Dear Israel Pilgrims,

Well we are only a few months out for our trip to Israel! Allow me to answer some frequently asked questions:

1. **Money--**It is best to go to your bank and arrange getting some currency prior to leaving. The exchange rate at the airport will charge more. There are ATM machines in Israel, but you should check with your bank for fees. You also can use credit cards, but some have expensive transaction fees with them. Foreign vendors will accept U.S. currency, but they will try to give you less for your money. The same is true with traveler’s checks. However, if the convenience of having a debit or credit card is worth the fees, then of course you do not have to worry about losing your money. Call your credit card provider to find out if there are any fees.
2. **Money belts--**I find it best to have a money belt or something that hides both your passport and money when in foreign lands. While it is unlikely that you will have anything stolen, taking precautions is the best way to deal with the possibility of theft.
3. **Passports--**Please make a copy of your passport and bring both your passport and the copy with you. Hand the copy to me when we meet (either at the airport or in Tel Aviv).
4. **How much should I bring?** Depending on your trip’s plan, lunch may or may not be included. Please check to see if you need to bring money for lunch. Aside from lunch, everything is covered except snacks/sodas between meals and souvenirs. Thus, the answer is very individual. Try to figure out how many gifts you want to buy and add $100 (just in case). Try to figure out how many sodas to buy. (Sodas are expensive in Israel, running about $4 a pop--excuse the pun.) While you will have a lot to eat (we will have a lot of buffet breakfasts and dinners), you may want a midday candy bar.
5. **Water**--Bring a water bottle that you can reuse. You will need to have water with you every day and often more than 8 oz. a day. Fill up before we leave the hotel to cut down on buying the water.
6. **Hat**--Bring a hat that will cover as much as possible for the days in the desert. Also, bring suntan lotion (1 bottle for every 2 people).
7. **Packing**--I would pack a change of clothes in your carry-on luggage and some deodorant. I do this as standard practice just in case. Remember, with your liquids that you can only place in your carry on something under 3.4 ounces.
8. **Arrival in Israel**--Once we land in Israel, it will take us at least an hour to get through customs and get our luggage. We will then proceed to the hotel. Breakfast and or dinner will be served on the plane depending on your departure time. Most flights will serve both. Prior to getting on the plane your food expenditures will be up to you. Once on the plane the plane will take care of you. Once off the plane The Israel Adventure will cover breakfast and dinner (and lunch on some tours). If you have food allergies please let Dr. Davis know in writing prior to departure (so he can keep that information on him).
9. **Sleeping on the plane**--It is important that you sleep on the plane. Check with your doctor to see what would work best if you wish to take a sleep aid. It is also important that on the first couple of days that you resist the urge to sleep during the day and convert to the schedule of Israel. I cannot emphasize enough how much you will want to be fully awake while we are there. Let’s take full advantage of our time there!
10. **Phone Calls** -- I will have a cell phone to call back to the U.S. if you need to communicate immediately with someone in the U.S. Internet may be extra at some hotels (I know it is hard to believe in this day and age-it seems only the expensive hotels do this). Your cell phones will work in Israel but the roaming charges are expensive. Please feel free to use my phone for phone calls back to the U.S. International calling planes are not very expensive. Check with your cell phone provider for additional details.
11. **Travel Insurance**--Since we have no control over emergency return flights and medical conditions prior to the trip, you may wish to get travel insurance. Travel insurance will cover an emergency flight home if needed and cancellations due to medical reasons. Individual plans vary and you will need to check with your provider on the specifics of what the plan covers. Generally, the airline will only give refunds and change travel in cases of medical emergencies and death. Any flight changes will have to be worked out with the airline or travel insurance provider.