

# Experience the Holy Land

## Tips on preparing for your Holy Land trip

- **Get your deposit in**

If you are serious about going, this is the best way to secure your interest in a trip and keep updated information and options before you. Many times, there are extra things that can be done to enhance a trip *for those who are already going* (EX: extensions/changing the itinerary). Also, getting a deposit in *early* could **save you money** (EX: early bird discounts)

- **Start saving for your trip now**

*Different* trips at different times have different expenses. Some things for you to consider are:

- the cost of the trip itself (the largest expense)
- other travel arrangements involved in getting to the airport of departure (flight, rental, bus, etc.)
- taxes, security fees, tips and other miscellaneous fees (not included in the cost of the trip)
- money for lunches (breakfast or breakfast/dinner may be figured in with the cost of the trip but normally during the day you are far from the hotel and lunch is on the road, bring small snacks)
- optional extensions to other countries (an extra couple of days when you're already over there)
- spending money for souvenirs (you did want to bring something back beside pictures right? Have some \$5 and \$1 bills for that quick deal walking between sites – US Customs allows for \$400)
- buy your EXTRA (EXTRA) film and batteries HERE (in the USA – trust me on this!)

- **Obtain your birth certificate**

If you are *uncertain* as to where and how to get one, see “Where to Write for Vital Records” at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm> This process could take anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 months depending upon your state of birth. If you need it done more quickly, this service can normally be expedited (for an extra fee). Even if you are not traveling internationally it is good to have proof of your birth.

- **Obtain two identical, recent passport photos**

Just any photo will not do. There are certain guidelines for passport photos (see [http://travel.state.gov/passport/guide/composition/composition\\_874.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/guide/composition/composition_874.html)). The easiest thing to do is look for a local place that provides this service and have the photos made there. This process can normally be done in a few hours or within 1 day.

- **Apply for a passport**

Even if you do not see an immediate use for a passport, having one ready to go is a good thing as the process usually takes 6-8 weeks (without expediting). You can expedite the service (for an extra fee). Information on applying (or renewing or replacing) your passport can be found at: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

- **Visa information**

Different countries have different visa requirements for entering their country. In our case, most of this is taken care of by a tour company. However, as you travel internationally, it is nice to know for yourself what requirements there are for traveling to other countries. For more information see [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures\\_1229.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html)

- **Make multiple copies of your identification**

This really is a good idea. Keep one set at home in a safe. Have one set in your luggage in a different place than your originals. You never plan for anything to go wrong and you never plan to lose anything like this, however, it is wise to plan ahead, be ready (just in case) and feel confident you've covered the unexpected as much as you possibly can.

- **Check my website for upcoming trip information and other product info**

You can keep in touch with me on tour information by email or checking a website that I've created just for this purpose. More trips and products may become available as time goes by. For more information see: <http://www.holywordcafe.com/tours/> or email me at: [tours@holywordcafe.com](mailto:tours@holywordcafe.com).

- **Did I mention start saving for your trip?**

Get ready for a once in a lifetime experience. “Experience the Holy Land”

*Recommendations by: Chuck Louviere 2005*