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**Bible Lands Tour and European Cruise—Frequently Asked Questions**

**General:**

Weather—similar to LA/OC It can be hot in May. Hot at Masada and Dead Sea (think Palm Springs). Rain unlikely.

Dress—Respectable at Religious sites for Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Women--Cover knees and shoulders. Men-cover heads as well. Good to have a sweater/jacket with you.

Money—Euros fine for Greece and Rome. In Israel, don’t need local currency—use Visa with no foreign transaction fees or use small USD (nothing over $20 bill).

Luggage—Bus space is limited, so one standard suitcase and one carry-on only. No garment bags.

Deposit-- $300 per person (all but $100pp is refundable). Like to have these in by end of October. Visa/MC/AMEX/Disc accepted. Can change options prior to final payment. Constraint is the cruise ship.

Final Payment-- **due 1/10/24**

Inclusions-- Hotels, sightseeing, guides, breakfast and dinner each day, busses (bus to/from LAX included for those purchasing air)

Airlines-- Likely Turkish Air (through Istanbul) because of the cruise portion which leaves from Rome. Likely Aegean Air between Tel Aviv and Athens and Rome. Bag charges and seat assignments on flights TBD.

Airline Upgrades—If you want to upgrade, it is best to book on your own and do the land only portion. It is possible within our reservations, but it would be done at 90 days out and somewhat limited.

Accommodations—European hotels do not always stock wash cloths and separate shampoo/conditioner

Occupancy—Everything is built on single or double occupancy rooms. If you need something different, I will need to check to see if that is possible

Health requirements—Need to be able to walk for 30 minutes at a time without issues. We can manage CPAPs and dietary requirements, but please let me know. Refrigerated insulin is more difficult.

Laundry—Can have laundry done at the Jerusalem hotel, or can hand wash with castile soap

Passport—Needs to be valid until the end of 2024. Anything other than US, please talk to me about requirements. Renewals and applications are taking a long time—start now. Passport copy required with deposit.

VISAs—likely needed based upon the rollout of the ETIAS in Jan 2024. More info later. Easy on-line process <$10. Israel will be handled upon arrival for US passport holders.

Expenses—Lunches $20-25, tips for driver ($6/day)/guides ($4/day), souvenirs, laundry service, snacks, luggage, lockers at water sites, transfers if not purchasing air, etc.

Meal times for lunches--Between 12-2PM each day based upon schedule. In Israel, restaurant picked by tour operator. In Athens/Rome lunch will likely be during a break where you may have multiple choices.

Electrical—I recommend bringing a converter that works in Italy, Greece, and Israel. Multiple plugs used.

Hair dryers—All hotels and the cruise ship have hair dryers, but if this is something very important to you I would bring one from home just to make sure you have what you need.

Here is a good one: [Amazon.com: ALLWEI International Travel Adapter 220V to 110V Step Down Power Voltage Converter for Hair Straightener/Curling Iron, Universal Power Plug Adapter UK, US, AU, EU, IT, India … : Electronics](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07V81Q4XG)

Insurance--Highly recommended. I can help with this though the tour operator or Allianz.

**Israel Portion**

Hotels:

Caesar Premier Hotel or similar - Tiberias - 2 Nights

Olive Tree Hotel or similar - Jerusalem - 4 Nights

Hotels are subject to availability and itinerary days and overnights are subject to change.

Bus size—45ish people. Same bus everyday, A/C, wifi on bus

Whisper devices included

Hotels—refrigerators in rooms

Itinerary notes:

Swimwear—for baptism in Jordan and swimming in the Dead Sea. Charge for lockers at Jordan ($15)/Dead sea($8-10)

Israel only departures—night of 5/22 or morning of 5/23 based upon flight schedules

**European cruise portion**

Hotels:

Hotel Titania or similar - Athens - 2 Nights

Celestyal Olympia - Cruise - 3 Nights

Hotel Cicerone or similar - Rome - 3 Nights

Hotels are subject to availability and itinerary days and overnights are subject to change.

European cruise portion only arrivals—will arrive during the day of 5/22 to Athens. Plaka tour in afternoon before joining rest of group late that evening.

**About the Celestyal Olympia**

Capacity 1664 guests, a former RCL ship

Rooms—oceanview. Can upgrade to a Suite/balcony based upon availability

No refrigerators in oceanview cabins

Electrical outlets—European—need a converter

Optional—spa and casino

Whispers included on tours

Food—included

Drinks—Beer/wine/soda/coffee/tea/iced tea/juices with meals. Can purchase a premium package for spirits or pay extra for individual drinks

Wifi-package can be purchased on board. Roughly $25 for 3 hours.

Excursions—Extra cost/on your own for Santorini, Mykonos, and Heraklion. Can be purchased onboard.

Port charges and gratuities—included

**Athens**

Visiting Parthenon and Mars Hill

Whispers included

**Rome**

Visiting Sistine Chapel inside

Visiting Vatican inside

Visiting/tour Pantheon and Coliseum

Viewing the Forum from the outside

Whispers included