

# **FAITH AND WORKS TOUR TO ISRAEL**



***February 19 – March 1, 2019***

This tour combines site seeing at some of the most important biblical sites with a unique opportunity to bless Israel through a variety of work projects accomplished at Biblical Tamar Park. This is truly a special tour, unlike most, since participants will enrich their faith, but also demonstrate their love for Israel by sharing their special talents and work ethic in order to bless the Land of Israel and the Jewish people.

Participants will traverse the Holy Land, experiencing firsthand the land that God calls His own. Sites known from Scripture will come to life as your tour leader shares the Bible's great stories on location! On this tour, you will learn about Bible History, biblical prophecy, and the present-day realities of the modern State of Israel, and your life will be forever changed.

The works phase of the tour will take place at Biblical Tamar Park, a 55-acre historic site situated in the Israeli desert, surrounded by sites known from the Bible. The park is maintained by Blossoming Rose, whose very name comes from the words of the Prophet Isaiah about the future messianic vision of this precise spot (Isaiah 35). As curator of the Park, Blossoming Rose has worked closely with Israeli authorities over the past several decades to begin to bring this biblical vision into reality. On the grounds of Biblical Tamar Park is a fascinating archaeological site exposing areas of occupation going back to the Israelite monarchy, and a rich history running from the Biblical period through the modern era.

A wide range of tasks are available, allowing every person to contribute based upon their own skills and abilities. Some will plant trees, others will work on housing units, some will perform housekeeping and ground maintenance activities, or any number of other projects around the park property. Blossoming Rose needs the assistance of dedicated people who are willing and able to contribute of their time, talents and resources to beautify and maintain this serene wilderness place. Your participation on this tour is ultimately a blessing for you, Blossoming Rose, and Israel.

## TOUR COORDINATOR: Ross K. Nichols



Ross Nichols is a vice-president, an ordained minister, and teacher for United Israel World Union. He also co-hosts a weekly internet radio show for Israel News Talk Radio. His weekly Bible classes are live-streamed over the web every Saturday morning to a global audience. Ross has toured Israel extensively – leading and co-leading tours for Jews and Christians. He has participated in archaeology digs in Jerusalem and at Biblical Tamar Park. Ross leads volunteer work projects at Tamar and is a leader in the Faith and Works touring activities. He is a student and teacher of biblical Hebrew and has spent his career seeking to understand and interpret earliest Christianity from its original and thoroughly Hebraic perspective.

## TOUR FACILITATOR: Blossoming Rose



DeWayne Coxon is the founder and President of Blossoming Rose. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and served as a public-school teacher, a minister, a college instructor and administrator from 1960-1984. Shortly after that, he founded Blossoming Rose, an organization whose mission is to bless Israel through various programs, including the maintenance and restoration of the 55-acre Biblical Tamar Park. He has visited Israel over 160 times in the last 60 years. His knowledge of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim history gives him a unique perspective on contemporary events taking place in the Middle East. He is the author of the book ***Living Prophecies: A Crumbling Wall between Christians and Jews***, as well as three books on renewable energy systems.

# Tour Itinerary

## DAY 1 (Tuesday - February 19) Fly overnight to Israel

We will depart on Tuesday, February 19, flying overnight and arriving in Israel on Wednesday. (**We must be at the airport three hours prior to international flight departures.**)

## DAY 2 (Wednesday - February 20) Arrive in Israel, Jerusalem, Western Wall, and Jewish Quarter



Leaving the airport, we will drive from the Mediterranean coastal plain to the mountains of Jerusalem—2700 feet above Sea Level. We will check into our Jerusalem hotel and settle into our rooms within the Old City walls. After a delicious dinner, we will take a leisurely stroll through the Jewish Quarter of old Jerusalem to the Western Wall where we will offer our prayers and then have some opportunities to shop in the Mamilla Mall or the Old City.

## DAY 3 (Thursday – February 21) Temple Mount, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Western Wall Tunnel, Davidson Center, Zion Gate, Upper Room, and Pilate's Judgment Seat



We will begin our day with a tour of the Temple Mount where we will walk over the ruins of 3,000 years where Hebrew worship took place. We will then walk past St Anne’s Church, down the Via Dolorosa, and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Next we will tour the Western Wall Tunnels. The exposed portion of the Western Wall is approximately 200 feet long; the tunnel provides access to an additional 1,591 ft. of ancient wall. Almost 150 ft. into the tunnel we will see a sealed off entrance to a small synagogue known as “The Cave.” This is believed to be the closest point one can get to the Ancient Holy of Holies. Next we will take a journey through time, visiting the Jerusalem archaeological park – Davidson Center where where we will view all the most recent archaeological discoveries that are transforming our understanding of ancient Jerusalem. We will then walk into the Armenian quarter of the Old City and visit the traditional sites of the Upper Room and King David’s tomb. After dinner, we can choose to walk or take a taxi to Ben Yehuda Street, shop in the Old City, or in the Mamilla Mall, shopping areas close to our hotel.

**DAY 4 (Friday – February 22) Mt of Olives, Garden Tomb, Mediterranean Sea, Caesarea, Nazareth, and Tiberias**



After breakfast, we will board our bus and go to the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the Old City. We will look down on the Garden of Gethsemane and the Kidron Valley. Then we'll continue to the Garden Tomb for an optional communion service, after which we'll board our bus for the ride to Galilee, following the Mediterranean coastal road to Caesarea Maritima, the city built by Herod the Great (25 – 13 BCE). Named to flatter Caesar, this site is situated on the Mediterranean Coast between Tel Aviv and Haifa. We will discuss Paul's imprisonment here before moving on to Rome to make his 'appeal to Caesar.' We will enter Caesarea via the amphitheater, and

walk the full length of the City to the Crusader's Fortress. We will have time to wade in the Mediterranean Sea. After we leave Caesarea, we will drive through the Valley of Megiddo, past Nazareth, and into Tiberias. After a long day, we'll settle into our rooms on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

**DAY 5 (Saturday – February 23) Sea of Galilee, Magdala, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Arbel cliffs, and Jordan River**



We will begin our day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, exiting the boat at Ginnosar where we will have an opportunity to see an authentic fishing boat from the time of Jesus. We will leave here and visit one of the oldest synagogues in Israel at Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene. From here we will visit Capernaum where Jesus made his HQ and moved his family. Here we will also tour a third Century synagogue, built upon the visible remains of a first century synagogue and see the recently uncovered remains of the first

century Port. Next we will visit the traditional site of the Mount of the Beatitudes where we will discuss some of the most cherished and best known teachings of Jesus. After our tour of Capernaum, we will drive to the top of the Arbel Cliffs to take in a breathtaking view of the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding towns known to us from the New Testament. We will then begin our trek towards the Judean Wilderness, passing first along the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, noting the names of many places known to us from the Gospels. As we travel around the Sea of Galilee, we'll stop on the eastern seashore to wade in the waters and pick up some sea shells and then continue to the Jordan River. After an eventful day, we will return to our hotel. Those who wish can walk along the shore and do some shopping on our final evening in the Galilee.

**DAY 6 (Sunday – February 24) Ein Gedi, Masada, and Biblical Tamar Park**



We will eat another bountiful Israeli breakfast before we begin our travels down the Jordan River Valley to Ein Gedi, where we will walk up and view the waterfalls, where according to First Samuel, King Saul pursued David. After our tour of Ein Gedi, we will travel to the ancient fortress of Masada, known today as the site where 960 revolutionary Jewish holdouts died rather than surrender to the Romans. We will learn that Masada was originally built by the Maccabees, and fortified by Herod the Great between 37-31 BCE as a refuge for himself in the

event of a revolt. From the top of Masada you can look down upon the ruins of the ancient Roman encampments. We will finish our day when we arrive at the southern biblical border of Israel, Tamar (Ezekiel 47-48) and move into our rooms at Biblical Tamar Park. The Park Supervisor and volunteer workers, already a day into their volunteer work assignments, will welcome us with an American style meal in the dining room. After dinner we will relax and visit together around an open fire in the Sukkah, attached to the dining room. This is a special place, rustic and camp-like, that will allow us to experience the wilderness ambience of Israel.

#### **DAY 7 (Monday – February 25) Biblical Tamar Park work day**



Today we'll demonstrate our faith by our works as we are assigned various jobs of planting trees, repairing rooms, fixing vehicles, beautifying the Park, preparing meals and helping with housekeeping duties and other tasks. It will be a blessing to use our talents to help beautify and maintain the Park. There will be time in the evening for walking tours around the fascinating archaeological ruins within the Park, as well as having discussions about the important and strategic location of this ancient site. There is always time to take a hike up to the top of Prayer Mountain at sunrise and sunset.

#### **DAY 8 (Tuesday – February 26) Biblical Tamar Park work day**



On this day, we will continue our assignments that we began on the previous day. The archaeology portion of the Park called "tel Tamar" is about five acres. The other 50 acres are slowly being covered with trees and shrubs as we make the desert "blossom as a rose." We'll quit working early enough to shower and have a delicious meal in the dining hall, after which we can do a little more exploring in the Park or just relax in the Sukkah and talk and sing with new friends. It is a good time to sit around the campfire and reflect on Israel and what it means to each of us.

#### **DAY 9 (Wednesday –February 27) Scorpion's Pass, Roman tax stations, Hazeva Research Center, Dead Sea**



This is our last work day at Biblical Tamar Park. Some of us will finish work assignments while others will begin cleaning up work sites and putting away all the tools. We will all finish by noon. After lunch we will tour the area around the park. Our bus will take us to Scorpion's Pass (known in the Bible as the Akkrabim Ascent), the Roman tax stations, and Hazeva Research Center, the premier agricultural center in the Arava working in desert research. We will then continue on to Ein Bokek and have leisure time sunning, swimming, and wading in the Dead Sea. After that, we will go back to Tamar for dinner and another peaceful night's rest. On this final evening, we can relax in the Sukkah and talk about our experiences together in the land of Israel.

## **DAY 10 (Thursday – February 28) Tel Sheva, Valley of Elah, Jerusalem, and Airport**



There will probably be some who wish to rise early and take one last hike up Prayer Mountain to see the sun rise over the red Jordanian mountains. We will depart Biblical Tamar Park by way of Beersheva and stop at ancient Tel Sheva, Abraham's area of residence as stated in Genesis. As we drive north, we will stop at the Valley of Elah, and pick up a few stones from the brook where David killed the giant. We'll then journey back to Jerusalem to visit our favorite historic sites and to do some final shopping. At 6:30 pm, we will board our bus and head for the airport for our flights back home.

## **DAY 11 (Friday – March 1) Arrive home in the USA**

We will arrive in the USA in the morning, having gained the seven hours back that we lost when we came to Israel. We will check through customs and go to our connecting flights home. Shalom!

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AT TAMAR

Everyone who registers for this trip is invited to become a “**Volunteer**” at Tamar after the tour. This low-cost experience is available for a maximum of 90 days. Long-term volunteers pay only \$20 a day for board and room and short-term volunteers, who stay less than 30 days, pay \$30 a day. Volunteers are needed in various areas such as, horticulture, cooking, housekeeping, mechanical, carpentry, and beautifying the Park. Your trip can become a true “faith and works” experience! You can learn how to become a volunteer at Biblical Tamar Park by going to the website at [www.blossomingrose.org](http://www.blossomingrose.org) or calling Jodi Coxon at 616-696-3435.

## Tour Package \$2,195 for land only

### Included in Tour Cost

- Hotels
- Breakfasts
- Dinners (except February 28)
- National Park passes (6)
- All tips (except housekeeping)
- All meals at Biblical Tamar Park
- All listed sites with entrance fees
- Masada Lift and Galilee Boat trip
- Bus transfer to and from Ben Gurion Airport

### Not Included

- Flight Insurance
- Lunches
- Airline Ticket
- Trip insurance

You will be notified by email when there are sufficient registrations to buy your airline ticket. If you would like to use the Blossoming Rose travel agent, the information is below. Blossoming Rose will provide group transportation to and from Ben Gurion Airport **at the designated times**. If you arrive or depart outside of these times you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from Jerusalem and Biblical Tamar Park. This itinerary is subject to change. If you decide to go with our ticketing agent your airline ticket will be coordinated with the times of the bus arriving and departing from Ben Gurion Airport. You can also go on-line and purchase your own ticket or use your frequent flyer miles.

The cancellation fee is based on the total tour price, and is: 181 days or more = \$100; 180 - 121 days = \$250; 120 – 61 days = 50% of total tour price; 60 – 31 days = 75% of total tour price; 30 days or less = 100% of total tour price. Refund may take up to 4 weeks. Airline tickets can be postponed or are non-refundable once issued. Flight insurance is recommended

Reserve your place immediately by paying the deposit on-line at [www.blossomingrose.org](http://www.blossomingrose.org).

**For additional information contact:**

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