

Summer Study Away: Akko, Israel

The Trinity College **Summer Field School: Archaeology, Conservation, and Heritage Program in Akko, Israel**, endeavors to teach undergraduate and graduate students the essentials of archaeological fieldwork, conservation, and heritage management by participating in excavations in the city of Akko, Israel, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

About Akko

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001, the ancient city of Acre/Akko is one of the most fascinating sites in Israel. Located along the shores of Haifa Bay in northern Israel, Akko is home to the only natural harbor in the region and was first settled 5,000 years ago. Due to its strategic location, Akko was a major trading center in the region and appears prominently in ancient Egyptian, Ugaritic, Assyrian, classical, and biblical documents.

Akko had a tremendous importance in ancient times thanks to its strategic location as a port city and was therefore conquered by many civilizations, including the Christian

Crusaders, the Ottomans, and even Napoleon Bonaparte for a short period, each of which left their mark. Today Akko is a safe, modern Israeli city of approximately 50,000 people, well-known among tourists for its enchanting old city, vibrant markets, and beautiful beaches.

The program

As part of a consortium with other schools, the Trinity College Field School offers a four-week archaeological summer program. Students will be able to choose between one of two courses offered, each worth 2 Trinity credits (6 semester hours).

The dig

All students will participate in the Tel Akko Total Archaeology Project, an archaeological dig site focused on the excavation of the Tell el-Fukhar, a mound (tell) situated east of the modern city of Akko. The site is the remains of settled life in the area from 5,000 to about 2,300 years ago. Excavations on this ancient mound have uncovered evidence of the Canaanite, "Sea Peoples," Phoenician, Persian, and Hellenistic Greek cultures.

Curriculum

Archaeological Excavation – CLCV 300
.....2 Trinity credits (6 semester hours)

The main components of this course are archaeological excavation, recording, field analysis, and preservation. Through site tours, field trips, workshops, and a lecture series, students also study the major historical and archaeological periods represented in Akko and the larger context in which Akko functioned. This multidisciplinary course contributes to majors in anthropology, classical studies, history, international studies, Jewish studies, and religion, and minors in architectural studies, classical antiquity, and the classical tradition.
No prerequisites.

Advanced Level Independent Study
– CLCV 301
.....2 Trinity credits (6 semester hours)

This advanced-level course emphasizes an original research project and/or training for supervisory fieldwork. Requirements include public presentations in Akko and on the Trinity College campus. Students in CLCV 301 are engaged in advanced research that may include the foundation of a senior thesis. If thesis research is anticipated, the student's written project proposal must be approved by his/her academic adviser as well as the instructor. Cross listed with religion. Students majoring in anthropology, history, international studies, public policy, or other areas may be able to get credit toward the major. *Prerequisites:* CLCV 300, acceptance of a written project proposal, and permission of the instructor. Please contact Professor Martha Risser for more information at martha.risser@trincoll.edu.



Field trips

The Trinity College Field School offers a variety of field trips connected to the curriculum each summer. Field trips are designed to enhance student understanding of the territory's history while also providing the opportunity to study and visit neighboring archaeological sites and major museum collections. For example:

- **Akko city tour:** The first weekend, the group will tour Akko, visiting sites significant to the many different historical periods in which the city of Akko flourished.
- **Jerusalem:** The trip to Jerusalem will focus on the Old City of Jerusalem. Students will compare how a city directly connected to Akko deals with similar issues related to archeology, conservation, and heritage.
- **Haifa and nearby cities:** During the final weekend, students will focus on nearby cities to reveal how Akko fit into its historic contexts and functioned as a port city, yet remains unique.

Program prerequisites

- The program is open to both graduate and undergraduate students.
- Students must be in good academic and social standing. Minimum 2.5 GPA required.
- No previous fieldwork experience is required.
- Students admitted to the program must be able to engage in fieldwork in hot temperatures for significant periods of time.
- Visiting students (non-Trinity) are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

Housing and meals

Trinity College Field School participants will reside at the Israeli Naval Academy in Akko, on the Mediterranean Sea. The rooms are dormitory style and are equipped with high-speed Internet (Wi-Fi) and air conditioning. Each room accommodates three or four people and has a private bath. Most meals are included, served in the dining hall and on-site at the dig.

Faculty sponsor

The Trinity College Field School is led by Martha Risser, a professor in the Classics Department at Trinity since 1989. Her scholarly interests focus on classical art and archaeology, especially Greek pottery. She has participated in archaeological projects in Greece, Israel, Turkey, Italy, and the United States and currently conducts research at the Corinthian-controlled sanctuary at the Isthmus.

What's included

- Tuition for one course worth 2 Trinity credits (6 semester hours)
- Comprehensive predeparture advising and support
- On-site orientation
- Room and board
- Airport reception
- Most meals
- Faculty sponsor and on-site staff
- Field trips
- Comprehensive medical insurance

Prices and dates

The Trinity College Field School is typically offered from late June to late July. Please see the Trinity College Office of Study Away Web site for the most up-to-date pricing information.



“The dig in Akko was everything I hoped it would be. Archaeology is unique in that you can connect nearly any field of study to archaeological practice, and I was able to connect my classics and engineering majors.”

~ Claire Anderson '14



Application instructions

Applications will be on a rolling basis, and acceptance letters will be issued within three weeks of the application review. All students must be prepared to submit the following materials online for admission:

- The completed online application
- Trinity College summer study-away application agreement
- Faculty recommendation from one of your college professors
- Personal statement explaining your interest in applying to the program
- Nonrefundable application deposit of \$150 (check made payable to Trinity College)
- Transcripts
 - Trinity students may submit an unofficial transcript through their Trinity portal.
 - Visiting students (non-Trinity) must submit official college transcripts, sent directly from their registrar's office.

In addition to the above items, visiting students also must submit:

- The Home School Approval Form, submitted by your study-abroad adviser, academic adviser, or dean

Due dates

Complete the online application and submit all required application components by the **application due date of March 15**.

For general questions, contact:

Office of Study Away
Trinity College
300 Summit Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 297-5218
E-mail: studyaway@trincoll.edu

For academic questions, please contact the faculty sponsor:

Martha Risser
Associate Professor of Classics
Trinity College
(860) 297-2386
martha.risser@trincoll.edu

Connect with Trinity College Study Away:

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TRINITY COLLEGE STUDY AWAY

AKKO, ISRAEL | SUMMER

FIELD SCHOOL: ARCHAEOLOGY, CONSERVATION, AND HERITAGE



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