

THE AWAKENING THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

Hosted By: Mrs. Pat DeGroot

Tour Guides: Oren Shmueli, Beersheva and Rabbi Eitan Levy, Jerusalem

Tour Facilitator: Blossoming Rose

November 8-19, 2017

TRIP SUMMARY:

Traveling to Israel is a great time for people to explore the roots of their faith. It is a time to allow your senses to fully experience the Land and the historical sites of the Bible. Being in Israel is a time to discover ancient paths and stand where history has revealed so much. It is a place to allow the Word to come alive and speak to your heart. You will have the opportunity to stand in the places you may only have read about.

You will stand on the Mount of Olives where the disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven and then you will make your way to the Garden of Gethsemane and walk down the old streets of Jerusalem. A boat ride on the Sea of Galilee will add to the unique experiences of your time in Israel. The time at Biblical Tamar Park will be very special as you will not only see the wilderness where the Israelites lived but will also have an opportunity to volunteer by planting a tree. Come join me this year for a memorable experience in Israel.

TOUR LEADER: Patricia M. DeGroot



Patricia DeGroot has a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from St. Norbert College in DePere, WI. She is also a certified spiritual director. Pat once worked in sales and as a stock broker, and more recently retired as Director of Worship and parish Director in the Green Bay Diocese. She currently teaches as an adjunct to the staff of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, WI. She traveled to Israel in 2007 on a tour coordinated by Blossoming Rose and subsequently volunteered at Biblical Tamar Park for the past three summers and will again in 2017.

TOUR FACILITATOR: Blossoming Rose

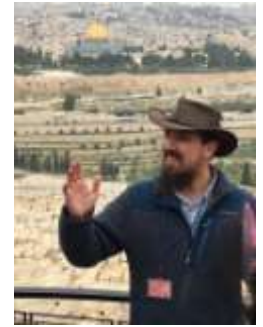


DeWayne A. Coxon is the founder and President of Blossoming Rose. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and served as a public school teacher, minister, college instructor and administrator from 1960 – 1984. Shortly thereafter he founded Blossoming Rose, an organization whose mission is to bless Israel through various programs, including the maintenance and restoration of the 55 acre Biblical Tamar Park. He has visited Israel over 150 times in the last 50 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. <http://blossomingrose.org>

THE TOUR GUIDES: Oren Shmueli and Rabbi Eitan Levy



Oren has been a long-time friend of Blossoming Rose. He is a licensed Israel tour guide who chooses the tours he wishes to guide, this tour being one of them. His work at Biblical Tamar Park for the past fifteen years as an employee of the Israel Antiquities Authority will serve as a valuable resource as he explains the history of the Park and other sites in Israel. He is a graduate of Hebrew University.



Rabbi Levy is one of Joan's favorite guides. He is an ordained orthodox rabbi who lives in Judea-Samaria. He is an expert on the historic places that are important in the prophetic portions of the Hebrew Scriptures and he will lecture at various Jewish and Christian sites of importance.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Nov. 8 - Wednesday - USA to Israel

To begin our journey, we will fly together from JFK to Israel. Meals will be served during our flight. (Please arrive at the airport three hours early.)

Day 2: Thursday - Israel – Ariel

We will land in Israel at Ben Gurion International Airport where we will be met by our Blossoming Rose host. He will have a bus waiting for us to take us to our first night in Ariel where we will be served dinner at our beautiful hotel Eshel Hashomron.



Day 3: Friday – Shiloh, Beth El, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Western Wall, the Old City, and the Davidson Center



Our touring day will begin at Shiloh where the Tabernacle stood for 369 years. We will continue on to Beth El where several Biblical events transformed the Jewish people into a nation. We are only fifteen minutes from Jerusalem where we will have a panoramic breathtaking view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. We will walk down to the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane and then look across the Kidron Valley to the old city walls of Jerusalem. The Western Wall will be our next stop where we will offer prayers, and then we will go into the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, and the Cardo. (Lunch will be on your own in the Old City.) The Davidson Center protects the excavated areas around the southern walls of Old Jerusalem. It is believed to be the area where the 3000 believers were baptized on the feast of Shavuot (Pentecost) and it will be a great experience as we sit on the original Temple steps. Our first day in Jerusalem will be busy, and we will have seen many of the historic sites before we return to our hotel for dinner and a leisure evening.

Day 4: Saturday - Church of St, Anne, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Mt. Zion, Garden Tomb, and shopping (evening Mass today)

Once again, our touring day will begin at 8 am, at Stephen's Gate. We'll continue on to the Church of St. Anne, singing together. We will go to the Stations of the Cross, and into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We will continue to the Armenian Quarter of the Old City to Mt. Zion and the Upper Room. The tomb of King David is in this area and we will visit that venerated site. We will finish our day with a visit to the Garden Tomb and then attend Mass or have the evening free for you to choose what to do or where to go.



Day 5: Sunday - Jericho, En Gedi, and Tamar



We'll start our day with another great Israeli buffet breakfast, and then board our bus to go to Jericho. We'll stop and see an old sycamore tree and tour ancient Jericho. Driving down to the Dead Sea will remind us of the history dating to the time of Lot, the nephew of Abraham and to the burning of Sodom. We will continue our drive beside the Dead Sea to Ein Gedi, the mountain cave where David hid from King Saul where we can buy a sandwich and then climb the ancient path to the beautiful

waterfalls. Later in the afternoon, we will arrive at Biblical Tamar Park where we will be welcomed by the Park Supervisor and the volunteer workers. After a wonderful meal, we will relax around a camp fire in the Sukkah.

Day 6: Monday - Masada, Dead Sea, and tel Tamar tour

We will begin the day with an American cup of coffee and serve ourselves at the breakfast bar. Early risers can climb Prayer Mountain or walk around the ancient walls of Tamar. At 8 am we will board our bus and head for Masada, arriving before the Jerusalem crowd gets there. The fortress was built by Herod the Great and it is known today as the site where 960 religious Jews died rather than going into captivity under the Romans. When we leave Masada, we will go down to the shores of the Dead Sea at Ein Bokek, where there are luxury hotels and shops, and where there is access to the warm waters of the Sea. Afterward we'll go back to Biblical Tamar Park where we will tour this historic city that dates back to at least the time of Abraham. We will learn more about the 26,000 artifacts that have been found at Tamar and about the plan for its continued development by Blossoming Rose. We will enjoy our dinner together and then join Joan as she shares the vision of Biblical Tamar Park while we sit around the campfire.



Day 7: Tuesday – Research Center, Timna, Eilat, Red Sea or a day to volunteer, rest, or meditate

We are welcomed in the dining room anytime in the morning for coffee. A breakfast bar is ready at 7 am where we choose what we would like to eat. This is a special day to “leave our mark” in Israel, a time set aside for doing the good deeds we read about in the scriptures. Our Supervisor and his volunteers are ready to lead us into the fabulous old city of Tamar where we can help beautify



the area. If anyone has special skills in electricity, plumbing, or carpentry, there are always small jobs that need to be done in this desert community. Others might like to assist in the kitchen or dining room. Then there will be those who need the day to rest and reflect. Another option is to visit the Research Center, Timna, and the Red Sea in Eilat. Everyone is free to choose! We will finish the day sharing around the fire in the Sukkah about our experiences in the days since we arrived in Israel.

Day 8: Wednesday - Beersheva, Caesarea, Basilica of the Annunciation of Jesus in Nazareth, and Tiberius

We will leave at 8 am and bid everyone who stays at Tamar goodbye. The bus will snake its way up out of the Arava and into the Negev and we will be on our way to Beersheva, the city of Abraham, where we will visit his seven wells. We will continue past Arad, Hebron, and the Valley of Elah to the ancient city of Caesarea and go into the amphitheater and walk the length of that great City, departing through the Crusader's fortress. Then we will go past Mt. Carmel that overlooks Megiddo, stop at the Basilica of the Annunciation of Jesus in Nazareth, and spend the night in Tiberius at the beautiful downtown Leonardo Club Hotel.



Day 9: Thursday - Jordan River, Capernaum, Tabga, Caesarea Philippi, tel Dan, and the Galilee boat



We will eat a hardy Israeli breakfast. You have an option today. We will all go to the Jordan River and those who wish to renew their baptismal vows may do that. We will continue around the Sea of Galilee to the Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tabga, Caesarea Philippi, and tel Dan. Some may wish to stay at Tabga and Capernaum, with Pat, for meditation, prayer, and perhaps walking the shore of the Sea. Others will visit the Golan Heights, near to the borders of Syria and Lebanon,

where we will pray for Israel. As the sun dips lower in the west over the mountains of the Galilee, we will all board our Galilee boat and listen to Danny Carmel sing, worshipping with him, and then returning to our hotel for dinner and a late stroll on the Sea shore in Tiberius.

Day 10: Friday - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and the Old City

We will leave Tiberius and will drive to Jerusalem and visit Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. We will see the Church of the Nativity and have lunch in Manger Square. There will be time for shopping.



Day 11: Saturday – Free Day in Jerusalem (evening Mass today)

This free time will allow everyone to have some independence to see other historic places, or shop, before we leave for the Abu Gosh for Mass prior to arriving at the airport at 7 pm. We must be at Ben Gurion Airport three hours before our flights depart. (Most flights depart around midnight.)

Day 12: Sunday – Arriving back in 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, thinking about this great experience. Shalom!

TRIP INFORMATION

Tours Include:

Hotels
Breakfast
Dinner (except for November 18)
National Park Pass
All meals at Biblical Tamar Park
All Tips except housekeeping
Gondola at Masada
Galilee Boat
All listed sites that we visit
Bus transfer to and from Ben Gurion Airport

Not Included:

Jericho Excavation
Lunches
Airline Ticket
Flight insurance

Land Only Price: \$2,350 (Tips Included)
(Airlines not included in total price.)

Single Supplement: \$695 (if available)
Airline ticket: \$800-\$1500 (see note below)

NOTE: Airline tickets vary in price from \$800 to over \$1500, depending on the airline, location, and class you choose, and also the date that you purchase your ticket. A group departure from JFK is also planned. **DO NOT** purchase your ticket until the group has met its quota to hold it. You will be notified via email when it is time to purchase a ticket.

For additional information contact:

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