emergency at home, or a natural disaster or civil unrest. You can register for this free service online through your government website.

- [Canadians](#)
- [Americans](#)

### OTHER ITEMS TO BRING

An extra memory card and a good supply of spare or rechargeable batteries for your photographic or video equipment are recommended.

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## READ MORE

- [U.S. Department of State Jordan travel information](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Israel travel information](#)
- [Government of Canada Jordan travel advice](#)
- [Government of Canada Israel travel advice](#)
- [SHERPA travel requirements tool](#)

## SUGGESTED RESOURCE LIST

No reading is expected or required in advance for this tour, but this list suggests worthwhile resources if you want to do some preparation. The primary focus of our tour will be on biblical sites. But current politics and prayer for just relations between Jews and Palestinians will be subthemes of our time together. Check out several years' worth of my blogs at [www.peace-pilgrim.com](http://www.peace-pilgrim.com). – Nelson Kraybill, tour leader.

### **Bible background**

Bruce N. Fisk, ***A Hitchhiker's Guide to Jesus: Reading the Gospels on the Ground***. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011. 287 pp. This fictional account of a student's pilgrimage to the Holy Land gives excellent insight (grounded in good scholarship) into many sites we will visit. Sometimes a hoot to read!

### **Understanding the Middle East Conflict**

Gerald R. McDermott, ***Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently about the People and the Land***. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2017. Recognizes both the mistakes and the importance of Israel, with emphasis on responsibilities that come with covenant.

Elias Chacour, with David Hazard, ***Blood Brothers: The Unforgettable Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel***. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2003. Chacour blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sandy Tolan, ***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East***. New York: Bloomsbury, 2006. Chronicles the unlikely chain of events that in 1967 brought a long-dispossessed Palestinian son to the threshold of his former home, where he unexpectedly finds himself being welcomed by the daughter of Bulgarian Jewish immigrants.

Bishara Awad and Mercy Aiken, ***Yet in the Dark Streets Shining: A Palestinian Story of Hope and Resilience in Bethlehem*** (Cliffrose Press, 2021). The compelling life story of a Palestinian who lived through tumultuous changes during and after Israel's independence in 1948. *Awad was founder of Bethlehem Bible College and has been a dear friend to my wife Ellen and me during our current year in Bethlehem.*

### **The sweep of history in Jordan-Israel-Palestine**

Thomas Cahill, ***Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels***. New York: Anchor Books, 1999. 304 pp. An inspiring overview of the cultural and religious contributions Jews have made to the world.

James A. Michener, ***The Source***. Random House, 2002. 928 pp. This historical novel traces the epic story of the Jews, including the early Hebrews, the impact of Christianity on the Jewish world, the Crusades, and the Spanish Inquisition. Concludes with the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East.

### **Film**

**Jesus: Countdown to Calvary**. Netflix, 2018. 60 minutes. Hugh Bonneville, who studied theology before becoming a *Downton Abby* actor, interviews scholars and takes you to places that were significant in Jesus' last

days in Jerusalem. An accessible presentation that will orient you to the political and physical landscape of Passion Week, and help explain why Jesus had to die.