

## Statistics

Over 350,000 guests have traveled with ETS to the Holy Land in over 40 years of Christian Travel ministry.

In 2016, more than 7,500 ETS guests visited the Holy Land.

3.3 million tourists visited Israel in 2016. 56% of them were Christians. 19% were from the United States.



## Traveler Comments

*“We feel absolutely safe here. We feel very well taken care of. It’s a delightful experience. I just encourage you in the strongest way “come” and enjoy the blessings of this sacred land.”*

**Pastor Jeff Kirby,**  
6 time Holy Land traveler from Kansas City, MO

*“The Holy Land is a safe place to come in spite of all of what the media is telling us. ETS has been very good to us and they really took care of us from the start of our trip until our departure. They were always with us and I knew I was safe.”*

**Annie Freas Ramos,**  
8 time Holy Land traveler from Vallejo, CA

*“Any one who has ever been to Israel will tell you, once you have gone you will know where your home truly is.”*

**Rev. Don Chandler,**  
6 time Holy Land traveler from Conway, AR



# Will We Be Safe in the Holy Land?





## Safety is Our Priority

As you know, the middle east has been an area of contention since Biblical times. Over the 40 year history of our company, we have always made the safety of our pilgrims our #1 priority.

Over the last 40 years ETS has seen Gulf Wars, Intifadas, Gaza conflicts and more. Every situation is different and we must address each accordingly but here are some of the ways we have handled these events:

- If a disruption occurs prior to the final payment date, ETS can offer these options:
  - a) To proceed with touring as normal
  - b) To move the tour to another date
  - c) A give all passengers a full refund
- If the group is already ticketed (after the final payment date), ETS will be in talks with the airlines. ETS' ability to give refunds or change dates will depend on the airline policies.

During the Egyptian Revolution, ETS had a group in Cairo. We were able to fly the group out before the state department moved their employees. The group was flown to Rome and provided touring at no charge to make up for the missed time in Cairo.

## What safety precautions does the airline take?

When boarding a plane for the Middle East, travelers are questioned about who packed their luggage and whether they actually own the bag. Sometimes they are asked about the purpose of the trip, who they are traveling with and who they know in the Middle East. The questioners are trained to look for tale-tell signs of nervousness and untrue statements. They are very good at their job and they take it very seriously! In addition, luggage is x-rayed before being placed onboard the plane and every bag must have a passenger onboard the plane or the plane will not depart.

## What safety precautions does ETS take?

- 1 We have a full-time office in Jerusalem staffed by local people who know the area well because they live and work there.
- 2 You will ride aboard a private bus company
  - Only our passengers and staff are allowed to board our busses.
  - All of our busses stay in constant contact with the office and the bus company. The local office always knows the location of our passengers.
  - Our guides and drivers know the area better than anyone.
- 3 During peak travel times ETS stations hospitality staff at hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias to assist our guests.

## Will I be safe on this trip?

ETS has a long standing commitment to safety. You are in less danger in Israel than you would be on a trip to New York City or Washington D.C. Not only is Israeli security vigilant and aware, your tour guides and ETS representatives will be with you at all times.

## What makes me safe?

- 1 Security on planes bound for the Middle East go through several additional security precautions and procedures.
- 2 Security within Israel and Palestine is much more strict than within the USA.
- 3 Statistically, the crime rate in Israel and Palestine is lower than the typical US city, including your home town!
- 4 It is a small place... just 50 miles wide and 150 miles long. It is easy for our office to keep a watchful eye on situations in various regions of Israel and Palestine.
- 5 To our knowledge, no Christian Pilgrim from the USA has been killed in Israel since our company was founded over 40 years ago.
- 6 Since our first Holy Land trip, ETS, we have never been involved in a major incident.

