

MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL (MCI) AND FAITH JOURNEYS (FJ) SAFETY & SECURITY

Music Celebrations International (**MCI**) and Faith Journeys (**FJ**) join the public in being sensitive to events domestically and abroad, including the recent terrorist activity and subsequent war declaration in Israel, civil unrest, demonstrations, and any pandemics in parts of the world — activities that bring familiar questions (relating to past jarring and horrendous incidents and/or natural disasters) to the forefront; Is it safe for me to travel? Dare I send a child or loved one overseas? What are my risks? What are others doing to guarantee my safety and to minimize any danger or potential harm?

MCI and FJ have over forty years of experience dealing directly with legitimate concerns relating to terrorist incidents, natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, epidemics, and pandemics (SARS, Ebola, Swine Flu, Bird Flu, COVID-19, etc.), volcano eruptions, floods, civil unrest, peaceful (and not so peaceful) demonstrations, etc. Our approach is to deal directly, swiftly, and professionally with each situation to assess and then to advise clients based on our expertise, experience, research, strong connections to our U.S. State Department, foreign governments, foreign tourist offices and our own MCI and FJ full-time offices in Zurich, Prague, Rome, Vienna, London, Dublin, Jerusalem, Athens, Beijing, and Hong Kong.

MCI and FJ only charter respected, bonded, insured, safe and experienced modern motorcoaches worldwide for our clients. No individuals, other than tour participants and our Tour Managers, are ever allowed to board these exclusively-chartered buses. MCI and FJ's vetted and professional full-time Israel staff members, full-time Tour Managers and local guides are expertly trained to avoid any large public gatherings or events such as demonstrations for both safety and reasons of expediency as well as maximizing meaningful sightseeing.

MCI and FJ have NEVER (nor will we ever in the future) sent clients or colleagues into harm's way. Our close links and close contact to the U.S. State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Israeli Security Agency, and others keep us apprised on a daily and hourly basis of any and all potential danger, advisories, warnings, and notices. MCI and FJ's included insurance policy includes protection for cancellation due to terrorism/unsafe demonstrations. Additionally, the availability of a per-person premium insurance protection (at an additional cost) allows for cancellation for any reason, up to 48-hours prior to travel. This "cancel for any reason" clause protects 75% of non-refundable payments and offers a higher level of peace of mind.

Foreign countries' GNP depends largely on the success of safe tourism in their country. This is why foreign governments, local law enforcement, national law enforcement, national intelligence agencies and national health/medical agencies and associations go out of their way to protect tourists and to root out forces (including health threats due to outbreaks and illness) that could potentially harm this major industry on which their economy depends.

During and immediately following a terrorist incident or health crisis, a country will use all resources at hand, to extinguish any further threats. Raising "threat levels" is a standard response for governments to call upon additional resources from health and security agencies.

At your request, your trusted partners at MCI and FJ will work with you directly on developing a contingency plan – whether that is to ultimately postpone or redirect your group to a different destination – to ensure that you have a safe and memorable touring experience. In all cases, MCI and FJ have been incredibly successful in transferring funds towards a different year or destination with incredibly minimal (if any) negative financial repercussions. MCI and FJ’s partners and vendors abroad (hotels, motorcoaches, sightseeing/touring activities, etc.,) are staffed by sensitive professionals, who collectively work very hard to minimize any negative impact.

MCI and FJ, are both active “in good standing” members of IATAN (International Airlines Travel Agent Network) and ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents) and MCI/FJ is fully accredited and bonded to the maximum level. The following financial and security measures are in place for the protection of all participants.

All funds paid to Music Celebrations International and Faith Journeys are held in secure Trust Accounts at Bell Bank and are used for tour-related expenses/overhead first. Excess funds are available to MCI/FJ only after the successful and safe completion of each tour.

Music Celebrations and Faith Journeys has partnered with thousands of professional, faith-based/church, community, school, children’s ensembles and pilgrimage focused groups who have experienced successful, memorable performance and faith-focused tours. These pilgrimage groups have been anywhere from 10 – 2000 travelers in size and the performance ensembles have ranged in size and variety from smaller jazz ensembles which travel with 20 – 25 participants to the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square which travels with over 500 participants or the University of Florida Marching Gators who travel with over 650 participants. MCI and FJ have safely traveled over 600,000 travelers to destinations around the globe, all with great safety and success.

Music Celebrations International and Faith Journeys are active members of the following professional organizations which require adherence to a strict code of ethics and business practices:

- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)
- International Airlines Travel Agent Network (IATAN)
- International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA)
- Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA)
- Faith Travel Association (FTA)
- American Bus Association (ABA)

