



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL TO THE HOLY LANDS?**

Faith Based Expeditions (FBE) constantly monitors the safety and security issues of the Middle Eastern countries we visit as well as Greece. FBE intends for every participant to enjoy a wonderful time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual development in a safe environment. Rest assured that FBE will make every effort to ensure the safety of its participants. The personnel affiliated with FBE are trained to assist and instruct participants in matters of personal and group safety.

While traveling, FBE monitors the location each day and avoids any sites that may not be safe to visit on that particular day. Lodgings are located in safe areas with security staff. If there is ever a hint of potential danger, FBE does not travel into those areas. Almost everyone who returns from a FBE tour remarks, "I never once felt unsafe." However, as in any form of travel there can never be a 100% guarantee of safety. Nevertheless, FBE has an excellent safety record.

### **DO I NEED A VISA OR A PASSPORT?**

When traveling internationally (including all Middle East and European countries) a valid passport is required. **A valid passport is one that does not expire for at least six months beyond the return date of your trip.** Tourist Visas are required to enter some countries that we tour. Arriving in ISRAEL, tourist travelers will be given a slip of paper in Passport Control by the Agent, which serves as your Entry VISA. You MUST keep this temporary Tourist VISA on your person at all times throughout our time in Israel and until your departure back home.

If traveling to JORDAN with a group, Faith Based Expeditions will secure your VISA if you have given us a copy of your passport. If you intend to enter Jordan on your own then you will be responsible to obtain the entry VISA at your own expense.

At this time, Greece/Italy do not require a tourist VISA for US citizens.

If traveling to TURKEY, **you must secure** a Turkish VISA **PRIOR** to departing for the tour. VISA applications can be secured by going to the following link. Apply and pay for the VISA at: [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr). Keep your VISA throughout the tour with your passport

It is the responsibility of NON US citizens, including US green card holders, to obtain information about your particular VISA requirements from the consuls of the countries you will be visiting. Our office will do our best to advise you specifically as well but it is your responsibility to know what is required for your citizenship designation in and out of the countries being toured. For more information on passport and visas go to [www.travisa.com](http://www.travisa.com)

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE A POWER CONVERTER/ADAPTER?**

Israel, Turkey, and Greece require a special power adaptor to convert the 110 power to the local power source. Electric shavers, travel irons and other small electronic appliances such as computers, cameras, laptops, e-readers, & cell phone will require power adapters. Hairdryers are provided in each hotel on our tours. Curling irons and personal hair dryers are NOT recommended due to causing a fire hazard when adapted. Faith Based Expeditions will provide each tour participant one Power Adapter per person that will be included in your Travel Packet.

### **DO I NEED ANY SPECIAL IMMUNIZATIONS?**

No. However we do recommend that you are up to date on your routine vaccinations. Check with your Health Care Provider for any vaccinations that may be recommended for your particular health care.

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**AM I REQUIRED TO TIP?**

Gratuities (tips) for driver, guide and hotel staff are included in the cost of your tour except for the gratuity for lunches. Unless otherwise stipulated, the cost for lunch is not typically included in the tour price. It is customary that service providers, guides, or driver be tipped for any SPECIAL or PERSONAL service which they may provide for you. You may, of course, at any time, give an additional gratuity to a service provider should they exceed your expectations.

**CAN I DRINK THE WATER?**

Every person who travels to the Middle East such as Israel, Jordan, Turkey, or in Greece and Italy is cautioned to not drink the water out of the tap. Your tour guide will also guide you regarding safe drinking water. We have found that the water purification systems in Israel, Turkey and Greece are very sophisticated allowing the traveler to drink the water usually without any side effects. However, FBE recommends, as a precautionary measure, that the traveler drink bottled water while on tour to avoid any inadvertent issues with the local water. Bottle water is typically provided on the tour motor coach at an additional cost.

**DO THE HOTELS HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?**

Internet is available in the majority of hotels that we use. Typically, there is an additional charge by the hotel for this use. Cost is typically \$18-24 USD for 24 hours in hotel rooms but is usually free in the hotel lobby.

**IF I AM NOT TRAVELING WITH THE GROUP, HOW DO I GET TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT?**

If you arrange your own air travel -choosing the LAND ONLY option of the tour- you are responsible for your own ground transportation between airport and hotel and back to the airport at the end of the tour including cost and gratuity. However, if requested, Faith Based Expeditions can arrange for the ground transfer, at an additional cost, for both the arrival and /or the departure. You MUST give us YOUR complete flight schedule as soon as you know it.

**HOW DO I DEAL WITH JET LAG?**

Upon arrival overseas, the initial excitement may cause participants to overlook the strain on their bodies from the long flight and time changes. It is highly recommended that participants immediately begin to follow the sleeping patterns of the new time zone.

If participants arrive during the day, they should do their best to wait until evening before going to bed. If they arrive late at night, they should try their best to rise in the morning with everyone else. Also, participants should make sure to hydrate themselves with water after the long flight. Hydration is an important part of overcoming jet lag more quickly.

**WHAT ARE THE ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?**

On most FBE programs, participants enjoy 4 or 4 (+) star accommodations. These hotels are not only comfortable but also provide a relaxing environment after a full day of site seeing. Breakfast and dinner at the hotels are included in the overall program price.

The programs are priced at double occupancy; however, single rooms are available upon request for an additional charge. An "Accommodations" page is available for each scheduled program, which provides a list of hotels, the dates of stay, and links to the hotel websites.

**HOW SHOULD I DRESS?**

Casual dress is recommended such as lightweight pants/shorts and t-shirts. A lightweight hat is a must, preferably one with a brim that covers the neck and ears. Good walking shoes a must!

When touring in the Mid-East, "modesty kits" are sometimes required. A "modesty kit" refers to pieces of clothing (for both men and women), which allow participants to make sure that their shoulders and/or knees are covered. For women: long pants, skirts, or capris that cover the knees and shirts that cover shoulders. For men: long pants and shirts that cover shoulders. "Slip-over" or "wrap-around" clothing is best for such occasions. A shawl for women is a good option; baseball cap for men is good in places that require a head covering.

Tour guides will notify participants in advance when visiting sites that require their "modesty" clothing.

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## **HOW MUCH EXTRA CASH WILL I NEED?**

In addition to regular tourist-type purchases and daily lunch expenses (\$15 – \$20 per day) unless LUNCHES are included in the tour price, it is recommended that participants bring a 'slush fund' of about \$15 – \$25 per day for incidental spending (snacks, water, soda, maps, taxis, tourist guide books, etc.).

US Dollars and Credit Cards are fine. Participants may convert these funds into local currency at the airport (time permitting), at the hotels or at nearby banks at the current exchange rate. ATM machines are available to access additional cash you may need during the tour. ATM's dispense local currency. Check with your personal bank to find out the charge for using a foreign ATM.

## **WHAT CAN I BRING ON THE PLANE AND IN CHECKED BAGGAGE?**

Please visit TSA's Web site at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) and go to the "Can I Bring..." application located on the right-hand side of the home page. By entering an item in the search field and clicking "submit," the tool will tell you if the item can be taken in checked or carry-on baggage.

TSA has published guidelines to help passengers through airport security. Our guidelines include a list of permitted items as well as an expanded list of items prohibited from aircraft cabins. The prohibited and permitted items list is not intended to be all-inclusive and is updated as necessary. TSA reviews these lists periodically, and changes are announced and posted as necessary.

To ensure the security of all travelers, Transportation Security Officers have the discretion to prohibit a passenger from carrying an item through the screening checkpoint or onboard an aircraft if the item poses a security threat. TSA security screening personnel make the final decisions on whether to permit items into the sterile areas of airports.

## **WHAT IS THE 3-1-1 RULE?**

When processing through a screening checkpoint, each traveler is allowed one bag in order to limit the total volume of liquids, aerosols and gels. Consolidating products into one bag and X-raying them separately from the carry-on bag enables security officers to quickly clear all items.

3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3.4 ounce (100ml) bottle or less (by volume); 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3.4-ounce (100ml) container size is a security measure.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience. 3-1-1 is for short trips. If in doubt, consider putting your liquids in checked luggage.

Declare larger liquids. Medications, baby formula and food, and breast milk are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint. Officers may need to open these items to conduct additional screening.

***See TSA 3-1-1 Rules for complete information.***

## **ARE MY MEDICATIONS (LIQUIDS OR PILLS) EXEMPT FROM SCREENING?**

Travelers passing through security checkpoints may bring all medications and related supplies—prescription, over-the-counter items, and homeopathic—through TSA security checkpoints after these items have been properly screened. ***See TSA 3-1-1 Rules.***

## **ARE MY MEDICALLY REQUIRED LIQUIDS LIMITED TO 3.4 OUNCES IN A QUART-SIZED BAG?**

Medically required liquids, such as baby formula and food, breast milk and medications are allowed in excess of 3.4 ounces in reasonable quantities for the flight. It is not necessary to place medically required liquids in a zip-top bag. However, you must tell the Transportation Security Officer that you have medically necessary liquids at the beginning of the screening checkpoint process. We recommend, but do not require, that medication be labeled to facilitate the security process.

Liquids, gels, and aerosols are screened by X-ray and medically necessary items in excess of 3.4 ounces will receive additional screening. A passenger could be asked to open the liquid or gel for additional screening. TSA will not touch the liquid or gel during this process. If the passenger does not want a liquid, gel, or aerosol X-rayed or opened for additional screening, he or she should inform the officer before screening begins.

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Additional screening of the passenger and his or her property may be required, which may include a pat down.

Accessories required to keep medically necessary liquids, gels, and aerosols cool – such as freezer packs or frozen gel packs – are permitted through the screening checkpoint and may be subject to additional screening. These accessories are treated as liquids unless they are frozen solid at the checkpoint. If these accessories are partially frozen or slushy, they are subject to the same screening as other liquids and gels.

Supplies that are associated with medically necessary liquids and gels – such as IV bags, pumps and syringes – are allowed through a checkpoint once they have been screened by X-ray or inspection. The passenger should declare these items to an officer and separate them from other belongings for screening.

**I HAVE A METAL IMPLANT AND ALWAYS ALARM WHEN I GO THROUGH THE METAL DETECTOR BUT DON'T WANT TO BE SUBJECT TO RADIATION WITH THE AIT (ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGY). WHAT SCREENING METHOD SHOULD I CHOOSE?**

If a passenger has an internal medical device, such as a pacemaker or a defibrillator, it is important for him or her to inform the officer conducting his or her screening before the screening process begins. Passengers can use TSA's Notification Card to communicate discreetly with security officers. However, showing this card or other medical documentation will not exempt a passenger from additional screening when necessary.

Passengers who have internal medical devices should not be screened by a metal detector and should instead request to be screened by imaging technology (AIT) or a pat down. While TSA has no evidence that screening by imaging technology will affect such devices, passengers with concerns should contact their physicians.

If a passenger has metal implants, such as artificial knees or hips, he or she should inform a Transportation Security Officer (TSO) before screening begins. Passengers can use TSA's Notification Card to communicate discreetly with security officers. However, showing this card or other medical documentation will not exempt a passenger from additional screening.

Many passengers with metal implants that regularly alarm a metal detector prefer to be screened by imaging technology (AIT) in order to reduce the likelihood of a pat down being necessary. A passenger can request to be screened by imaging technology if it is in use and available at the checkpoint.

If a passenger cannot or chooses not to be screened by imaging technology or the passenger alarms a walk-through metal detector, the passenger will be screened using a thorough pat down procedure.

[https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/disability\\_notification\\_cards\\_0.pdf](https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/disability_notification_cards_0.pdf).

**CAN I BRING CERTAIN FOODS?**

Passengers are allowed to travel with food through TSA checkpoints; however, all food must undergo X-ray screening. The only screening restriction on bringing food in carry-on baggage applies to foods that are liquids, gels, or aerosols. These foods must be in containers 3.4 ounces or smaller and fit comfortably in a single, quart-size, clear plastic, resealable bag (the 3-1-1 rule). To save time, passengers should not bring food to the security checkpoint unless it is securely wrapped or in a spill-proof container. Unpeeled natural foods like fruit are acceptable. For Baby Food, please see the above noted Medically Required Liquids.

***Please go to [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for complete Traveler Information***

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