

Additional Questions and Answers (edit 03.02.25)

General Travel Questions

1. How safe is it to travel to Israel?

While the current state of hostilities in the area make this question difficult to answer, in general if the decision is made to travel, you will not need to be concerned over your safety while traveling to Israel. By Feb./March 2025 we should have a better picture of whether to continue our plans or change our tour dates.

2. What will the weather be like?

Average temperatures from November 3-16 are highs in the low 70's and lows in the mid 50's. In general, the probability of precipitation is approximately 12-15% during our travel dates. It would be wise to bring some type of light raingear.

3. Will our flight be non-stop?

Yes. We will be flying direct from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Amman, Jordan.

4. How long is the flight?

Flights from Chicago to Amman are scheduled to be 11 hours and 25 minutes while the return flight is scheduled to be 12 hours and 35 minutes.

5. Will I need an electrical adapter or converter?

In Israel, you **WILL** need a Type C, H or M Adapter, which simply allows your device to plug into the differently configured wall sockets in Israel. This is needed for all devices you plan to plug into an electrical socket.

Israel operates on a 230V power supply, so **if your devices cannot run on 220 volts or are not dual voltage, you will need a power CONVERTER along WITH the adapter.** To learn if your device is a dual voltage appliance, you should find "INPUT: 110-240V" on the body of the device. Most computers are dual voltage, however items like hair dryers, CPAP's and electric razors are usually not.

6. Are the rooms double or single occupancy?

All rooms are double occupancy. If you are traveling alone, you can choose another solo-traveler to room with or we will assign you a roommate. If you wish to have a single room there is a \$2,650.00 additional fee added to the base rate of the trip.

7. What if I'm traveling with two teenagers?

Only two people should be housed per room. In this situation where two teens are traveling with their parents, one adult would need to be in each room overnight.

8. How many people per room?

There is a maximum of 3 to a room. While the recommendation is for 2 to a room, if parents are traveling with one child, 3 people can share a room. Simply put the names of all roommates in the "Roommate" line of the registration form.

9. What if I'm traveling with a minor child and I'm not their parent?

It is required that you room with that child and that there is a document signed by the child's parents or guardians making you responsible for the care of the child while on the trip. That document must also be notarized.

If you foresee you will be traveling with a minor and are not the parent, please contact Karen Peery in the church office (karen@hnb.church) and she will assist you in getting the proper forms to complete.

10. How old do you recommend children be to go on this trip?

Noseworthy's suggested cutoff age is 10. It also depends on the child as he/she needs to be old enough and mature enough to appreciate the tour. Parents need to appreciate the tour leaders and guides are not able to cater to individuals (no matter their age) in a way which will alter or diminish the experience for the rest of the group. So, while our recommended cutoff age will be 10, we do want parents to carefully and prayerfully consider whether their child is prepared to take part in this trip.

11. How will the group travel to O'Hare?

This has not been determined as of yet. It may be possible to transport the group using Harvest vehicles or renting a coach bus, or you may be asked to provide your own transportation to and from O'Hare. This will be decided once the size of the group is determined and we have learned the preference of most of the individuals.

12. Will we be able to leave our car parked in the church lot?

Yes, Harvest will provide a designated area for you to leave your car if we are using Harvest vehicles or a coach bus to transport people to the airport.

13. Are there any laws in Israel or Jordan that we should be aware of while traveling?

No, societies in both Israel and Jordan are quite similar to the U.S. If there is anything to be aware of, our tour guides and bus drivers will let you know.

14. Is any special training needed prior to traveling (identifying law enforcement, etc.)?

No. If there is anything going on in the area that would require specialized training we would most likely choose not to travel at that time. If we do travel to the area, we will depend on our highly trained tour guides and bus drivers which know the countries and specific situations much better than we could. They are very knowledgeable and will make any itinerary changes they deem necessary based on the situation on the ground at the time.

15. Is there anything we shouldn't bring with us?

If you bring binoculars, put them in your carry-on. Last time we traveled, if people had them in their checked bag it slowed down getting their luggage at baggage claim.

16. What about cell phones?

You need to check with your cell provider about how they handle international travel plans and purchase the one that will work for you. To recharge your phone you will need an electrical adapter. See question on adapters and converters.

= While In Israel Questions

1. Do I need special clothing?

We recommend you purchase and break in a very comfortable pair of walking shoes before travelling – good tennis shoes are fine. Plan to dress in lightweight layers most days in case of changing weather conditions and some type of head covering to protect from the sun is recommended.

*At some religious sites women are required to have their head, shoulders and knees covered. Plan to bring some type of scarf or other appropriate head covering and avoid sleeveless shirts and short shorts. In general, modest clothing is recommended when visiting the Old City, Capernaum, and others. Your guides will tell you in advance when you need modest clothing with you.

2. How difficult will the walking be?

While some sites do require more walking than others (Petra, Machaerus, Masada), the walks are generally not continual, but broken up into segments so there will never be non stop walking for long periods of time. You are free to take a speed that works for you. All ages can handle the walking, and if you are concerned, there are normally places to sit and “people watch”. If you are trying to prepare, try to work your way up to 2-3 miles per day and you should be ready. Again – be sure to break in a good pair of comfortable walking shoes before leaving for Israel!

3. What times will our days start and end?

It will depend on the planned activities for the day. Generally, days start around 8 or 9am, but if there is a day or two with a full itinerary you may need to board your bus by 7am. Ending times are determined by the day’s activities.

4. What will our meals be like?

The food choices that are provided by our hotels are generally buffet style and are of excellent quality and selection.

5. What if I need a special diet?

In general, the buffet style of the breakfasts and dinners should allow most people to find something that fits their dietary needs. If you let us know your particular situation we can contact the tour operator on your behalf to make sure your needs will be met.

6. Will there be any laundry facilities available?

Packing adequate clothing is recommended. While the hotels we are staying at may have laundry service, there is normally a fee involved.

7. Do we need to know how to speak the local language?

You should not feel the need to know Hebrew in order to go on this trip. Our guides will speak English and English is commonly spoken across the country. For fun, Stephen mentioned he may give out a glossary of a few common Hebrew phrases if you feel like venturing into that arena!

8. Should I plan on exchanging US dollars before the trip?

While most places of business do accept U.S. dollars, Stephen did recommend to have some shekels in case you're at a smaller business or in a smaller town.

9. Where should I exchange U.S. dollars?

While some U.S banking institutions and most Currency Exchanges do exchange for foreign currency, you should check about their fees. Airports also often provide this service. Using your credit card for purchases where that option is available, will always give you a reliable rate that you can trust.

Medical Questions

1. Do I need to be vaccinated for Covid to enter Israel or Jordan?

No, Israel has lifted all Covid restrictions.

2. Does Israel require medical trip insurance in order to enter the country?

No, as of May 2023 that requirement was lifted.

3. Do I need other vaccinations to travel to Israel or Jordan?

No other vaccinations are required to enter Israel or Jordan.

4. What if I have a medical emergency while in Israel?

Our tour operator and guides are all highly trained in the event of a medical emergency. They will be able to help you navigate the process and high quality care is available in all major cities.

Financial Questions

1. What is the process for refunds if I must pull out after making the deposit or the \$1,500 second payment?

Our tour operator has informed us that the full cancellation policy is available in the final tour brochure. Be sure to read it completely before you choose to register for the trip. All cancellations will be handled in an identical manner and the earlier you cancel, the lower the cancellation fee.

2. What about tips?

All tips are included in the price of the trip. However, it is customary to collect a love offering for the tour guides/bus drivers with passengers providing what they can in order to say thank you.

3. What about travel insurance?

It is recommended that you secure some type of travel insurance for this trip, although it is NOT a requirement.

There are two primary types of travel insurance you may select.

1. **Medical / Medical Evacuation ONLY** – this type only covers medical emergencies you may encounter while on the trip as well as evacuating you from the country if

medically necessary. This type is considerably cheaper than Comprehensive Travel/Trip Insurance as it does not cover other aspects of the trip. Stephen Katz recommended Faith Ventures as a possible option at our March 2 meeting. Their website is at www.faithventures.com.

2. **Comprehensive Travel/Trip Insurance** – this type of coverage generally covers the cost of the ticket, lost luggage and various other travel related expenses as well as medical costs. Each policy covers different things at different levels so it is important to read and understand any insurance coverage before you purchase it.

Noseworthy has a comprehensive trip protection option or you are free to research other companies. While we will supply some options for you to consider, you are responsible for researching and choosing the plan that best suits your needs as Harvest is not an insurance company and will not make recommendations.

Please note: Comprehensive Trip Insurance and Medical ONLY Insurance both require that you purchase the coverage prior to the trip being fully paid for.

4.	When will the precise final price of the trip be known?
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We won't know for certain until trip registrations are completed through Noseworthy Travel, as it depends on the final number in our group. We would suggest you plan for a possible \$100-\$200 differential in case our tour group is much smaller than we expect.

5.	What happens if we must make changes to our plans due to hostilities in the area?
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We should have a pretty clear picture of whether it will be advisable to travel to Israel by March/April 2025. If it is generally considered wiser to delay the trip, whatever you have paid to Noseworthy will transfer over to the chosen new dates for our group to travel. If you choose to pull out of the tour completely, please read the Noseworthy cancellation policy carefully. At this time, \$200 of the \$300 registration fee would be refunded to you, however their cancellation policy will give you the most complete information.

Our tour operator shared the following: "There are always wars and rumors of wars in the Holy Land, so the cancellation policy will remain in place regardless of what the news is stating, unless the flights are not allowed to enter Israel. Then we would be dealing with the passengers as the circumstances dictate."

5.	When will registration close?
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The full payment due date is August 20, 2025 and no further registrations will be accepted after that date, but please note, if you register after July 12, 2025 you will incur additional fees.

6.	How important are the payment due dates?
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Payment due dates are VERY important as you will incur late fees and potentially lose your spot on the tour if the \$1,500 payment is not made by July 12, 2025 or if the final payment date (August 20, 2025) is missed. The trip will cost you more money if you do not follow the dates carefully. We will send reminders to help you.

7.	What if airfare costs go down before the trip?
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There will not be any adjustments in the pricing, either up or down, if airfare costs change.

8.	Can people choose a “Land Only” option?
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Yes. If you choose the “Land Only” option you would then secure your own flight to Amman and return flight to the U.S. You would also be responsible for getting transport to the hotel from the airport and then on the final day to get transported back to the airport to meet your flight. Cost for the “Land Only” option is available on request and will also be available in the registration brochure.

9.	Can people upgrade their flight to business or first class?
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If you need to upgrade the flight, our tour operator recommends that you choose the “Land Only” option and then book your own flight. You would then be responsible for your transportation to the hotel to meet the group and, on the final day of the trip, for your transportation to the airport to catch your flight.

10.	How are payments handled?
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All payments (registration fee, second deposit and full fee) are handled by Noseworthy Travel. You may choose to mail in your payments to Noseworthy (just be sure to do so early enough for them to arrive prior to the due date). Credit cards are also accepted, however there will be 3.5% surcharge added to your payment. PLEASE NOTE: Harvest is not involved with the payment process.