

## THE ROMAN TO MEDIEVAL NEAR EAST: THE CAESAREA EXCAVATIONS, ISRAEL

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From the earliest years of the Roman Empire through the fall of the Crusader Kingdom in the Holy Land, **Caesarea Maritima on the north coast of Israel** was a thriving hub of power and innovation. One of the **largest ports on the eastern Mediterranean** seaboard, Caesarea was a booming harbor that received frequent traffic from throughout world. It was the shining creation of Herod the Great, the capital of the province of Judaea, a hotspot for Jewish resistance to Roman rule, a destination for St. Peter's mission and a Late Antique center for Christian scholarship, a major marketplace under the Islamic caliphates, and a formidable fortress for western knights. Caesarea was thus a **microcosm of the dramatic changes** that swept through the region over fourteen centuries and define our world today.

Students in any field can discover this **fascinating world of the past** by joining the team of the Caesarea Excavations. This is a unique opportunity to explore one of the **world's most spectacular seaside archaeological sites** while digging alongside Herod's great Temple in the heart of the city. Over four weeks the program introduces the **history and archaeology of the Near East and the culture of modern Israel**. Students will learn about field techniques and interpretation, including stratigraphic excavation and recording, artifactual processing, and conservation. Students will also attend a series of seminars by experts in several fields, from Roman pottery and architecture to ancient Judaism and early Islam, and they will join in excursions to major sites, such as the **Akko, Beth She'arim, Jerusalem, the Negev, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Tel Aviv**. The team stays at the comfortable Sea Center of the kibbutz Sdot Yam along the shore near Caesarea in a **safe and beautiful resort district** with many amenities.



**PARTICIPATION:** Enroll in the course and receive a transcript for 6-credits from Rhodes College. All students participate in **research activities** and attend **seminars and excursions**.

**COST:** Invoice from Rhodes College for **\$5,600** covers all institutional fees, program expenses, and full room and board. *Airfare to and from Tel Aviv and incidental expenses are not included.*

**DATES:** **May 28-June 26, 2023**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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