



MST BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Study Tour 2019

Spend Two Weeks on an Archaeological Dig

and Visit Other Sites of Archaeological Importance in Israel

27 June to 18 July





MST is delighted to offer its students, alumni and friends the opportunity to join the Khirbet el-Rai Expedition in 2019, and visit other sites of archaeological importance in Israel.



MST Biblical Archaeology Study Tour 2019 BB445/645

27 June – 18 July 2019
Lecturer: Gillian Asquith

Itinerary

Thursday 27 June: Departure from Melbourne

This afternoon we will depart Melbourne on our Qantas/Royal Jordanian flight to Tel Aviv via Hong Kong and Amman.

Friday 28 June: Arrival in Tel Aviv — Jerusalem

We'll arrive in Tel Aviv this morning and transfer to our hotel in Jerusalem. We'll freshen up then head out into the Old City for a street-food lunch and a walking tour. This will be a good time to change your Aussie dollars into New Israeli Shekels. Dinner included.

Saturday 29 June: Jerusalem

We'll walk through the Old City again and head out to the Garden of Gethsemane. We'll climb up the Mount of Olives and explore a number of pilgrim sites on the way. We'll enjoy a magnificent view of the Dome of the Rock from the top, then we'll return to the Old City for lunch (anyone fancy falafels?). In the afternoon we'll visit the Tower of David Museum for an orientation to the history of Israel. There will be time to attend the Evening Prayer Service at St George's Cathedral if you wish. We'll have an early night in preparation for a day of digging tomorrow. Breakfast and dinner included.



Sunday 30 June: Khirbet el-Rai Dig

We'll check out of our hotel and take taxis to the dig meeting point. The dig bus will take us to Kibbutz Ein Tzurim where we'll meet the dig directors and other volunteers. Digging will start after lunch. We'll be briefed in safety procedures and the progress to date on the excavations. We'll be allocated to a particular square and get going with our tools. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Monday 1 July – Thursday 4 July: Khirbet el-Rai Dig

We're in the hands of the dig team this week. We work every day until 1.00pm. After lunch and a siesta, we will have pottery washing and pottery reading. In the evenings we'll hear lectures on the archaeology of Israel. Once a week there will be a tour to other archaeological sites nearby. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Friday 5 July: Jerusalem

We'll leave the kibbutz straight after breakfast to spend the weekend in Jerusalem. We'll drop our luggage at the hotel and head down to the City of David archaeological site. There we'll see some of the oldest remains in Jerusalem. We'll have our own private guide who will take us deep underground into Hezekiah's Tunnel. We'll see the Pool of Siloam and walk underground along the recently excavated Herodian Water Channel that winds around the old foundations of Herod's Temple. This evening we'll watch the King David Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David Museum. Breakfast and dinner included.

Saturday 6 July: Jerusalem

After an early breakfast we'll visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre before it gets too busy. We'll continue along the Via Dolorosa to St Anne's Church and the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a blind man. We'll find somewhere in the Old City for an early lunch then take taxis to the Israel Museum to see the spectacular range of artefacts that are housed there. There'll be some free time in later in the afternoon. After dinner, there is the option of walking to the Western Wall to observe the end of Shabbat. Breakfast and dinner included.

Sunday 7 July–Thursday 11 July: Khirbet el-Rai Dig

Once again we'll check out of our hotel and head back to Kibbutz Ein Tzurim for another week of excavating buried treasures. The routine will be the same as last week. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Friday 12 July: Nazareth

The rest of the volunteers will be returning to Jerusalem today, but we'll say our good-byes and travel by private mini-bus to Northern Israel. We'll drop our luggage at our hotel in Nazareth and visit Nazareth village (a reconstruction of a first-century settlement) for a guided tour. After lunch we'll visit the pilgrim churches of Nazareth and have a wander through the Souk. Late in the afternoon we'll head to the Sisters of Nazareth Convent where we'll have an appointment for a private tour of the excavations and first-century tomb discovered under their buildings. Breakfast and dinner included.

Saturday 13 July: Nazareth – Caesarea Maritima – Sepphoris

Our driver will meet us at the hotel and we'll travel first to Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean coast, the place of Cornelius' conversions (Acts 10). We'll see the remains of Herod Agrippa's palace, the magnificent theatre and the hippodrome. We'll then to drive to Megiddo, an ancient city from the time of Solomon with impressive remains. Our final stop will be Sepphoris, the probable referent of Jesus' "city on a hill." Breakfast and dinner included.



Sunday 14 July: Tel Dan – Caesarea Philippi – Hazor – Sea of Galilee

We'll check out of the hotel and head out towards the northernmost part of Israel. We'll visit the lush worship centre of Tel Dan with its Canannite and Israelite city gate structures. Then we'll drive the short distance to Caesarea Philippi. The geo-political significance of this area will give us a deeper understanding of Peter's confession of Christ (Mark 8:29). We'll visit the ancient site of Hazor then finish the day off at Capernaum to see the house that most likely belonged to Peter's mother-in-law. Tonight our hotel will be in Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Bring your togs as it has a pool! Dinner and breakfast included.

Monday 15 July: Sea of Galilee – Jerusalem

We'll pack up our gear again and head out for another full day. We'll visit the first-century synagogue at Migdal, the home of Mary Magdalene. We'll then spend some time looking at the first-century Galilean fishing boat that was discovered in the mud of the lake when the water levels were very low. We'll visit a beautiful church that commemorates the multiplication of the loaves and fishes before heading back to Jerusalem. Once back there, we'll visit the impressive remains of Herod's Temple and walk through streets and up steps dating to the first century. We'll also explore some ancient houses that belonged to the Temple High Priests before the sacking of Jerusalem in AD70. Breakfast and dinner included.



Tuesday 16 July: Jerusalem – Tel Aviv Airport

For our final day we'll visit the Garden Tomb – a suggested alternative site for Jesus' burial. We'll spend some time collectively reflecting on our experiences of the last three weeks. There'll be some free time in the afternoon before we transfer to Tel Aviv Airport for our Royal Jordanian/Malaysian flight home. Breakfast included.

Thursday 18 July: Arrive Melbourne

Cost includes

All flights and taxes.

- 8 nights twin-share hotel accommodation in Nazareth, Jerusalem and Tiberias.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary.
- 10 nights accommodation in a 3 bed room while on the dig (limited doubles available for married couples at extra cost).
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- All transport, transfers and tips.

Cost excludes

- Visa for non-Australian passport holders.
- Tips to porters.
- Meals not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature e.g. laundry, internet etc.
- Drinks.
- Compulsory travel insurance.

Students enrolled in a course with the Australian College of Theology can take this study tour for credit and receive FEE-HELP (if eligible).

Cost due by 8 March 2019: \$5680 upfront plus \$3075 deferred on FEE-HELP (this includes the \$2000 MST Unit Fee). Non-students may participate in the Study Tour for a cost of \$6755.

For further terms and conditions, please refer to the application form.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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