



Practical Travel Information



Arrival, Transportation & Getting around in the Holy Land

Arrival to the Holy Land

Located at the crossroads of three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa – the Holy Land is within easy reach from literally anywhere in the world by air, sea or land border.

The Holy Land may well be one of the oldest established travel destinations in the world. As early as the 4th century CE, the first pilgrims – Queen Helena, Egeria or the Pilgrim of Bordeaux – voyaged to what later became Palestine, Israel, and Jordan, tracing biblical footsteps. The Christian pilgrimage was born!

Ever since, the lands on both banks of the Jordan River intrigued pilgrims and believers, joined by explorers and admirers of ancient cultures alike to embark on a journey to the holy sites and natural wonders of the small land bridge connecting Asia and Africa.

Welcoming millions of travelers annually, the tourism infrastructure in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan is perfectly capable of serving any kind of customer and can blend in with any kind of travel, from classical pilgrimages to culinary heritage tours to action-seeking nature adventures.

In this section, you will find a brief, non-exhaustive overview on the travel services available. For more information and any special requests, do not hesitate to contact your HLITOA tourism professional.



Arrival by air: Thanks to its main international airports in Tel Aviv and Amman, Israel and Jordan are well connected to worldwide air travel. From both airports, numerous regular and charter airlines offer daily connections to major hubs across the globe including Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and the Middle East. International charter flights are also available to/from Eilat and Aqaba airport. In combination with a land border crossing, travelers can also arrive via Sharm el-Sheik or Taba airport in Egypt.



Arrival by sea: Through the seaports and cruise terminals Ashdod and Ashkelon in the Mediterranean and Aqaba and Eilat in the Red Sea respectively, the Holy Land is a regular stop in many cruise itineraries. For customers arriving with private cruising or motor yachts, marinas are available along the Mediterranean as well as in the Gulf of Aqaba.



Arrival by land: Arriving to the Holy Land is also possible via land border from Egypt via Taba Border Crossing, while Israel and Jordan are well connected via the Araba and Sheikh Hussein Border Crossings in the south and north of the countries. The King Hussein Border Crossing directly connects Amman with Jericho.

The Holy Land is a comparably small region with short distances between major cities and sites, which makes getting around fast and convenient. Any point is within reach of a day's trip, even across international borders. Whatever your clients' itinerary may be, your HLITOA tourism professional will happily suggest the best combination of comfortable and efficient means of transportation.

Cooperating with a Palestinian incoming professional also comes with the benefit that no change of buses, drivers, or guides is required when traveling between Israel and Palestine. In addition, your HLITOA tourism professional will take care of group visa arrangements and a smooth cross-border operation for traveling between Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

Transportation

For usual transportation needs, the following means are available:



Large tour bus: For groups with up to 55 passengers, large tour buses are the most common means of transportation. Buses with an extended capacity of up to 60 passengers are also available, but are not able to reach all places due to their length. Most buses are equipped with Wi-Fi, USB-charging stations, and a refrigerator. Luxury buses are also available.



Mini and medium tour buses: For groups up to 16, 20, or 30 people, mini and medium-sized buses are available including luxury buses with extra-wide seats, a personalized mini-bar, a coffee machine and more. Wi-Fi, USB-charging stations, and a refrigerator are basic amenities in most mini and medium tour buses.



Vans: For FITs and small groups up to 7 people, regular and luxury vans are available for day trips and longer journeys.



Luxury chauffeur service: For VIP services and luxury tours, chauffeur service is available for transfers or special trips.



Public transportation: For FITs and days at leisure, a close-meshed network of public transportation with regular bus service and taxi services is a reliable means of transportation for urban and interurban travel. Taxis and regular mini busses can be flagged in the street or booked via phone or mobile application. Individual airport transfers can also be arranged through local operators in advance.



Rental cars: Rental cars are available from all airports and major cities. For better rates and more comprehensive insurance packages, pre-ordering is advised. Please note: only a few rental car companies allow traveling in Israel and Palestine. Your HLITOA tourism professional can provide you with advice and arrange rentals for your clients.



Off-road tours: For a short getaway into the Jerusalem Wilderness around Jericho and Bethlehem or a multiple-day trip to Har Karkom Plateau or deep into the desert of Wadi Rum, off-road tours can be arranged for your clients. Kind of cars vary from classical Landrover Defenders to luxury Jeeps.

For special occasions and unique experiences, you may also include one or more of the following:

Getting Around in the Holy Land



Quad tours: For adventurous tours in the desert, quad tours can be organized through your HLITOA tourism professional.



Bicycle tours: More and more famous over the last years, regular and off-road bicycle tours can be arranged for your clients including equipment rental and service cars for luggage and refreshment transportation on longer tours.



Camel rides: Once a very common means of transportation, camel rides from few minutes to multiple-days trips can be arranged through your HLITOA tourism professional, e.g. in Wadi Rum, around Jericho, or in the southern Sinai.



Donkey rides: Treat your clients with a special experience and offer them a means of transportation once reserved for kings and high officials: a donkey ride! Available in Sebastia and Jericho.



Horse-drawn carriage rides: A truly unique experience is a guided tour of the Jericho oasis from aboard a traditional horse-drawn carriage.



Hot-air balloons: Hot-air balloon rides are available on a regular basis in Wadi Rum and are especially recommended for a sunrise flight.



Helicopter tours: In some areas, helicopter sightseeing can be arranged for your clients. Inquire on options at your HLITOA tourism professional.



Cable cars: Offer your clients great panoramic views from aboard the cables cars at Manara Cliff, Jericho's Mt. of Temptation, Rosh Ha-Nikra caves, Haifa cable car to Mt. Carmel, or the Masada plateau.



Sailing boat rides: For meditation after visiting the holy sites or just for leisure, sailing boat rides can be arranged on the Sea of Galilee.



Semi-submarine rides: Take your clients right into the fascinating coral reefs world of the Gulf Aqaba aboard a semi-submarine ride from Aqaba or Eilat.



Water sports: In Eilat and Aqaba, multiple motorized water sports can be arranged for your clients including water scooters and banana boat rides.



River rafting and Canoeing: Opportunities for river rafting and canoeing are available in the northern streams like the Jordan River.

There is a wide variety of accommodation and lodging offers in the Holy Land meeting the demands of any kind of client or tour. Your HLITOA tourism professional will be happy to suggest the perfect match for your clients and your targeted budget.

Accommodation and Lodging in the Holy Land



Hotels: In the touristic hubs you will find a large variety of hotels of different standards from budget to luxury accommodation, meeting any demand.



Boutique Guesthouses: In many places, e.g. in Bethlehem or Sebastia, boutique guesthouses, usually located in beautifully restored old houses, are an interesting alternative to deluxe hotels, especially for smaller groups.



SPA Hotels: Along the Mediterranean, the Dead Sea, and at the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba, numerous luxury SPA hotels offer world-classes services for leisure travelers.



Church Guesthouses: Pilgrims and faith-based travelers will appreciate the basic accommodation church guesthouses offer along the main pilgrimage routes from the Sea of Galilee through Nazareth to Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



Hostels: For budget travelers and youth groups, hostels offering simple and basic accommodation including dormitories, are a good alternative to hotels or church guesthouses.



Bedouin Camps: Along the long-distance hiking trail Masar Ibrahim and in the desert vicinity of Bethlehem, Bedouin camps provide simple, yet exceptional accommodation in tents or even under the starry sky. An overnight with the Bedouins usually includes a folkloric show with music and authentic Bedouin-style food.



Caving: For nature lovers, spending a night out in a natural cave in the hillsides around Bethlehem is definitely a special experience. Food and drinks will be supplied through your local operator.



Homestays: For travelers seeking encounters with the local populations, homestays provided by families are a perfect opportunity for an inexpensive overnight stay, complete with home-made food and a lot of talking and discussion. Homestays are available primarily in the north of Palestine.

Traveling with Special Needs

For travelers with special needs, please inquire at your HLITOA tourism professional about suitable transportation, accommodation, and tailor-made, needs-based itineraries.

