

Tour Israel with Rev. Jada McWilliams

October 22 - November 1, 2024



This tour's purpose is to connect Christians to their history, and their past, and in doing so we will be stronger and more confident to face the future. We each have a story and I look forward to hearing each one of you while we are physically participating in His Story through sight, smell, taste, and touch. His story includes significant geographical regions, such as the Galilee, the Mediterranean coastline, the Judean Hills, and the Arava. The best way to experience the land is to walk over the rocks, feel the climate, taste the food, and smell the spices. Therefore we will spend time reading the Bible in the locations where historical events occurred. Each day will be filled with opportunities to create your very own library of vivid images that will remain with you long after you return home.

Many people who take a tour to Israel do not have the time in the few days they visit to sense the pulse of the Land so we will take the time to experience each site discussing how the historical events and the location of the site influences our understanding of the message of the Bible. These sites may include Jerusalem, Caesarea Maritima, Masada, Qumran, Nazareth, Capernaum, Mt. Camel, Jezreel Valley, and Caesarea Philippi. You will return home with experiential and Biblical knowledge of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea region, and the Galilee area. You will cruise on the Sea of Galilee in an authentic fisherman's type boat and have an opportunity to step into the waters of the Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Mediterranean, and the Dead Sea.

You will help make the desert "Blossom as a Rose" at Biblical Tamar Park, the most ancient and historic Jewish fortress/city in the south of Israel. In this 55-park, there is a comfortable dining facility, an active archaeology site, and a peaceful Sukkah, perfect for morning and evening gatherings around a fire. This park is also home to an ancient Jojoba tree, and is surrounded on all sides by large date trees, and a mango orchard, and is connected to the Israel Nature and Parks Reserve. Here, during our evenings under the stars, participants will connect with each other, and experience a taste of life in the desert reminiscent of the patriarchal narratives. We will share insights into this special place about its ancient importance as well as its prophetic significance. This portion of the tour provides us with a rare opportunity to get back to the feeling of life in biblical times, but with a touch of modernity. At Biblical Tamar Park we will stay in clean, comfortable, caravans situated around the centrally located dining facility and Sukkah. It has become a favorite part of many of the tours that Blossoming Rose co-sponsors.

You will be a volunteer for two days at Tamar working beside other friends who have also helped to literally "DIG" this buried city out from under tons of sand over the last 35 years. Various jobs and ordinary tasks will give you the opportunity to see how Israel makes the desert habitable and "blossom as the rose." Multiple tasks like planting trees, refurbishing Park buildings, and working in housekeeping/food services, will be a part of your experience during these two days. You will also have the option of going to Israel prior to the tour and

working at Tamar or staying after the tour is completed. You can volunteer for up to 90 days and work at Tamar for a very minimal cost. Just contact Jodi (jcoxon@blossomingrose.org) about these options.

Tour Host: Jada McWilliams



Jada McWilliams has visited Biblical Tamar Park several times for work experiences organized by Blossoming Rose. She considers it a mission opportunity to stay and work there a couple of days as it relates to Ezekiel 47, which gives a beautiful description of the Arava desert along with Isaiah 35.

Jada first went to Israel in 2011, following her family's dedication for the Holy Land. Her grandfather Rev. Archie McWilliams and Uncle Cletus Snellenberger built the well at Tamar park in 1984. Her Uncle and Aunt Jim & Judy Willett were instrumental in the development of Tamar.

Many cousins of the McWilliams family now continue the Tours mission of Blossoming Rose to support Israel and the Jewish people by sponsoring humanitarian and educational activities in Israel that serve to give people an opportunity to learn about Israel's history.

The primary purpose of Blossoming Rose is to oversee the development of Biblical Tamar Park and to bless Israel by restoring and maintaining this 55 acre, national, educational and historic site. Our work is more than just exploring history, it is uncovering ancient Tamar and being privileged to sift through 5,000 years of its heritage. It seems to me that this could not be just a coincidence of fate, that we have now neatly categorized "Seven Periods of History."

Join Jada, a Retired US Navy veteran, who has traveled the world abroad, but loves going to Israel to give back to Israel. The tour consists of not only touring the Holy Land but staying in the Arava at Biblical Tamar Park where this archeological park was established, proving the descendents of the Bible is true. You are able to do volunteer work in the Park as well as enjoy the tour of Israel. As your tour host, she will coordinate the tour details, work with the guide, assist with flight arrangements, and oversee work assignments at the Park.

Travel Arrangements

Blossoming Rose was founded by *Dr. DeWayne Coxon* in 1984 with a mission to develop an historic understanding of the land of Israel through various programs, including the maintenance and restoration of the 55-acre Biblical Tamar Park. Blossoming Rose is the caretaker of the archaeological site at the Park.

Rob Coxon became the President of Blossoming Rose in 2019 and he has been involved with Blossoming Rose since 1984. He has traveled to Israel over 70 times.

Tour Itinerary

Day One

Tuesday – *Fly overnight to Israel.*



Your adventure to connect to the Land of Israel begins with flights from your home airport. Our flights will depart Tuesday, October 21, and arrive in Israel on Wednesday, October 22. Meals will be served during our flights. (Be sure you are at the airport three hours prior to your international flight departure.)

Day Two

Wednesday – *Arrive in Israel, bus ride to Jerusalem, dinner, and walk around Jerusalem.*



Leaving Ben Gurion airport, we will drive from the airport to the mountains of Jerusalem—2700 feet above Sea Level. We will check into our Jerusalem hotel and settle into our rooms. After a delicious dinner, you will be free to take a leisurely stroll around Jerusalem and perhaps go to the Western Wall where the Orthodox Jewish families will be praying in front of the massive stones.

Day Three

Thursday — *Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, David's Tomb, Upper Room, House of Caiaphas and Western Wall*



After breakfast, we will board our bus and walk through the Dung Gate and up the ramp to the Temple Mount. Here we will discuss the modern reality of the site as well as the past and future temples. We will then walk past St. Anne's Church, down the Via Dolorosa and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We will walk through the Zion Gate into King David's tomb and also into the Upper Room. We will also visit the house of Caiaphas where St. Peter denied Christ three times. We will walk into the Jewish quarter, and have time for an Israeli lunch and then continue to the Western Wall where we will pray with Jewish worshippers and then have time to visit the many shops in the Jewish, Christian, and

Arab quarters of the Old City. We will have had a full day and be ready to return to our rooms and a great dinner. The evening will be free to return to the Old City, Mamila Mall, or Ben Yehuda Street.

Day Four

Friday – *Mount of Olives, Bethany Road, Garden of Gethsemane, Haas Promenade, Qumran, Ein Gedi*



We will begin our day with another huge Israeli breakfast buffet. Our bus will be waiting for us and we will go to the top of the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the Old City. We will walk down the Bethany Road where Jesus walked which will lead us into the Garden of Gethsemane,

where Jesus offered his final prayer. We will board our bus and go to the Haas Promenade. This vantage point overlooking the expanse of the Old City, traditionally, known as the spot from which God first showed Abraham Jerusalem. We will reflect on our time in Jerusalem the place God placed His name. Afterward, we will board our bus for the ride down to the Dead Sea, 1500 feet below sea level stopping at the ancient city of Qumran where John the Baptist might have visited and Jesus would have passed on his way to Galilee. Next, we will stop at Ein Gedi and walk up to the waterfall where David hid from King Saul. Finally, we will drive into Biblical Tamar Park, our home away from home. Volunteers will already be in the Park Preparing for our arrival and we will move into our rooms and then have fellowship and dinner with many new friends. After dinner, we will sit in the sukkah and discuss what we have seen for the last three days.

Day Five

Saturday – Masada, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea, Tamar tour a walk through history



We will begin our day driving to the ancient fortress of Masada, known today as the site where 960 revolutionary Jewish holdouts died rather than surrendered to the Romans. After riding the cable car to the top, 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 Roman encampments. We will leave Masada and

go to Ein Bokek and have leisure time shopping, sunning, swimming, and wading in the Dead Sea. After we finish, we will go back to Tamar and have a leisurely tour of the ancient ruins of Tamar. Tonight we will eat a bountiful meal and have a peaceful night's rest.

Days Six and Seven

Sunday and Monday- Volunteer work at Biblical Tamar Park



We will awaken to the quiet of the desert and the chirps of the small desert birds outside our air conditioned rooms. The desert is a great place to be when the weather is turning cold in Jerusalem. We will be at peace realizing that it was at this very location that Isaac drank from the waters of Tamar, the largest oasis in the Arava. Moses and the children of Israel camped beside this oasis

and Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, probably settled near the flowing waters.

We will prepare a bountiful American style breakfast, fry our own eggs, and drink good American brewed coffee. Then we will begin our two day “*labor of love*” working at those tasks that best suit our skills. You will help us to literally **bring a story back to life**. When we finish our tasks we will lounge in the Sukkah and enjoy the fire together.

Day Eight

Tuesday - Beersheba and Tel Sheva, Nazareth, Jordan River, and Sea of Galilee Boat Ride



Our tour bus will be ready for us to board at 8 am and we begin our long ascent from the Arava (below sea level) to the Negev (above sea level) and drive past Dimona where Israel has its great nuclear research center. We will continue on to Beersheba and visit Tel Sheva

where Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac lived. We will go north along the Mediterranean and beside the mountains of Judea and Samaria, and to Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. Our next stop is in Tiberias at our Sea of Galilee boat and listening to Daniel Carmel sing to us as we cross the Sea. We look forward to our hotel room and a wonderful Israeli dinner. Our evening is free to shop and explore in Tiberias.

Day Nine

Wednesday – *Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tabgah, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, Syria, and the Baptismal Service*



We will begin our day eating a bountiful Israeli breakfast before boarding our bus for the Mount of the Beatitudes where we will discuss some of the most cherished and best known teachings of Jesus. We will then travel to 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. We will travel around the Sea of Galilee and stop on the east seashore to collect some shells before we head north to the Syrian border and the Golan Heights. We will continue to Caesarea Philippi where Peter proclaimed the real identity of Jesus and drive along the fence that separates Israel from Lebanon. We will finish our touring day by stopping at the Jordan River where we will have a baptismal service and buy some gifts for friends. We return to our hotel rooms for our last night in Israel.

Day Ten

Thursday – *Mt. Arbel, Megiddo, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, and Ben Gurion Airport*



There will probably be some who want to rise early and watch the sunrise before we board our bus and go to Mt. Arbel, where many Jewish people were thrown over the edge of the cliff by the Romans. We will continue on past Nazareth and to Megiddo, the famed city that was the gateway to Israel from the east. Then, driving up to Mt. Carmel to see where Elijah killed the 450 false prophets of Baal will be our next stop. We will arrive at Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean after lunch and walk into the magnificent open air theater that was built over 2,000 years ago. You will be able to collect sea shells and wade in the clear waters of the sea. We will walk the length of this fabled city built by King Herod. This was where Phillip preached and Cornelius lived as mentioned in the New Testament.

We will board our bus for the last time at Caesarea and ride south to Ben Gurion Airport, where we will depart for our homes.

Day Eleven

Friday – *Flights home to the USA*

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

Tour Package

\$2,375 (land only)

\$995 single supplement

Included in Tour Cost

- Hotels
- Breakfasts
- Dinners (except the last night in Israel)
- National Park pass
- All tips (except housekeeping)
- All meals at Biblical Tamar Park
- All listed sites with entrance fees
- Masada Lift
- Galilee Boat trip
- Air Conditioned luxury bus
- Bus transfer to and from Ben Gurion Airport

Not Included

- Flight/trip Insurance
- Lunches
- Airline Ticket

Making the deposit of \$700 will reserve your place on the tour. We will notify you by email when there are sufficient registrations to buy your airline ticket. Group transportation to and from Ben Gurion Airport will be provided. If you arrive or depart outside of the set times, you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from Jerusalem and Biblical Tamar Park. This itinerary is subject to change.

The cancellation fee is based on the total tour price, and is as follows: 181 days or more = \$100; 180 - 151 days = \$400; 150 – 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 3 weeks. Trip insurance and flight insurance is recommended.

Balance is due 150 days prior to departure.

For additional information contact:

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