

TRAVEL TIPS

for *THE DANIEL PROPHECIES ISRAEL TOUR* with Ken Raggio

1. **If you have ANY QUESTIONS**, please feel free to contact me at ken@kenraggio.com if you are on FACEBOOK, simply Direct Message me.
2. **PASSPORT** – You can pick up a passport application at your local post office, or on the Internet at <http://usps.com/international/passports.htm>

Some of the larger post offices have someone who will take your photo and help you with your application. As of March, 2017, the standard passport fee is \$110. Age 15 and under is only \$80. If you are very close to the deadline, you should pay the \$60 extra to have it expedited. If you need a passport photo, some of the Walgreens and CVS stores offer that service.

The specifications on a passport photo are very strict:

2" x 2" - Head must be between 1 -1 3/8 inches (25 - 35 mm) from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head. Recent, taken in the last 6 months to reflect current appearance. Matte or glossy photo quality paper. Plain white or off-white background. Head must face the camera directly with full face in view. Taken with a neutral facial expression or a natural smile, with both eyes open. In color. Taken in clothing normally worn on a daily basis. No glasses (If you cannot remove your glasses for medical reasons, please include a signed note from your doctor with application). No hats or head coverings (Unless worn daily for religious or medical purposes. Submit a signed statement that verifies that the hat or head covering is part of recognized, traditional religious attire that is customarily or required to be worn continuously in public or a signed doctor's statement verifying the item is used daily for medical purposes. Your full face must be visible and your hat or head covering cannot obscure your hairline or cast shadows on your face.) No headphones or wireless hands-free devices.

If your passport is OLD, be absolutely CERTAIN that it will still be effective SIX MONTHS AFTER THE TRIP. Israeli customs will not let you into the country if your passport is too close to its expiration date. For example, if you will be in Israel until November 22, 2017, your passport must be valid until May 22, 2018. Check the expiration date on your passport now.

3. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Your domestic health insurance or Medicare/Medicaid coverage will not cover you in Israel. It will be necessary for you to purchase travel insurance if you want to be covered for MEDICAL emergencies. Be prepared, in case you injure yourself or get sick.

In addition, your travel insurance policy will provide certain reimbursements to you in the unlikely event that the trip is cancelled, or if you encounter unexpected changes in flights or destinations, resulting in extra charges.

There are many travel insurance companies to choose from, and the benefits vary widely. Search online for comparisons, using the keywords TRAVEL INSURANCE.

Meredith Hill Page sent you a brochure from ED HILL TOURS of their recommended top pick, which is **TRAVELEX**. You can visit <http://travelexinsurance.com> and purchase it online. When you fill out the forms, it will ask you for a "**LOCATION NUMBER**." Enter **09-1232** When it asks for "**COMPANY NAME**," use **ED HILL TOURS**. If you prefer, you can call Travelex at 1-800-228-9782. There are a variety of options, so just select the policy that you prefer.

4. **NAME TAGS:** ED HILL TOURS will provide brightly-colored name tags for your luggage. This will help us identify our group's luggage quickly and easily. You should have a detailed name tag of your own attached to your luggage as well. You may also want to add a bright or uniquely-colored ribbon or bow that will help you to identify your luggage quickly.

You will also receive a NAME TAG to wear each day of the trip. It may be a plastic name tag that you pin on your clothes, or it may be one that hangs around your neck. That will help us all to learn your name quickly.

5. **LUGGAGE: NOTE:** You may be charged \$25 on your CHECKED luggage at the airport, but not your carry-ons. That is a LOCAL tax that we cannot collect in advance. It is not always imposed. It depends on the airline or airport. Sometimes they do not take cash, so you have to pay by card.
 - a. **ONE LARGE CHECK-THROUGH PIECE** - your largest piece must not weigh more than 50 lbs or there may be an expensive surcharge (i.e., \$200). Weigh your luggage before leaving home. Never check-through anything valuable that you don't want to lose (laptops, cameras, etc.). Put real valuables in your carry-on and never let it out of your sight. I have an inexpensive luggage SCALE that I got at Walmart. I use it when packing.
 - b. **ONE CARRY-ON** - this piece *must fit in the overhead compartment* on the plane. On **EL AL Airlines**, the size limits for a carry-on is **22 x 17.5 x 9.8 inches**. I urge you to use luggage that has "spinners" - *four* wheels that make them much easier to handle than older models with only *two* wheels.
 - c. **ONE SMALLER BACKPACK or FANNY-PACK** - this piece *must fit under your seat* during take-off/landing. You should have your most necessary toiletries, medicine, and a change of underwear in one of your carry-ons in case of an emergency (i.e., lost or delayed luggage). A small backpack/fanny-pack is also useful on the bus from day to day, to carry cameras, jackets, souvenirs, and miscellaneous items. Don't overload yourself!
 - d. **TRAVEL LIGHT!!** This cannot be overstated. Nobody ever said, "I wish I had brought more stuff!" Instead, they say, "I shouldn't have brought so much junk!" Wear your clothes more than once (2-3 times). Nobody will complain! ☺ One or two pairs of shoes, max. Don't bring ANYTHING you don't really need. You will NOT be sorry!
 - e. **On board the flight**, you can read a book or Kindle e-book (i.e., [THE DANIEL PROPHECIES by Ken Raggio](#)), or listen to audios on your device. In-flight WIFI service is available for a fee (about \$4.95), charged to your credit card. Most of the new jumbo jets have 110v electrical outlets under the seat.
 - f. **On the RETURN HOME**, you will likely have souvenirs, adding to the weight you started with. You can bring *a canvas tote bag* (or buy one in Israel) to carry your souvenirs onboard. You will still face the 50 lb weight requirements on your large piece of luggage. Don't bring more than you can handle. Too many heavy bags will certainly weary you and complicate your journey. Any large souvenirs should probably be shipped home.

6. **ELECTRICAL DEVICES:**

- a. Hotels normally furnish a **HAIR DRYER**. You may not want to bother carrying your own.

- b. **Israel is on 220 volts** and uses **ROUND PIN** plugs that look like this:



- c. **U.S. electronics use 110 Volts.** You **MUST CONVERT/TRANSFORM** 220v to 110v or you will burn up your devices. **MANY** so-called “converters” do **NOT** step-down the voltage. They only convert from round plugs to flat plugs, but the voltage is **STILL 220 volts!** That will **NOT WORK!** You will ruin your device with such a plug. Your converter must specifically transform/step-down the voltage from 220 to 110. If it does not specify that it converts the voltage, it probably does not. The cheapest, smallest, most light-weight plugs typically do **NOT** convert the voltage. Only those that appear to have a heavier transformer inside are likely to actually **CONVERT** the voltage from 220 to 110. Here is an example, **from Walmart.** It is called the **QVS PA-C3 Premium World Power Travel Adapter** with Surge Protection.



Here is another version that I saw on EBAY.COM:



- d. If you use several devices (smart phone, camera, laptop, hair rollers, etc.) you should bring more than one **CONVERTER**, or a 110 power strip to plug multiple devices into one outlet. Be aware that most hotel rooms do not have a large number of plugs, and you will be sharing plugs with your room mate.

7. **DRESS:**

- a. **Dress casual** and comfortable for air travel. It is better to dress in layers than to wear anything heavy. Heavy coats are not recommended. The dress code for all the holy sites is **MODEST**. No bare shoulders or shorts anywhere. At certain Jewish sites, men will be furnished skull caps (aka: kippahs, yarmulkes) to wear.
- b. **Bring slippers, socks, travel pillow, ear plugs, sleep masks**, books, or whatever else you may want. We will have meals and snacks on the flight. Prepare for a long flight by not

drinking too many liquids beforehand. If your feet tend to swell, consider wearing compression socks, too. I URGE YOU to get plenty of sleep before the trip!

- c. **If you plan to be baptized in the Jordan River**, bring spare clothes to wear under the thin white robes that will be furnished. **If you want to swim in the Dead Sea**, it is best to wear something that can be thrown away, because the Dead Sea leaves heavy mineral residuals that are difficult to wash out. For Jordan and the Dead Sea, it is best to have **rubber-soled waterproof shoes** or flip-flops for the rocky bottoms.
 - d. **FOR BAD WEATHER**: Bring a light, water-proof windbreaker, preferably with a hood. Or bring a small, collapsible umbrella. The weather rarely hinders our travel. Light rain will not be a problem if you have a good windbreaker. The bus and most venues are under cover. Temperatures in November are likely to be in the 60s-70s by day, and 50s at night.
 - e. **DIRTY LAUNDRY** can be sent to the hotel laundry for one-day service if you need it. It can be pricey, however. The service is typically excellent.
8. **CELL PHONES**: You will be able to use **WIFI on the BUS and in the HOTELS**, so you can communicate with family and friends back home **WITHOUT** a voice phone if you use **FACEBOOK MESSENGER** or other social networks! Therefore, it is not critical to have cell phone service unless you choose to do so. If you do want to have cell phone service, here is what I recommend:

Contact your cell phone provider (Verizon, Sprint, etc.) before you leave and have them enable **international calling and/or texting**, if you so desire. Otherwise, you may not be able to use your cell phone while overseas, or calls may be outrageously expensive. Even texting can be expensive if you do not enable international service in advance. If you enable international calling and texting in advance, your charges will be far less than if you attempt to make a call without international calling enabled. Discuss the matter carefully with your provider, and verify that you will have the service you want when you arrive. Otherwise, you may not be able to make calls, and texts could be expensive.

I usually call Verizon and have them turn on International Calling.

For \$40, I get 100 minutes of VOICE, 100 mb of DATA, and 100 TEXTS.

Again, you don't need lots of DATA, because you will have WIFI on the bus and in the hotels.

9. **CURRENCIES**: The best option for currency is a credit card. Call your credit card company and inform them that you will be in Israel, and give them the specific dates. Make **CERTAIN** that they have enabled your account for international transactions, or your charges may be declined. It happens all the time. **Make double sure**. If you bring cash, bring it in small bills (\$20s). Most businesses gladly take American dollars, but they usually give change in shekels. You can keep some of your shekels for souvenirs, but you probably will not want to take home large sums of shekels. Therefore, spend up your shekels while still in Israel. Also, the best exchange rate will come from using a credit card. Cash exchanges are often rounded upward in favor of the shekel.
10. **SECURITY**: You should have your **Passport** with you at all times. **Make copies** of it and leave with family at home, and **keep a copy in your luggage**. You can also **email an image** of your passport to yourself, so that your passport is available on your Smartphone, iPad, or computer at any time. It is advisable to **wear a hidden pouch** under your garments to keep your **PASSPORT**, other ID, credit cards, hotel room keys, and large amounts of cash. Some people also feel better if they

have an RFID-secure pouch to prevent Identity Theft or avoid having documents scanned electronically without your knowledge. You can buy them at Walmart or online.

11. **SOUVENIRS:** There will be opportunities all along the way for souvenirs, but we will not want to hold up the group. Certain places are better for shopping; i.e., the markets of Old Jerusalem, Bethlehem Square, night shopping in Tiberias at Galilee, etc. We will advise you of the best places to shop. Large items are best shipped back to the states separately. Some merchants will pack and ship your purchases for you.
12. **MEDICATIONS:** If you are on prescription medications, **BRING ENOUGH!!** And please have your doctor write a prescription to carry with you in case your prescriptions are lost in travel. You should keep them in your purse or carry-on. In an emergency, you can have your prescription filled in a pharmacy in Israel. But remember that on Sabbath, even pharmacies are closed.
13. **AIRPORTS:** PLEASE text me your NAME and CELL PHONE NUMBER to 1-409-626-2495 RIGHT NOW so I will have your number stored in MY phone, and will be able to call you if I cannot find you at any point in the trip, especially in the airports. I need to be able to reach you at all times.
 - a. **DEPARTURES:** You should be inside the airport about FOUR HOURS before an INTERNATIONAL flight, and about 2 hours for a DOMESTIC flight. Allow plenty of time to go through customs, check your luggage, go through long security lines, take a restroom break, get a snack, and arrive IN THE GATE ONE HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE time.
 - b. **TEL AVIV MEET-UPS:** If you purchased the LAND-ONLY package, you MUST meet us in Tel Aviv LUGGAGE CLAIM AREA as soon as we arrive. Check the FLIGHT SCHEDULE that is posted in the TRIP BROCHURES. As soon as we arrive in Tel Aviv, we will deplane, go to the customs checkpoint windows then meet you in the LUGGAGE CLAIM AREA.

Look for someone carrying a SIGN that says KEN RAGGIO TOUR or DANIEL PROPHECIES TOUR. We will be in the LUGGAGE CLAIM area as soon as we pass customs inspection. As soon as we get our luggage, we will go outside and board our luxury motor coach. Our bus will have a SIGN in the front window that says KEN RAGGIO or DANIEL PROPHECIES. That is our bus. Our guide and driver will be with us for the whole trip.
 - c. **It is imperative that you always be mindful of the group, and do not run off from the group** without carefully notifying others where you are going and when you will return. **We MUST NOT BE DELAYED on our flights.** That will pose complications that none of us want to deal with. Please be prompt and courteous toward the entire group in all your actions. Delays could cost lots of money for somebody.
14. **CUSTOMS:** You must arrive about four hours before departure times for international flights. You will be required to go through customs inspection in both departing and arriving airports. If you fly into New York, be certain that your checked luggage is set to go all the way to Tel Aviv. You will have to take your carry-ons through customs inspection again in New York, depending on the arrival/departure gates. Ed Hill Tours will have one of their agents meet us in Tel Aviv and help guide us through Israeli customs. Our Israeli guide and bus driver will meet us at the luggage claims area inside the Tel Aviv airport after we clear customs. **It is absolutely essential that everyone in our group, from every destination, meet our BUS near the baggage claim**

area at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Otherwise, you will be entirely responsible for your own transportation (i.e.,taxicab) to the hotel in Tiberias (84 miles away). If you fail to connect with the group, you may miss a part or all of the first day's touring.

15. **"WHISPER" HEADPHONES** – If we have a larger group (over 15 members), I will probably call for everyone to wear radio-earplugs as we tour so that everyone can hear me and the guide. "Whisper" is a small device that you can wear on your belt or in your pocket, and it has a set of ear buds attached. The GUIDE and I will wear microphones, and you will be able to hear us wherever we go. That is especially valuable when we are out in open places or in big crowds. Once you get used to them, you will be very glad that we are using them!

IF WE USE THE "WHISPER" device, I will have to collect a \$15 per person RENTAL fee.

I will collect that on the bus when we first start our tour, and hand them out to everybody.

If you know anyone else who would like to go with us on this trip, PLEASE contact me!

We will try our best to include everyone who wants to go, even if it is late in the game.

I am so glad you are going!! See you at the airport!!

Ken Raggio