

Trip Orientation Info Part 4

Understanding Group Travel Dynamics

Traveling with Others

Part of the joy and richness of your Holy Land Experience will come from sharing it with others. Going somewhere alone is never as much fun as doing it with someone else. The impact and fullness of the experience will come alive as it's experienced as a group, rather than as an individual or couple. For this reason, you'll want to consider a few things to make your Holy Land Experience the best as possible.

Try to Think as a Group and Not as an Individual

As you well know, traveling as a group is very different than traveling as an individual or couple. There will be other team members in your group, and each person needs to realize they're part of a larger event than just themselves. The whole team will be depending on others to be punctual, courteous, thoughtful, and pleasant. Try to take into consideration that what you do affects everyone else on the team.

Try to Keep Up with the Group

During your travels, it will be important that you keep up with the group and don't linger or stay too long behind seeing things. Each day it is wise to appoint a "Follow up Person" who'll bring up the rear of the group and make sure everyone is accounted for. Because you'll be seeing some really interesting things, it will be easy to get lost in these and forget that there are other things to see as well.

Try to Be Punctual

Everything from wake-up times, mealtimes, arrival times, departure times, and the site seeing schedule for each day needs to be taken into consideration. Because you are spending a lot of money and taking precious time out of your busy life to experience the Holy Land, you'll want to be as punctual as possible so you and your team can experience and see more. Your group can only be as fast as the slowest person, so try to be punctual and thoughtful of others. If you tend to be a late person, consider getting a head start on things by starting earlier than normal so you can be on time.

Try to Be Patient & Courteous

Be aware that sometime during the trip, you'll likely feel tired, a bit irritated with others, or upset at something that's happened. Do your best to overlook the faults of others and try to keep yourself in check. Also, realize that we have an enemy (the Evil One) who will do his best to take away from our experience by using others or problems to do so. Be alert and

prayerful! Keep yourself close to God and do your best to love others and take everything in stride.

Try to Be Rested Up Before Your Holy Land Trip

Because you're going to be expending a lot of energy during the trip, try to get as rested as possible before departure. To illustrate this point, we'll use the term "gauges" to help us out. We all know that most of our vehicles have gauges: gas gauge, temperature gauge, oil gauge, etc. Using this analogy for our bodies, we all have bodily gauges as well. We have physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual gauges.

Before your trip, try to get your bodily gauges as full as possible. By doing so, you'll get more out of your trip and be more joyful and patient with others.

Here are a few tips for filling up your bodily gauges before trip departure:

- Try and scale down on your activities and output before the trip. Cut back on meetings, outings, get-togethers, and social events.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Get plenty of exercise (you'll be doing quite a bit of walking so try to get in walking shape before the trip).
- Get as much of your responsibilities and commitments done ahead of time and don't wait until the last minute to take care of things. There will be plenty of last-minute things to do, so don't add to them by procrastinating.
- Try to get somewhat packed and ready at your earliest convenience. If you need to shop for trip items, try to do so plenty of time in advance.

By doing the following, you'll start your trip with your bodily gauges full and not on empty. And when you think about it, who would start a long journey with their car having an empty gas tank and little or no oil in the engine?