

Program

Ritual and Landscape – Tour to the Galilee

Thursday- Friday May 12-13, 2022

The AMPS project seeks to study ritual and scholarship in Mesopotamia both by studying Sumerian and Akkadian texts, as well as by focusing our attention to other societies and regions for comparisons. In our tour to the Galilee we will have a comparative look at various ritual issues, both contemporary and ancient.

Thursday May 12:

06:50 Pick up from entrance of The Van Leer Institute

07:00 Pick up from bus stop-Students village/Lohme HaGeta'ot

08:30 Breakfast (bring your own)

10:00 Tel Hazor

We will hear about ritual and archaeology in the Bronze Age, specifically in Hazor, and generally in the Levant, from Dr. Matt Susnow. Matt may send us some reading materials for us to prepare in advance.

Lunch (bring your own)

14:00 "Ozar Hastam" Museum, Safed

We will have a tour of the museum of "Sofrei Stam," the scribes of Jewish sacred texts (Torah scrolls, Mezuzot, and Tefilin [= phylacteries]). During the tour we will also meet a "Sofer Stam" scribe. Please prepare questions to him about his ritual work that you think could be of interest to us.

17:00 Meeting with Druze religious clergy, Majdal Shams

Our colleague, Yasser Hanjer, an MA student in Assyriology at the Hebrew University, and a resident of the Majdal Shams Druze village in the Golam arranged a meeting with the religious clergy of his village. We will ask them about their rituals and the way they interpret them. They will answer according to what they can tell us (the Druze religion is considered a secret religion so they said in advance they will not answer all questions). Please prepare questions to them about their ritual work that you think could be of interest to us.

20:00 Arrival at "Ana Tel Hai hostel"

Dinner

Friday May 13:

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 Ha-Hula Nature Reserve

Part of the conceptual and spatial aspects of ritual have to do with landscape. In Mesopotamia the marshes landscape is closely associated with rituals (e.g., the reed used in many rituals, and the riverbank location of many of the rituals). The Hula Nature Reserve will introduce us to the marshes landscape. I will send some texts to prepare in advance so that we can discuss them during the tour.

The tour will include an interactive movie.

11:00 Summary of the 2 days

Lunch

Ca. 12:00 (if time allows):

Short stop at the Church of the Beatitudes (near Capernaum).

15:30 Arrival at Jerusalem