

While in the shop you are exposed to the merchandise on his shelves, and as a result of his "con" you spend more time there than in some other shop that you might have preferred. The merchant might try to make friends with you, by asking you personal questions and telling you something about himself. Before you become aware of this emotional manipulation, he'll be offering you his wares "for a special price" that he "only gives to personal friends". Only later will you discover that what you bought (or didn't buy) was definitely NOT a bargain, and that your help wasn't needed. Most people, including myself, may realize what has happened only after some time has passed, and then we feel cheated and misused.

2. The "beautiful beggar". On the steps leading from Mamilla Street to Jaffa Gate, you will probably pass a miserable woman sitting in the hot sun with an insect-ridden baby in her lap. Of course you feel terribly sorry for these poor women and babies and offer them money. This may be especially true because the beggar-woman, in her Oriental clothes, looks so positively Biblical! We have all been taken in by these wretched-looking women and infants. I, too, have given them money, only to learn much later, on a television expose, that the women may have more money than the merchants in the bazaar! The babies are often not their own, instead they are hired out from other women. Of course it isn't such a bad thing to give money to a beggar, but just think how these babies are being abused! This is a very real dilemma. On one hand, you may be giving money to someone who makes more than you do. And, at the same time, you are aiding and abetting child abuse. But perhaps the baby and the "beautiful beggar" are the only breadwinners in their families. They may be supporting two whole families!
3. The man with the red ribbons. This particular trick usually takes place in the Jewish quarter of the Old City, or just outside of Dung Gate. A young man with a bunch of red ribbons approaches you, and before you understand what is going on he ties a red ribbon on your wrist, murmurs some prayer, and asks you for a donation. If you hesitate and question him, he'll claim that the donation is for needy families. If you ask WHICH families, he may become really aggressive. This, of course, makes you doubt his motives. You might do best just to avoid anyone holding red ribbons. . . (sometimes they look more like shoelaces, but they are definitely RED!)
4. The boys who sell you postcards. This trick is not unique to Jerusalem's Old City. Many people say that the kids selling postcards in the streets are pickpockets. I, myself, have not seen them picking anyone's pocket, but a little extra caution can't hurt!

HOW TO BARGAIN IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

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Shopping in the Old City of Jerusalem is a fascinating experience because there are so many exotic sights to see and so many new and tantalizing fragrances to smell. As you walk the narrow lanes and alleyways you pass platters of mouth-watering Oriental foods and gaze hungrily at the unusual goods which line the shelves. Hand-carved wooden camels, silver jewelry, beautiful Oriental blouses and skirts, one striking crucifix after another, Armenian tiles and plates, even a decorative Star of David!

But how much should you give the shopkeeper? Should you pay what he asks, or should you try your hand at bargaining the merchant down? This is the Middle East, so of course you will want to haggle a bit. In order to bargain you need to know something about the culture here, the customs, and the way that people banter. Then - and only then - will you come away with really reduced prices. Ready to study the art of bargaining? Here we go!

First of all, remember that it is legitimate to bargain. You are not being discourteous if you do not agree to the price suggested by the merchant. Just politely make an offer.

Here is an example of a negotiation in which everyone comes out on top. Let's say you want to buy one of the beautiful chess sets you see in the stores. You ask the price. The shopkeeper says: "One hundred dollars." You can assume that he doubled the price because you look like a tourist, so you answer: "I can spend only fifty dollars on it, is that ok with you?" The merchant will then answer: "For you - seventy dollars!" Now it is your turn to give a little. Raise the price you have offered and tell him, for example, "How about fifty-five?" He then reduces his offer and suggests you pay sixty-five. Now it is your turn again. If you want to bring this to a successful conclusion, make a new offer. You might say sixty, or maybe fifty-six. (It is up to you to decide whether to raise your offer by one dollar or by five).

At the end of this long (and pleasurable) exchange, you meet somewhere in the middle, between his high offer of one hundred dollars and your low offer of fifty dollars. The final result depends on how patient and friendly you are. A long negotiation can take hours, with a lot of small talk in between suggestions. Meanwhile, the merchant might offer you a cup of coffee or tea, tell you about his family and ask about yours, and if you are in no hurry, this can be a real experience - giving you a taste of Oriental culture.

You may find bargaining so much fun that you try haggling outside of the Old City. However, in most parts of Jerusalem prices are fixed in advance and even displayed on each piece of merchandise. This is great for consumers who want to compare prices, but isn't much fun for tourists who like interactive shopping.

Beware of tricks

I don't really think that there are more con artists in the Old City than there are in the New. On the contrary, perhaps, modern marketing and advertising are as "tricky" as can be... taking advantage of our emotions, trying to convince us to buy products that we don't really want. But there are a few ploys common to the Old City that you should look out for as you wander through the streets:

1. Someone asks for help. You may be stopped and asked to write something down for him in English (or German, or Japanese) because he doesn't know the language. You are asked to accompany this person to his shop, which is usually off the main tourist track - not on the well-traveled streets of the Old City bazaar. There he hands you a pen and paper and asks you to write something out for him.

Your Free Day in Jerusalem

Here are some excellent locations we recommend for your free day in Jerusalem. Remember, do not go exploring alone, and keep your wallet and other valuables stored where pick-pockets cannot reach them!

The Old City

Outside the Walls:

- **Zedekiah's Cave** (exit the Old City through the Damascus gate and follow the wall to the right for 100m. to the entrance, open daily 10am-4pm)
- **The City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel** (SSE of the Old City in the City of David, offered as an organized free-day option)

Jewish Quarter:

- **Ophel Archeological Gardens** (located inside the Dung Gate, the site encompasses the southern approach to the Temple Mount, including the S. Temple Steps)
- **The Burnt House** (in the Jewish Quarter at 2 Tiferet Yisrael St., the ruin of an ancient house that was burned when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD)
- **The Western (Wailing) Wall**
- **The Cardo** (an ancient shopping market that still runs from the Jewish Quarter to Damascus Gate)
- **The Arab Bazaar** (on David St., bisecting the Jewish Quarter and Moslem Quarter, running SW to Jaffa Gate)
- **Herodian Quarters** (ruins of a huge, first century mansion, the home of a wealthy Pharisee or Sadducee; beneath the Ysheva institute)

Walls and Gates:

- **Old City Wall Walk:** Take a walk around the Old City on top of the walls (Two sections running both North and South, beginning at the Jaffa Gate, may be offered as an organized option)
- **Citadel and Museum** (located in the NE Tower of the Jaffa Gate)

Christian Quarter:

- **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** (in the center of the Christian Quarter)

Elsewhere in Jerusalem

- **Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book** (located at Gavat Ram, a couple miles W of the Old City)
- **Yad Vashem** (Israel Holocaust Memorial, located about 6 mi. SW of the Old City)
- **Ben Yehuda Street** (outdoor mall located a half mile W of the Old City and N of the Hotel)
- **Rockefeller Museum** (NE of the Old City, 1 Suileman St., corner of Jericho Rd.)

Places you will be seeing later...

Moslem Quarter:

- St. Anne's Church / Pool of Bethesda
- Antonia Fortress
- Via Dolorosa
- Golgotha / Garden Tomb

caust, the treatment of Palestinian prisoners, "military applications of nuclear energy", religion, and anti-Semitic jokes.

- Do not leave ANY possessions (backpacks, etc.) unattended, as it will be treated by security as a potential danger and disposed of. Avoid any object that does not seem to have an owner.

Good to Know

- Taxis: If you take a taxi, be sure to agree with the driver *in advance* on the fare per person or for all concerned. Make sure he starts his meter when you get in the cab—it is the law.
- Baptism: If you plan to be baptized in the Jordan River, bring a change of clothes or swimsuit for the occasion. For a few dollars you can rent a baptismal robe to wear over your clothes or swimwear, a towel, and you will receive a baptismal certificate. If you choose not to rent a robe, you must wear a modest tee shirt over your swimwear.
- Electricity: You will need a European-style adaptor for Israel. If you plan to use any electrical appliances (curling irons, etc.), be sure to bring the proper converter as well. All current in Israel is 220.
- Rest Rooms in Israel are typically identified as the "WC".
- A good "Shalom" goes a long way.
- Bring a compact, good quality umbrella.
- Some people have found a small digital recorder very useful (for personal comments, teachings, etc.).
- **Read your Bible**; there is no better place on earth to study it. Rather than bringing a large study Bible, consider packing a smaller, more portable version.

Clever Ideas...

- Zip-lock bags are always useful, especially for your collections of artifacts and rocks.
- Mesh bags are handy for loose items, toiletries, dirty laundry, etc.
- A sturdy mailing tube is helpful for packing posters and art in your suitcase
- Extra eyeglasses and your eyeglasses prescription
- Spot remover: "Shout" makes a spot remover wipe that comes in small packets.
- Wrinkled clothing: Rather than packing a travel iron, "Fabreeze" (or similar product) is handy for eliminating wrinkles. Bring some in a small spray bottle (available at a local pharmacy).
- Sewing kits are always handy.
- Cough drops (you just never know...!)
- Postcards or pictures of your home town and family (show and tell items for the people you will meet)
- Journal
- For lots of great travel ideas, check out: www.ricksteves.com. It is not a Christian website, but it contains many helpful hints for your journey.

Some useful words in Hebrew

Hello/Good-bye	Shalom
How are you?	Ma shlomcha
Please	Bevakasha
Thank You	Toda raba
You're Welcome	Allo davar or Bevakasha
Yes	Ken
No	Lo
How much does it cost?	Kama zeh oleh
Where's the bathroom?	Ayfo ha-sherutim
Coca Cola	Coca Cola

(Most Hebrew words are pronounced with the accent on the last syllable)

We recommend that you bring this information with you on your tour as a handy reference. Blessings!

- Israeli tap water is safe and excellent, except at the Dead Sea, where fresh water stations are provided in your hotel.

Shopping

- Jerusalem has the widest variety of souvenirs at the best prices. They take U.S. dollars in Israel, but if you change any dollars into shekels, only use an official moneychanger or an ATM. The current exchange rate is about 3.5 shekels to the dollar.
- Bring lots of one-dollar bills for Jerusalem. Many items cost less than \$5.
- The most reliable stores and restaurants display the emblem of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, recommending these establishments for the reliability of their merchandise and service. The emblem is a simple icon of two men carrying a large cluster of grapes.
- If you buy anything described as "antique," be sure to get a certificate of authenticity from the sales clerk or do not buy it.
- There is a 17% Value Added Tax (VAT) on all merchandise costing more than \$100 (as of the time of this writing). This tax is refundable at the airport as you depart Israel. When you purchase an item, you will be given a special receipt verifying that you paid the VAT. At the airport, go to the booth designated for VAT refunds and fill out the paperwork. You **MUST** present your VAT receipt and show the clerk the actual purchased item, or there can be no refund.

Calling home

- A pre-paid calling card is often the least expensive way to call home. Calling home from your hotel phone without one can cost more than \$5 *per minute*. If you own a GSM or 3G mobile phone, your carrier may have an international calling option that works in Israel. Be aware that international cellular calls to and from Israel can cost between \$1-\$2 *per minute*. You can also rent an international cell phone (see the brochure in your Inspired Travel information packet) which allows free incoming calls and inexpensive outgoing calls, though rental fees can run \$10-\$30 *per week*. If you own a Smart Phones or a laptop computer you can download special applications such as Skype and Vonage, which operate over WiFi and/or existing cellular networks for just pennies per minute.

Internet

- Most Hotels in Israel provide WiFi services or a computer terminal (usually in the lobby) for a nominal fee.

Credit Cards and Traveler's Checks

- Call your Credit Card company or bank and inform them when you will be in Israel (if you don't, they may think your card is stolen and deny your purchases). Foreign transaction fees vary from 1-4% depending on the bank. Most merchants generally frown upon Traveler's Checks, and most shops and falafel stands do not accept credit cards of any kind.

Local Manners and Customs

The People

- Israelis sometimes refer to themselves as the "Sabra," which is the prickly pear of the cactus: rough and prickly on the outside, but soft and sweet in the middle.
- A firm handshake is obligatory upon meeting and departing. Never remain seated when shaking a standing person's hand.
- When speaking directly to an Israeli, always look them in the eye.
- Police wear blue uniforms and usually speak English; paramilitary police (border police/security forces) wear dark green and a beret of similar color, and usually do not speak English.
- Religiosity ranges from Ultra-Orthodox to atheist (around 80% of Israelis consider themselves atheist).

Notable Taboos

- Israelis tend to be very opinionated. Be careful tackling subjects that Israelis might think you presumptuous to discuss. Should you decide to enter into such a dialogue, they will likely assume that you lack knowledge or moral understanding of the subject, and they will tell you so. Subjects of caution: the Holo-

- Modest dress is required at certain locations. Many “holy sites” will not allow you to enter if you are wearing shorts, short skirts, or off-the-shoulder attire.
- Be sure to bring a good pair of walking shoes that you will not mind getting muddy.
- If you plan to visit Hezekiah’s Tunnel (optional), the shaft flows year round with knee-deep water. You will need shorts or quick-drying hiking pants (nylon pants with zip-off legs are best), a flashlight, and a pair of inexpensive pool shoes or sandals that can get wet (no flip-flops).
- If you plan to be baptized in the Jordan River or float in the Dead Sea, be sure to bring a bathing suit.
- Take a moment to read Inspired Travel’s information sheet for additional instructions on packing.

Cameras

- Bring fresh batteries for your camera, or a recharger with the appropriate (European-style) adaptor.
- A camera with “panorama” capabilities is a real plus.
- Digital Cameras: be sure to bring a large enough storage card to accommodate all your photos and MPEGs (most people will take 500-1000 images). SD cards in Israel are often hard to find and expensive.
- Film Cameras: buy your film in the U.S.—it is a LOT cheaper. FIGURE AT LEAST ONE ROLL OF 36 PER DAY (some people have used as many as 30 rolls on this tour).
- If you take pictures of Arab children or someone’s camel, expect to be asked for money.
- A camera can become a barrier between you and your experience with the Lord, the land, and the people. Don’t miss out.

At the airports

- The airlines that fly in and out of Israel maintain very high security. Do not be intimidated by questions posed by the security agents. You will be asked a variety of questions about yourself, your luggage, and your traveling companions. This is for your safety—just answer truthfully, and no jokes, please.
- Never turn your back on your luggage: it is amazing how quickly it can vanish.

On the plane

- You will be on the plane for at least 15 hours each way. Take frequent walks around the aircraft and get to know your traveling companions. Drink plenty of water and juices, and avoid caffeine.
- Bring a good book.
- An inflatable “horseshoe collar” neck pillow, blindfold, and some earplugs can help you sleep a lot better.
- A good rule for carry-on luggage is “smaller is better.” Pack your toothbrush and some “Wash-N-Dry’s”—they will make your flight a lot more tolerable.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing on the plane—it will add great comfort to your journey.

In Israel

Hotels

- Services: Your hotels provide a variety of services. The tour pays for all your hotel taxes and tips, along with breakfasts and dinners served in the hotel dining rooms. If you partake of any additional services such as room service, laundry, or outside phone calls, you will be billed accordingly and must pay at the front desk when you check out. You are also responsible for any additional tips these services may incur.
- Laundry: All our hotels offer laundry services that will clean and press your clothes for a dollar to five dollars *per garment*. Many people, however, like to do their own laundry in the sink or bathtub (you will need to bring your own detergent). Most hotels provide a clothesline that extends across the bathtub.

Food

- Israeli food is excellent. We provide all breakfasts and dinners, and four lunches. Soft drinks at some hotels and establishments cost extra. When dining out, prices are generally reasonable, and you can spend as little or as much as you want, but budget meals are often the best. Try the falafels, shwarmas, or hummus with vegetables: each is an entire meal, inexpensive, and fattening!
- Important cultural advice about the food: do not order milk or any other dairy products with meat or poultry—it’s not “kosher” and as a rule will not be served. Other foods that you will not find available are pork products and shellfish.

Israel

Traveler's Aid

Shalom! Welcome to the 2009 Northern California Israel Tour. This guide contains important information and travel tips that we hope will make your journey easier and more enjoyable. Happy travels, and Blessings!

Getting Ready

- **Pray.** Ask God to do a wonderful work in your heart and in the lives of all who will be joining you as you tour the land of His promise. Pray that you and your fellow travelers will come to know Him more intimately and understand His Scriptures more completely.
- **Get in shape!** When you are not relaxing in our touring coach, you will be doing a lot of walking over uneven terrain, usually with many stairs. Take frequent walks before you depart. Though we usually arrive at our hotels by 5:00 p.m., we arise each day by 6:30 a.m., so be aware that you will not get as much rest on the tour as you might expect.
- There are no vaccination requirements for visitors entering Israel.

Some "do's"

- Keep your passport on your person at all times. Misplacing or losing your passport can result in serious delays and costs. Never store your passport or any important items in your pocket or purse, as tourists are targets for pickpockets. Secure your passport, ID, credit cards, and any large bills in an around-the-neck wallet, money belt, or similar article (Samsonite makes a variety of styles). These are difficult to lose, have stolen, and they are easily accessible.
- Hide a photocopy of the first two pages of your passport in your luggage.
- While touring, always stay with your group, and be aware of where they are heading. Though you may discover something interesting along the way, it could cause you to lag behind and become separated.

...And some "don'ts"

- Never leave valuables (jewelry, cash, mobile phones, cameras, SD cards, etc.) in your hotel room, even if they are locked in your suitcase. It is best to leave valuables at home and keep your journey simple. All hotels have a safe at the front desk where important items can be secured, and most hotels provide a personal safe in your own room.
- Never leave the group for any reason without telling someone where you are going. If you decide to go out after hours, always tell someone in your tour group where you are going and when you intend to return. The streets in Israel are quite safe, but you should not go off by yourself.

Packing your suitcase

- It is easy to over-pack for such a journey. Our tour operator wisely suggests that you "pack the absolute minimum, then bring half of it." Spread out everything you plan to bring on the living room floor. Pick up each item one at a time and ask yourself, "Will I use this item enough to justify lugging it around for twenty thousand miles?" Minimize by bringing less and washing more.
- For most airlines, the new maximum weight per checked bag may not exceed 50 lbs, or you will be charged an extra fee. Please note that most airlines also charge for a second checked bag (per person).
- The weather can range from warm and dry to cold and wet. Bring layers and remove or add them as needed. Rather than packing a bulky coat, try a simple lightweight, water-resistant windbreaker. It takes up little space, and when worn over a few layers of lighter clothing it will keep you warm and dry.