

GENERAL INFORMATION AND LOGISTICS 2017



Tel Lachish Excavation THE AUSTRO-ISRAELI EXPEDITION

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2. PACKING

Equipment for the field:

- ✓ Closed boots, preferably covering your ankle (VERY important! No open shoes at the site!)
- ✓ Pants for the excavation (even though it will be hot, most archaeologist prefer long pants, because it protects your legs and keeps dirt out of your shoes)
- ✓ Shirts for the dig (random t-shirts are fine, parade your most insane designs)
- ✓ Hat/scarf
- ✓ Sunscreen (get the highest factor, buy it at home, because it's expensive in Israel!!!)
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Work gloves (the cheap work gloves are fine)
- ✓ Water bottle (ordinary plastic bottle is enough, just have your personal bottle for hygienic reasons), cold drinking water is provided at the site
- ✓ Isotonic drink powder / water flavoring etc. (not a must-have, but some find it makes it easier to stay hydrated)

We are excavating under a shade cloth, which makes a big, big difference. However, UV radiation is still very strong in the shade, thus sunscreen is a requirement.

Equipment off-field: (think camping...)

- ✓ Sleeping bag and/or sheets and pillow
- ✓ Sandals
- ✓ Loose clothes (shorts, shirts etc.)
- ✓ Flip-flops for the shower
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Swimsuit
- ✓ Towel(s)
- ✓ Mosquito spray

Expensive gear:

Minimize expensive equipment. We might not have a safe place to lock laptops/cameras etc. at the camp, which means the trunk of the car is the only place. Take as little as possible, preferably only what you take with you to the field.

3. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Insurance:

You require a **health/travel insurance** for the time you are in Israel. The medical facilities here are at the same high level they are in Austria, Germany, the UK or the US, even though I highly hope that you will not have to make use of them at any time.

Vaccination:

Please make sure you have a **Tetanus vaccine**. There is no need for a rabies vaccine etc.

Health and safety on the site:

Safety is of uppermost priority at the excavation! Very serious accidents have happened in the past at other projects, and we do the maximum to prevent them. Follow basic rules:

- ✓ **NEVER** work with your bare **HANDS** in the ground, but only with tools
- ✓ Don't put your hands under or around stones before you checked that there is no **SCORPION** or **SNAKE** hiding
- ✓ Closed shoes are a required at the site
- ✓ Only lift what your **BACK** and your knees can handle
- ✓ Make sure you drink enough **WATER** and consume enough **SALT!**
- ✓ If you start getting a headache, feel **DIZZY OR UNWELL**, sit down and inform your square supervisor, these might be signs of **DEHYDRATION**. Even light cases of dehydration usually lead to a trip to the hospital and feeling really sh** for days.
- ✓ **DO NOT WALK ON BAULKS!** These are the "walls" separating squares. They look solid, but they can collapse. You will see staff walking on them occasionally, but we try to minimize this as much as possible.
- ✓ Be **ALERT** when working with the **PICK!** Make sure nobody stands behind or next to you and your tool is intact!
- ✓ if you find **AMMUNITION** in or around the excavation, **DO NOT TOUCH IT** and immediately inform the staff!

4. ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in the accommodation of a boarding school, ca 15 min drive from Tel Lachish. The accommodation consists of bungalow-type rooms with 3-4 beds each. Two to three rooms share a living space, a bathroom (with hot water) and in some cases, a small kitchenet. Rooms have a bed with mattress, but no bedding or towels. The shared living space is air-conditioned. There is also a porch to sit outside and socialize in the evening. The accommodation is also available on weekends.

5. PAYMENT

We are not able to pay you a salary. Usually participation on excavation in Israel can be very expensive and prices can go into several 1000 EURs. Our START-grant from the Austrian Science Fund covers accommodation and board for each participant, plus a 350 EUR refund for your flight (when participating in the entire season; 175 EUR if participated in half the season). It is important

that you keep all your travel receipts and proof of payment in order to get refunded. Please note that loss of receipts make a refund impossible.

6. WEEKENDS

We won't be working on the site on Fridays and Saturdays. While most of the staff returns to Jerusalem, you can explore the country (staying in the accommodation is also a possibility, but we suggest to take the opportunity to visit sites). There are busses between all major cities, which are very cheap and comfortable, running on weekdays. However, please note that there is **NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT** from Friday afternoon until Saturday afternoon (except in Haifa). It is also possible to rent cars if you are 21 or older. We will drive you to the bus stop on Thursday afternoon/evening and pick you up on Saturday evening. I recommend you get yourself a guidebook (e.g. Lonely planet) and get a rough idea before you arrive about what you might be interested in. The main cities (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa) will easily keep you busy for a few days with museums, beaches, the Old City and so on.

7. ARRIVAL

Border crossing at Ben Gurion Airport:

Those coming from abroad will receive a letter for the border control, stating what you do and why you are coming to Israel. (A few weeks before the excavation, we will need the **NAME** and **PASSPORTNUMBER** of the passport with which you will be entering Israel.) There might be some questioning. If that is the case, please don't get upset and don't get intimidated. This is standard security procedure. Today, at Ben Gurion airport passports do not get stamped any more. Instead, you will receive a small blue paper card with your scanned passport picture. **DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD.** This is your 3-month visa.

I recommend you arrive a few days before the project to get adapted to the environment and get a first impression of Israel, if this is your first travel to the country. Hostels with a good reputation for back packers are the Abraham Hostel and the Jerusalem Hostel, but there are many other options. If you want to spend more money, the Austrian Hospice in the Old City of Jerusalem is highly recommended.

BOOKING FLIGHTS:

The airport you are looking for is 'Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv'. It is the only international airport in Israel. Book early if you can, but I recommend to book with the option to cancel. Should the political situation change, this might save you a lot of money. There are many companies flying to Ben Gurion, from Vienna, Austrian is usually the cheapest option. If you book EL AL, you should be prepared for extra security, and plan a bit more time at the airport.

FROM THE BEN-BURION AIRPORT TO JERUSALEM:

You arrive at Ben Gurion airport, cross the border (this might take some 30-60 min, depending on how many flights arrived), get your luggage, and exit the airport. after ca 50 m, you come to the drop of/pick up lane. To your right, there will be 2-3 Sherut taxis (service taxis, sort of minibus in yellow) waiting, and some weird looking characters will be screaming "Jerusalem???". That's what you want. (The ones on the left side go to Tel Aviv.) There is only one company running the service to Jerusalem: Neshet Taxi: <http://www.neshetours.co.il/about-us>

The trip costs ca. 65 NIS (this can be paid in Dollar as well), and takes about an hour. This is a fixed price, there is no haggling. You pay when you are getting off the car. They will ask you where you want to go to in Jerusalem (they know the hostels), because according to the address they split customers between the cars, so that they don't have to do the full round every time. They will put your luggage in the trunk and ask you to wait. Within 15-20 min the taxi fills up, and they leave.

8. LETTER OF PARTICIPATION

After the project you receive a letter of participation if requested. Please approach me before the project if your university requires an exam/ grade for field work participation.