



June 6 - 15, 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage Questions and Answers

Registration presumes familiarity with the policies and deadlines contained in this document

How much does the pilgrimage cost?

The early bird special price is \$4,550 U.S. dollars per person whether payment is made by check or online. As of November 2, 2023, the price will increase to \$4,750 per person. The price presupposes double occupancy. The single room supplement is \$1,000. Singles are limited and should be requested soon after registering. Triples are also available.

What about tips?

Each pilgrim should bring \$150 cash, U.S., for at-will tips for the bus driver and guides on the tour. Bringing this cash in fives, tens, and twenties will make tipping easier.

When is payment due?

A deposit of \$1,000 per person will be your registration, securing your place on the trip. The final payment must be received by 5 p.m. on March 4, 2024.

Can I pay with a credit card?

Yes, you can pay online through myperegrinotour.com. You can pay directly with your credit card information, or via PayPal or Venmo. Go to the "Pending Tours" page and access your specific pilgrimage by entering your trip's username and password.

Peregrino Tours cannot receive credit card payments over the phone. Peregrino Tours does not charge extra for credit card payments. If paying by check, please make checks payable to "Peregrino" and send to PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL 60017. Please do **not** send your check via certified mail. Regular first-class mail is fine.

Can I pay the deposit via credit card and the balance by check, or vice versa?

Yes.

What does the cost include?

Round trip flight Chicago – Tel Aviv, all airline taxes and fuel surcharges, bus transfer to and from airport to hotel, coach bus per itinerary for the entire pilgrimage, lodging in clean, private-bath three and four star hotels, all museum entrance fees, audio headsets, all guides, all breakfasts, one lunch, and five dinners.

Our Holy Land pilgrims often stay at Pilgrim Guesthouses. A Guesthouse is a Catholic hotel, typically managed by nuns or committed lay people, whose specific purpose is to accommodate pilgrims to the Holy Land. Guesthouse rooms are modern, clean, comfortable, and have private bathrooms and good wifi. A Guesthouse will not have amenities such as a pool, spa, gym, late night bar, etc... The rooms may, or may not, have televisions. Each Guesthouse is a bit different, but all are comfortable, modern, and clean. Numerous Guesthouses can be seen online.

What does the cost *not* include?

Not covered are incidental hotel costs like mini-bar purchases, meals not specified in the itinerary, taxi fares, any museums not on the itinerary, personal gratuities for your priest and guides, and the carrying of luggage from airport baggage claim to the bus, and to and from the bus to the hotels. Although most transport on the pilgrimage will be by bus, we recommend bringing about \$50 for taxis and always sharing taxi rides.

What is the cancellation policy?

All cancellations must be made in writing by the same person(s) who registered for the trip. The following penalties are applicable if you cancel:

From date of registration until March 3, 2024, \$500 of your total registration cost is non-refundable.

As of March 4, 2024, 100% of the tour cost is non-refundable but *may be* transferable to another person going on the same tour.

Any changes to the cost of the pilgrimage *after* the date a pilgrim cancels will be immaterial to any insurance claims made by the cancelling pilgrim. Insurance is a contract between the purchaser and the insurer. Peregrino responds directly to insurers regarding insurance matters.

Is there a registration form?

There is no registration form. Peregrino Tours tries to make registration as easy as possible. Your registration will be accomplished when you make your \$1,000 deposit. When we confirm receipt of your deposit we will ask for the name, address, phone, and e-mail of each pilgrim. Please indicate the parents or legal guardians of minor travelers. You will be officially notified of your registration via e-mail when your online payment is made or when your check clears. If paying by check, please allow 10 business days for

us to confirm your registration via e-mail and please send us your contact information on, or with, the check.

Do I need a passport?

Yes, you will need a passport to travel to Israel. Passports are required for everyone, even children and infants. The expiration date of the passport must be beyond six months after the date of re-entry into the U.S. A copy of the photo page of the passport must be received at holyland2024@myperegrintour.com via a photo or a scan.

Paper copies of passports can also be sent to Peregrino, PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60017. The copy of the passport and its information will be shared with no one. All documentary or digital traces of the copy of the passport will be destroyed at the conclusion of the tour. Please consult the official website of the U.S. State Department for further information.

Do I need to obtain a visa?

U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Israel for fewer than 90 days.

Is there any chance the trip would be cancelled?

In the remote possibility that the trip is cancelled due to lack of sufficient numbers or an act of God, the entire cost of the trip will be reimbursed. An extraordinary event such as an airline strike, weather event, or international incident will not necessarily cause the trip to be cancelled. Trip insurance would provide total protection against such unlikely eventualities. The Middle East is geo-politically unpredictable, but Israel is a secure, safe, and stable country with a long history of safe and successful tourism. All who register must presume that the trip will not be cancelled.

I'd like to go, but I don't have a roommate to share the cost. What can I do?

You can either pay the single occupancy supplement of \$1,000 or be willing to be assigned a roommate if one is available. That will depend, of course, on the number of solo travelers of the same sex, but Peregrino will keep track of who needs roommates and coordinate as needed. If a roommate is available but is refused, the traveler will be required to pay the single supplement. And if there is an odd number of pilgrims and no roommate can be found for a single traveler, the single supplement must be paid, with the latest registrant(s) being obligated to purchase a single room. If non-spouses or non-family members would like to share a room with another pilgrim, they must each communicate said intent to Peregrino in an e-mail.

Can I reserve a place even though I have not paid in full?

You can reserve your place only by making a \$1,000 deposit.

What about travel insurance?

Peregrino Tours Ltd. does not offer travel insurance. But for the protection of our pilgrims we recommend they purchase travel insurance. Recommendations are linked on our website. These recommendations are not an endorsement of any company but only the result of prior travelers' experiences. By registering for the trip you are acknowledging that you will either purchase insurance or, having been advised of that option, have chosen not to purchase it.

Why would I want travel insurance?

Insurance is a good idea for those who have an unpredictable medical condition and for those who have a family member whose ill health, or even death, may preclude going on the pilgrimage. Travel insurance must normally be purchased shortly after registering for the trip. It normally cannot be purchased close to the date of departure, or it may be priced exorbitantly.

Can I use airline miles or points and pay only a ground price?

Peregrino prefers that all pilgrims fly together both to and from their destination and arrive at, and leave from, their hotel together. Solo travelers often require special transport and communication needs, miss meals and tours, and otherwise compromise the quality of the trip for themselves and others. Nonetheless, Peregrino will allow experienced travelers to pay a **ground only price** for the Holy Land pilgrimage, but only after November 2, 2023, if availability allows. Solo pilgrims will be responsible for initiating contact with the tour leaders at the arrival airport. Contact us after November 2, 2023 for the ground only price.

What about flight upgrades, special seating requests, and earning miles?

Peregrino organizes its tours based on coach seating. Any desire for business, first class, or economy plus seats, or other upgrades, must be communicated to Peregrino as early as possible. Any and all costs related to upgrades or special seating must be paid by the individual to Peregrino before the upgrade will be confirmed.

Peregrino will try to accommodate friends and family who request to sit together on flights and requests for aisle or window seats, but plane seating is ultimately a decision for each airline and airlines are not always transparent about how seating is apportioned. Peregrino Tours cannot ensure that you will earn miles for your flights but if you do have a frequent flyer # with a major airline please send it with your registration. You can also provide a frequent flyer number at the airport counter when procuring your boarding pass or you can retain your boarding pass and submit it to the airline after the trip. If you are approved for TSA pre-check or Global Entry, please send us your known traveler number when registering or soon afterward.

Where can I exchange U.S. dollars for Israeli Shekels?

Talk to your local bank to see if they offer that service. Otherwise you can change money at O'Hare airport or in Tel Aviv. ATM machines in Israel also accept Visa and Mastercard credit cards and dispense Shekels. Almost all American banks charge a fixed fee for foreign ATM withdrawals and/or a percentage of the amount withdrawn. ATMs in Israel will normally not accept debit cards from regional banks.

How many people can go on this trip?

The limit is 50 people. In case of a dispute over limited spaces, the receipt of the \$1,000 deposit will count as a confirmed registration over an e-mail stating an intention to register.

What about travelers with special needs?

Any pilgrim with special needs or dietary restrictions must inform Peregrino Tours at the time of registration. It will be assumed that a pilgrim has no dietary restrictions unless they state such while registering. There will be considerable walking on the tour so being physically able to stand for long periods and to walk long distances is presumed upon registering. A physically capable companion must accompany travelers who need assistance. Coach buses are not equipped with ramps, so all travelers must be able to mount steps into a bus. Historic buildings and archeological sites are also less handicap accessible than normal buildings.

Can anyone go on the trip?

Although this will be a Catholic focused pilgrimage, non-Catholics are welcome to come. Minors are welcome provided they travel with family. In order to ensure a rewarding, positive, and faith filled experience for all pilgrims, Peregrino Tours reserves the right to reject any guest, either before or during the trip, whose comportment contradicts or is otherwise harmful to the interests of the group.

Will there be a pre-trip meeting?

There may be a non-mandatory pre-trip meeting if enough pilgrims request it, with the date and time to be determined.

What if I have more questions?

Most questions about this pilgrimage can be answered through this information sheet. If you still have questions contact Peregrino at holyland2024@myperegrinotour.com.