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Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition

2023

Information Pack



Thank you for joining the 2023 Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition, and welcome to the team! We are delighted to have you join us in what is set to be another exciting summer of excavation!

In this guide you will find general information on equipment, excavation schedules, and transport details for the upcoming 2023 season.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Maddi at azekah.excavations@gmail.com.

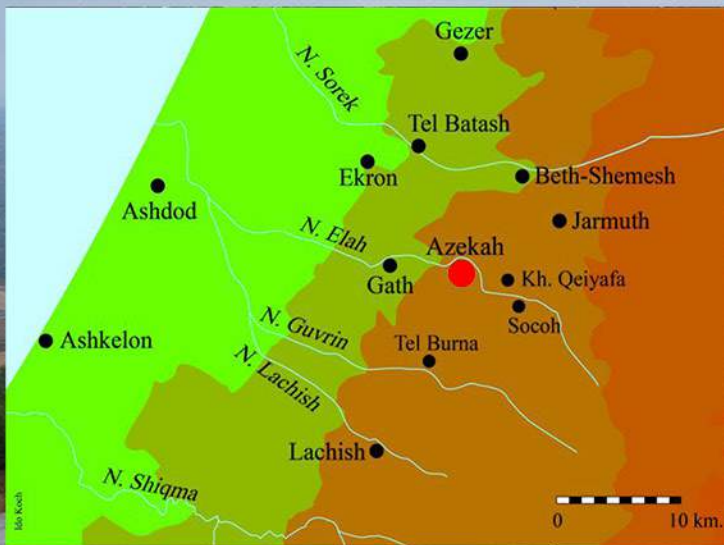
ABOUT AZEKAH

WHERE IS TEL AZEKAH?

Tel Azekah is located in the heart of Shephelah, some 45km from Tel Aviv and 30km from Jerusalem. Sitting high above sea level, Tel Azekah has played a central role in the ancient history of the region and was once the control point of a strategic junction of roads. These roads travelled in all directions and led from the Mediterranean coast to the west, through to the Judean Hills in the east, and connected Beth-Shemesh in the north through to Lachish in the south. For millennia Azekah flourished and grew, as its community benefited from Azekah's rich natural and strategic location.

TEL AZEKAH IN THE PAST

Azekah has a long history, stretching back some 3500 years to the Early Bronze Age when it was first settled. During the Middle Bronze Age, Azekah emerged as a strongly fortified, urban city which continued to flourish until its destruction at the end of the Late Bronze Age. After a period of abandonment, Azekah was once again settled in the Iron II and flourished as a Judean town.

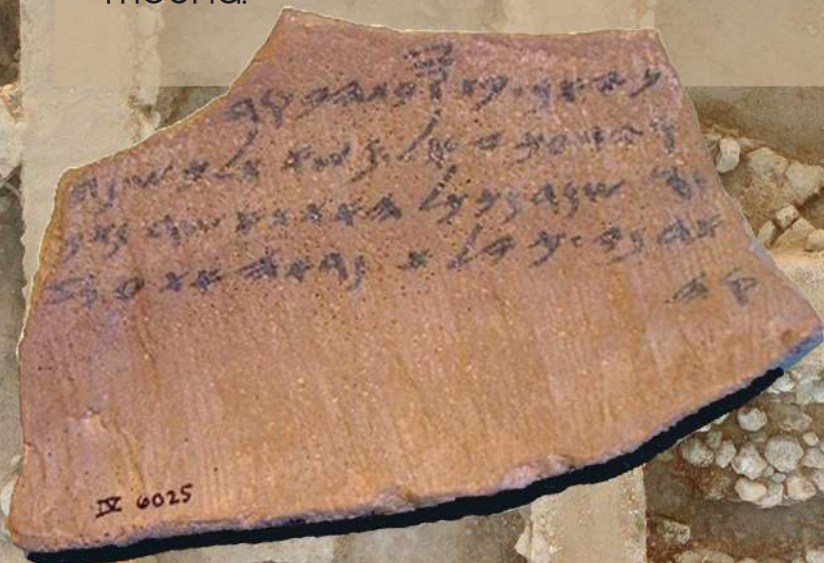


TEL AZEKAH'S BIBLICAL HISTORY

Tel Azekah also plays a prominent role in the biblical texts. 1 Samuel 17:1 references the area around Azekah as the arena for the battle between David and Goliath. Beyond its significance as a central Judean town, the site also gains archaeological and historical importance from its destruction by the Assyrian King Sennacherib in 701 BCE.

According to Jeremiah 34:7, over a 100 years later during the Babylonian siege against Jerusalem, Lachish and Azekah "were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained".

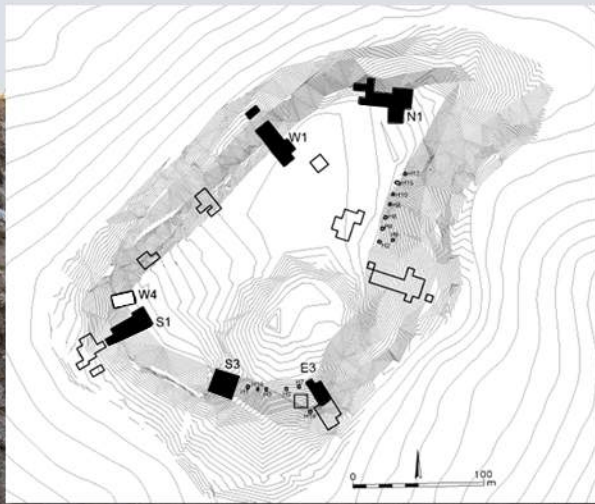
Despite multiple destructions, Azekah continued to flourish, and was resettled by Judeans in the Persian Period (539–332 BCE) and continued to grow. During the Hasmonean dynasty (140 BCE–116 BCE), an impressive fortress was constructed by the great Hasmonean King, John Hyrcanus I. The remains of this massive structure can still be seen today, perched atop the mound.



TEL AZEKAH TODAY

Despite its long occupation, Tel Azekah was eventually abandoned and forgotten. In the late 19th century, the history of the site was rediscovered when it became one of the first sites to be excavated in Israel. A small team of British archaeologists, led by F.J. Bliss and R.A.S. Macalister, briefly excavated the sites between 1898–1899 on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Thinking that these excavations had essentially destroyed any remains, Azekah was once again left abandoned until the 21st century.

In 2012, a team of archaeologists returned to the site, led by Tel Aviv University professors Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot, and Professor Manfred Oeming from Heidelberg University. In the years since, our team has grown to include archaeologists, historians, scientists and students from Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Malta, United Kingdom, Spain, China, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, and the United States to name a few! As we continue to dig deeper by using modern techniques and expertise, the site continues to evolve and excite!





ACCOMMODATION

During the week, the expedition stays at Netiv Ha-Lamed He, a serene oasis just 10 minutes from Azekah. There, the team will be able to process excavated material, relax in comfort, hear from guest lecturers, learn in our field school, and rest at the end of a productive day.

Participants stay in two types of fully furnished, airconditioned rooms. Dorm-style rooms are shared between 4 people with ensuite bathroom. Some young men will stay in the communal living hall ("Khan") divided into rooms for three with shared spaces for relaxing with some games and drinks! The khan has a large, attached bathroom block with toilets and showers. Everyone has communal access to a small kitchen, perfect for that afternoon coffee and snack!

Food is provided throughout the day by the excavation, with a delicious breakfast and mid-morning snacks on site and afternoon tea, lunch, and dinner back at the kibbutz! There is a small market, where team members can purchase additional food, water and basic toiletries.

Team members will stay at Netiv Ha-Lamed He from Sunday night through to Friday morning, and will leave for Tel Aviv or Jerusalem on Friday noon.



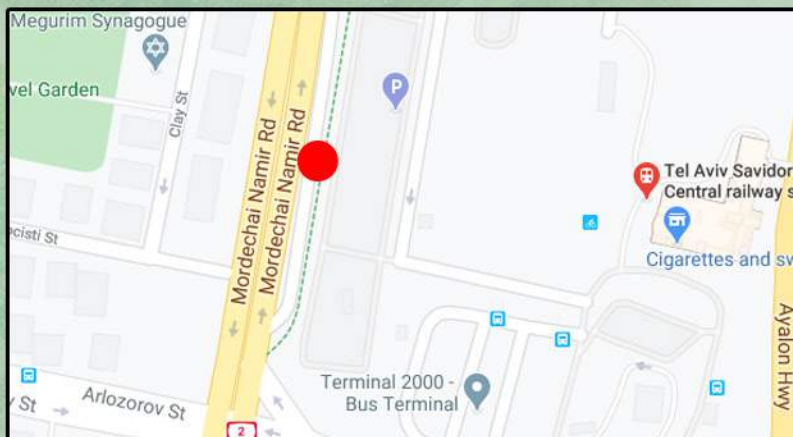
TRANSPORTATION

The excavation provides daily transportation to the site and weekly transportation to Tel Aviv for the weekend. It will be also possible for participants to be collected/dropped off at Beth Shemesh (Tsor'a Intersection) for the train and easy access to other cities. Transport to Jerusalem is still being determined.

Please arrive to the pickup point at least 15 minutes before the bus is scheduled to depart. The collection point will remain the same for the entire season.

WEEKEND TRANSPORTATION ON FRIDAY

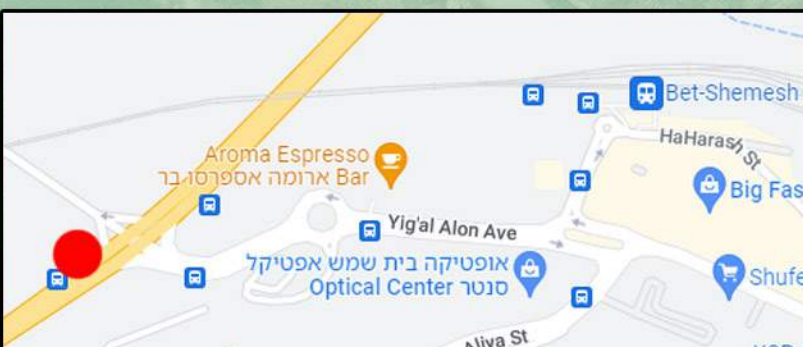
The bus back to Tel Aviv will leave the site at approximately 11:30 and drop you off at Beth Shemesh before continuing to Arlozorov Train Station, Tel Aviv.



TRANSPORT FROM TEL AVIV

Departure: Sunday 15:00

The Tel Aviv collection point is on Namir Road near the Arlozorov Railway Station. The station is also known as Savidor Train Station.



TRANSPORT FROM BETH SHEMESH

Departure: Sunday 15:40

Collection from the Tsor'a Intersection (Bus Stop 5383). You must notify Maddi in advance if you would like to be collected from Beth Shemesh.



EQUIPMENT

While excavating is a lot of fun, it is important to have the right equipment for working outside, especially during summer! Attached is a general list of recommended equipment that has been personally built by the Azekah team over many years of digging!

It is also important to remember that excavating is dirty, sweaty work done in the sun! So when packing, be sure to include only clothes that you are prepared to get dirty and potentially damaged. It may be possible to have access to laundry services once a week at the kibbutz for an additional cost. This is not guaranteed, however, so we recommend bringing at least seven days worth of clothes and laundry powder/liquid.

Although there are no strict clothing regulations, we recommend shirts with sleeves, and long pants, to protect excavators in the field from sun and injury. Also remember that you will be working around tools, rocks and heavy equipment so it is imperative that you wear closed in shoes when excavating to avoid injury. We recommend hiking boots, or other industrial outdoor footwear. Open shoes are not allowed in the excavation areas.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

EXCAVATION CLOTHES

- Long pants and shirts (be sun smart!)
- Shorts and t-shirts
- Underwear and socks
- Closed shoes/boots

AFTER EXCAVATION

- Comfy summer clothes for relaxing
- cardigan for cooler mornings and nights
- Pajamas
- Sandals/flip flops
- bathing suit for weekend beach trips!

DIG BAG

- Backpack
- Hat
- Large water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Lip balm
- Notebook, pens and a ruler

EXTRAS

- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Hair brush
- Required Medications
- Band-aids
- Moisturiser
- Anti-bug cream/spray
- Laundry powder/liquid
- Ear plugs/eye mask
- Cash
- Travel adapters for charging (EU type C, H and M)

Additional snacks and general toiletries can be purchased on weekends or during the week from the store at the kibbutz.

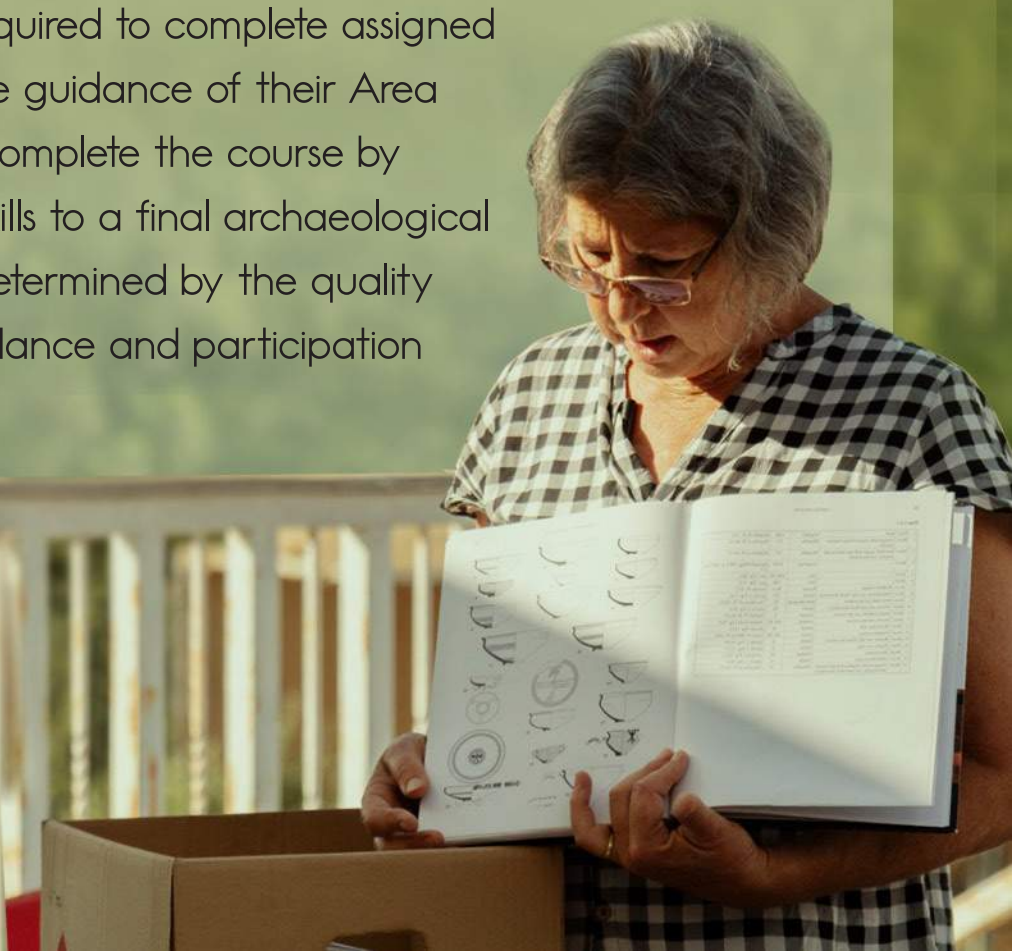


ACADEMIC FIELDWORK COURSE

The Lautenschlager Azekah Expedition offers a Tel Aviv University accredited fieldwork course worth 3 credit points. The course provides classroom and field training in history and archaeology, allowing students to earn university credit while they excavate in Israel!

The program involves a number of lectures and practical classes presented over the four-week season by leading experts in the field. All lectures are free and open to everyone but are mandatory for those taking the fieldwork course. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the theory and practical skills associated with the field of archaeology. The course includes lectures presented by specialists in a number of archaeological subfields and includes field assessment, understanding field reports, identifying pottery and organic remains, and archaeological drawing and surveying.

Registered students are required to complete assigned tasks in the field under the guidance of their Area Supervisors. Students will complete the course by applying their acquired skills to a final archaeological report. Final grades are determined by the quality of the assessments, attendance and participation in class.



2023 GUEST LECTURES

Week 1

What Deity was Worshipped in the Kingdom of Judah in Iron Age IIA? - Between Moza and Jerusalem.

Filip Čapek, Charles University

Can We See the Total Destruction of the Biblical War Narratives in Archaeology?

The Research on the Herem

Igor Kreimerman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Week 2

Jerusalem Before the Destruction of Samaria

Yuval Gadot, Tel Aviv University

Bible and Archaeology: Lachish and Rehoboam's Fortified Cities as a Test Case

Yossi Garfinkel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Israel Antiquities Authority: Past, Present and Future

Gideon Avni, Israel Antiquities Authority

Week 3

Hezekiah's Reform in Bible and Archaeology

Sabine Kleiman, Tel Aviv University

Intro to Archaeomagnetism

Yoav Vaknin, Tel Aviv University

Azekah - the Hometown of Micah the Moreshite

Jakob Wöhrle, Tübingen University & Prof. Oded Lipschits, Tel Aviv University

Trends in Israeli Public Archaeology: the Israeli Institute of Archaeology as a Test Case

Boaz Gross, Tel Aviv University/Israeli Institute of Archaeology

Week 4

Does the Book of Ezra and Nehemiah Reflect a Persian or Hasmonean Reality? The List of Returnees as a Test Case

Aharon Tavger, Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Ariel University

Archaeology as a Believer: How to not Confuse an Apologetic Approach with a Proper Theological One

Josef Briffa, Pontifical Biblical Institute

The Stones and the Word - Six Classical Models of the Relation of Excavations and Exegesis - and One Example: Hazael and Gat

Manfred Oeming, Heidelberg University

2023 FIELDWORK SCHOOL CLASSES

Week 1 | Archaeological Registration
Daniel Nam, Tel Aviv University

Archaeological Documentation (1)
Noga Rapaport, Tel Aviv University

Week 2 | Studying Pottery
Liora Freud, Tel Aviv University

Archaeological Documentation (2)
Avinoam Lehavi, Tel Aviv University

Week 4 | Using Archaeological Reports
Hannah Ripps, Tel Aviv University

TOURS

Week 1: Tel Hadid
with Ido Koch

Week 2: Tel Lachish
with Felix Höfelmeyer

Week 3: Tel Gezer
with Avinoam Lehavi

Week 4: Khirbet Qeyiafa
with Sabine Kleiman

OPTIONAL WEEKEND TOURS

Week 2 (July 21-23)

Jerusalem Tour

See Mahne Yehuda Shuk, the
Israel Museum, Western Wall
Tunnels and Old City Jerusalem!

Week 3 (July 28-30)

Galilee Tour

See Narareth Magdala,
Capernaum, Tabagha, Beit
She'arim and Caesarea!

For more information on pricing and schedule, email azekah.excavations@gmail.com

2023 STAFF

EXCAVATION DIRECTORS: Prof. Oded Lipschits and Prof. Manfred Oeming

FIELD DIRECTOR: Dr. Sabine Kleiman

REGISTRARS: Dr. Liora Freud and Daria Leibin-Graiver

ADMINISTRATORS: Maddison Quail-Gates and Daniel Nam

AREA A1 NORTH

SUPERVISOR: Noga Rapoport

ASSISTANT: Gaya Ettinger

AREA A1 SOUTH

SUPERVISOR: Avinoam Lehavi

ASSISTANT: John Will Rice

AREA N1 WEST

SUPERVISOR: Josef Briffa

ASSISTANT: Tal Nemet

AREA N1 EAST

SUPERVISOR: Christoph Wind

ASSISTANT: Daniel Kleiman

AREA S1

SUPERVISOR: DANIEL NAM

ASSISTANT: BOUDDICCA BELL

AREA E3

SUPERVISOR: Hannah Ripps

ASSISTANT: Tilmann Gaitzsch



Week 1							
Hour	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04:20						Packing and leaving rooms	Weekend
04:40		Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	
05:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	
09:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
10:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Tour of Azekah	
11:00							
11:30		Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	11:00 Returning from the Site	
11:45		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork		
12:00							
13:00		Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	
13:30		Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	
14:00							
15:00		15:00 Bus departs for Tel Azekah	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	
15:30							
16:00	Afternoon Coffee			Afternoon Coffee	Afternoon Coffee		
16:45	16:00 Opening Talk at the Site	Guest Lecture: Filip Čapek	Tour: Tel Hadid	Guest Lecture Igor Kreimerman	Prepare Area Presentations		
17:00	16:30 Orientation Tour, Safety Instructions and Work in Areas	Fieldwork Class: Registration		Fieldwork Class: Archaeological Documentation (1)	Party and BBQ Dinner!!		
18:15	19:15 Leave for Kibbutz						
19:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Enjoy your Weekend!	
20:00	Getting Rooms and Team Introduction	Rest	Rest	Group Discussion: Oded Lipschits	Weekly Finds, Presentations and Farewells		
21:00							
21:30	Rest				Rest		

Week 2							
Hour	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04:20						Packing and leaving rooms	Weekend
04:40		Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	
05:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	
09:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
10:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Tour of Azekah	
11:00							
11:30		Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	11:00 Returning from the Site	
11:45		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork		
12:00							
13:00		Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	
13:30		Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	
14:00							
15:00		15:00 Bus departs for Tel Azekah	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	
15:30							
16:00	Afternoon Coffee			Afternoon Coffee	Afternoon Coffee		
16:45	16:00 Opening Talk at the Site	Guest Lecture: Yuval Gadot	Tour: Tel Lachish	Guest Lecture Yossi Garfinkle	Prepare Area Presentations		
17:00	16:30 Orientation Tour, Safety Instructions and Work in Areas						
18:15	19:15 Leave for Kibbutz	Fieldwork Class: Studying Pottery		Guest Lecture: Gideon Avni	Party and BBQ Dinner!!		
19:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner			
20:00	Getting Rooms and Team Introduction	Rest	Rest	Fieldwork Class: Archaeological Documentation (2)	Weekly Finds, Presentations and Farewells		
21:00							
21:30	Rest						Rest

Week 3

Hour	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04:20						Packing and leaving rooms	Weekend
04:40		Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	
05:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	
09:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
10:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Tour of Azekah	
11:00							
11:30		Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	11:00 Returning from the Site	
11:45		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork		
12:00							
13:00		Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	
13:30		Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	
14:00							
15:00		15:00 Bus departs for Tel Azekah	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	
15:30							
16:00	Afternoon Coffee			Afternoon Coffee	Afternoon Coffee		
16:45	16:00 Opening Talk at the Site	Guest Lecture: Sabine Kleiman	Tour: Tel Gezer	Guest Lecture Jakob Wöhrle and Oded Lipschits	Prepare Area Presentations		
17:00	16:30 Orientation Tour, Safety Instructions and Work in Areas	Guest Lecture: Yoav Vaknin		Guest Lecture: Boaz Gross	Party and BBQ Dinner!!		
18:15	19:15 Leave for Kibbutz						
19:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Enjoy your Weekend!	
20:00	Getting Rooms and Team Introduction	Rest	Rest	Rest	Weekly Finds, Presentations and Farewells		
21:00							
21:30	Rest						



Week 4

Hour	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
04:20						Packing and leaving rooms	Weekend	
04:40		Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site	Bus to site		
05:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork		
09:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast		
10:00		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Tour of Azekah		
11:00		Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	Fruit Break	11:00 Returning from the Site		
11:30		Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork			
11:45		Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz	Bus to Kibbutz			
12:00		Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Pottery Wash	Thank you for joining us! See you next season!		
13:00		Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest	Lunch and Rest			
13:30		Afternoon Coffee		Afternoon Coffee	Afternoon Coffee			
14:00		15:00 Bus departs for Tel Azekah	Guest Lecture: Aharon Tavger	Tour: Khirbet Qeyiafa	Guest Lecture Josef Briffa			Prepare Area Presentations
15:00								
15:30		Dinner	Dinner		Dinner			Dinner
16:00	16:00 Opening Talk at the Site	Fieldwork Class: Using Archaeological Reports	Tour: Khirbet Qeyiafa	Rest	Guest Lecture: Manfred Oeming			
16:45	16:30 Orientation Tour, Safety Instructions and Work in Areas						Dinner	Dinner
17:00	19:15 Leave for Kibbutz	Rest		Rest	Rest			
18:15	Dinner		Dinner				Dinner	Dinner
19:30	Getting Rooms and Team Introduction	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest			
20:00	Rest					Rest	Rest	Rest
21:00	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest			
21:30	Rest					Rest	Rest	Rest