

Israel Travelers,

Boker Tov! (That's "good morning" in Hebrew) Each morning in Israel, you will hear these words. These may be the first Hebrew words you will learn.

First of all, I want to thank you for committing to this Israel trip (or for considering this trip, if you haven't made a final decision). I know from personal experience, this is a trip of a lifetime. I've heard it said that visiting the land of the Scripture takes the Bible "from black and white to color." It's true! You will be forever grateful you made this investment.

February 6, 2024, we are scheduled to wing our way to the land of the Bible, returning on February 16. Between now and then, I plan to send an e-mail Israel update on the 6th of each month as we countdown the days to this incredible journey. This is the first of the monthly e-mails.

Today marks 17 months until our flights leave the US soil, landing at Ben Gurion Airport, just outside Tel Aviv, Israel. 17 months may seem to be "way out there." But from experience, our departure date will arrive rather quickly.

In the monthly e-mails, I will typically attach a link to a YouTube video pertaining to a site we will visit, or some other useful information about Israel. In some of the updates, I will provide information about what to expect weather-wise, a suggested packing list, what to expect as we go through customs, as well as suggested Bible readings as you prepare your hearts and minds for this trip.

In the October update, I will provide a suggested 4-payment plan. While not required, it is helpful in your financial planning for this trip. Our final payment will be due around the first of December 2023.

(If you are receiving this e-mail, but are still deciding, remember that there is a \$300 non-refundable deposit necessary to hold your place.)

Just a quick note about airline tickets. Each individual is responsible for arranging their flight. Ticket reservations are not an option until 11 months from our return date — so March 16 will be the first date we can actually purchase tickets. At that time, I will begin seriously looking for the best flights and prices out there. I know that Jeremy (for those coming from PA) will be working on arrangements. I will keep you all informed of the flight my wife and I will be on, as well as the window of time you will need to be at Ben Gurion Airport. More on that at a later time.

HOTELS

If you have never traveled internationally, it's important to understand that our hotels and their hotels are a little different. We are staying in 4-star hotels. You will NOT be disappointed in our accommodations. You can expect that the rooms will be a bit smaller than hotels in the US. Nice, but small. Of course, we don't go to Israel to stay in our rooms.

Our meals (breakfast and supper) will be at the hotels. They are buffet style. Generally, the staff at the hotels will have labels on the tables for our group, so we need to sit in the designated areas. We are in the Mediterranean region, so the diet is...well, Mediterranean. You'll love the food!

One of the favorite hotels of our groups is located in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee. It's called Ron Beach Hotel. Every room is facing the Sea of Galilee. Ron Beach is a family owned hotel. It's the most dated of the places we will stay, but I'm confident it will be your favorite. And I believe their food is the best!

Attached is a link to give you a little picture of the Ron Beach Hotel.

In upcoming e-mails, I will send you more information on the other hotels we will be staying in.

For now, I think that is enough information. You can contact me at rocky@kilpatrickchurch.com or call or text at 616.570.5445.

Shalom,

Rocky & Jeremy