

Organising your own Holy Land tour

Organising a group tour can seem a daunting prospect. To help you, we have identified seven simple steps to a successful trip.



1: Decide when you want to travel

Twelve to fifteen months preparation time is normal. Dates to travel will be influenced by factors such as your church calendar, school holidays and perhaps the length of time potential pilgrims will need to save. Consider planning your pilgrimage to celebrate an anniversary or other event in the life of your church. Ideal pilgrimage months are February to June and September to November, avoiding school holidays and the hot summer months of June-August.

2: Discuss your itinerary with Mission Travel

Make a time to speak with Lisa Tarzia, Managing Director. Email lisa@missiontravel.com.au or call the office on 1300 554 654 to make a time to visit the Melbourne office or book a phone call. We encourage input from the leader regarding worship and the 'feel' of the pilgrimage. We then produce a detailed itinerary incorporating your ideas. We make initial reservations with the airline and hotels to hold seats and rooms.

3: A personalised brochure

Mission Travel will produce a personalised brochure (double sided A4 flyer) containing the agreed itinerary, hotel details, the tour cost and all the information required to make a reservation. We will post the brochures online (either privately for a closed tour) or on the Mission Travel website for open tours and provide you with the flyer should you choose to print some. Once the brochure is published the pilgrimage will take on a momentum of its own and firm dates and price will prompt people to pay a deposit. Plan a brochure distribution among your parishioners and perhaps a meeting to launch the project. An information night approximately 6-9 months prior is also very useful. We have an excellent powerpoint presentation to assist with this.



4: Mission Travel does the administration

We collect booking forms and deposits and deal directly with your people. You are not required to do any banking of cheques or corresponding with your pilgrims. On receipt of the booking form and deposit, we send each traveller confirmation of their place on the pilgrimage. Three months before departure we send pilgrims a final invoice and collect balance payments. Four weeks before you leave we send travel documents to each participant. Neither you nor your church has any financial liability. If the pilgrimage is cancelled, say through lack of numbers or unrest in the Middle East, Mission Travel Group will promptly refund all monies paid.

5: Have an information session

Get people excited about the trip by hosting an information session. A Mission Travel staff member can come along & present the day by day itinerary, highlight the inclusions, give advice on passports, visas, insurance and what to budget for extra expenses.

6: Tour leaders' information

Before departure, we send you a comprehensive briefing pack containing passenger lists, local telephone numbers, details of your guide, tipping recommendations and notes on every aspect of the pilgrimage designed to keep you well informed and one step ahead of your party.

7: You are not alone

On arrival in the Holy Land, you will be met by your guide who will accompany you throughout your pilgrimage. We have long term partners that represent Mission Travel in the Holy Land and will contact you on a daily basis and assist where necessary. We have worked with the same hotels and coach company for a number of years and their respective staff and management understand your needs as a pilgrim party almost before you ask. Mission Travel staff are also on call after hours in the event of an emergency.



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HOPE
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