

FAMILY MEDIA - PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEF

Date of Departure: 25th May 2019

Date of arrival back home: 4th June 2019

The group shall meet at JKIA at 01:00am for debriefing and handing over of travel documents. Our flight leaves at 4.20am to arrive Cairo airport at 8.10am then drive to the Hotel for about 45min to an hour this means we get to the hotel at around 9.10am.

VISAS

For the Egyptian visas we shall have a sticker on the passport as for the Israeli visa we have a group visa hence no sticker on the passport.

TICKETS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Tickets and all travel documents will be given to you at the airport on the 17th of November.

PUNCTUALITY / TIME KEEPING

Departure from Nairobi is going to be on the 25th May at 4.20am this means you have to find your way to airport on Friday night the 24th. We are all to meet at the airport at **1:00AM**.

During the trip, time keeping is crucial. Always keep time (*not African time*). Our return will be on **4th June 2019** we arrive at JKIA at 3.30am.

CLOTHING AND WEATHER

It is summer time, so clothes are required to cope with this weather.

You shall require;

- Good walking shoes with a good grip
- A Warm Jacket and a sweater.
- Sunglasses (optional)
- A towel for the Dead Sea tour
- Shower cap for the ladies
- Slippers at the Dead Sea and also in hotels
- Swimming goggles for the Dead Sea (optional)

SWIMMING KIT:

At the Dead Sea, there will be an opportunity to float on the waters of the Dead Sea. Even if you have never swum, be at peace. You shall gracefully float on the Dead Sea and even enjoy reading your favorite book while afloat the water. It is therefore recommended that you carry a swimming kit or gear.

TOILETS

You will have stops on the way and whenever you may wish to use the washrooms at these stops, you may be asked to pay a minimal maintenance fee (usually 1 US\$ or 2 Egyptian pound/s in Egypt, or a Shekel or two in Israel). Please arrange to have this in loose form as the attendants would always be reluctant to give change.

Soap: Hotels provide soaps either liquid in a dispenser. It would be advisable to carry one soap (Dettol or others) to use if you are not familiar with liquid soaps dispensers. The Soap is also useful for taking a shower at the Dead Sea, after floating and applying mud on yourself.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Upon arrival at and departure at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Cairo airport and Ben Gurion Airport, don't leave your bags unattended. They might request you to open your bag for security check, which you should do with maximum cooperation. In case they ask you questions like:

- *Who packed your bags?*
- *Do you have any weapons?*
- *Were you given anything by anyone to bring to Israel or to take back home?*
- *Were you with the group all the time?*

Your answers should be short and to the point.

CURRENCY

Nairobi

Change Kenya Shillings into Dollars at a Bureau de Change at the city centre since the rate of exchange there is better than at the airport. Most of the transactions during the trip will be done in dollars. However in Egypt some shopping malls will require you to use Egyptian pounds. (We shall take you to an exchange to get the Egyptian pounds)

Credit Cards: For those using credit/debit cards like Visa, Master etc., they are readily accepted in shops and hotels in Israel. You shall also be able to withdraw Dollars or Shekels from ATM at

some appointed points in Jerusalem and other towns. (Ensure that you have communicated to your bank regarding using your cards outside Kenya)

Small denominations: It is advisable to carry \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 bills to facilitate in the buying of small items like water, lunch, paying for toilet and small souvenirs.

LUGGAGE

Rules on carry-on baggage

Please note that these items will be retrieved at the boarding gate by the local authorities and depending on local rules and regulations, the items may not be returned to you. They should be packed in the big luggage, which should be checked in and not in your hand luggage.

- Knives (including hunting knives, swords, and pocket knives)
- Scissors and any other sharp/bladed objects (e.g. ice-pick, nail clippers)
- Devices with spill able batteries
- Aerosols (hair sprays, perfumes, medicines containing alcohol) not exceeding 0.5KG/L per article and 2.0KG/L in total weight
- Spare Lithium Batteries
- Any other items which are deemed security hazards including weapons.

Liquid and Gels in Hand Baggage: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommends all liquids; gels, pastes and aerosols up to 100 ml must be carried in one transparent and re-sealable plastic bag to a maximum capacity of 1 Litre.

Maximum luggage weight per suitcase is 30Kgs and 13kgs on the hand luggage. If exceeded, you will be asked to pay extra.

Travel light. It is always helpful. You will be away for 6 days only. Do not carry your whole wardrobe...*especially the ladies*. Carry enough cloths for 6 days. Casual decent wear is recommended for the trip. Trousers are acceptable in Israel for ladies.

Padlocks required are 2, one for hand luggage and the other for suitcase.

Your suitcase must be of good quality to avoid tearing and loose zips.

WATER:

You will be required to drink water during the trip. Mineral water is usually sold in the buses *for 1 dollar in Israel and US\$ 2 for 3 bottles of ½ liter each in Egypt*. The drivers usually sell the water.

TRANSPORT

We shall be using full time air-conditioned deluxe coaches with microphones for the guide to communicate with us. The luggage compartment inside the coach is small thus when moving from one hotel/ destination to another just carry with you a small hand luggage. The big bags will be put in the external luggage compartment. So carry your laptops, smart phones or tabs to enjoy these services.

ACCOMMODATION

The room arrangement for the whole group is **2 people sharing a room**. In some hotels, the key is a card that looks like an ATM Card. One should insert it at the door usually above the handle and withdraw it. When the green light flashes one can open by turning the handle. Once inside, insert the same card at a slot provided near the door for electricity and air condition. All rooms are fitted with Air Condition to regulate the temperature in the rooms.

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FOOD

The meal plan is Half Board (breakfast & dinner). The buffet meal plan allows you to eat as much as you want. However as **KENYAN AMBASSADORS** during the trip, it is advisable to not pile your plate so much with food but instead pick whatever you need and go for a second helping later. The way the group carries itself reflects nicely or badly on Kenya. Before taking drinks, inquire if you need to pay for it or not. If tasting new foods always put a little so that you can get more if you like it. Wastage is forbidden.

Don't forget that "*Milk and Honey*" is flowing in the Holy land. Get your share.

ELECTRICITY

The electric current in is 220 volts AC. Most sockets are of the three-pronged variety but many can accept the thin, two-pronged plugs as well. Electric shavers, traveling irons and other small appliances may require adapters and/or transformers, which can be purchased in electronic shops. In case you shall need one, you'll ask for help from the tour leader.

RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS

In Israel: All public offices in Israel are closed on Shabbat -Friday afternoon and the whole of Saturday, as are most private businesses. In most cities, public transportation (trains and buses) does not operate, and most, but not all, restaurants are closed. Radio and TV broadcasts operate as usual. However most tourist sites are open even on Shabbat.

COMMUNICATION

You may buy a SIM Card and credit (units) to use on your Kenyan phone. In case you shall need to call home, ask for assistance from the guide or tour leader. On average, it costs \$25 per SIM with airtime enough to call or text home during the trip if talking only for a short time.

Roaming services are also available in Israel for Safaricom and Airtel although they are charged highly.

INTERNET SERVICES- In some hotels, it's free or it can be restricted to the lobby area.

BUDGET & POCKET MONEY

Water is \$1 per bottle. Carry some extra money for souvenirs. Recommended amount is from \$400 for the whole trip depending with one's lifestyle. There are many souvenirs, which can be purchased at various shops or bazaars. Inquire from tour leader for help if not sure. Gifts include; *perfumes, key holders, shawls, T-Shirts, caps, books, wall hangings, scarves, mats, vases, Shofars, menorahs, shoes, sandals, wood carvings, olive oil, grape wine (non alcoholic), clothes, beauty products like lotions, shower gels and soaps etc.*

SAFETY

Though security is high, there is need to take care so that there will be no incidents of injury or loss. Take good care of your personal belongings and valuables i.e. cameras, videos, ipads, wallets, handbags. Do not leave your personal stuff in the bus unless you have been told it is OK. ***Always lock your suitcase whenever you leave the hotel.*** There is usually a lockable safe in the rooms, which one can use for free.

It is recommended that you walk in groups of two or three into shops and also along the streets. Avoid as much as possible being alone. Be your brother's and sister's keeper.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

We highly encourage everyone to carry a Camera and a video (if possible) for taking photos. This will help you to keep live your memories for this trip.

BIBLE READING

We recommend that you begin reading your Bible especially the New Testament so that you can familiarize yourself with the sites we shall be visiting. This will make the trip very personal and memorable.

Carry a pen and a notebook to jot important details given during the trip. In case you have any questions concerning any of the sites, you will also have time to ask the guide.

PATRIOTISM

We encourage you to carry Kenyan Branded clothes like: T-Shirts, Scarves, bangles, Tracks, Vitenges, which have our Kenyan flag colors so that we can wear them during the trip and show other nations that we are proud to be Kenyans. You can get these items along Biashara Street in Nairobi or Masaai Market if you are in Nairobi or you can look for them in different shops in the city or other cities / towns too.

MOTHER TONGUE

We highly discourage use of mother tongue during the trip especially around the breakfast table and diner table. Let's all use either English or Kiswahili for the sake of Unity of the whole team.