



TEL SHADDUD

EXCAVATION

SEASON 3 - 2025



INFORMATION PACK



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining the 2025 Tel Shaddud Excavation season, and welcome to the team!

We are delighted to have you join us in what is set to be an exciting excavation season!

In this guide you will find general information on equipment, excavation schedules, and transport details for the upcoming 2025 season.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at telshaddud@tauex.tau.ac.il

WHERE IS TEL SHADDUD?

Tel Shaddud is located on the northern margins of the Jezreel Valley. The site includes Tel Shaddud, a small mound of ca. 2 hectares, and the proto-historic settlement at the foot of the tel, which stretches to the nearby spring of 'En Shaddud.



The site is identified with the Canaanite town Šrt, mentioned in the topographical lists of Thutmose III, and with biblical Sarid the border town between the two valley clans/tribes Issachar and Zebulun (Joshua 19:10, 12), and probably also as the location of the battle commemorated by the Song of Deborah (Judges 5:13). The Song of Deborah highlights the significance of these same valley clans (Zebulun and Issachar) in leading the fighting forces (Judges 5:14–15, 18a).



TEL SHADDUD IN HISTORY

Tel Shaddud was first settled in the Early Bronze IB (EB IB) (ca. 3350–3000 BCE), when a relatively large and complex village was founded on and can be seen now at the foot of the Tel. Sometime during the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 1950–1600 BCE) the settlement shrunk in size to the confines of the Tel and was probably fortified. The areas to the foot of the Tel began to be used as a burial ground for a lengthy period beginning in the Middle Bronze I (MB I) and then again in the Late Bronze IIB –Iron IIA.



12th Century BCE Egyptian Scarab

Tel Shaddud is the only site in the Jezreel Valley that demonstrates continuity in burial habits from the LB II to the Iron IIA, while the cemeteries of many sites in the valley went out of use after the Iron I. Tel Shaddud not only maintained its burial traditions, but the cemetery grew during the in Iron IIA period. This may attest to social continuity and population growth at this site during Iron I/IIA, the like of which is known so far only from Tel Rehov in the Beth-Shean Valley.

The discovery of a remarkable clay anthropoid coffin at Tel Shaddud along with the apparent continuity at the site through the Late Bronze II to the Iron Age IIA make Tel Shaddud particularly suitable to provide new insights into the origins of early monarchic Israel, and the significance of rural communities in times of changing political rules.

TEL SHADDUD TODAY

The first excavation of Tel Shaddud was conducted in July 2023, and was followed by another season in July of 2024. The excavations have revealed seven occupational layers so far: from early monarchic Israel in the 9th century BCE, through the late Iron Age and the Persian Period, during which the valley was ruled by the Assyrian and Persian empires, to the Roman Period in the first century CE, and up until the time of the rule of the British empire in the region during the 1930's and 40's.



This season we will delve into the ancient history of the Jezreel Valley in order to understand its social structure and rural hinterland to clarify the Egyptian rule over the region and to gain some new insights into the origins and formation of early monarchic Israel in this valley. We are excited to build up our expedition team in the coming years and we are excited to have you join us in the field.

ACCOMODATION

During the week, half of the expedition will stay at the Wizo boarding school in Nahalal, and the other half will stay in Kibbutz Sarid, both located in close proximity to the site. At Kibbutz Sarid and at Nahalal, the team will be able to process excavated material, relax in comfort and rest at the end of a productive day. The close proximity to the site means we have an easy 10 minute drive to the site each day, ensuring us a little more sleep before work starts.

The rooms come fully equipped with air conditioning. Towels and bed linens are provided. At Nahalal there are washing machines but if you would like to use these please purchase your own laundry detergent. A small shop is located 5 minutes walking from the accommodation with fresh fruit, vegetables and snacks.

There is also a small store near the dining hall in Kibbutz Sarid where we eat our delicious lunch. All meals will be provided from Saturday evening dinner to Friday lunch during the excavation season working days, not on weekends. If participants opt to stay at the accommodation in Nahalal over the weekend, they will be responsible for their own meals.

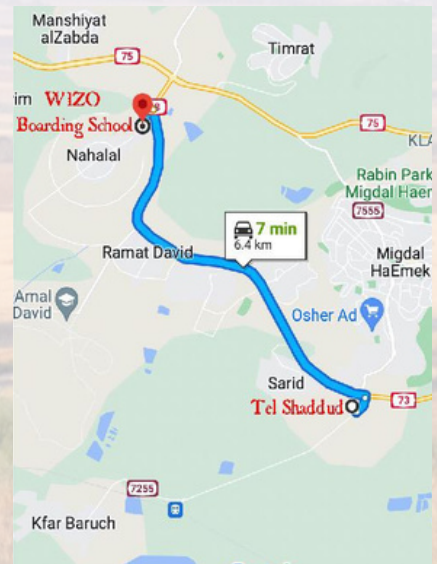
Amenities included at the accomodation:

- Air-conditioning
- Communal kitchenette with a coffee/tea corner, refrigerator, microwave, cups, plates and utensils.
- Wifi
- Washing machines

TRANSPORTATION

- In the 2025 season, excavation days are from Sunday to Friday.
- Participants should arrive at the accommodation on Saturday evening to be ready for excavation on Sunday mornings.
- There are reliable transport links to Nahalal and the Nahalal Junction.
- The closest train station is Migdal Ha'Emek-Kfar Baruch and the nearest bus stop is Nahalal Junction.

Transportation to and from Nahalal on the weekends is the responsibility of each team member and it is expected that each team member arrives to Nahalal by Saturday evening. Please note in Israel that there is limited public transport from Friday late afternoon/evening to Saturday evening, after Shabbat has ended.



Please refer to the maps above to locate the site.

For further directions please email Ben at telshaddud@tauex.tau.ac.il

EQUIPMENT

REQUIRED FOR THE FIELD:

- ☒ CLOSED TOED SHOES (HIKING SHOES)
- ☒ SUNSCREEN
- ☒ HAT
- ☒ WATER BOTTLE (MIN. 2L WATER)
- ☒ LONG PANTS (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)
- ☒ LIGHT LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS (RECOMMENDED)

ALL DIGGING EQUIPMENT (TROWELS, PICKAXES ETC.) WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE EXPEDITION.

Excavating is dirty, sweaty work done in the sun! So when packing, be sure to include only clothes that you are prepared to get dirty and potentially damaged.





RECCOMENDED PACKING LIST:

- ☒ **COMFORTABLE CLOTHES FOR REST TIME**
- ☒ **SMALL BAG FOR THE FIELD**
- ☒ **TRAVEL ADAPTORS FOR CHARGERS**
- ☒ **TOILETRIES**
- ☒ **PERSONAL MEDICATIONS**
- ☒ **MOSQUITO REPELLENT**
- ☒ **SWIMSUIT**
- ☒ **CARDIGAN FOR COOLER NIGHTS**
- ☒ **SANDALS/FLIP FLOPS**

TOWELS AND BEDSHEETS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE ACCOMODATION.

TYPICAL DAY AT TEL SHADDUD

04:45 AM

Arrive at Tel Shaddud and start digging!

09:00 AM

Breakfast

09:30 AM

Return to the excavation areas and continue digging

11:30 AM

Break

13:00 PM

End of digging and drive to Kibbutz Sarid

13:15 PM

Lunch at Kibbutz Sarid

14:00 PM

Pottery wash at Kibbutz Sarid

15:00 PM

Rest and relaxation

18:00 PM

Pottery sorting

19:00 PM

Dinner at Nahalal





SEE YOU IN THE FIELD!

As a reminder, if you have not sent in the IAA Volunteer Form please make sure to return them before the season begins. If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to reach out to Ben at telshaddud@tauex.tau.ac.il and we will see you in a few weeks!

