

Walking in “The Ancient Paths” Israel with Jordan Option

Tour Hosts and Guides: Dr. James Tabor - Dr. DeWayne Coxon

Israel: October 21–30, 2011

Mitzpa Ramon/Jordan: October 29–November 1, 2011 (optional add-on)

TOUR SUMMARY

We will leave the USA on Friday evening, October 28th, flying overnight to Jerusalem. Our first night will be at the lovely Dan Hotel on Mt. Scopus. This unique tour will emphasize three main areas: the Arava or Judean Desert where Abraham and Moses lived and laid down the foundations of Torah Faith; Jerusalem, the capital of ancient Israel and the city where Jesus spent his last days; and the Galilee where Jesus launched his preaching of the Kingdom of God and began a movement that has changed the world. Our goal will be to capture the historic and spiritual roots of both Judaism and the early Jesus movement as we literally walk the ancient pathways and experience the settings that gave birth to our Judaeo-Christian heritage. One unique feature of this tour is a day spent “getting our hands dirty” and learning a bit of archaeology at the ancient biblical site of Tamar, one of the most fascinating digs in Israel today. This trip will transform the way you read and understand the Bible as you put the times and places with the ancient texts. We take only one bus of 45 participants to allow for the time and opportunity to interact with the tour hosts and one another on a daily personal basis. We have no expectations regarding belief systems, politics, or faith orientations. All that is required to go on this tour is a strong orientation toward learning more about the Bible and its history, and particularly where Jews and Christians cross paths in the Holy Land, both past and present.

TOUR HOST AND GUIDE: Dr. James Tabor

James D. Tabor is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he has taught since 1989. He received his Ph.D. in “Christian Origins” from the University of Chicago and has held academic positions at the University of Notre Dame and the College of William and Mary. Tabor is the author of four books, a worldwide lecturer, and President of United Israel founded by David Horowitz in 1944. Tabor has participated in archaeological work at Sepphoris, Qumran, the Suba cave of “John the Baptist,” and most recently on Mt Zion in Jerusalem. He is frequently featured in television documentaries including the History Channel, Discovery, and National Geographic. Dr. Tabor has made 46 trips to the Holy Land since his first visit in 1962 as a teenager.

TOUR HOST AND GUIDE: Dr. DeWayne Coxon

DeWayne A. Coxon is the founder and President of Blossoming Rose. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and was in college teaching and administration for many years before becoming curator of Biblical Tamar Park in Israel. He has visited Israel well over 150 times in the last 46 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.

Day 1: (Friday - Oct. 21) USA to Israel

We will begin our journey as we board our flight to Israel. **(We must be at the airport three hours prior to the flight.)** Meals will be served during our flight.

Day 2: (Saturday – Oct. 22) Israel - Jerusalem

We will land at Ben Gurion International Airport, and be met by our bus driver Jimmy Aroub, who will take us to our hotel in Jerusalem where we will have dinner, visit with Dr Tabor, and then spend our first night at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel. Those who feel up to it will walk with Dr. Tabor to the Old City for a special nighttime visit to the Western Wall.

Day 3: (Sunday – Oct. 23) *Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Praetorian, Herodium, Israel Museum*

Our first full day in Israel will begin with a panoramic, breathtaking view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. We will walk down to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. We will cross the Kidron Valley, walk through the Dung Gate into the Temple Mount area. Then we will walk through the Jewish quarter of the old city and to Mt. Zion where Dr. Tabor will explain his excavation and also lead us to the newly discovered authentic location of the Praetorian and Pilate's Judgment seat. We will continue to the Herodium, where King Herod was buried near Bethlehem, stopping off at the Talpiot "Jesus tomb" and then on to the Israel Museum and also the Dome of the Scrolls, finishing at the model city of Jerusalem during the time of Christ.

Day 4: (Monday – Oct. 24) *Jerusalem, the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, the Old City*

We will go directly to the Temple Mount this morning and view the sun as it rises over the city. We will join the Jewish people in Jerusalem and pray with them at the Western Wall. We will walk through the four quarters of the old city (Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Armenian) and to several Jewish and Christian historic sites, finishing the day with a tour of the City of David. Those who want to have some time before dinner to shop can stay and shop in the Old City.

Day 5: (Tuesday – Oct. 25) *Caesarea, Sepphoris, Tzafat, Sea of Galilee, Tiberius*

We will leave for Caesarea, that great city built by Herod the Great on the Mediterranean, passing by Megiddo we will visit the ancient ruins of Sepphoris near Nazareth, and walk the streets of the mystical city of Sfad/Tzafat overlooking the Sea of Galilee, passing by the Horns of Hattin where Jesus most likely taught the "Lord's Prayer." We will end the day to our hotel in Tiberius right on the Sea of Galilee with lots and authentic Israeli places to eat and drink.

Day 6: (Wednesday – Oct. 26) *Capernaum, Golan, Lebanon, Syria, Caesarea Philippi and boat trip on the Sea of Galilee*

We'll go first to the Mt. of Beatitudes and tour ancient Capernaum, where Jesus made his HQ and moved his family. We will continue on around the Sea to Capernaum, and up into the Golan to Katzrine, the Jewish provincial capital and on to the borders of Syria and Lebanon. Caesarea Philippi will be our next stop, Tel Dan second, and then we'll finish the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We will watch the sun set and then go to our hotel.

Day 7: (Thursday – Oct. 27) *Jordan River, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Masada, Biblical Tamar*

We will go over the Jordan River and south past Jericho, walk among the ruins, and on to Qumran, where Dr. Tabor will lead us through the excavations. The peaceful desert waterfall of En Gedi will be our next stop followed by Masada. We will arrive at Biblical Tamar Park at dusk, move into our rooms, and have dinner together. After dinner we will gather in the Sukkoth and be a part of talks with Dr. Tabor and Coxon about what is interesting to us at Tamar.

Day 8: (Friday – Oct. 28) *Archaeology activity*

This is our day to get our hands dirty by helping the archaeologists and Dr. Tabor dig into the past. Dr. Tali Erickson, a noted archaeologist, will team with Dr. Tabor in an excavation going on in the Roman quarter of Tamar. We will be ready for a shower after our work is completed. After dinner, Dr. Tabor will take us into the desert, to the gravesite of Simha Pearlmuter, and tell us stories of this desert survivor who founded Kibbutz Ir Ovot, now renamed Biblical Tamar Park.

Day 9: (Saturday – Oct. 29) *Tamar, the Desert experience, and/or Jordan*

We awaken to a peaceful Sabbath, feeling the stillness of the desert as the sun rises over the Jordanian mountains. We'll have a Bible study with Dr. Tabor that focuses on his book and thoughts on the desert experiences of Abraham and Moses. Everyone will be free to walk around the Tamar area and soak up the historic biblical atmosphere. We will leave after lunch to stop at a few of Dr. Tabor's special places on our way to the airport in the late afternoon. The people who chose the optional add-on will travel to Mitzpa Ramon today.

Day 10: (Sunday – Oct. 30) *Arrive in the USA (those not going to Jordan)*

Mitzpa Ramon/Jordan Add-On

Day 9 (Saturday – Oct. 29): Mitzpa Ramon Crater/Beersheva area

The day will begin with an exploratory drive along the Negev rift, following the wadi towards Kadesh Barnea. We will stop at the Mitzpa Ramon Welcome Center and view the large crater made millions of years ago. After lunch we will go to tel Beersheva, and if time permits, tel Arad, before we return to Tamar.

Day 11 (Sunday – Oct. 30): Eilat/Petra

Today we will leave Tamar early, drive south to Eilat, and go through customs into Jordan. We drive north and arrive at Petra where we walk down into the ancient city carved in rock by the Nabataean in the times before and during Christ's life. We will enter the city through a deep winding dry river bed. The Treasury building that will loom ahead of us was carved in rock and is over 50 feet high. The day will be spent going through this huge city before our guide takes us back to the Israeli border so we can return to our rooms at Biblical Tamar Park.

Day 12 (Monday – Oct. 31): Jerusalem and the airport

We have another bountiful breakfast with our friends at Tamar Park and then board our bus for the trip to Jerusalem for last minute shopping. Some of us remain at Tamar for a few more days.

Day 13: (Tuesday – Nov. 1) Israel to USA

We arrive in the United States where we will board connecting flights home.

Tours Include:

- International flight
- Hotels – breakfast/dinner
- National Park Passes
- All tips (except housekeeping)
- All meals at Tamar
- All entrance fees

Not Included:

- Flight insurance
- Lunches (except at Tamar)
- Room service at Hotels
- Hotel housekeeping tips (\$2 a day)
- Tips and Israeli border fees (Petra add-on)

COST: \$3145 from Philadelphia (air and land included)

LAND ONLY: \$1895

Single Supplement \$595 (Israel if available)

Jordan add-on \$475

**For additional information contact Dr. Tabor or Dr. Coxon. You may reserve a place immediately on this special tour by paying your deposit on-line at:
http://www.blossomingrose.org/tours/Online_Deposits.html**

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