

Final date for registration is January 31, 2019

Since 2015, the Jordan Valley Excavation Project (JVEP) has been investigating the ancient history and archaeology of the southern Jordan Valley region, with a particular focus on the Iron Age (1200-586 BC), sometimes referred to as the "Israelite period." Recently, the JVEP team explored the site of Khirbet 'Auja el-Foqa (pictured on the front), a well-preserved, fortified city on a high hill isolated by steep slopes; pottery collected during initial survey work suggests that its primary period of use was in the Iron Age. The Manasseh-Ephraim boundary description in Josh 16:6-7 names a series of sites between Shechem and Jericho, and it may be that 'Auja el-Foqa was one of them. JVEP hypothesizes that it may have served as a central administrative site in the Jericho region in the Iron Age II (1000-586 BC), and this pioneering excavation may yield important information about the administration of Judah in this region during this period of the Israelite kingdoms.

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, JUNE 1: DEPART U.S.A.
Tour members meet for our flight to Israel. After dinner is served, it's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy the on-board entertainment to prepare for this exciting adventure of a lifetime.



DAY 2 – SUNDAY, JUNE 2: ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM

When we fly into Israel, we will immediately be connected with our archaeological dig group.

DAY 3-7 (MONDAY, JUNE 3-FRIDAY, JUNE 7): ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG, JERUSALEM

We'll leave for the dig site at 4:00 am, returning to Jerusalem for lunch. Afternoon walking tours to Jerusalem sites, such as: the Garden of Gethsemane, Western Wall, Gordon's Calvary, the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre, etc. Late afternoon/early evening lectures and/or pottery washing each weekday.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY, JUNE 8: DEAD SEA
We'll visit Qumran, Masada, Ein Gedi, and, time-permitting, take a swim in the Dead Sea.



DAY 9 – SUNDAY ("SHAVUOT" HOLIDAY), JUNE 9: BEIT SHEAN, GIDEON'S SPRING, TEL DAN, BANIAS, GOLAN HEIGHTS

Today, we depart Jerusalem for Beit Shean, one of the best-preserved Decapolis Roman cities. This is where King Saul and his sons' bodies were hung from the city walls after being defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10-12). After a stop at Gideon's Spring, we will eat lunch (not included) along the way to our next stop at Tel Dan. Then, we head to Caesarea Philippi (Banias) where Peter

confessed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13-16). Afterwards, we drive via the Golan heights for a view of the Gamla archeological site and then an observation point for a beautiful panoramic view of Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee.



DAY 10 – MONDAY, JUNE 10: MAGDALA, ANCIENT BOAT MUSEUM, BOAT RIDE, CAPERNAUM, MT. BEATITUDES, BETHSAIDA

Nothing compares to watching the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee! We begin today with a visit to Magdala. Then we visit the Ancient Boat Museum to see a boat from the time of Jesus. Afterwards, we board a replica wooden "Jesus Boat" to set sail on the Sea of Galilee. We then visit Capernaum, Jesus' base for His



early ministry and visit the Mt. of Beatitudes and Bethsaida. Time permitting, we will have a stop at Kursi-Hippos. Dinner and overnight are back in Tiberias.

DAY 11 – TUESDAY, JUNE 11: NAZARETH VILLAGE, MEGIDDO, MT. CARMEL, CAESAREA MARITIMA

This morning, we depart the Galilee to visit Biblical sites at Nazareth (Jesus' childhood home) with a visit to Nazareth Village, Megiddo, Mt. Carmel (where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18), and Caesarea Maritima, where Peter proclaimed the Good News to the Roman Centurion (Acts 10). Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Netanya.



DAY 12 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12: BEN GURION AIRPORT, ARRIVE IN U.S.A.

This morning, we transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our flight back to the U.S.A. We arrive back in the U.S.A. same day. At the close of an unforgettable tour, we take home wonderful memories of the Old and New Testament, a renewal of our faith, and a greater understanding of the life of our Lord.

**The participants will be required to bring work-gloves and trowel. Total cost expected to be less than \$50. More information available from Prof. Kock et. al.*

**While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.*