

TELL KEISAN 2020 — INFORMATION SHEET

Contact: Prof. David Schloen, University of Chicago (dschloen@uchicago.edu)

EXCAVATION DATES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants in this archaeological dig will arrive on **Saturday, August 29**, and depart on **Friday, September 25, 2020**. We will be housed in comfortable accommodations in or near the city of [Akko \(Acre\)](#) on the Mediterranean coast, north of Haifa. More details about the accommodations will be provided later. To see photographs of dig life during past seasons, go to <http://keisan.uchicago.edu>.

THE EXCAVATION SITE, WORK SCHEDULE, AND COURSE CREDIT

[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. 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.

In the first three weeks of the four-week dig, we will dig at the site for five days per week, from Monday to Friday. In the final week, we will work from Monday to Thursday and depart on Friday. On Saturdays there will be free time to relax, go to the beach, or travel on your own. On Sundays we will go on excursions to other excavation sites and archaeological museums, except for the first Sunday, August 30, which will be an orientation day.

From Monday to Friday each week the daily schedule will normally 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.
- second breakfast at the site, picnic-style, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.
- fruit break at 11:30 a.m.
- lunch at 2:00 p.m.
- free time until 4:30 p.m.
- afternoon work from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. (washing and sorting finds)
- lecture (on some days) at 6:00 p.m.
- dinner 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. Evening lectures by Tell Keisan professional staff members will provide background knowledge on the Canaanite culture of the Bronze Age and the Phoenician and Israelite cultures of the Iron Age, supplemented by the weekend excursions to archaeological sites and museums.

Dig participants may earn 100 units of course credit by enrolling in the “[Field Archaeology](#)” course offered via the University of Chicago Summer Session. The tuition fee is extra.

PARTICIPATION FEE AND TRAVEL GRANTS

The fee for participating in the 2020 Tell Keisan excavations is **\$3,500**. This includes full room and board for seven days per week from August 29 to September 25, as well as airport transfers and excursions. Airfare to Tel Aviv is extra and the cost will depend on the departure city. UChicago College students who apply by **February 28** will be considered for summer research fellow awards that cover airfare and/or accommodation expenses. Graduate students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Divinity School may be eligible for travel grants from the Oriental Institute. Contact Prof. Schloen (dschloen@uchicago.edu) for more information about travel grants.