



Israel with the Backstroms

March 5-16, 2020

+ Jordan & Red Sea extension option

March 16-19, 2020

[register](#)

10 days/9 Nights on Land in Israel
+ 4 days/3 nights extension option in Petra, Jordan & Eilat

Led by:
Priscilla and Dennis
Backstrom

Guided by:
Erez Berkovitz



Land Prices

**Based on 20 or more adult, paying travelers for the Israel portion
and 10 or more for the Jordan portion**

Israel (main tour)

Base Land Package	Per Person
Per Person (adult) in Shared Room - Main Package	\$2590.00
Group airfare price, round-trip from JFK on El Al Airlines.	+\$1100.00
For the 3 rd Person (ages 13+) in a Shared Room	\$2390.00
Single Supplement (for single room)	+\$700.00
Additional Overnight & Transfer (4-Star)	upon request
Additional Overnight & Transfer (3-Star)	upon request
Private Transfer to/from airport or hotel (per person with minimum 2 passengers if booking your own separate flight)	+\$50.00
Per Person <u>Discount</u> for final payment by Check	-2%

www.samsontours.com

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

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

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Petra + Eilat Extension

Base Land Package	Per Person
Per Person (adult) in Shared Room - Extension	\$945.00
For the 3 rd Person (ages 13+) in a Shared Room	\$875.00
Single Supplement (for single room)	\$190.00

Our main package rate **includes:**

- Meeting & assistance on arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport by Samson Tours elected representative.
- International Round-trip airfare on El Al Airlines via JFK
- 10 days on land in Israel as per your program below.
- 9 overnights at mentioned hotels or similar
 - Examples: [The Seasons](#) - [Nof Ginosar Deluxe](#) - [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#) - [Daniel Dead Sea](#)
- Daily buffet breakfast & dinner at all hotels
- Baggage assistance at hotels (we tip them for you).
- Licensed, English-speaking tour guide throughout the entire tour.
- All Entrance fees per the itinerary
- Luxury air-conditioned coach and driver throughout
- Transfer from the Dead Sea to airport (if not joining the extension tour)
- Free WiFi on the bus and at most hotels
- Welcome kit with free hat, map, bus signs, name tags, printed itinerary, 2 bottles of starter water and more.
- All **credit or debit card fees** (there is a **2% discount** for paying your final balance by check or direct deposit).

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Our main package rates **excludes**:

- Lunches and special drinks at meals throughout the tour
- All gratuities for all services, including guide/driver (\$140 per person).
- Additional pre-arrival or post-departure services not mentioned in the schedule (See add-ons in your My Account area).
- Soft drinks and special drinks at meals.
- Baptism kit (purchased on site).

Our extension package rates **includes**:

- Transfer from Dead Sea to Allenby Border crossing to Jordan
- Departure tax from Israel
- Visa to Jordan
- 3 nights at mentioned hotels or similar: Examples: 1 night in Israel [Daniel Dead Sea](#), or [Dan Jerusalem](#) 4-star, 1 night at [Grand View Resort](#), Petra and 1 night at [Herods](#), Eilat
- Dinner in Petra
- Entrance fees to Petra (valued over \$150), Mt. Nebo, Madaba and other sites mentioned on the itinerary
- Transfer from Eilat hotel to local airport and borders.
- Transfer representatives at both airports on the final day.
- Domestic flight from Eilat Regional Airport to Ben Gurion International Airport to connect to your international flight

Our extension package rates **excludes**:

- Dinner in Eilat
- Recommended gratuities for all services, including guide/driver (\$40 per person).
- Any increase in return airfare that may arise to the extension

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Deadlines

Milestones & Deadlines	Due Date
Group Minimum Should be Reached	November 6 th 2019
Final Payments are Due	December 6 th 2019
Deposits become non-refundable to Samson	December 6th 2019
Last Day for Early Bird Registration	December 6th 2019
Late Registration Fee of \$200 Goes into effect	December 7th 2019
All Passenger Info is Due (Passports, Roommates, etc.)	January 7th 2020

How to Register

- [Click here](#) to register online or paste the following web link into your browser:
<https://samsontours.com/group-tours/1223-israel-and-petra-backstroms-2020>
- Fax your Registration Details to 352-835-0885 (see forms below)
- Phone us with your registration details at 352-414-5991

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Your Itinerary

This itinerary is subject to minor changes. Most tour days will require an 8 am departure with a return to the hotel by 6pm.

B = Breakfast only

B/D = Breakfast & Dinner included

Thursday, March 5 (B)

Departure to Israel

- Depart from your city of origin
- 20:50 - Group departure from JFK, New York on El Al Airlines Flight # LY8

Note: You can depart a day earlier and arrive on this day by selecting the Extra Overnight and Transfer from your Add-ons or by contacting us at sales@samsontours.com.

Friday, March 6 (B/D)

Arrival to Israel

- 14:10 - Arrival to **Ben Gurion International Airport (Tel Aviv, Israel)**
- Immediately after Passport Control, you will be met by our airport representative with a sign reading 'Samson Tours' who will assist you to your luggage carousel, customs and clearance into the arrival's hall to meet your guide, **Erez Berkovitz**.

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- All early arrivers should return/arrive back at the airport to join the group. Meeting place: the **Aroma Coffee Shop (to the left as you enter the Arrivals Hall)**.
- To kick off the tour, we'll visit **Jaffa**, one of the oldest port cities in the world, where Peter healed Tabitha and where Jonah set off to sea
- Here, you'll have an opportunity to exchange money before transferring to your hotel by the Mediterranean Sea
- 19:30 - Dinner & Kick-Off.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Seasons](#), Netanya

Note: All early arrivals will be met immediately after Passport Control, as described below, and will be transferred to the hotel in a private vehicle. If you arrived a day earlier, then please meet at the Kakao coffee shop at the appointed time.

Saturday, March 7 (B/D)

Caesarea, Megiddo, Mt. Carmel, Mt Precipice

En route to **Galilee** we will be visiting the following Biblical sites: **Caesarea** (Acts 10), **Megiddo** (Armageddon; 1 Kings 9:15; Rev. 16:16), and Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18).

We complete our tour **overlooking the Jezreel Valley** at the traditional site for Jesus being chased out of Nazareth.

Dinner and overnight are at the Sea of Galilee: [Nof Ginosar Deluxe](#)

Sunday, March 8 (B/D)

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We start our day atop the **Mount of Beatitudes** and read from Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount. We continue with an amazing **boat ride on the Sea of Galilee**, where we will have time for worship. Afterwards, we visit the recently excavated "Jesus boat" from the first century, a vessel found here along the shores of Galilee in 1986.

We continue on to **Capernaum**, the center of ministry for Jesus in Galilee. Next, we visit **Tabgha**, remembering the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and John 21 with Jesus calling out to Peter to cast the fishing net on the right side. Following our stop for a St. Peter's Fish lunch at a seaside restaurant (optional, not included) we will conclude our touring around the Sea of Galilee. First visiting the 1st Century remains of **Magdala** including the greatest highlight of all: a 2,000 year old synagogue.

We continue to travel to **Mt. Arbel** to enjoy the view of the Sea of Galilee (John 6:23) and connect with the footsteps of having been chased out of **Nazareth**. We travel to an overview of the **Valley of Bethsaida**, which is the hometown of Peter, Andrew, and Philip. We will end our day at the **Jordan River** for baptism.

We return to our hotel in Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Dinner and overnight are at the Sea of Galilee: [Nof Ginosar Deluxe](#)

Monday, March 9 (B/D)

After breakfast, we make our way north through the **Hula Valley** stopping first at **Tel Hazor**, a city taken by Joshua (Joshua 11:10-14). We then head to **Tel Dan** where we will tour extensively and include a visit at the Canaanite – Bronze era mud brick gate that has been nicknamed the "Gate of Abraham".

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We continue to **the fortress of Nimrod** and having toured the 12th and 13th century fortress we will make a trail descent by foot down the ridge of Mt Hermon and find in the foothills the springs of **Banias** and the site of Caesarea Philippi. This is where Peter made his declaration about Jesus (Matt. 16).

Next we will visit one of the Druze villages perched on the Golan heights where we will have a traditional meal and receive an explanation and hospitality by our host. After enjoying the tastes and spices of this Middle Eastern cuisine we will head to the **Mt. Bental overlook**. From this former military base, we can look into Syrian territory and learn about the village of Kunetra and the 1967 & 1973 Wars.

We return to our hotel in Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Dinner and overnight are at the Sea of Galilee: [Nof Ginosar Deluxe](#)

Tuesday, March 10 (B/D)

After breakfast, we leave the Galilee and make our way along the Jordan Valley to first visit the Biblical site of **Beit Shean**, a well-preserved Decapolis Roman city. Here the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls after they were defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10-12).

We continue our drive through the Wilderness of Judah for **Jericho**, first stopping at **Qaser-El Yehuda Baptismal site** where tradition believes Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist before we view from outside the ancient city where the wall came tumbling down (Joshua

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2-6; Mark 10:46; Luke 19:1). Then we climb from the lowest place in the world to the "highest" - at least spiritually speaking – Jerusalem bound!

The climax of the "Aliya" (rise) through **the Judean Wilderness** is to reach the peak of **Mt. Olives**. From here we will overlook over the Holy sites and start our descent on **Palm Sunday road** to the depths of the **Kidron Valley**, the location of **Gethsemane**. Here we will conclude our day with some private and quiet time amongst the **Garden of Gethsemane** (Ambo Garden).

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Wednesday, March 11 – (B/D)

Rising for an early morning visit on **the Temple Mount** will start our day off early in an attempt to beat the crowds but be aware that queuing in line may take some time with no sitting area and only limited shade. This will allow us to tour the platform but not enter the restricted areas for Muslims only such as inside the **Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque**.

Having experienced what is above we are going to go underneath the city's streets and homes as we explore the entire length of the Western wall in the excavations of the **Western Wall Tunnels**. This leads us to the **St Anne Church** and the area of **Bethesda Pools** that we find in Jesus healing the paralyzed man in John Chapter 5.

The continuation of the morning is in the **Mt. Zion** area outside the **Jewish Quarter** where we will pick up from the events of Holy Week that we left off in the Garden of Gethsemane when we arrive at the traditional place for the house and courtyard of Caiaphas the high

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priest. The traditional room of **the Last Supper** is also here and this will lead us into the Jewish quarter to explore some of the excavations here that are now part of the streets of the modern Jewish quarter that has been rebuilt since the 1967 Six Day War. Here we will have lunch before walking down to the **Southern Wall and Ophel excavations** and the **Davidson Visitor Center**.

The conclusion of our day is to walk in the footsteps of David and the ancient Jerusalem that is hidden in the **City of David** and concludes our day by walking in the flowing waters of the **Siloam tunnel** (Hezekiah's Tunnel – Wet or Dry route is optional) and finding the 2000 yrs Old Pool of Siloam!

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Thursday, March 12 (B/D)

Our morning begins in the **hills of West Jerusalem** following a scar on the Judean landscape that will never heal like the loss of European Jewry and the 1000 yrs of Jewish life that will fall as victims to the Nazi Holocaust. This is a memorial for all those who were murdered but also an exhibition for all of us to reflect and experience in order to ensure that modern societies will never again fall to the depths of darkness as the era of attempted total eradication of human life by western societies. Israel as a nation will never meet a foreign dignitary before he/she has at least laid a reef at the hall of remembrance and we will visit the museum as well as the memorials in an attempt to deal with this enormous subject with a visit of 2 hours here.

Returning to the paths of tradition and pilgrimage we will pick up the **Via Dolorosa** and follow most of the 14 stations as we climb to Latin Calvary, A break for lunch at the **Christian Quarter** and some free

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shopping time before we gather and visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** – one of the traditional sites for Jesus's crucifixion and burial.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Friday, March 13 (B/D)

The climax and pinnacle of a pilgrimage tour is a visit to the **Garden Tomb**, where we will have worship and communion. Afterwards, only a short journey from Jerusalem and adjacent to the **hills of Bethlehem** is the **Herodian Fortress**, another relic of King Herod's world and the site that he chose to be buried. King Herod's fortress Palace, Burial site, Odeon theater and water cisterns that were later used by Jewish rebels are all on display here as we meander our way through this impressive desert site!

For lunch, we return to West Jerusalem at the Israel museum and we visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed, the **model of the 2nd temple Era** and the archeological wing of the national museum. Following dinner we have a night **Sound & Light Show at the Tower of David** that summarizes 5,000 years in a 45 mins light show spectacular!

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Saturday, March 14 (B)

We leave Jerusalem and head to the **Valley of Elah** where David slew Goliath. For the remainder of the morning prepare to 'get dirty' as you participate in an **archaeological dig under Tel Maresha at Beit**

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Guvrin. You will discover pottery from the time of the Maccabees and develop an appreciation for the tedious work of archaeologists!

Then we travel to **Beer Sheva** in the Negev Desert, named by Abraham 4000 years ago. Since then, Beer Sheva has held an important place in the history of Israel.

Next, we visit **Tel Beer Sheva** where archaeologists have uncovered two-thirds of a city dating from the early Israelite period (10th century BCE.) This city is located on the edge of the wilderness near the confluence of the Beer Sheva and Hebron Streams. The meticulously planned water system of this city demonstrates impressive engineering expertise.

We continue along the southern border of ancient Judea and arrive at **Tel Arad**, one of the earliest examples of fortified city life from the dawn of the Bronze Era and settlement civilizations, as well as an Israelite era fortress and a temple to Yahweh! This is a unique site and window opener into ancient Judea on the brink of destruction! The day completes with arriving at Ein Bokek Hotel resort at the Dead Sea.

Dinner and overnight at the Dead Sea: [Daniel Dead Sea](#), Ein Bokek

Sunday, March 15 (B/D)

After breakfast, we depart the Dead Sea Hotel for a short drive to **Masada**. Here we ascend high upon the wilderness mountain, by way of the cable car, to the fortress built by King Herod. We survey the ruins of the fortifications, waterworks, the synagogue, temples and palaces. We have an optional walk back down the snake path.

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We then continue our drive for **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from King Saul. We enjoy a walk back to the waterfalls, hopefully seeing a few Ibx along the way. In the afternoon, continue north to **Qumran** and the settlement of the first century Dead Sea Sect, the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

We'll return to the Dead Sea, where we have an opportunity to go for a **swim/float (included) or enjoy a spa treatment** at the hotel (not included).

A proper shower and changing facility to prepare for your flight home will be provided. We also do our utmost to provide a quick solution laundry service

At approximately 18:30, we'll have a **farewell dinner** together.

At approximately 20:00, all members leaving will be transferred to Ben Gurion International Airport, and all members who will be staying will be transferred to their hotel. Overnight location can be either the Dead Sea, Jerusalem or Amman (4-star), to be decided by the participants.

Monday, March 16 (B/D)

- 00:30 - Depart on El Al Airlines LY1 direct flight to JFK, New York
- 06:30 - Arrive in JFK
- Connect to your domestic flight home

...EXTENSION TOUR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

Monday, March 16 (B/D)

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After a hearty breakfast at your hotel in Israel, we'll leave our hotel and cross **the Allenby Bridge** into the land of Jordan with a local Jordanian guide and driver. Our bus will transfer you and your luggage across the border after a series of security checks.

Today, we'll visit the Baptismal Site of **Bethany Beyond the Jordan** river, see Machereus where John was imprisoned, visit **Mt. Nebo where Moses** left the children of Israel and **Madaba** to see an amazing Byzantine floor that has contributed to the archaeology of Israel. In the evening, we'll arrive in Wadi Musa.

Dinner and overnight at Wadi Musa, Petra: Example - [Grand View Resort](#), Petra

Tuesday, March 17 (B)

Enjoy a full day in **Petra**, the infamous capital city of the Nabateans.

In the evening, we'll cross back over to Israel via the Rabin Crossing into **Eilat**. The group will have special assistance to hotel from Eilat representative. Enjoy dinner out on your own along on the boardwalk.

Overnight at Eilat: [Herods](#), Eilat

Wednesday, March 18 (B)

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and a freed day: sleep in at your leisure or enjoy activities on your own at the Red Sea

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Checkout by 12:00 - You may continue to use the hotel's facilities such as pool and dressing rooms until later and place your bags in hotel security.

Around 16:00 - In the afternoon, you'll take a domestic flight from Eilat Airport to Ben Gurion International Airport to connect to your international flight

Depart on your international flight home.

Thursday, March 19 (B)

- Arrive back to the USA

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 will guarantee a replacement at the same quality or provide an upgrade to a higher class of accommodations at no extra charge.
- Group Minimum: A **minimum of 20** paying adult participants are required for this tour program for the main portion and at least 15 passengers for the extension portion. 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

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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 45 paying participants will be allowed to join this unique 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. **We provide group airfare at absolute cost for the group.**
- 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 \$500.00 deposit be paid upon signup. The deposit (less a **\$150.00 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

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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 to Samson Tours 60 days before departure. If the tour leader is collecting all payments, they may specify their own timeline. 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 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 \$150.00 per person, which is

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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 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 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.

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- 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.
- 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 you final payment.
- Responsibility - Samson Tours, Inc., its agents, suppliers, guides, leaders and representatives shall be, in no way, liable or

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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 Prepared

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.

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.

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Upon Arrival to Ben Gurion Airport

After deboarding 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.**

For all incoming travelers, our airport representative will be meeting you immediately **after Passport Control**, holding a sign for "**Samson Tours**." If you have a major flight change, please contact us asap to ensure that we are prepared; otherwise, we'll be tracking your flight and there is no need to worry. Our representative will assist you 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 within a reasonable time, you may exit the Arrivals Hall and remain at the 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.

A Nice Piece of History at Ben Gurion Airport

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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 miles west-northwest of Nazareth. This town dates from the early biblical period (12th 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 exits" (see Deut 28:6). Obviously, this text is appropriate for those visiting the Holy Land.

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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 [Stops.com](#) so that we can remain connected at all times. Stops is 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

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downloaded the application, please let us know if you do not see yourself as a member of the group's Cube = Messenger group. Please note, this app is safe for your phone and is at the early stage of a 6-month period of pilot testing before public delivery.

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 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](#).

Remember also that there also a lots of cheap phone call applications out there like Skype, Google Voice, or even WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger that can save you some serious roaming charges.

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The Weather in Israel

Historically, the weather in Israel and Jordan during the month of **June** is beautiful with an average **High of 82F and an average Low around 59F in Jerusalem**. 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 10-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 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

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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.

Definitely bring

- Your Passport (*obviously*)
- 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)
- *Favorite 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. And you'll have plenty of opportunities to buy kippahs if you wish en route.
- 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)

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- 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.
- 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 hairdryer 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!)

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- 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)
- **And most important...plastic Zip-Lock Bags** for collecting pottery and rocks or simply water-sealing things!

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A Note from Samson Tours CEO:

Eitan Chamberlin

It has been a pleasure to work with your tour guide Erez Berkovitz and your tour leaders Priscilla & Dennis Backstrom 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. Your guide, Erez Berkovitz has great experience with groups, and you will for certain have an excellent time. 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 comfortable stay with us. Thank you for coming to Israel!

Contact Us

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

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Offline Registration Forms

Confidential Information for Samson Tours, Inc. or tour leader's use only!

Name of Tour or Services

About you

Name(1)_____ Birthdate (1)_____

Name(2)_____ Birthdate (2)_____

Name(3)_____ Birthdate (3)_____

Email(1)_____ Email cc:_____

Home Phone_____ Cell Phone _____

Best time of day to phone (**circle one**): Morning - Afternoon - Evening - or Specific:

Home Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Degree° of Interest

1. ___ I'm definite! Attached is my **\$400.00** (per person) **check or cash deposit**

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2. ___ For sure! I'll pay by **debit/credit card** (see the Credit Card form)
3. ___ I will submit payment via another means. Please specify:
4. ___ I'm sitting on the fence (will decide later)

Travel Information

Travel information is required 3 months before departure. If you do not know this information now, leave blank and we will contact you at a later time.

1. What kind of room are you requesting? (circle one) SINGLE - DOUBLE - TRIPLE
2. If you are in a DOUBLE room, would you like a TWIN/SPLIT or KING bed (circle one)?
 - a. I'd like to share a DOUBLE room with _____
 - b. I'd like to share a TRIPLE room with _____
3. Do you have any medical conditions or limitations? YES - NO
4. Medical Notes or Special Requests:

Passport Information

This information (along with a copy of your passport) is required 3 months before departure. Please print your name EXACTLY as it appears on your passport.

Passport Name (1) _____ Country _____

Passport No. _____

Date Issued _____ Date of Expiration _____

Passport Name (2) _____ Country _____

Passport No. _____

Date Issued _____ Date of Expiration _____

Passport Name (3) _____ Country _____

Passport No. _____

Date Issued _____ Date of Expiration _____

Your Signature _____

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(By signing, you have read and agree to the **Policies** for this tour.)

Please submit this form to the tour leader or fax us directly, along with your credit card form, to 352-835-0885.



CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM

(Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Amex)

Check your tour's Inclusions or Exclusions for potential processing fees.

Credit Card Details

*Type of Card (**circle one**): Visa - MasterCard - Discover - Amex

*Name(s) on card _____

*Card number _____ *Expiration _____ Security Code _____

*Email _____

*Phone _____

*Billing Address for credit card _____

Payment Schedule (circle one)

1. ____ Process my **deposit** payment now **and** my **final payment** later with this card. Note: we will process your final payment 4 months before departure.
2. ____ Process my **deposit payment only** with this card. I will pay the balance later via another means.
3. ____ Process my deposit payment and set up a **payment plan** for the balance. I will pay the deposit now and you can automatically bill my credit card the remaining balance over (circle one) 3 - 4 5 - 6 - 9 separate payments starting with the soonest billing cycle. Note that your balance must be paid off in full 3 months prior to departure.

Your Signature _____

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(By signing, you agree to let Samson Tours, Inc. and/or its agents to process your payments with the details provided above.

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