

What are my steps to reserve my spot and prepare for the trip?

1. **Obtain your US Passport immediately.** If you have a US Passport, make sure its renewal date is more than 7 months beyond your travel dates.
2. **Complete your reservation form and submit your deposit of \$500 for each person traveling. First day to register is May 19 at 8am.** Currently space is limited to 100 so reservations are on a first come basis. Alternates will be date and time stamped. **Payments can be made online at gracebc.org/Israel, or in person at 8am May 19 at the GBC reception desk.**
3. We will accept payment in full at any time, **however 50% must be paid by September 15, 2019 and the balance by January 15, 2020.** *If not paying in full, we recommend monthly payments of \$600/month beginning June 2019.*

Checks should be made payable to Grace Baptist Church with "Best of Israel Trip" in the memo section. Send all payments to the attention of Doug Jobe, GBC Accounting Department, 7171 Oak Ridge Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37931.

How to I pack for 10 days in one suitcase and not exceed the 50 pound weight limit?

Don't panic. You can also bring a carry on suitcase and one personal bag. We have a few packing tips for our Best of Israel Tour that will be helpful so that you don't overdo and at the same time don't underdo:

- You will need 2 pairs of comfortable walking shoes. **Your Holy Land tour will require a lot of walking in some places.** It is a good to have the extra pair just in case your feet were to get wet or something else unforeseen.
- Weather during our tour typically is mild with highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s. We will provide an update in early March 2020.
- A light raincoat is a good idea.
- **Dress for comfort.**
- Most hotels in Israel provide wash cloths, however we suggest bringing a few that you don't mind leaving behind, in case the hotel does not provide them. All hotels provide bath towels, but you may want to bring one from home to use if you plan on being baptized in the Jordan River or if you take a swim in the Dead Sea. You will also need swimwear for a Dead Sea swim and we also suggest it for the baptism in the Jordan. We suggest swim shoes. The Jordan River baptism site and the Dead Sea can be slippery on the bottom.
- Prescription medication for 2 weeks, eyeglasses, contacts and solutions, aspirin, sunglasses, Tylenol, Antacids, band aids or any item that you feel you may need. If you happen to forget something, don't worry, Israel has pharmacies just like we do here in the US.
- If you are bringing a camera, video camera, laptop or any other valuable item we strongly suggest that you do not place these in your checked bags; you can carry these on the plane.
- It is a good idea to carry a couple of plastic trash bags along to place your dirty clothes in.
- Many of our travelers will purchase statues, Nativity sets, etc. and find that they do not have enough room to bring them home. You may want to take any type collapsible bag that can fit inside your luggage and not take up a lot of space. If you wish to carry back larger items on the return trip home, you can place your dirty clothes in the collapsible bag and add it to your checked bags if necessary, allowing extra space in the bags you checked when you came over. We do not suggest shipping any item home. It is extremely expensive and unreliable.

How much money should I bring?

- We suggest a minimum of \$250 US cash per person for souvenirs and lunches. You can use a Master Card or Visa credit card and your photo ID driver's license. You may use your ATM card in Israel if needed.
- **Make 2 copies of your passport, one for you to keep in a safe place and one for our tour leader,** (Pastor Bobby or Hannah Kovener, our tour guide) just in case it happens to get lost. We strongly suggest everyone have a waistline or neck pouch for your passport, cash and credit card. It will ensure that you won't lose them. They are available at any Wal-Mart in the travel section.