

TELL KEISAN 2019 — INFORMATION SHEET

EXCAVATION DATES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants in this archaeological dig will excavate for four weeks, arriving on **Saturday June 29** and departing on **Saturday July 27, 2019**. We will live at Lohamei HaGeta'ot, a scenic kibbutz located a few miles north of the city of Akko (Acre). It is near the Mediterranean coast on the main coastal highway and is well served by public transportation (for a Google map, see <https://goo.gl/maps/v3xFGtxkRsj>). We will be housed in a comfortable air-conditioned building with access to the kibbutz's swimming pool and landscaped grounds.

THE EXCAVATION SITE AND WORK SCHEDULE

Tell Keisan (Tel Kison) is a prominent 15-acre mound located 9 miles northeast of Haifa, near the ancient border between coastal Phoenicia and the kingdom of Israel (for a Google map, see <https://goo.gl/maps/wcrKQj4wMxm>). It was a walled town that served as a gateway between the Mediterranean coast and people living further inland. Our excavations will focus on the Iron Age remains (1200 to 600 BCE). We will investigate the cultural and economic interactions between Phoenicia and Israel from the time of David and Solomon until the Assyrian conquest of the region in the eighth century BCE. We will unearth new information about the dynamic and influential Phoenician culture of the Iron Age, when the seafaring inhabitants of the coast pioneered new methods of shipping, trade, and communication around the Mediterranean that were adopted by the Greeks and transformed the ancient economy.

We will dig at the site five days per week, from Monday to Friday. Our days off will be Saturday and Sunday, during which team members can relax at the kibbutz, go to the beach nearby, or travel on their own.

From Monday to Friday, the daily schedule will include:

- first breakfast starting at 4:30 a.m. (a light breakfast of bread, jam, coffee, tea)
- digging at the site from 5:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. (a bus will take us there and back)
- second breakfast at the site, picnic-style, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.
- fruit break at 11:30 a.m.
- lunch in the kibbutz dining hall at 2:00 p.m.
- free time until 4:30 p.m. (for swimming, napping, etc.)
- afternoon work in the kibbutz from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. (washing and sorting finds)
- lecture (on some days) at 6:00 p.m.
- dinner in the kibbutz dining hall at 7:00 p.m.

Dig participants will join in the ongoing research at Tell Keisan in close collaboration with professional archaeologists. They will receive on-site training in stratigraphic excavation methods, computerized field recording procedures, and the mapping of architectural features and artifact find-spots. During the afternoon work periods, they will wash and sort pottery, bones, and other finds. They will also assist in making detailed digital plans of excavated features and layers using computer-generated photo mosaics and mapping software. There will be evening lectures by Tell Keisan professional staff members and visiting archaeologists, with an emphasis on the Canaanite culture of the Bronze Age and the Phoenician and Israelite cultures of the Iron Age. There will be field trips to other sites each weekend.

FEE AND MODE OF PAYMENT

The fee for participating in the Tell Keisan excavations is **\$2,800**. This includes full room and board for seven days per week as well as airport transfers and weekend field trips. **UChicago College students may be eligible for a College Research Scholarship to fund your airfare and accommodation.**

You may pay online at <https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2546070> or mail a check payable to "The Oriental Institute" to the following address:

Prof. David Schloen
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Please submit payment as soon as possible and no later than **May 31, 2019**. If you have any questions, send email to David Schloen at the University of Chicago (dschloen@uchicago.edu) or go to <http://keisan.uchicago.edu>. Also be sure to fill out and sign the **registration form** and send it via email or regular mail to Prof. Schloen.