

Travel Instructions

Your trip from the US to Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport. Although you have already received some Group Travel Information, the directions below are more detailed. You will probably want to have these instructions with you when you arrive at Ben Gurion. Providing us with your personal cell number will be helpful in communicating on the day of your arrival via texting. It is a great way to keep track of time, possible lost baggage, and a sudden delay in flight that a pilgrim might be arriving on. If you have any questions, please email us at services@iyadqumripilgrimages.com.

Arriving in Tel-Aviv

All international flights arrive in terminal 3

Exiting the Aircraft: Once you disembark the plane and as you make your way to passport control. You may notice a few travel agents holding signs and standing either throughout the corridor hall past the gate, or near the escalators. Please do not mind those signs and continue straight to passport control. Before getting to passport control, you will need to obtain a blue slip that contains your passport information and grants you entry to the Baggage Claim area. To obtain the blue slip, look for a kiosk equipped with a camera, open your passport to your information page, scan, and look up for a photo of your face. Then a blue slip will be printed. Please Keep this blue slip in your passport at all times! This slip acts as an entry/exit visa, and you are required to present it to customs when you exit Israel. This slip of paper is issued in lieu of a stamp on your passport. Our meeting point will be inside the arrival hall after you claim your luggage and clear customs.

Passport Control: Being part of a group makes clearing Passport Control easier. (If you are not traveling with a group, follow the same arrival procedures.) At Passport Control, please

mention that you are part of a pilgrimage group (or here to join a group) to visit holy places and will be accommodated in churches throughout Jerusalem or Nazareth. With today's high security measures especially at Ben Gurion Airport, traveling as a "Group" is the magic word. Being part of a group and a pilgrimage reduces the level of alertness with security and allows the arrival procedure to flow smoothly. Once you reach the passport control booth, your passports will be reviewed for confirmation.

Baggage claim: If you wish to have a cart to collect your baggage, luggage cart(s) are 10 NIS each. Beside each conveyer belt, there are machines that accept credit cards, bills, and coins that will dispense your luggage cart. If part of a group, you will want to assemble before you leave the baggage area and then exit together to the Arrival Hall.

Customs and Exiting: Exit beneath the green "Nothing to Declare" Customs sign. Your guide will meet you in the Arrival Hall as you make your way through the automated sliding glass door and escort you to your bus for Jerusalem. (If not traveling with a group, meet your pre-arranged driver or taxi inside the arrival hall near Exit Gate 02 and its surrounding area).

If your baggage does not arrive, fill out a form at the counter in the Baggage Claim area and give it to Customs personnel on your way out. Ask that the lost bag be delivered to St. Georges' Pilgrim Guest House, Nablus Road 20, East Jerusalem. Then meet your guide in the Arrival Hall.

Traveling Individually

Traveling Alone: If you are not traveling with the group, be sure that your flights arrive at Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) roughly between 2-5 pm on the first day of the program. If you come at other times, your destination is: St. George's Cathedral and Guest House, Nablus Road 20 (half block across from the Leonardo Hotel) in East Jerusalem. Departure flights should be made for around midnight at the end of the day that the pilgrimage concludes. In addition, all international flights arrive at Terminal 3 at Ben Gurion.

Transfer from Tel Aviv to St. George's Guest House, East Jerusalem:

Group Transfer: We always encourage and strongly recommend our tourists or pilgrims to arrive together as a group, it is always more organized and creates way less confusion and minimizes error. It will also cut down on your budget for requesting additional and separate transportation. However, we do understand that flight schedules can vary significantly especially from one coast to the other. If you plan to travel individually and intend to transfer with the group to St. George's Guest House, please arrive roughly between 2:00 and 5:00 pm on the dates of arrival and gather in the Arrival Hall. (If you arrive earlier you may wait in the airport until the group arrives and then transfer together.) Only one group transportation aboard our coach QP Bus is included in the price of the pilgrimage. Your destination is St. George's Cathedral and Guest House, Nablus Road 20. It is in East Jerusalem, half a block opposite the Leonardo Hotel and two blocks from the American Colony Hotel.

St. Georges' Guest House number is **+972 (2)-628-3302**.

Separate Flights and Same Day of Arrival: If not all on the same flight but still would like to join our charter bus to Jerusalem, individual travelers should have a scheduled arrival time no later than 45 minutes after the group scheduled arrival time. Those coming later than 45 minutes after the group arrival time must make independent arrangements to join the group.

Arriving Individually: If you wish to arrive at St. George's Guest House prior or after the stated time as mentioned above, please choose one of the options or methods below:

- a. Make arrangements by sending an email to services@iyadqumripilgrimages.com. In your email, please include all your airline information for both arrival and departure. That includes flight number, and time of arrival/departure.

A driver holding a sign with your name will meet you inside the arrival hall once you exit luggage and customs. The cost of the fare is \$100 for up to three people. American \$\$ accepted. Please do not pay the driver directly, you will have the chance to settle your bill at St. George's Guest House by using a credit card. If you wish, you may tip the driver, tips around here are 10%.

****Please note,**

1. It is the traveler's responsibility to notify us immediately in case of a long delay or a canceled flight during transit. We monitor incoming flights arriving at Tel Aviv, but we must be informed if there is an issue during transit or making a connection.
 2. Our QP charter bus does not make any stops on the way to and from the airport. If an individual plans to travel to Tel Aviv after pilgrimage ends. That individual is welcome to get on board our bus but will need to make independent arrangements from the airport to his/her final destination.
- b. Use the shared taxi called Sherut (sher-Root.) Up to eight passengers can be dropped off at the address of their choice. Cost \$18-\$20 per person. American \$\$ accepted. (Caution: dropping off several passengers can lengthen the time of the trip to St. George's.) Be sure the driver understands that you are going to St. George's Guest House on Nablus Road 20, not St. George's Hotel.

Communication

We invite everyone and highly recommend downloading the app called 'WhatsApp.' We find it a very effective and a convenient way to communicate internationally in case of an emergency. We have been using this method of communication with our former groups and it has been working wonderfully.

The country code for Israel is +972 (and the US is +1).

IMPORTANT! When you exit the arrival hall and if you have a scheduled taxi to pick you up, PLEASE make sure you are with the correct driver. If you are uncertain and have been waiting for a long while inside the arrival hall with no driver present, please contact the following emergency numbers:

- 1) St. George's Guest House (Reception Desk): +972 (2)-628-3302
- 2) Sami Qumri: +972 (52)-6869787
- 3) Rami Qumri: +972 (54)-8854051
- 4) Iyad Qumri: +972 (50)-5216280

Your Destination: St. George's Cathedral and Guest House, Nablus Road 20 in East Jerusalem, half a block opposite the Leonardo Hotel (NOT St. George's Hotel, which is three blocks away).

We appreciate your full attention to these instructions. If you have any questions, please email us and we are more than happy to assist.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Land of the Holy One.

Peace and Salaam,



Qumri Pilgrimages

Ben Gurion Airport Arrival Hall Map

