



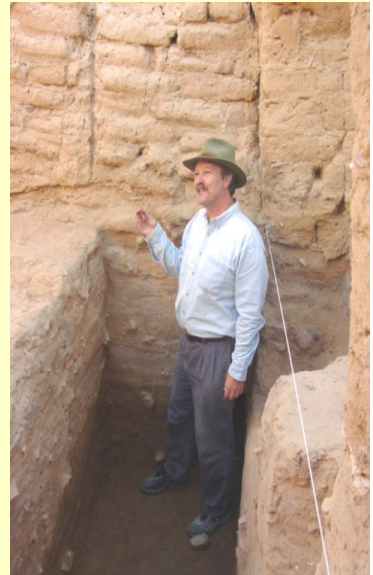
# AILA

## A ROMAN PORT ON THE RED SEA

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
North Carolina State University

Various ancient sources mention a city called AILA that was one of the great international ports of the Roman empire. AILA flourished as a major emporium between the Roman empire and its eastern neighbors from the 1st century through the Byzantine period (4th to 6th centuries). In 1994, Professor Parker rediscovered ancient AILA, now within the modern city of Aqaba, Jordan. His project aims to reconstruct the economy of AILA through both excavation of the city and a Regional survey of its hinterland. Excavations have revealed major portions of the ancient city, including Domestic complexes, cemeteries, the city wall, and an apparently early Christian church, erected ca. A.D. 300, which could be the oldest purpose-built church in the world.



**THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 4:30**  
**FAYERWEATHER 115**  
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