

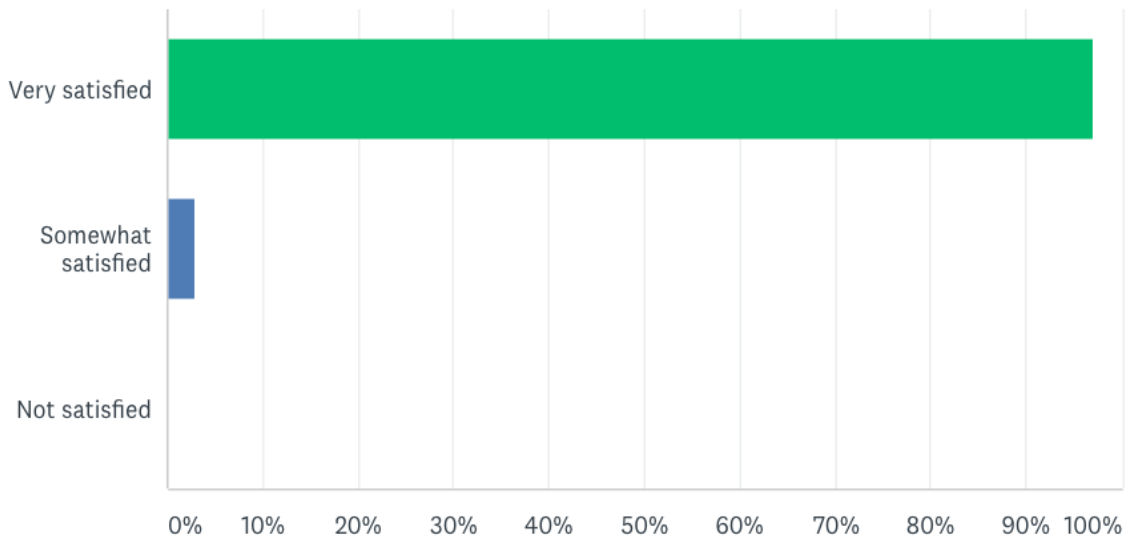


In their own words, here's the advice travelers from our September 2017 "Southside" trip have to offer future travelers with Experience Israel Now. This anonymous survey was sent out just two days after our trip and most of our travelers responded to it. If you're headed to Israel with EIN in the near future, read these results carefully!

Q1

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

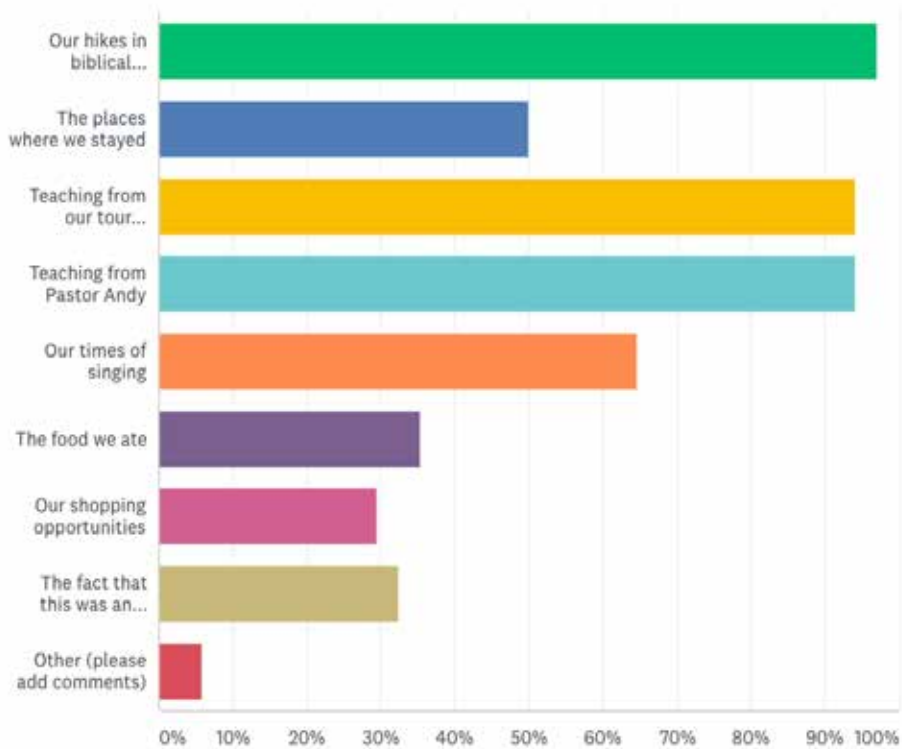
Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



Q2

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

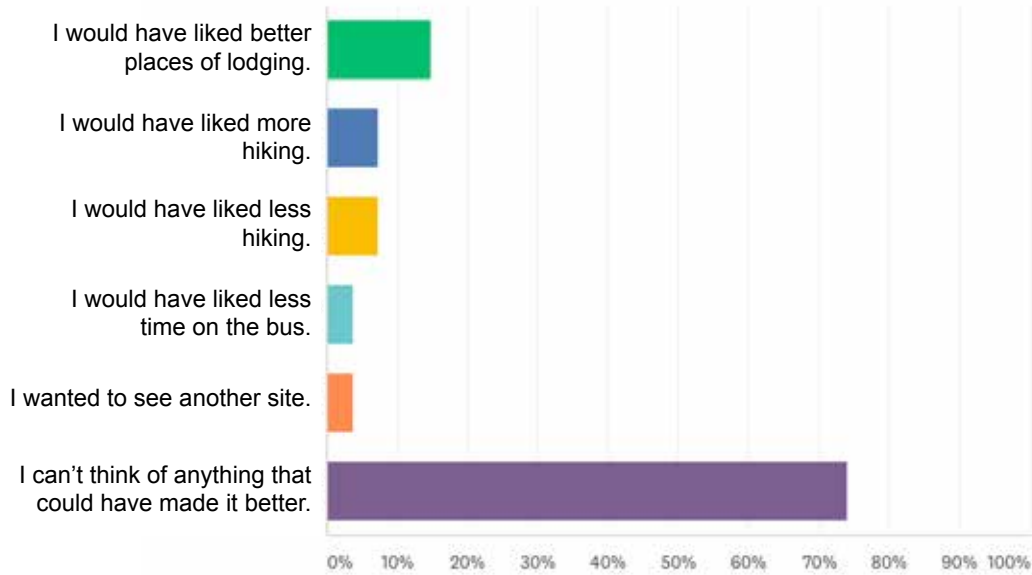
Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



Q3

What could have made our experience better?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 7



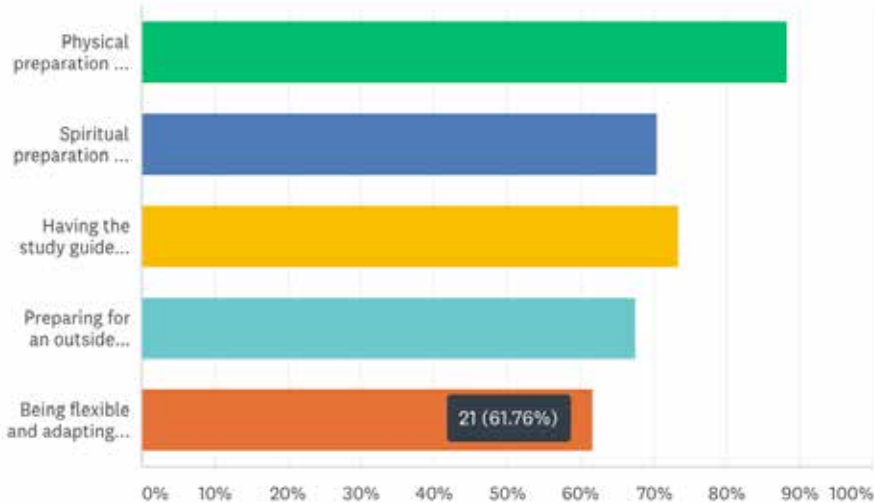
Q4

Customize

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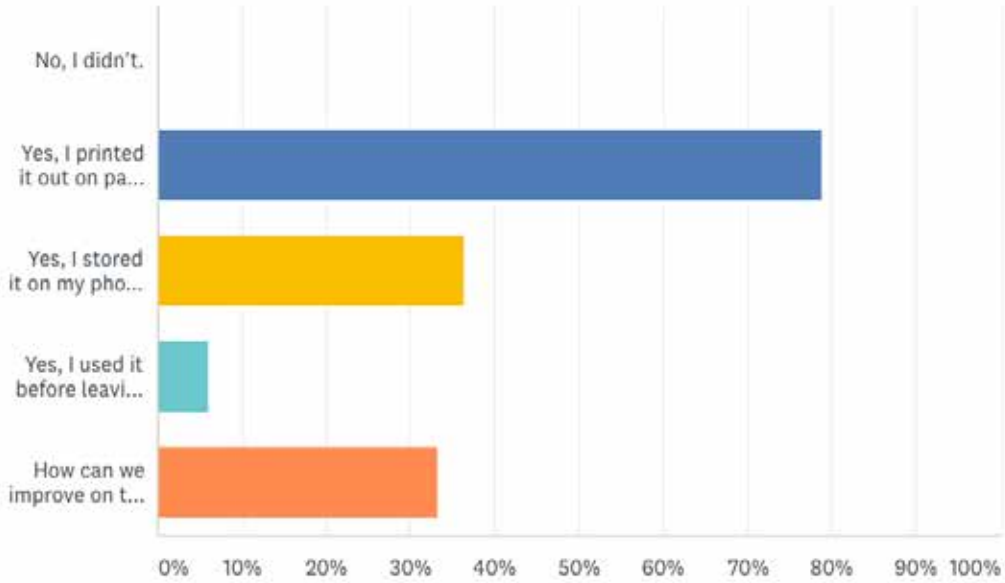
How would you encourage other travelers to prepare for their own trip to Israel with Experience Israel Now?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



Did you use the prepared study guide?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 1



A note on our unique study guides:

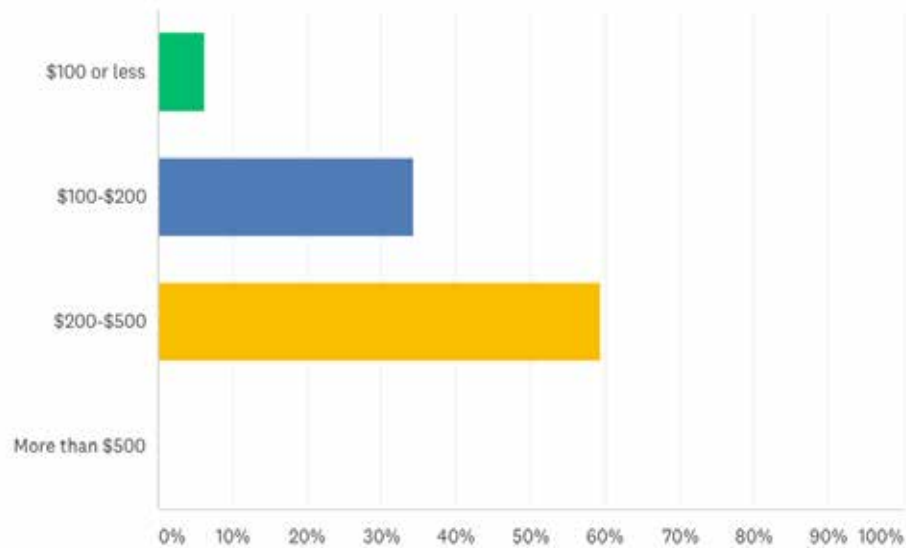
You'll get a personalized study guide designed just for your trip in a few weeks. You can print it out on paper, store it on a phone or other electronic device ... or both. You'll find it to be an incredible aid in understanding what we see each day.

Q6

Custo

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

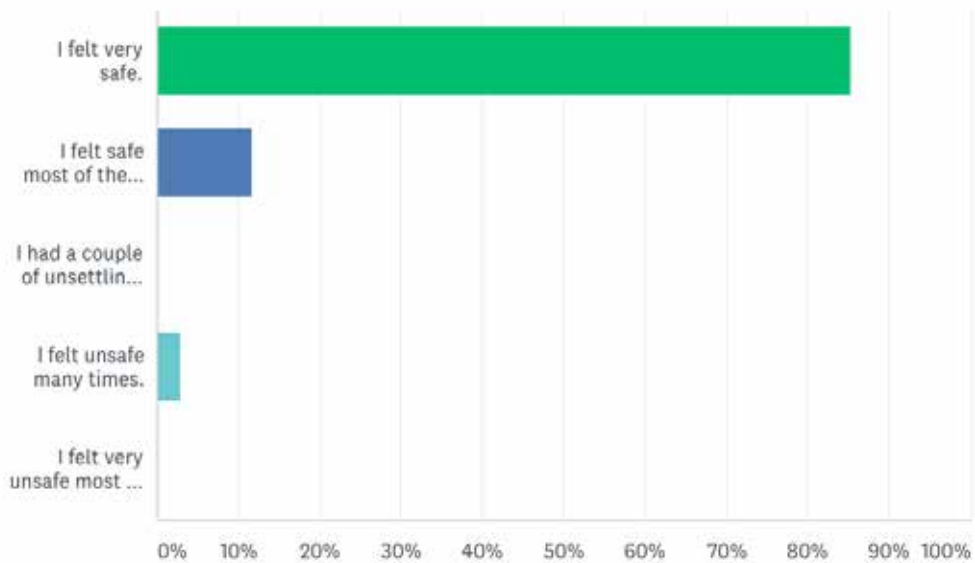
Answered: 32 Skipped: 2



Q7

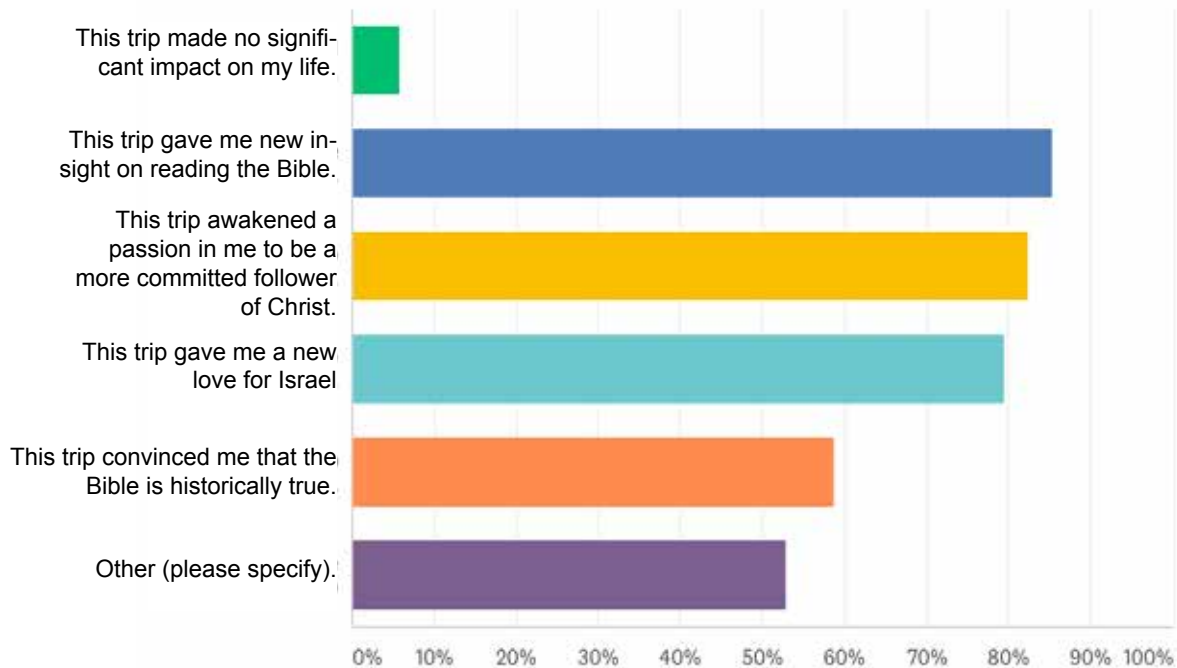
Did you feel safe in Israel?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



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

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

“The Word of God came alive and I believe during my whole life it will continue to come alive. Even the songs we sang are viewed differently now.”

“Absolutely incredible!”

“Andy and Boaz brought to light details that I would never know.”

“I’m amazed about how little I truly understood before this tour. Thank you!”

“This was certainly a trip-of-the-lifetime--not just what we saw, but how it was presented.”

“Very organized and Andy & Boaz were GREAT!!!”

“For me, the geography made Scripture come to life.”

“Awesome trip!”

“I have a better understanding of the Jewish people and our Bible.”

“This was the most organized trip I have ever been on!”

“It was beyond my expectations!”

“Anyone wanting to go to Israel in the future needs to go with EIN!! Amazing trip!”

“This trip to Israel with EIN was more than I ever expected.”

“This trip was everything I’d hope it would be and more. I really appreciated the bible teaching and cultural context given to both the scriptures and the sites visited.”



“Words cannot describe how inspiring and life changing the trip was.”

“I was an outsider from a church in Louisiana and the church we teamed with (Southside) became lifelong brothers and sisters. It took about 10 minutes to feel comfortable with them. I enjoyed going to the roots instead of the typical places most tours go... the pageantry wasn’t missed.”

“The teachings--both from Pastor Andy & from Boaz--brought Israel to life for me. Additionally, Jerry & Matt’s homilies were poignant--especially to our locales. The food was great--especially breakfast & dinner. I appreciated eating some traditional local food--that’s what I’m always after when I’m in another country. I know some people got a little tired of the sandwiches for lunch, but I was good with it. I certainly didn’t need anything too heavy in the middle of the day--what with the heat and hiking. The hikes were spot-on. After one day of a 1 traditional tour,’ I was ready to hit the trail again. Thank you for taking us on several walks where very few pilgrims go. The accommodations--for the most part--were more than adequate. In truth, I was expecting more spartan conditions, so I was blown away by where we stayed for the most part. I especially liked staying at the kibbutzes. I thought the Leonardo in Jerusalem could have been better, but I understand we needed a central location while in the city. I might re-think that hotel. Thanks to Greg for lugging his guitar around. We actually sounded pretty good!”

“Meeting new friends and worshipping with them. The hiking was challenging but meaningful and exciting. I’m so glad it was included in our trip. The scripture verses that were assigned added to the tour by connecting what we were seeing to the Bible!”

“The air conditioned bus!!!”

“That we shared verses as well, that related to where we were - putting us as apart of the story. Shopping could have used more time, but the Hotel shops did provide reasonable souvenirs.”

“The area around the Sea of Galilee was my favorite! Pastor Andy is obviously very passionate about teaching his travelers about Israel. Spending time with Boaz added an unforgettable dimension to our experience - it was great that he was so funny and personable and that he understands American culture. I am hopeful I came home thinking more like a Jewish person.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of this trip. I liked staying in kibbutz as well as the traditional hotels. The food was somewhat different, however I like it. Awesome experience.”

“It was great that it was a Southside trip because there were familiar faces. I also enjoyed the non-Southside people that came as well. It was great to meet and fellowship with other believers that were not a part of the Southside body of believers.”

“The evening monologues of scripture performed by Pastor Andy and Bruce. They really brought the scripture to life!”

“It was so action packed. Andy utilized every single minute and I loved that. I was thinking that this trip would give me plenty alone time with God, but what it actually did was fill all my time with experiences that will forever shout loud in the alone times going forward. If that was his strategy, then A+.”

“Since this was advertised as a hiking tour, I was ready to roll. I truly appreciated the opportunities to get out and get my feet dirty. It was true wisdom to start in the desert first--then ascend to Jerusalem. Getting the hard part over was genius!”

“Even though it was extremely hot, most of the time I didn’t dwell on that. Each day was exciting with new places to explore. I certainly have a better appreciation of this wonderful land and the Jewish people.”

“The only thing that I might change is the food options, not falafels every day.....the first few days is ok but then it was time for other options.”

“Bus rides were long, but there was still something to see & learn about.”

“This was my first time in Israel. I can honestly say that I wouldn’t change anything.”

“I came into this trip as a “blank slate” wanting to get whatever I could from the experience. I was not disappointed at all! I was not only educated and informed, I was moved, mentally, emotionally, and most importantly, spiritually. The only thing I can think of that would be a “nice to have” would be greater bandwidth on the wi-fi, both on the bus and in the places we stayed.”



Survey answers from this trip often mentioned the extreme heat ... as well they should. This September trip was the hottest EIN trip on record, with temperatures soaring above 100 degrees on every day but one! In addition, this was one of our “hiking” tours, which kept us in the heat even in the hottest parts of the day.

“I think many would have enjoyed a few more hours of personal time exploring Jerusalem.”

“The pace was very fast. I want to say less hiking, but at the same time I don’t. There is so much to see, and I didn’t want to miss anything. However, I felt like it was almost so fast I couldn’t even absorb the magnitude/reality of being in some of the places where we were. Also, the heat added a burden to this as well. It was so hot it was difficult to focus at some of the sites.”

“Get walking (in the heat) Get used to drinking lots of water(before you go) I wish I would have recorded our teaching times and talks from our guide.”

“Really... get in shape. Don’t be in a situation where you choose plan B. (Not take the hike) If you can’t avoid skipping, plan B is still a great experience. I’m a big guy and made them all. Everything Andy told us to do beforehand, it was wise to take the advice. It’s hard to journal when you get back to the room. You are packing, bathing and sleeping. Journal during the trip. I enjoyed journaling and posting pictures on facebook as we visited each site. It gave me a way to capture everything and keep my family and friends at home up to speed. The feedback I got from them when I returned was overwhelming. They felt like they were there with us. Do that!”

“Find your local high school stadium and climb the steps in the heat of the day!”

“I’m glad my spouse & I were in good shape. We took to heart the directive to get out in the heat & to walk. While nothing prepared us for the oven we entered, I felt reasonably confident once we got there we could do all the hiking Andy had planned for us. I would encourage all future pilgrims to be receptive to the Holy Spirit and what He wants to communicate to you.”

“Don’t go cheap on hiking shoes or clothes. Go ahead and spend the extra money because it is well worth it in the end. I think if you read ahead about the sites you will visit it will make the visit much better. Just having knowledge about the sites is very helpful.”

“Physical preparation - I would encourage every participant to prepare physically by starting or improving their current strength and conditioning program. A good cardio and weight training program is a must! A good workout program starts in the Kitchen. If needed, lose the extra pounds. You will thank yourself on the tour! Acclimation to the outdoors and excellent hydration are very very important! This tour is absolutely a life-changing experience!!! Do your physical homework and be ready! Spiritual preparation - Make sure to have a good consistent prayer and Bible reading time in preparation for this trip. I would encourage every participant to read the Bible through before you go. There are so many references to location, nations, people groups, and individuals from the Bible that are talked about at a very fast pace. If the participant is familiar with these, it will absolutely bring it to life!”

“Physical prep should include walking/hiking in hills, or climbing significant number or steps per day.”

“I think all of these are important but I would rank physical & spiritual preparation at the top. From a physical stand point walking alone won’t get you ready, you need to climb stairs outside as well. I was not physically prepared. From a spiritual preparation perspective, pray hard for God to use what you learn to make your walk with Jesus much more intimate. It worked for me.”

“I began an exercise class 6 months before the trip and it prepared me for the hiking. I hope to continue to make that part of my routine. I have always enjoyed walking and try to walk 5 times a week. I also began to systematically read through the Bible with THE ONE YEAR BIBLE (New Living Translation). I will continue to make this a part of my quiet time. Seeing the places I’m reading about has brought a wonderful new perspective to THE WORD.”

“Not just getting outside in the hottest time of the day, but also walking up & down stairs & hiking in rocky terrain. Wear your hiking boots when doing so (help prevent blisters) & maybe even carry 2 - 1 liter bottles (full) in a back pack - of whatever. Wean your self off sodas & any other must have drinks & drink LOTS of water. You start in the wilderness (desert). As far as Spiritual preparation, ask God to open your eyes & your heart to what He has before you. Read the Study Guide, then read it again! Totally understood why & when we made changes in our locations. Thankful you kept an eye out for us in determining our places to visit.”

“Studying and Bible reading makes each destination stops come to life. The study guide is so important in preparing for an incredible trip. Physical preparedness is a must, especially hiking. This will kept me from “dying on the side of the road”. Being physical prepared, helps to stay mentally ready. Being flexible will make each day more enjoyable.”

“We always felt informed before taking a specific hike. Travelers need to know their limits, though, and not attempt anything that would knock them out for the rest of the trip. This group seemed to do well with that.”

“For the physical preparation, do incline walking on the treadmill with as little air conditioning as you can stand. For the spiritual preparation, memorize the verses you’re assigned. It’ll help you ‘get your mind right.’”

“Really reading and working thru the study guide before the trip as well as reading some of the suggested books assisted in putting many things into perspective. - Reading everyone’s assigned scriptures, not just your own, also helped put locations and teachings into perspective.”

“It was high intensity. A little more than I had expected, especially with the heat. I would put a greater emphasis on the physical training.”

“Get outside and stay outside...do a lot of walking while you’re at it.”

“I spent roughly \$400 cash. (I bought bookmarks as gifts for everyone, and collected about 100 seashells from the Sea of Galilee as gifts.”

“You can spend as much or as little as you need but I think \$300-\$400 is plenty.”

“The only moment I felt uncomfortable was in the Jerusalem market. Don’t leave your group. You will look like a tourist and that makes you a target for people trying to sell to you. Never had an issue, but wish I had stayed with my group to be more secure.”

“Israel bombed Syria while we were there. I felt safer in Israel than in the United States.”

“Never was uncomfortable in the least.”

“Before leaving, several people asked me if I were scared to go to the Middle East. We felt safer in Israel than we do at home sometimes. Even when we were just a couple of miles from the border with Syria - less than two days after Israel had conducted airstrikes against Syria - we were never nervous!”

“Jim and I, along with our family, prayed for travel mercies before the trip and each day of the trip. We trusted God along with Andy and Boaz to keep us safe.”