

**The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Institute of Archaeology**

Tel Rehov Expedition 2010

VOLUNTEER GUIDE

Welcome to the Tel Rehov expedition!

The following information is intended to orient you to the upcoming excavations at Tel Rehov. Additional details about the dig and the Beth-Shean Valley Regional Project can be found on our website:

www.rehov.org

The Expedition

Sponsors

The expedition is financed mainly by a generous donation of Mr. John Camp. The expedition is sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Institute of Archaeology and is directed by Prof. Amihai Mazar.

General Information

Dates: The tenth season of excavations at Tel Rehov will take place from June 15 - July 16, 2010. Each volunteer has registered for a particular period of time: three week sessions or the entire six weeks. In exceptional cases, we have accepted volunteers for different periods. On the basis of this registration, we reserve rooms in the kibbutz and plan our excavation strategy. Thus, we must know if there are any changes in your plans. Please notify us as soon as possible of such changes in the dates you plan to be with us. We also require that you confirm the dates you intend to participate, together with the date and time you expect to arrive at the kibbutz. We will contact each volunteer at the beginning of June in order to register this information so we can wait for you with the key to your room at the right time.

You are expected to arrive at the kibbutz and register the day before you begin digging. Thus, since first day of the 2010 dig week begins on Tuesday, June 15, volunteers must arrive on Monday, June 14.

Cost:

- The cost for accommodations of 3 to 4 people in a comfortable suite is:
 - \$315 for the first week (6 nights)
 - \$365 per week for the second, third and fourth weeks (7 nights per week)
 - \$265 for the fifth week (5 nights)
- Weekends are included in the price regardless whether or not you stay on the kibbutz. No refunds are possible.

- Your room is available to you the day before you start digging; however, if you wish to arrive before this day (or stay additional days after the dig), you must book ahead of time directly with the Bed and Breakfast office of the kibbutz (details of the link to the kibbutz are on the Rehov website). Any such extra day (beyond the framework of the dig) will cost you an additional fee that is determined directly with the kibbutz.
- We require a \$50 non-refundable registration fee with your application form; this sum will be deducted from the final payment. The remainder of the sum **must be paid by April 1, 2010**. Payment can be made with a personal check or a bank check made out to **“The Israel Exploration Society” (NO MONEY TRANSFERS ACCEPTED PLEASE)**.

The archaeological site:

Tel Rehov is located in the Beth Shean Valley at the junction of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. It commands the main Jordan Valley highway ca. 5 km south of Beth Shean. Though not mentioned in the Bible, the site is mentioned by the 19th Dynasty Pharaoh Seti I. Its size and location undoubtedly points to it being a major city in the region during Canaanite period. The seven seasons of excavation at Tel Rehov have proved it to be a fabulously rich site that plays a key role in the current discourse on the chronology and historicity of the United Monarchy in the Bible. This season we will be concentrating our efforts in Area C, in levels dating to Iron Age IIA (10th-9th centuries BCE) and in Area D, going down into the earlier periods of the Iron Age I (12th-11th centuries BCE) and the Late Bronze Age (13th-14th centuries BCE).

Accommodations: The expedition will be housed at Kibbutz Beit Alfa, ca. 10 km southwest of Beth Shean and about 7 km. northwest of Tel Rehov. The kibbutz is located at the foot of Mt. Gilboa (associated with the death of King Saul in 1 Sam 31-2 Sam 1) not far from the well-known Sachne (or Gan Hashlosa) springs and recreation park. The kibbutz Bed and Breakfast offers air-conditioned suites that comfortably accommodate 3 to 4 people and includes a kitchenette, shower and bathroom, and cable TV, as well as front porch and lawns. Pictures are available on the Kibbutz website (with a link through the Rehov website).

What the kibbutz provides:

- Food. You will be provided with a complete dairy breakfast on the tel, a hot meat meal at lunch time in the kibbutz dining room, and a dairy meal for supper also in the dining room. Coffee and tea will be available in the rooms, as well as bread and jam for an early morning ‘snack’ before starting the day.
- Room and Bedding. The kibbutz provides each person with a bed, mattress, sheets, pillow, blanket, linens are changed each week, towels are changed daily and the room is cleaned on a daily basis.
- Laundry. The kibbutz has laundry services, included in the excavation fee. A collection basket will be placed in front of the expedition office on a designated day each week and the clean laundry will be returned the next day. Make sure you have an indelible pen or other way to mark your clothing. Mesh washing bags will be provided for delicates.

- **Infirmary.** There is a medical clinic on the kibbutz which can handle any minor emergency. If any more major illness occurs, we evacuate the volunteer to a nearby hospital in Afula or Tiberias. It is imperative that each person has their own medical insurance or else you will not be allowed to excavate. In many cases, the person has to pay for the treatment and then gets reimbursed back home. This should be checked out with your insurance company. Make sure you keep your receipts.
- **Recreation.** Swimming facilities in the large kibbutz pool and a discount for entry to the Sachne park hours for our volunteers).
- **Convenience store:** a small but well-equipped grocery and convenience store is located at the kibbutz. Opening hours will be posted.

What to bring (a must):

- **Work clothing.** Work clothing should be sturdy, light in weight and color, and easy to launder. Since the sun is intense, you may need to vary sleeve and pant lengths until you get into condition. Remember that loose clothing is more comfortable than close fitting, and that synthetic fibers tend to be hot. We do not permit excavating without a shirt for men nor bikini tops for women. You need to be protected from the sun, even though we work under a shade!
- **Work shoes.** Sturdy and comfortable shoes are a must. The soles must be thick enough to provide protection from the rocks and an occasional curious scorpion. We discourage sneakers and sandals are not allowed in the field.
- **Sun hat.** A broad brim hat made from a light breathable cotton is best.
- **Casual clothing.** For after work and on the weekends. Dress in Israel tends to be informal. Don't forget your swim suit!
- **Water canteen.** Although we provide you with plenty of cold water in the field, you cannot drink from the common tank. Each person must fill up their own water bottle with the water we provide. You will also find it useful for field trips and on weekends. An insulated water bottle holder is a good idea as well. Bottles of water can be purchased here.

Highly Recommended:

Sunglasses

Towels and thongs

Toilet items

Sunscreen of SPF15 or higher

Medicine, prescription and other

Insect repellent

Clothesline and clothes pins

Liquid detergent in a plastic bottle

Flashlight

Alarm Clock

Marshalltown pointed trowel (no, 45/5 is the best). We provide working tools, but there is nothing like these particular wonderful digging tools. Though they are hard to get these

days, if you manage to buy one in a hardware store, it will certainly help you to be a successful digger!

Reading material

Modest clothing (a wrap skirt and shawl are perfect for women, long pants for men) for trips to churches, synagogues, mosques

Camera

*If you enter the country with a video camera or computer, you must register it with customs at the airport when you arrive, in order to avoid custom difficulties when leaving.

Travel to Israel: It is recommended not to arrive in Israel on Friday afternoon when everything begins to shut down for the Sabbath, nor on Saturday when most everything is closed.

If you do land at such a time, you may take a taxi from a company called “Nesher”, whose station is right outside the terminal. They go to Jerusalem, where you may stay until the end of the Sabbath. There are also taxis called “sherut” that will take you to nearby Tel Aviv, where you can stay until the end of Sabbath as well, when public transportation renews.

Arrival in Israel: Plan to arrive in Israel at least one day before you are scheduled to begin the dig. On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we suggest that you change some money into shekels. The amount needed to pay to the expedition in addition to another \$100 for spending purposes is probably sufficient. You may want to bring half the amount of money in traveler's checks for safety reasons. You can cash traveler's checks at any post office without paying a commission fee. An alternative to traveler's checks are ATM machines throughout Israel that will give you shekels. (Be sure to get a PIN number to use with your card if you do not already have one and make sure it will work here; letter codes are not used in Israel).

How to get to the kibbutz from Ben Gurion Airport:

****Detailed information about travel from the airport and arrival at the kibbutz will be sent to our registered volunteers, including an updated bus schedule shortly before the dig so that you will have the most current times****

Mailing address: (Your name)
Tel Rehov Excavations
Kibbutz Bet Alfa
Mobile Post Gilboa
Israel 19150

Keep in mind that first class mail to and from Israel takes from 10-14 days.

Computer and Internet Access: We have two wireless stations (“hot spots”) for laptops for daily use and one desktop computer with internet connection for use during the

weekends. There is also an internet café in Beth-Shean (or at least there was!!) and in nearby Afula.

Lectures: A series of lectures relating to subjects of archaeological and historical interest are scheduled one to two times a week. These lectures take place at 8 p.m. and are open to all participants (and are obligatory for the credit students). A precise syllabus will be handed out at the beginning of the lecture series.

Field Trips: In addition to the lectures, we will arrange for two optional field trips to sites of archaeological interest in the Galilee. These are included in the fee paid for the credit course from the Hebrew University and are mandatory for our credit students. All others will have to pay an additional charge (which has not yet been established) for the full day guided field trip. All trips will leave Kibbutz Beit Alfa on Sundays 7.30 a.m.

Short afternoon field trips to local sites of interest, such as the ancient synagogue of Beit Alfa and the archaeological museum of Tel Amal, will be arranged occasionally. These will be free of charge and open for all volunteers (these too are obligatory for credit students).

Staff home telephone numbers

Expedition cellular phone: 054-4709448

University Lab: (02) 588-2437

Ami Mazar: (02) 586-5187 (home)

Nava Panitz-Cohen: (02) 582-7832 (home); 054-4403487 (cellphone)

Work days: Our dig week runs from Monday to Friday, from 5:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In the afternoons, volunteers will be expected to assist with pottery washing or other related assignments; the schedule for this will be posted during the week. On the weekends, participants may relax on the kibbutz or choose to travel on their own.

Daily schedule:

4:30 Wake-up and light breakfast in the rooms

5:00 Bus departs for the Tel

5:20 Work begins

9:00 Breakfast in the field

9:30 Work resumes

11:00 Juice break

12:15 Work ends

13:00 Lunch at the kibbutz (main meal)

14:00 Siesta (time to sleep, swim and relax)

16:30 Pottery washing, pottery sorting and marking, other special projects; workshops and seminars for academic credit students.

19:00 Dinner (dairy meal)

20:00 Lectures (twice-three times a week)

21:30-22:00 Suggested bedtime

Work etiquette:

1. There is little that contributes more to the overall success of an excavation better than mature people who maintain a good attitude towards their work and one another.
2. Please arise promptly at 4:20-4:30 and make sure that all your roommates are up.
3. Be sensitive to the needs of others and respect their privacy.
3. No loud noise or talking after 21:00 to allow those who wish to go to bed to get their rest. We recommend that you not stay up later than 22:00 and to take advantage of the afternoon nap times. Fatigue has a cumulative effect.
4. Leave the caravans no later than 10 minutes before bus departure time. Prompt arrival is a must.
5. Upon arrival to the tel, proceed directly to your assigned field and assist with setting up the sun shades and removing work tools from the metal storage bins.
6. Don't waste time sitting around and talking to people. It is important to the progress of the excavations that everyone maximize their time by going immediately to work. Talking is fine, but you can do it while excavating.
7. No unnecessary walking on the balks or stepping into other peoples' squares and work areas without permission.
8. At quitting time, everyone must stay in their field *until your supervisor dismisses you*. This will not take place until all the tools have been placed in the metal bins and the sun shades properly lowered and secured with stones.
9. Serious misconduct or irresponsibility which endangers others could result in dismissal from the excavations.
10. The Beth Shean Valley is a very hot region. Drink plenty of water!!!
11. If you don't feel well, report to your supervisor. Take a rest in the breakfast shed. If necessary, you will be evacuated for medical care. Drink, drink and drink again (there are great chemical toilets on the tel!).

We wish you enjoyable summer and are sure you will have a wonderful life experience at Tel Rehov!