

Shopping on the Holy Land trips

- ▶ Though our trips to the Holy Land are intended to bring our travelers closer to the Bible so they can grow in discipleship, we realize that you will want to bring home mementos of your journey. As such (but to keep our tours on schedule), we have planned time to shop and, at other times, we will not shop.

Greece - Every island will have many places to shop for clothing and typical Greece home décor, linens, jewelry, and trinkets. Our Athens hotel is near the Plaka so you can shop stores in the evening. You will find touristy items in Corinth and more stores in Thessaloniki. The cruise ship has a nice gift shop. You will have plenty of time to shop everywhere. Tip: If you want to buy linens on Rhodes, buy from the shops near the port, not on the walk to the Acropolis (more expensive). Linen clothes are plentiful and reasonably priced in Greece! On the way to/from Ephesus in Turkey, we are obligated by the government to stop at a very nice rug making shop but there is no obligation to buy (though the rugs are beautiful) and they ship to US.

Israel - We shop at Yardenit (baptism site), Bethlehem (olive wood store - ships to US for free), & Machne Yehuda (open market) and you will have time on your own in the evening to shop in City Center Jerusalem. You will find everything you want or need in these places. If there is interest, we can have a jeweler come to the hotel or bus to provide you with rings, necklaces, and other items reflective of your Christian visit.

Jordan - In Madaba, we shop at a store that creates beautiful mosaics and, on the way to Aqaba, we stop at a large store where you will find handcrafted items from all over the Middle East in one place. You can walk to the shopping area of Aqaba from our hotel there and find the same things. Petra has a few shops with junky items and the Bedouins at Wadi Rum will try to sell you whatever they have on hand (mostly junk as well).

Egypt - We usually go to one nice gift shop and learn about making papyrus in the store above it or go to a perfumery. Both have nice gifts (the alabaster is beautiful) but check the jewelry to make sure it is made well. The trinkets for sale at the Pyramids are junk but they have good books. Our motel in Morgenland has silver jewelry (negotiate!) and glass perfume bottles. We stop at a rug making place to learn about that industry and the children trained in it. The rugs are pricey but there is no obligation to buy (they ship also).

Your shopping desires will be met but we do ask that you respect the guides' direction on where and when to shop so that our schedules can be maintained, and they don't have to rescue you from a pushy seller. Ask if you have questions about something you wish to buy or a reasonable price.

Pictures of some of the places we shop or visit follow.

Best things to buy in the Holy Land

Greece:

Table linens

Linen clothing

Israel:

Any memento that reminds you of Jesus and the Bible

Cross or inscribed jewelry

Olive wood nativity (from Bethlehem)

Dead Sea cosmetics & lotions

Books

Spices & halva from market

Jordan:

Mosaics

Frankincense, myrrh, spices

Egypt:

Alabaster

Wooden animals

Jewelry boxes

Perfume

Bottled water & packaged foods

Ephesus (Turkey):

Linen clothing (shop at exit)

Books

Do not buy:

- Scarves from roving Bedouins anywhere (not clean)
- Trinkets at the Pyramids
- Books that you can buy on amazon (so you don't have to carry them home; suggest ordering while shopping so they await you at home and you don't forget the title)
- Street food in Egypt

