



## Way of Life Israel Pastors Tour

Base Package: 10 Days/9 Nights on Land in Israel

February 18-27, 2018

Led by: Dr. David Cloud

Land Rates Per person for 25 or more paying passengers	Special Pastors/Clergy Price*	Pastor's Spouse Price	Non-Clergy Price
Per Person in a Shared Double/Twin Room – Base Price	\$1470.00	\$1870.00	\$1970.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Person in a Triple Room	\$1340.00	\$1740.00	\$1860.00
Per Person in a Shared Triple Room (Discount Equally Applied)	\$1426.00	\$1826.00	\$1933.00
Single Supplement for a Single Room (above base price)	\$490.00	\$490.00	\$490.00
<b>Optional Add-Ons</b>			
Extra Night (Per Person in a shared room) on Bed/Breakfast for February 26 <sup>th</sup> <u>includes</u> airport transfer.	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Special Private Transfer to Tel Aviv (Per Person)	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
<b>Estimated Group Airfare Per Person</b> from Kathmandu on Turkish Airlines	AT COST (booked separately)	AT COST (booked separately)	AT COST (booked separately)

**\*All Pastors and Church Leaders must present a letter of recommendation from their church home office to join the tour and must display a current role that could possibly influence the formation of a group at some future date.**

[www.samsontours.com](http://www.samsontours.com)

Phone: US (352-414-5991) Israel (972-50-715-2575)

Fax: US (352-835-0885) Israel (972-77-215-2575)

PO Box 2713, Belleview, FL 34421 USA

sales@samsontours.com

## *What's included?*

- Transfers to and from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport
- Meet & Greet Airport Assistance upon arrival/departure, from Passport Control to Bus
- 10 days of new air-conditioned tour bus & driver
- Licensed Israeli Tour Guide throughout ([Mark Sugarman](#))
- 9 nights in nice accommodations (follow links in itinerary)
- 8 Full Days of sightseeing
- Full Buffet Breakfast each day (soft drinks & alcohol not included)
- 9 Dinners (includes full-course Middle Eastern-style Farewell dinner)
- All park fees & scheduled activities and entertainment
- Internal Headset Whisper System for groups of 20 or more
- Gratuities for hotel staff and local guides
- Traveler's Kit (hat, map, 2 starter water bottles)
- Bus Banners and Name Tags
- Free Wi-Fi on the bus
- Gratuities for guide & driver (recommended minimum: \$100 per person)

## *What's not included?*

- **Round-trip airfare** from Kathmandu, Nepal
- All Visa & Border Fees (if needed)
- Lunches
- Any *substantial* fuel surcharges or tax increases for flights
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls from room, mini bar, room service, etc.
- Optional Traveler's Insurance
- Supplements for Clergy spouses who do not have a defined ministerial role
- Supplement for Non-Clergy Members
- Credit Card Fees. Add 3% per person for credit card payment.

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## Final Itinerary

\* This itinerary is subject to minor changes that may be made by Samson Tours, your tour leader and/or tour guide to create the best experience and to respond to the volatilities of weather, geo-politics, and group dynamics at the time.

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – (Meals & Entertainment in flight)

- 12:55 – **Main Group Departure** to Israel from Kathmandu, Nepal on Turkish Airlines #727
- 18:50 – Arrive in Istanbul
- 20:30 – Depart on **Turkish Airlines #864** for Tel Aviv.
- 21:35 – **Main Group arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport on Turkish Airlines #864**
- Airport assistance at the airport after passport control (look for the Samson Tours sign held by our representative). It is important that the group exits from the plane together and remain together through Passport Control and meets immediately after Passport Control together. **Do not** go directly to the baggage carousel.
- Overnight on BB (Tel Aviv): [Grand Beach Hotel](#), Tel Aviv

Note: For all passengers who have submitted alternative flight arrival/departure times. You will be met by our representative immediately after Passport Control, as you enter the Baggage Claims area. **See additional instructions at the end of this document for Arrival.**

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – (B/D)

- 06:30 – Wake-Up Call
- 07:15 – Breakfast
- 08:00 - Departure
- Drive by **Independence Hall** where the Declaration of Independence was signed in May 1948, officially marking the end to the Jewish Diaspora after 2,000 years.
- Visit **Jaffa**, the world’s most ancient port (2 Chronicles 2:16; Ezra 3:7) and the setting for the stories of Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1:3), the house of Simon the Tanner and the healing of Tabitha (Acts 9-10) and Andromeda’s Rock.
- Stand on **Tel Beth Shemesh** to see the place of the ‘return of the ark of the covenant’ (2 Samuel 6:1f and Samson country, Zora and Eshtaol, the place of Samson’s birth and stories (Judges 13-16).
- See biblical **Sha’arayim**
- Walk in the **Elah Valley** where David fought Goliath
- Visit **Ashkelon**, home of the Philistines

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- Overnight & Dinner (Tel Aviv): [Grand Beach Hotel](#), Tel Aviv

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – (B/D)

- Early departure
- Visit **Caesarea Maritima**: Herod's Port City. We'll explore the Roman Theatre, the Praetorium (Governor's Palace), the Hippodrome and the fabulous Roman Aqueduct. Caesarea was the home of Pontius Pilate, the scene for Cornelius and Peter (Acts 10:1) the imprisonment of Paul (Acts 23:23), the home of Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:40; 21:9) and the opening scene for the Great Jewish Revolt in 66 CE.
- Visit the site of **Muhraka**, where Elijah fought the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18).
- Enjoy a comprehensive visit to **Tel Megiddo** in the valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). At this UNESCO world heritage site, we'll see the Canaanite Gateway, the controversial Solomonic Gate and Casemate Wall, 'Solomon's Stables,' a lookout over the Valley of Armageddon and the amazing water shaft and tunnel built during the time of Ahab.
- Visit **the Nazareth Village**, a reconstruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> century village. (Note: your guide, Eitan Chamberlin, excavated here in 1999). At the end of our visit, you'll have a lovely gift shop to enjoy.
- View of **Mt. Tabor** (John 2) and the Jezreel Valley from the Brow of the Hill (Mt. Precipice).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Ramada Nazareth](#)

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – (B/D)

- Drive via Cana of Galilee
- Walk in **the Arbel Pass**, Jesus' passageway to the Sea of Galilee. This is one of the most impressive scenic overviews of the Sea of Galilee and provides an excellent backdrop for Jesus' ministry.
- Visit the pre-70 synagogue at **Magdala**. Here, we'll discuss the modern theories of Mary Magdalene and her role as one of Jesus' most dedicated followers (Mark 16:9).
- Visit the **1<sup>st</sup> century Galilee boat** at Ginosar's Yigal Allon Museum. Was this a boat similar to the one the disciples used?
- Set **sail on the Sea of Galilee** and hear the music and singing of Dani Carmel, a local Messianic. While on board, we'll experience the silence of the Sea as well and see how a fisherman casts his net.
- Enjoy lunch on your own by the Sea of Galilee at St. Peters Fish Restaurant.
- Delve into the archaeological remains at **Capernaum**, mentioned more times in the New Testament than any other city except Jerusalem (Matthew 4:13, 8:5, 11:23, 17:24; Mark 2:1, 9:33; Luke 4:23; John 2:12).
- Walk about **Bethsaida**, the birthplace of 5 of the 12 disciples (and the ancient Israelite town of Geshur (Matthew 11:21; Mark 8:22; Luke 9:10; John 1:44).

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- End the day walking down the **Mount of Beatitudes** (Matthew 5).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Golan Hotel](#)

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – (B/D)

- Visit **Tel Hazor** and see the destruction of the Canaanite city as reported in Joshua 11 and Judges 5. Here, we'll see the Solomon Gate, the destroyed Late Bronze Age palace and an example of the Israelite House. (Note: your guide excavated here in from 1997-1998).
- Drive through the **Hulah Valley**, possibly the Waters of Merom (Joshua 11:5).
- Experience the **Tel Dan** Nature Reserve to see the “**Arch of Abraham,**” **Jeroboam's temple**, and the discovery place of the ‘House of David’ inscription (Gen 14:13-16; Deut. 34:1; Josh 19:47; Judg. 18:1-2, 18:27-29; I Kings 12:26-33, 15:20; II Kings 15:29)
- Explore the **Temple of Pan** at **Caesarea Phillipi** (Matt. 16:13-28).
- Enjoy coffee & deserts in the Druze village of Ma'sade in the Golan Heights.
- Lookout from **Mt. Bental Volcano** into Syria and the **Road to Damascus** (Acts 9:1-20).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Golan Hotel](#) or similar

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – (B/D)

- See the site of **Kursi** where Jesus healed the demonized man name Legion (Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:26-39)
- See **Gideon's Spring** (Mayan Harod) and watch **Judges 4** come to life.
- Have a short visit **Tel Beth Shean** next to Mt. Gilboa (I Sam. 31:8-13; II Sam. 21:12-14) to lookout over the Roman city, the ancient Tel. Beth Shean was the capital of the Decapolis in Jesus' day (Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20).
- Visit the baptismal site of **Qasr El Yahud**, where John most likely performed his baptisms (Matthew 3:13; Mark 1:9)
- Our last site of the day is **Qumran**, where some of the Dead Sea Scroll caves were copied and Cave 11
- Enjoy the rest of the day floating in the **Dead Sea**, the hotel's spa or enjoying the hotel's amenities.
- Overnight & Dinner: [David Dead Sea](#)

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (B/D)

- Enjoy the morning at leisure in your hotel's spa and the Dead Sea
- 10:30 -Departure
- Explore **Masada**, Herod the Great's desert fortress and the last stand for the Jewish rebels in 73 CE (Luke 11:21-22).

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- Visit the desert of **Ein Gedi** where David hid from King Saul (Isa 35:7; I Sam. 23:29, 24:1-22)
- Visit **Tel Jericho** (Josh 3:15-16, 6:1-27; II Kings 2:4-5, 2:18-22; Matt. 4:1-11, Mark 10:46-52; Luke 19:1-10), where the walls came tumbling down, and lookout over the Mount of Temptation.
- Lookout over the **Judean Desert** and the Monastery of St. George in **Wadi Kelt**
- Check in to our fabulous 4-Star New Jerusalem hotel
- Overnight & Dinner: [Ramat Rachel](#), Jerusalem

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> (B/D)

- Enjoy a panoramic lookout from the **Mount of Olives** (II Sam 15:30; Numbers 19:1-10; Ezekiel 11:23; Ps. 122:3, 122:6, 125:2; Luke 21:37; Zech 14:4; John 8:1)
- Walk the **Palm Sunday journey** down the Mt. of Olives, stopping by **Dominus Flevit**, where Jesus wept over the city (Luke 19:41-44) and engaging with the early Christian tombs discovered at the site.
- Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of all Nations** (Matthew 26:36ff).
- See the **Pools of Bethesda** at the Church of St. Anne (John 5:1-9).
- Walk the Via Dolorosa to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, noting key archaeological details. Learn 7 reasons why Jesus was crucified there (Matt. 1:17; Matt 27; Luke 23; John 19)
- Walk out the **Damascus Gate**, to where Stephen was stoned (Acts 6:5-15; Acts 7:1-8:2).
- Visit the **Garden Tomb**, a modern alternative for the place of Jesus' crucifixion. Guided by a local volunteer guide.
- Visit the **Upper Room** and **David's Tomb** on Mt. Zion.
- Enjoy the rest of your afternoon exploring **Bethlehem**, have lunch near Shepherds Fields and visit the Church of the Nativity. Enjoy shopping in Bethlehem at a Bazaar owned by local Christians- (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-20; Matt. 2:1-12, 2:16-18).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Ramat Rachel](#), Jerusalem

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (B/D)

- Have an early departure for the **Temple Mount** to see the site of the former Jewish temples and the current Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque.
- Visit the **Wailing Wall**.
- Visit the **Southern Wall Excavations (Davidson Center)** and walk up the 1<sup>st</sup> century steps of the Temple.
- Visit the newest excavations in the **City of David** and wade through Hezekiah's tunnel, and visit the **Pool of Siloam** (II Sam 5:7-9; II Chr. 32:2-5; I Kings 1:33, 1:38-40; II Kings 20:20, 25:1-9; Ps. 48:12-13; Isa. 22:11; John 9:6-11)
- Have lunch and some shopping time on your own in the Jewish Quarter

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- Visit the **Jewish Quarter** to see **Hezekiah's Broad Wall** (II Kings 20:22; II Chr. 32:3-5; Isaiah 22:9-10 & the reconstructed **Cardo**, the north-south street that ran through the city in the Roman and Byzantine periods.
- Go underground to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> century **Herodian Quarter**. Like Pompeii, this section of the Jewish Quarter provides a revealing moment in the destruction of the city by the Romans.
- Visit the **Third Temple Institute**. Here we'll see all of the objects that have been made to their original specifications for the future Jewish temple.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Ramat Rachel](#), Jerusalem

Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (B/D)

- Check out from our hotel
- Visit ancient **Shilo**, where the tabernacle rested for 369 years.
- Lookout over ancient Shechem from **Mt. Gerizim**, to fully experience the Mount of Blessings and Curses.
- Visit the **Samaritan Temple**, where sacrifices still take place, and if possible, we'll meet the Samaritan high priest.
- Visit the **Israel Museum** to see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Model & the Shrine of the Book, where some of the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed
- 17:00 Enjoy a final **farewell lunch/dinner** (included) out together at a fabulous Middle Eastern style restaurant located on the **Road to Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-32).
- 18:00 – **Transfer to the airport** for all members who are flying out this evening
- 19:00 – Transfer back to Jerusalem for remaining members
- **Optional** Overnight & Dinner: [Ramat Rachel](#), Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> (B)

- **FREE DAY** in JERUSALEM
- 17:00 – Transfer to the airport
- 21:00 – Group Departure on Turkish Airlines #789

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> (B)

- 00:25 – Arrive at Istanbul on Turkish Airlines #789
- 01:45 – Depart on Turkish Airlines #726 for Kathmandu
- 11:25 – Arrive home

## *Policies*

- **Final Itinerary & Hotels:** The itinerary may be updated from time to time at the discretion of Samson Tours, its guide and its tour leader. Final Hotel Arrangements will be posted no later than 100 days before departure. In the event of a hotel change, Samson Tours

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will guarantee a replacement at the same quality or provide an upgrade to a higher class of accommodations at no extra charge.

- **Requirements for Clergy Discount:** In order to receive a Pastors Subsidized/Discounted Package, all clergy members must submit a letter of recommendation from their church or church board clearly defining their leadership role within the church community.
- **Supplements for Non-Clergy Members:** If your spouse does not have a defined ministerial role within the church, you likely will be required to pay an additional supplement of \$400.00 to join the tour due to increased costs. If the applicant is a non-clergy member, laity, child or anyone else besides a bonafide clergy member or clergy's spouse, he or she will be subject to a \$500.00 per person supplement for increased costs.
- **Room Scenarios:** A maximum of 3 persons to any room, with no exceptions.
- **Group Minimum:** A minimum of **25** paying participants are required for this tour program. If the group minimum is not reached by 4 months before departure, Samson Tours or its tour leader will have the right to either a.) request that all tour members pay a supplement for the increase in costs of no greater than \$500.00 per person and operate the group at the same quality; b.) lower the hotel class by at least 1 star to offset the increased costs; or c.) postpone the dates until a minimum number of participants are achieved.
- **Group Maximum:** A maximum **55** paying participants will be allowed to join this tour program.
- **Group Airfare:** Samson Tours works alongside the tour leader to find the best airfare and best price for the group. In order to request a group airfare price, there must be at least 10 passengers on the group flight. The airfare will be paid to the airline in full upon their request and subject to their cancellation/refund policies.
- **Booking your own Airfare:** If you are not joining your tour's group airfare, please do not book your airfare until 90 days before the tour departure date or until the Notice of Group Minimum has been sent to you.
- **Flight Diversions:** If you elect to be on the group flight and wish to depart from a different city of origin, you can a.) Book your own domestic airfare connection or b.) Select the Add-On in your My Account for a \$50.00 Domestic Flight Booking Fee. Any costs or savings for the additional flight will be added or deducted from your tour balance. Please [contact us](#) with your specific departure city request.
- **Deposit & Payments for Land:** To ensure your spot on the tour, we request a **\$200.00 deposit** be paid upon signup. The deposit (less a \$100.00 non-refundable fee per person) and any other payments made are refundable up to 90 days before departure. After that, the remaining deposit amount is non-refundable, but can be used as a future credit with Samson Tours or converted into a Gift Certificate which you can transfer to a third party. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, money order, bank transfer, debit or credit card. If the tour is canceled by Samson Tours, then you will be entitled to a full refund without any cancellation fee. This refund of cancellation fee does not apply to tour leader cancellations or postponements due to group minimums not being reached. For cases of political instability or cancellations or postponements due to *force majeure*, please see the Force Majeure section below.
- **Final Payments:** The final payment will be made 90 days before departure. Payments made by check or cash will be made in US\$ to Samson Tours, Inc. Payments made by debit or credit card to Samson Tours, Inc. will be charged the full balance. If there are any unpaid fuel surcharges for the group flight, they will be billed to you at cost per the group airline contract either before or after the tour. There is a Late Payment Fee of \$200.00 if the balance is paid after the final payment date.
- **Late Registrations & Payments:** Theoretically, you can join a tour anytime up to the time of the departure date (Land Only and subject to Hotel Availability). There will be a

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Late Payment Fee of \$200.00 and an additional \$50.00 fee if you require airfare assistance. If a hotel or other service listed in the itinerary is unavailable, we will find an alternative hotel for you, however you will be responsible for any transportation costs to/from joining the main group.

- **Land Diversions:** If you arrive either before or after the recommended group departure/arrival time, or if your flight is delayed beyond a reasonable waiting period, or if you elect to divert or add-on additional days to the trip, then it is understood that you will arrive at the hotel or to the airport at your own expense. We will more than happy to assist you with these arrangements
- **Refunds (Land):** The following refunds for the **land portion** of the price will apply for **non-insured travelers only:** Your balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person, which is transferable or can be applied to future tours if cancelled 90+ calendar days before departure. 75% refund of balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person if cancelled 89-60 days before departure. 50% of balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person refund if cancelled 59-30 days before departure. 0% refund if cancelled 29 or less days before departure.
- **Refunds (Group Air):** Per group contract with airline. Typically, there is a \$100 non-refundable fee up to 3 months before departure and 100% non-refundable 30 or less days before departure. Most airlines will, however, allow you to postpone your travel dates for a re-ticketing or name transfer fee.
- **Force Majeure:** If Samson Tours decides to postpone the tour do to political unrest or for any reason beyond our company's control that could compromise your security, then your balance will carry over to the new tour dates. Depending on the new dates, there may be an increase in costs for tours that are rescheduled within 1 year. If you are unable to join the new tour dates, then you will be entitled to a refund, less the cancellation fee (see Deposits) and any other non-refundable deposits that may be imposed on us by suppliers such as airlines and hotels. The deposit and/or balances amount can also be applied to any future tour or may be transferable to a third party.
- **Travel Insurance** – Samson Tours does not require travel insurance. It is, however, strongly advised that **all travelers** equip themselves with a comprehensive travel insurance plan. You can obtain an individual travel insurance quote, by visiting our [Insurance page](#) and clicking on any of the 'Get a Quote' links that refer you to our partner's website. Travel Insurance coverage begins **ONLY** from the time you have purchased travel insurance. It is advisable only to purchase travel insurance when you have made non-refundable payments that exceed the amount of travel insurance purchased.
- **Add-ons** once you have registered for a tour you can select from a variety of add-ons in your My Account area you may select or deselect any of these add-ons (extension tour, hotels, late fees, etc.) until 30 days before your tour.
- **Your Health:** All participants should be in good health and walking condition. This program is active and involves a lot of walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. All locations may not be accessible for the disabled. Having a disability does not disqualify you from joining any tour. However, be advised that you may have to forgo portions of the said itinerary by waiting on the bus or in a safe location until the main group has returned. If you require special accommodation, please report this at the time of your reservation so that we can better serve you.
- **Single Supplement:** For single travelers, a single supplement fee for the hotels is required. This usually amounts to around 85%-90% of the Double Room cost. If a person has ordered a double room and his or her roommate cancels his or her tour, then the individual holding a double room must find a new roommate or pay the single supplement.

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- **Exchange Rate:** Samson Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a supplement to the price if the dollar falls below the 3.5 threshold. To date, we have never yet had to charge an exchange rate surcharge.
- **Government Imposed VAT or taxes:** Currently there are no VAT taxes for foreign on tour land packages to Israel. Should such a tax be imposed before the start of the tour, even after 'final payment' has been made, Samson Tours will notify all of its participants in writing. In order to participate in the tour, you will be required to pay all such taxes before the start of the tour. If you are an Israeli Citizen you will be asked to pay VAT at the time of your final payment.
- **Responsibility** - Samson Tours, Inc., its agents, suppliers, guides, leaders and representatives shall be, in no way, liable or responsible for any personal or property loss, damage or injury howsoever caused. The company shall also not be responsible for penalties for privately-booked flight tickets if purchased before the minimum is reached.
- **Update** – These policies may be updated from time to time. Upon update, you will be notified by Samson Tours, Inc. or its group leader.



## Getting Ready Instructions & Recommendations

### Prior to Departure

It is highly suggested that you arrive at least 3 hours prior to your flight's departure for security checks and proper seating arrangement.

You do not require any airline documentation (e-tickets, etc.) for your flight. Upon arrival to the check-in, please simply offer your passports to the counter attendant and confirm your seating choice. At this time, you can typically confirm your seats for your international flight as well as your return domestic flight. The airlines do not typically issue flight seats for the return international flight from Tel Aviv until the day of departure.

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Kindly note that we have made any seating request you have made to the airline. The airlines are notorious for not computing this in advance. In the event that a seat choice that you prefer is not available, it is advised to check with other members of the group to see if someone will switch with you.

## Upon Arrival to Ben Gurion Airport

After de-boarding the plane, enjoy an easy walk to Passport Control (paying note to 'A Nice Piece of History' - see next section - along the way).

In Israel, we do not stamp passports, but issue a separate tourist Visa card for entering the country. **Please keep this card in your Passport throughout your entire trip. Many hotels and Stores require this now for Tax Exemption.**

Our airport representative will be meeting you immediately **after Passport Control**, holding a sign for **"Samson Tours."** Our representative will assist you with a free luggage cart to the baggage carousel, through Customs and into the Arrivals Hall to meet your driver. If you are not on the group flight, please contact us to ensure that we have your separate flight details and instructions on how to meet the group.

IF, for some reason you bypass our agent or are not met properly, please wait at your baggage carousel until see your bags. If not met by our representative by then, exit the Arrivals Hall and remain at the Kakao Coffee shop (off to your right) with your bags and remain there until you are received by a representative. You may also **phone or text 972-50-7152575** at any time to connect with our Agency or phone or text your tour leader Dov Schwarz at 972-58-4641133.

## A Nice Piece of History at Ben Gurion Airport

As you enter Ben Gurion Airport, look up just before you enter the customs hall. The mosaic on the top left is from Bethlehem in the Galilee; it is roughly 7 most west-northwest of Nazareth. This town dates from the early biblical period (12<sup>th</sup> cent. BCE), being a portion of the land of Zebulun (Joshua 19:14-16) and perhaps the home of the Judge Ibzan (Jud 12:8-10). The Jewish town belonged to the 24 Mishmerot Cohanim (Temple Priests) villages (1Chronicles 24:5-6, 9). The mosaic on the top right is from Beth Shean and has a Greek inscription: "Peace to the one who enters and to the one who exists" (see Deut 28:6 [not the Heb version]). Obviously, this text is appropriate for those visiting the Holy Land. The mosaic on the bottom right is from Caesarea Maritima. The Greek denotes a woman: "Kalokeria" (the name may mean that she symbolizes the horn of healthy fruits [cornucopia?]); she is holding a fruit basket that indicates the

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city is blessed with abundant fruit."

## Your Security & Safety

Israel continues to be a very volatile place but with the strongest security in the world, as well as one of the best track records in safety for its tourists. We would highly recommend that you read our [Security Page](#) on our website to familiarize yourself with the proactive steps we take to ensure that your trip runs safely and smoothly. Our guides and drivers are expertly trained in how to respond to immediate security and safety issues. Sometimes this may entail foregoing a site and replacing it with an equal or better experience.

If you have any specific questions, before or during the tour, please do not hesitate to ask your guide how you should respond to a certain security risk, and be certain to make your guide known of any specific health limitations that you might have, so that he can take into consideration from site to site.

## Free WIFI on the Bus, Hotels & Ways to Connect

We were the first company in Israel to provide guaranteed free WIFI to tour members, so that you can stay in touch with family members via email or share your experiences instantly on Social Media. Enjoy, but try to remember...you're on vacation!

Most of our hotels will offer free WIFI too, at the very least in the lobbies.

We highly recommend that all members use [WhatsApp](#) so that we can remain connected at all times. It's a great way to share pictures, be in Messenger contact with your guide, agent and tour leader, and also stay connected with family and friends back home. Once you have downloaded the application, please add Eitan Chamberlin at +972-50-7152575 to your contact list so that he can add you to the Group List.

## Travel Insurance

Samson Tours does not "require" travel insurance. It is, however, strongly advised that **all travelers** equip themselves with a comprehensive travel insurance plan through World Nomads. You can obtain an individual travel insurance quote, by visiting our [Insurance page](#) and clicking on any of the 'Get a Quote' links that refer you to our partner's website. Travel Insurance coverage

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begins ONLY from the time you have purchased travel insurance. It is advisable only to purchase travel insurance when you have made non-refundable payments that exceed the amount of travel insurance purchased.

## Cellphones in Israel

**You can order a Cell Phones or SIM Card for as little as \$1 per day**

Samson Tours works with Israel Phones G Cellular Network to provide all of your communication needs in Israel. You can easily pick up and drop off your cell phones from Ben Gurion International Airport upon arrival and departure. Israel Phones provides unlimited plans for as little as \$0.99 per day; you can rent SIM cards, wireless plans and more.

ORDER A PHONE or SIM card now by [clicking here](#).

## The Weather in Israel

Historically, the weather in Israel and Jordan during the month of **April** is beautiful with an average **High of 71F and an average Low around 50F**. Note that at the Dead Sea and in Jordan we should expect temperatures at least 7-10 degrees higher.

For a complete historical overview of weather by month, please visit [this website](#).

To check the 14-day weather forecast at the start of the tour, [click here](#).

## Money Exchange

Unless specified, most everything is included in the tour price, except for lunches, some dinners and gratuities for your guide and driver (tips for hotel staff are already included). It is suggested that you bring around \$250-\$500 cash with you to cover these expenses throughout the tour. Of course, you can withdraw money easily throughout the tour.

ATMs (Hebrew: *kaspomat*) are widely available throughout Israel. Upon arrival, you'll have the opportunity to either withdrawal monies in either Shekels (all bank ATMs) or U.S. dollars (Leumi Bank only) from your debit or credit card. It is not

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suggested to change money at the airport due to poor exchange rates. You'll have plenty of opportunities in your first few days of touring. Traveler's checks are discouraged as most change places charge a fee or provide you with a lower exchange rate for them. \$100 bills typically provide you with the best rate of exchange. To check the current exchange rate, visit [Yahoo's currency converter](#).

## Water in Israel

Israel has some of the highest drinking water standards in the world. Throughout the trip, you'll be able to purchase water bottles at a discount price from the bus driver. You'll also be able to refill your water bottles with fresh drinking water at the national parks and hotels at your leisure. To learn more about Israel's water supply, visit the [Mekorot](#) website.

## The Packing List

### Definitely bring:

- Passport
- Gratuity Envelope for your Guide & Driver (recommended minimum: \$140 per person).
- Your Travel Insurance Documentation (if you purchased travel Insurance) and Health Insurance information (if you have it!)
- Hat (to protect from the sun). We'll also provide one for you!
- Head scarf or shawl for women (for the Kotel, primarily)
- *Kipah* or head covering (a baseball cap will do) for men. If you don't have one, don't worry, we'll be giving you a Samson Tours hat.
- Medicines (aspirin, etc.)
- Sunscreen (lots of it!) or Umbrella (for shade)
- Backpack
- Camel-pack or refillable water bottle (that holds up to 1 liter of water)
- Comfortable, close-toed shoes (already broken-in) that preferably cover your ankle.
- Sandals
- Towel. Note: it is not always permissible or convenient to take one from the hotel.

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- Extra pair of prescription glasses
- Sunglasses
- Soap Sponge or Hand Towels (hotels typically do not provide them in Israel)

### Highly recommended to bring:

- Bible
- Electrical **adaptor** (two-pronged, European style for 220v Wall Socket); most computers and cell phones only require an adaptor.
- Converter for your 110v electrical items (to convert to Israel's 220v) – mostly just for hairdryers and such. If you must have a hairdrayer each day, then bring your own with a convertor. Not all hotels provide them.
- Digital camera with backup memory card
- Disk-on-key for backing up documents and pictures
- Cell-phone instructions for international calls or adding and Israeli SIM card.
- Mini flashlight (for caves and Hezekiah's tunnel)
- Waterproof sandals (Hezekiah's Tunnel, Dead Sea)
- Travel first-aid kit (Band-Aids, Neosporin, etc.)
- Extra lightweight duffle bag (just in case you buy too many souvenirs or your luggage is damaged in transit)
- Journal Book
- Travel laundry detergent
- Travel alarm-clock (cellphones are good too!)
- Travel shampoo and soap
- Dirty-clothes bag
- A few evening/going-out outfits, but only nicer casual clothing....no dress clothes required
- Bathing suit
- Travel Pillow
- Ear Plugs (for potentially snoring roommates)
- Plastic Zip-Lock Bags for collecting pottery and rocks!

### A Note from your Samson Tours CEO: Eitan Chamberlin

It has been a pleasure to work with your tour leader **Mark Somers** to build this "experience of a lifetime." You can be assured that our highly proficient staff will be in the background along the way to make sure your journey is a memorable one. Quality control is extremely important to us, and there is no time of day or night that you will be a bother to ensure that you have the most pleasant and

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comfortable stay with us. I am looking forward to sharing many wonderful memories with you!

## Contact Us

If you have any questions between now and your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sales@samsontours.com](mailto:sales@samsontours.com) or [352-414-5991](tel:352-414-5991) or 972-50-7152575 or via WhatsApp +972-50-7152575.

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