



April 5, 2017

Shalom Aglow Israel travelers,

This email contains information to help you get ready for the wonderful experience of being in the land of Israel. You can also find a great deal of information on the Gate 1-Aglow web site related to hotels, climate, currency, clothes to bring, etcetera. The Daily Itinerary is included in this email (at the bottom). You may want to print it and bring it with you so you will know what is planned for each day of the trip. Below is additional information specific to our Aglow trip that will help you plan well for your journey.

Those who have made airline arrangements through Gate 1 Travel, or who are coming in groups from other nations and have let Roberta Yesowitch know when your group is arriving, will be met at the Ben Gurion Airport and transported on buses to the hotel. If you booked "Land Only" and are arriving independently, check your Gate 1 documents for the address of The Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv where you are booked, and make your way to that hotel by taxi.

Here are some important guidelines to remember for your trip:

- **Very important, please note:** As stipulated online in the "Dates and Prices" tab, the tour itinerary can be very rigorous and includes extensive walking, climbing stairs, and at times, uneven terrain. It is important to consider these aspects of the tour if you have limitations that would make it difficult to engage in these activities. Due to space limitations, wheelchairs and walkers cannot be taken aboard motor coaches. Individuals with heart disease, chronic illness, physical handicap, advanced pregnancy, or mental illness should not participate in this rigorous travel program.

- **Touring as a group:** Each bus will have an Israeli guide and driver as well as Aglow leaders serving as bus captains. It is very important to follow their instructions and stay with your group. It can cause everyone to wait if the guides or bus captains must look for someone who is not with the group.
- **Appropriate attire:** When touring, please plan to wear pants or skirts that come below the knees. Blouses or shirts should keep the shoulders covered because many of the places we visit are considered “religious sites” by both orthodox Jewish and Christian groups. Bare shoulders and knees are considered inappropriate attire. There are a few times when tank tops and shorts are acceptable, for example, when we visit the Dead Sea and Masada on Monday, April 24.
- **Sun screen and a hat** are a must as it can be very warm and dry in the desert and in many parts of Israel.
- **Bring one “wrap” – a light sweater or sweatshirt.** The buses are air-conditioned and can get chilly, so having something to wrap around you is helpful.
- **Bring comfortable walking shoes** – sandals, sneakers...shoes that are not new. There is extensive walking over cobblestones, rough surfaces, up and down steps, and over curbs. Your shoes should be sturdy and comfortable.
- **Bring water shoes** – for the Dead Sea and the Jordan River. The Dead Sea has a rough gravel shoreline in some places. It also has “medicinal mud” - very black and very sticky! Make sure your shoes are securely fastened to your feet or you might lose them in the mud. People have great fun giving themselves and each other facials with the mud and then taking photos. There are showers on the beach to rinse the mud off and private showers in locker room areas to shower fully. The Dead Sea is extremely salty, so you will want to be careful not to get the water in your eyes. Also, you might want to refrain from shaving if you plan to experience the water – irritated skin can be painful. Again, sun screen and a hat are important.
- **Bring your swimming suit.** You will have several opportunities to use one – in the Dead Sea if you decide to go swimming (actually floating) and in the Mediterranean Sea. There are swimming pools at several of the hotels. Also, if you wish to be baptized (or rededicated) in the Jordan River, a towel and white baptismal gown is supplied for those getting baptized. However, the gown material is very thin and is transparent when wet. Plan to wear your bathing suit at that time. There are showers in the changing rooms at the Jordan River.
- **Gifts for soldiers:** A visit to the soldiers guarding Israel’s northern border is scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd. Please plan to bring gifts of toiletries, such as shaving cream, deodorant, toothpaste, and disposable razors, in small travel sizes and quantities. They would also enjoy candies, cookies, and pretzels or snack-type foods (avoid things not listed). The gifts will be collected and given to the soldiers’ officers to be distributed amongst them.
- **Cash for tips:** Plan to bring \$85 USD for tip money for your guides and drivers. Tips are expected and are not included in the price of the tour. On our Aglow tour, we collect \$85 (USD only), from each traveler at the beginning of the trip. After the funds are collected, they are then equally divided between the guides and drivers. As a point of information, it is customary to tip a guide approximately \$10 USD per day when on an international tour and an additional amount if you have a guide and a driver. Tips for your hotel room cleaning staff are included in your trip price. You do not need to tip extra unless you experience an especially helpful staff person.

- **Exchanging money:** You may want to exchange a small amount of US dollars or euros for shekels at the airport or the hotel. However, dollars and euros are readily accepted in many Israeli stores and restaurants. Your change will be given to you in shekels. We don't recommend buying a large amount of shekels. The US dollar and the euro are roughly equivalent: \$1USD = €1 (euro). Current exchange rate for shekels: \$1 = a little less than 4 shekels.
- **Credit/debit cards:** If you plan to use your credit/debit card in Israel, it is wise to notify the credit card company before you leave home so they will honor purchases made while in Israel. If you plan to access an ATM, give your bank the same information about your plans to travel to Israel.
- **Cash:** In addition to tip money, plan to bring enough cash to cover lunches. (Many places where we may eat lunch don't take credit cards.) Paying in dollars, euros, or shekels is fine. Plan an average of \$7-\$12 per lunch. Some lunches might be as low as \$5. Others may be more expensive, such as the Saint Peter's fish in Tiberius. We try to offer you a variety of choices whenever possible. Soft drinks are always extra and are expensive in Israel.
- **Water:** Because it is very hot and dry in Israel, dehydration is a VERY REAL concern. Dehydration can cause many physical problems ranging from mild to serious: dizziness or lightheadedness, headache, fever, lethargy, confusion, drop in blood pressure. So it is very important to stay hydrated. We suggest you bring a supply of \$1 bills or €1 coins to purchase bottled water on the bus. A supply is kept in a cooler at the front of the bus and costs \$1 per bottle. You can also fill an empty water bottle at the hotel each morning if you wish, because the tap water at the hotel is fine to drink. Just remember to drink lots of water!
- **Carry-on items:** Be sure to carry at least one change of clothes and all your necessary medicines in your carry-on bag. Occasionally, your luggage may not arrive in Israel when you do so having a change of clothes can be helpful.
- **Electronic devices:** New regulations prohibit electronic devices larger than a smart phone in your carry-on. We sent an email containing that information recently, so please refer to that communication. Also, remember to bring chargers and appropriate adapters for your smart phones, cameras, and other devices. We suggest turning off your data plan as international roaming fees can get very expensive. Most hotels have internet – some have Wi-Fi, some are free, some have daily fees for use. Our hotel in Jerusalem has free Wi-Fi. Ask at the reception desk for the code to log in. If your devices require batteries, bring extra with you as they are very expensive in Israel.

Shalom and see you soon in Israel!

The Aglow International Israel Council



DAILY ITINERARY

NOTE: Itinerary is Subject to Change

Tuesday, April 18

Depart New York, NY (NYC) for your flight to Tel Aviv, Israel. Those from other nations depart per your own itinerary.

Wednesday, April 19

Tour participants arrive in Tel Aviv

Thursday, April 20

We begin our first full day in Israel with an Opening Session at the hotel with a message from our President, Jane Hansen Hoyt. We will then visit Independence Hall where, on the 14th of May in 1948, David Ben Gurion read Israel's Declaration of Independence, celebrating the restoration of the first nation in history to become a nation again 2,000 years of ceasing to exist. Then we will visit historic Jaffa, where Peter received the revelation that God accepted Gentiles into belief in Yeshua, as Messiah. There will be time to visit the many eclectic shops also found in Jaffa. Groups will make staggered visits to the Palmach Museum, which tells the story of the Israel Defense Force before and leading up to the creation of the State of Israel. At the end of the day we will all meet together on the Mediterranean shore at the Café London for dinner.

Overnight: Tel Aviv, Israel
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday, April 21

After breakfast, our first stop will be Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast, which was a center for early Christians. Here Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10), and it was also here that Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome. Then we will travel to Mt. Carmel where Elijah issued his challenge to the false prophets. Your bus captains will lead a prayer time on the roof at Mt. Carmel where you will have a wonderful view of the Jezreel Valley (Valley of Armageddon). After lunch, we will travel to Megiddo, also known as Armageddon, a fortress and city built by King Solomon. In the New Testament, it is the site of the "final battle."

Overnight: Tiberias, Israel
Meals: Dinner

Saturday, April 22 – Shabbat

Breakfast at the hotel. We will board the buses at 8:00am sharp, to visit and tour Midgal, birthplace of Mary Magdalene. From there we will go to the Sea of Galilee for a boat ride with worship and singing aboard a replica of the boats used by the disciples. Sailing across to Ginosaur, we will visit the ancient “Jesus Boat” – the remains of a 2,000-year-old boat that was discovered in 1986. This boat was used at the time of Jesus and his disciples. After lunch, we will visit the Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5-8), where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will end our day at the 2,000-year-old remains of Capernaum (Matt. 4:13 13:54, 17:24, Luke 7, Mark 1:2, John 4:46-54). Here we can stand in what is left of the synagogue in which Jesus ministered. It was from this city that Jesus did most of his Galilean ministry, where he performed many miracles, and where Peter's mother-in-law lived and was healed.

Overnight: Tiberias, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, April 23

Breakfast at the hotel. (Be sure to bring your bathing suit today if you are going to be baptized or rededicated in the Jordan River.) We will drive up to the northern border between Israel and Lebanon and visit with the soldiers that guard this important border. Remember to bring your gifts for the soldiers. We will continue on to visit Banias – ancient Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus said to Peter, “On this rock I will build my Church.” We will conclude the day with a visit to Yardenit – the wonderful baptismal site on the Jordan River. We will then return to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Tiberias, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, April 24

After breakfast, we will gather in groups for the two tour selections. One group will travel to the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea. Once there, via cable car, we will ascend to the summit of the fortress of Masada. We will also visit the Ein Gedi Oasis before travelling on to the Dead Sea. Bring your bathing suit and water shoes if you plan to experience the water, as the shore is rocky and the mud in the sea is sticky. Remember not to shave. Sunscreen and hats are recommended. Drink lots of water as the desert is very hot and dry and you can become dehydrated without even feeling thirsty. You can shop at the Ahava store and bring home wonderful products made from the Dead Sea. The other tour option is to visit Tzipori (a village and archeological site), Bet Shean (an ancient city that was once part of the Decapolis), and Gideon’s Spring (where Gideon gathered his men before fighting the Midianites, Judg. 7).

Evening: A dinner meeting and briefing with Brigadier General Ilan Sabag.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, April 25

In the morning, we will drive to the Mt. of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. Then to the Old City and a visit to the Upper Room. After lunch, alternate groups will visit the Temple Institute and the Jewish Quarter, with time to experience both.

Evening: We will enjoy a dinner meeting with Asher Intrater and a team from Revive Israel.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, April 26

After breakfast, we will travel to Mt. Scopus where we will commission all who have completed their Watchmen on the Wall seminar. Then the group, along with the newly commissioned Watchmen, will go up to The Ramparts, the actual wall around the Old City, to take part in a time of targeted prayer. We will also view the excavations and the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount. We will visit the Western Wall (bring your prayers written on small pieces of paper to place into the wall). Our day ends with staggered entrances into the memorable Chain of Generations exhibit and Virtual Reality experience.

Evening: A Farewell Gala

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday, April 27

After breakfast, we will tour the Friends of Zion Heritage Center in Jerusalem, followed by visits to the Christian Quarter. After lunch in the Old City, we will visit the Garden Tomb, sharing Communion and time for quiet meditation. We will return to the hotel for the balance of the day in preparation for those traveling home tonight.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday, April 28

Return flights home.

Meals: Breakfast