

FAQ's for Touring Israel

Is Israel safe?

- Yes, *very*. As with the leaders of most Middle Eastern countries, bellicose remarks against Israel and the U.S. are common, but it's the kind of political rhetoric that the news media loves and inflates.
- Violence in Israel is minimal. When incidents occur, they are directed at soldiers, police and Israelis—not tourists. For instance, when was the last time anyone heard of a tourist being attacked in Israel?
- Israel is small—roughly the size of New Jersey, and though there've been issues along its Gaza border, we don't travel anywhere near it.

Who are the Israelis?

- The Israelis are both Jews and Arabs, with the Jewish population made of up immigrants from every corner of the world.
- Religiously, most Israelis secular Jews, with religious Jews comprising about 10-15% of the Jewish population. Arabs (Israeli citizens and Palestinians) are mostly Muslim, with a small percentage of Greek Orthodox and a few protestant groups.
- Israelis and Arabs may have a stern look about them, but they love to laugh and exchange smiles for smiles—in fact you'll find them among the most hospitable people in the world.

What language do they speak in Israel?

- Israelis speak Hebrew, with English, Arabic and Russian as secondary languages.

Will our guide be Jewish?

- All guides are Israeli citizens and are therefore either Jewish or Arab. Our guide will likely be an Israeli Jewish-American-Christian.

How should we act around Jews and Palestinians?

- The answer to this most important question is to, as a group, love each other as Jesus loved you—then love our guide and driver the same way.

Genuinely. Remember, they've heard it all from other Christian groups—it's time to let them experience Him in action, not just words.

What about the food and water?

- Israeli food is very Mediterranean with a Middle Eastern flare: falafel, shawarma, kebabs, pasta, fish, lots of salads, pita bread, olive oil, and every sort of dessert. And, of course, Arab coffee. But there's a catch...
- All Israeli food is served kosher. This means you won't be served dairy with any meat. Breakfasts are dairy (cheese, milk, salads, fish, eggs, etc.) and dinners are entirely non-dairy (beef, veal, lamb, fish, chicken)—no dairy-creamer for your coffee and all desserts are non-dairy. Lunches are one or the other, but not both. Pork and shellfish aren't kosher and will not be served at any meal.
- Tap water in Israel is excellent, but you may still want to drink bottled water, as clean foreign drinking water can still have certain 'effects'.

What are the drives like?

- Biblical sites in Israel are between 5 and 70 minutes apart. Be aware that roads can be narrow, steep and wind a lot. If you are prone to car-sickness, please consult your physician.