

Safety and Security

Those traveling to Israel for the first time are often concerned with safety. Perhaps you've had a friend or family member express concern. The vast majority of concern is a result of misinformation. Our participants are always pleasantly surprised given the preconceived perceptions they had from typical U.S. media coverage. During the past 20 years we have led a dozen trips to Israel and have never felt threatened or been concerned about our safety.

The safety of every participant in our tour group is our highest priority. Our travel agent has representatives in Israel that monitor appropriate government news sources and has constant access to our tour guide and hosts via cell phone. We regularly monitor [U.S. State Department Alerts and Warnings](#). When the Department Alerts page was accessed in July 2019, it indicated the current travel warning for Israel was last updated in December 2018 and reflected the same conditions that were in effect during our March 2018 trip and for almost all our trips in the past 20 years.

As of July 2019 the State Department status is as follows:

- **Israel (exercise increased caution)**. In the 20+ years we have toured Israel this caution has always been in effect. Acknowledging that fact is not intended to minimize the seriousness of such a status, but it is only fair that you also have a full perspective given that millions of tourists have consistently visited Israel in the last two decades. Our tour group will be among thousands of tourists enjoying these remarkable sites during spring break.
- **West Bank (reconsider travel)**. The only West Bank site on our itinerary is Bethlehem (and possibly Jericho). This has been the status for Bethlehem and Jericho for at least half our tours (including our 2018 tour). Annually tens of thousands of tourists visit Bethlehem including thousands of overnight stays in hotels. Be assured we will monitor the State Department website up to and throughout our time in Israel and literally make the call on visiting Bethlehem the day we are slated to visit. Anyone uncomfortable participating could remain at our hotel during that visit. We have always visited Bethlehem and are always grateful to have included it in the itinerary.
- **Gaza Strip (do not travel)**. We have never visited Gaza Strip nor can we foresee ever doing so.