

## **Alternative Pilgrimage to Palestine** **Wednesday 10th to Thursday 20th October 2018**

### **The Booking process**

Thank you for your interest in joining this trip. Please follow these three steps to book your place:

- 1/ Read the essential information and terms and conditions below (You will be asked to confirm this on the trip booking form).
- 2/ Complete and submit the trip booking form (each and every participant needs to complete a form).
- 3/ Pay your £400 deposit (follow the link on the booking form submission confirmation page to do this)

Once we have received the information from your form and your payment, we will add your name to the list of trip participants. Note that we only have limited spaces available so please complete your form immediately to avoid disappointment. We will send you an email confirming the safe receipt of your form and deposit payment (note: this may take up to 14 days).

We may contact you for a chat if we feel that this would be beneficial in the light of the information from your booking form.

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### **Essential Information**

#### **How much does the trip cost?**

£1,500 per person for bookings made before the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Bookings made after this date may be subject to a surcharge to cover increased flight costs.

#### **What is included in the price?**

Flights, accommodation (based on sharing a twin or double room), all meals, all group transport in Israel & the West Bank, local tour guides, entrance fees, donations to the organisations we visit and tips to hotels, guides and drivers.

#### **What is not included in the price?**

Travel to/from UK airport, personal travel insurance (you need to buy your own) hot/alcoholic/soft drinks at the hotels and bottled water. You will need to buy your own lunch two or three times during days when lunchtime coincides with free/shopping-time

## **Travel Insurance**

A typical off the shelf package is normally fine, just check it covers the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It is also worth mentioning that you are only going to the 'tourist' areas of the West Bank and not places perceived to have higher risk like Gaza. Many people choose travel insurance offered by their bank or the post office.

## **Can I have a single room?**

Yes, at an additional cost of £275.

## **What are the Flight details?**

Specific information about flight times and departure points will be available a bit nearer the start date of the trip.

## **Can I arrange my own flights?**

Yes, you can book your own flights if you wish to travel on different dates than the group or from a different location. **If you do this the trip cost will be £1,100.** You will need to cover the costs of being picked up or dropped off at the airport and all your expenditure before or after you join or leave the group.

## **What will the accommodation be like?**

We will stay in comfortable tourist hotels and boutique guesthouses in The West Bank & Nazareth.

## **And the food?**

Is plentiful and delicious. We will have a mixture of buffet style breakfasts and evening meals in the hotels and opportunities to share special meals with local communities and our partners. Vegetarians are well catered for.

## **Can I drink the water?**

The water in The West Bank and Israel is safe and meets international standards. We would recommend that you stick to bottled water in more rural areas to avoid "traveller's tummy".

## **Do I need any inoculations?**

No

## **Do I need a visa?**

UK passport holders do not need a visa to enter Israel. The expiry date on your passport must be at least 6 months after the end of the trip.

## **What will the weather be like?**

The daytime temperature in October is normally around the mid 20's but can vary and there may be occasional rain (the rainy season starts in November). You need to make sure that you bring a hat and plenty of high factor suntan lotion. You will also need to drink plenty of water. Bottled water is widely available to buy and we will make sure that there are enough toilet breaks during the trip. The evenings can be cool so you will need to bring a jacket or jumper.

## **What currency do I need to bring? And how much?**

Israeli shekels (some places also accept US dollars). How much depends on largely on how much you plan to spend on souvenirs. You will need to buy your own bottled water, soft drinks and alcohol plus lunch on two or three days when you are having free time. For reference, a small bottle of water is around 5 shekels (approx. £1) and prices in general are comparable or a little more expensive than the UK.

## **Will it be safe?**

Amos has been taking groups to the Holy Land for more than 20 years. We will be based in areas where we have formed deep friendships and high levels of trust with our local guides and partners. We will be welcomed with incredible hospitality, which is both a beautiful cultural norm and a response to how we choose to locate and shape our visits. Amos Trust, our local guides and partners are highly experienced and our first priority will always be the safety of our groups.

Should there be a major deterioration in the local or regional security situation we will take careful guidance from our local partners and the UK FCO travel advice before proceeding with the trip.

## **How fit do I need to be?**

The trip will include some walking including tackling some steep hills (mostly downhill!) and some unpaved roads while visiting projects and places. You need to bring some decent and comfortable walking shoes/sandals.

## **Do I need to bring gifts?**

The only time it is appropriate to give out gifts is if you are sharing a meal or being hosted by a local family. In this instance something like coloured pencils for children or a UK specific gift like shortbread is fine. Apart from this we would not advise bringing and handing out gifts. The reasoning for this is that it isn't fair if some get and some don't. More widely, the overarching problem faced by the Palestinians is not poverty (although they are poorer than they should be due to restrictions), it is injustice. Finally, offering us hospitality with no reward is central to the local culture and offering gifts can easily turn embarrassing.

## **Are there cultural norms or expectations I should be aware of?**

We will be staying in a fairly conservative society so you should generally dress modestly. In practice this means shoulders and knees should be covered. Women should avoid strappy or low cut tops and short skirts or shorts, men should stick to long trousers or shorts that come down well past the knees.

We will be visiting local families and groups as well as churches, mosques and synagogues. Some of the religious places will insist on shoulders and knees being covered. If it is required for heads to be covered than suitable coverings are normally offered by the places of worship concerned.

Alcohol is available in the hotel and in many restaurants and cafes. Whilst it is fine to drink in these environments, it is not acceptable to drink outside of the places serving alcohol or to drink to excess at any time.

## **Terms and conditions**

### **Payments**

The due dates for making payments for the trip are as follows:

- Deposit of £400 per person – due on booking (follow the link on the booking form submission confirmation page to make the payment)
- Payment 1 of £550 per person – due by 11 May 2018
- Payment 2 of £550 per person – due by 10 August 2018
- Single supplement of £275 (if applicable) – due by 10 August 2018

Please make sure that your payments reach us on or before the due dates (we will send you email reminders beforehand with links to make payments online with credit or debit card). You can also pay by cheque (Payable to Amos Trust and posted to the address below) or phone the office (0207 5882638) during working hours to make a payment over the phone.

### **Cancellation**

#### **Cancellation by Amos Trust**

If Amos Trust cancels the trip we will issue a full refund of all monies paid by all participants.

#### **Cancellation by participant**

If you need to cancel your place on the trip after your confirmation has been received, please let us know as soon as possible.

### **Refunds:**

- We purchase flights as early as possible to ensure availability and value. Your deposit payment of £400 is calculated to cover the average cost of a return flight to Tel Aviv. It will not be refundable unless the total cost of the flight booked in your name is less than £400 in which case Amos will refund £400 less the actual flight cost.
- Any subsequent payments you have made prior to cancelling your place will be refunded in full unless the actual cost of your flight plus any other expenditure Amos Trust has made exceeds £400 in which case Amos will refund any subsequent payments made less the difference between the money spent by Amos Trust and the subsequent payments made.

### **Notes**

- Amos will supply evidence of the amount paid for your flight and any other non-refundable expenditure.
- If Amos is able to fill the space on the trip made available by your cancellation, we may be able to further refund your flight cost less the amount charged by the airline to change the name on the flight reservation.