

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL?

MANY PEOPLE HAVE GENUINE CONCERNS ABOUT TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ESPECIALLY TO ISRAEL. FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OFTEN RAISE QUESTIONS WHEN THEY LEARN OF PLANS TO VISIT THE HOLY LAND.

Israeli security is the best in the world. From the moment you arrive at the airport to leave for Israel, the security presence is evident. The security personnel are well trained, they are smart, they are electronically sophisticated and they are alert. Once you arrive in Israel, one has a true feeling of security. Statistics do show that you are safer in Israel than in any city of the United States. However, while in Israel, we do use the same care in determining where to go as we would in any travel we do. One avoids those areas that are deemed unsafe, just as you would in New York City. In our free times, away from the group, we encourage people to travel in small groups and not travel alone.

While terrorism has become a fact in our world today, we need to remember that Christian tourists to Israel have never been the target of an attack. In the last twenty-five years not one Christian tourist traveling with a tour group has been killed or seriously injured. Tourism is vital to the economy of not only the Jews in Israel, but also to the Arab population as well. Terrorism has been directed against the State of Israel. Even the Arab leaders who in the past have been linked with terrorism, such as Yassar Arafat, have been pushing for the peace process to continue.

We do not expect problems to arise on our trip, but if a problem develops, we simply adjust our itinerary. We have not in the past, nor do we expect to knowingly take risks.

Finally, though everything humanly possible is done to provide security, the physical safety of every believer is God's responsibility regardless of where we are. David recognized this when he said, "my times are in Thy hand." (Psalm 31:15). Israel is the only national entity of whom God said, "He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." (Ps. 121:4) As God's children we too must believe that we are in His care.