

**UPDATED CORRELATING TRAVEL GUIDE PAGE NUMBERS
FOR REVISED TRAVEL GUIDE TO USE WITH STUDY GUIDE**

RED LETTERS – NOT IN TRAVEL GUIDE; SCROLL DOWN THIS DOCUMENT FOR ANSWERS.

STUDY GUIDE PAGE NUMBERS

2023 Revised Travel Guide Page # (TG P. #)

Page 74 SITE TRIVIA 1		Page 75 SITE TRIVIA 2		Page 76 JEWISH CULTURE		Page 77 JERUSALEM		Page 78 FAQ	
Q #	TG P. #	Q #	TG P. #	Q #	TG P. #	Q #	TG P. #	Q #	TG P. #
1	74	1	103	1	42	1	133	1	2
2	203	2	76	2	21	2	144	2	2
3	111	3	109	3	22	3	144	3	2
4	170	4	106	4	24	4	164	4	2
5	77	5	89	5	26	5	157	5	4
6	104	6	86	6	24	6	157	6	5
7	89	7	94	7	12	7	158	7	6
8	97	8	114	8	12	8	165	8	7
9	170	9	193	9	12	9	159	9	7
10	189	10	193	10	23	10	165	10	7
11	191	11	186	11	6	11	153	11	8
12	194	12	182	12	24	12	119	12	7
13	A	13	105	13	24	13	152	13	9
14	175	14	105	14	12	14	148	14	10
15	173	15	175	15	22	15	154	15	63
16	172	16	B	16	24	16	140	16	63
17	122	17	93	17	24	17	140	17	63
18	82	18	102	18	23	18	159	18	64
19	85	19	120	19	24	19	148	19	64
20	B	20	88	20	161	20	142	20	65
21	196			21	12			21	66
22	85			22	21				

TEL ARAD

THE MODERN TOWN OF ARAD WAS founded in 1961 and is technically part of the Negev. It is included in this chapter because of its proximity to the Dead Sea.

Arad is best known for its important Tel Arad archaeological site. To reach the site from Arad, drive about seven miles (11 km) west on Route 31, then north on Route 80. The tel encompasses two archaeological sites: the *lower city* and the *upper hill*.



The lower city was first settled around 4000 BC. Excavations date back to the Bronze Age, about 2650 BC. Ancient Arad was the urban center for the entire Negev. Canaanite Arad was a planned city surrounded by a wall, divided into public buildings and residential areas. The community earned their living from agriculture, breeding sheep, hunting, and the international trade of olive oil and asphalt from the Dead Sea.

Today, the lower city includes remains of a water reservoir and well, the foundations of a residential quarter of uniform houses dubbed “Arad Houses,” a large complex of many rooms, cubicles, and courtyards known as “The Palace,” a temple complex (indicating worship of several gods), and the remains of a long stretch of fortified walls which orig-

inally would have been reinforced by round towers which extended up to the fortress.

The site was apparently deserted for over 1,500 years, then resettled in the tenth century BC on the upper hill—the location of the “Israelite Fortress” that would have been built during the reigns of King David and King Solomon.

The most important remains are those of a Judean temple and altar in the northwest of the fortress. These remains are believed to have been in use from the ninth century BC to the end of the eighth century BC—concurrently with the First Temple in Jerusalem (the Iron Age). Since excavation has been prohibited on the Temple Mount platform in Jerusalem, the Arad temple is the only “House of Yahweh” uncovered by excavation in Israel. Hence, the site is of great importance to the archives of archaeology and biblical history.

The temple was built in three sections according to precise biblical instructions: the inner courtyard, the temple, and the Holy of Holies. Three steps lead up from the temple to the Holy of Holies, where two incense altars and a “standing stone” flank the entrance. *Ostraca* (pottery shards with inscriptions) were discovered inside. The inscriptions bore names of two priestly families mentioned in the Bible, *Meramot* (Ezra 8:33) and *Pashkhur* (Jeremiah 20:1). In the heart of the courtyard is the square sacrificial altar built of small stones and faced with unchiseled stones, compliant with the biblical prohibition against building an altar of stones chiseled by means of a metal tool.

If you have time, the Arad Historical Museum at Aviv St. 2 in modern Arad is highly recommended, as it houses many of the most important artifacts from Tel Arad. Phone: 972-50-858-9373

KURSI NATIONAL PARK

KURSI, ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF the Sea of Galilee, is referred to as the “country of the Gadarenes” in the Bible. The national park encompasses the ruins of a fifth to sixth century AD restored church and monastery. Kursi is believed to be the site where Jesus found the demoniac, drove out his demons, and sent them into a herd of swine that “ran violently down a steep

place into the sea and were choked in the sea.” One Talmud text lists towns with pagan worship during the time of Jesus; Kursi (a town of Gentiles) is included in that list. This inclusion would make sense as pigs were raised only on Gentile farms. This site could have possibly been where Jesus disembarked from the boat to heal the madman (Luke 8:26-27).

TEL HAZOR

*“Hazor will become a haunt of jackals, a desolate place forever.
No one will live there; no people will dwell in it.” JEREMIAH 49:33*

JUST SOUTH OF THE HULA VALLEY IS the archaeological site of ancient Tel Hazor, encompassing an upper tel of 30 acres and a lower tel close to 200 acres. In 2005, Tel Hazor was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

In the Bible, Tel Hazor was known as “the head of all those kingdoms”; it was the seat of the evil and powerful Canaanite King Jabin who had harshly oppressed the Jews for twenty years. In obedience to the Lord’s instruction, Joshua burnt Hazor to the ground (Jeremiah 49:33).

Archaeological finds, resembling those found at Tel Megiddo and Tel Gezer, include a massive water system, stables (quite likely built for King Solomon’s royal cavalry), and a

six-chambered gate. It is possible that all three tels were built by King Solomon, as described in 1 Kings 9:15.

Some of the most significant findings at Hazor date back to the era of the Canaanites. Many pagan artifacts and structures were discovered in the lower tel, including figurines and standing stones—indicative of a community immersed in idol worship. A four-room “pillared” style house was also unearthed. Pillared houses, common in Israeli settlements, had either one or two rows of pillars separating the central court from the surrounding rooms.

Tel Hazor findings are housed in a nearby museum at Kibbutz Ayelet HaShahar. Address: 90, Rosh Pina; Phone: 972-4-693-7290

AMAZING ISRAEL

ONLY JEWISH COUNTRY IN WORLD: Number of countries worldwide with religion practiced by 50% or more of their population: Roman Catholic (45), Protestant (27), Eastern Orthodox (15), Muslim (52), Hindu (3), Buddhist (6), Jewish (1)

MINISCULE SIZE: Israel spans approximately 8,000 square miles (12,875 sq. km) in total area, 263 miles in length (423 km), and ranges from 9 miles (14 km) to 71 miles (114 km) in width. She is smaller than New Jersey and could fit into the state of California 19 times. 22 predominantly Arab Middle Eastern countries surround Israel, dwarfing her in size by 4,500 to 1. In regard to population, there are 6 million+ Jews in the Middle East compared to 423 million Arabs. Israel's total population currently exceeds 9 million.

CONTINUOUS JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE LAND FOR 3,000 YEARS: Jews are indigenous to Israel with a continuous presence for over 3,000 years according to archaeological, historical, and biblical evidence. "Who can challenge the rights of the Jews in Palestine? Good Lord, historically it is really your country." Yusef Diya al-Khalidi, Arabic Mayor of Jerusalem, 1899

OLDEST LANGUAGE IN WORLD REVIVED: Hebrew was virtually dead for almost 2,000 years (throughout the *diaspora*—the scattering of the Jews throughout the world); it was not used for daily conversation, business, or education. However, Hebrew was amazingly resurrected at the end of the 19th century when the Jews started returning to Israel. This phenomenon was prophesied over 2,500 years prior: "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of Hashem, to serve him with one consent." (Zephaniah 3:9)

FIRST RESPONDERS IN EMERGENCY: With 60 years of expertise in emergency response, Israel is typically among the first on the scene at international disaster sites.

RISKS LIVES FOR ISLAMIC MILITANTS: Elite Israeli troops rescue wounded Syrians almost every night. They have saved the lives of more than 2,000 Syrians (many even from terrorist groups) since 2013—at a cost of more than \$13 million.

EXCELS IN UNIVERSITY DEGREES: Israelis rank second in number of university degrees per capita in the world.

LEADER IN VENTURE CAPITAL: Israel attracts more venture capital investments per capita than any other country in the world.

FORERUNNER IN HIGH-TECH STARTUPS: Israel has the most high-tech start-up companies per capita in the world.

ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY EXPERTS: Over 90% of Israel's water heaters are solar-powered. Drip irrigation was invented in Israel. One of the driest countries on earth, Israel now has more than enough water for all her needs and leads the world in water recycling. Desalination plants were invented in Israel and account for 55% of their domestic water supply.

WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY: Jews founded Google, Amazon, and Facebook. Israelis created WAZE, instant messaging, firewall security software, Intel wireless computer chips, Windows NT operating systems, voicemail technology, and the USB drive. A sampling of Israel's countless medical inventions include PillCam, Biowelds1, MicronJet, VitalGo Systems' Total Lift Bed, Robotic exoskeleton ReWalk, and ApiFix to correct scoliosis.

THE ARAVA



THE BIBLE MENTIONS TWO NORTH-to-south plains referred to as *Arabah* (Arabic) or *Aravah* (Hebrew), meaning “desolate and dry area” as in the photo above. The region most frequently referred to in Scripture is today’s Jordan Rift Valley, which extended from the southern end of the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Only in Deuteronomy 2:8 does it refer to land *south* of the Dead Sea.

In biblical times, the Aravah was the center of copper production, focused primarily in its southern portion. It is believed that King Solomon would have had copper mines here. The northern area was at one time irrigated and cultivated by the Nabateans, evidenced by the remains of its ancient agricultural systems.

However, over time, the Arava has come to represent only this second, southern strip of land stretching 112 miles (180 km) from the southern shore of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba (Israel’s southern tip).

In Israel, a relatively small population of around 5,000 live in small towns, moshavim, and kibbutzim north of Eilat, encompassing about 150 farmsteads. However, the Arava straddles both Israel and Jordan. The more beautiful southern region has the densest population. While over 100,000 Jordanians live in the *Arabah*; over 90% of this number resides in the resort city of Aqaba. In Israel, the region’s largely Jewish population of roughly 52,000 reside in the resort city of Eilat.



The resort cities of Eilat and Aqaba, across the Red Sea