

Santos Travel and Tours, LLC  
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## Holy Land Journey with Jordan

Reverend Father Roberto 'Tito' Ignacio.  
(November 05-15, 2017)

October 23, 2017

Dear Participants,

Please carefully review the follow checklist. The checklist are suggestions and not mandatory. It is to help ensure you have a wonderful and memorable trip.

✓ **Meeting time and place**

- Meeting: Santos Travel (at 10 W. Miami Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002)
- Time: 700AM. Motorcoach leaving promptly at 730A. If you miss it, you will be responsible for making your own arrangements to the airport.

✓ **Baggage allowance.** You are allowed one (1) piece that cannot weigh more than 50 pounds (22.7 kilos). Santos Travel and Tours will not be held responsible for any charges incurred if you will have to remove items due to excess weight. Also ONE HAND CARRY. No balikbayan reasoning will be accepted.

✓ **Clothing**

- An experienced travel writer has said: “Take the advice of one who knows — take twice as much money and half as much clothes.”
  - Light, loose-fitting, mix-and-match clothing is the pilgrim’s standby. Think convenience before fashion. Wear layers of clothing that can be shed or replaced at will (cardigans or stoles are handy). Even in summer, a jacket or sweater will be needed in the cool evenings.
  - Color is also important. White clothes will not stay white long in the Middle East. Black will absorb the heat and cause discomfort. Light colors or mid-tones are best.
  - Sunhats are essential. Take a swimsuit for opportunities such as the Sea of Galilee, hotel pools or an unsinkable dip in the Dead Sea.
  - If you are coming from the other side of the world, remember you will be wearing the same clothes for two days on the way (and, of course, the seasons will be opposite).
  - Wash-and-wear or drip-dry clothing is recommended. Take a travel clothes line and some pegs with you.
- **Women** visiting religious sites in the Middle East should cover legs, cleavage and shoulders (even arms in some mosques). A long skirt in a “cool” fabric is suitable for day or evening wear (and an advantage when

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using some toilets). Trousers are also acceptable. Eastern Orthodox sites might require women to cover their heads. A light shawl that can serve as a wrap or headscarf is a useful modesty aid.

- **Men** will find that shorts are unacceptable at some religious sites. Men should cover their heads in mosques and synagogues (but not in churches). At some Jewish sites (such as the Western Wall) a kippah (skullcap) is provided free.

- ✓ **Electrical items** - The electric current in the Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Syria is 220-volt AC, 50Hz cycles.

- Sockets in Israel are round-pronged and three-pinned (though many can accept two-pinned plugs). In Jordan and Egypt (and, with some variations, Syria) they are round-pronged and two-pinned, though some square, three-pinned British sockets are also used. Adaptors should be bought prior to departure.
- If your appliance is for 120 volts only (as used in Canada and the United States), you will also need a transformer to avoid damaging your appliance.

- ✓ **Rate of Exchange. 1.00 (USD) = 3.52 (ILS, New Shekel)**

- Traveling with foreign currency. Traveler feedback (per Wells Fargo) suggests taking U.S. dollar equivalent of \$50.00 to \$100.00 worth of foreign currency per person, per day, to meet incidental expenses. Take precaution while out exploring; only carry the amount of cash you feel comfortable with, and split amounts between you and a partner.
- Replenishing your cash. Purchasing from an ATM is a good option. Keep in mind fees are usually associated with each transaction (generally fees from your home bank as well as the ATM's bank).
- Credit/ debit cards. Many carry a foreign transaction fee, so it is important to know your card's fees before traveling. They are good for large transactions and generally provide a competitive rate, which makes them a good complement to cash.
- Dynamic currency conversion (DCC). Be aware of services where merchants convert the transaction to USD (the rate of exchange is set at the point of sale rather than waiting for the card's billing cycle). The merchant sets the exchange rate, which may be higher than the rate set by the issuer of the credit card and could include hidden fees.
- Your local Wells Fargo may be able to help you as well. We recommend contacting your local bank too to see if they can accommodate your request.

- ✓ **Mileage credit.** El Al partners with American Airlines, please bring your American Airlines Card/ Mileage number.

- ✓ **Snacks.** Bring your favorite (either to share or secretly keep to yourself...we won't tell).

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- ✓ **Things to bring:** Comfortable walking shoes, moderate to heavy jacket, mini flashlight, hat, folding umbrella, 10-day prescription, toiletries, memory card, phone/camera charger, addresses for postcards. Sure, be stylish, but we emphasize comfort.
- ✓ **Time Zone.** They are 7 hours ahead of us (EST).
- ✓ **Weather forecast.** Although the forecast can change, the average temperature you will be encountering will be Average high during the day is 21°C/11°C (71°/51.8°F) with an almost sunny day throughout your trip.
- ✓ **Wheelchair.** Please let us know as soon as possible if we need to request one while departing (November 05) and/ or arriving (November 15) at the airport only.

**NOTES:**

- ❖ Rooming list has already been provided, Karen has set up a Facebook group page. This letter will also be found on the website and emailed to those who provided us their addresses.
- ❖ We do NOT have everyone's phone number. Please provide it ASAP in the event that we have to contact you.

Don't forget your (appropriate)  
bathing suit for the Dead Sea!

Respectfully,  
Alex and Karen Santos