

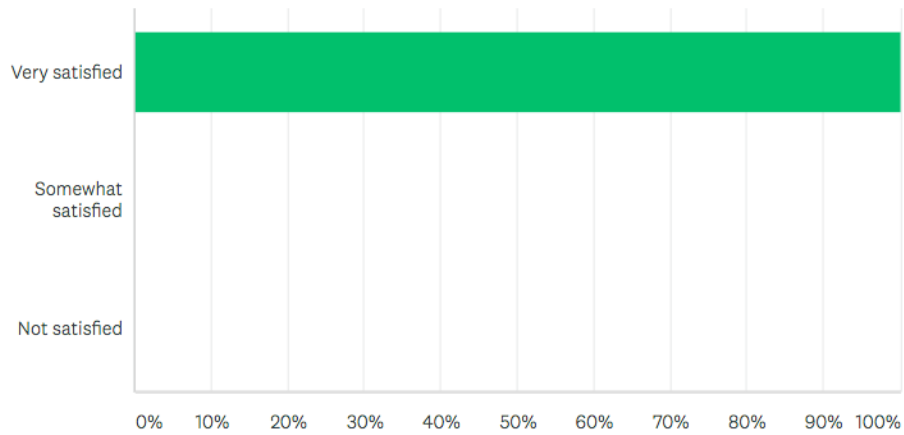


In their own words, here's the advice travelers from our June 2017 "Ingleside" trip have to offer future travelers with Experience Israel Now. This anonymous survey was sent out just two days after our trip and *every household responded to it*. Therefore, you won't find fresher or more honest opinions about getting ready for the trip physically, how travelers felt about safety, and even how much money you should take with you.

If you're headed to Israel with EIN in the near future, read these results carefully!

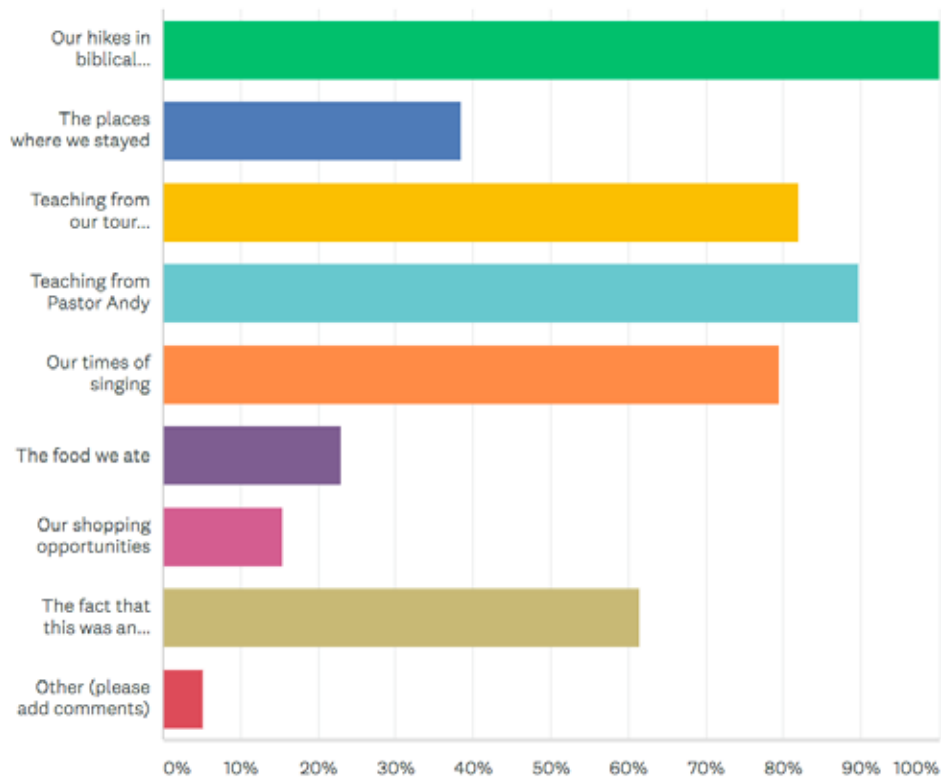
In general, how satisfied were you with our biblical study tour of Israel?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



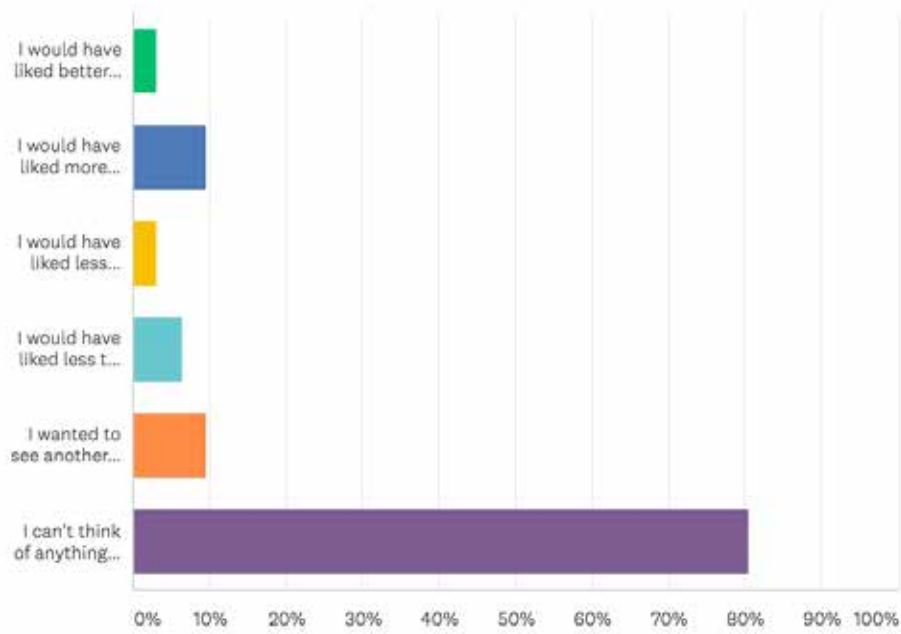
What were some of the things you enjoyed the most about your tour?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



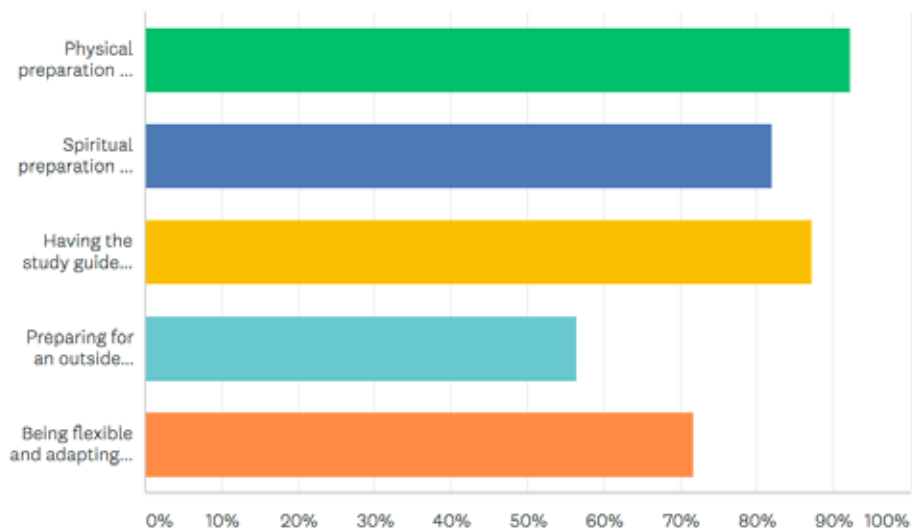
What could have made our experience better?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 8



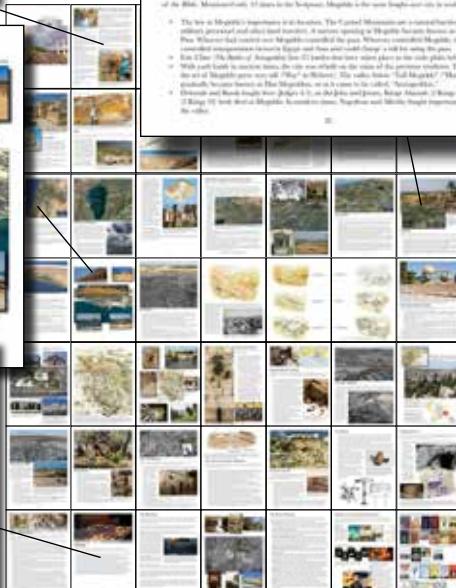
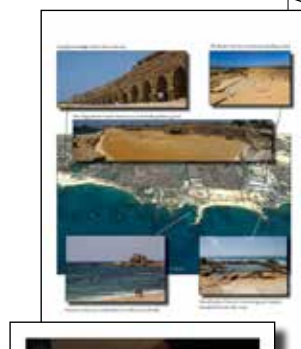
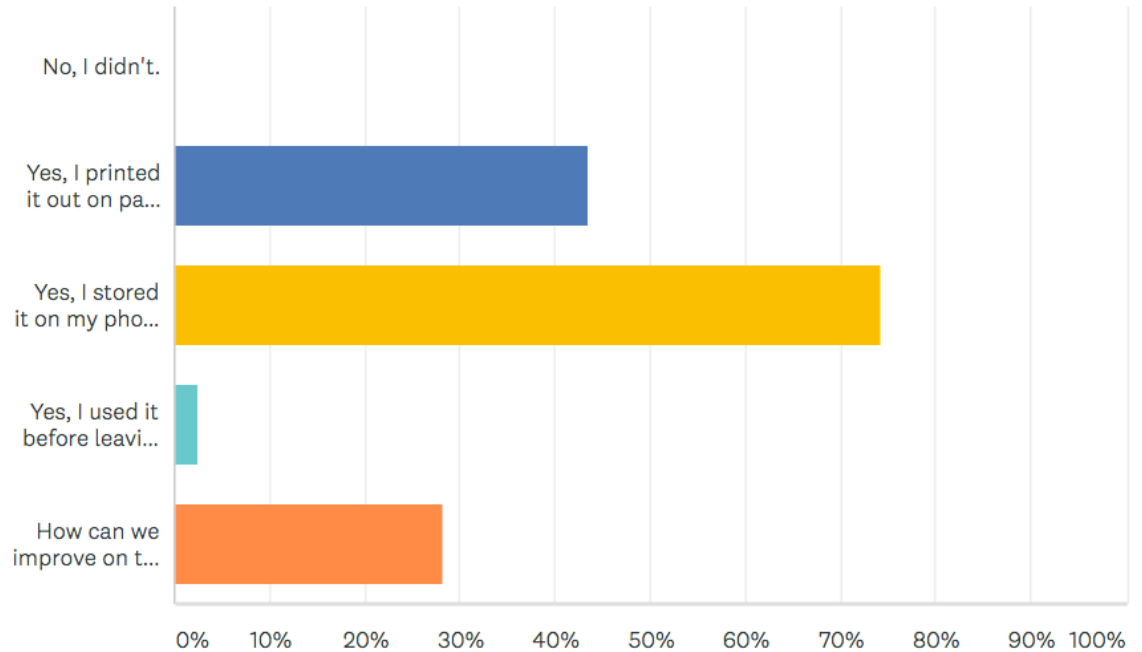
How would you encourage other travelers to prepare for their own trip to Israel with Experience Israel Now?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



Did you use the prepared study guide?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0

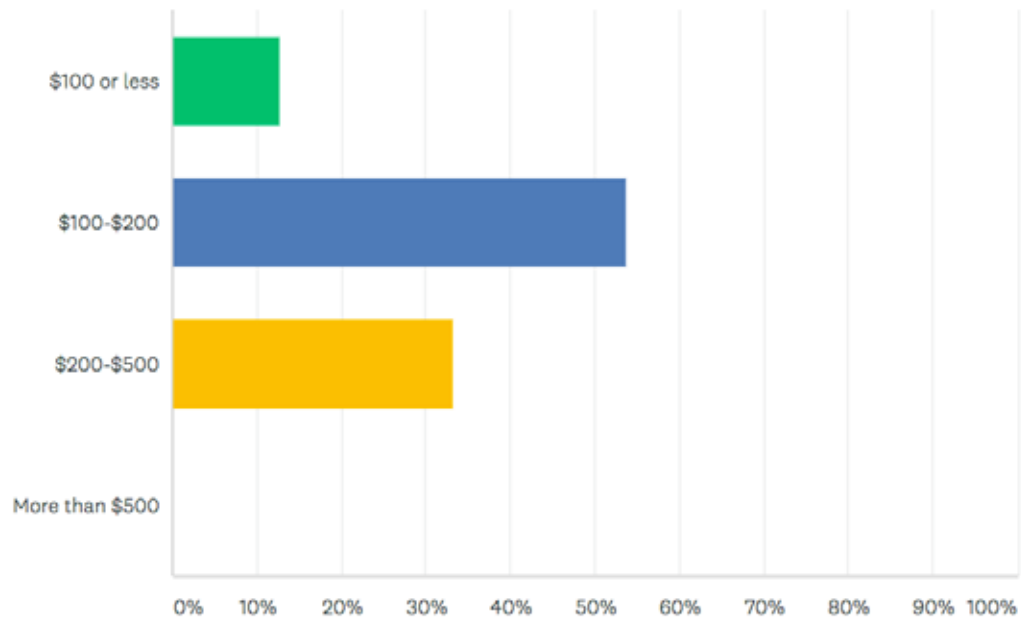


A note on our unique study guides:

You'll get a personalized study guide designed just for your trip in a few weeks. You can print it out on paper, store it on a phone or other electronic device ... or both. You'll find it to be an incredible aid in understanding what we see each day.

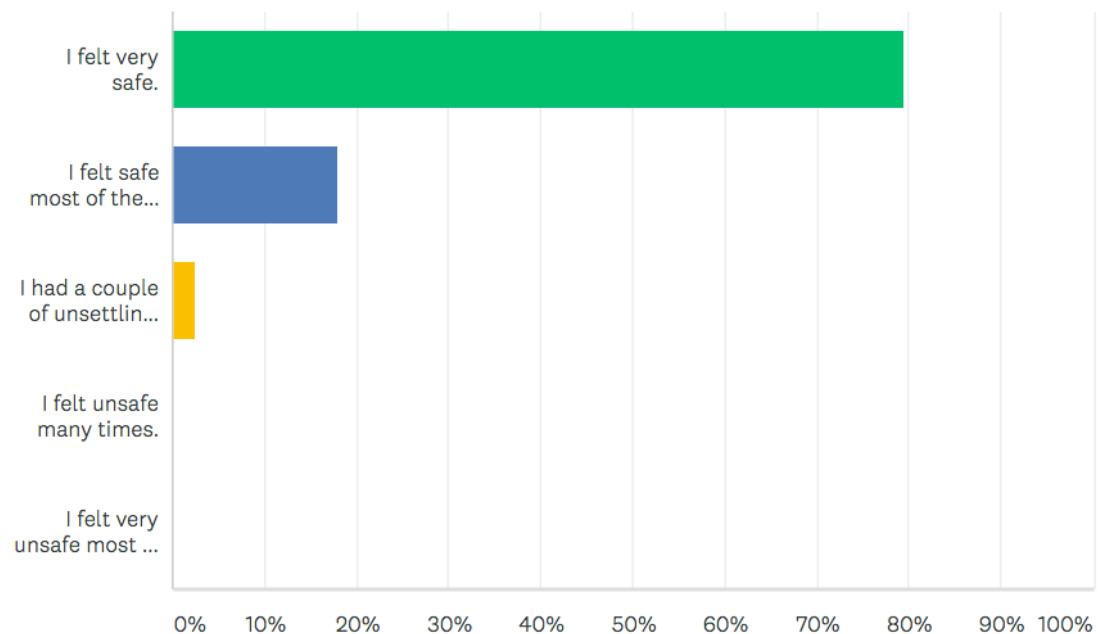
How much cash would you suggest future travelers take with them for incidental expenses and souvenirs?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



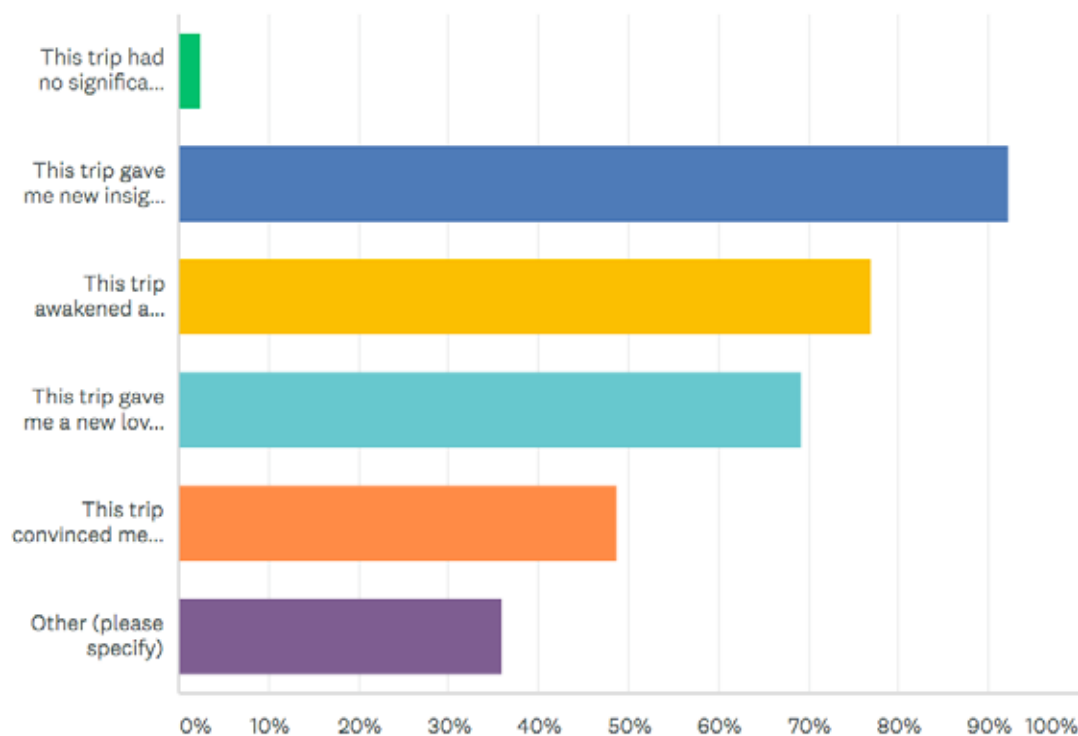
Did you feel safe in Israel?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



Please tell us about the impact this trip made on your life.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

“... We will never be the same.”

“The entire trip was amazing!”

“The combination of going with church family, worshiping on site, and applicable teaching from Andy in each site in addition to the thought put into the progressive route we took made this trip incredibly meaningful. Not only were relationships built and strengthened, but the land of the Bible came alive and I was inspired to purpose to reflect Jesus more accurately in my thoughts and through my actions. Thank you Andy Cook!!!”

“Andy’s commentary along with the knowledge of our guide Boaz were invaluable.”

“Amazing! Powerful! Life changing! We will never be the same.”

“The attention to detail was impressive. And your and Boaz’s passion for the work was exhilarating.”

“Through the hiking, my appreciation was expanded for what the Israelites and Jesus’ disciples experienced in that terrain. It was so nice to have a clean, comfortable hotel to refresh for the next day. Worship in so many of the different sites was especially meaningful - in a way it connected us with Christ and His disciples across the ages. The breakfast and dinner buffets were delicious! Fruit and veggies in Israel this time of year were amazing.”

“An amazing opportunity which will change my perspective on the Bible and my faith forever.”

“We loved that our time on the bus was limited. Getting out and hiking, putting our feet on the ground, sweating!, brought it all home. We loved your teaching, Andy, Boaz’s insight, and of course our own beloved Pastor Tim. Worship with Clay was so very special. You were the dream team!”

“Scriptures shared. The order in which we toured, beginning in the desert and ending at the empty tomb. Additional comments and teaching from Pastor Tim.”

“Free time in the evening Daily wrap ups.”

“The final day and the Mount of Precepice were especially spiritually meaningful.”

“Starting early in the day, before it got too hot was so smart. Ending in time to shower and rest before supper was really important.

Unfortunately I didn’t have the energy to journal each night but I am **LOVING** reviewing the trip in my mind as I look at pictures, review Andy’s itinerary information, and use maps and other reference books to solidify where we went and what we saw.”

“A little more time to enjoy the Mediterranean would have been nice. I also think having the guide (not Andy) wear a microphone would be immensely helpful for a group the size of ours.”

“Overall a very good plan. Some folks love to hike as a challenge, and as something to accomplish. Others may not like hiking, or not be physically able to do so. I personally can hike when there is a clear purpose, and have done so on many very challenging Mission Trips, however I do not enjoy hiking for the sake of hiking, and have never enjoyed it even in my much younger days. That said, hiking the Jericho road was a real highlight for me and I am very glad we did that, it could not be experienced any other way because the site itself is a road made to travel. ... Your teaching was wonderful. Boaz did a great job as well, and having TIm there was such a great resource.”

“I would have enjoyed more singing! Other than that, I really can’t think of anything that could have been better.”

“Much more than very satisfied.”



“I like the fact that there were some alternatives at times. For example, hiking on Mt. Arbel instead of climbing it and an alternative for Hezekiah’s tunnel.”

“Maybe a little more down time after bigger hikes in the heat. All else was great!”

“(Please increase the) variety of lunch foods. Too much the same every day. I have a strong stomach but got sick one day from lunch food. Large gap in the skills of hikers but I think the leaders handled this well with options in activities. Need to stress to travelers what the requirements are for a hiking tour.”

“Would have liked just a little more shopping time in Bethlehem at a few more shops than just the one.”

“The Israeli history was great--Masada, etc., but. Few other local sites would be great.”

“Eliminate the Temple exhibit and spend less time at holy sepulchre, more time at Gethsemane praying and at garden tomb. Visit Mt Carmel site. Less layover time on the flight. Tell us to wear hiking shoes at Herodium because it was slippery and several people fell wearing tennis shoes The tunnel under the wall was tough for me because of mold allergy, just warn in advance to bring mask.”

“Lots of stair climbing in addition to walking would have been good preparation for this trip.”

“My only regret is that I did not prepare by climbing stairs and/or stadium steps. Horizontal walking on flat roads is not sufficient to prepare for the Mt. Arbel climb.”

“Suggest that travelers prepare physically by climbing as well as distance walking. Spiritual preparation: read passages ahead of time that relate to the places to be visited.”

“I am thankful for the years of in-depth study I have enjoyed. It prepared me to appreciate the sites we saw and their connection to biblical history. I would advise everyone to be purposeful about studying the Old and New Testaments as much as possible before going on this trip.”

“Set some spiritual goals and expect to be spiritually challenged while there.”

“Listen to Andy and believe him that pictures will be provided. Stay with the group! Be ready for any type of adventure and enjoy it to the fullest. Don’t have your own agenda; be open-minded and positive.”

I think physical preparation is a must, and out trip showed there needs to be some type test to be sure people can do what is expected. I suggest a walking test some 9 months before the trip which people must cover a certain distance with certain elevation challenges in a set period of time. This could occur some 90 days after first registration money is received. Anyone serious about the trip can get into reasonable condition for the walking in 90 days. If they cannot or will not, others on the trip should not be held back by them. An objective test,

clearly defined ahead of time, can do a great deal toward resolving any such issues. If anyone registers for the trip after the 90 day period, they should be given 30 days to prepare and be tested. Not trying to be hard on this, but adding work to others, or slowing the progress because of a lack of physical ability or conditioning does not seem proper.



“I did a lot of walking outside on hilly ground - 8 miles a day many days - prior to the trip. I wasn’t prepared for the heat and wished I had walked some stairs before going. The Jericho Road was my hardest day physically not because of the walk itself but because of the heat, but it was also undoubtedly one of my Very Favorite things we did. The heat and the dust and our thirst made it all “real.”

“You did an excellent job of verbally preparing us. If I did it again, I might would rather do a spring tour rather than summer. But, it could not have been more special in spite of the heat.”

“I would encourage (future travelers) to start early to walk and to walk briskly. I walked a lot getting ready but think after we got there my walking was at a slower pace than what we walked on the trip.”

“If you think you are ready, train harder because you will need that strength.”

“Study your Bible! Know the Word. The more you know your Bible the more you will get out of his trip. It will come alive to you but there is so much you have to have a solid foundation to make the most of this experience.”

“Walk hills in the heat with your pack Read all the Bible verses not just the one for you and study the context of the geographic significance.”

“The study guide was super helpful. We read up on where we were going before we visited, and enjoyed reading it again after the visit for a whole new perspective on the information given. Thank you for the accompanying recommended scripture readings. Those jumped off the page for me after we had visited the actual sites referenced!”

“As we were packing we decided to leave the paper copy at home and use our phone and iPad to keep up with the study guide, but wished we had taken the paper copy.”

“Just keep reminding travelers to read (the study guide).”

“I printed a black & white stapled copy. Was very envious of the bound color copies others had printed. My own fault for not doing the same. Wish I had prepared more for connecting the dots.”

“We used our credit cards for purchases on the trip and a limited amount of cash for two taxi rides and incidentals.”

“We spent very little money.”

“Depends on how much coke and ice cream they buy!”

“I felt totally safe.”

“There were a couple of times when we were in Arab territory that I felt tense. Its amazing how you can walk from one area to another and spiritually feel the transition.”

“We stayed in the old city one evening and had to go through the Muslim section at Ramadan to get to the Jewish section and it was very apparent we weren't welcome.”

“I was slightly concerned many months ago about our safety but as the trip approached had complete peace. ... We never felt unsafe.”

“A little uneasy walking through the Arab market.”

“We got caught in a large exposed group a couple of times.”

“I was a little unnerved by the mass of Muslims and their rudeness. I would wear a money belt next time.”

“I am so thankful for the opportunity God gave me to travel to Israel on this trip.

“Words cannot really describe it.

“The most obvious impact was growth of my knowledge of the geography. Learning where one biblical location is in proximity to another gave me such a greater understanding of Bible history. I also gained a much better understanding of the political situation between the Arabs and the Jews. Before this trip I had no idea that Arabs occupied Bethlehem AND a portion of the Old City. I had no idea that the Jews were planning to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. I had no idea that Jordan could be seen from the other side of the Dead Sea, or that Lebanon and Syria were only a narrow land mine field away from Israel’s borders.

“The less obvious (but more important) impact was on my heart.

“As we flew in over the Mediterranean Sea nearing sunset, my emotions were uncontrollable as I realized we were approaching the land of my Savior’s birth, life and sacrificial death for me. Each day, as we heard Andy teach, my heart was challenged to put myself in the shoes of the biblical characters we were learning about. I want to be purposeful about identifying and dropping any Herodian ways from my life. I want to demonstrate the courage and trust that David displayed when he stepped up to an impossible task. I want to avoid “wandering” in any desert, but instead learn from my desert experiences and allow them to strengthen my faith by deepening my spiritual roots (like those of the Acacia trees). I pray that I will have the courage and determination that the Jews of Masada displayed to protect their families. I want to stay away from the “Pans” that surround us in our society, and be used by God to help draw those I love out of them. I want to take myself to “quiet mountaintops” to retreat and pray more often.

“This trip has been at the top of my bucket list for nearly 20 years now. I cannot imagine ever experiencing another trip that has had such an important impact on my life. Thank you EIN for making it so meaningful.”

“This trip made me want to share my experience and learning with others to the extent that I can.”

“I guess my heart was just full of gratitude. I don’t deserve the life that I have in Christ and the blessings that I enjoy in America. I am just so thankful to Jesus for what He did for me. This trip depended my meaning of my confession that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior!”

“Cannot be describe in writing how impactful this trip was, and is. Thanks and Blessings!



There were incredible times primarily in our worship settings that I was just overwhelmed.

“This trip gave deeper meaning to all the scriptures, both old and New Testament! Reading God’s Word will be even more significant and meaningful after having experience and seen Israel!”

“Gaining visuals for so many Biblical places and events is so valuable. I learned so much about Israel and political and Biblical connections.”

“I came home and marked my Bible with all of the scriptures that were quoted! So meaningful! Great trip!!!!”

“The suffering as well as the teachings of Christ Jesus are much more real.”

“Physically seeing the places like Nazareth overlooking the valley was powerful understanding that never comes across from just reading the Bible. Same thing with Mt of olives to the old city thru Kidron valley and imagining Jesus riding up on a donkey fullfilling prophesy and bringing fear to rulers gave a new perspective as to why they wanted to kill him so badly. Seeing Dan reminded me to be thankful for what God chose for me and not envy what others have.”

“WOW! ... The Bible has come to life! We hope to have the privilege of traveling with you again in the future.”