



GUIDANCE 1-2

Please see summary of information, which will help you prepare your trip to Israel:

1. **Hosts during, before and after the meeting.** We are happy to inform you that **33 friends from 13 countries** have registered.
 - a) You will receive **the list of participants** (including photos) and details of your Israeli **hosts** - before the event starts. **Please contact your hosts** and coordinate with them details of your stay.
 - b) **For those who arrive before or stay after the event:** Israeli hosts are located all over Israel and are waiting for you – check Servas Online - Find members. Enter: <https://www.servas.org/en/my-servas>
2. **Attendance confirmation and cancellation.** Your attendance has been confirmed. Please consider that you might have to pay cancellation fee if you cancel your participation after 15 November 2019, as the guesthouses will require.
3. **Booking and Payments:** No need to book the rooms at guesthouses in Nazareth and Jerusalem, or tickets for the Mass in Nazareth on Tuesday 24 December, or tickets for the Tower of David “night spectacular” in Jerusalem on Wednesday 25 December - we do it for the group. You will pay for the night stays directly at the guesthouses (in Shekels or credit card), and to us, in cash, for the program expenses - 750 Shekels per person - and for the night spectacular (optional) - 65 NIS per person, children 55 NIS. Tickets for the Mass are arranged for free by the guesthouses. Note: You don't need to carry much cash all the time, and you can change more at any ATM, if necessary.
4. **Contributions to social meetings.** Please inform us (if you still haven't) about any contributions you wish to offer - singing, dancing, playing an instrument, good night stories. All of you are kindly requested to bring a short **up to 10 minutes** presentation (slides/video... or PowerPoint presentation saved on a DOK / memory stick) of yourself/ your family, where you live, your hobbies (keep in mind why Servas guests should visit you) - you will present only once (please - not official tourist country presentations) ... Note: bed-time stories - anything which parents used to tell us as children at bed time - this is how we can know different cultures better, maybe.
5. **Take photos of participants** – in groups or alone, we will collect every day and project for all to see. Then, an online album will be created.
6. **What to bring with you?**
 - 40 beads typical to your country, so each person/family can prepare a necklace from all the different beads - to take with you as souvenir (not for wearing).
 - Some dry food/ingredients, typical to your country – we will cook together in Jerusalem where we have a kitchen. You will have a chance to make

shopping, but I cannot guarantee that you find what is typical to your country.

- Warm clothes, for both inside and outside, as you can be surprised how cold it is sometimes (though temperatures are not low, but humidity and wind can be hard on you. The rain here can be strong). Check weather forecast before you leave home.
- Also, you can bring a musical instrument, national/traditional clothes (You don't have to bring full national costume from old times - a hat, head scarf, apron - whatever small thing you may find), your national flag (small, not bigger than 30x40 cm),
- Swimsuit and towel if you wish to try the Jordan river at the Baptism site.
- **Each participant is kindly asked to bring one small present for Christmas celebration (after the mass on 24 December). The presents will be collected and given to other participants.**
- If you can help with yoga and meditation – we will try to have some morning activity every day, before breakfast.
- *Each person should bring a small Christmas present for the celebration after the 24 December Mass.*

7. **Where to change money to Shekels.** The easiest way is to change at Ben Gurion airport – ask the terms at two counters at least before deciding how much and where to change. Note: it will not be possible to find a change in the city during the weekend - they are all closed. Official representative exchange rates: (usually you pay more when purchasing shekels, but no commission):

<http://www.boi.org.il/en/markets/exchangerates/pages/default.aspx>

8. **Traveling in Israel.** About traveling in Israel by train - check train schedules:

<http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.

By bus:

<https://mslworld.egged.co.il/?language=en&state=#/origindestination/1/0/false/1052-1449/1302/7400-2170/2355>

By authorized taxis from Ben Gurion airport on weekends and holidays:

[https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-](https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Transportation/Pages/Taxi.aspx)

[US/airports/bengurion/Transportation/Pages/Taxi.aspx](https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Transportation/Pages/Taxi.aspx) (prices are listed per person, so, sometimes a private taxi is more economical if you are 4-6 persons)

Note: Public transportation is not available everywhere during weekends.

Please ask us or the hosts for advice.

9. **Local SIM and mobile communication package.** You may wish to purchase a local SIM at Ben Gurion airport, so you can communicate easier with hosts and friends in Israel. Maybe you can purchase a mobile communications package in your country. Or at least ask some passerby in Israel to call the host from his/her mobile phone. Note: For calling abroad, better use WhatsApp or Skype when WIFI is available, or the local SIM (if it includes the option) or the country package. For your information - at Ben Gurion airport :

[https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-](https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/ShoppingFoodServicesCommerceandDevices/Stores/Pages/MOBILE.aspx)

[US/airports/bengurion/ShoppingFoodServicesCommerceandDevices/Stores/Pages/MOBILE.aspx,](https://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/ShoppingFoodServicesCommerceandDevices/Stores/Pages/MOBILE.aspx)

<http://wp.fishbane.net/product/israeli-sim-packages/>. OR
<https://www.froride.com/pickup-and-delivery>. You can get a local SIM in all big cities; your host will help. It should be about 100 shekels.

10. Make sure you purchase **personal health insurance**, to cover all period of your trip. And, please don't forget your passport (valid at least for 6 months after arrival).
11. Documents **to print before arrival**. Please print the list of participants (will be sent separately later), the invitation and program - from <https://israel.servas.org/?CategoryID=143&ArticleID=72&Page=1>. Also, you may need to show at the security check at the airport at arrival, if necessary. You may be requested to explain what Servas is. We suggest you say **hosting, culture exchange organization**, to shorten the questioning time. Give my name and phone number, on request.
12. **Specifications for electrical details in Israel**
See:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israeli-type-H-plugs-and-socket.jpg>
http://www.megavolt.co.il/Tips_and_info/visitor.html
13. **Using** credit cards (Visa, Mastercard) in shops, hotels, restaurants, etc.- It is very easy to use international credit cards (debit cards less), but less for paying at kiosks. Still using Israeli shekels in cash is sometimes less expensive, considering bank fees when using credit cards in shops or ATM.

WELCOME, See you soon

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... and more

SERVAS ISRAEL ORGANIZING TEAM