

Booking your Israel flight
ICOM/ Crossroads Israel Tour
March 14-25, 2018

(If you are coming from Crossroads Church in GA, you will want to check first with the church office to see about availability on their Group Purchase of tickets).

Destination: You will fly into Tel Aviv, Israel (TLV) as this is the only airport in Israel. You will need to leave the USA on March 14th to arrive on the 15th. Our tour starts the morning of the 16th.

Flight options: There are basically two major routes for flying to Tel Aviv. (I prefer using the TRAVELOCITY web site to find these... but there are a number of good travel web sites).

The first route is to fly to the East coast, connect to a 9-hour flight to Europe (Munich, Amsterdam, Frankfurt etc.) and then connect to a 4-hour flight to Tel Aviv. (From the Midwest you usually go to Newark, JFK, or Chicago etc. for this 9-hour Europe flight.) This route is usually about 3-6 hours longer as you have a lay over in Europe. Some people prefer this route as your longest flight is the 9 hours over the ocean and then you have a break before the next 4 hours. Total flight time is usually between 18-22 hours.

The second route is to fly into Newark or JFK or Philadelphia and get a straight flight from there into Tel Aviv (usually United, Delta, or El Al airlines). This flight is 11 hours direct from Newark (or JFK) and usually totals from around 14-19 hours. I prefer this flight, but it is an 11 hours direct flight... and for some that can be a long time sitting without getting out of the plane to stretch or walk.

Booking to Israel: You lose a day as Israel is 7-8 hours ahead of our time zones... so you will book the flight on March 14 and arrive the 15th.

Returning from Israel: You return home the same day you leave as you gain 7-8 hours in flight. You will want to book your return flight the evening of March 24th or the morning of the 25th. We finish at noon on the 24th with free time in the afternoon of the 24th. A lot of flights leave at 11 pm so check the evening of the 24th when booking. Do not book anything before 8 pm on the 24th. If you leave on the 25th in the morning... you will arrive home that same day.

Best flights: I prefer the flights that get into Tel Aviv around 1-4:30 pm in the afternoon, as this gets me to the hotel by about 6 pm. I can get a shower, have supper and then get a great nights rest to start touring the next day. If you arrive in the morning hours... you need to stay awake for the whole day so that you get in the rhythm of the new time zone. **IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BOOK YOUR FLIGHT TO ARRIVE IN THE AFTERNOON AROUND 1-4:30 PM... AND THEN YOU CAN CATCH OUR GROUP BUS TO OUR HOTEL, which leaves after the 4:30 PM flights.** However,

if you find a better flight for you, that arrives at a different time... we will give you clear directions on how to get a cab to the hotel for the first night. Our hotel will be the Season's Hotel in Netanya, about 90 minutes north, and the cab is about \$100 for two people. Everyone needs to be at the hotel the evening of March 15th.

Average ticket costs: Tickets usually run around \$1200-\$1800 economy and \$4000-\$6000 business class. Usually in the late Fall or early Winter they may drop the prices if they are not too full... but March is the beginning of the peak season, so I'd buy them as soon as you feel comfortable with the price. They can fill up or you won't get the seat you want... and sometimes it is hard to get good connections.

Arriving early or staying late: If you choose to arrive a day or two earlier, or stay an extra day or two afterwards... you will need to book your own extra night hotel and travel arrangements. We have reserved hotel rooms for everyone the last night of March 24th, even if you fly out early that evening... as that allows you to clean up and rest before your flight home.

Cautions: Make sure you have at least 2 hours of connection time on the East Coast (especially if flying from the Midwest... as I have missed my International east coast connection a couple of times as the Midwest flights are notorious for being late.) If uncertain, book an earlier flight to the east coast and just enjoy some time in the airport while you wait for your overseas flight.

Let us know: As soon as you book your flights, please fill in all your flight details online on your registration form on the registration web site.

Please give me (Dann Spader) a call at 630-740-0925 if you have any questions or contact Dave Empson or Ken Adam's office.