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## SUMMER TOURS 2014 • Feb Update

### Israel Uncovered

Experience Biblical Archaeology up close and personal

#### Who is CRASL?

Based in College Station, Texas, **CRASL** works closely with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. of Florida. CRASL was created to manage research and archaeological projects centered in Israel and the Southern Levant. CRASL focuses on the use of advanced technology and information systems and media to augment the work of Israeli archaeologists and researchers. CRASL's goals are both professional and educational helping to bring a new vitality to western traditions, and to build bridges between Americans and Israelis. Our focus is to bring the Israel experience to Americans, giving US families, students, and professionals the opportunity to be involved in the research process, while experiencing the sights and sounds of Israel. Our tours are for people of all ages seeking a more enriching experience linking their traditional ideals with both the ancient sites and the current life of modern Israel.

#### Project Director

**Dr. Jessie A. Pincus** is an archaeogeophysicist with an expertise in Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) applications within Archaeology. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, Florida in Archaeology and Geology with a concentration in Geophysics. She completed her PhD at Bar Ilan University in 2010, focusing on the best ways to quantify soil analysis using GPR in the ancient agricultural terrace systems of the Negev, and did her post-doctorate at Texas A&M. Dr. Pincus is interested in sustainability, agriculture, high-resolution data acquisition and rough-terrain analysis. She focuses on how best to integrate and analyze multiple geophysical data types in high-resolution in order to make the archaeologist most efficient in planning and interpretation of the occupation levels. She looks forward to bringing new people to all of our CRASL projects, participating in the coming summer's excavation season, and getting her hands dirty making the past meaningful to our present.



#### Summer 2014 Archaeological Sites

This summer we have a unique opportunity to be part of the full summer excavation season at **Tell es-Safi/Gath** which runs from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>. We've decided to focus here this summer, and are offering an opportunity to come as a CRASL group and participate in 2 weeks of excavation. Be part of the discoveries as they unfold! We'll tour on the weekends, take day trips, see Old Jerusalem and the Galilee. Tell es-Safi/Gath is a safe and established dig since 1997 with an opportunity to meet and work with others with like interests from around the world.



### Tell es-Safi/Gath

We have been involved at this site for 10 years since 2003, starting with an extensive geophysical study to locate an ancient siege trench. Tell es-Safi sits on a site 300 feet (91 m) above the plain of Philistia and 700 feet (210 m) above sea level, and its white-faced precipices can be seen from the north and west from several hours distant. Excavations there indicate that the site was settled, "virtually continuously from the Chalcolithic until the modern periods." Stratigraphic evidence attests to settlement in the Late Bronze and Iron Age (I & II) periods. A large city in the Iron Age, the site was "enclosed on three sides by a large man-made siege-moat." Some archaeologists believe that Tell es-Safi was the site of the Philistine city *Gath* (of David and Goliath fame), though the identification is uncertain. The place appears on the Madaba Map as *Saphitha*. Israeli archeologists have uncovered a Philistine temple and evidence of a major earthquake in biblical times. Other major finds were evidence of the destruction of Gath by Hazael King of Aram-Damascus around 830 BCE, and evidence of the first Philistine settlement in Canaan. At this site we operate one of the largest high tech field labs anywhere.







**14 Day Summer 2014 Combo Tour with 8-10 days of real summer excavation experience plus touring mixed in!**

**Tentative July Schedule:**

**Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> - leave Houston to arrive in Israel Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> - Drive north for Shabbat in Galilee**

**Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> - Swim, Relax, Get oriented**

**Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> - Drive south, check in at Kibbutz Revadim**

**Monday Jul 7<sup>th</sup>-Thurs Jul 17<sup>th</sup> – Tell es-Safi Archaeological Dig**

**Dig runs Mon-Thurs, other days we'll see**

**Old City Jerusalem and other special places**

**Friday Jul 25<sup>th</sup> – leave Tel Aviv around midnight, return to Houston on Sat Jul 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Places are open and final dates being determined.**

**Meet others with like interests! Have the time of your life!**

**We hope to fill (at least) 20 places**

**Target price is \$2500 per person including airfare**

**All forms for both CRASL and Excavation need to be individually filled out**

**<http://www.crasl.org>**

**If interested Email [info@crasl.org](mailto:info@crasl.org)**

**Or fill in CRASL Guest Form on CRASL Website**

**[http://www.mnemotrix.com/texis/crasl/scripts/guest\\_form](http://www.mnemotrix.com/texis/crasl/scripts/guest_form)**

**Touring:** We will take you to wonderful places, off the beaten track, and give you a heritage insider's view of Israel. Dig, learn, swim, hike, walk, relax, breathe in the summer.

