

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project



2009 Season Information and Registration Package

In the following pages you will find information and registration forms for participation as a volunteer or as a student in the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project.

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Please send applications to the address below (for additional information, please contact as well):

Prof. Aren M. Maeir
The Martin (Szusz) Department of
Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology
Bar-Ilan University
Ramat-Gan, 52900 ISRAEL
Fax: ++972-3-6354941
E-mail: maeira@mail.biu.ac.il; arenmaeir@gmail.com
Visit our website (www.dig-gath.org) and our blog (<http://gath.wordpress.com>)

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project 2009 Season

During the last thirty years, archaeological excavations have revealed much information about the Philistines during the biblical period. In fact, three of the Philistine cities have been excavated (Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron), and fascinating aspects of their culture have been revealed. Not too long ago, a monumental inscription was discovered at Ekron, mentioning a list of the kings of the city from the end of the Iron Age, just a few years before the Babylonian destruction (ca. 604 BCE).

In spite of this work, until quite recently, with the beginning of our project, little was known about Goliath's hometown, Gath. From the biblical text it would appear that Gath was the most important of the Philistine cities during the early period of Philistine history. It was from Gath that Goliath, the fabled champion of the Philistines came, and it was the king of Gath, Achish, who played an important role in the story of the young King David.

Although there once was a bit of a controversy regarding the exact location of Gath, based on present evidence most scholars believe that it was located at the site known as Tell es-Safi. The tell, which is situated approximately halfway between Jerusalem and Ashkelon, is one of the largest biblical sites in Israel. Settled continuously from the Chalcolithic period (5th mill. BCE) until modern times, it is a veritable mine of archaeological evidence from all periods. Although its impressive size and archaeological promise were noted during the last century, until recently, very little archaeological research had been conducted at the site. Aside from a brief, two-week excavation conducted in 1899 by Bliss and Macalister, only cursory visits and illicit robber excavations (by the late General Moshe Dayan) took place at the site.

Scientific knowledge about this central site, so important for the study of the history and culture of the biblical period, was completely lacking. To resolve this situation, an archaeological project was begun at the site. As of 1996, a team of archaeologists, led by Prof. Aren M. Maeir of Bar-Ilan University initiated a long-term project at the site. Commencing with exploratory surface-survey work to define and plan the future work, the actual excavations were begun in 1997. Since then (1997-2008), the finds have been astonishingly rich and indicate that the project, which most probably will continue for several decades, will become one of the most important excavations in the Southern Levant. In the first phase of the project we have had noteworthy discoveries, and this without a doubt will continue in the next stages of the project.

At the very beginning of our fieldwork, an unusual find was noticed. Through the utilization of aerial photography, we discovered the existence of a previously unknown, manmade trench that surrounds the site. This trench, 2.5 km long, some 8 meters wide and more than five meters deep, surrounds the site on three sides. It is believed that this unique feature is an unparalleled siege system, set up by a besieging army to hinder escape from the besieged city. As of the 2001 season, we have been able to explicitly date this feature to the Iron Age II. It now seems likely that it may be evidence of the Aramean siege of Gath (II Kings 12:17). We can now say that this is earliest siege system known in the entire world!

Another find of extreme importance was uncovered during the 1998 season. In the main excavation area, mere inches below the present-day surface, we excavated a level that was completely devastated in a fiery destruction. In this level we discovered houses that collapsed during the destruction, sealing within them all the original objects that they had contained. This includes an extraordinarily rich assortment of well-preserved finds. These finds include several hundred pottery vessels of various kinds, shapes and functions, including those used for storage, cooking, serving, and cultic purposes. To this one can add various other objects such as ivory decorations and metal weapons. Altogether, these finds provide a well-rounded

picture of the various kinds of objects used for different functions in these houses, illuminating daily life in the Land of Israel during the biblical period.

Most significantly, these remains can be dated to a very important period, the 9th century BCE. This is the period immediately after the separation of the “United Kingdom” of David and Solomon into the northern Israelite and southern Judean kingdoms. Recently, some scholars have questioned the veracity of the description of the events in this period as portrayed in the Bible. Accordingly, it is claimed that there is little if any non-biblical archaeological and historical evidence to that relates to this period. But in light of the extraordinarily rich finds that were discovered at T. es-Safi/Gath, it would appear that this at least from an archaeological point of view, this period is in fact well represented at this site. To this one can add that the rich finds appear to support view that Gath did in fact have a primary role among the Philistines cities during the earlier stages of their history.

The results of the excavation have shed light on the fascinating topic of how, when and why the Philistine culture changed. Originating from somewhere in the Aegean area, the Philistines arrived in the Levant at the beginning of the Iron Age (ca. 1200 BCE). After settling in the region, they slowly underwent a process of cultural change, on the one hand retaining some of their original cultural traits, but on the other hand, incorporating many of the local ones as well (such as the local Semitic language, evidence of which has been found in the excavations, including the earliest Philistine inscription known to date, found in the 2005 season). As was reported in the **world press**, this inscription is quite an exciting find, since it mentions two names that are somewhat reminiscent of the original form of the name **Goliath!** Since the inscription dates to ca. 950 BCE, it comes from almost the same period as the battle of David and Goliath according to the biblical chronology!

During the last seasons, we continued to expose substantial remains from this impressive destruction level. In addition, other archaeological levels, relating to periods before and after the destruction level were discovered, once again indicating the high potential and importance of the future excavations. We now have an almost complete stratigraphic sequence spanning the Late Bronze Age II (13th cent. BCE) until the late Iron Age II (ca. Late 8th cent. BCE), and, in addition, levels from the Early Bronze Age III (ca. 2800-2200 BCE). Among the exciting finds from the last season in 2008, we can note the discovery of one of the earliest donkey burials in the Near East (Early Bronze Age), impressive fortifications from the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, a structure of apparent cultic function from the Iron Age, and numerous well-preserved finds of the Canaanite, Philistine, and Israelite cultures. One of the most exciting discoveries in the 2008 season was the extremely well-preserved finds in the lower city, destroyed in the late 9th century BCE.

In the upcoming 2009 season, we plan to continue to excavate levels dating to these various phases, with particular emphasis on the Early, Middle, and Late Bronze Ages, and various stages of the Iron Age. We will be excavating in several areas of the tell, and we expect to have a wide range of fascinating, and in fact, groundbreaking finds).

All the above promises to give us an exciting season of fieldwork, in which cutting-edge science, enriching experiences, and thrilling new discoveries will be combined. We are sure that all of us, staff, volunteers and students, from Israel and abroad, will enjoy a most fulfilling summer!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Once again, we will be staying at lovely **Kibbutz Revadim** (www.revadim.org.il). Due to the current world monetary crisis and the low dollar rate, the prices of accommodation have risen this year. We are sure that the conditions will be as good, if not better, than in previous years.

Have you any background and/or field experience in archaeology? If yes, briefly describe:

To enable participation in the excavation, all volunteers will be required to fill in the attached form which must be submitted before the excavation begins (either received in the mail or when the applicant reaches the site). The form relates to health, insurance and required conduct & behavior. Participation in the excavation will not be possible without the completion of this form (sorry, no exceptions!)

I understand that to enable my participation I am required to complete and submit the attached medical, insurance and conduct & behavior form (either by mail or upon arrival to the excavation).

Signature: _____

I wish to volunteer for (check appropriate):

Two weeks Three weeks Four Weeks

Starting date (check appropriate):

July 5 July 12 July 19

Payment:

For every week of work at the excavation, each volunteer must pay \$400 (US). If one attends the entire four weeks of excavation, he/she shall receive a discount rate of \$1550 (US). In addition, there is a non-refundable \$50 application fee. Minimum stay - two weeks. Deadline for registration is May 1, 2008; Deadline for payment is June 1st, 2009. Registration will be finalized with the receipt of either \$850, \$1250 or \$1550 (= registration fee + payment according to planned duration at excavation), in one of the following methods of payment: 1) Personal or bank check, made out **ONLY** to "**THE ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY**" (Payment not in dollars will require a \$30 processing fee; 2) Credit card (fill in details below). If paying by credit card, please add a 5% processing fee to the sum.

Payment method:

1) Check Enclosed Sum _____

2) Credit Card :

Visa AmExp Mstrcrd Diners

Card Holder's Name: _____

Card #: _____; Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

PLEASE! MONEY TRANSFERS OR TRAVELLER'S CHECKS NOT ACCEPTED.

Option for Single or Double Rooms:

Standard lodgings are 4-6 people per room. If you are interested in lodgings in a single or double room, there is an additional charge. Single rooms cost an additional \$450 per week; Double rooms are an additional \$225 per person per week. Please note that single and double rooms depend on availability.

I am interested in a single or double room (check appropriate below) and will pay the additional fee:

Single Room (add \$450 per week) Double Room (add \$225 per week)

Signature: _____

Refunds:

In the event of cancellation of participation, the following refund policy will apply:

- 1) Cancellations effective before June 1, 2009 **will receive full refund** (not including non-refundable \$50 registration fee).
- 2) Cancellations effective after June 1, 2009, but before June 15, 2009 will receive **refund of 50% of their payment** (not including non-refundable \$50 registration fee).
- 3) Cancellations effective after June 15, 2009 **will not be refunded**.

This refund policy is in effect since we order, and pay, for services according to pre-planned numbers of participants. Thus, we must have sufficient prior notice of cancellations so that we are not charged for these services. **All cancellations must be done by email and must receive a written confirmation before they are effective.**

I understand and agree to the refund policy delineated above:

Signature: _____

Note:

Actual participation in the excavation will be approved once the attached Health, Insurance and Conduct & Behavior form is received as well.

Payment includes the following:

Participation in the excavation and related activities; **Room and Board from Sunday afternoon until Friday morning**; Travel from the base camp to the site and back.

Payment DOES NOT include the following:

Medical and accident insurance; travel to and from Israel; travel to and from airport (or other places of origin) to base camp (Kibbutz Revadim); travel to and from base camp on weekends; laundry; R&B from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. If you are interested in staying on the kibbutz for the weekend, an additional payment is required. Please note: accommodations on weekend (rooms, number of roommates) on weekends may differ from that of weekdays (depending on availability of rooms). Weekend fee (2 days): Single: \$360; Double: \$225; Regular: \$140.

I am interested in staying on the: 1st (July 3-4) ; 2nd ; 3rd ; 4th ; 5th (July 31-Aug 1) weekend(s) and paying the additional fees.

Signature: _____

Educational Program:

An academic field school will be conducted during the excavation, which will provide university credits (from Bar-Ilan University). The program is for 3 credits (2 weeks) or 6 credits (4 weeks). The program requires an additional payment of \$500 (3 credits) or \$1000 (6 credits) in addition to the R&B for 2 or 4 weeks (see R&B prices above). Information regarding this program can be received from the addresses below. In addition, an academic field school in archaeological science will be held in conjunction with the excavation. Students interested in participating in this special field school should contact Dr. Ruth Shahak-Gross (Ruti@wisemail.weizmann.ac.il) for further information.

Requirements:

Volunteers will participate both in excavation (ca. 6AM-1PM) and in post-excavation activities such as pottery washing which will be conducted in the afternoon and evening. Additional information about working and living conditions will be supplied following application acceptance. See as well the attached form below.

Applications should be sent to:

Prof. Aren M. Maeir
The Martin (Szusz) Department of
Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology
Bar-Ilan University
Ramat-Gan, 52900 ISRAEL
Fax: ++972-3-6354941
E-mail: maeira@mail.biu.ac.il; arenmaeir@gmail.com

Conduct & Behavior:

All participants are required to participate, to the best of their abilities, in the various activities that are part of the excavation process. Volunteers are required to follow the directives of the excavation project's staff. Volunteers will not act in any manner that could endanger themselves or other people. Volunteers will not act in a manner that can cause physical injury and/or damage to other people or objects. Volunteers will not behave in a disruptive and/or rowdy manner and will not act in a fashion that is offensive to other participants or the surroundings. Volunteers will not act in a manner contrary to accepted legal norms. Volunteers are expected to behave in a manner that is tolerant and considerate to other believes, lifestyles and convictions. **Substance abuse of any kind (save for moderate consumption of alcohol) will not be permitted.** The project director reserves the right (at his discretion) to expel from the excavation (and all related activities) volunteers whom will not conform to these requirements.

Participant's Declaration:

I understand the above and will conform to these required modes and rules of conduct & behavior:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Minors

In the case of minors (under the age of 18), the parent/legal guardian will insure that this form is properly filled-out and that this code of conduct & behavior is fully understood by the volunteer. In the case of misconduct (and subsequent expulsion from the excavation) the parent/legal guardian will be notified by the excavation staff and it will be the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to find alternate plans for the minor.

Parent/Legal Guardian's signature and information (PRINT CLEARLY):

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Address: _____

Tel. for contact 24 hours a day: _____

Additional Tel. for contact: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project
2009 Season
Undertaking and Release Form

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project, I agree that I shall so conduct that study in a responsible and professional manner and shall respect and abide by the laws and customs of Israel, the host country.

I have enrolled in appropriate medical and insurance coverage programs.

On my behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors, personal representatives, contractees and employees, I hereby release and forever discharge Bar-Ilan University and the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project, their officers and employees from any claim for loss, death, disability, delay, or damage to person, property, or for accident or illness howsoever arising which may be suffered by me or by anyone claiming through me, during the period of, in consequence of, or in any way related to the work and/or study undertaken by me in connection with my participation in this Project.

I have fully informed my Next of Kin regarding all aspects of my proposed volunteering and/or study, including the nature of any possible risks.

Volunteer's Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____ **Witness:** _____

I appoint the following person my Designated Next of Kin and authorize Bar-Ilan University and the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project to contact that person for or with information about me in my absence (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**):

Name: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ ; (w) _____

Telephone: (m): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Name of Designated Next of Kin: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project

2009 season

List of Suggested Equipment for Participants

Introduction:

The following should be seen as a list of recommendations for participants in the excavation. This list has been formulated on the basis of a familiarity with the climate, working, and living conditions in Israel and at the site. We believe that adherence to the list will assist in making your stay at the dig as comfortable as possible. Needless to say, this list consists of basic recommendations only – ultimately, you will have to decide what you need and what you do not! Included in the list are various types of equipment and supplies, but not their quantities. Please use your own discretion in deciding what to pack. Take into account that clothes can be washed on site by hand, or for an additional charge, at a local laundry. Please, try not to bring excessive and/or overly expensive personal effects. If you do forget something, most everything is available in Israel, although it may be more expensive and it may not be the brand that you are used to.

Clothing:

Overall, the climate in Israel at this time of year is very hot and dry, especially during the working hours at the site. Nevertheless, during the evening it can be relatively cool. Thus, one should have clothing appropriate for hot weather, although a light sweater or jacket for evening wear will also come in handy. Although many of us like to expose as much of our bodies as possible to the sun in hot weather, the expedition director advises that work in the field be conducted in light-weight, long sleeved shirts and long pants, and needless to say, with a wide-brimmed hat. In addition, liberal use of sun-screen lotions is highly advised. Although it may seem like a great opportunity to get a tan, prolonged exposure to the sun is not particularly pleasant, nor good for your health! Note: towels, sheets, pillowcases and blankets are provided at the kibbutz base camp.

Suggested List of Clothing and Supplies:

Clothes:

- Wide-brimmed lightweight hat (preferably washable)
- Short sleeved and long sleeved cotton shirts
- Cotton shorts
- Cotton pants (slacks)
- Underwear
- Socks
- Sweater/Sweatshirt
- Lightweight jacket
- Pajamas
- Bathing suit
- Work shoes – preferably ankle height
- Extra shoelaces
- Sandals

Toiletries:

- Toiletries bag
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Sunscreen (ample quantities; high level of protection)
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Athlete's foot powder

- Anti-chafing cream
- Nail clipper
- Anti-bug spray/cream
- Medications if necessary (such as aspirin, antihistamines, etc.)
- Personal supplies (as needed)

General Equipment:

- Canteen/water bottle for personal use
- Work-gloves
- Trowel (preferably “Marshalltown” brand, size 4/5). Since this is not available in Israel, try to purchase one for your own use to bring to the excavation. Can be purchased on-line at: http://www.marshalltown.com/catalog/display_item.asp?edino=11121. Note: if you will not be using the trowel after the excavation, the project will appreciate it if you will leave us the trowel for use in future seasons.
- Duffle-bag/suitcase for gear
- Small bag/knapsack for carrying daily equipment
- Bag for laundry
- Money belt
- Pocket knife
- Camera and film
- Knee-pads to protect knees while working
- We highly recommend that you bring with you photocopies of: 1) the photo and information page on your passport; 2) credit cards that you will bring; 3) your airline ticket. If any of the above is lost/stolen during your trip, having photocopies simplifies the process of getting replacements. 2-3 extra passport photos are good to have as well.

Educational Supplies (mandatory for students!!!):

- Writing supplies (notebook, paper, pencils, etc.)
- The Bible (always handy when doing “biblical archaeology”!).
- John D. Currid. 1999. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. **Required Reading (undergraduate)**
- T. Dothan and M. Dothan. 1992. *People of the Sea: The Search for the Philistines*. New York: Macmillan. **Suggested Reading (undergraduate)**
- V. Fritz. 1996. *An Introduction to Biblical Archaeology* (Translated by Birgit Mänz-Davies). Sheffield: Sheffield University Press, 1996. **Suggested Reading (undergraduate)**
- E. Oren (ed.). 2000. *The Sea Peoples and Their World: A Reassessment*. Philadelphia: University Museum. **Required Reading (graduate)**
- S. Gitin, A. Mazar and E. Stern (eds.). 1998. *Mediterranean Peoples in Transition: 13th to Early 10th centuries BCE*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society. **Suggested Reading (graduate)**

Syllabus for “A Workshop in Biblical Archaeology”

Academic Field School at the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project

Prof. Aren. M. Maeir

July 5 – 31, 2009

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain academic and practical experience in the recovery and analysis of the material remains of an ancient culture. The focus of the practicum is on biblical or Syro-Palestinian archaeology. The course takes place during the four-week dig season at Tell es-Safi that is identified as biblical Gath of the Philistines. Students will participate in all aspects of the excavation, including digging and surveying at the site, gain experience in remote sensing applications, and participate in the various tasks that take place at the base camp, such as the washing and reading of pottery. Field trips to historical/archaeological sites and museums in the general area will be provided twice weekly. Lectures on topics relating to the site, the archaeology of Israel, and archaeological methodology will be held twice weekly. The course runs from Sunday through Friday each week.

The course will be conducted at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Graduate students will receive additional reading requirements (which will be handed out during the course) that will be discussed in a weekly seminar-like forum.

Academic credit for this course will be given through Bar-Ilan University, the second largest university in Israel, as part of the courses of the Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology. The course coordinator is Dr. Yigal Levin, director of the education program of the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project. The lectures will be presented by the project staff, as well as various distinguished guest lecturers. On completion of the course, the student will receive three (3) or six (6) academic credits, depending on the length of participation (2 or 4 weeks).

Grading:

4 weekly quizzes on readings and lectures (for graduate students, participation in discussion seminar) @ 15% each = 60% (of the final grade).

Daily field journal or final paper (to be determined by instructor) = 20%

Excavation participation = 20%

Bibliography:

* John D. Currid. 1999. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. **Required Reading (undergraduate)**

* T. Dothan and M. Dothan. 1992. *People of the Sea: The Search for the Philistines*. New York: Macmillan. **Suggested Reading (undergraduate)**

* V. Fritz. 1996. *An Introduction to Biblical Archaeology* (Translated by Birgit Mänz-Davies). Sheffield: Sheffield University Press, 1996. **Suggested Reading (undergraduate)**

* E. Oren (ed.). 2000. *The Sea Peoples and Their World: A Reassessment*. Philadelphia: University Museum. **Required Reading (graduate)**

* S. Gitin, A. Mazar and E. Stern (eds.). 1998. *Mediterranean Peoples in Transition: 13th to Early 10th centuries BCE*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society. **Suggested Reading (graduate)**

Price:

\$500 for 2 weeks (3 credits) and \$1000 for 4 weeks (6 credits), in addition to standard R&B.

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project
2009 Season
Registration Form for Academic Course:
“A Workshop in Biblical Archaeology”

Note: In addition to this form, the applicant must fill out the Volunteer Application Form; The Health, Insurance, and Conduct & Behavior Form; The Undertaking and Release Form.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

I am interested in participating in the course as an Undergraduate () or Graduate () student.

Current Academic Affiliation (if any):

Academic Background (please check and fill out appropriate information):

Undergraduate Studies: ()

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

Graduate Studies: ()

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

Institution: _____; Degree: _____; Date: _____

General Background and Additional Relevant Information:

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project
2009 Season
This Year's Excavation and the Security Situation

Due to the “ups and downs” of the security situation in Israel, questions have been asked regarding the safety and security of the participants in the excavation. During the 2006 season the war in Lebanon was raging. In fact, throughout the world we are all going through quite troubled times, and being a bit worried is actually a logical (and healthy!) response. This is especially true for those of you that are hearing about the events via the media outside of Israel. Nevertheless, I would like to try and ease your worries a bit.

First of all, as the director of the team, I put the highest priority on ALL safety issues (not only security-related). The constant, overall safety of all participants is always at the top of my list. Thus, we will never do anything that in any way would put any of the participants in any risk! Second of all, keep in mind that often, the situation as reported in the media seems much worse than it actually is!

Tell es-Safi/Gath itself, and the region around it, is not in, or near, the West Bank, Gaza, and/or the border with Lebanon, where most of the acts of violence have occurred in the past. In addition, there have not been any terrorist activities on, or in the vicinity of the Tell. To this can be added that all the activities relating to the excavation (including the excavation itself, field trips, outings, etc.) are conducted under strict supervision (as to where and how we go). And, as an extra precaution, and, for a feeling of extra security, some of the staff on the excavation are armed. During the 2006 season, while “all hell broke loose” in other parts of the country (and in fact, some excavations on the border with Lebanon were cancelled), things were totally quiet and relaxed in and around Tell es-Safi/Gath, and we continued our work, field trips and other activities, unhindered and in a totally safe environment.

On weekends, as the volunteers make their plans to go sightseeing, we carefully review their itineraries, to ensure that they are not planning to go to any dangerous areas.

Thank G-d, we have never had any security-related problems and I hope and pray that this will continue. If I may add, it should be remembered that the main objective of terrorism is to obstruct us from living our lives in a usual manner. Yes, we must be more aware of security-related issues (and take these matters seriously), but, on the other hand, we will continue with our plans, and yes, we will be out in the field this season!!

Hoping that you will join us this season,

All the best,

Aren

Prof. Aren M. Maeir,
Director

How to Get to Kibbutz Revadim during the Excavation

From Ben-Gurion Airport (Lod):

By Bus (takes considerably longer, but it is cheaper):

Take bus #475, from Lod to the Tel Aviv central bus station. This bus runs about once every 20 minutes. From the Tel Aviv central bus station take bus #369 to Masmiya Junction. This bus leaves every 1/2 hour. Ask the driver to let you off at Masmiya junction. From Masmiya junction, you should call us at the kibbutz to pick you up (as of noon of July 6).

By Taxi:

According to “Moniot Hadar [Hadar Taxis]” (telephone 03-9711103), the price for a taxi from the airport to Kibbutz Revadim (for up to 7 people) was in previous years ca. 300 NIS (in other words, for that price you hire a taxi, regardless of the amount of people in the taxi). There is probably an additional fee for luggage. This is probably the best bet, since it is not too expensive (ca. \$75 US) and it will bring you straight to the kibbutz.

From Tel Aviv:

By Bus:

From the Tel Aviv central bus station take bus #369 to Masmiya Junction. This bus leaves every 1/2 hour (at 15 and 45 minutes after the hour). Ask the driver to let you off at Masmiya junction. From Masmiya Junction, you should call us at the kibbutz to pick you up (as of noon of July 9).

By Taxi:

You can get a taxi (make sure it is an official taxi with official taxi sign on top and sides of car) either at the bus station or around town. Tell the driver that you want to go from Tel Aviv to Kibbutz Revadim. If the driver does not know where Kibbutz Revadim is, tell him it is near the Masmiya Junction, along route 3 (the road towards Jerusalem). Ask the driver to put on the meter BEFORE the drive starts. Make sure that the payment method payment is determined BEFORE you start the drive.

From Jerusalem:

By Bus:

From the Jerusalem central bus station, take bus #446 or #437 to Masmiya junction. These buses leave ca. every 20-30 minutes. Ask the driver to let you off at the turnoff to Kibbutz Revadim (about 2 km. before Masmiya Junction). You can walk into the kibbutz from there (about 1/2 km, or call us if you have a mobile phone).

By Taxi:

You can get a taxi (make sure it is an official taxi with official taxi sign on top and sides of car) either at the bus station or around town. Tell the driver that you want to go from Jerusalem to Kibbutz Revadim. If the driver does not know where Kibbutz Revadim is, tell him it is about 2 km before the Masmiya Junction, along route 3. Ask the driver to put on the meter BEFORE the drive starts. Make sure that the payment method is determined is known BEFORE you start the drive.

Contact Info during the Excavation:

Aren Maeir's (project director) mobile phone number is 054-6205082;

Please tell your family and friends to regularly check the dig blog (<http://gath.wordpress.com>) for information and updates about the progress of the dig.

Our address at the kibbutz during the excavation season is:

Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project

Kibbutz Revadim

Yoav Regional Council, 79820

ISRAEL

Fax: +972-8-8588747