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THE ROMAN

EMPERORS

and

DANUBE

WINE ROUTE

For You

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TRAVEL EXPERIENCE: THE ROMAN EMPERORS AND DANUBE WINE ROUTE – A CULTURAL ROUTE OF EUROPE

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route was certified in 2015 by The European Institute of Cultural Heritage, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. Sometimes, the name of the route can be found abbreviated – RER&DWR. Basic information about the Route is available on the web site of the Institute: www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/the-roman-emperors-and-danube-wine-route?desktop=true

The Route now connects five countries of the Middle and Lower Danube and roughly follows the Roman Limes, the frontier of the Empire which, geographically, to a certain extent, coincided with the Danube. However, this exciting trip from Croatia, through Serbia, Hungary and Bulgaria, to Romania allows visitors to view archaeological remains on both sides of the Danube.

Hubs are a key characteristic of the Route and can be found on the map as numbered points. Hubs are important since it is expected that visitors can come to these locations (entry–exit points), collect information and find some other touristic services. Hubs are also important from the management model point of view, because in these hubs there are institutions and persons acting as the driving force in the process of the Route's development. There are some other potential hubs on this itinerary that could be more

than welcome as members of the Route, contributing significantly to the further development of the overall experience.

The basic idea of this cultural route is travel. The whole Route is supported with useful information about how to travel, how to alter the direction of travel, means of transport or where to stay and take a rest before continuing with new experiences. This kind of route is attractive to a variety of different segments, each of them being in a position to fulfil their specific motives.

- **Cultural tourism is connected with the most important segment** of expected travellers on the Route. According to the Atlas project (2009), these people move in order to visit specific cultural attractions (heritage, art, events), which, on this Route, are available as archaeological sites and events (such as gladiator spectacles). According to UNWTO, cultural tourism is about visitors who search for diversity, "...tending to raise the cultural level of the individual and giving rise to new knowledge..." (UNWTO). On this route it is, above all, about obtaining an impression of how such a big empire could live and organise itself as an efficient state. Within the different levels of interest among segments of tourists, it has been estimated that around 40% of all tourism

trips are connected with culture (Csapo, 225). RER&DWR offers a new experience for this significant number of educated tourists.

- **Young people travel with three basic motives in mind** (Richards: 2003, 3): to learn about new cultures (83%), to enjoy some excitement (74%) and to increase their knowledge (69%). Travelling across five not so familiar but extremely friendly countries along the Danube, visitors are in position to meet very different cultures, from Mediterranean Croatia, across middle European Pannonia, to the Balkans and the Black Sea area. Excitement is guaranteed, either in the urban environment (Pula, Pécs, Belgrade, Sofia and Bucharest) or in nature: Slavonia's wetlands, the Djerdap Gorge or the Danube Delta.

- **River cruiser passengers** travel as independent groups, experiencing adventure, visiting several destinations, in an elegant and well-organised way (Susic, Stumpf, Mezak: 2014). In many places on the Danube, from Budapest to the Danube Delta, it is possible to stop off from ships of different sizes and make a round trip in order to experience Roman heritage. It is even more exciting to be in a position to meet some of the Roman navy (port of sixty patrol ships – Sexaginta Prista) in Ruse.

- **Business guests** are the fastest growing segment on this route bearing in mind that the RER&DWR meets the two emerging requests of this segment: to decrease the cost of events and also to provide a new experience (Nicula, Popsa: 2014). Floating conferences, and conferences in less known but exciting destinations like Pécs, Alba Iulia or Kladovo, offer access to unique sites within the reach of major European transport hubs at moderate prices and can include specific local gastronomy and wine experiences.

- **The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route** offers "travel to experience". It enables travel that is more than just a journey to a destination. This is travel that enables visits to a sequence of destinations and a collection of experiences (Flognfeldt: 2016). The experience is specific to each of the "terroirs" along the Danube and its wine history and wide variety of wines. Many visitors, experts or those "searching for expertise", have adopted food and wine orientation as a lifestyle (Mora: 2016). In this Danube journey, they follow the Romans as well as the wine trails, searching for a long lasting wine culture.

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The Principle itinerary of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Life and lifestyle of the roman emperors
 Architecture

Everyday life, art and culture
 Religion in roman culture

Military
 Wine



Roman principle itinerary

1

Colonia Pietas Iulia Pola
Pollentia Herculanea
Pula and Brijuni
(27 – 68 AD)

2

Andautonia
Zagreb
(100 – 400 AD)

3

Siscia
Sisak
(262 – 383 AD)

4

Roman Tomb Chapel (UNESCO)
Pécs
(390 AD)

8

Timacum Minus
Knjaževac
(98 – 441 AD)

9

Kaleto
Belogradchik
(1st – 19th Century)

10

Colonia Ulpia Traiana
Augusta Dacica
Sarmizegetusa
(160 – 270 AD)

11

Alba Iulia
Alba Iulia
(106 – 275 AD)



Wines from the Danube Region

1

Baranja Wine Region

2

Ilok Wine Region

3

Fruška Gora Region

4

Morava Region

8

Muntania and Oltenia Hills

9

Pleven, Veliko
Tanovo / North-Central

10

Ruse / North-East
and Black Sea

11

The Danube
Terraces



5

Sirmium
Sremska Mitrovica
(10 BC – 582 AD)

6

Trajan's Table and Trajan's Bridge
Kladovo and Drobeta
Turnu Severin
(103 – 105 AD)

7

Felix Romuliana
(UNESCO)
Zaječar
(297 – 441 AD)

12

Roman Legio Camp Novae
Svishtov
(45 – 613 AD)

13

Sexaginta Prista
Ruse
(70 – 600 AD)

14

Histria
Constanta
(657 BC – 600)

5

South Banat Region

6

Negotin Wine Region

7

Vidin Area / North-West

12

Dobrogea Hills

PULA – CROATIA, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MODERN TOURISM IN ONE PLACE

1

Pula

A stylized map of Croatia is shown in dark blue against a light grey background. The map includes the coastline and several islands. A teal-colored location pin is placed on the northern coast, with a white circle containing the number '1' above it. A teal speech bubble with the word 'Pula' in white text is positioned next to the pin. At the bottom left of the map, there are three white wavy lines representing water.

The most important places to visit in Pula are: the Amphitheatre, Temple of Augustus, Town Hall, Arch of the Sergians, Hercules' Gate, Twin Gate, Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria in the adapted Venetian Fortress Kaštel, Military Cemetery, Small Roman Theatre, Roman Floor Mosaic, Museum-Gallery Sacred Hearts, Museum of Contemporary Art of Istria, the underground galleries of Zerostrasse, Museum-Gallery C8, House of Croatian Defenders and The House of Istrian Olive Oil.

Pula is not only famous for its cultural monuments but also for its beautiful and numerous churches. These include the Cathedral, Chapel of St. Maria Formosa, Franciscan Monastery, St. Anthony's Church, Church of Our Lady of the Sea, Church of Our Lady of Mercy, St. Joseph's Church, St. Nicholas' Orthodox Church, etc.

TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE SITE AND TRAVEL TIME FROM NEARBY DESTINATIONS

The bus companies that have established lines to and from Pula are Brioni Pula, Fils, Autotrans, Croatia Bus, Črnja tours and Flixbus. Other places in Istria connected to Pula by bus are Rovinj, Poreč, Umag, Pazin, Rabac, Labin and Opatija.

Travelling time from Pula to Rovinj by bus is approx. 40 minutes. It takes approx. one hour from Pula to Poreč by bus. Umag is two

hours away from Pula by bus. Travelling time from Pula to Pazin by bus is an hour and 15 minutes. Rabac is 30 minutes away from Pula by car. Travelling time from Pula to Labin is 55 minutes, and from Pula to Opatija an hour and 55 minutes by bus.

Also, from Pula you can travel by bus to Rijeka, Karlovac, Varaždin, Zagreb, Zadar, Šibenik, Split and Dubrovnik. There are also bus connections to Trieste, Padova, Venezia, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Belgrade.

From Pula you can also travel by train to Rijeka and Ljubljana. It takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes to Rijeka and 5 hours and 30 minutes to Ljubljana.

From Pula one can travel by catamaran to Zadar and it takes about 6 hours. Pula is also connected to Venice by boat and it takes about 3 hours to get there.

Pula Airport is located less than a 15 minute drive from the city centre and from Pula one can travel by plane to Zagreb, Zadar, Osijek, Split, Dubrovnik, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Milan, Dublin, Amsterdam, Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Warsaw, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Belgrade, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Basel, St. Gallen, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Leeds.



VISITING CONDITIONS: TICKETS, WORKING HOURS, GUIDES (LANGUAGES) ON SITE

The Pula Card is a card that provides discounted entrance for 6 attractions and sights: Arena, Temple of Augustus, Zerostrasse tunnels, Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria, Museum-Gallery Sacred Hearts and Museum of Contemporary Art of Istria.

Pula Card price: adults 90 kn, children under 5 years and students 40 kn. Ticket sales: at the entrance to each Pula Card attraction and Information Centre of the Tourism Office Pula (Forum 3). The Pula Card is available from 15th June until 15th September.

The most important places in Pula that we certainly recommend to our visitors are: the Amphitheatre, Cathedral, Temple of Augustus, Town Hall, Chapel of St. Maria Formosa, The Triumphal Arch of the Sergi, Hercules' Gate, Twin Gate, Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria in the adapted Venetian Fortress Kaštel, Military Cemetery, Small Roman Theatre, Roman Floor Mosaic, Museum-Gallery Sacred Hearts, Museum of Contemporary Art of Istria, The underground Galleries of Zerostrasse, Museum-Gallery C8, House of Croatian Defenders and The House of Istrian Olive Oil.



Working hours:

Amphitheatre - January, February, March 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; April 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; May, June 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.; July, August 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; September 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.; October 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; November, December 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tickets: adults 50 kn, children and students 25 kn

Temple of Augustus - November - March on announcement; April - June 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; July, August 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.; September 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; October 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tickets: adults 10 kn, children and students 5 kn.

Historical and maritime Museum of Istria -

November - March 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.;

April - September 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tickets: adults 20 kn, children and students 10 kn

The underground galleries Zerostrasse - 15th of June - 15th of September 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Tickets: adults 15 kn, students 10 kn, children 5 kn

Museum of Contemporary Art of Istria - winter time 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; summer time 11 a.m. 10 p.m.

Tickets: adults 10 kn, children and students free entrance

Aquarium - November - March 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,

April 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; June

- August 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.; September 9 a.m. - 8

p.m.; October 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.;

Tickets: adults 75 kn, children 60 kn (3-7 years free entrance), students 60 kn.

The House of Istrian Olive Oil - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tickets: adults 50 kn, children 25 kn.

Visit to the museum - Education & basic olive oil tasting:

Expected duration: 60 min, adults: 90 kn, children (age 6-15): 45 kn

Visit to the museum - Education & basic olive oil tasting, additional tasting of 5 top Istrian olive oils:

Expected duration: 70-90 min, adults: 130 kn, children (age 6-15): 65 kn

Museum - Gallery Sacred Hearts - 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tickets: 20 kn, it can be changed depending on the exhibition

Brijuni Islands

March – May, October – adults 170 kn,
children (4–14) half price

June and September – adults 200 kn,
children (4–14) half price

July and August – adults 210 kn, children
(4–14) half price

November – January – adults 125 kn,
children (4–14) half price

Pula has more than 70 guides who, all together, speak 20 languages (Croatian, Italian, English, German, French, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Czech, Macedonian, Turkish, Swedish, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Hebrew, Danish, Dutch and Finnish).

PRINTED MATERIALS, BROCHURES, VR AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION DEVICES

The brochure [Pula is more](#) offers a more informative picture of Pula, which will encourage tourists to explore Pula further.

The brochure [Accommodation in Pula](#) speaks of Pula as a picturesque town on the Adriatic coast, offering a variety of accommodation that will satisfy even the most demanding guests.

The brochure [Fragments of an Unknown Pula](#), with its content, reveals some less known places or even places hidden from curious eyes to all visitors of Pula.

The brochure [Pula Parks](#) explains that the tour of the sights of Pula would not be complete without a stroll through its well-preserved and beautifully designed parks.

The brochure [James Joyce](#) tells the life story of a man and artist who came to Pula looking for employment and left an indelible mark.

The brochure [House of Croatian Defenders](#) represents a magnificent building that was a fun place for Austro-Hungarian officers and highly educated naval officers and their families in the 1870s. Today, the building has a similar role, with numerous cultural programs being organised.

The brochure [Hiking Trails in Nature](#) offers a network of 12 well-researched and well-chosen nature hiking trails with a total length of 70 km.

In addition to the brochures, Pula has a mobile application, the [Pula + Heritage Tour](#), a cultural guide of the City of Pula created as a response to high-technology markets and the fact that tourists, as well as all visitors to Pula, mostly organise and create their stay using their smart phones. The two cultural tours – Roman and Austro-Hungarian Pula, cover the most significant cultural attractions and sights from different periods of Pula's turbulent past.

The interactive map, photo gallery and descriptions, and myths with details of the story related to each attraction, guide the user through some 70 attractions and sights, bring Pula's history much closer, and enable easier orientation across the city's cultural routes and quick access to the needed information. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and the Apple Store.

Virtual walk through Pula

Discover and explore Pula, and its three thousand year history with the help of our audio-visual guide. Take a peek into its magnificent history while listening to the professional guide. A virtual walk through Pula shows you many of its cultural monuments – the most significant of which is the Roman amphitheatre – Arena. This virtual tour also takes you to Pula's parks, one of the world's largest amphora sites, the Cathedral, the Castle, etc ... Be sure to stop at the Triumphal Arch of the Sergi from the 1st century BC, the Gate of Hercules, the Twin Gates, the Small Roman Theatre and the Temple of Augustus. The guide will also tell you what's so special about the main square – Forum, and show you the old city walls. A virtual walk through Pula can be very interesting, try it for yourself.

Tourist GPS Navigation Map

This navigation map has been made to meet Pula's guests' needs and it has two main objectives: it allows easier access to the accommodation they have booked and it helps them find their way around and visit local attractions. The maps are free for all users and are updated regularly.

Web cam

On the official website of the Tourism Office Pula there is a web camera through which one can follow what is happening in the Forum Square.

Promotional film of the South Istria Cluster

Picturesque towns, cultural heritage, tradition, wonderful sea as well as natural beauties, gastronomic offers, entertainment, sport.... Now you can watch everything the South Istria cluster offers – Pula, Vodnjan, Medulin and Fažana, in a promotional film made by Matica Adriatica from Pula. Take a tour through Pula, Vodnjan, Medulin and Fažana on the popular platform of YouTube – youtu.be/GQeWLXfLdII.

Social networks

There is an official web site of the Tourism Office of Pula where one can find all kinds of information regarding what to see and do, together with visitor information. Also, the Tourism Office of Pula has an official Facebook profile and page, an Instagram profile, a Twitter profile and a YouTube page.

TIME TO BE SPENT ON SITE (QUICK VISIT AND FULL TOUR)

The centre of Pula can be seen in a couple of hours, as most sights and museums are in the city centre. However, it may take a few days for a more complete tour of Pula, especially if you are visiting other places and attractions outside the city centre itself.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE (DISTANCE AND ACCESS)

One of the attractions near Pula is the **Nesactium**, the residence of King Epulon, king of the Illyrian tribe of Histri. The Romans conquered Nesactium in 177 BC. At present this locality represents an archaeological park featuring conserved architectonic remains from the Roman and Late Roman periods and it is only 13 km from Pula.

Furthermore, in Premantura, a small village 12 km from Pula, there is the **Kamenjak** nature park with 12 stone footprints of dinosaurs and an educational and recreational trail.

Not far from Pula there is also another small town called Rovinj, located 35 km away. Apart from its old town core, Rovinj is also known for the St. Euphemia Church and the open-air exhibition in Grisla Street.

At a distance of 68 km from Pula, there is the town of Motovun, another tourist destination known for medieval fortresses and its unique landscape.

All Istria is an attractive area available for half-day and all-day excursions.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND CATERING NEAR THE SITE

Hotels in Pula include Adrion Aparthotel, Amphitheatre, Aurora, Brioni, Galija, Istria-Neptun, Karmen, Milan, Park Plaza Arena Pula, Park Plaza Histria, Pula, Scaletta, Veli Jože and Villa Vulin.

Pula is a town of renowned restaurants, where top seafood delicacies are prepared, but in the restaurants of Pula you should also taste dishes from the interior of Istria such as the famous Istrian pastas – fuži, njoki, pljukanci and ravioli. You will be served with the famous “žgvacet” and other sauces or with the famous truffles, mushrooms that are known to have undeniably aphrodisiac properties. At the restaurants in Pula you will also be offered the “maneštra”, a home-made, traditional Istrian thick soup. Istrian prosciutto is a real gastronomic delicacy which is, as well as other dishes, best combined with wine. Istria and Pula today are famous around the world for their wines. Some of the most famous are malvasia, teran, chardonnay, pinot, merlot and cabernet

sauvignon. In addition to other dessert wines, taste the famous Istrian muškati, it has a pleasant aroma and it is a real pleasure at the end of a meal. There are more than 40 restaurants in Pula where one can find typical meals as well as typical wines.

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

Lighting Giants, Pula's new attraction, is a unique project in the world of lighting cranes of an operating shipyard. Dean Skira, the world-famous lighting designer, with the help of sponsors and the workers of the Uljanik Shipyard, has lit up the shipyard's iconic cranes, a characteristic symbol of Pula. The “Lighting Giants” have a sophisticated remote control system of lighting and stenography, and can be illuminated with 16 thousand different colour combinations. Pula's visitors can enjoy this spectacular show and lighting display every evening from dusk until 10 p.m., during the summer until midnight. There are different lighting schemes, specially programmed for special occasions, holidays and events.

The House of Istrian Olive Oil is located in the very centre of Pula, just a few minutes' walk from the Arena. The House of Istrian Olive Oil tells the story of olive growing in Istria through history up to the present day. You can also find out how the ancient Romans processed olive oil and how it is produced today. Discover all the aromas and tastes, as well as the chemical composition of Istrian extra virgin olive oil and learn how olive oil, combined with the Mediterranean diet, affects our health. During your visit,

you will learn from an expert how to recognise top-quality extra virgin olive oil, which makes Istria particularly famous as a region. In the Museum shop, you can find a large selection of top Istrian extra virgin olive oils. The leading Istrian olive oil producers offer a wide variety of the very best extra virgin olive oils. The offer also includes various Istrian brandies, Istrian truffles, lavender and other Mediterranean plant based cosmetics, items made of olive wood and many other gift packages.

The Brijuni Islands, or Brijuni archipelago, are today one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Croatia. This archipelago consists of a group of islands off the western coast of Istria which, together with the surrounding waters, was proclaimed a national park in 1983. The islands are only 6 km from Pula and separated from the mainland by the Fažana Channel, with a regular daily boat service from the nearby Fažana port. The Brijuni Islands comprise two larger islands – Veliki and Mali Brijun, as well as 12 smaller and exceptionally indented islands that have been inhabited since prehistoric times. The Brijuni Islands are well known for their mild Mediterranean climate with plenty of sun and humidity, which is ideal for the lush vegetation and a pleasant stay on the islands. In winter, the average air temperature is 5.9 °C, in spring 12.2 °C, in summer 23.2 °C, and in autumn 14.8 °C. In summer, the sea temperature is between 22 °C and 25 °C, whilst the air temperature is about 23 °C. The vegetation on the Brijuni Islands is extremely luxuriant and the national park is full of tropical plants that form specially maintained tree-lined lanes, parks and gardens. The Brijuni Islands are the ideal choice for guests seeking accommodation of the highest calibre and the best of additional facilities.

Pula's fortifications are a range of impressive sights waiting to be discovered. They date from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and were designed to defend the city from potential

attacks from the sea and were built to resist every possible kind of attack – for this reason they were mostly circular or ring-like so that shells would rebound off the walls. They were all built at excellent locations, mostly lookout points that, even today, offer magnificent views. There are 9 fortifications: Fort Bourguignon, Fort Verudela, Fort Monteparadiso, Fort Punta Christo, St. George's Fortification, Fort Monvidal, Fort San Michele, Fort Stoja and Fort Marie Louise. Fort Punta Christo is the famous venue of two big festivals, Dimensions and Outlook.

Tour IstrAction

The Pula Fortification Tour originated as an idea of several enthusiasts and their great desire to preserve and revive the stories and places from the time when Pula was the main naval port of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The trip includes a tour of the forts Grosso, Valmaggioro, Zonchi and Punta Christo in a military truck and on foot through the pine forest, accompanied by an expert guide and a historian. It consists of a ride in a military truck from the parking lot at the railway station to Fort Grosso (Štinjan), during which the guide introduces the visitors to the period of Pula up to the arrival of Austrian rule, and the beginnings of the development of the naval port of Pula. This is followed by a walk through to the coastal fortifications of Valmaggioro, Zonchi Bay and the eponymous fort, which participated in the sinking of the French submarine "Curie". After rejoining the truck, the tour heads for the fortress of Punta Cristo. For lunch there is a military meal (minestrone) in the form of original military rations and drinks or an organised lunch in a restaurant. Tour price: 285 kn.



Pula Gourmet tour

Every Tuesday there is an organised sightseeing tour with traditional Istrian food and wine tasting. The tour departs from the Arena at 8 p.m. and lasts around 3 hours.

Price: Adults 170 kn; children 5–14 years 110 kn; free admission for children under 5. Admission ticket for the Arena is included in the sightseeing tour price.

Ticket sales: cash desk of the Arena or one hour before the departure by the tourist guide in front of the Arena. Guided tours are available in Croatian, English and German. Sightseeing tours can be arranged in other languages (Italian and French) upon request, with at least 1 day prior notice.

Parks

A tour of the sights of Pula would not be complete without a stroll through its well-preserved and beautifully designed parks. Each and every one of them tells a different story from a certain period of Pula's history. So, every visitor is encouraged to unveil some guarded secret or love story and take it back with him. This is just that little "something" needed to round off the complete experience. Not all the parks were designed at the same time, therefore their style and arrangement are different. Some have a regular pattern, with plants clipped and trimmed in various geometrical forms, others are more "casual", both in their concept and in the plant species they contain. Most of today's parks of Pula originate from the Austro-Hungarian period, whereas the period of the Italian rule and more recent times have left only minor traces in the public garden culture of the city.

Market place

In 1903, the inauguration of the Market, a covered construction, took place. At that time it was an extraordinary event because for the first time iron and glass were used as the newest building material. That is why it was very popular and appeared very often on postcards. The whole mantel creating the outside wall was made entirely of iron supports and glass surfaces. The trading areas on the ground floor are spacious and functional, and even today the building has not lost its purpose, the heart of the town. It is the centre of the town's morning life and everyone who wishes to feel the spirit of the Mediterranean should pass through its fish-market, take a look at stalls with fruits and vegetables, take a coffee on its terrace and drink in the morning throng and buzz of the town.

Beaches, campsites, marinas

Pula has more than 30 km of beautifully landscaped beaches. Places like Verudela, Stoja, Valkane, Valovine and Puntizela offer pebble and rocky beaches with beautiful clear water.

Pula has two big campsites: Brioni and Arena Stoja. The **Brioni** campsite can accommodate approx. 1,500 campers. The campsite is visited by guests of many different profiles, of all generations, individuals and groups and guests paying a flat rate. It offers a pleasant combination of shade and sun, and has both a pebble and rocky beach.

The **Arena Stoja** campsite is a dream holiday destination for those who love the great outdoors. Arena Stoja, a well-known Pula camping site, is located on the Stoja peninsula, well away from the daily bustle of busy everyday life, a natural oasis of peace and tranquillity. The nearby rocky coastline is not only lovely to look at, but provides a wealth

of opportunities for those who enjoy spending time in the water.

Furthermore, Pula has three marinas: ACI Marina Pula, Bunarina and Tehnomont Marina Veruda.

ACI Marina Pula, situated in the very heart of this historic harbour, only metres away from the Arena, offers 194 moorings. The **Bunarina** port (marina) is in close proximity to Pula, in a naturally protected bay in the south of Istria. It offers 500 moorings. **Marina Veruda**, within a short distance of the lively town and near the settlement of Pješćana Uvala, offers 630 moorings in the sea and 180 moorings on land.

Activities

Pula's visitors can enjoy numerous and various activities in Pula. These include: tennis, basketball, golf, windsurfing, sailing, fishing, hiking, climbing, diving, stand up paddling, cycling, karting, panoramic flights, yoga or fitness or a health spa.

Underwater Park Verudela

Right below the Hotel Brioni at Verudela, you can now set out on a completely different walk – a walk under the sea. With an innovative helmet that keeps you under the surface and enables you to breathe underwater, you can walk around freely, admire and feed the fish, sit down and take a break, explore the wrecks...

Numerous festivals and concerts

Pula, a town with cultural monuments of exceptional historical value, also pays special attention to cultural events, of which there are a great number during the whole year. The oldest is the Feature Film Festival at the Arena, held for 64 years. The programs of this important cultural manifestation get richer and richer every year and the whole town lives with the Festival. During summer, the Arena offers a number of programs which can meet the taste of the most demanding audience. Besides Pula Film Festival there are also the Visualia Festival, Days of

Antiquity – Pula Superiorvm, Spectacvla Antiqua, the Theatre Festival of Youth, PUF International Alternative Theatre Festival, Book Fair(y) in Istria, the Seasplash Festival, the Monte Paradiso Punk Festival, Bike Week, and the Dimensions and Outlook festivals. At Pula's Arena, the most beautiful stage under the stars, some of the most famous singers in the world have performed, such as Domingo, Pavarotti, Bocelli, Carreras, Sting, David Floyd, Joe Cocker, Elton John, Tom Jones, Michael Bolton, Eros Ramazzotti, Sinead O'Connor, Anastacia, Manu Chao, Oliver Dragojević, Đorđe Balašević, Zdravko Čolić, Josipa Lisac, 2 Cellos, Petar Grašo and many others.

The town of numerous cultural events also offers great entertainment in discotheques and night bars. However, if you want to hear about the city and meet the young people, make sure to come to the many cafes. There are many of them in all parts of the city and are very interesting.

CLOSEST CITY (POPULATION, NUMBER OF TOURIST ARRIVALS AND OVERNIGHTS)

Rovinj, a town near Pula has a population of about 14,300 inhabitants. The number of tourist arrivals in Rovinj is 620,000, while the number of overnight stays is 3,778,000.

Another town near Pula is Poreč with a population of 17,500 inhabitants. The number of arrivals in Poreč is 550 000, while the number of overnight stays is 3,346,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Greater networking at a regional level with other places for promotion purposes.

Improve the availability of Kaštel Fortress, as well as the Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria located within it.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Pula

Pula (HUB)



Plane

Pula airport (<https://airport-pula.hr/en/>)



Train

Pula railway station



Bus

From Zagreb bus station to Pula; bus line from Pula to Fažana; boat line from Fažana to Brijuni



Boat

Pula port



Car

From Zagreb to Pula on highways A1 (Zagreb–Split–Dubrovnik) – A6 (Bosiljevo–Rijeka) – A8 (Matulji–Pazin–Kanfanar) – A9 (Kanfanar–Pula); from Trieste (Italy) to Pula on highway A9 (Umag–Kanfanar–Pula)



Bicycle

Pula bike routes

ANDAUTONIA AND SISCIA

Zagreb

3

Sisak

In this region, the Roman province of Pannonia was established as a result of Octavian's wars in Illyricum, in the period between 35 and 33 BC. Devastated areas of the territory were transformed into cities and typical Roman urbanisation was introduced. As they were situated along the important trade route and military road connecting the Adriatic with the Black Sea, the settlements at Andautonia and Siscia had considerable strategic and economic importance in Late Antiquity.

ANDAUTONIA

ANDAUTONIA, in the Croatian village of Šćitarjevo, is a success story both today and in Roman times. In the Roman Empire, Andautonia was assigned the status of **municipium**, which was the method by which the Romans integrated native populations into the administrative structure of the Empire. The locals had limited self-governing autonomy and started to act like Romans: they built their houses of stone and mortar like the Romans, they carved classical themes on their monuments and imitated Roman pottery styles. The modern success of Andautonia is that all of their accomplishments in integrating into the Roman system are now displayed at the archaeological site. Visitors can walk the preserved Roman street and experience the adjacent buildings, with original artefacts that explain their function.

Today, the Andautonia Archaeological Park offers its visitors the opportunity to smell and taste everyday life in Roman times through a well-designed exhibition of Roman perfumes and soaps, and an offering of wine made using Roman methods. In Sisak, the city museum offers a rich numismatic and archaeological collection.

Andautonia is located on the southern bank of the Sava river, in the village of Šćitarjevo, 15 km southeast of the city of Zagreb, Croatia.

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

Opening hours of the archaeological park are: from May 1st to October 31st Saturday and Sunday 12–6 pm, Monday to Friday: prior arrangement required for group visits. For all information and organisation of guided tours please contact:

Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu,
Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinskog 19
Contact: tel. 00 385 1 4800009

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

Visitors can view preserved sections of the Roman city in an area of 2,500 m², accompanied by a very creative mobile app offering important information about individual structures and buildings.

An exhibition presenting the local spices and ingredients that are used in the preparation of food is very inspiring and original.



Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

For a quick visit, it takes about three hours to explore the Andautonia Archaeological Park. After viewing the preserved part of the Roman city, visitors can also see the most important stone monuments found in the Andautonia area, the parish

church of St. Martin, and also walk through the present-day village of Šćitarjevo, where several typical rural farmyards with wooden houses are still preserved. There is a small café in front of the entrance of the archaeological park.

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

Most of the hotels, private accommodation, restaurants and other tourism facilities are located in Zagreb, the capital city, only 15 km from the site. For more information, please visit www.infozagreb.hr

Recommendations for improvement and future development

Increasing cooperation of local service providers (accommodation, activities, transport, gastronomy and bike rental)

SISAK

Sisak

SISCIA was a major Roman colony which is buried beneath modern Sisak. Remains of the Roman town are exposed at several locations and include the massive late imperial fortifications and some of the important municipal buildings, like the impressive granary. Visitors can encounter more evidence of the thriving civilian and military life among its Roman inhabitants in the city's archaeological museum. In addition, Siscia was the site of an imperial mint, and coinage produced there is also on display in the museum.

Sisak is located 57 km southeast of the Croatian capital of Zagreb (Andautonia Archaeological Park is 15 km from Zagreb) and 243 km from Osijek.

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

City Museum of Sisak –

King Tomislav Street 10, Antique Siscia

The archaeological collection of Antiquity is the most extensive collection of the Sisak City

Museum, with tens of thousands of objects that originate mainly from the area of Sisak and encompass different aspects of life of Roman Siscia. Most of the objects come from archaeological research, protective and systematic, with some acquired by purchasing or from donations, of which most are random findings from the Kupa river.

Opening hours for visitors:

Summer working hours

Tuesday–Friday 10.00–18.00

Saturday–Sunday 09.00–12.00

Winter working hours

Monday–Friday 07.30–15.30

Visits can be made outside of working hours and weekends only for organised groups with prior arrangement by telephone. The number of the Museum is 044 / 811 811.

Ticket prices:

Individual visits:

Adults – 15.00 kn

Pupils and students – 7.00 kn

Children up to 7 years, pensioners – free

Organised group visits:

Adults – 10.00 kn

Children and pensioners – 7.00 kn

Languages: Croatian and English

Siscia in situ

Remains of Roman architecture: the south-western rampart with a tower from the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd century, within the walls of the remains of the horreum, the granary, built at the beginning of the 4th century.

Location: Trg Bana Jelačića.

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

Sisak Hip Hop – audio guide for visits to the main tourist attractions, in three languages (Croatian, English and German)

Brochure about main tourist attractions, in three languages (Croatian, English and German) and official tourist guide (events, accommodation, restaurants, museums and galleries, and wine route)

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

For a quick visit, it takes about three hours to tour the archaeological park of Siscia "in situ", the city museum's Antique exhibition and the Old Fortress. If you have a day or more at your disposal, then you should definitely visit the other tourist attractions and the Kupa river, and enjoy the delicious food and drinks (beer) available in the various restaurants and cafes. One of the best jazz clubs in Croatia is located on the promenade. Also, if you like art photography and old techniques for producing them, visit the Siscia Obscura photo gallery. Not far from Sisak is the unique European Nature Park of Lonjsko Polje.

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

In Sisak, there is the Hotel Panonija and many private accommodation options: Stara Iža, Sladić, Master, Tomy, Forest, Tišina, Klet, Zrnić, Imperials Gusto, Sisak, Bokun, and Stara Klet. All these accommodation facilities are in the vicinity of the archaeological site.

Other tourist attractions near the site

Old Town Fortress – At the time of the struggle with the Ottomans, to stop the Turkish advance, at the mouth of the Kupa river in the Sava, the Sisak fort began to

be built. Construction began in 1544, and in 1550 it was completed for its primary purpose. For its construction, material was used from the ruins of the Roman Siscia. The Fortress and the old town of Sisak are closed from October to May. Group visits are possible throughout the year, by prior arrangement by phone with the Sisak City Museum, 044 / 811 811.

Ticket prices:

Individual visits:

Adults – 10.00 kn

Pupils and students – 7.00 kn

Children up to 7 years, pensioners – free

Organised group visits:

Adults – 10.00 kn

Children and pensioners – 7.00 kn

For organised group visits there are additional professional guide services through the Stari Grad Fortress.

Professional guide – 100.00 kn

(During the working hours of the Fortress)

After working hours, the price of the guide is 150.00 kn

Languages: Croatian and English

City Hall / Building of the district government

The city hall was built in the Art Nouveau style. Today, it is the seat of the city administration and the office of the Mayor.

Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

– The Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Church of the Sisak diocese, is located in Ban Josip Jelačić Square, next to the archaeological park "Siscia in situ". Today's church was built in the first half of the 18th Century. On December 5th, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI re-established the Sisak diocese, led by Bishop Vlado Kosić, and proclaimed the then parish church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross a cathedral. The patron saint of the city of Sisak is the Bishop of Sisak and the martyr Sveti Kvirin.

Great Kaptol – The Great Kaptol is one of the most valuable examples of architecture of the classicism style in Sisak, built in 1830. In 1839, the first theatre performance, in Croatian, in the Stokavian dialect, of "Juran and Sofia" (also known as "Turks under the Syrian") by I. K. Sakcinsky, was held here. The Great Kaptol is located in Ban Josip Jelačić Square, near the Old Bridge.

Old Bridge – The first wooden bridge on the Kupa river was built in 1862, joining Civil and Military Sisak (the left and right banks of the Kupa river). From October 20th, 2010, the bridge is closed to buses and all vehicles weighing more than two tons.

Siscia Obscura photo gallery – The gallery, in Kukuljevića Sakcinskog 2, makes a very interesting visit. www.siscia-obscura.hr

Recommendations for improvement and future development

Encouraging and motivating local travel agencies to deal with incoming tourism (creating and promoting travel packages with a Roman theme at a regional and global level)

Increasing cooperation of local service providers (accommodation, activities, transport and gastronomy)

TRAVEL INFORMATION



Train

Main railway station, Trg kralja Tomislava 12
(www.hzpp.hr)



Bus

The bus terminal is on Marin Držić Avenue,
and is only a few minutes from Ban Josip
Jelačić Square by tram (line 6) (www.akz.hr)



Car

Major international road routes are Trieste–
Ljubljana–Zagreb; Graz–Maribor–Zagreb;
Klagenfurt–Ljubljana–Zagreb; Budapest–
Varaždin–Zagreb; Belgrade–Zagreb



Bicycle

Local bike routes

Andautonia



Bus

From Zagreb by bus or tram to Zapruđa,
then by bus 308 to Šćitarjevo, walk to the
archaeological site



Car

From Zagreb to Andautonia on highways E65/
E70/E71 or Radnička cesta



Bicycle

From Zagreb using regional roads

Sisak



Plane

Osijek airport, then by car (E70) to Sisak



Train

From Zagreb railway station, Trg Republike 1



Bus

From Zagreb to Sisak, bus station
Zagrebačka 19



Car

From Zagreb (D36 or E70 and E36), or from
Osijek (E70)

OSIJEK – MEET HISTORY, CULTURE AND WINE

4

Pécs

1

Baranja Wine
Region

Osijek

Ilok Wine
Region

2

3

Sremska Mitrovica

CITY HISTORY

In ancient times, a Celtic and Roman city named Mursa used to stand where Osijek is today. The first time in history that the written name of our city was mentioned was in 1196 in the Hungarian form of Eszek, and the Germans called it Esseg. Throughout the Middle Ages, at the time of the Croatian-Hungarian kingdom, Osijek was a wealthy merchant and craft town. In the summer of 1526, it was captured by soldiers of the powerful Ottoman (Turkish) Empire.

At the end of the 17th century, Osijek was returned to Croatia within the Habsburg (Austro-Hungarian) Empire. A large fortress was built along the Drava river and the city was rebuilt in the Baroque style. In the 19th century, Osijek experienced a great economic and cultural boom. During that time, the Croatian National Theatre, the County Palace and the Co-Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul were built and the first tram (tramway) in the region was introduced as a means of public transport. A large number of other cultural institutions and factories were opened, which attracted a large number of new citizens.

Our "City on the Drava River" was named after the word "oseka" which means "low tide" (a place near the river suited for inhabitants). It is the fourth biggest city in Croatia, with a population of about 100,000 and is the cultural, economic and scientific centre of the Slavonia and Baranja region.

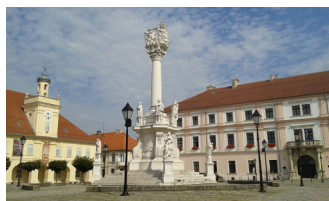
Osijek is located just 20 km from the confluence of the Drava and the Danube, in the middle of its 2,850 km long course from German Schwarzwald to the Black Sea. In this part of the European Podunavlje (Danube region), Croatian and old Austro-Hungarian heritage meet, which is first noticeable

in the architecture and rich traditions and gastronomy.

BEST SIGHTSEEING ROUTES

A quick walking tour

For your first visit to Osijek, we recommend that you visit Tvrdra, a fortified part of the city from the 18th century, where you will see some of the most valuable examples of Baroque architecture in Croatia, such as the statue of the Holy Trinity and the General's headquarters, which you can see on the 200 kuna notes. Passing through the large parks and gardens (the city has 17 parks), you will come to the Secession district, with its monumental public and private buildings such as palaces, galleries, the court and the post office. The parallel road along the Drava river will take you to the main square and a walk along the promenade will take you to the St. Peter and Paul's Co-Cathedral. Completed in 1898, with its 90 metre tower, it is the tallest building in Osijek today and the second tallest church in Croatia's central and southern Podunavlje (Danube region). If you continue your walk up the river promenade, you will arrive at the viewpoint above the Drava and the "Kompa" ferry that will transfer you to the left bank of the river and to the zoo. A spectacular panoramic view of the entire city can be experienced from the pedestrian suspension bridge on which you can leave a love padlock if you so desire, to make a memory and always return to Osijek in love...



Relax after the walk

After a walk, you can relax on one of the many terraces along the promenade in the Winter Port with coffee, cake or a beer, which the people of Osijek have proudly prepared since 1697. Have you tried the Black Radler beer? Believe us when we tell you that there is nothing more refreshing in the summer months than enjoying a cool Black Radler beer while the river Drava spills "lazily" into the Danube. To our knowledge, Black Radler is prepared only in Osijek.

Among the many city events during the year, we recommend that you visit the Days of Wine and Tourism and the National Fish Stew Cooking Championship in early May, the UFO festival of young urban bands in mid-June, Osijek's Summer of Culture with theatre and film performances, exhibitions and artistic performances from late June to mid-July, the Pannonian Challenge festival of extreme sports, cycling, rock and urban music in mid-July, Days of the First Croatian Beer – Osijek beer and tambura music festival, known as "the greatest Slavonian wedding party", in mid-September and, for end of year romance and entertaining, Advent in Osijek (Christmas market). Throughout the year you can visit the Antiques Fair in Tvrda, the old town.

For lunch in Osijek, treat yourself with one of the local gastronomic specialties, roast venison, (perkelt) goulash with homemade pasta, fresh cheese and pieces of fried bacon, fish-paprikash (fish stew, since you are in an area of large rivers), "kulen" sausage, and strudel or plum dumplings for dessert, known as the Osijek Knödel.

CITY SIGHTS

City walls and water gates

At the beginning of the 18th century, the construction of the Osijek city walls, known as Tvrda (Tvrda is short for *tvrdava*, meaning fortress in Croatian), in the shape of a large, irregular

star, began. Upon the completion of the work in 1722, Tvrda became one of the largest and most modern military fortifications in Central Europe. Within the walls, the buildings were built almost entirely in the Baroque style and four gates led into the city. Unfortunately, in the first half of the 20th century, it was decided to tear down the old walls. So, today there is only a small section of the walls towards the river, together with water gates and a tower (water tower) and a large part of the Crown Fortress (Krunska utvrda) on the left bank of the Drava. The main purpose of the Osijek walls was to defend against a possible new attack by the Ottoman Empire army that held Osijek under occupation from 1526 to 1687. The construction of the walls was run by the general Johann Stephan von Beckers and it is believed that his body was bricked into the walls of the water gates after his death. There is an interesting anecdote about Emperor Joseph II and his attempt to enter Tvrda. During his first visit in 1768, the Emperor came after sunset and even he wasn't allowed to enter the city gates. Therefore, they offered him accommodation in the Upper Town (Gornji grad) at the "Kšaranu" inn, in the location of today's Esseker centre.



General's headquarters – University administration

In 1726, in the Holy Trinity Square in Tvrda, the monumental Renaissance-Baroque building of the General's headquarters was built. As the name suggests, the building was built on the orders of the great Austro-Hungarian military leader Prince Eugene of Savoy and it was used for the needs of the imperial military rule in eastern Croatia (Slavonia and Srijem). Since 1975, it has been known as the seat of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University,

named after the bishop and founder of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb. The tradition of higher education in Osijek has existed since 1707 and today our university, with its 17 faculties and departments, is one of the most important scientific centres in Croatia. When students come to Osijek for college they like the fact that, just like in the 18th century, Tvrdá is the centre of the city's nightlife and entertainment, with a variety of cafes and restaurants, which were mostly visited by the military administration. It is interesting that this building, together with the nearby statue, appears on the 200 kuna banknotes.

St. Michael the Archangel Church (Crkva sv. Mihaela Arkandela)

Immediately after the liberation from the Turkish authorities in the late 17th century, many of mosques in Osijek were turned back into Catholic churches. One such example is the parish church of St. Michael the Archangel. This Baroque church was built by Jesuit monks from 1725 to 1748. With its two 47 metre high towers, it dominates the skyline of Tvrdá. Every Friday at 11 am, at the exact moment of liberation from the Ottoman Turks on September 29th 1687, the church bells ring in remembrance of that event. The painting in the main altar shows just that event. It is interesting that the citizens of Osijek eventually forgot the real reason for the ringing of church bells at 11 am so they "invented" their own explanation. In order to finish Friday lunch by noon, their favourite dumplings, they would begin to make them only after "all the churches told them so" and the eleventh hour on Friday was named "knedl sat" ("knedl hour"/"dumplings hour"). The base of the former Turkish Kasim-Pasha mosque can be seen in front of the church in the square, and in the middle of the square

there is a statue of St. John Nepomuk (Ivan Nepomuk), protector of all who live and work along the river. Since Osijek has often been exposed to the deceptive anger of the Drava, statues of this saint can be found in several places in the town.

Elevation of the Holy Cross Church (Crkva uzvišenja sv. Križa)

Franciscan monks built this church and the nearby monastery in Tvrdá in 1732 on the foundations of three former oratories: Romanesque and Gothic churches and an Ottoman mosque. The main altar is adorned with a statue dedicated to Our Lady of Osijek, which was saved before the Rakoczi rebellion in the 18th century from the southern Hungarian sanctuary of Maria Jud. Apparently, the local Franciscans are still looking for that statue. However, the favourite altar of the citizens of Osijek is that of St. Anthony of Padua (Sv. Antun Padovanski). For this reason, ever since 1727, on his feast day, June 13th, a church feast, known locally as "kirvaj" (German: Kirchweih), takes place in the nearby streets. In the accompanying big fair you can find something for everyone, from toys to handcrafted goods. Particularly interesting are the stalls selling handmade candles and honey products, such as the traditional Croatian sweet honey-dough cookie named "Licitar", which is listed on the UNESCO list of world intangible heritage.

Holy Trinity Square (Trg sv. Trojstva)

Dominating the main square in the old town, you will find the beautiful Baroque statue of the Holy Trinity. It was built in 1729 as a votive column from citizens of Osijek to God so that the plague that devastated the city never returns. On the other hand, there's a legend that says that the city's rats that were to blame for the plague were killed off by cute furry animals, pine martens, brought in a large number into the city.

Subsequently, the martens saved Osijek from any new outbreaks of the "black death". According to many, this statue is the most beautiful Baroque monument in Croatia. Similar votive statues exist in many towns and villages in Slavonia and Baranja and all over the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. On the eastern corner of the square there is the building of the Main City Guard with a tower guardhouse, built in the 18th century. Today it hosts the Archaeological Department of the Museum of Slavonia. On the diagonally opposite corner stands the Museum of Slavonia. In front of the museum grows an ancient ginkgo tree that has remained there from the former large park. On the western side of the square, on the corner, there is the Franjo Kuhač Music School. Kuhač was born in Osijek and in the second half of the 19th century he became known as the collector of Croatian and Slavic folk music heritage. His research proved that the world famous composers Ludwig van Beethoven and Joseph Haydn often borrowed parts of Croatian traditional music. It is interesting that Haydn's melody of today's German national anthem comes from the old Croatian song "Stal se jesem jutro rano malo pred zoru" from the northern Croatian Međimurje County and the Austrian state of Burgenland.

European Avenue

Osijek is famous for Secession (a variation of Art Nouveau), the style that was once very popular in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. The magnificent city palaces in the European Avenue today are mostly luxurious office spaces. They were built at the beginning of the 20th century in the style called "Viennese Secession" and largest among them is the Post Palace, which is built in the style of "Hungarian Art Nouveau" ("Hungarian Secession"). In the same street there are a series of classicist buildings from the 19th century with the monumental Palace of Justice. Of all the houses on this street, the most popular is probably that of the Museum of Fine Arts. In the museum, you can find a variety of paintings and sculptures. Some of the most interesting paintings are portraits of the Slavonian noble

families from the 18th and 19th centuries, romantic landscapes of Slavonia and Baranja, and sketches and paintings by the founder of the Osijek School of Drawing, Hugo Conrad Von Hotzendorf and his best student Adolf Waldinger.

Co-Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul (the Osijek cathedral)

At the initiative of Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer in 1894, the construction of the church of St. Peter and Paul, the co-cathedral of the Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese, began. The extended name is why citizens of Osijek simply call it the "Cathedral". After the demolition of an earlier Baroque church, it was built in only four years and, since 1898, the panorama of Osijek has been best known for its 90-metre tall bell tower, the second tallest in Croatia and South-eastern Europe. It was built from red brick in the neo-Gothic style and its builders were the German architects Franz Langenberg and Richard Jordan. The painting of the walls with frescoes was executed by the famous Croatian painter Mirko Rački. The church has five bells. The largest one is also the third largest in Croatia, weighing more than 2.5 tons and dedicated to St. Peter and Paul, located in the main tower above the clock. In the Croatian War of Independence in 1991, it was hit more than a hundred times by the Yugoslavian Army and is currently awaiting a complete renovation. It is interesting that in the German metropolis of Köln, the somewhat younger church of the Secret Heart of Jesus stands and is almost an exact copy of the Osijek cathedral.

Eurodom cultural centre and business tower with the "Chapel of Sorrows"

South of Trvrda old town stands the impressive business and cultural centre of Eurodom. This glass skyscraper, which the citizens of Osijek call "twin towers", is 61 metres high and is the third tallest building in the city and the central Danube region, after the Cathedral (90 metres) and the Hotel Osijek (62 metres). The building is located on the site of the old Workers Hall, a monumental multifunctional building from the

early 1940s. It is believed that the hall was built in order to strengthen the sense of belonging to the Third Reich during the occupation of the city in the Second World War. An interesting fact is that the foundation stone was laid on April 14th, 1942, and the city was liberated on the same date in 1945. Next to Eurodom you will find the "Chapel of Sorrows", a small Baroque building from 1780, famous for the legend of the "Romeo and Juliet from Osijek". At the beginning of the 18th century a man was sentenced to death for a theft he didn't commit in order to protect the reputation of his girlfriend.

Urania cinema and Europa cinema

At the heart of the Upper Town there are two old cinemas separated by the romantic Sakuntala Park. The Urania Cinema is from 1916 and the Europa Cinema is from 1939. Today, the Europa Cinema is used for projections and various cultural events from time to time. It is considered by many to be the finest work of modern architecture in Osijek. On the other hand, the Urania Cinema is, according to many experts, one of the best works of Art Nouveau (Secession) in the city and beyond. The cinema was supposedly built not only for performances and projections but also as the seat of the "Vigilance" Masonic Lodge. The building itself is full of symbolism, visible on the facade, from the pyramidal shape to the relief of the Sphinx, the guardian of the "temple".

Suspension bridge and Secession well

Probably the most common motif on postcards from Osijek is the view from the left bank of the Drava river with the pedestrian suspension bridge, the cathedral bell tower and the glass facades of the Hotel Osijek skyscraper in the background. The Bridge of Youth was built in 1980 and today is popular with couples who place their love padlocks on the railings of the bridge. It is believed that their love will be safe as long

as the key is deep at the bottom of the river Drava. On the part of the Drava promenade between the suspension bridge and the Winter Harbour stands another symbol of Osijek, the great Art Nouveau (Secession) well. It was built as a present from the noble family of Counts Pejačević to the citizens of Osijek in 1903.

Županijska ulica (County Palace Street)

Županijska ulica (street) stretches to the south from the main square. In the street are two very important institutions, the building of the Osijek-Baranja County Assembly, known as County Palace, built in the classicist style in 1842, and the building of the Croatian National Theatre, built in the Venetian-Moorish style in 1866. Performances in the theatre were initially performed in German and since 1907, in the Croatian language. To the right of the theatre a Jewish synagogue used to rise, until the Second World War. Today there is a memorial plaque as a reminder. While walking down the street you can look for the "runaway" cannonball. In the mid-19th century a cannon ball was shot accidentally from the old town of Tvrđa and was stopped by the walls of the County Palace.

St. Jacob's Church and Kapucinska Street (Korzo – pedestrian zone)

At the beginning of the pedestrian zone, on the corner of the main square and Kapucinska Street stands the Baroque church of St. Jacob the Apostle with the Capuchin monastery, built in the 18th century. Although the facade of the church is very simple, the interior is richly decorated with frescoes and paintings which show usual images for that period, the conflict between Christians and Muslims (it is interesting how some of the architecture of the nearby Gothic cathedral shows the Muslims and Christians coming together). A little further down the street there is the former Hotel Royal, built in

1905. This historical building is perhaps best known for stories about one of its most faithful visitors from the first half of the 20th century, the thief Čaruga. He liked to dine only in the finest restaurants and called himself the "Slavonian Robin Hood" with one important difference, he didn't share his bounty with the poor.

Trg Ante Starčevića (the main square)

The main square in the Upper Town is named after Dr Ante Starčević, a Croatian politician from the 19th century, guided by the idea of Croatian independence. Next to his monument in the southern corner of the square stands the favourite statue to the people of Osijek, a "Group of Citizens" who represent the citizens of Osijek with all their differences. With the Cathedral in the background there are two neo-Renaissance buildings that dominate the square, to the south the county government building known as the Norman Palace, from 1890, and in the west the so-called Town House, from 1873. Across the street, at the intersection of the square with Ribarska and Šamačka Streets there is a beautiful Baroque corner building with a statue of an elephant on the front. It was placed there by a trader from Osijek, Ivan Leipzig, in order to attract customers to his shop with goods from the Far East. Another possible reason for placing the elephant statue on the building's façade was the superstition that a statue of an elephant brings good luck to the players of the then very popular Hungarian lottery. Today the square is a favourite meeting place for citizens, from everyday friendly meetings to large celebrations like New Year, with champagne, fireworks and the traditional Viennese Waltz.

Liberty Square (Trg slobode)

One of the two central squares in the Upper Town is Liberty Square, which is a part of a large pedestrian zone that connects Ulica Hrvatske Republike Street with the Drava river promenade and the main square. Probably the most famous shopping centre in Osijek is located here, the

Supermarket, which opened in 1967. On the northern junction with the promenade there are two monuments. In the passage beside the Capuchin monastery stands the statue of Franjo Krežma, the famous violinist who, in his short career, managed to become the concert master of the Bilse Orchestra, the forerunner of the Berlin Philharmonic. The next monument was erected in memory of the first Croatian president Franjo Tuđman, founder of the free and democratic Republic of Croatia, in 1990. The process of independence from the former Yugoslavia was conducted in war conditions. In memory of that event, a third monument was placed in the south of the square. The monument to soldiers and victims of the Croatian War of Independence was built in 2005. Next to it there is the fourth statue, of the famous writer August Cesarec, in the pedestrian zone simply called "The Walker".

Pejačević Palace

The famous Croatian noble family of the Pejačević counts had properties all over Croatia. In the 19th century, the first Croatian female composer Dora Pejačević was born. Male family members performed the duties of the Croatian "ban", today referred to as prime minister, and their political and economic influence spread throughout the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. After 1945, members of the family of the sole surviving "Našice" branches were forced to leave Croatia under the pressure of the communist authorities. In Slavonia, they owned three large castles, including the one in the Osijek neighbourhood of Retfala. The palace, or a large manor house, was built at the turn of the 19th century in the Baroque-Classical style. Since the beginning of the 20th century, this castle has been owned by the Society of Mary's Sisters of the Miraculous Medal, and in the west wing a private clinic is now located. Interesting and colourful descriptions of the castle and its inhabitants can be found in the popular historical novel of Marija Jurić Zagorka "Vitez slavonske ravni" (The Knight of the Slavonian Plain).

The Most Holy Name of Mary's Church

One of the most splendid Baroque churches in Osijek is located in the Lower Town (Donji grad), near the bank of the Drava. The Church of The Most Holy Name of Mary was built in 1732. In this parish there are two very interesting pieces of inventory, an instrument similar to an organ, the so-called Positive, from 1674, made in Graz, and a statue of Our Lady of the Snows, a replica of the original from the Marian pilgrimage of Mariazell, in Austria, a present from a local soldier. Near the church, down the street to the west and the Clinical Hospital, there is a chapel dedicated to St. Roch (Rocco). It was built in 1744, dedicated by the citizens who survived the plague. In addition to the chapel there is a Baroque votive statue of the Virgin Mary and a nice Baroque house with arcades, one of the oldest in Osijek.

Ban Josip Jelačić Square (Trg Bana Josipa Jelačića)

The main square in Donji grad (the Lower Town) is named after the most famous and most popular Croatian ban (viceroy), Baron Josip Jelačić. During the 19th century, he helped to suppress the Hungarian revolution in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which slowed down Hungarian efforts for supremacy in the Croatian territory. In Jelačić Square you will find the Osijek Children's Theatre and the beautiful church of Our Lady of the Snows. It was built in 1898 in the neo-Gothic style, on the site of an earlier chapel. In the square, there is a strange statue of a cracked egg in two parts which symbolises "the birth place" of Osijek. The old Roman town of Mursa was located here from the 1st to the 5th century AD, and parts of it can be seen in the archaeological department of the Museum of Slavonia.

ATTRACTIONS

Ferry "Kompas"

When you're in Osijek and you want to go across the river Drava you have two options. You can do it by walking across the legendary suspension Bridge of Youth or by the ferry "Kompas". Kompas began operating in 1916 and travelling on it across the river is a "must have" experience. In addition, Kompas is a favourite means of transport for the citizens of Osijek when they are visiting the zoo and the beautiful park that surrounds it. Another reason for using the ferry is recreation. Cycling, skating or walking down the promenade along the river Drava is unimaginable without the use of this interesting and ecological vessel. The ferry is run only by the current of the river Drava, and to avoid it drifting downstream to the nearby Danube, it is firmly attached to a steel cable that comes from the mines in the distant Carpathians.

Zoo

Osijek Zoo was founded in 1955. Thanks to its location away from city noise it is a perfect place for a quiet visit, with about 80 species of animals in cages and open houses. In the aquarium and terrarium there live another 20 species of fish and reptiles and the park has, in total, 650 specimens of animals. With an area of 11 hectares, Osijek Zoo is one of the largest parks in the Middle Danube region and a large part of its value is in its location. If after one visit you think that you have seen it all, you will surely want to visit it again and just enjoy the peace and quiet of the unspoiled natural forest of the Danube region. Next to the zoo there is the Hotel Zoo, a restaurant and a children's playground. With a view of the river Drava and the surrounding countryside, this is certainly one of the most beautiful places to relax and "recharge your batteries" in the city.

Mill – Water mill

A very interesting vessel, the mill-boat, stands near the ferry "Kompa", the old water-plant and the viewpoint over the river Drava. The tradition of mills on the river Drava dates back to the Middle Ages and their golden age was in the mid-19th century, at which time there were 60 of them in Osijek. By the mid-20th century, on the great Slavonian rivers Drava, Sava and Danube there were hundreds of mills, and the last one in Osijek stopped working in 1944. The miller's craft was one of the most respected crafts there was. In order to revive the memory of the glorious era of milling during which Osijek became the centre of cereal and bakery products (operating here were some of the largest Croatian and regional manufacturers and crop growers: Žito Inc., the Kruna bakery, Mlinar dd, a biscuit factory, and Karolina Ltd.), a project called "Miller's track" was initiated.

King Tomislav Garden and parks around Tvrd̑a (Old Town)

They say Osijek is the greenest city in Croatia and that claim can be easily checked by taking a walk around one of the 17 parks. The largest park is the King Tomislav Garden, between the Upper Town and Tvrd̑a, which was built at the beginning of the 18th century. Next to it there is the park of King Petar Krešimir IV and the park of King Držislav. The reason for the existence of this green ring around old Tvrd̑a is actually very simple. The range of cannons at the time was one kilometre and the Upper and Lower Town had to be moved exactly that distance in order to place them out of range. In the area of parks around Tvrd̑a there are a number of monuments, such as the memorial plaque with a linden tree planted on the 1,000th anniversary of the Croatian Kingdom, in 1925, commemorative plaques for the liberation of Osijek from Nazi rule in 1945, the fountain of friendship of the cities of Pécs and Osijek, made from the famous Pécs Zsolnay ceramics, and the Monument of a Dying Soldier, built in 1898. The monument is the work

of renowned artist Robert Frangeš Mihanović and it is a memorial to the fallen soldiers of the Austro-Prussian War in 1866. During the war in 1991 it was given additional significance as a memorial to the dead in Croatia's war for independence. At the south-eastern end of Tvrd̑a is one of the youngest parks, the Park of Honey-mooners. In the 1980s, young couples planted trees as a symbol of their eternal love.

Sakuntala Park

Considered by many the most romantic park in Osijek, it was planted in the second half of the 19th century. The park was named after the statue of Sakuntala, a girl from Indian mythology who lived in harmony with nature. The statue was a gift from the city of Berlin and the myth comes from the epic poetry of Sakuntala, written by the Indian poet Kalidasa in the 5th century. In the park, among the colourful flower beds, there are busts of four well-known people from Osijek from the 19th century, Pajo Kolaric the folk musician, Hugo Conrad von Hötendorf the painter, Adolf Waldinger the painter and Franjo Kuhač the folk musician, after whom the musical school was named. Facing the main facade of the Urania cinema in the park there are two statues of sphinxes, which imaginative fellow citizens say are "the guardians" of the Masonic temple dedicated to the ancient Greek muse Urania.

Mačkamama

Probably the most popular woman from Osijek was, and has remained, the Baroness Paulina Hermann, a great benefactor. They say that no one in need walked away from her empty-handed but she still remained known for her love of animals, especially cats. In 1925, she built a new mansion in the city's industrial district and the word was around the city that a large number of cats and dogs lived with her and there were rumours that she even possessed a lion. That is why the citizens of Osijek called her Mačkamama (Cat's mother). In memory of this famous fellow citizen, in front of the "castle", an oak statue of the

Baroness stands surrounded by cats, the work of the Osijek artist Mate Tijardović.

Rondel of the Greats (Rondel velikana)

On the initiative of the Fraternity of the Croatian Dragon, in 2006, the so-called "Rondel velikana" was built at the southern entrance to the old town of Tvrđa. At the centre of the monument is a fountain, around which are busts of known citizens of Osijek, Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, the founder of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the builder of the Osijek and Đakovo cathedrals, and two Croatian chemists schooled in Osijek, Lavoslav Leopold Ružička, a Nobel prize winner in 1939, and Vladimir Prelog, a Nobel prize winner in 1975.

Tram

On September 10th, 1884, a horse tram began to circulate in Osijek and it was one of the first in Central and South-eastern Europe. Of the major cities in the region only Vienna, Budapest, Graz and Bucharest had trams before Osijek, while the cities of Zagreb, Bratislava, Sofia and Belgrade introduced them later. Despite the great desire to beat the citizens of Osijek, the tram in Sarajevo was three months late. Many cities in the world today reintroduced trams into their public transport system and Osijek is one of the few small cities that can boast its continuous existence and expansion. In the streets of Osijek it is possible to see four different models of trams, of which the oldest is from 1926 and is used for tourist rides through the town. It is interesting that the first tram from 1884 was red, allegedly at the request of Emperor Franz Joseph to resemble Viennese trams. Today trams are white and blue, the city colours.

Stork nests in the city centre

Osijek is a city surrounded by the flooded forests and fields of the Drava river and,

almost at the edge of the city, the area of the Kopački Rit Nature Park begins. Consequently, it is not unusual to see the nests of white storks in the vicinity of the main square. Currently, there are two active nests, on the garden side of the former Royal Hotel and at the top of the IPK building, at the beginning of the Korzo promenade. Until recently, a nest on the Cathedral was active; the graceful big white birds were an interesting contrast to the ugly looking gargoyles. Every morning in the Winter Port you can see a lot of wild birds feeding and it's not unusual for a roe deer to wander into the city. European pine martens, the "cleaners" of the city are the wild animals that are most common and they are most active in the evening hours.

Promenade and Winter Port

Citizens of Osijek often affectionately call the city "Grad na Dravi" ("City on the Drava River"), as it really is. The whole length of the city extends along the Drava river, with the entire riverbank protected by a "fortified wall" and the Baranja bank with a Bent (mound). The fortified part of the bank is arranged as a promenade, the popular Promenada. Many people in Osijek like to participate in some sports along the river, such as cycling or rollerblading, and a part of the promenade near the main square is a favourite meeting place. There are many cafes with terraces lined up side by side next to the Winter Port where you can relax with refreshing drinks, coffee and cakes, chat with friends or find out what is new in town. The Winter Port was constructed in 1898 so that a favourite product of the nearby old brewery could be distributed across the region. Today's Winter Port is a paradise for fishermen and their boats are safe from the ice flows that move along the river in the winter months. Since the Drava flows into the Danube 20 kilometres downstream, near the village of Aljmaš, Osijek is

an interesting destination for travellers from the river cruisers. The cruiser port is located close to the Winter Port.

Copacabana and Crown Fortress

If you're looking for an affordable and simple experience of the river Drava, you can swim at the favourite city beach of Copacabana or, as it is known locally, "Kopika".

With a view of the town from the sandy beach you can watch the river cruise ships that arrive in the centre with tourists from around the world and relax and plan your stay in Osijek...

Everybody who sadly accepted the fact that Brazil, Rio and the popular local beach of Copacabana were unattainably far away during the World Cup in 2014 could breathe a sigh of relief if they visited Osijek. The largest and most visited beach on the river Drava was built in 1965 and it bears the name of the famous Brazilian beach, affectionately shortened to the domestic variant "Kopika". During the summer months you can refresh yourself by swimming in the Drava river, top up your tan on the sandy beach or have fun at the nearby outdoor pools. With a view of the town and its main attractions and the ticket price, which is almost symbolic, Copacabana in Osijek is the number 1 summer destination! Near the local bathing area is a favourite resort "at the catacombs", located in the Crown Fortress – the northern part of the Osijek fortress. This is certainly the most cheerful place during the month of September, at the time of the local favourite festival of Days of the First Croatian Beer.



Monuments

At various locations around the town there are a variety of monuments dedicated to events of the Croatian War of Independence in 1991.

TYPICAL FOR OSIJEK

Knoedl time (Knedl sat)

Have you heard of "Knoedl time" (the time of the plum filled dumpling)? In the summer of 1526, Osijek was in the whirlwind of war and it became a part of the great Ottoman Empire. However, luckily for the people of Osijek, the last Turkish soldier eventually left the city and all the churches rang, announcing a long awaited freedom. As the years passed by the church bells still rang every Friday to commemorate the big event but the citizens of Osijek forgot the real reason... Finally and practically, chefs in Osijek found that the time "when all the churches call them" is ideal for the preparation of one of their favourite dishes, plum filled dumplings, so that the entire lunch can be finished by noon! And so, that eleventh hour on Friday became and remained known as "Knoedl time".

Licitar

Osijek has something very special on the UNESCO world's list of intangible cultural heritage, and that is Licitar. In the Middle Ages, craftsmen from Central Europe began to richly decorate their gingerbreads and, from the 18th century, in the territory of Croatia this craft developed into what it is today. One of the favourite gifts to a child or a loved one are Licitars shaped as a heart, doll, horse or various modern forms such as cars, trains or airplanes, decorated with bright red edible colour with rich decorations made from a fresh mixture called "ajz". A Licitar heart with a small mirror in the middle carries a special message to the one you are giving it to. When the person sees him or herself in the mirror, they know they are in your heart. Smaller Licitars are common as a decoration and Blažeković workshop from Osijek can boast that their artistic hearts decorate Christmas trees in European capitals, from the Vatican and Rome to Paris, Vienna and Berlin.

Osječko Beer and Black Radler

The brewery in Osijek is one of the oldest in the region and the first beer in Osijek was poured back in 1697. Every September, in honour of a long beer tradition, the very popular festival Days of the First Croatian Beer is held in Osijek. This event is known as "the greatest Slavonian wedding party". It is accompanied by traditional "Tamburica" bands that invite you to try dancing and taste a rich selection of food and, of course, a favourite local beer, Osječko beer. With a wide variety of beers, the brewery decided to do something completely new a few years ago and it honoured its fans with a refreshing Black Radler. This blend of dark beer and lemonade will refresh you while you bike through the city and its surroundings and with a taste of beer and a hint of lemon, caramel and chocolate you will certainly want more.

Osijek slang

Meet with a "lega" (kolega = friend) on the promenade, then refresh yourself with a Black Radler because you're riding a "bic" (bicikl = bike). Drive off and take a "slamboš" (sladoled = ice cream) at a "pija" (pijac, tržnica = market) in "Donjika" (Donji grad = Lower Town), in the afternoon play "nogoš" (nogomet = football) on "Srednjika" (Srednjoškolsko igralište = High School playground) and before sunset treat your significant other with a nice dinner on "Kop-ika" (Copacabana) beach. Citizens of Osijek will surely delight you with their specific speech and somewhat drawn-out "warm Pannonian" way of communicating. Typical slang is very easy to recognise. If the words end in "oš" or "ka" you must have found yourself talking to a natural born citizen of Osijek. It's interesting that citizens of Osijek spoke even more unusually in the so-called Esseker dialect until the second half of the 20th century. That fine combination of

Croatian and German language was lost along the increase in the level of education but even today you can recognise quite a lot of German, Hungarian and even Turkish words in the local dialect.

Cyclists and walkers

If you want to explore Osijek you have several options for moving around the town, like a tram, bus, taxi or, as many of us, by bike or on foot. Osijek is a lowland city and is perfect for cycling. More than 30 km of designated bike routes will allow you to easily move from site to site but also to easily perform all your daily tasks. The option to be a walker may seem harder at first glance but believe us, by moving around town on foot or, as we say, "cipelcugom" you will feel the real pulse of the city. Do not be surprised by the patience of the vast majority of citizens of Osijek who will wait until the traffic light shows "green", even if there's not a single car in sight at the junction. If you are walking around the Upper Town, take a moment and look at individual traffic lights. At most of them you will notice the silhouette of the "Walker" ("Šetač"), the famous writer August Cesarac, who's monument "is walking" in Liberty Square (Trg Slobode).

The Seal Man

For three decades our fellow citizen, 70 year old Duško Rudež, has observed a tradition of swimming in the Drava river on New Year's Eve. Affectionately we call him a seal because just like these animals he resists the cold water in the Winter Port, sometimes even through the ice. Recently, a few of our younger citizens, mostly members of the Kohorta (fan club of the local football team NK Osijek), joined him. Their example might encourage many observers by the riverbank to also wish each other a Happy New Year in this unusual courageous way.

“Essekers” from A to W

Are you wondering who the Essekers are? Essker is actually a descriptive adjective, and the word itself comes from the German word for the city of Esseg. They are, as we would say, “the real citizens of Osijek” who necessarily don’t have to have deep roots. It is enough that they love the city and that they work for the betterment of the city. Most of them, from A to W, you can meet with one click on the internet page Essekeri.hr, from Art Nouveau architect Viktor Axmann to Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, from Branko Mihaljević, a citizen of Zagreb who composed the city anthem “Moj Osijek” (“My Osijek”) to children’s writer Jagoda Truhelka, author of a collection of short stories “Zlatni Danci” (“Golden Tributes”), and from the violin virtuoso Franjo Krežma to Adolf Waldinger the misunderstood painter of Slavonian landscapes.

OSIJEK INFORMATION

Transport access to the site and travel time from nearby destinations

- To Pécs – Croatian Railways and Hungarian Railways
- To Budapest – Croatian Railways and Hungarian Railways, Flix Bus Croatia bus company
- To Ilok – Čazmatrans Vukovar bus company
- To Novi Sad, Belgrade – Arriva Hrvatska bus company

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

Tourist information centre of the Tourist Board of the City of Osijek working hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–12 noon

Prices on the Osijek city tour (approximate prices per person in HRK):

Museum of Slavonia – adults 20.00 kn/ children 15.00 kn/ family ticket 25.00 kn

Archaeological Museum – adults 20.00 kn/ children 15.00 kn/ family ticket 25.00 kn

Museum of Fine Arts – 15.00 kn/ family ticket 25.00 kn

Zoo – adults 20.00 kn/ children 10.00 kn

Tour guide services up to 2 hours – 450.00 kn per group of 50 persons, in various languages

Tour guide available in these languages:

- Croatian
- English
- German
- Hungarian
- Italian
- French
- Spanish
- Russian
- Ukrainian

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

Access to tourist information via web site of the Tourist Board of the City of Osijek www.tzosijek.hr, in Croatian and English

Web site is responsive and viewable on all types of computer and mobile devices

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

See Osijek in 2 hours, stay for the day! Osijek is, with its 100,000 inhabitants, and after the capital Zagreb, Rijeka and Split, the fourth largest city in Croatia. It is the cultural, educational and business centre of the Slavonia and Baranja region.

After your plane lands at Osijek Airport, your tour guide will meet you at the hotel you are staying in. A short rest from the flight will be quite enough to reenergize before you hit the city streets. You will get to know the main sights of the city: the Baroque old town fortress of Tvrdá, parks that stretch through the city centre (Osijek has 17 parks and 30 kilometres of tree-lined streets), the promenade along the Drava river, the St. Peter and Paul’s Cathedral (with its 90 metre high neo-Gothic tower it is the second highest church in South-eastern Europe)

and find out many interesting and fun facts about the region you are about to explore. In the evening we will let you enjoy the city on your own and really get to know the locals. In the next few days you will have the opportunity to taste the wines of the region but for dinner tonight we recommend you to try the local beer Osječko, the oldest one in Croatia, brewed since 1697!

Other attractions near the site (distance and access)

Valpovo Castle, Donji Miholjac Castle – access by bus company Arriva Hrvatska
Našice Castle, Đakovo Cathedral and Lipizaner state stud farm – access by Croatian Railways and bus company Arriva Hrvatska
Erdut Castle ruins, Vukovar Castle



Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

Osijek has 10 hotels and many pensions ranked 3 and 4 stars, as well as 11 traditional restaurants with cuisine typical for eastern Croatia's Danube region. All can be accessed via the central tourist information web site www.tzosijek.hr

Other tourist attractions near the site

Explore the nearby wine regions

Enjoying the local wines with a good lunch, you will surely have a good time because Osijek is surrounded by some very well-known wine regions, especially those in the Danube regions of Baranja and Erdut. Only 20 kilometres north of the city, in the village of Kneževi Vinogradi, there is the third oldest wine cellar in Croatia, built in 1526. To the east of the city, close to the Danube, there is an imposing Gothic tower in the village of Erdut

that has stood as the guardian of the region for centuries. Nearby, you will find an old winery with a huge wine barrel with a capacity of 75,000 litres. Favourite wine varieties in both regions are Pinot, Chardonnay and Merlot. In Erdut there is a golden-green, sweet and refreshing Welschriesling, like a Marasca cherry scented Zweigelt, the pride of every winemaker. Here, it is known as Graševina.

The surrounding countryside and rivers

At the very edge of the city, you will discover the unspoiled countryside. We encourage you to bike along the Drava embankment and to the Kopački Rit Nature Park, which is in the Danube Delta, the largest Central European marshland known for its almost 300 species of birds, which also nest in the city itself! If you want to experience the Drava and Danube, two large and beautiful rivers at close range, we recommend you take a boat ride. This can be arranged by contacting one of the agencies that offer such trips.

Fort Korogyyvar

Korogyyvar is a medieval fortress from the 13th century located near Osijek, between the villages of Ivanovac and Čepin, and is surrounded by mostly drained swamp. It can be easily reached by bike from the industrial district city quarter (Industrijska četvrt) in Osijek, or by car. This brick and stone circular fort was long owned by the rulers of medieval Osijek, the Korogy family, but since the 16th century and the wars with the Ottoman Empire it has stood in ruins. Despite its ruinous state it still remains among the favourite resorts for local people. Today, legends about the hidden treasure of Baron Trenk, its custodian serpent girlfriend and the cries in the night that chill the blood are spoken of in fear. In the autumn of 2014, a medieval fair and knight's tournament was held here, which will certainly turn into an interesting regular event.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Osijek (HUB)



Plane

Osijek airport (<http://www.osijek-airport.hr>) connects with Koeln, Zagreb, Pula, Stuttgart, Basel, Rijeka, Split and Dubrovnik



Train

Osijek railway station, Trg Lavoslava Ružičke 2



Bus

From Zagreb bus station, Ulica Bartola Kašića 70



Car

From Zagreb (E70), or from Pécs (HUN) (E73 and M60)

ILOK – THE NEW CULTURE, WINE AND LEISURE EXPERIENCE IN THE CROATIAN DANUBE AREA



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Imagine Roman times and medieval times, a fortress, a church, a monastery, a castle of a king and dukes.

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ILLOK – CROATIA'S MOST EASTERLY POINT ON THE DANUBE, KNOWN AS THE "DANUBE'S KINGDOM OF WINE AND OLD TIMES"

ILLOK, as a tourist destination and a point on the RER & DWR route, has many themes in its offer to be experienced, including the Romans and the wines of the Danube. Excavations have brought to light remains from the Stone, Copper and Bronze Ages. Different artefacts from the Roman period have also been found due to the fact that Ilok was an important Roman border (Danube Limes), military fortress (castrum) and the village of "Cuccium". The Danube port in Ilok was, in Roman times, one of the main connections from which to transport goods to the Emperor's seat in Syrmium (via the Alma Mons road). Most of the interesting and important artefacts are in the permanent castle-museum exhibition, as well as in the atrium, or are displayed outside, "in situ", as with the Roman sarcophagus.

The entire old town centre is designated as Croatian national protected heritage.

The Ilok area comprises, among other things, a number of culturally historic sites: the archaeological site of Bapska-Gradac, a hugely important Neolithic "Vinča culture" site, some early Roman buildings, also Šarengrad, where the latest finding is a large Avarian military cemetery with approximately 40 graves, and Mohovo, where recently a very rare discovery of the remains of a mammoth and other animals from that era was made. Additional formal investigations are currently in progress, but do not miss the opportunity to take a "selfie" with a life size mammoth in the centre of this very small village in the "valley of the mammoths".

Ilok's wine area of Srijem (Syrmia) is situated on the right bank of the Danube, on the gentle western slopes of Fruška Gora (Roman Alma Mons). The wine tradition here dates back to the 3rd century, when the Roman emperor Probus first started "serious" grape and wine production. Today, Srijem is famous for its vineyards and quality wine, and the farmhouses and vintner's houses with cellars are well worth a visit to taste their produce. Some of the white wines have gained recognition around the world, and Traminer from Ilok is found in the British royal family's wine cellars and was served at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Ilok wine route is intended to acquaint guests with the region's fine wines and cuisine. Another wine of high quality is Graševina (Italian Welshriesling), but also worth a taste are the Blaufrankish, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Blanc and others.

TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE SITE AND TRAVEL TIME FROM NEARBY DESTINATIONS

By plane: nearest: Osijek (Croatia) 1h, Belgrade (Serbia) 1h 25 min

By train: nearest: Šid (Serbia) 20 min, Tovarnik (Croatia) 25 min

By river: Danube dock in town

River cruiser docking is in town, with access for cars, buses and trucks. It has all the necessary facilities for cruisers and their passengers and is also connected with the Danube cycling route and the DWR & RER.

By bus or car: distance from the Zagreb–Belgrade highway, 35 min via Šid (Serbia), 1h 30 min via Vukovar (Croatia)

THE DWR & RER AND/OR OTHER DESTINATIONS:

Vukovar 30 min

Novi Sad 45 min

Osijek 1h (69 km)

Sremska Mitrovica 1h 10 min

Sremski Karlovci 1h 05 min

Belgrade 1h 35 min (134 km)

Zagreb 3h 30 min (340 km)

www.turizamilok.hr/hr/kako-do-nas

VISITING CONDITIONS: TICKETS, WORKING HOURS, GUIDES (LANGUAGES) ON SITE

Ticket prices

Basic guides

From 20 Eur (per group, depending on time and number of people)

The guide service in the desired language can be hired through a travel agency or tour guide associations.

Museum/castle

Guided visit (Croatian, English) 1.50–4.00 Eur

Tourist train tour – 4.00 Eur

Working hours – Monday closed, Tuesday–Thursday 08:00–16:00, Friday–Saturday 10:30–18:00, Sunday – by prior arrangement

Excursions on the “Danubius” river cruiser

Price on request, depending on desired time, number of people and required facilities on board (max. 50 persons)

Old cellars

Wine tasting: 1.30–6.00 Eur per wine

Basic guided tour with glass of Traminer wine 4.20 Eur, in family wineries 5.00–6.00 Eur for a selection of wines, cheeses and homemade snacks (savory and sweet)

Working hours: Old cellar from 10:00–22:00 every day, others by announcement, mostly weekends

Approximate local prices. If price is not mentioned, this indicates that it is free of charge.

www.turizamilok.hr/hr/ostale-informacije

PRINTED MATERIALS, BROCHURES, VR AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION DEVICES

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

Features, sights and tours:

The basic (quick) culture and wine tour duration is approx. 3–5 hours and should include the old town centre complex with fortress, the castle (museum), the famous old wine cellars from the 15th and 18th centuries, a panoramic tour through the countryside and vineyards with picturesque viewing points, sunset at the vineyards of the "Principovac" country estate or a relaxing sunset on the Danube promenade with a glass or bottle of Ilok wine.

Tourists can enjoy the spirit of the past and present of Ilok and the Croatian Danube area on a full day sightseeing tour which includes the old town centre complex with fortress, the castle (museum) of Nicholas of Ilok, King of Bosnia, Viceroy of Croatia and Duke of Transylvania (1410–1477) and the Italian Dukes of Odessalchi. The city offers rare Turkish (Muslim) architectural monuments and the Monastery of St. John de Capistrano – Apostle of Europe, who died in Ilok. Visitors can also experience the park and paths around the famous 15th and 19th century wine cellars under the castle and more than 20 other wineries and family cellars in the town or in the various vineyards. Nature lovers should not miss the panoramic tour through the countryside and vineyards with picturesque viewing points and the "Principovac" country estate (castle from the 19th century, which also has a restaurant, a

wine and coffee bar and the opportunity of a variety of activities such as golf, tennis, etc.). In addition, it is advised not to miss out on the gastronomic experience of the "Syrmia – Slavonia" region's rich food tradition.

- TIPS: Tourist ships are available for up to 50 people and are suitable for: catering, wine tasting, tamburitza music, meetings, wedding parties, etc. There are no regular daily routes, so cruise routes can be tailor made for around Ilok, or to Novi Sad, Vukovar or Osijek. Visitors can wine and dine on the Danube embankment, on a cosy restaurant terrace or take guided tours of the vineyard complex of "Principovac", both of which offer a nice, relaxing ambience and view together with ethno-gastronomic delights and local hospitality.

Links: www.mgi.hr, www.turizamilok.hr/hr/sto-vidjeti-i-doživjeti/atraktivnosti-i-znamenitosti, www.turizamilok.hr/hr/sto-okusiti/vina-i-vinski-podrumi, www.turizamilok.hr/hr/tematske-rute/gornjim-gradom, www.ilocki-podrumi.hr, www.danube.travel/main-menu/danube-highlights/roman-emperors-and-danube-wine-route/about.354.html

Other attractions near the site (distance and access)

Ilok is well placed to take advantage of: the Danube (EuroVelo 6) and local cycle routes, the trans-national long distance themed hiking route of "Sultans Trail" (Vienna to Istanbul), the "Zrinski-Suleyman" Ottoman era themed route (Croatia–Hungary), walking, costumed host or guided walks, team building activities in cellars, vineyards and much more on request, most of which can be tailor made.

During round trip packages or longer stays in Ilok there is the possibility for: trips and visits to the interesting local villages of Šarengrad,

Bapska and Mohovo (from 9–15 km) , the town of Vukovar or the Osijek-Baranja region (30 min to 1.20 hour drive), or the bordering Serbia – Vojvodina area: B. Palanka is just 10 minutes over the Danube border bridge, Novi Sad is 50 min away, Sremski Karlovci 1h 5 min, Sremska Mitrovica 50 min, and Belgrade 1h 30 min. Also available are the wild river trip in beautiful countryside and bird watching in the municipality of Nijemci (45 min), walking, cycling, horse riding in Ilok, and the Vučedol archaeological site museum (30 min).

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

Total number of beds is approximately 170 (without additional beds and non-commercial types of accommodation such as school hostels), together with 4 restaurants and more than 20 wineries.

Lunch/Dinner – from 7.00 to 8.00 Eur

Accommodation – starting from 14.00 Eur up to a maximum of 115.00 Eur per person

Half-board accommodation available in a variety of types and categories: private house rooms***, hostel**, rural guesthouse***, pension rooms/villa****, tourist settlement****, or hotel****

All are bike friendly, some also cater for pets and backpackers.

www.turizamilok.hr/hr/smjestaj ,

www.turizamilok.hr/hr/sto-okusiti/restorani/

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

Closest city (population, number of tourist arrivals and overnights)

The town of Ilok has approximately 5,500 inhabitants, 39,000 daily visitors and more than 9,000 overnights. In 2017, there was an increase of 30% in visitor numbers and 41 Danube cruise ship stopovers. It has 1,700 ha of vineyards and 95,000 artefacts in the archive of the museum, with 2,724 exhibited, and more than 40 archaeological locations from different eras in and around the town.

Recommendations for improvement and future development

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route is specific, vast and complex. It runs through four countries of the Middle and Lower Danube region – Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, and now it could be said that it has “**achieved a point of no return**”. What we have done for ourselves, for the Route, the sites, the people in charge, the tour operators, as well as all the stakeholders behind the Danube Competence Center has been as a result of a huge team effort. Are we able to “survive” and then become more commercial? How do we achieve this goal?

The first question to be asked is: “Do our national authorities even know, or care enough about this topic and the other important stakeholders?” We need to try to continue and become really visible. We want to succeed, and we will find ways of doing so. If we are visible we can expect more interests and attention. Success will come with the use of the right narrative, stories and methods, and the effective “selling” of this route, but it is a long term project. It is neither a case of being pessimistic or optimistic, just realistic.

Additionally, we require local, ever increasing, public investment to renovate and present cultural and other goods, including reinterpretation and repackaging into a complete tourist product through innovative and creative strategies, tools and new technologies. The private sector needs to continue with smart and appropriate investment in accommodation, restaurants, and specific local offers. The cultural sector must cooperate more closely with the marketing and tourism sectors in order to better understand the needs and motives of tourists, service providers and the destination DMCs. By co-operating more closely, experts in the cultural sector will be able to change common and sometimes rigid attitudes regarding heritage. Everyone must work harder, cooperate more fully and promote more, using all the methods and tools available. Another

strategy could involve a “division” of the route, enabling smaller hubs, micro or wider, for example with round trip tours such as Belgrade (a big generator of domestic and foreign tourists) – S. Karlovci or S. Mitrovica – Ilok, in each case via Novi Sad, following the roads and routes of Probus, Roman soldiers, traders, etc., or from the Danube to Syrmium.

It is important to highlight and ensure the sustainability of both the destinations and the route itself.

Follow the Route, flow with the Danube, discover something from the Romans and enjoy great wines, all with thanks to the Roman emperor Probus!

DARE TO BE SURPRISED IN ILOK – SMALL, GROWING DESTINATION, LOTS TO SEE, DO & LEARN!

Something more and different about...

The Old Town lies on a small hill, surrounded by the magnificent water of the Danube and vine covered gentle slopes. Its medieval fortification, based on a Roman castrum, protects the King's and Count's Castle, the church and monastery, the rare remains of Ottoman architecture, a splendid park and the centuries old underground wine cellars.

Visit the castle which was built and fortified five centuries ago by the powerful **Nicholas of Ilok – King of Bosnia, Grand Duke of Transylvania and Count of Croatia and Slavonia** – from where he ruled his kingdom. The castle acquired its current Baroque look from the Italian Odescalchi family, who received the castle and surroundings from Pope Innocent XI. In the 17th century, the Odescalchi family built, at that time, the most modern wine cellars in Europe.



Tourist Association of Ilok
Ivica Miličević, Director

You will be surprised by the contrasts and historic mixture: the remains of a Turkish bath-house and the grave of an Ottoman nobleman can be seen between the church and the castle. The town was, for a century and a half, the well-fortified centre of the Turkish province of Srijem. Although the defeated Turks left Ilok in the 17th century, traces of the Ottoman rule can still be found to the present day – the town centre is called “čaršija”, and part of the river bank “Turska skela” (river ferry).

Ilok's church is dedicated to St. John Capistrano, who was well known throughout Europe for his battles against heresy and the Turkish invasion. After an exhausting battle with the Turks, he came to die in Ilok and was buried in its church. Originally constructed in the Middle Ages, the church was enlarged and reconstructed several times. However, it was Herman Bolle, a famous Austrian architect, who gave it its current charm when renovating it at the beginning of the 20th century in a neo-Gothic style. Look out for the chapel of St. Capistrano and the gravestone of Ilok's greats from the 15th century – Nicholas of Ilok and his son, Lovro (Lawrence).

Don't miss the exhibition, the medieval library and the Capistrano tower.

Finally, to complete your taste of the noble life that was lived here for centuries, visit the park that was, not so long ago, enjoyed only by the Odescalchi family and their guests. In this officially protected monument of landscape architecture a neo-Baroque park can be found in front of the castle and an English park on the slopes. Look for the rare and valuable trees that the Odescalchi family brought here from all around the world.

Let the feeling of nostalgia take you over as you imagine the aristocratic life unfolding here for centuries in combination with the peaceful and relaxing landscape, which you can reach easily and quickly when staying in Ilok: landscaped slopes of Fruska Gora (a protected habitat for a rare eagle and a rare species of small lizard) on which are scattered the vineyards and orchards of the Srijem (Syrmia) wine and forest region. Enjoy the scenic,

aesthetically pleasing and relaxing landscape of the hills rising above the Danube, the patchwork of colour and intensity in every season, and the contrast of the Danube plain on the other side, together with the viewing points, paths, walkways, roads through the countryside and vineyards. On foot, by bicycle, car, bus, small boat or tourist train, Ilok is a culturally historic pearl, enjoyment for both the body and soul, with plenty of opportunities for exploration, recreation and accommodation, all in and around the small town. Ilok is definitely the “stress-free destination” of the eastern Croatia Danube region.

The importance and value of the Ilok and Vukovar region was also recognised by winning the national contest and obtaining the title of **“National (and European) destination of excellence for 2017”**, for the proposed common theme of “cultural tourism”. This specific and prestigious programme of the EC brings to light the very best hidden pearls of Europe, so it is certainly of added value to the destination and even more reason to visit.

Archaeological sites abound in the region, with research ongoing at a few sites in Ilok and its settlements of Sarengrad, Bapska and Mohovo. There are currently more than 40 archaeological sites in the Ilok area.

The Old Town Fortress of Ilok is still partly under restoration, accompanied by extensive archaeological excavations. When the planned restoration is completed, the entire old town centre complex will be nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Documents for the proposed nomination are currently being prepared by the Ministry of Culture.

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e-mail: tourismilok@gmail.com
Web and social media:
www.turizamilok.hr
www.facebook.com/VisitIlok

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Ilok



Plane

Osijek airport, then bus to Ilok via Vukovar



Train

To Vinkovci or Osijek railway station, then bus to Ilok



Bus

Regular bus services connect with Belgrade, Zagreb and Vukovar



Boat

Danube, port of Ilok or Vukovar, then bus to Ilok



Car

From Zagreb (E70), exit for Županja, then Vinkovci–Vukovar–Ilok; from Osijek (regional road D2), Vukovar–Ilok; from Belgrade (E70), exit for Šid, then border crossing Principovac–Ilok



Bicycle

Danube cycling route,
Udvar (H)–Bilje–Osijek–Vukovar–Ilok
(www.donau-info.org/donau)

PÉCS (HUNGARY) ON THE ROMAN EMPERORS AND DANUBE WINE ROUTE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SITES ON THE RER AND DWR

Historical background and architecture

The Romans conquered the territories of Transdanubia in the first half of the 1st century AD, and it subsequently became the frontier province of the Roman Empire, as Pannonia. Sopianae, identified as Pécs, was one of the most significant Roman settlements in Pannonia.

The Itinerarium Antonini, a late 3rd century map, demonstrates the economic and strategic importance of the town, which was located at the intersection of the Roman Empire's main roads. The east–west axis of the road network linked Treveri (Trier) with Carnuntum (Bad Deutsch-Altenburg), Sopianae (Pécs), Mursa (Osijek) and Sirmium (Sremska Mitrovica). Another important road connected to the north, leading to Brigetio (Szőny) and Aquincum (Óbuda) on the Danube.

The ancient predecessor of Pécs, Sopianae, belonged to the Roman Empire and thrived during the 4th century AD. In this period, magnificent stone buildings were erected, shaping the previously rural outlook of the settlement to fit its newly established position as the administrative and cultural centre of the province of Valeria. The most extensive early Christian cemetery complex of Hungary is located in Pécs. The more than a thousand known graves, several burial chambers, the variety of other cemetery buildings and the mausoleum indicate the presence of a flourishing Christian community.

The early Christian buildings in Pécs preserved the vertically divided architectural structure of the burial chamber and chapel, quite rare in Antiquity. The subterranean part of the two-storied structure is the burial chamber; the deceased were placed into brick tombs, or sometimes into a sarcophagus. Memorial chapels (memoria, mausoleum) were erected above them. The two-storied structures had a double function, serving both as a burial site and a place for ceremonies. Burial chambers were mostly used by wealthy families.

Some of the sepulchral buildings have painted walls decorated with biblical scenes and symbols. The murals are early Christian art works, modelled on Italian and Balkan patterns. The monogram of Christ, the most widely used symbol of early Christians, was a favourite element of decoration. The murals illustrate biblical scenes, such as the fall of man, the prophet Daniel being cast into the lions' den, the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus, Jonah, and youths cast into a burning furnace. A rich variety of plant and animal ornaments, doves, peacocks, a wine pitcher and glass, as well as geometrical patterns symbolising the Garden of Paradise are also frequently used motifs.

Archaeologist(s) and institutions that manage excavations

The late Roman, early Christian cemetery complex of Pécs became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. In 2004, the municipality of Pécs, with the co-sponsoring of the European Union, won a 1.5 billion HUF non-reimbursable support for the implementation of the project "World Heritage of Pécs, Enhancement of its Touristic Appeal". The project was aimed at improving already existing exhibitions as well as expanding the range of monuments to be presented. The re-excavation and presentation of the Cella Septichora – the largest known building of the

early Christian cemetery – held a focal role. A reinforced concrete protective edifice was erected around the monuments. The excavation, which required preliminary archaeological fieldwork, was carried out by the Janus Pannonius Archaeological Museum of Pécs and led by Professor Prof. Dr Zsolt Visy, under the supervision of the Pécs/Sopianae Heritage Management Public Benefit Company, between April 2005 and November 2006. This excavation was the largest ever conducted on the area of the early Christian cemetery.

Basic known facts about the site – dates, capacity, purpose, size of the site and type of terrain

An important aspect of the project was providing a coherent complex for presenting individual sites under Dóm Square with the newly excavated ones, together, making available a site where visitors can behold Pécs' early Christian history under one roof.

Since the year 2007, a significant portion of the excavated findings have been concentrated within a single complex at the Cella Septichora Visitor Centre. The Early Christian Mausoleum and the monuments of Apáca Street can be seen separately as small islands at several points of the World Heritage Site. Cella Trichora, found at the western gate of the Cathedral, and Cella Trichora 2, situated in the "Rose Garden" at the western end of Janus Pannonius Street, are not open to visitors.

Since 2011, the management body has been the World Heritage Division of Zsolnay Heritage Management Non-Profit Ltd.

The "Valuable Pécs" project, spanning from 2012 to 2015, focused on attracting an audience for historical values. In its framework, the Cella Septichora Visitor Centre, including Sopianae's early Christian cemetery, was renewed, the Medieval University presenting the history of Pécs throughout the Middle Ages was inaugurated,

and several buildings belonging to religious groups presenting Pécs' Jewish, Orthodox and Calvinist communities were renovated. The project insured a new, modern exhibition concept more structured than its predecessors, which had numerous innovative components, including multimedia applications, 3D animations, theme-based images and models, designed to align the service of providing a more efficient and up-to-date guide to visitors. The 3D animations and multimedia applications at the World Heritage Sites are also important in many respects, for example the presentation of heritage preservation and conservation or in the interactivity of museum pedagogy programmes.

Main discovered and visible archaeological remains

Cella Septichora

Buildings with several apses often occur in Christian cemeteries, but the seven-apse solution applied at Cella Septichora is completely unique. Buildings of one and three apses were the most common versions, while the use of more apses was rare. The closest parallel to Cella Septichora is the church of St. Gereon, a church in Cologne, which has nine apses.



Cella Septichora is the largest building in the early Christian cemetery in Pécs. The building was assessed and partially excavated by Gyula Gosztonyi from 1938 to 1939 and had to be buried back at the time; it was fully explored as late as 2005–2006. The exterior length of the building, deeply sunk into the ground, is 22.45 m, its largest external width is 17.45 m and the walls have an average thickness of 1.1 m. Its present-day name was given as a result of the seven apses of the octagonal interior. Researchers date the time of its construction to the beginning

of the 5th century. Even though it was built for funereal purposes, no traces of graves were found because the construction had been abandoned. The construction of the Cella Septichora remained unfinished in the late Roman era, which is indicated by the piles of lime, the unplastered walls, the interior walkway and the total lack of roofing bricks in the northern apses. The most probable cause of the abandonment of the work was the barbarian invasion of the 5th century, which caused a part of the population to flee.

Sarcophagus

The sarcophagus displayed at the exhibition area was unearthed in the autumn of 2005, in front of the western side of the Parish Cathedral, next to the northern side of the corridor leading to the Wine Pitcher Burial Chamber. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is the only undisturbed piece of the cemetery that has not been looted by robbers, and nobody opened it up during the 1,600 years that elapsed between its laying into the ground and its excavation. The sarcophagus concealed the skeleton of a man between 50 and 60 years of age and was oriented west-east. The only grave good observed was a glass jar turned upside down, to the right of the right leg of the deceased, beside the edge of the sarcophagus. Some organic material residues (skin and textiles) were observed on the skeleton. It may have been put into the ground in the 4th century BC (probably in the second half). The deceased may have been quite wealthy, but did not belong to the richest of society: The "average citizens" were usually buried in a brick grave, while the wealthiest were put to rest in a burial chamber. The sarcophagus presented here stands somewhere between the two in terms of quality.

Wine Pitcher Burial Chamber

The term "burial chamber" literally means an underground burial place, in the present term a crypt (hypogaeum). In the case of two-story burial chambers, the underground burial place

could also include a superstructure, also known as a *cella memoriae* or *mausoleum*. In several cases, only the underlying burial chamber remained at such constructions. At the upper level of the Wine Pitcher Burial Chamber there are remnants of the walls of the memorial chapel above the crypt. It was accessible from the south, its northern wall was straight, and there were 3 pillars on each side. The walls are decorated with painted floral and geometric ornaments. The grid motif probably refers to the Garden of Paradise. On the northern side, tendrils of grapes surround the small niche, characterising the Balkan burial chambers of Sopiana. The pitcher and cup representation seen in the niche has several possible interpretations.

According to one theory, it is a pagan tradition, whereby accessories of the food and drink offerings of the funeral and the subsequent festivals and rituals associated with the death cult would include these objects. According to other theories, these are Christian symbols, vessels that are meant to store the "accessories" of the Eucharist, the bread and wine symbolising the body and blood of Christ, and likewise, according to a Christian view, a drinking vessel that stores the water of life (symbolising Christ in the figurative sense of the word).

Burial Chambers Number XIX and XX

Burial Chamber Number XIX was unearthed in 2003, while Number XX was found in 2004. Both feature "panelled" masonry, where not only the usual, horizontal, equalising rows of brick were built in, but the walls of the chapels were embellished with the pattern of roughly square, carved stones between vertically laid bricks. These small chapels had only a small apse, and perhaps they did not even have an entrance. In front of both burial chambers, a sloping shaft excavated in the ground can be observed, whereby the burial chamber could be accessed at funerals. The

entrance is found at the end of this slope, and it is also noticeable that it is partly walled, that is to say, the burial chamber was obviously not visited, and the walled entrance-way was back filled. The burial chamber included two parallel, east-west oriented tombs that are separated by a "grid" built from brick. Obviously, they were built together, and the pierced separation wall suggests that they were buried together, maybe even at the same time. The inner wall of the burial chamber is plastered, but otherwise undecorated. The western side of Burial Chamber Number XIX was cut through in the Middle Ages during the construction of the Episcopal Palace. Presumably, this was when a hole was pierced in the vault of the burial chamber. The medieval robbers covered the hole they made with flat bricks, leaving the burial chamber empty until its later discovery. The southern chamber, Number XX, is almost identical to its northern "counterpart". The difference lies only in the number and location of the tombs in it. The plastered interior of one of the tombs is decorated with a painted red-ochre grid pattern, and at the head it is decorated with a Christ monogram.

Burial Chamber Number V

Burial Chamber Number V is the only known octagonal building in the cemetery area. The building can be easily divided into at least two construction phases. From its present state it can be established that the walls of the original building were pulled down to a height of approximately 120 cm. The difference between the two types of masonry is most noticeable on the eastern wall, at the height of the base of the vault. At this time, the two middle columns holding three arches and dividing the room into two parts were built, and the northern and southern walls were thickened by adding extra masonry. Perhaps in the same phase, a porticus, a kind of "porch" resting on four pillars, was erected to the south of the burial chamber. From the remaining walls, it can be established that the building was partially underground, but it must have been, at least in part, above the

ground as it has a window. Most probably it did not have any further superstructure, or chapel, which, besides the shape, also made the burial chamber unique. It is not known how it might have looked like in the first phase, or even what exactly it was intended for. In its present state it is obviously a burial chamber, as shown by the sarcophagus on the northern side of the grave. However, this is unusually small, which can be explained by one of two things: either a child was buried here, though that is unlikely, or it was used for a reburial which was not unusual in the 4th century; after Christianity became a common religion, the earthly remnants of the martyrs, which were previously worshipped at hidden places, were reburied in splendid tombs. It is, therefore, possible that a reburial like that was performed here.

Peter and Paul Burial Chamber (Burial Chamber Number I)

In the exhibition space, the remains of Burial Chamber Number I, or the Peter and Paul Burial Chamber, are displayed behind a glass wall. It is the first known, surviving painted burial edifice of the late Roman, early Christian cemetery. It was discovered in 1782 during the demolition of the Szathmári palace, which used to form the eastern wing of the bishop's castle. The Antique memorial, built at the end of the 4th century, consists of two parts, a subterranean burial chamber and a monumental building above the ground. Currently, not much of the upper level is visible as it was largely destroyed. If you walk on, the mural paintings of the barrel vault of the burial chamber can be seen in the exhibition space, two levels down.

On the northern wall can be seen a representation of the apostle Peter on the right and the apostle Paul on the left, pointing to a Christogram in the centre, the symbol of Christ sitting on his "throne" in Paradise. Similar representations of the two apostles, like the supreme columns of Christianity, were very common at the time, as was the representation of Christ

alone with the Christogram. The Christogram is the symbol of Christ, made up of the Greek letters X (khi) and P (rho), the first two letters of the Greek name of Christ (KhRistos); therefore it is called Christ's monogram.

Displayed in the north-eastern corner is the fall of Adam and Eve, a frequent depiction in burial chambers and elsewhere; it warns you that you are not free of original sin and that you can only be saved by the salvation of Christ.

The middle scene depicts Daniel the prophet in the lions' den. During early Christian persecution, many martyrs, like Daniel, were thrown to the beasts or killed in other ways because they refused to offer sacrifice for the Emperor's spiritual salvation and, thus, express their loyalty. The story of Daniel and King Darius, who likewise wanted to make Daniel worship him as a god, is a clear parallel with the prosecution of Christians and a common way of referring to martyrdom.

The mural in the south-eastern corner, somewhat better preserved, shows the story of the prophet Jonah in several "scenes"; Jonah being thrown into the sea and immediately swallowed by the whale, and, after finally fulfilling his divine mission, resting under a bush. The story of Jonah, "buried" in the stomach of the whale for three days and three nights, was a usual allegorical depiction of the time of Christ's death, the time he spent in the tomb and then his resurrection.

In the southwest, unfortunately, only in a heavily damaged scene, three men dressed in oriental clothes are seen as they turn clearly towards the right and move forward. Below is a "pattern" similar to red flames. According to the iconography and parallels found, it is likely that the image depicts the three wise men, or the "Three Kings", moving toward the Virgin Mary sitting in the middle.

However, the red flames remind the observer of the three young Babylonian youths thrown into the fiery furnace under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

The image in the middle, also a heavily damaged mural to the west and therefore difficult to interpret, depicts a seated female figure holding something on her right shoulder. According to later parallels, the representation of the "Mother of God" Mary sitting on a throne and holding the baby Jesus in her right arm seems to be the most likely. If this is the case, i.e., that the mural depicts this later, common scene, this is the earliest of similar representations.

On the last picture in the northwest, you can see Noah sitting in a stylised ark and receiving the pigeon returning with an olive branch in his beak. He is turning to the left (towards Mary and the baby Jesus as well), thus highlighting the central, most important image framed with the scene of the wise men. According to a generally accepted view, the scene of Noah, when the flood comes to an end, the sun comes out, and the rainbow appears, is considered to be the Old Testament's prefiguration of salvation.

Burial Chamber Number IV

Burial Chamber Number IV was found in 1913 by István Möller, directly to the west of Burial Chamber Number I. The barrel vault and the floor of the masonry burial chamber were made of bricks and had no murals. In front of its northern wall there was a sarcophagus, covered with bricks in a saddle-roof like manner, and at the western end, a rectangular niche was sunk into the burial chamber's wall. An interesting technical solution can be observed on the barrel vault of Burial Chamber Number IV. In order to secure the tension of the keystone, the bricks were wedged with small stones until the mortar between them solidified.

Burial Chamber Number III

Burial Chamber Number III is one of the largest burial chambers in the area of the early Christian cemetery in Sopianae. Like most burial chambers, it is of a north-south orientation, its entrance facing south, while in front of its northern wall, the usual niche with an east-west oriented sarcophagus carved out of a single block can be observed. When the burial chamber was excavated in 1913–1914, its vault had already been destroyed and the sarcophagus was found to be broken. Based on archaeological parallels, originally, there was a small memorial chapel above the vaulted burial chamber.

Early Christian Mausoleum

In 1975, during repair work on the waterfall in front of the Basilica, a building called the Early Christian Mausoleum was discovered. As a result of excavations that started at this time, an early Christian cemetery was discovered, and below it was the largest burial chamber, with painted walls and three vandalised sarcophagi. A part of the original paintings of the burial chamber are decorations to fill in the surface: imitation marble paintings with red medallions in the middle. The other part of the paintings comprises figurative representations. In addition to the frescoes, decorations can be seen on the sarcophagus, but some of them, unfortunately, were ruined during the Migration Period. The frescoes on the northern wall depict frequent contemporary Christian iconography: the fall of Adam and Eve, the prophet Daniel in the lions' den, and finally the motif of the Tree of Life. These draw attention to the fallibility of earthly being. On the eastern wall there is the symbol of Christ, or the Christogram, made up of the Greek letters khi and ro (X and P).



The eastern wall of the mausoleum represents the entrance to Paradise. The sarcophagus hiding the body was not located in the axis of the burial chamber, but to the south of it, on the left side of Christ depicted on the eastern wall of the grave chamber. The right side was the "soul" and the left was the "body".

Famous people related to the site

No written sources concerning the Christian community of Sopianae have survived: the names of bishops or martyrs clearly associated with Sopianae are not known either. The existence of a significant Christian community is proven by archaeological finds unearthed in the cemetery. Hundreds of excavated brickworks, dozens of burial chambers and some of the larger burial edifices suggest that a considerable Christian community emerged in Sopianae during the 4th century. Cella Septichora, or the seven-lobed tomb, is the largest burial edifice of Sopianae's late Roman, early Christian cemetery, which is, as far as the floor plan is concerned, unique in early Christian architecture. The early Christian burial edifices in Pécs are not catacombs. In contrast to the Roman catacombs, the graves found here were not placed in underground cells. In the cemetery of Sopianae, there are larger, semi-underground tombs, two-story burial chambers (including a subterranean burial chamber and a chapel above ground), as well as brick tombs half dug into the ground.

Myths and legends connected with this site

In 1913, not far from Burial Chamber Number III, the architects Ottó Szőnyi and István Möller found as many as 5 brick tombs, which they did not remove but left them in their original place. They hid sealed tubes, so called time capsules, in two of them, leaving a message for posterity, documenting the excavation results at that time. Three of these time capsules appeared between 2000 and 2006. As a result of the fact that two of these capsules had the same text inside the tubes, the third one was left in an unopened condition for future generations.

Recommendations for improvement and future development

In the coming years, the main objectives of the "World Heritage Quarter" developments are outlined according to the complex development of the Pécs World Heritage region, with respect to preserving unity between the developments of earlier and ongoing projects in the area. In line with monument protection and architectural objectives, the development aims to conserve and promote the World Heritage Sites, in order to be able to present the archaeological heritage in the form of popular tourist attractions.

Inside the Cella Septichora Visitor Centre, a multilingual visual guide system helps visitors in the orientation, with included active points and a ground-plan map. Alongside the basic information and navigation, there is a plan to install an interior visualisation (AR reconstructions, animated objects) and interactive games on smart devices.

The purpose of planning a virtual interactive walk (Applications of Augmented Reality) in the future is to give a complex experience about what can be seen with modern equipment. Namely, a real and a virtual space emerges and stratifies in front of the viewer, full of relevant information, helping the visitor interpret the historical monuments. The guided walk becomes interactive because it necessitates the visitor's active presence in the historical monuments and, by using "smart equipment", the visitor can activate descriptions, information, videos and sound effects.

Summary

In Hungary, like Budapest, the city of Pécs can boast the fact that almost every major historical period has left its unique mark on the fabric of the city. This exceptionally rich historical, religious and cultural background, and the ever-renewing multicultural

diversity that sprang from the civilisation being located at the meeting point of the roads near the Danube, provides the essence of present-day Pécs and makes it unique in Europe.

Today, the territory of the late Roman, early Christian cemetery from Antiquity is already part of the UNESCO World Heritage. The contemporary city walls, the Episcopal Palace with the Cathedral, and the first University of Hungary represent monuments of the Middle Ages. The following period was the Turkish Age, succeeded by the Ottoman occupation, which, as well as destruction, brought the erection of many magnificent buildings, including numerous mosques and baths that further diversified the cityscape. The Golden Age of the Modern era can be recalled through splendid civic housing, public buildings and structures belonging to the legacy of the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory. It was established in the 19th century and has since become world famous.

The constructed heritage sites of Pécs convey an architectural, historical and religious fabric of information that is also related to the fine arts and the townscape. The primary value of this cultural complex is that it provides the encoded information of several historical eras. The conscious and versatile heritage management, as well as the creative sensibility towards novelty is closely coherent and mutually strengthening: it is one of the main appeals of Pécs, both culturally and from a tourism perspective.



DAILY OPERATIONS AND EVENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ROMAN EMPERORS AND DANUBE WINE ROUTE IN PÉCS (HUNGARY)

Transport access to the site and travel time from nearby destinations

By plane

There are flights from all over the world to Budapest, the capital of Hungary. **Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport** has two terminals. It takes 2.5 hours to reach Pécs by the direct shuttle and approximately 4 hours by train (1 hour to reach the railway station from the airport, plus 3 hours to reach the city by train).

Osijek Airport in Croatia, 1.5 hours from Pécs. Flights from London.

Hévíz-Balaton Airport is a small airport next to Lake Balaton which services discount airlines. To reach Pécs one can take a minibus service directly from the Airport to any address in Pécs, the journey takes 2.5 hours.

Vienna International Airport and **Zagreb Airport** can also be an option; the transfer to Pécs can be made using the Pécs airport shuttle companies or by private car rental.

Airport shuttle can be booked at all airports (direct minibus shuttle) through our partner transfer companies.

By train

The main centre of Hungary's train network is Budapest. From its three main railway stations

(Southern, Eastern, Western) you can travel all around Hungary, including Pécs. The most convenient way of travelling is by InterCity (IC) train. It takes 3 hours to reach Pécs by InterCity train from Budapest.

By car/bus

The transport and traffic system of Hungary is Budapest centred: the 8 most important roads (most of them motorways) start from the capital. By car, take Route 6 or Route 57, 58, 66 to reach the largest city in southern Hungary. The new highway M6 connects Pécs and Budapest and significantly reduces the driving time between the two cities. International bus lines generally have their final destination in Budapest.

Driving time from:

- Budapest: 232 km, 2 hours on the new highway M6
- Zagreb, Croatia: 234 km, 3.5 h
- Vienna, Austria: 383 km, 5.5 h
- Ljubljana, Slovenia: 402 km, 5 h
- Bratislava, Slovakia: 358 km, 5.5 h
- Belgrade, Serbia: 266 km, 4 h
- Trieste, Italy: 498 km, 6h

World Heritage Sites:

www.pecsorokseg.hu/pecsorokseg_megkozelites

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

All tickets can be purchased online at www.jegymester.hu

Zsolnay Ticket

Full price: **4,990 HUF**

Students / Teachers / Pensioners: **3,000 HUF**

Family ticket: **10,000 HUF** (4 people, including at least one child)

Valid for 2 days.

Heritage Ticket

Full price: **6,200 HUF**

Students / Teachers / Pensioners: **4,400 HUF**

Family ticket: **15,700 HUF** (4 people, including at least one child)

Valid for 4 days.

The Exhibitions of Zsolnay Cultural Quarter can be visited with guided tours as well. Guided tours can be ordered for groups of more than 10 people.

Fees for guided tours:

In Hungarian: **5,000 HUF / Group**

In English / German / Spanish / French / Italian / Croatian / Serbian: **7,000 HUF / Group**

Information points

Zsolnay information point and shop

Opening hours:

www.zsolnaynegyed.hu/tartalmak/Zsolnay_negyed_nyitvatartas

Our information points offer a variety of useful information and visitors can also buy tickets and souvenirs there. They are located at 3 sites within the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter: at the Visitor Centre, Zsolnay information point and shop (at the end of the Street of Shops) and the information point operated in the Zsolnay Guesthouse.

Phone: +36 72 500 350

E-mail: info@zsn.hu

World Heritage Sites:

www.pecsorokseg.hu/pecsorokseg_kapcsolat_belepodijak

Opening hours

From 1 April to 31 October – Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–18:00

From 1 November to 31 March – Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–17:00

Monday: closed

Further information: Cella Septichora Visitor Centre, Szent István Square

Phone: +36 72 224 755

E-mail: info@pecsorokseg.hu

Entrance fees:

World Heritage ticket

Full price ticket: **1,900 HUF**

Student / Teacher / Pensioner: **1,100 HUF**

Medieval University

Full price ticket: **1,000 HUF**

Student / Teacher / Pensioner: **600 HUF**

Discount for person with disabilities + accompanying person: **300 + 300 HUF**

From Antiquity to the Middle Ages

Full price ticket: **2,200 HUF**

Student / Teacher / Pensioner: **1,400 HUF**

Family ticket: **5,700 HUF**

Heritage ticket

Full price: **6,200 HUF**

Students / Teachers / Pensioners: **4,400 HUF**

Family ticket: **15,700 HUF**

Valuable Pécs

Full price ticket: **2,500 HUF**

Student / Teacher / Pensioner: **1,500 HUF**

Family ticket: **6,000 HUF**

Other Fees

Guided tours in foreign languages: **7,000 HUF**

Guided tours can only be provided for groups (min. 10 persons), by prior arrangement (min. 48 hours before arrival).

Photo ticket/video ticket: **500 HUF**

Photo/video ticket for groups: **3,000 HUF**

Entry is free for under 6's, except to the Planetarium. The Lab is free for under 3's, and the Bóbita Puppet Museum is free for under 2's.

Student: above the age 6 with a valid student card

Teacher: with a valid card for teachers

Pensioner: with a valid pensioner card

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

There are many informative brochures available in Hungarian, English, German and Croatian about:

- Zsolnay Cultural Quarter
- World Heritage Sites
- Kodály Centre
- Medieval University

There is a mobile app "Visitor Guide" to lead visitors through the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter and a Visitor Game which offers a Roman era adventure for visitors to Cella Septichora.

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

- Zsolnay Quarter 2–6 hours
- Zsolnay Mausoleum 15–30 minutes
- Cella Septichora 1–3 hours
- Medieval University 30–90 minutes

Other attractions near the site (distance and access)

Pécs Roman Catholic Diocese, in the City of Pécs (same access):

pecsiegyhazmegye.hu/en/news

Janus Pannonius Museum of Pécs and Baranya County, in the City of Pécs (same access):

jpm.hu/index.php?langid=en

Villány Wine Region, 30 km to the south of Pécs, easily accessible by car, bus and train:

villanyiborvidek.hu/en/villany-wine-region

Orfű Lake, 20 km to the north of Pécs, easily accessible by car and bus:

orfu.hu/en/

Harkány Thermal Spa, 30 km to the south of Pécs, easily accessible by car, bus and train:

harkanyfurdo.hu/kezdolap

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

Hotels and accommodation in Pécs, more info at www.iranypecs.hu

4 star hotels: www.iranypecs.hu/en/standard/4-stars/?o=Random

3 star hotels: www.iranypecs.hu/en/standard/3-stars/?o=Random

B&B, apartments: www.iranypecs.hu/en/standard/aparhotel+inn+pension+private-accommodation/index.html

Restaurants in Pécs, more info at www.iranypecs.hu

Almalomb

Almalomb is a 19th-century water mill housing a restaurant and museum of the mill.

Aranygaluska Restaurant

"Aranygaluska" is located in central Pécs. It is a savoury fast food restaurant with a wide choice for individual guests and smaller groups.

Aranykaca Restaurant

Aranykaca is located in a friendly environment in the centre of Pécs.

Bagolyvár Restaurant

The Bagolyvár Hotel welcomes its guests with an impressive panorama of Zengő Hill.

Balkán Bistro

Bistro food from the gate of the Balkans.

Bohemia Sörkonyha

A slice of Bohemia in the centre of Pécs. Original Bohemian beers (Breznák Pilsner, Rezák semi-dark, Havran dark) and original Bohemian meals to suit all budgets.

Café Paulus

The Café Paulus is next to PTE-BTK and PTE-TTK. It is a young and vibrant café, brasserie and restaurant.

Cellárium Restaurant

The Cellarium restaurant is located in the city of Pécs, in the catacombs of the Turkish era, eight metres below the ground.

Corso Restaurant

A la carte restaurant in the Hotel Corso with traditional Hungarian foods and specialties, just a couple of minutes from the city centre.

Crystal Restaurant

The restaurant is situated near the city wall in the historical centre of Pécs.

Fiáker Restaurant

On weekdays, guests can enjoy the extensive tasty menu.

Gilice Pension and Restaurant

The European Capital of Culture is located about 10 km from the hotel. The Gilice pension is situated in one of the most beautiful valleys in Mecsek. The sub-Mediterranean climate, the peace and quiet of the forest and the surrounding attractions offer the opportunity to rest together with a wide variety of cultural activities.

Hotel Makár Restaurant

This restaurant has been serving hotel guests, athletes and Pécs residents alike for many decades. The building was designed by Kossuth and the Ybl award winning architect Sándor Dévényi. The tavern/cellar restaurant (built in 1916) opened in 1995 and the Óbester restaurant opened in 1998. The two part dome room upstairs has a shady, flowery barbecue terrace and a historical brick arch wine cellar/tavern, which also houses a bowling alley.

Hotel Palatinus Restaurant

In the heart of the historical centre of Pécs, beside the main square, can be found the Hotel Palatinus restaurant.

Hrabal Pub

Czech beers in the heart of Pécs!

Korhely Restaurant

The "Korhely" restaurant and pub can be found in the historical centre of Pécs. From early spring to late autumn, there is a terrace available. The menu includes a wide variety of international and exotic food.

Laterum Hotel Restaurant

Guests can enjoy gourmet food, an extensive and diverse menu and excellent service at low prices. The banquet rooms are perfectly suited for conferences, lectures, business and educational meetings, weddings and graduation ceremonies.

Ocean's Sushi and BBQ

In front of the large central post office, Ocean's offers a whole new selection of Sushi/BBQ/noodles from the U.S., not to mention the regular live music.

Oliva Restaurant

Enjoy the flavours of Italy with pizzas, pastas, pies and risottos.

Pezsgőház Restaurant

One of the most elegant restaurants in Pécs is the "Pezsgőház" restaurant. It is located in the former Little champagne factory. The restaurant personifies elegance and sophistication.

Puspa's kitchen

This is the only lacto-vegetarian restaurant in the city.

Replay Café Restaurant and Churrascaria

This is one of the most popular and trendy restaurants and café bars in Király Street, where it is always busy at peak hours.

Restaurant Kalamáris

Kalamáris can be found on the outskirts of the historical centre, in the Zsolnay house. Besides traditional Hungarian foods, there are more than 400 varieties of wine.

Room Bistro and Club

The Room Bistro and Club is located in the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter, and is so much more than just a self-service restaurant.

Rundó Restaurant

The "Rundó" restaurant and brasserie can be found in the historical centre of Pécs. Besides Hungarian food, pizza and pie are offered. Two contrasting menus are offered every day.

STB Streetfood and Bar

In Pécs, close to the Medical School, the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Sciences, there is a new restaurant, STB Street Food & Bar.

Susogó Restaurant

The Susogó restaurant is one of the most exclusive restaurants in Pécs.

Szent György Inn Restaurant

Here you can taste Hungarian and southern Slavic specialties.

Teleky Bistro

Teleky Bistro is a popular meeting point in Tudásközpont.

Tettye Restaurant

The Tettye restaurant can be found on the southern side of Mt Mecsek, in a picturesque environment. This part of the city is also named Tettye. Since 1986, it has been the Maszler family's honour to welcome and host visiting guests.

TEX-MEX Restaurant

The abbreviation "TEX-MEX" comes from the phrase Texas-Mexico. Fresh vegetables, marinated meat, the ever present tortilla and delicious

saucers are on offer here. Steaks and ribs ensure a real "Texas feeling".

TV-Tower Restaurant

In the restaurant of the TV-tower of Pécs guests can enjoy a beautiful view and an exhibition of prehistory.

Xavér Restaurant

The Xavér restaurant is located close to the University in Pécs. It is a charming brasserie with a capacity of 100 people and serves homemade Hungarian food.

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

Closest city (population, number of tourist arrivals and overnights)

The City of Pécs has 150,000 inhabitants, and approximately 200,000 tourist nights per year.

Recommendations for improvement and future development

- emphasise overall city marketing concept
- revise touristic concept and cooperate better within Baranya
- join international systems and routes
- distinguish between national and foreign tourism
- improve marketing of unique attractions
- develop packages with international cooperation (via the cultural route?)



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Ilok



By plane – there is no airport in Pécs, the nearest international airport is Budapest (www.bud.hu/en)



Trains available from Budapest's Keleti or Deli station to Pécs railway station



Daily buses from Budapest and Zagreb



From Osijek (Route 58), from Zagreb (E70/Route 6), from Belgrade (A1/E75)

IMPERIAL PALACE SREMSKA MITROVICA IN THE ANCIENT CAPITAL'S EMBRACE

Osijek

Ilok Wine
Region

2

3

Fruška Gora
Region

5

Sremska Mitrovica

Belgra

n i a

The city of St. Dimitri, one of the oldest settlements in Serbia, with its continuous habitation of more than 7,000 years

Geographical position

Sremska Mitrovica is the administrative, economic and cultural centre of Srem, with an exceptionally favourable position – at the intersection of the most important roads from the Balkans and Belgrade to the west, and in close proximity to waterways (by the Sava river). The city is 75 km from the country's capital Belgrade, linked by the E-70 highway. The town is connected to Belgrade by the only double-track railroad in the state. It is 60 km from Novi Sad, the capital of the Vojvodina province. The border with the Republic of Croatia is about 40 km away, and the border crossing with the Republic of Srpska is the same distance.

Geographical coordinates: 44°5' latitude and 19°36' longitude

Area of the City: 76,153 hectares

City population (including suburbs): 79,940

Core city population: 41,624 (according to the 2011 census)

History

Located in the most picturesque part of Pannonia, bordered by the Danube and Sava rivers, Srem has always been at the centre of significant historical events and a refuge for many nations. Sremska Mitrovica, a city with a long and famous tradition, is in the very heart of Srem. It has preserved several names from past epochs in its modern name: *Sirmium*, *Civitas Sancti Demetrii*, *D(i)Mitrovica*, *Mitrovica*, which confirms its historical continuance. The city has always been at the crossroads of important routes. The Sava river and the slopes of the nearby Fruška Gora, along with numerous cultural and historical monuments, have made it a recognisable combination of natural and

cultural heritage and one of the pearls of the Pannonian region.

The long and famous history of Sremska Mitrovica dates back to the distant past, almost seven thousand years ago, when the foundation of the first settlement on this soil was built. In the eyes of the curious observer, the remains of past times gradually reveal evidence of the transformation of the Roman colony on the outskirts of the Empire into the famous Pannonian metropolis and the emperors' residence – Sirmium. Roman chronicles noted that Constantine the Great, amazed by the impression this city left on him, considered building the capital of his empire right here. The ancient historian, Arian Marcellin, described Sirmium as "the manifold and most honoured mother of cities". Only a few open archaeological sites retain the memory of this glorious era, primarily the remains of the Imperial Palace where Roman emperors were born, resided and were crowned. As many as six Roman emperors were born in Sirmium and its surroundings.

With the disappearance of the ancient civilisation, a new settlement emerged on the ruins of the old city, which was named the City of St. Dimitri – *Civitas Sancti Demetrii* (1371), after the medieval monastery. Its convenient position, at the intersection of important roads and in the proximity of the Sava river, contributed to the development of trade and the overall progress of the city. This development was interrupted after the city surrendered to the Ottoman Empire (1529), and it assumed the appearance of a Turkish *kasaba* under the new conqueror. At that time, most probably at the end of the 16th or the beginning of the 17th century, the oldest preserved building in the city, the Old Serbian Church of St. Stephen ("Little Church"), which is one of the most valued city sights, was built.

Two centuries later (in 1718), the Turkish government withdrew from this area and Mitrovica became a significant regimental position in the military border defence system established by the Habsburg Monarchy. At the turn of the 18th century, and especially during the 19th century, there was a rise in the civil society development that would contribute to shaping the cultural and visual identity of the city. A crucial moment in the history of the town occurred in 1881 when Mitrovica acquired the status of a free city commune with complete autonomy and chose its first mayor – the noble Ćira Milekić.

In the years following the end of World War I, Mitrovica continued to develop within the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The prefix Sremska was added to the city's name (in 1923), and it has remained its official name ever since – Sremska Mitrovica. The tragic events and the suffering of the population in World War II were memorialised in the symbolic and allegorical complex of the Memorial Cemetery, designed by Bogdan Bogdanović.

Faced with the challenges of the third millennium, Sremska Mitrovica continues to nurture the richness and diversity of its identity by harmoniously combining the remains of past epochs and modern times.

Sremska Mitrovica is said to be "a city above the city" because when you walk today's streets and squares, you are walking above the streets and squares of ancient Sirmium. Each building's foundation is laid on the Roman buildings' remains: there is a Jupiter's temple under the hospital, *Cardo Maximus* is under *Kralja Petra* (King Peter's) Street, *Licini's Spa* and gorgeous villas are under some private residences, and in the foundations of a modern residential building there is *St. Dimitri's Basilica*. The locations of the *Forum* and *Constantine's Mint* are also known, and there is the *Hippodrome* in the city centre, which archaeologists say is second only in size to the one in Rome. The *Hippodrome* is next to

the *Imperial Palace*, and a part of the imperial chambers is presented to the public as a covered archaeological site. Roman emperors were born, resided and crowned in the Palace. Due to its archaeological sites, preserved impressive architecture and obvious historical value, Sremska Mitrovica is an open-air museum.

Sremska Mitrovica is a city that has everything one would love:

The arable land in Srem and the Mačva plains are connected by the longest spanning pedestrian bridge in Europe, the bridge of *St. Irinei*. Along the plain, the city is located on the left bank of the Sava river, with one of the most beautiful river embankments in Serbia. On the left riverbank, spreading across the wide Srem plain and partly on the southern slopes of *Mt. Fruška Gora*, there are eighteen Mitrovica villages. The largest of all and the most populated village in Serbia is *Lačarak* village. On the right bank, there are six Mačva villages and the village of *Mačvanska Mitrovica*, merged with the territory of the Municipality of Sremska Mitrovica in the 1950s. Right here, on the former Sava river floodplain, there is also a unique nature reserve, the *Zasavica* swamp.

Along with the plain and the river, there is *Fruška Gora*, called the Serbian Holy Mount due to its large number of monasteries. Four monasteries are located in the Sremska Mitrovica territory: *Bešenovo*, *Kuveždin*, *Petkovica* and *Šišatovac*. The mild, sunny slopes are covered with fertile vineyards, forests and lakes.

MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The presented archaeological sites of ancient Sirmium are not only an essential testimony to the brilliant and tumultuous history of the former Pannonian metropolis but also an attractive place for all Roman Empire history lovers in today's Serbian territory.

The most important building complex in Sirmium was the **Imperial Palace** and the **Hippodrome**, whose remains are partially presented within the covered Visitor Centre. The palace was built at the end of the 3rd century, while its construction phases lasted throughout the 4th century.

The exhibited walls and floors mostly represent the residential part of the palace. The fragments of frescoes, mosaic floors, and the architectural decoration from diverse types of stone that was brought from different parts of the world, from Egypt, Asia Minor, Greece and Italy, represent the luxurious interior decoration. Many modifications, mosaic floors on several levels and numerous archaeological finds demonstrate the palace's extended lifespan.

During the archaeological excavations at the Imperial Palace, about 350 m² of preserved mosaic surfaces were found. They belong to different construction phases of the palace, the oldest of which dates back to the end of the 3rd century, and the newest from the mid-4th century. Geometric polychromatic mosaics, known as geometric rugs, are mostly represented in the Western style and are similar to mosaics from Diocletian's palace in Split.

The remains of the 4th century Sirmium craft-trade district, next to the southern city walls, are located in one of the central city zones, where, until the 1960s, there was a vast city square of a recognisable triangular shape.

The archaeological remains of the early Christian basilica of St. Dimitri were discovered in 1978. Due to its construction span and continuity in the previous centuries, only the altar apse with the bishop's seat from the former triple nave basilica, where the central nave was more than 20 m long and about 13 m wide, can be seen today. The prefect Leontius built the basilica between 426 and 441 AD. He was the benefactor of a church with the same name in Thessaloniki.

FAMOUS PEOPLE RELATED TO THE SITE

Emperor Probus (232–282)

One of the six Roman emperors born in Sirmium was the famous Marcus Aurelius Probus. Thanks to a series of historical circumstances, this capable warrior and visionary commander, the son of a gardener from Sirmium, was proclaimed emperor in 276. During his reign, the Empire expanded to six million km², and the wetland around Sirmium was drained. The Jarčina canal was very useful to the inhabitants of the Srem region seventeen centuries ago, and remains so to this day. However, the most important of all his legacies was abolishing the Italian monopoly on planting vines. History tells us that it was Probus who recognised a particularly sunny location on the southern slopes of Fruška Gora where the first vines were later planted.

Sveti Dimitrije (St. Dimitri)

In the first centuries of Christianity, Sirmium had a significantly large number of martyrs for the new faith, especially during the persecution in the early 4th century. St. Dimitri was one of the early Christian martyrs who, even under the most violent torture, never denied Christ. According to preserved court records, he died on April 9th, 304, beheaded on the Artemis Bridge.

When digging the foundations for a modern residential-office building in the centre of the city (1978), the remains of a triple nave basilica from the first half of the 5th century were discovered. It is believed to have been dedicated to St. Dimitri. This church was the starting point of the great Christian cult, which later overcame the boundaries of Sirmium and Pannonia. St. Dimitri had, in the following centuries, become the patron saint of Mitrovica, and today his character is represented on the city's coat of arms.

City tourist offer

Due to its rich and long history, visible and preserved cultural heritage, abundant natural resources, diverse traditions and excellent gastronomy, the city attracts many tourists.

Sremska Mitrovica is equally abundant in cultural heritage, natural attractions, rich cultural life and events, which enables a varied tourist offer and makes an exceptional touristic experience.

TIME TO BE SPENT ON SITE (QUICK VISIT AND FULL TOUR)

Because of its proximity to Belgrade and Novi Sad, tourist visits to Sremska Mitrovica are generally shorter, based on one or two overnight stays, except in cases where tourists or groups are on a thematic holiday. Hence, the Tourist Organisation of Sremska Mitrovica recommends a one or two-day tourist arrangement, and suggests the following attractions:

Imperial day in the Roman capital

One option is a visit to the Imperial Palace complex, which is one of the most important archaeological sites related to the history of Sirmium. Then, visit the Srem Museum, housed in two buildings, followed by a short walk through the old town centre to the Žitni Trg market, overlooking the St. Irinei Bridge. This can be followed by a short visit to the triangular square, with a brief explanation of the sacral objects by a local guide. Original souvenirs can be purchased while visiting the Imperial Palace and the Srem Museum.

Lunch/dinner can be taken in Tošina Kuća (Toša's House), a traditional village house in the village of Jarak, Srem.

After lunch one can move on to the Zasavica Special Nature Reserve. Visit the Zoo with its variety of autochthonous animal species and visitor centre, then acquaint yourself with the rare species of animals, plants, birds, fish and other inhabitants of Zasavica. Take a boat ride in the swamp with a photo safari tour. Enjoy a walk in nature, with the possibility of buying original mangulica products (autochthonous black pig), donkey milk, truffles and souvenirs. Boats and fishing permits can be issued in the reserve.

The one-day arrangement includes the following services:

- lunch within a selected menu,
- tickets to the Imperial Palace, the Srem Museum and SNR Zasavica by boat,
- a local tour guide service and the cost of organising the programme.

"Veni, Vidi, Vici" in Sremska Mitrovica – a weekend in Imperial Sirmium

Day 1

The group arrives in the afternoon. Take a drive along the southern slopes of the Fruška Gora National Park, where the vineyards of Emperor Probus were located. Visit a wine cellar and taste wine from Fruška Gora. Visit the Šišatovac and Petkovića monasteries. Continue to Sremska Mitrovica. Visit the centre of Sirmium, the Imperial Palace and the Srem Museum. While visiting the Imperial Palace and the Museum, it is possible to purchase original souvenirs. Lunch in a restaurant of your choice: Villa Bela Ruža, Sojenica or Posejdon. Sightseeing in the old town centre.

Accommodation in the hotel. Dinner. Overnight stay.

Day 2

Breakfast. Depart to Mačva and the Zasavica Nature Reserve. Visit the Visitor Centre and tour the nature reserve. Take a tourist boat ride (by reservation) and enjoy a photo safari. Stay in nature, walk, take advantage of a boat rental, and obtain a permit and enjoy some fishing. Lunch can be taken either in the reserve or at the ethno house of the duke Zmaj od Noćaja. Departure is after lunch. The arrangement includes the following services:

- half board accommodation in the hotel,
- two lunches,
- Fruška Gora wines, wine tasting,
- tickets for the Imperial Palace, the Srem Museum and SNR Zasavica,

- a local tour guide service and the cost of organising the programme.

ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

The **Old Town Centre** is the most vital indicator of the historical city's stratification and continuous urban life for more than two thousand years. Žitna Pijaca (Grain Market) Square, Sveti Stefan (St. Stephen) Square, and Čira Milekić Square are the unique and recognisable ambient parts that testify to the culture, the way of life and architectural styles that developed from the end of the 18th century until the beginning of World War II. The city park is located in the very heart of the historic centre and is a favourite location for Mitrovica inhabitants, as well as tourists. In the central part, there is the Kameni Cvet (Stone Flower) Fountain, one of the symbols of Sremska Mitrovica, designed by the Russian architect Irina Nepokojčicka from Mitrovica. The fountain was designed and built immediately after World War II, at the location of the former imperial linden tree, planted in 1879 in commemoration of the silver jubilee of the Austro-Hungarian imperial couple Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth (Elisabeth).

Sacral buildings and sites

The **Old Church of St. Stephen** or the **Little Church** was built on the Sava riverbank, on the early Christian period cult spot, where mass executions of Sirmium Christians were carried out at the beginning of the 4th century, near the former Artemis Bridge. The church's present appearance and dimensions date from the early 1780s. The icons were painted by Teodor Kračun, the most important representative of Baroque painting, in 1775.

The **Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Dimitri** was built between 1791 and 1794, in the Baroque style with elements of Neoclassicism. It was dedicated to the patron saint of the city – St. Dimitri. The church comprises a single nave with a semicircular altar apse in the east and a high bell tower above the western facade. Marko Vujatović produced the woodcarvings, and the painting was entrusted to Arsenije Todorović.

The **Roman Catholic Church of St. Dimitri** was built in 1810 as a single nave building with Classicist style features. The single-storey sacristy on the western side was later extended. The altar paintings from 1812, the work of Arsenije Todorović, were replaced at the beginning of the 20th century by the altars of Tyrol's masters. The only organ in the city is in this church. The parish house was built to the east of the church in 1827.

The **Greek Catholic Church Vaznesenja Gospodnjeg (Lord's Ascension)** was built between 1905 and 1906, as a triple nave building with a bell tower on the western side, and semicircular altar apse on the eastern side. It was designed in the spirit of Romanticism with dominant Romanesque elements. The parish house was built at the same time.

The **Memorial Cemetery** is located next to the old Orthodox cemetery. It was built in 1960 to the design of the architect Bogdan Bogdanović. It represents one of the biggest killing fields, where several thousand people were tortured and killed during World War II, including the famous Serbian painter Sava Šumanović.

The **Bridge of St. Irinei** is the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in Serbia and the Balkans, whose construction lasted from 1990 to 1993, and is dedicated to St. Irinei, the first bishop of Sirmium, a Christian who was executed for preaching what was, at the time, a forbidden religion. The saint was beheaded on the Sirmium Bridge. This scene is depicted on the icon in the St. Dimitri Cathedral's sacristy.

Other places of interest

The **Srem Museum** is a complex consisting of two buildings. In the building on St. Stefan Square No. 15 is a permanent archaeological setting, while one of the most precious collections of stone monuments in Serbia is displayed in the courtyard, within the Lapidarium. Here, there are a large number of altars belonging to Jupiter's sanctuary, and tombstones. In the Museum's Lapidarium, there is an extremely valuable sundial (end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD), the work of sculptors and astronomers from Greece, whom Kratilo Papi hired. Made of white marble from the slopes of the Alps, the sculptor fashioned a life-sized figure of Atlas, carrying a sundial on his back, and behind him are the topiary portraits of his brothers Hercules and Ifikles. The sundial was made in the form of a shell with radial lines showing the hours, with only the first part of the iron rod indicator, the gnomon, remaining preserved.

Within the permanent exhibition, there are copies of **33 gold coins** found during archaeological excavations in 1973. During the numismatic processing, it became known that four gold coins were unique specimens and were not owned by any museum in the world. All the gold coins were minted in honour of Constantine the Great and his family. The **hologram projection of an Avar belt**, found in 1992, gives us a glimpse of the power and wealth of the Avars – the conquerors of Sirmium. This gold band belt weighs roughly 1,000 g, consists of 10 pieces and is decorated with semiprecious stones. It is assumed that it belonged to the Avar Kagan Bajan or his sons. It is thought to be one of the best preserved Avar belts in the world and has an invaluable historical and artistic value. A number of porphyry sculpture parts are also exhibited. Porphyry is a purple stone that was brought from Egypt, and it was used for creating emperors' sculptures. The parts of the found sculptures date back to Diocletian's era, from the end of the 3rd and the beginning of the 4th century.

In the main building of the Srem Museum, in Vuka Karadžića Street 3, a permanent historical, artistic and ethnographic setting is exhibited, called "Srem through the ages". It shows the rich history of Srem, from the end of the 12th to the first half of the 20th century.

The **Dobrica Milutinović Theatre** is located in a part of the Serbian House building. It is the only professional theatre in Srem, and also has a long amateur dramatic tradition. During the season, dozens of performances of their own productions, guest performances and numerous events including concerts, film screenings and important occasional programmes are performed. The capacity of the theatre is 320 seats.

The **Gligrorije Vozarević Library** is located in the part of the Serbian House building that was built in 1895 to the design of Vladimir Nikolić, a famous Serbian architect. It initially served as a Serbian public reading room with a more than 150 year tradition. It was designed with academic elements, incorporating neo-Renaissance and neo-Baroque elements. It has played a significant role in the cultural life of Mitrovica Serbs throughout history. Today, it is one of the most important cultural institutions, with a collection of around 120,000 books, and with an abundance of cultural and educational activities for all ages. The library building is one of the city's most appreciated visual symbols.

The **Lazar Vozarević Gallery** was founded in 1973 as a memorial gallery. It is located in the Serbian House. In addition to the promotion of the most extensive collection of Lazar Vozarević's works, one of the most famous Serbian painters of the late 20th century, in other rooms of the Gallery, there are monthly exhibitions of renowned contemporary artists as well as works of other painters who have marked Serbian art history.

Today, it is not only a static, memorable centre but a multifunctional space where a vibrant artistic life has developed. The modern look and spatial design is the perfect surrounding for new creative concepts.

Monasteries

Šišatovac is located near the village of the same name, on the slopes of the western part of Fruška Gora. The monastery is dedicated to the Holy Mother of God. The founding of the monastery is attributed to Abbot Teofan of the Žiča Monastery, and the refugee monks who tore the church down in 1520 and built a new monastery in its place. Reliable information about the monastery originates from the mid-16th century and the relics of St. Stefan Štiljanović, the Srem despot. In 1788, the old church was demolished, and today's monastery was built in its place. Grigorije Davidović Obšić produced the iconostasis and wall paintings.

Petkovica is located on the south-western part of Fruška Gora, between the Divoš and Šišatovac villages. The monastery is dedicated to St. Petka. The monastery was decorated with frescoes painted in 1588, while the iconostasis was produced in 1735. According to tradition, Despotess Jelena founded the monastery, Stefan Štiljanović's widow in the first half of the 16th century.

Kuveždin is located on the south-western part of Fruška Gora, north of Divoš village. The monastery is dedicated to St. Sava and St. Simeon. Despot Stefan Štiljanović founded the monastery in 1520, according to local sources. The new monastery was built in 1816, and Pavle Simić painted the iconostasis between 1847 and 1858.

Bešenovo is located on the southern slopes of Fruška Gora. According to local stories, King Dragutin Nemanjić founded it in the late 13th century. It is dedicated to the Holy Archangels Gabriel and Michael.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND CATERING NEAR THE SITE

The city's accommodation capacities are offered in several different categories. There is one "three star" category hotel with a capacity of 27 beds, as well as several lodging options providing a bed and breakfast service with a capacity of over 20 beds in double and triple rooms. Accommodation is mostly new and modern, and meets European standards. Most services are offered via the Internet and are easily accessible for review and booking (Hotel Srem, Hotel Wood, Bela Ruža, Poseidon, Atrium and Passage).

Hotel Srem has a capacity of 25 beds, in double and triple rooms and suites, and is equipped to a high standard. The hotel complex has 120 seats in the Congress Hall for organising seminars and symposiums of various types. The restaurant complex, with a capacity of 270 seats, is set on three floors. The summer garden is on two levels and has a capacity of 300 seats.

In the city and its surroundings, many restaurants serve traditional dishes from the area, together with those that complement their offer with other national cuisines. On the Sava river, restaurants serve fresh fish and fish specialties, and many popular smaller restaurants and pastry shops are located in the city centre itself, along with other tourist attractions.

The trend of **ethno houses** and **rural tourist households** is increasingly developing. Each of them is thematically profiled and organised to accommodate groups of up to 50 people. They are known for their authentic countryside setting, the preservation of folk customs and traditional cuisine, and an ever warm reception and pleasant homely atmosphere.

Zmaj od Noćaja (Mačvanska Mitrovica) is an ethno house of the Čupić family that fosters the history and genealogy of their famous ancestor – Duke Stojan Čupić, one of the most important figures of the First Serbian Uprising. The house also has a small museum exhibition. In addition to the ethno-ambience, good food and accommodation, folk music and the sounds of the local accordion are all part of this experience.

Čikić (Zasavica), one of the first such households, it has been working continuously for many years. It caters for both school excursions and families.

Nana is a thematic household that pays particular attention to both family tradition and heritage. The primary motif of this household is nana (mint), and nana as the word for grandmother, used a long time ago. Throughout the season, they organise a variety of ethno workshops.

Tošina Kuća (Toša's House, Sremski Jarak) is a family house that has been welcoming foreign tourists for decades, in the traditional way, with brandy, cakes and sweets, typical Srem lunches and tambourine music. The Chamber of Commerce of Vojvodina recognised this household for its improvement of gastronomy services in 2016.

Salaš Isailovi is an authentic village household that has opened its door to visitors and guests and presents Srem through the ages in a beautifully traditional way.

Čavići (Čalma) is a household that has been organising pony events for children of all ages for a decade. While relaxing in nature and in the immediate vicinity of ponies, therapeutic riding is also possible.

An equally lovely and pleasant stay can be arranged at the **Ležimir Guest House** (Ležimir), **Villa Davidović** (Mandjelos), **Mother Angelina's Ethno House** (Grgurevci) or fishing and enjoying nature at the fish farm **Lekin Salaš** near Sremska Mitrovica (from the Mačva side).

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

Events tourism

A large number of events are traditionally organised, both in the territory of the city and in the rural areas, contributing to the preservation of culture and the tradition.

Srem Folk Fest is a mid-August folk festival, with a 14 year tradition. The goal is to promote and nurture different cultures and traditions through costumes, customs, folk songs and games. As the festival is included in the CIOFF event calendar, the organisation imposes high standards. The participants' parades take place in the streets and squares, and there are spectacular evening concerts in the open Žitna Pijaca Square. Every year, around 600 people stay in the city, and several thousand visit the festival.

Festival of Rhetoric "Sirmium Lux Verbi – Sirmium brightness of the word", inspired by the tradition of ancient Sirmium, has, for decades, fostered the value of intelligent thoughts and beautiful speech. The festival is a prestigious, traditional, international rhetoric competition in three categories: author's address, interpretation and extempore. Since 1992, Sremska Mitrovica has cultivated a festival of words that communicate universal human messages about life and humankind, free of time and space limitations. Its greatest importance is the preservation of history, the city's tradition, the dignity of primordial values such as "the word" and international cooperation.

"Imperial Sirmium – the city of legends" is a three-day event, supported by the relevant

ministry. It is held at the beginning of September in open space in many locations. The festival is organised by the Tourist Organisation of Sremska Mitrovica, with the idea to revive ancient city history and to present it to the audience in an active, creative and exciting way. It is introduced through historic dramatisations, theatrical and puppet shows, a parade of numerous costumed actors and extras, interactive workshops at different sites (mosaic making, Roman glass blowing, oil lamp production, dressing, make-up and hairdressing in the Roman period), and Roman food and wine tasting at the Roman market. One entire day is dedicated only to children, with Roman games and Sirmium legends. Children are encouraged to dress up as young Romans. The festival is very attractive and is a completely new addition to the city's tourist offer.

Wine Park is a one-day event promoting wine culture in Srem in an attractive way where producers and consumers spend time together. Representatives of 30 wineries offer the opportunity to taste more than 150 different types of wine and also organise a professional presentation of wine serving and tasting.

In addition to wine, there is also the gastro-nomic offer of the Srem area, featuring small food producers who stand out at the market with their authenticity and product quality. Producers of cheese, homemade meat products, homemade pastries, honey, jams and many other treats offer their products on stands and visitors can also enjoy a variety of classical and tambourine music. The event is held at the beginning of July in the city park.

In addition to the aforementioned events, there is the **Jazz Blues Festival**, the **International String Fest** and the **Piano Festival**, the **Young Wires** (festival of tambourine

orchestras), the **Old Timer Car Show**, **motorcycle** meets, the **Golden Wine Day** (in Probus's honour), the **Museums Night**, and the **Magical Square** at the Ćira Milekić Square (on Christmas and New Year's Eve). Moreover, in the village, tourists can visit **Bostanjada** in Šašinci (dedicated to the watermelons that the village is famed for), the **Srem Reel** in Grgurevci (folk event, horse and carriage procession, and fabulous homemade doughnuts), **Štrudelfest** (strudel making competition), **Mules' Day** in the Special Nature Reserve of Zasavica, **Sheep Farming Days** in Ležimir, **Krofnijada** (doughnut making contest) in Martinci and many more fun, traditional events, each interesting and authentic in their own way.

Natural attractions

The unique **Nature Reserve of Zasavica** in Mačva has rare species of plant and animal life. The nature reserve, intact for thousands of years, is a jewel of the area.

The reserve is an oasis with about 700 species of plants, 216 bird species, 20 fish species and 27 species of amphibians and reptiles. Strongly intertwined nature, the moist meadows, forests, wide shores and the water itself make for a beautiful and diverse flora and fauna environment. The landscape here is breathtaking. At a distance of 200 meters, along the access road to the Visitor Centre, there is a campsite with 42 plots, electricity, water and wireless Internet connection. It is also suitable for people with disabilities and is categorised as a three star site.

The **city beach** near the city centre is one of the most beautiful beaches in Serbia. It is a favourite place for both local people and tourists who like swimming and water sports. The official bathing season lasts from June to September. The city beach is equipped according to European standards. It has the necessary number of showers, changing rooms, sanitary facilities, sports facilities, catering facilities, facilities for children and a lifeguard service.

Fruška Gora National Park is near the town, and is a blend of natural and cultural values. It has thick eastern forests, pastures, vineyards, lakes, and numerous rare and protected plant and animal species, and is a real haven for nature lovers. With marked hiking and bike trails, it is an ideal place for an active stay in the clean mountain air.

Fruška Gora is also known for its sixteen Orthodox monasteries, of invaluable historical and cultural value, which, for centuries, have been of great importance for the preservation of the national identity and spirituality of the Serbian people.

Sports and recreational tourism

Hunting: The Forest Protection company in Sremska Mitrovica takes care of 40,000 hectares of precious, mostly oak forests, rich in wildlife, which attracts hunters from all continents.

Fishing is organised on the Sava river and the lakes on Fruška Gora.

Equestrian Sports: "Proleće" stud farm in Sremska Mitrovica is an ideal place for riding lovers and equestrian sports enthusiasts.

Flying: Thanks to its decades-long tradition, over 70 organisations involved in aviation sports and all modern forms of flying are active in Serbia today. Near Sremska Mitrovica, in the village of Veliki Radinci, there is a sport flying airport, where flyers can enjoy their sport.

Swimming: Apart from seasonal swimming in the Sava river with its beautiful beach, tourists and athletes can swim throughout the year in a new and modern indoor pool at the Pinki Sports and Recreation Centre. There are also medicinal, thermal pools at Plava Zvezda (Blue Star) in Salaš Noćajski, which additionally boasts a sauna and hydro massage.

There are several open and covered sports fields in the city:

The athletic stadiums of FK Srem and FK Radnički, the Pinki Sports Centre, the Water Sports Centre – Val Kayak Club, basketball and volleyball courts and an outdoor gym at the city beach.

CLOSEST CITY (POPULATION, NUMBER OF TOURIST ARRIVALS AND OVERNIGHTS)

Sremska Mitrovica is located between Novi Sad and Belgrade, large cities that have experienced an annual tourist growth trend.

During 2017, Belgrade recorded 1,690,526 overnight stays and Novi Sad 289,699, while 12,195 overnights were recorded in Sremska Mitrovica.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

To improve the tourist offer of the city of Sremska Mitrovica, it is necessary to take specific steps in the coming period, within the framework of the city tourism development strategy.

- The construction of hotels of larger capacity (the city lacks larger capacity hotels, and it is necessary to be able to organise the accommodation of larger groups, as well as to develop conference tourism possibilities);
- Renovation and adaptation of the Srem Museum building – archaeological items;
- Provide a budget for the maintenance of the archaeological site;

- Design the Archaeological Route, to include the Roman Park (interactive workshops)
- Develop tourist signage for all purposes for different tourists' categories;
- Reconstruct the Blue Line (tourist attraction, blue symbols mark the way for unguided tours of cultural and historical sights in the city);
- Improve the river traffic capacity of the Sava, with the construction of a port;
- Develop river tourism and create the necessary tourist infrastructure.

For the city of Sremska Mitrovica and the Tourist Organisation of the city, it was of particular importance to receive the title of The Runner-up European Destination at the beginning of November 2017 in the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) competition. Novi Pazar won the competition, while Sremska Mitrovica and Zaječar were selected as runner-up destinations.

The Tourist Organisation of Serbia organised a competition with the title of Cultural Tourism. The selected destinations in Serbia will be included in the Network of Exceptional Destinations in Europe. The winning and runner-up destinations will be promoted internationally through a special publication dedicated to this project, as well as through the sites of the Tourist Organisation of Serbia, the European Commission and social networks.

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Sremska Mitrovica



Plane

Main airport, Belgrade (www.beg.aero/en/home)



Train

From Belgrade to Sremska Mitrovica Central
Railway Station, address: Železnička bb



Bus

From Ilok to Novi Sad, then to
Sremska Mitrovica



Car

From Belgrade (E70 motorway), or from Ilok
(route 314)

IMPERIAL PALACE FELIX ROMULIANA

Negotin Wine
Region

6

Zaječar

7

Knjaževac

8

The Imperial Palace of Felix Romuliana is located in the vicinity of the village of Gamzigrad, 11 km north-west of Zaječar, and is widely regarded as the main pillar of the cultural tourism development in eastern Serbia.

History of the Palace and its Founders

Galerius (Gaius Galerius Valerius Maximianus) is one of the sixteen Roman emperors born in the area that belongs to the territory of Serbia today. He came into the world as Maximianus, around 260 AD, close to the present-day village of Gamzigrad, in today's eastern Serbia, in the Roman province of Remesiana (*Dacia Ripensis*). At his place of birth, which was a major urban settlement built on the territory inhabited since prehistoric times, Galerius, as Emperor Gaius Galerius Valerius Maximianus (293–311), built a magnificent palace and dedicated it to his mother Romula. Felix Romuliana is in memory of the divine nature of his mother and himself. The name *Romuliana* could be literally interpreted as Romula's villa or Romula's house. The epithet *Felix* suggests that the villa contained in the title represents a metaphor. This epithet, added to a person's name or the names of places, particularly buildings, doesn't have the function of an epithet but is used to indicate gods, emperors, empresses and members of their families, districts, cities and buildings related to them, and is the symbol of their divine nature, holiness, glory, fertility and prosperity. The name *Felix Romuliana* should be understood as *Roma Nova*, *Roma Secunda*, namely, as a name that suggests a sacred place, an eternal, heavenly city.

The Emperor's mother was a refugee from Dacia, while the father, of unknown name, was a retired soldier (veteran), who ran a small estate in the place of Galerius's birth. As a small child, Galerius most likely

looked after cattle, which is why throughout his life he had the nickname *Armentarius* (herdsman), which was particularly and readily emphasised by his opponents. Later, he followed in his father's steps and served as a soldier under the emperors Aurelian and Probus. As a particularly brave soldier, he served with distinction under Emperor Diocletian, the founder of a new system of government in the Roman Empire, the Tetrarchy ("leadership of four"). This is why Diocletian adopted him as a son, married his daughter Valeria to him, and designated him his co-ruler in the East (293 AD). Galerius managed to beat the hitherto invincible Persia, in 298 AD, which represented a turning point in his career and paved his future life path. Triumph over Persia was celebrated in Rome in 303 AD. He most likely started the construction of his palace in his homeland immediately after the victory over Persia.

Galerius was supposed to reside in the palace as a senior August (*senior Augustus*), while after death he would be revered as a god (*divus*), probably in the temple in the southern part of Romuliana and in the part of a sacral complex on Magura Hill intended for him. However, his premature death prevented this from happening.

History has marked him as one of the greatest persecutors of Christians, neglecting the fact that he himself, two years before the famous Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan of 313, on his deathbed, made the first legal act of religious tolerance, the first Edict of Religious Tolerance, in April 311 AD. Additionally, these two countrymen and irreconcilable opponents, due to historical circumstances, co-ruled in the period 306–311 AD.

After Galerius's death, the space of his never used palace became the stage of turbulent

life, and a great craft and trade centre of the Late Classical period. Intensive craft activity, especially iron metallurgy, continued well into the Early Byzantine period. Also, in the 6th century, during the reign of Emperor Justinian I (527–565), Gamzigrad, with new and already existing churches, may have been the centre of the episcopacy. The rich life within the unconquerable walls of the former palace of Galerius continued until the middle of the 11th century, as evidenced by the remains of a medieval settlement in the south-eastern part of the palace complex and its associated necropolis (cemetery) in front of the eastern gate.

BASIC KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE SITE – DATES, CAPACITY, PURPOSE, SIZE OF THE SITE AND TYPE OF TERRAIN

Archaeological site

This archaeological site was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List in June 2007. The spatial and visual relationships between the palace and the memorial complex, where the mausoleums of the Emperor and his mother Romula were located, are unique:

Criterion (III) – The fortifications, the palace and the memorial complex are a unique testimony of the Roman construction tradition pervaded by the ideological programme of the Second Tetrarchy and Galerius himself as their builder.

Criterion (IV) – The group of buildings comprising the architectural complex of Emperor Galerius is unique in that it intertwines the ceremonial and the memorial programme. The relationship between the two spatial ensembles is stressed

by placing the Tetrapylon on the crossroads between the worldly fortification with the palace and the other-worldly mausoleums and consecration monuments.

The configuration of the terrain where Romuliana was built imposed its irregular trapezoid layout, covering an area of about 6.5 ha.



Gamzigrad Palace was truly unique, fortified with double fortifications, the older one from the end of the 3rd century, with 16 towers, and a younger but much more impressive fortification, from the beginning of the 4th century, with 20 gigantic polygonal towers. The main entrance to the palace was via the eastern gate, but today visitors enter through the western gate of the palace. In recent years much has been done to revitalise the main gate: the gate of the older fortification has been fully restored and preserved; the gate of the younger fortification has been partially restored and preserved, including the towers that flank the gate; a part of the eastern wall has been partially restored and preserved, and the space in front of the gate and the resting area along Dragan's stream have been used as a natural amphitheatre, redecorated and fully furnished. It is now used for excursion tourism and presentations of multi-ethnic heritage.

The first of two yards in Gamzigrad Palace, Atrium I, had a fountain in the centre of a rectangular area bordered by a white marble pavement and, on all four sides, porches on pillars, under which, on a floor decorated with mosaics, marble benches were placed. The pillars of an earlier porch were also partially reconstructed, parts of which were from the original finest Proconese marble.

Left of the atrium there was a large hall with an apse. In a Roman house it would be the dining room, the Triclinium, and within the palace there would probably be a hall in which the emperor received his official visitors. The atrium with a fountain was organically connected to the hall, which can be concluded from the position of the fountain (set on the axis of the door of this hall). The floor of this room was covered with mosaics. Right next to the threshold of the door a mosaic was discovered which represents Dionysus at a feast, an illustration of Galerius's entire ruling ideology and one of the most beautiful works that Roman art has bequeathed us. This mosaic is kept in the National Museum in Zaječar. Under the floor of the Triclinium the remains of the hypocaust (underfloor heating system) were discovered. Near the Triclinium apse a hand with a globe was found, a part of a porphyry sculpture of Emperor Galerius, so it is possible that the whole niche was built as a luxurious canopy for the sculpture of the Emperor (or perhaps a sculptural group that could have shown Galerius and Diocletian or even all four rulers of the Tetrarchy). Also, in the Triclinium apse there could have been a marble throne designed for Galerius, who sat there and, as God on earth, greeted announced officials.

East of the Triclinium and north of the peristyle with the fountain, was a spacious atrium, Atrium II. The yard had a colonnade

which formed a porch along the eastern, southern and northern sides. Of the portico there have only remained the bases and the trunks of two major pillars that would have emphasised the door on the eastern wall. The open parts of the yard were brick-floored, while the area under the porch was covered with mosaic.

The yard with the porch was connected with the circular room to the east in a similar way as the peristyle with the Triclinium fountain. The circular room, the decoration of which was underlined with the tall pillars, represented a pre-space to two other rooms, with which it was organically linked, one of which had a trefoil and the other a quatrefoil design. The mosaic "carpet" consists of an illusionist pattern in the form of a shield, very popular in Greece and the western Balkan provinces in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Under the floor was discovered a complex system of channels through which the entire room, and in particular its conch, was directly heated. The space consisting of a circular entrance room with a trefoil and quatrefoil hall included a small room with an apse on the eastern side. The hall and the space in front of it repeatedly changed purpose and were, finally, used as a Christian church. It is the oldest of the three basilicas within the palace, which may have originated before the very end of the 4th century.

Temples inside the wall

Among the remains of numerous buildings, two temples dominate.

The smaller temple was almost in the middle of the northern part of the Gamzigrad complex. In front of the temple a preserved monumental altar was located. The sanctuary was dedicated to the fostering of the cult of the goddess Cybele – Great Mother (*Magna Mater*) – Great Mother of the

Gods – Cybele, as evidenced by a *fossa sanguinis* (a blood drain pit), a kind of underground baptistery, the crypt where the initiation into the mystery of this deity was performed. The initiate into the mysteries in honour of Cybele and her companion Attis, the god of vegetation, was to ritually die to be reborn as a convert, one who is versed in the secrets of the cult. This act was symbolically performed in the way that novices would go down into the pit, an underground shrine, in order to be sprinkled with the blood of a sacrificed bull through the grate from above. This ritual guaranteed eternal life. The would-be devotees of the orgiastic cult of the goddess (mystic) would stand in the underground sanctuary, the pit, waiting to be sprinkled through the iron bars with the blood of a white bull slain at the altar in front of the temple. Sprinkled with the blood of the sacred animal, a replacement for former human sacrifices, which symbolised the self-sacrifice of Cybele's companion and lover Attis, the initiates experienced ecstasy and enlightenment, which would bring them the secrets of the goddess's cult and make them her priests. In the Roman sacrificial rite, there was a hierarchy of sacrificial animals, and sacrificing a bull was considered the greatest consecration.

The direct link between the cult of this eastern goddess and the Emperor was established by Galerius's mother, who might have been a Cybele priestess herself, who, after her death and apotheosis, as Diva Romulus, was to be celebrated in this temple. In this way, the temple in the northern part of Romuliana can be closely conceptually and ideologically linked to Romula's mausoleum and consecration monument on Magura. The role of Romula in Galerius's life and her influence on him were undoubtedly strong. Historical sources, unfortunately, provide almost no information about Romula's role in the government, nor do they tell us anything about her appearance. The temple itself was made entirely from grey stone, a local kind of andesite – gamzigradite, from quarries in the immediate vicinity of the palace, which is still in use today.

The large temple was a monumental building which occupied a prominent place in the spatial structure of Gamzigrad. What makes this temple closer to the temples constructed in the eastern provinces of the Empire than to a classical Roman temple is the double crypt. This temple could have been dedicated to Jupiter and Hercules, i.e., Diocletian and Galerius as their earthly doubles. Perhaps the sculptures of these two deities, parts of which were found in the area in front of the temple, adorned its interior: the head of Jupiter, the colossal statue of the supreme deity, and the head of Hercules, the greatest Greek (Heracles) and Roman (Hercules) hero. After his death and apotheosis, Galerius was to be celebrated in this temple, which directly associates this structure with Galerius's mausoleum and the consecration monument on Magura Hill.

The Great Temple, related to man, light and the solar principle, was entirely covered with white marble, which, with its impressive size, made it a dominant building of the palace complex in Gamzigrad.

The Entrance Hall – vestibulum of the palace, had its entire floor area covered with a mosaic made up of two lateral and central mosaic carpets. The side carpets were made of diagonally placed octagons, filled with a variety of patterns. Even the seemingly identical motifs varied in colour. The central mosaic carpet was slightly narrower than the side ones, but chromatically was the richest one. It consisted of a series of square and rectangular panels, of which several were composed of swastikas in different combinations and different degrees of elaboration, oriented from east to west. In the middle of this central mosaic carpet there was an almost square panel with a representation of the *Labyrinth*, now kept in the National Museum in Zaječar.

From the wide entrance on the western side to the semicircular apse at the eastern side, there

extended a long mosaic carpet, composed of eleven panels with scenes from a hunt. These mosaic panels focused attention on a raised alcove, which was probably designed for a statue of colossal size. In the south-eastern corner of this room was a staircase leading to an octagonal room. The door to the staircase of the room was facing two large mosaic panels, **Venatores**, and a leaping **Leopard**, which are now located in the National Museum in Zaječar. This means that the two scenes in their entirety could be viewed from the staircase. Under the floor of the octagonal room a hypocaust system was designed, which heated the room. The octagonal room could have been some kind of a changing room for the Emperor, before his appearance and audience in the Triclinium.

A large state room was located practically in the middle of the palace. It was through this hall that the communication between the northern and southern tracts of the palace was realised. The access hall of the palace in Early Byzantine times was converted into a Christian church. Possibly two partially superposed basilicas were built in it, the first of which (Basilica II) probably dates from the 5th century, and the second, with a trefoil Baptistery (Basilica III), belongs to the period of the restoration of Emperor Justinian I, in the first half of the 6th century.

Sacral complex on Magura Hill

On Magura Hill, about 1 km from the main gate of Romuliana, was a sacral complex: two mausoleums, Galerius's and Romula's, and two consecration monuments shaped as giant tumuli. These gigantic cones with a stone sub wall marked the place where, for the last time in the Roman world, the rite of apotheosis was performed, by which the Emperor and his mother, after their death, ascended to the gods. During archaeological excavations, the remains of military equipment burnt together with a wax doll of

this great military leader, the victor over the Persians, were found in Galerius's tumulus. In the mother empress's tumulus were discovered the remains of gilded silverware. Also, next to the half wall of Romula's tumulus, a pantry with 99 coins from a later time (end of the 4th to the beginning of the 5th century) were found.

Galerius's selection of his place for eternal rest was not random. That Magura had represented the Holy Hill, **Mons Sacer**, since ancient times is evidenced by the discovery of a necropolis from the Bronze Age lying under the sacral complex. It is here that, some 3,500 years ago, members of an ancient culture were buried. This collective memory of the "holy place" is still alive among the local population. Locals from the Serbian village of Zvezdan, on whose territory Magura Hill is located, and their neighbours, Vlachs from the village of Gamzigrad, have lit candles here for years.

The temples in the northern and southern part of Gamzigrad Palace are closely linked in concept and ideology to the monuments on Magura. Galerius, God on earth, after his death, was officially deified on Magura and, like a god, **Divus**, was to be worshipped in the temple in the southern part of Romuliana, along with his divine stepfather Diocletian. Accordingly, Galerius's mother, as **Diva Romula**, would be worshipped in the temple in the northern part of Romuliana. At about 200 m north-west of the complex on Magura, in Galerius's time, a monumental tetrapylon rose, a t of the transition from the earthly to the divine world.



MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

An archivolt with the inscription **FELIX ROMULIANA** was excavated in 1984 as irrefutable proof that Gamzigrad really is Romuliana, an endowment which Emperor Galerius built at the place where he was born. This monument was found in the south-western tract of Romuliana, in building E (the so-called "Romula's Triclinium"). The inscription field is circular, framed by a laurel wreath flanked by peacocks. The relief decoration on the archivolt with the inscription **Felix Romuliana** confirms that the first word in the inscription has a religious or purely ideological meaning, that it expresses a consecration of persons and places associated with them and points to something eternal and sacred.



A pilaster with representations of the tetrarchs in medallions decorated the main gate of the younger fortification of Romuliana, where it was discovered. On its front, this monument bore not only the first reliably dated representation of the tetrarchs but also the first comprehensive visual display of the hierarchy of the Tetrarchy. The medallions of military ensigns (**signum**) display all members of the Jupiter family, in couples, strictly hierarchical: the person shown on the left, the honorary side, occupies a higher position in the hierarchy than the one on the right. In the medallion, which is in the form of an ensign, both figures are simply dressed in a robe and cloak, while the figures shown in

the central medallion and the medallion at the top of the ensign are wrapped in paludamenta, attached to the right shoulder with a precious buckle. On the basis of these iconographic characteristics it can be reliably established that the figures shown on the medallions are the tetrarchs, namely: on the first medallion are the Augusti who, in 305, withdrew from the throne (**seniores Augusti**) – Diocletian (on the left) and Maximianus Herculus (on the right), while the remaining two medallions display the then incumbent Augustus with the Caesars Galerius (on the left) and Maximinus Daia (on the right), Constantius Chlorus (on the left) and Severus II (on the right). Such a display of Jupiter's family members could have originated only in 305 or 306, because by the end of 306 or early in 307 Maximianus Herculus reaffirmed himself as the reigning Augustus, which seriously jeopardised the system of Tetrarchy.



The **Porphyry head of Galerius**, can be dated from 303 onwards, as it was in November of that year that Galerius was crowned in Rome with a laurel wreath for his great victory over the Persians in 298, which unofficially made him the leading figure in the Empire. If we perceive Galerius's head and the left hand holding the globe as a part of one sculpture, the iconography of this representation is completely clear: Galerius is presented as Pantocrator, the ruler of the entire universe. The porphyry head of Galerius is part of a unique imperial portrait with a display of a triumphant crown and the busts of all four rulers. Its significance is emphasised by the number of exhibitions in the world in which this extraordinary work of Late Roman art was displayed (Trier, Venice, Rome, etc.).

ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MANAGE EXCAVATIONS

The National Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, Belgrade, has been responsible for all the reconstruction and conservation works at the site and for issuing general and special conditions ever since the archaeological excavations were initiated in 1959, together with the Institute of Archaeology of Serbia. The National Museum in Zaječar is responsible for the archaeological excavations, the organisation of work at the site, its infrastructure and sustainable tourism.

The National Museum in Zaječar has been a member of DCC since 2013 and participated in the Roman Emperors and the Danube Wine Route projects.

TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE SITE AND TRAVEL TIME FROM NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Visitors can fly into either Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport or Niš Airport. There are regular bus services from both cities to Zaječar Central Bus Station. From Zaječar, Felix Romuliana is only 11 km away.

If travelling by car, in terms of traffic, the position of the site is very good. Two important international routes pass through Zaječar, part of Corridor X from Paraćin via Zaječar to Vidin, in Bulgaria, and Niš to Zaječar, then Negotin, Kladovo and Romania.

PRINTED MATERIALS, BROCHURES, VR AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION DEVICES

From May 2015, visitors to Felix Romuliana have been able to use a mobile application in order to discover how citizens of the Roman Empire socialised and presented themselves to Emperor Galerius, through an interactive game "Present yourself to Emperor Galerius". The idea for the game was based on all rituals and steps that a citizen of the Roman Empire had to pass, before having the opportunity to meet Emperor Galerius himself. After downloading the application, a visitor who wants to take the role of an archaeologist starts playing the game from the main gate. By using Bluetooth low energy powered beacons, a variety of content is displayed that helps visitors reach the desired locations on the site, leading them through the whole process of meeting the Emperor.

With local guidance at the site, together with audio guides and the interactive game, we can offer an advanced tourist experience with completely new content for foreign and domestic tourists.

The imperial site of Felix Romuliana has an Interactive Multimedia Visitor Centre, established with the financial aid of the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, in July 2016. Partners in this international project were the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, as the contractor, and DCC as the subcontractor. The project included the restoration and adaptation of three towers that belong to the older fortification, as well as a depot for

decorative plastics storage. Visitors have the opportunity, through a system of holographic projections, interactive panels and 3D animations, using the latest technology, to experience Roman architecture in the most interactive and interesting way.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND CATERING NEAR THE SITE

Where to stay

Garni Hotel Hamburg
Address: Svetozara Markovića 1,
Zaječar 19000, Srbija
Info@hotelhamburg.rs

Hotel Srbija TIS
Nikole Pašića BB
mojatisekipa@gmail.com

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

Mysterious Pyramid Mountain

The Black River basin, especially its mountainous area, is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Balkan Peninsula. Mount Rtanj greatly contributes to such an impression by peacefully rising from a broad base, and ending with the almost perfect pyramid-shaped Šiljak peak. There are numerous legends about Rtanj, as well as stories about aliens, a wizard's treasure, secret forces and miraculous therapeutic powers.

Leaders and rebels

The edifice of the old prison where rebels were imprisoned during the Timok Rebellion (1883) has been adapted into a museum

preserving the memories of that dramatic historical event. The rebellion was raised by the representatives of the People's Radical Party against the government of King Milan Obrenović, and upon the insistence of the later great Serbian politician Nikola Pašić. The government responded by declaring a state of emergency and introducing court-martial. In the Timok region, a great hero of the First Serbian Uprising, Hajduk Veljko, was born.

Sightseeing

The urban centre and Nikola Pašić Square, Zaječar
The Felix Romuliana Collection, the National Museum
The "Memorial of Nikola Pašić" Exhibition
The "Old Prison" Museum of the Timok Rebellion, Boljevac

Recreation and relaxation

Recreation in the forest-park of Kraljevica
Swimming at Popova plaža (Priest's Beach) and Sovinac Lake
Fishing on Grliško and Sovinac lakes
Mountaineering and mountain biking on the paths of Rtanj
A break in the forest-park of Julius Minh's family
A weekend at the "Rtanj" ethno centre
Balašević Gamzigrad Spa
Visiting Bogovinska Cave

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Zaječar (sub-destination)



Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport; Niš airport



From Belgrade and Niš to Zaječar Central Bus Station



Corridor X, Paraćin–Zaječar–Vidin (Bulgaria); Niš–Zaječar–Negotin–Kladovo–Romania

From the Felix Romuliana site visitors can travel to:

Romania

Drobeta Turnu Severin



To Craiova International Airport (www.aeroport-craiova.ro) and Timisoara International Airport (aerotim.ro/rs)



From Bucharest and Timisoara, train station address: Bd. Dunării 2



Daily buses from Bucharest, address: Strada Topolniței 5; from Belgrade



From Timisoara and Bucharest (DN6/E70); from Belgrade via Kladovo (Route 34)

Serbia

Kladovo (HUB)



Main airport, Belgrade (www.beg.aero/en/home), closest airport, Niš (nis-airport.com/en)



From Belgrade and Niš to Kladovo Central Bus Station, address: Ive Lole Ribara bb



From Belgrade via Golubac and Donji Milavac (Route 34), or Zaječar (A1/E75); from Bucharest via Drobeta Turnu Severin (DN6/E70), then (E771/R35)

Negotin



Main airport, Belgrade (www.beg.aero/en/home), closest airport, Niš (nis-airport.com/en)



Daily from Belgrade and Niš; Saturday service from Negotin to Vidin (BUL)



From Belgrade via Zaječar (A1 then E761), or Kladovo (Route 34)

Niš



Plane

Airport Constantine the Great
(nis-airport.com/en)



Train

From Belgrade train station or from Sofia to Niš railway station, address: Dimitrija Tucovića bb



Bus

Regular buses from Belgrade and Zaječar to Niš bus station, address: Bulevar 12. februara



Car

From Belgrade (E75); from Zaječar (E761, A1/E75)

Bulgaria

Vidin



Bus

Regular buses from Sofia to Vidin; Saturday service from Negotin bus station, address: Zheleznicharska 2



Car

From Sofia (Route 81); from Negotin (Route 33)

Belogradchik



Bus

Daily from Sofia Central Bus Station to Belogradchik (4 hours); from Vidin (50 km to the north)



Train

Sofia Central Railway Station – Vidin line (Oreshets stop, 10 km east of Belogradchik), then regular buses and taxi service to Belogradchik



Car

From Vidin (Route 102 and 1);
from Sofia (Route 1)

TOURISTIC POTENTIAL OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF TIMACUM MINUS AND THE ARCHAEO- ETHNO PARK IN THE VILLAGE OF RAVNA

Vidin Area /
North-West Region

Zaječar

Knjaževac

Belogradchik

7

7

8

9

Timacum Minus and its surroundings are positioned on the Roman road Via Militaris, between the very important Roman sites of Mediana (Niš) and Felix Romuliana (Zaječar), and near a variety of Roman sites in the Danube area in Serbia and Bulgaria, on the slopes of the Stara Planina mountain. Together with the nearby Archaeo-Ethno Park open-air museum complex in Ravna, both of which are overseen by the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac, Timacum Minus represents one of the most important resources for the development of cultural tourism.

BASIC KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE SITE – DATES, CAPACITY, PURPOSE

The archaeological site of Timacum Minus is designated as a Cultural Property of Great Significance, according to the Decision of the Serbian National Assembly adopted in 1979 and its protection is defined by the National Law on Cultural Monuments.

As such, it is recognised as an archaeological site with preserved remains of architecture, fortification walls, towers and graves with movable artefacts from the Roman and Late Antique period, and with characteristics that are of great cultural and historical significance for the wider region, testifying to the historical, social, cultural and economic conditions and development in a certain period. Its protection is defined by the National Law on Cultural Monuments.

It is recognised as the oldest military fortification in the Timok region. Timacum Minus (lat. Timacum – the Timok, hydronym; lat. minus – “smaller”) was built in the fertile valley of the Beli Timok, close to the edges of the Balkan Mountains, in the

vicinity of the village of Ravna, 8 km north of Knjaževac. It is located in the place where the Roman roads to the Danube, the Morava region and the Adriatic Sea crossed, in the territory of the Roman province of Upper Moesia (lat. Moesia Superior). The specific position and location in the river valley provided favourable conditions for the development of the settlement throughout the entire ancient period.

Epigraphic inscriptions interpreted by Prof. Petrović confirm that Timacum Minus was also an important administrative centre for the wider region, with the settlement reaching its peak in the ancient period, and it represented a significant mining and metallurgical centre. The first earthen fortification with wooden towers on the corners and a palisade, surrounded by a defensive trench (fossa), was probably built at the end of the 1st century and served to accommodate the cohort of Thracians from Syria (*cohors I Thracum Syriaca*).

According to the results of the conducted research of the site, the first fortification was built of solid materials, stone and river pebbles bonded by mortar, and was raised at the end of the 2nd century AD. It served as the accommodation for the cohort of Dardani (*cohors II Aurelia Dardanorum*) and was characterised by corner towers built on the interior side of the rampart.

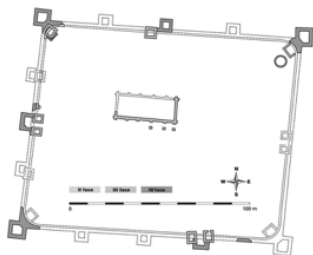
Phase III of the structure dates from the 3rd century. In this phase the ramparts were built of grey sandstone blocks and “spolia”, architectural marble elements from older structures and gravestones. Based on the archaeological finds it is considered that the fortification in this phase was defended by 16 to 20 towers.

The last renewal of the fortification occurred at the end of the 4th century when the new fortification with an enforced rampart and protruded towers was constructed in the *opus mixtum* technique, using stone and bricks. The existing gates were closed by the newly built towers, whereas from the existing rampart a new 2 metre wide gate was made.

SIZE OF THE SITE AND TYPE OF TERRAIN

The fortification was built on relatively flat terrain. Its base is rectangular, with dimensions of 144 x 112 m, and a total area of about 2 ha. Conducted archaeological research of the site revealed many centuries of settling, starting in prehistory to the Middle Ages. The Roman fortress of Timacum Minus is the only military base in the ancient Roman mining regions in Serbia subjected to archaeological investigation in modern times, which has substantially preserved architectural remains.

From the preserved descriptions and plans it can be concluded that the dominant position was occupied by the fortification with high, well-preserved ramparts and towers. According to the research of the site archaeologist Prof. Petar Petrović and Svetozar Jovanović, a civil settlement was developed with residential buildings, villas, temples and *thermae* in the immediate vicinity of the fortification. Valuable data about the residents of this settlement is provided by numerous finds from the nearby necropolis of Slog. Some of these artefacts are today exhibited in the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac.



The fortification served as a camp for a Roman auxiliary unit – a cohort. It was able to accommodate from 500 to 1,000 soldiers, infantry and cavalry. It was reconstructed on several occasions and the phases of those works can be seen on its walls. It was devastated several times in barbaric invasions from the middle of 3rd to the middle of 5th century.

ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MANAGE EXCAVATIONS

The first systematic research of Timacum Minus started in 1975 (Dr Petar Petrović, the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade and Svetozar Jovanović, the Homeland Museum in Knjaževac). In parallel with the archaeological research, the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Niš have systematically implemented the conservation works with the aim of presenting the site to visitors and professionals.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Philosophy in Ljubljana, the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade and the Homeland Museum in Knjaževac carried out the first geomagnetic recordings of the fortification.

In 1991, the research was realised within the framework of the project of international cooperation YU–U.S.A. "Metallurgy and military organization at Roman Ravna". The associates from the U.S. side were from the Universities of Michigan and Albany. The research was focused on the sector of the central building and the inside of the fortification.

In the period from 1994 to 1996, the first protective excavations were performed during

the reconstruction of the Ravna-Debelica local road. On the nearby hill called Slog, a late Roman and medieval necropolis were discovered. Along with the exploration of the Ravna necropolis, excavations of the southern gate of the fortification (*porta praetoria*) were also conducted.

Due to the successful cooperation of the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade, the Homeland Museum in Knjaževac and the Roman-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute from Frankfurt on Main, in 2010, a geophysical prospecting of the site was carried out. Significant data was obtained that will influence further research plans for Timacum Minus.

During 2013 and 2014 the protective explorations of the Slog necropolis were continued. The archaeological excavations of this Late Antique and early medieval necropolis have yielded precious findings. was made using the opus mixtum technique with the use of stone and bricks. The existing gates were closed by the newly built towers and next to existing rampart a new one, 2 metres wide, was constructed.

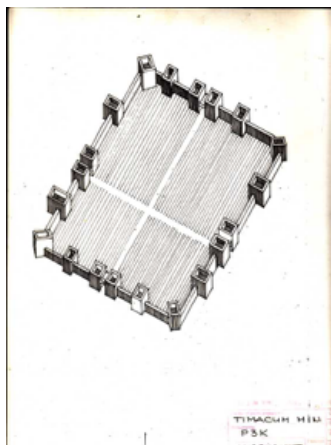


Fig. 4 Possible reconstruction of the fortification of Timacum Minus, by Sima Gušić

MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEO- LOGICAL REMAINS

According to the overview of the archaeological surveys and research phases edited by the archaeologist Bojana Iljić, senior curator of the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac, several objects have been excavated from the interior of the fortification.

The object excavated in the central part apparently served as a granary (*horreum*). Next to it were the headquarters buildings (*principia*) for the accommodation of military administration, a temple with military insignia and the treasury.



Fig. 5 Possible reconstruction of the southern gate, by Gordana Milošević

The most interesting part of the fortification is the southern gate (*porta praetoria*) with the necessary well-preserved elements for a reconstruction. It was made partly of monumental sandstone blocks in the drywall technique, which indicates that it was built by local masons. This part of the fortification has a strong potential and the necessary elements for a reconstruction, and this should be one of the future goals, along with its presentation.

In the north-eastern corner of the fortification a circular archaeo-metallurgical object was discovered (*cisterna?*) with a circular pool

in the middle, 6 metres in diameter. Based on preliminary archaeo-metallurgical analyses of the samples, according to the research professor Dragana Živković, it can be assumed that the object served for the flotation of ores and the separation of silver and gold.

To the northeast of the fortification there was a Roman bath (*Thermae I*) built in the 2nd century and restored in the 4th century. It rested on a system of pillars between which hot air from the furnace (*prefurnium*) circulated and evenly heated all the rooms. The entrance was on the eastern side and it served as a changing room (*apodyterium*). Next to it there was a mildly heated room (*tepidarium*) and two more intensely heated rooms (*caldarium*) connected to the furnace (*hypocaustum*), and also a cold bath (*frigidarium*) with a smaller pool.

To the southwest of the fortification there is a structure with a floor heating system, a hypocaust (*Thermae II?*), which has not yet been fully explored.

A civilian settlement (*vicus*) developed next to the military camp, the residents of which were soldiers' families, craftsmen and traders. Archaeological research has confirmed the existence of temples dedicated to various Roman deities – Jupiter, Mars, the goddess Diana and the oriental deity Mitra.

The fortification of Timacum Minus was destroyed in a fire in the middle of the 5th century and the layer of burnt remains that was discovered bore witness to the end of life in this fortification, most likely as a result of the Hun invasion of the territory of the Roman Empire in the year 441.

Necropolis

Detailed research and archaeological surveys of the necropolis near the village of Ravna and the archaeological site of Timacum Minus were con-

ducted by the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade, led by the archaeologist Sofija Petković, PhD.

According to the research results, traces of the oldest necropolis of the period from the 1st to the 3rd century were discovered to the west of the fortification at the site of Slog. At this site, part of a Late Antique necropolis from the second half of the 4th and the first half of the 5th century has been explored. The necropolis of the inhabitants of Timacum Minus from the 2nd–3rd century has not yet been explored, but its tombstones have been preserved. At the Slog site, in the layer above the ancient necropolis, the remains of a medieval graveyard from the 9th–10th century have been discovered. The archaeological material found in the necropolis indicates that Slavic people were buried in it.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Homeland Museum of Knjaževac is offering one of the possible models for the sustainable use of cultural heritage. The accepted concept is that the museum should represent an I.D. Card of Knjaževac, with a duty to educate a wide audience and develop further as an institution in the field of the protection of cultural heritage, but also to help the development and economic empowerment of the local community.

The restoration and conservation of the cultural monuments, especially the archaeological site of Timacum Minus, would help with the protection of cultural heritage but it would also support the development of cultural tourism, the local community and the region. This is why the museum as an institution and other local and regional stake holders should work more on fund raising

for the restoration and conservation of the archaeological site of Timacum Minus.

Connecting heritage and telling stories is a model that the Knjaževac museum has used for a long time, due to the fact that it is in the border region, connecting several parts of Serbia, and on a specific cross-road of the Balkan region. This approach is used not only for education but also for the interpretation and promotion of cultural and touristic potentials. The revitalisation of both intangible and tangible heritage is one of the most important tasks for the museum, but also for the community, since it affords an opportunity for development and economic growth. On the other hand, the promotion of cultural heritage and advocacy for its preservation and sustainable use are basic steps that need to be taken in order to provide conditions for sustainable development.

TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE SITE AND TRAVEL TIME FROM NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Location: Timok region, Eastern Serbia.

The archaeological site of Timacum Minus and the Archaeo-Ethno Park in the village of Ravna are located 8 km north of Knjaževac.

Connections:

By plane – Niš airport (60 km); Belgrade airport (300 km); Sofia airport (BG, 165 km)

By bus or train – buses and trains connect Zaječar, Knjaževac and Niš, but the timetable should be checked in advance.

By car – 2 km from the main state road 35 I B class from Zaječar to Niš, between the important Roman sites of Mediana (Niš) and

Felix Romuliana (Zaječar), and relatively close to several Roman sites in the Danube area in Serbia and Bulgaria, on the slopes of the Stara Planina mountain.

From Zaječar 36.6 km following the main state road 35 I B class.

From Niš 66.8 km following the main state road 35 I B class.

From Pirot (75.4 km) 221, or 222 via Svrlijig and the village of Kalna, and 223 via Bela Palanka and the village of Kalna.

Local taxis are available with an average one way price from Knjaževac of around 5 EUR.

Connecting bike routes: EuroVelo 6 – Novi Sad–Belgrade–Djerdap National Park–Negotin via Zaječar to Knjaževac; EuroVelo 11; EuroVelo 13

<http://www.eurovelo.com/en/cycling-in/serbia>

VISITING CONDITIONS: TICKETS, WORKING HOURS, GUIDES (LANGUAGES) ON SITE

The Archaeo-park in Ravna is open on work days from 08:00–16:00, and holidays and weekends by prior arrangement.

Tickets are 100 RSD per person.

The archaeological site Timacum Minus is open every day of the year without any specific working times. However, there are some recommendations regarding specific seasons and safety issues. There is no entrance fee. Additionally, there is a free Android application "Timacum Minus" that can be downloaded free from the Google Play Store and there are also interactive interpretation boards in Serbian, English and German.

<http://www.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/en/useful-informations/visit-us>

PRINTED MATERIALS, BROCHURES, VR AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION DEVICES

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, through a regional programme to strengthen the cross-border tourism of the Middle and Lower Danube, together with the Danube Competence Centre, have supported the project for the improvement of the interpretation and presentation of the archaeological site of Timacum Minus and the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna.

The results of the implemented project are: a free Android application Timacum Minus, developed and designed by the ArchiMedia Group (The Faculty of Electronics, Niš), which can be downloaded from the Google Play Store, interpretative interactive boards placed at the site, interactive informative totems in the park, museum facilities and in Knjaževac, QR codes and a brochure in Serbian, English and German.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND CATERING NEAR THE SITE

For accommodation, please visit:
http://obrazovnaavantura.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/images/english_translation/accommodation_facilities.pdf

<http://www.visiteastserbia.rs/gradovi/knjazevac>

<http://www.toknjazevac.org.rs/en/#>

For accommodation, please visit:
http://obrazovnaavantura.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/images/english_translation/accommodation_facilities.pdf

<http://www.visiteastserbia.rs/gradovi/knjazevac>

<http://www.toknjazevac.org.rs/en/#>

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

The Archaeo-Ethno Park is located in Ravna, 8 km north of Knjaževac. The concept of the park is that of a kind of open-air museum associated with the start of systematic archaeological excavations of the late Roman site of Timacum Minus. It was opened in the late 1980s and has since attracted numerous visitors, expert teams, and domestic and foreign tourists.

The main idea of the archaeological part of the park is to present significant archaeological finds from the site of Timacum Minus within the archaeological exhibition in the school building and the Lapidarium and also to make visitors familiar with the history of archaeological research of the nearby site.

Additionally, one of the main ideas of the ethnological part of the park is to illustrate the ambience of a 19th century patriarchal village community with residential and commercial buildings as its parts.

The Ethno Park consists of a house from Gornja Kamenica, with a wine museum in the wine cellar in its basement, a house from Berčinovac, a barn from Beli Potok and a cauldron for brandy with a cherry wood pipe from Pričevac.

This method of exhibiting has given the opportunity to present the typical traditional architecture of the Knjaževac region and to connect visitors with items

exhibited in a very authentic environment. Visitors have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a traditional way of life, a typical household and some traditional architecture of the region.

Another traditional building, the house of the Gazdić family, from the village of Radičevac on the Stara Planina mountain, has been reconstructed in the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna. Here, there is a small conference hall and a tourist information centre with a souvenir shop and the chance for visitors to taste some traditional cuisine, brandy and wine of the Knjaževac region.

The Archaeo-Ethno Park, in addition to various educational and creative programmes and workshops, also offers accommodation and can host conferences, cultural, tourist and educational programmes and scientific and research camps.

Taste and experience

In the cellar of the "Big House" there is an exhibition space which depicts the wine production of this region. It contains tools used for the production and storage of wine (vessels, measuring cylinders, tools for processing grapes and the preparation of wine, a winery containing Knjaževac regional wines, etc.).

Based on Turkish sources, the region of Knjaževac had a special status and taxes within the Eyalet of Vidin (Rumelia), and it was during the period of Turkish rule that it became famous for its indigenous grape and wine varieties.

In the Archaeo-Ethno Park there is a well-equipped workshop space for traditional pottery, funded by UNICEF (through MDG Funds), the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Municipality

of Knjaževac, and the U.S. Embassy in Serbia, with the aim to preserve traditional crafts and to promote various aspects of the cultural heritage of the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

One of the first tasks is to raise funds for the conservation and presentation of Timacum Minus in order to protect and present an important Roman site as a part of the Roman Emperors Route and Danube Wine Route as certified European Cultural Routes. It is also important to enable further archaeological research and excavations in order to reveal more remains, data and artefacts.

Improvement of the infrastructure near the archaeological site (pedestrian trails, roads, etc.) and accommodation around Timacum Minus and in the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna will strongly affect the overall impression and the experience and emotions of visitors. With the new archaeological exhibition in the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna, opened in spring, the e-guide (Android application), the interpretative boards, totems and the collections exhibited in other museum facilities, the complete cultural and tourist offer will be improved.

Bike culture and bike cultural routes are also projects to be further developed in the Knjaževac region, together with pedestrian paths/trails, all supported by local gastronomy and wines. For these reasons, the continuation of co-operation between the museum and private wineries, restaurants, B&Bs is very important.

It is strongly believed that only in partnership, combined with a holistic approach that encompasses sustainability and strategic

planning for equal development and joint efforts in promotion, can the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac, the archaeological site of Timacum Minus and the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna become interesting and attractive stops on the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route and contribute to the tourist offer of the wider region.

Useful links:

<http://www.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/en/useful-informations/what-to-visit>

<http://www.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/en/useful-informations/knjazevac-and-its-surroundings>

<http://www.serbia.travel/destinations/villages/eastern-serbia.700.html>

http://www.visitserbia.org/english/english/destinations/by_regions/eastern_serbia/index.1.html

<http://www.traveleastsrbia.org/english/>

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Knjaževac



Plane

Nearest airport is Niš, then Sofia (BG), also Belgrade



Train

From Niš and from Zaječar; Knjaževac railway station, address: Branke Dinić bb



Bus

From Zaječar (40 km), from Niš (60 km), from Belgrade (via Zaječar or via Niš)



Car

From Zaječar and from Niš



Bicycle

Cycle routes: EuroVelo 6 – Novi Sad–Belgrade–Djerdap National Park–Negotin via Zaječar to Knjaževac; EuroVelo 11; EuroVelo 13

HISTORICAL VIGNETTE: THE LAST ROMAN OFFENSIVE – TRAJAN'S CONQUEST OF DACIA

One of the greatest Roman emperors, Trajan (98–117), visited Pannonia and Moesia after his predecessor's death in 98; he was presumably assessing logistics on the Danube frontiers for more punitive expeditions against the Dacians. Later, for the first Dacian War (101–102), his headquarters was probably at the RER site of Viminacium. The First Dacian War ended a peace treaty between Trajan and the Dacian king Decebalus. Later, a second outbreak of Dacian raids into Roman territory occasioned the presence of the Emperor Trajan once again to command a massive military build-up and invasion of Dacia (modern Romania), north of the Danube. The Second Dacian War (105–106) resulted in the Roman annexation of Dacia and the creation of three new Roman provinces north of the Danube. In the aftermath of the war, the victory monument at the RER site of Adamklissi (Tropaeum Traiani) was erected and the Roman colony at the RER site of Colonia Ulpia at Sarmizegetusa was founded.

During the First Dacian War, the future emperor Hadrian was on Trajan's general staff and was presumably headquartered at the RER site of Viminacium (Kostolac, Serbia) in Upper Moesia. Prior to this assignment he had commanded a legion in Lower Moesia stationed at the RER site of Oescus (Gigen, Bulgaria), under Emperor Domitian.

The great Danube bridge crossing the river at Kostol (Pontes) to Turnu Severin (Drobeta) was built in the interval between the two Dacian wars; it was known as one of the engineering wonders of the ancient world. The design was by Trajan's famous architect Apollodorus of Damascus and it is located on the RER in the Djerdap region near Kladovo in Serbia and Turnu Severin (Drobeta) in Romania.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SITE APULUM (ROMANIA)

Alba Iulia

11

Sarmizegetusa

10

6

Kladovo and Drobeta
Turnu Severin

BASIC KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE SITE – DATES, CAPACITY, PURPOSE, SIZE OF THE SITE AND TYPE OF TERRAIN

Known as the city of the three fortifications, Alba Iulia has a particularly interesting archaeological heritage which is varied and extremely important for Romania's national history. The location of the village itself, on the right bank of the river Mures, at the confluence of two major rivers (Ampoiului and Sebes), have provided optimum conditions for a special development of human habitation ever since the Stone Age, with the onset of urban life immediately after the conquest of Dacia and the transformation of the Roman province (the beginning of the 2nd century AD).

Due to the secure control of traffic in the Mures Valley (ancient Maris) and the golden area of the Apuseni Mountains, after the second war with the Dacians, led by King Decebal, the Roman emperor Trajan decided to deploy to Apulum (Latin name of Alba Iulia, coming from the Dacian settlement of Apoulon) a Roman legion, which of course raised a legionary camp.

Deployed at Vindobona (Vienna), Legio XIII Gemina, which participated in both Daco-Roman wars, set up camp at Apulum, where the foundation is located on a plateau that slopes gently from west to east on the third natural balcony of the Mures. The first phase was the phase of the timber camp, containing a fortification mound, a palisade and wooden towers, which was

built in Apulum around the year 107 AD (under Trajan), although further technical details are not known at this stage. A camp with a stone wall was probably built under Emperor Hadrian, around 125 AD, important elements of which were studied at several times between 1982–1998 (porta principalis dextra) and 2011–2012 (via principalis and the headquarters building – the principia of the camp). The approximate dimensions of the camp are 480 m x 432 m (and hence an area of about 21 hectares), with the longer sides to the north and south.

Apulum was the main Roman city in the Dacia Province. High on the bank of the largest river here – the ancient Maris (now Mures), it became the seat of Legio XIII Gemina (between 107 and 268 AD).

The Roman site of Apulum is extremely complex, its dimensions and morphological characteristics being particularly important for the research and deciphering of Daco-Roman archaeology.

Thus, the first Roman settlement was situated in the Mures plain, right on the bank of the river, where a river port also developed, from which the products exploited in Dacia, gold, silver and salt, were transported on the water. From this first vicus, the Roman city, raised to the rank of municipium by Marcus Aurelius, was later developed, so that under Commodus it was already mentioned as a colonia. The area of this city was impressive – around 40 hectares.

The Roman camp, on the other hand, was placed on the high terrace of the Mures, on an area of about 21 hectares, providing classic fortification elements: gate and house towers, an enclosure wall, vallum and fossa. It held a medium sized legion camp (about 21 hectares), which was established here

by Legio XIII Gemina, brought from Vindobonna, and relocated after 268–274 to Poetovio / Ptuj (in Slovenia).

The second Roman city of Apulum developed from cannabae placed around the Roman camp and, under Septimius Severus, this settlement was raised to the rank of municipium (Septimium Apulense), then in the middle of the 3rd century it was raised to the rank of colonia.

The Roman urban centre of Apulum had an estimated population of 35,000–40,000 inhabitants in the 2nd–3rd century, being the most important in Roman Dacia. Romanian historiography has accepted and sustained the idea that in the chosen place, this fortress of Apulum constituted the nucleus of Dacia's defence system and it became the most important urban centre of the province.

The necropolises of the city were placed on high terraces at the exits / entrances to the two urban settlements. Funerals in the city took place in two large necropolises (one of about 1,160 graves, and the largest of which has over 1,600 graves, but this has only been about 25% excavated), and two smaller groups of graves, which could be small cemeteries, placed on the edge of the former municipium Aurelium Apulense. The Governor's Palace occupies a vast area of more than 13 hectares, and was investigated especially at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 20th century, by Bela Cserni.

The cult of Mithras is attested to in Apulum by the epigraphic mention of 5 temples, two of which have already been archaeologically researched.

FAMOUS PEOPLE RELATED TO THE SITE

Adalbert Cserni – the founder of the Alba Iulia Museum, at the end of the 19th century, tried to provide the first information about the fortress after he identified it during modern town planning works, discovering parts of the enclosure wall and inscriptions concerning the fortress and Legio XIII Gemina, as well as countless stamped tiles.

Other famous specialists who mention antiquities from Apulum, were Theodor Mommsen, Alexandru Borza, Ion Berciu, Alexandru Popa and Vasile Moga.

However, the first archaeologist who inferred that the plan of the Roman fortress could be recognised from the route of the enclosure wall of the medieval fortress was Mircea Rusu, from Cluj-Napoca.

MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Porta principalis dextra (research 1986–1995, restoration 2006–2010) is on the southern side of the fortress. It essentially comprises two arched passageways, set slightly back from the rampart face; the width of the gate together with the towers is 24.50 m; the width of the gate is 10.37 m; the width of the passageways are 4.10 m (east) and 4.21 m (west). Between 1986 and 1995, also due to modern town planning work and systematic excavations, new information was obtained about some elements of the enclosure wall on its southern side (the stone wall, the turf wall – agger, via sagularis) and the gate on the

same side, which later proved to be the porta principalis dextra.

Principia and **Via principalis** from the Roman camp of Apulum: The remains of the Principia building and of the Via Principalis road, along with other artefacts, were discovered in 2011, during the restoration works performed in the citadel of Alba Iulia. In 2013–2014, following these discoveries, an archaeological site museum was built – the Principia Museum, currently the property of the Municipality of Alba Iulia. The new edifice was built as a metal structure, with glass walls, in order to protect the archaeological vestiges inside. In the exterior courtyard, the exhibition also includes a small lapidarium, together with remains preserved and restored in situ. Roman monuments dedicated by the soldiers of Legio XIII Gemina to various deities of the Roman pantheon or the imperial Roman cult from the 2nd and 3rd centuries can be observed in the courtyard. There are also construction elements displayed in the lapidarium (capitals, column bases, columns and stone blocks), from recent or older archaeological research conducted in the Apulum Roman camp.

Principia – Legio XIII Gemina's command building was located approximately in the centre of the camp, closer to the eastern gate. A part of it, recently discovered (2011), can be visited within the Principia Museum, along with other monuments and objects from the Roman period. The impressive size of the building (approx. 80 x 65 m) shows us that it occupied an area of over 5,000 m². The Principia building had four distinct parts, typical of Roman command buildings: the entrance (located on the east side), the inner uncovered courtyard (atrium), the covered courtyard (basilica) and the rear part of the building (oecus). Entry into the Principia was made through an imposing portal,

supported by columns, offering access to the inner courtyard. The atrium was a 50 x 50 m outdoor courtyard, paved with stone slabs, where several statues were probably displayed. Fragments of monuments dedicated to Emperor Caracalla and his mother Julia Domna, as well as fragments of military lists of Legio XIII Gemina were discovered in this area. The north and south sides of the atrium (called the scholae or armamentarium) consisted of several rooms that probably served as the headquarters of the legion's junior officers. To the west, the atrium was guarded by an open gallery with columns (portico), offering access to the basilica. The second inner courtyard, the basilica, measured 15 x 65 m. It had a double-pitched roof, supported by a system of wooden or stone columns. Access from the atrium was made through a portico and a few steps. Traces of a room were found on the southern side of the basilica. This was probably the legion's law court, where service orders and penalties for unruly soldiers were read out every morning. The rear part of the building (named the oecus), the most important in the entire ensemble, was composed of 7 rooms. The central chamber was the sacred room (aedes), where Legio XIII Gemina's flags, insignia and Roman emperor statues were kept. The sacred room had a majestic entrance, supported by four columns, called tetrastylus. The symbol of the legion was the lion, but there were also representations of the imperial eagle found on various other ensigns. One example is a piece done in marble, using the high-relief technique (altorelief), representing an eagle with open wings and plumage in high relief, which supports an ornamental frieze. In the basement of the flag room, there was the treasury chamber (aerarium), a room made using massive stone blocks, with brick paving. Inside this room, the wealth of the legion was safely deposited on wooden shelves. The money was required for the soldiers' salaries

and for administrative and military activities. Next to the central chamber were the offices for the administrative activities of the legion: the state archive rooms, managed by the legion's commanders, and military and administrative offices. Behind the Principia building, evidence of a portico, which would have existed along with it, was discovered.

Via Principalis was the main thoroughfare that crossed the camp from north to south, connecting the main gates, Porta Principalis Dextra and Porta Principalis Sinistra. The road passed in front of the legion's command building (Principia), where it crossed the Via Praetoria – the road coming from Porta Praetoria, situated in the east. Via Principalis was paved with large stone slabs and, along its sides, was a typical portico – an open, covered gallery, supported by columns, which stretched along the roadside buildings. In order to ensure road drainage, the road was provided with a brick channel, located in the centre of the road and two lateral gutters along its length. A part of the Via Principalis road was researched during excavations in recent years. The site can be visited, being located on the current Mihai Viteazul Street, close to the Principia. The road's location coincides with the findings in the centre of the castrum and the traces of the southern gate, located on this road.

ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MANAGE EXCAVATIONS

Archaeological research at the Apulum Roman site is mainly conducted under the coordination and organisation of the National Museum of Alba Iulia Union (started at the end of the 19th century, but the main research was conducted from 1986 to 2012).

- The research team of the Alba Iulia Museum is one of the most important in the Romanian national museums (19 archaeologists, of which half are doctors in Roman archaeology, most of them dedicated to the Apulum site). Among the best known archaeologists in the Alba Iulia are Adalbert Cserni, Ion Berciu, Alexandru Popa and Vasile Moga, and from the active ones: Radu Ciobanu, Gabriel Rustoiu, Constantin Inel, Matei Drimborean, Radu Ota, G. Bounegru, Anca Timofan, Adrian Bolog and Ovidiu Oarga.
- University 1 Decembrie 1918 Alba Iulia is the second institution coordinating protective archaeological research at the Roman site of Apulum.
- The National History Museum of Transylvania in Cluj-Napoca and the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca are two prestigious institutions that have had and currently have archaeological research projects at the Apulum site. Archaeologists involved: Alexandru Diaconescu, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeţ, Nicolae Gudea, Ioan Piso, Mariana Egri, Cristian Găzdac and Felix Marcu.

MAIN DISCOVERED BUT STILL NOT EXCAVATED REMAINS

- Porta Praetoria – located in one of the elements of the current bastion fortification, is today underground;
- The Roman amphitheatre has not been located, there are only some assumptions about its existence on the western side of the old municipium Aurelium Apulense, in an area occupied today by the railway;



MYTHS AND LEGENDS CONNECTED WITH THIS SITE

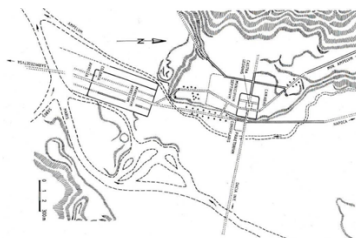
The legend of the founding of the Roman camp and Apulum related to the presence of Emperor Trajan. There is also a legend, strengthened by the assumption asserted by inscriptions, regarding Emperor Hadrian's visit to the city of Apulum around 124 AD. Caracalla's imperial visit was celebrated around 212 AD, alongside his mother, Iulia Domna, attested to by inscriptions discovered in 2011 in the area of the Principia.

Other legends mention the existence of a representation of the wolf with Romulus and Remus on the medieval gate of St. George, which replaced the former Porta Praetoria.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Research of Porta Praetoria and Porta Principalis Sinistra
- Archaeological park in the Roman town of Partos
- Restoration of the Governor's Palace and Apulum Mithraeum III
- Specialty museum infrastructure with heritage preservation
- Delimited and interactive trails, with direct connection between the objects of the Roman site of Apulum (internal circuits)
- Linking routes with Alburnus Maior, Potaissa, Napoca, Porolissum and Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa
- Continuous re-enactment activities, local community education, local and regional cultural marketing strategies
- Tourist infrastructure and connecting routes for promotion





Historical map with the location of the Roman site of Apulum (after Al. Diaconescu)



The location of the Roman camp and the second Roman city of Apulum (after I. Piso)

TOURIST INFORMATION ABOUT THE APULUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Transport access to the site and travel time from nearby destinations

- Nearby airports: Cluj-Napoca (100 km/2 hrs), Sibiu (70 km/1 hr), Târgu Mures (120 km/2 hrs)
- Train station: Alba Iulia train station (10 min.)
- Bus station: Alba Iulia bus station (10 min.)

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

Principia Museum, Citadel Place/Union Street
Programme operation: Mon: Closed; Tue–Sun:
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: adults – 10 RON; children, students and seniors – 5 RON

Guides: Romanian, English, Italian and Hungarian

The National Museum of the Unification, 12–14 Mihai Viteazul Street

Programme operation: Mon: Closed; Tue–Sun:
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: adults – 10 RON; children, students and seniors – 5 RON

Guides: Romanian, English, French and Hungarian

The Three Fortifications' Route, 13 Militari Street

Programme operation: Mon: Closed; Tue–Sun:
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: adults – 10 RON; children, students and seniors – 5 RON

Guides: Romanian, English and Hungarian

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

- Principia Museum site: castrul-apulum.ro
- National Museum of Unification site: mnvai.ro
- Alba Iulia Travel Guide: turism.apulum.ro
- Visit Alba Iulia.App: viziteazaalbaiulia.ro
- Alba County Travel Guide: albaghid.wordpress.com
- e-albaulia apps: for android

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

2 hrs quick visit / 1 day full tour

Other attractions near the site (distance and access)

- The National Museum of the Unification: 12–14 Mihai Viteazul St
- St. Michael's Cathedral (built in 13th century): 21 Mihai Viteazul St
- The Cathedral for Coronation (15 Oct. 1922): 16 Mihai Viteazul St
- Bathyanem Library – 1 G. Bethlen St
- The Vauban Fortress of Alba Iulia – free access, open 24 hrs
- Apur Palace (16th century) – 5 G. Bethlen St
- Alburnus Maior – Roman gold mine, approx. 80 km

- Dacian Fortress of Căpâlna – approx. 30 km, free access

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

- Medieval Hotel: www.hotel-medieval.ro
- Cetate Hotel: alba.imparatulromanilor.ro
- Transilvania Hotel:
www.hoteltransilvania.eu/?lang=en
- Hotel Parc: www.hotelparc.ro
- Pub 13 restaurant – St. Capistrano Alley (near the third gate of Alba Carolina Citadel); www.pub13.ro
- Gavroche Restaurant – approx. 200 m from the western side of the citadel; restaurantgavroche.ro
- Restaurant Pizzeria Gothic – in the southern tower of the Alba Carolina Citadel; 10 St. Eugen de Savoia Alley

Other tourist attractions near the site

Unique re-enactment show

- The Guard of Alba Carolina Citadel – daily at 12 a.m., starting May 1st
- The Roman Guard of Apulum – every Friday at 7 p.m., starting May 1st
- The National Romanian Guard from 1st December 1918 – beginning in 2018
- Theodora Golf Club: theodoragolfclub.ro/en (10 km)
- "Dr Ioan Vlad" Dendrological Park – western side of Alba Iulia (5 km)

Closest city (population, number of tourist arrivals and overnights)

- **Sibiu** – approx. 150,000 population / approx. 142,800 tourist overnights (2016)
- **Cluj-Napoca** – approx. 410,000 population / approx. 100,400 tourist overnights (2016)
- **Alba Iulia** – approx. 75,000 population / approx. 77,000 tourist overnights (2014)

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Bucharest (HUB)

Plane

Henri Coanda International Airport (OTP) (www.BucharestAirports.ro); non-stop flights to Bucharest from most major European cities and the Middle East; connecting flights from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

Train

Daily trains from/to Athens, Belgrade, Budapest, Istanbul, Kiev, Moscow, Prague, Sofia, Ruse and Vienna; trains from/to Western European cities run via Budapest (www.RomaniaTourism.com/Transportation.html#ByTrain)

Bus

Bucharest bus terminal address: Șoseaua Alexandriei 164; intercity connections to Cluj-Napoca, Ploiesti and Brasov; international bus connections to Germany – Dusseldorf, Berlin and Munich; France – Paris, Marseille and Lyon; Switzerland – Zurich, Geneva and Lausanne, and 12 more European countries

Car

From Belgrade (SRB) (A1), or from Ruse (BG) (DJ503/DN5/E70/E85)

Alba Iulia (HUB and sub-destination)

Plane

Closest airports: Sibiu (SBZ) (www.sibuiairport.ro), Cluj-Napoca (CLJ) (www.airportcluj.ro), Targu Mures (TGM) (www.targumuresairport.ro)

Train

Central train station located approx. 1 mile southeast of Alba Iulia Citadel; direct trains from Bucharest and Timisoara

Bus

Alba Iulia bus station address: Str. Iasilor 94; daily domestic bus service from Bucharest and Timisoara

Car

From Bucharest to Alba Iulia (E81), or from Belgrade to Timisoara (E70), then to Sarmizegetusa (A1), then to Alba Iulia (A1)

Sarmizegetusa

Plane

Closest airports: Timisoara (150 km), Cluj-Napoca (200 km), Sibiu (153 km) and Belgrade (SRB) (275 km)

Train

Train stations in Caransebes and Hațeg

Bus

Regular buses from Caransebes and Hațeg

Boat

Harbours in Orșova (143 km) and Drobeta Turnu Severin (170 km)

Car

From Bucharest to Alba Iulia (E81), then from Alba Iulia to Sarmizegetusa (A1); from Belgrade to Timisoara (E70), then to Sarmizegetusa (A1)

Bicycle

No cycle paths, use secondary roads

Rosia Montana

Plane

Closest airports: Cluj-Napoca (135 km) and Sibiu (140 km)

THE ROMAN FORT OF SEXAGINTA PRISTA

Bucharest



Ruse / North – East
and Black Sea

13

10

12

Ruse

Svishtov

The town of Rousse is an old Bulgarian settlement, a port on the Danube. People settled near the river 7,000 years ago because it supplied them with a means of living, and this led to the town of Rousse, dating from the Chalcolithic Age, being formed. The discovered clay idols, patrons of life, are nowadays kept in the museum. The houses in the town were arranged in lines, and the streets were formed, oriented according to the directions of the world. This explains the specialists' reference to a proto-town that existed millennia ago.

Close to the mouth of the present-day Rusenski Lom, the Thracians established a settlement and a port, which traded with Asia Minor and the Aegean islands, as evidenced by the origin of the discovered amphorae.

At the beginning of the 1st century AD, the Romans established a military camp – a fort, where the military fleet along the Lower Danube would gather for the winter. At the mouth of the Rusenski Lom river were anchored the “pristis” ships, which gave the town the name of Sexaginta Prista – “sixty ships of the pristis type”.

MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The territory of the Roman fort has undergone archaeological excavations in the last 40 years. Currently, its entire area is divided into three sectors (Fig. 1):

- The open-air museum – which includes the north-western corner tower and a section of the fortification wall, a visitor centre with an exhibition hall, a replica of a Mithraeum (located inside a World War

II German bomb shelter) and models of a pristis ship and of a watch tower;

- The studied area of the Principia, the Temple of Apollo and the Thracian Horseman, and of the south-eastern fortification wall – which are all in the process of conservation, but are not yet exhibited;
- The studied section of the south-eastern fortification wall, preserved to a height of 8 m – which falls within a private property and is one of the good examples of public-private partnership in the museum. Currently, there is a project for the wall's conservation and exhibiting in the process of implementation.

ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MANAGE EXCAVATIONS

The archaeological excavations at the site of the Roman fort are conducted by the specialists of the Rousse Regional Museum of History. The rescue excavations in 1976–1978 were managed by Dr Dimitar Stanchev and, since 2005, the site has been studied by Dr Varbin Varbanov. As a result, it has been clarified that the hill has been inhabited for 23 centuries – from the Late Hellenistic period up to the present day.



BASIC KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE SITE- DATES, CAPACITY, PURPOSE

The Thracian pit sanctuary

located close to the mouth of the Rusenski Lom river, which was an important trade, spiritual and administrative centre. The territory of the examined hill is a sacred place, where the Getae conducted part of their rituals. The remains from this site include around ten fireplaces and hundreds of pits, with a large number of pottery shards, bronze and iron items, coins, animal bones, stones, etc., discovered inside. The remains of a small pig were found inside one of the pits, and skeletons of newborn children inside two of the others. The pit sanctuary functioned up to the last quarter of the 1st century AD (Върбанов 2013: 29).

Fleet station

In the middle of the 1st century AD, at the mouth of the Rusenski Lom river, a fleet station was constructed for sixty ships of the *pristis* type, hence the name *Sexaginta Prista*. In order to control its Danubian border, Rome established the Moesian Fleet. Its bases were at *Ratiaria*, *Dimum* and *Sexaginta Prista*. The Romans used large ships, *liburnae*, but also had smaller and faster ships called *pristis*, which held up to twenty soldiers (Nenov 2014: 23).

Temple of Apollo and the Thracian Horseman

In the first half of the 2nd century AD, a building was erected over two of the largest and richest pits made of unprocessed stones with mud joints. It had a northeast-southwest orientation with an apse on its short north-eastern wall. Four intact and fragments of many other votive plates have been discovered in the apse, dedicated to the Thracian Horseman and Apollo. These plates, as well as the discovered *in situ* altar with a dedica-

tion to Apollo, are arguments for the interpretation of the revealed building as a Roman temple, a successor of the Thracian pit sanctuary.

It functioned up to the 240s–250s AD, when it was destroyed during one of the numerous barbarian invasions in Lower Moesia. After the middle of the 3rd century AD, another building was erected on its site (successor of the Temple?), of which only one wall has been discovered. Next to the Temple and within its outline, around twenty pits have been studied, in which were placed fragments of votive plates, pottery, coins, bone and metal items. At the beginning of the 4th century AD, over the Temple of Apollo, the *Principia* of *Sexaginta Prista* was constructed (Върбанов 2012: 209).

The Principia of Sexaginta Prista

The main building in the late Roman fort of *Sexaginta Prista* is the *Principia* (Fig. 2). Located there was the headquarters of the military unit that was stationed here. The building had dimensions of 30.50 x 16.50 m. The construction of the *Principia* is dated to the 320s AD. Two construction periods are distinguished in the course of its function. In its initial period, the building consisted of a large rectangular hall, with a peristyle yard and a building with an apse, both connected to the hall. The most sacred place in the military camp was located in this building – the shrine of standards. The standard of the garrison was kept here, and the cult of the Emperor was worshiped here as well. The construction of a secret tunnel probably relates to this period of function of the building, registered in the south-eastern corner (Торбатов 2012: 162).

The second construction period of the *Principia* is related to its overall transformation. The peristyle yard was removed and another three premises were arranged through the construction of a T-shaped wall. The entrance to the large rectangular hall was walled up, and access was implemented through the construction of a new entrance in one of its side walls. On the basis of the numerous finds, this reconstruction work is dated to the end of the 360s

or the beginning of the 370s AD. Given the lack of data regarding the forced destruction of the Principia, the most probable cause was its abandonment in the years after the unsuccessful "Second Gothic War" of the Roman emperor Valens (376–378 AD). In the 4th century, a civilian settlement emerged near the fort (Varbanov, Dragoev 2012; Върбанов, Драгоев 2012). In the 6th–7th century, during the numerous attacks of Slavs and Bulgars, the town was looted and destroyed. Over the ruins emerged a Slavic settlement and a medieval Bulgarian fortress.

The fortifications of Sexaginta Prista

Two main sections of the fortification system of Sexaginta Prista have been revealed so far. In the initial period of the excavations, in the 1970s, the north-western fortification wall was unearthed, along with a rectangular corner tower. In the last three years, two sections of the south-eastern wall, along with a U-shaped tower and, potentially, the Porta Principalis of the Roman fort were discovered (Fig. 3).

FAMOUS PEOPLE RELATED TO THE SITE

The study of the Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista is related to the name of Felix Kanitz. He is a famous Austrian-Hungarian traveller and scholar, ethnographer, archaeologist, naturalist and geographer, known by the nickname "Columbus of the Balkans". In the second half of the 19th century, he conducted a large number of field trips in the territory of Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Bulgaria, and wrote the book "Danube Bulgaria and the Balkan Mountains" (1882). His lithographs are a valuable resource for the visual history of Bulgaria prior to and following the Liberation.

At the end of the 19th century, Kanitz was the scholar who localised the Roman fort on the territory of the contemporary town of Rousse, using the distances between the forts, referred to in ancient Roman itineraries (Каниц 1995).

Daily operations

The Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista is an open-air museum. It consists of the northern fortification wall, a square tower, an exhibition of the fort's research, an exhibition of religious life, a Mithraeum, and models of a pristis ship and a watch tower (Fig. 4).

TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE SITE AND TRAVEL TIME FROM NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Sexaginta Prista is located within the central part of Rousse, accessible both from the river-bank and from the central pedestrian zone. The distance to the largest nearby city, the Romanian capital of Bucharest, is approximately 70 km. The nearest airports are between 80 and 150 km from the site, at Bucharest, Sofia and Varna.

The main transport hub for Rousse is Bucharest. A variety of bus and taxi operators offer on-demand services from the airport, the train station and the bus stations to Rousse, or from Sofia many bus companies provide a connection with the city.



VISITING CONDITIONS: TICKETS, WORKING HOURS, GUIDES (LANGUAGES) ON SITE

The entrance fee for visiting the Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista is symbolic, 2 Eur for a regular ticket, and 50 cents for students and senior citizens. The site works five days a week – from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9:00 to 17:30, even in the winter. The archaeologists and guides on the site offer services in both Bulgarian and English.

PRINTED MATERIALS, BROCHURES, VR AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION DEVICES

The site offers a number of printed materials, including books and brochures, dedicated to the Roman fort and the Roman heritage in the area, most of them bilingual, in Bulgarian and English (Fig. 5). A mobile smart phone application offers tourist information for the area, the site itself and the facilities nearby: restaurants, hotels and museums.

After the implementation of the ARCHIVE project, a 3D scan was made of 16 Roman forts in the area of the Lower Danube, in Bulgaria and in Romania, with Sexaginta Prista being one of them. With the use of a 3D printer, models of the forts and of some of the most precious artefacts were made, and are currently exhibited in the Sexaginta Prista exhibition hall.

TIME TO BE SPENT ON SITE (QUICK VISIT AND FULL TOUR)

A brief visit at the Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista can be completed in a matter of 30 minutes. The full tour can take about an hour, the time needed to see all of the elements at the site, the museum exhibition, the open-air sector, the bomb shelter transformed into a Mithraeum, and the models of a pristis ship and of a Roman watch tower. The site also offers an opportunity to try on Roman armour: chain-mail, a helmet, a shield and a gladius.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE (DISTANCE AND ACCESS)

The **Museum of History** is located inside the emblematic building of the Regional Government, the first administrative building erected following the Bulgarian Liberation. The Museum primarily displays archaeological topics, starting with the period of Prehistory. Three halls are dedicated to the Roman heritage of the area and the Danube Limes. The narrative continues with the Middle Ages, the **Medieval Town of Cherven** and the **Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo**.

The **Ecomuseum** presents collections and topics related to the life of people in the region of the Lower Danube, together with the variety of animal species, protected territories and the symbiosis of the everyday life of Man with Nature. On the ground floor of the Ecomuseum is located the largest freshwater aquarium in Bulgaria, presenting fish species that live in the Danube.

Five other museums are also located within the town of Rousse, in close proximity to the Roman fort of

Sexaginta Prista: the **Pantheon of National Revival Heroes**, the house museums of **Baba Tonka** and **Zahari Stoyanov**, the **Museum of Urban Lifestyle** and the **National Museum of Transportation**.

Three World Heritage sites are located within a distance of 100 km of the Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista. These are the **Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo** (managed by the Rouse Regional Museum of History), the **Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari** and the **Madara Rider** rock-hewn relief from the Early Middle Ages.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND CATERING NEAR THE SITE

The central zone of the town of Rouse offers a large diversity of places for accommodation, 3 and 4 stars hotels and hostels, as well as restaurants, taverns, pubs and cafes.

OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE SITE

The Roman fort is also close to the most emblematic landmarks of the town of Rouse: temples, monuments and the pedestrian zones, architecture for which Rouse is proud to have the nickname of "Little Vienna".



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Several projects in recent years have increased both the popularity of and visits to the open-air exhibition at the Roman fort. In 2012, the site underwent an EU-funded project for socialisation; a more visitor-friendly infrastructure was constructed, renovation of the existing visitor centre was undertaken, and a museum exhibition hall and a replica of a watch tower were constructed. In September 2012, Rouse hosted the XXII International Limes (Roman Frontiers) Congress for the first time in our country (Vagalinski, Sharankov, Torbatov 2012). The event was organised by the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and was supported by the Rouse Regional Museum of History and the Municipality of Rouse.

Around the same time the annual event "Roman Market on Sexaginta Prista" was initiated. Using the specifics of a historical re-enactment, the event offers a platform for local producers and craftsmen to present their goods. The Roman market also includes theatrical performances, a taste of Roman cuisine and an opportunity to understand the Roman way of life, using a variety of methods of experimental archaeology (Fig. 6).

The activities related to the establishment and the promotion of the Roman Emperors Route and the Danube Wine Route have brought a significant increase in the visibility of the Roman fort of Sexaginta Prista. This effect is easily traceable in statistics, which reveal a stable growth in individual and groups of foreign visitors to the site in the last 4 years.

The project "Ancient Roman Cultural Heritage Interactive Visualization on the Border between Bulgaria and Romania" (archive), conducted by the University of Rousse, in partnership with our museum and the museum in Constanta, Romania, was dedicated to the digitisation and the increase of awareness of Roman heritage along the Lower Danube. Some of the activities foresaw the compilation of strategies and management plans for the sites of the Roman Limes along the Lower Danube.

An opportunity for the future development of the site is the overall excavation of the fort. This is not an impossible task since the terrain of the fort is generally free of massive buildings, being the location of a former barracks. Within the boundaries of the fort stands the historic building of the Officers' Club, a representative Neoclassical building, with large premises, a stage and additional facilities. The specifics of the building, along with its location, allow for it to become an archaeological museum within a future open-air museum park, which is to display the story of Roman heritage in the Rousse region and the Lower Danube area.

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Rousse



Plane

Sofia (www.sofia-airport.bg) and Varna (www.varna-airport.bg)



Train

Rousse–Sofia five times daily, address: Alexander Stamboliyski Sq 1



Bus

From airports, train and bus stations, bus and taxi services available to Rousse



Car

From Sofia to Pleven and Rousse via highway Hemus/ A2 and 83 or E79 through the town of Vidin, then to Rousse

Svishtov



Train

Svishtov–Levski, several trains daily



Bus

Svishtov–Rousse, hourly service (travel time 2 h); Svishtov–Vidin, twice daily



Bicycle

Cycle path from Svishtov to Roman site of Nove

TOMIS (CONSTANTA) – ANCIENT METROPOLIS ON THE BLACK SEA



Dobrogea Hills



Constanta

The Danube
Terraces



The first records

Tomis appeared in the process of Greek colonisation in Left Pontus, along with Histria and Callatis. Although there is no written source that gives any clue about the founding date of the settlement, recent historiography and archaeological evidence indicates that Tomis existed since the 6th century BC. The Milesian origin of the Tomis colony is asserted by Demetrios from Callatis, then by Pseudo-Skymnos: "The city of Tomis was a colony of the Milesians" (*Periegesis*, 774) and, later on, by Ovid: "Miletida ad urbem" (*Tristia*, I, 10, 41).

MYTHS AND LEGENDS CONNECTED WITH THIS SITE

The name of the ancient settlement varies: Τόμις or Τομεύς in Greek, Tomi or Tomis in Latin. This name is probably derived from the Greek nouns τόμος (cut, piece) and τομεύς (knife, blade). The toponyms gave the opportunity to search for etymologies related to the Argonauts' journey. According to the legend, Jason and his Argonauts would have arrived here after having been sent to the Caucasus to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Followed by the fleet of Colchis' king, he cut his son Absyrtos into pieces, who was, until then, held hostage on board, to force the king to seek and gather the remains for the funeral ceremony, therefore giving the Argonauts time to escape to the Bosphorus. Historians, however, consider it more plausible that the "cut" (from the shoreline) refers to the ancient port, now submerged, in front of the casino.

There are also beliefs regarding a "founding hero" or "founding heroine", the first one recognised on local coins, and the last version encountered with a writer from the 6th century AD, Jordanes, according to which

the Scythian queen Tomyris built a town on the Moesian shore of Pontus and named it after her. We may also note the assertion of the poet Ovid, according to whom the name of this place is older than the founding of the city.

Short history

Initially, Tomis was an emporion, with a slower evolution than Histria (to the north) and Callatis (to the south). It was only during the Hellenistic period, 3rd–1st century BC, that the city reached the state of a polis. In the 3rd century BC Tomis made notable advances in its economic evolution, helped by the much reduced port activity of Histria and commercial traffic on the route of Axiopolis (Cernavoda) – Tomis. The period between the 3rd and 1st century BC was, for Tomis, a period of economic growth, materially transposed through elegant public and private edifices, of which archaeological testimonies remain today: fragments of capitals, friezes, columns, etc. A first defence wall was erected along with aqueducts providing drinking water collected at the springs located near the south-western shore of Lake Siutghiol. References to Tomitan life from the beginning of the 1st century BC are made in the work of the exiled poet Ovid. Sent to Tomis by Emperor Octavian Augustus, shortly after the integration of the east Pontic shore into the imperial borders, the poet would live in exile in Tomis for eight years (he died here in 17 AD). The Tomitans treasured and honoured Ovid as one of the elite guests, so the city became a second homeland for the poet from Sulmona.

Under the Antonines (2nd century AD), Tomis was included as part of Moesia Inferior (a province founded in 86 AD during the time of Emperor Domitian), and underwent a new stage of its development. Between the 2nd and 3rd century AD, the city saw huge urban

development: public and private edifices were built, paved streets were laid, marble workshops were developed, ceramic craft was enlarged, and stone and marble were used for carving.

Diocletian's reforms (284–305) gave a new military-administrative and financial structure to the Empire, and today's Dobrudja was called Scythia Minor, which incorporated Tomis. In this historic context, Tomis acquired new impulses. The city was embellished with new public and private edifices and the port intensified its activity; at the same time, apparently, the wall of the enclosure was erected, whose foundations have been preserved until today, and was rebuilt repeatedly until the beginning of the 6th century, during the reign of Emperor Justinian (527–565).

During the period between the 4th and 7th century, Tomis was the scene of many Christian religious manifestations. Evidence of this can be seen with the seven Christian basilicas discovered by archaeologists. Among the learned monks of Scythia Minor whose activity were related to Tomis are John Maxentius (6th century), John Cassian (about 360–430) and Dionysius Exiguus, who was acknowledged as establishing the principle of Anno Domini, used both in the Julian and Gregorian calendars.



BASIC KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE SITE – DATES, CAPACITY, PURPOSE, SIZE OF THE SITE AND TYPE OF TERRAIN

Most of the current urban centre is set on a typical low plain, with an elevation of between 25 and 50 metres. Three obvious areas can be distinguished:

- the peninsula, with a northwest–southeast orientation, and sloping in the same direction;
- the mainland, namely the eastern edge of the Dobrudja Plateau, with a higher altitude than the rest of the city, which decreases as it progresses towards the sea;
- the coast, with the harbour and beach areas.

Depending on the characteristics of the relief, the residential and commercial areas were structured.

In the west and northwest the boundaries appear to be the old precinct wall (visible and partly restored) and in the south and east, the boundaries of the peninsular shore. Within this area, the archaeological monuments of the ancient city have been identified and made available to visitors, in various degrees of restoration and preservation.

During the peak of the fortress, it is estimated that ancient Tomis would have covered an area of approximately 100 ha. In the past two millennia, natural erosion, sea level rise, and anthropogenic interventions have led to a consistent shrinking of the archaeological site. In addition, being overlapped with the modern city, it is hard to come up with a figure of the magnitude of the area of archaeological interest.

There is also a lack of multidisciplinary technical research (LIDAR, geomagnetism, geophysics), which could compensate for the lack of archaeological research in an attempt to bring to light aspects of urban life and the Greek-Roman civilisation from two millennia ago in Tomis.

ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MANAGE EXCAVATIONS

The multitude of archaeological monuments, as well as their importance for the history of the country, has led to the involvement in their research of some renowned specialised institutions, both in the country and abroad. However, a constant of the research activity regarding ancient Tomis was the attempt to create its own institution, with its own specialists, specifically a museum.

After 1878, with the annexation of Dobruja to the kingdom of Romania, the expansion works of the city of Constanta led to the discovery of important ceramics, statuary, epigraphic and numismatic vestiges. Between 1881 and 1908, Grigore Tocilescu collected and published more than 600 inscriptions. All the monuments found by him were taken to Bucharest.

Repeated attempts to establish a museum in Constanta were doomed to failure until 1911, when Vasile Pârvan, who conducted the archaeological excavations until World War I, came to the head of the National Antiquities Museum and submitted a report to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction, in which he again raised the problem of setting up a museum in Constanta, and gained support.

After several reorganisations, in 1957 the new museum was partially opened, which benefited from a basic exhibition, a restoration laboratory and a specialised library. The institution intervened with its specialists both for rescue excavations and systematic research on important sites.

A new, dynamic research phase started now. Thus, Vasile Canarache, the first post-war director of the institution, carried out great work on the site, discovering and highlighting the Roman Edifice with Mosaic, the Roman Baths, the precinct and defensive walls of Tomis, the basilicas, and the Tomis Treasury of Sculptures. A large amount of research activity was undertaken by the archaeologist and university professor Adrian Rădulescu, who continued to work on important monuments in the city, but also opened new sites, such as the Cathedral Park. Furthermore, to date, many specialists from Constanta, grouped within the Museum of National History and Archaeology, have made numerous discoveries in ancient Tomis, both intra and extra muros, among whom can be mentioned: Mihai Bucovață, who studied the Hellenistic necropolis of Tomis, Zaharia Covacef, a specialist in Greek-Roman sculptural art, Gheorghe Papuc, who studied the Great Gate of the ancient city and its water supply system, Virgil Lungu and Constantin Chera with studies related to Christian edifices, and Traian Cliante, who conducted numerous protective research excavations in the city.



MAIN DISCOVERED AND VISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The ancient Tomitan space was overlapped with construction over more than two millennia. Many of the ancient vestiges are still covered, and most of the important discoveries have been made through archaeological rescue research.

Starting from the modern city and descending to the sea, in the peninsular area (practically ancient Tomis), a series of archaeological monuments are visible and accessible.

The first two are the Roman-Byzantine precinct wall and the Archaeological Park, situated on one side of the White House of Constanta, where the City Hall and the County Hall have their premises. The park bears this name due to the fact that it was built next to the remains of the Roman-Byzantine fortification wall, built in the 4th century AD, in order to shelter a district that functioned outside the early Roman walls, in an open, unprotected area.

The Roman-Byzantine precinct wall borders the largest part of the ancient city; it follows a line connecting the two shores of the peninsula to the continental side, from southwest to north-east. The analyses of this monument have taken into consideration both the plan and the chronology of the building. Concerning the plan, the only side raising no questions is the northern one. Researched by Vasile Pârvan, this side has two gates: the north-eastern gate with the famous "Butcher's Tower" and the south-western gate framed by defensive rectangular towers; the precinct is here 3.20 m in width and the entrance is about 4 m. The wall orientation to the other sides is only hypothetical. Archaeologists estimate

different dates for the two west/southwest lines: the first line is structurally and chronologically connected with the northern precinct (the end of the 3rd to the beginning of the 4th century AD); the second is a precinct added later.

Also, next to the Butcher's Tower, on the wall of a modern building, one can admire a map of Dobrudja with ancient cities marked on it and, in front of it, the bust of Vasile Pârvan, one of the greatest Romanian archaeologists, who excavated the Butcher's Tower in 1915–1916.

Besides this monument, preserved in situ, other ancient monumental exhibits can be seen in several areas of this park: stone sarcophagi, columns, other architectural elements, large ceramic storage vessels, etc.

Part of the defence system of Tomis, and in close connection with the defensive wall, is the monument called the Main City Gate, located on the current Mircea cel Batran Street. It was built at the beginning of the 4th century AD, when many urban features of Tomis were changed and renewed. The gate, with a total width exceeding 31 m, comprises the access road with a pavement of large stone slabs and two U-shaped towers. The south-western tower is also important due to its special feature: the poterna (tunnel under the left tower), which is 1.50 m wide. The north-eastern tower suffered numerous destructions in the modern age, and only the semi-circular front side is now preserved. Part of the paving of the access path, located in the precinct, was also found. The towers' sizes as well as their complexity, and the size of the access paths, lead to the conclusion that this was the most important gate of the city.

On the opposite shore of the peninsula, and connected with the Tomitan defence system from Roman times, one can see the ruins of a defence tower. These ruins seem to be part of two different fortification systems: the early Roman

one, overlapped by the Ottoman fortification. The first one, built in the 2nd century AD, was dismantled in the Roman-Byzantine period, when a new fortification was built in order to secure a larger part of the peninsula. By tracing the three different fortification lines, Hellenistic, early Roman and Roman-Byzantine, a pattern of urban development can be identified for Tomis: the inhabited area gradually increased, indicating the continuous development of this city, until the 7th century AD. Another, more recent fortification is known from the Ottoman period. A modern city plan shows an Ottoman settlement fortified only on one side, towards the northwest, by a wall including two towers.

Also in this eastern part of the city, near the Main City Gate, although unseen at the moment, the Hypogeum tomb should be mentioned. It has a rectangular plan and is provided with a small access corridor (dromos). What gives this sepulchral place very special value is the artistic achievement of the interior. Over the plaster that completely covers the building material, a large suite of anthropomorphic, zoomorphic and phytomorphic representations was painted in the "a seco" technique. There is also a mural representation of a funeral banquet that seems to suggest that it is a Christian tomb. Such representations, called the "Agape", often appear in the paintings of Roman catacombs, symbolising the Eucharist. Researchers from Constanta dated (based on the funerary inventory) the construction of the Tomitan tomb to the time of Constantine the Great, with the tomb being used for successive burials until the beginning of the 5th century AD.

Related to Christianity, other public city edifices situated inside the ancient city precincts that have been identified thus far are the seven Christian basilicas. Unfortunately, only three of them are accessible to visitors.

- The Christian basilica ruins were discovered near the port's high cliff. The building of the Mihai Eminescu High School was subsequently built over it. Of this ancient building, only fragments of an eastern wall and a hall leading to the crypt under the altar were found; the crypt is situated 2.50 m under the pavement level and it has a vaulted roof. Probably in the second half of the 4th century AD, this would have been the Tomis cathedral and most likely the first bishop's cathedral in Scythia Minor. A selection of 4th and 5th century AD architectural fragments, the marble pavement and the monument building support this hypothesis.



- Another basilica was situated at the present port entrance. Uncovered partially, it is 24 m in length and its apse is 8.70 m in diameter. The monument, probably including only a nave, was built in the 5th and 6th century AD, inside a larger 4th century AD edifice.

- The foundations of the largest basilica known so far at Tomis were discovered on the north-eastern cliff of the peninsula, in 1989. Oriented west-northwest to east-southeast, its exterior dimensions are 54.70 x 24.30 m. The Absida, on the outside, has a pentagonal shape. There are three annex rooms along the northern apse wall, structurally connected with the basilica (atrium). The northern side of the ensemble was bounded by a portico, fragmentarily preserved. The edifice was dated from the end of the 5th to the beginning of the 7th century AD. At present, the basilica is preserved in the basement of the Ibis Hotel and, in theory, open to the public.

It should be noted that at a time before the construction of this basilica, there was a monumental building. In 1989, during the construction of the hotel, the wall of a vast building was exposed, at a depth of about 7 m. The building, constructed using the opus mixtum technique, enclosed a plain, ellipsoidal shaped area, oriented north-south. The discovery led the coordinator of the excavation to suggest that it might have been an **arena**. Moreover, he adds that the wall was doubled towards the exterior by other parallel walls following the same direction and forming a large corridor. This wall was part of the cavea and it might have been the podium, usually found at the edge of the arena and designed for important people attending the games.

The buildings of the western cliff represented by "**the great Roman mosaic edifice**" and **lentiaron** are included in a possible unitary city arrangement, supposedly built before the 4th century AD and destroyed around the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th century AD.

The **Roman Edifice with Mosaic** was discovered during the construction of an apartment building in 1959. This edifice would have been a place for social, economic and trade activities of the city. Located in front of the port, the edifice includes four terraces corresponding to the habitation level of the ancient city (A), to the pavement with mosaic (B) and to the goods warehouses (terraces C and D). Related to terrace B, a large room is paved with more than 2,000 m² of polychromatic mosaic, placing it among the greatest such areas of the Empire. The terrace support wall, preserved to the east, is 65 m in length, and has a maximum 5.4 m height. Made of brick rows alternating with small blocks of limestone, the wall has pilasters at a distance of 4 m apart, possibly joined on the top by arches. The wall surface was covered with marble and the pilasters were decorated on the top with plated decorated capitals.

The most interesting feature of the room is the mosaic pavement, of which about 850 m² is still preserved. The decoration includes geometrical and flowered patterns made of naturally coloured tesserae (the only zoomorphic representation is a pigeon). The central area, using the opus vermiculatum method, is covered with large circles, placed at large intervals, framed by squares and separated by rectangular areas. Terrace C represents the warehouse level. These warehouses are each 11 m in length and 6 m wide; the massive entrances are 8 m high. The lowest level of the cliff, covered by terrace D, was used for other storehouses; now under the sea level, the terrace is covered. The complex area was also connected with the platform in front of the city level by a shell-like, spiral, limestone staircase. It has been determined that the edifice was included in a unitary building system built during a period when the city was flourishing, at the end of the 3rd to the beginning of the 4th century AD. Towards the end of the 5th and the beginning of the 6th century, the edifice was destroyed by a submarine earthquake. The ruins continued to be inhabited until the 7th century, which is indicated by the material found here and in the former bath complex: oil lamps from the 6th and 7th century from the lentiaron.

The lentiaron edifice, including many rooms, has been largely destroyed by modern works. It was probably a functioning public city bath (at least one), as an inscription in Greek on the entrance frame mentions. The main room (30 x 10 m) and a hall with stairs leading to the city terrace are preserved, both covered by white marble plates. From the central hall of the baths, through one of the entrances on the southern side, it led to a large vestibule (cca. 60 m²) with a stone-paved floor, from which a staircase went up to the city level. Beneath the staircase, there is an annex room with a vaulted roof made of bricks. In the space outside the edifice, along the entire length of the western wall (destroyed to floor level during the modern period), the ceramic tubes of

the underground heating system (hypocaust) were found. The hot air and steam produced in this plant heated the walls of the building.

Last, but not least, and close to the entrance to the harbour and the cruise ships terminal, is the **Cathedral Park**, a very important urban archaeological site, situated next to the St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral. The systematic archaeological research carried out during several campaigns between 1971 and 1974 uncovered a part of a residential area from the ancient city of Tomis. Two perpendicular main streets, as well as fragments of the ancient street network discovered in other parts of the city, allow the main axes to be drawn, upon which the orientation of the urban space was set. Due to this research, an almost complete chronology of ancient Tomis was drawn, starting with the 6th century BC, and ending with the 5th century AD. Material discovered in waste pits showed that this area was also inhabited in the 6th century AD, but levels corresponding to this period were removed when the cathedral was built. Therefore, Cathedral Park shows the history of a city through different historical periods, and the metamorphosis of a Greek colony into a Roman-Byzantine capital city.

Later architecture based on ancient heritage

Though not belonging to classical antiquities, the modern worship edifice existing in the peninsular area of the city deserves a brief mention. This is the so-called confessional octagon of Constanta.

- The "**St. Peter and Paul**" Orthodox Cathedral is a good example of Christian architecture and art. Constructed in the Greco-Roman style between 1883 and 1885, the church was severely damaged during World War II and was restored in 1951. The interior murals display a neo-Byzantine

style combined with Romanian elements, best observed in the iconostasis and pews, chandeliers and candlesticks (bronze and brass alloy), all designed by the architect Ion Mincu and made in Paris.

- The "**St. Anthony of Padua**" Roman-Catholic Church was built between 1935 and 1937, from plans by the architect Romano de Simon, from Bucharest, on the location of a former chapel, built in 1885. It is the most important Roman-Catholic church in Constanta, also appealing for its architecture, inspired by Romanesque style, brick churches, built in the 13th century in northern Italy.

- The "**Carol I**" Mosque was built in 1910, by King Carol I, with Romanian state funding. The mosque is the seat of the Mufti, the spiritual leader of the 55,000 Muslims who live along the coast of the Dobrudja region. The building combines Byzantine and Romanian architectural elements, making it one of the most distinctive mosques in the area. The centrepiece of the interior is a large Turkish carpet, a gift from Sultan Abdul Hamid. The main attraction of the mosque is the 50 m minaret, which offers a stunning view of the old centre and harbour. It is also important as a result of some technical aspects, as it is the first building made of reinforced concrete and brick ever built in Romania, by the inventor Gogu Constantinescu, and following the plans of the architect Victor Gh. Ștefănescu.

- The Jewish Synagogue of Ashkenazi rite, built in 1911, according to Adolf Linz's Moorish-style plans, also reflects some Chaldean architectural influence. It was built on the initiative of Pincus Șapira, a supplier for the Royal House of Romania (in 1908, on the current Mircea cel Bătrân Street, the Sephardic Temple was also built, a monumental building of gothic influence, splendidly

integrated into the area but, unfortunately, demolished in the 1980s).

- The **"Hunchiar" Mosque** was built between 1867 and 1868 by Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz for Turks who were forced to leave Crimea after the Crimean War (1853–1856) and settled in Constanta. The mosque has a 24 m high minaret and was subject to a restoration in 1945 and 1992.
- The **"St. Mary" Armenian Church**, the first Armenian church in Constanta, was built of wood in about 1740. The foundations of the second church were laid in 1880 by founder Nazaret Torosian, in the eastern part of the Tomis peninsula, towards the sea. The area on which the new edifice was built was donated to the Armenian community by the Constanta municipality for a church and a school. The church is built in the Armenian traditional architectural style.
- The **"Metamorphosis" Greek Orthodox Church** was built between 1865 and 1868, with Sultan Abdul Aziz's acceptance and Greek community funding. In Constanta it represents the first non-Muslim masonry religious building. The church bears a basilica shape, with two rectangular transepts and a semi-circular apse. The floor is made of white marble and the altar of fir wood. The painter Radu Nicolae restored the inner painting in the 1980s. After 1867, the building suffered some changes, like the addition of two side balconies and cafes. Between 1922 and 1924, four northern side windows were bricked in and, in 1947, a bell tower was added, with no effect on the original architectural style. Greek community merchants endowed the church with a large number of items (four large Murano chandeliers, a silver framed Gospel, etc.).
- The **"St. Nicholas" Bulgarian Church**. Archive documents attest to a request from the Bulgarian community of Constanta, through Ivanciu Hagi Stoian, dated October 8th, 1898, for City Hall's approval to build a place of worship. The

sanctification of the new building took place in 1907. The church preserves the characteristics of the Romanian architectural style, with paintings executed by Ioanid Batranul. After 1940, the Bulgarian church dedicated to St. Nicholas was taken over by the Episcopate of Tomis and given to the Romanian Orthodox cult. As the inscriptions were in Bulgarian and the painting needed to be restored, the city hall hired the famous church painter Ion Musceleanu to restore the whole painting, and to change the inscriptions into Romanian.

MAIN DISCOVERED BUT STILL NOT EXCAVATED REMAINS

Due to the total overlap of the ancient city with the modern one, big surprises and discoveries are possible at any time. Unfortunately, archaeological research has become only an offshoot of the constructive necessities of the city's inhabitants, in the old part of the city the only possibility of research being on the occasion of public works. Thus, in recent years, rescue archaeological research has led to the elucidation of some aspects of the town and its ancient topography. Also, a large inventory consisting mainly of ceramic objects, but also those made of metal, glass, stone or marble, as well as a significant number of coins, was recovered as a result of this research.

In the intra muros area, in the relative proximity of the precinct wall, were discovered areas of a Hellenistic necropolis, dating from before the city's development in the Roman era, along with the remains of a craftsmen's neighbourhood. Near the sea, in the acropolis area of the fortress, there were vestiges of large buildings, possibly of public utility, but also huts from the archaic Greek period.

Whether these vestiges will be included in a touristic route, accessible to the public, remains a decision for the investors who have occasioned this rescue research. At the moment, all these discoveries from the last five years are not accessible to visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Due to legislative deficiencies and a chronic lack of funding, some of the existing monuments have suffered serious degradation, accelerated in recent years. However, some measures are currently being taken to prevent the total degradation of some monuments.

Thus, during the coming year (2019), the **Roman Edifice with Mosaic** will be restored, as well as the **Painted Tomb**, with financing being provided from community funds. The **Archaeological Park** was rearranged with the help of Constanta City Hall. The Ibis Hotel has made a protection building for the large basilica and the rest of the amphitheatre, but unfortunately, some of these monuments still cannot be practically visited by a large audience. Concrete measures remain uncertain for a number of the monuments, such as the **Roman Baths** (Lentariu), the **Cathedral Park**, the **Great Gate** and the **precinct wall**.

Additionally, the solutions found by the builders to restore and preserve those monuments that are discovered during rescue research should be permanently monitored and it would also be useful to report on them even if they cannot be visited. In such cases, it would be desirable to encourage public-private partnerships, in which the

museum offers advice on the use of existing monuments on private properties.

A notable deficiency in Constanta, and in the field of archaeological heritage promotion in general, is the lack of tourist information centres, leaflets and brochures in foreign languages with well-structured information.

For this reason, initiatives for including the city in cultural routes such as the Roman Emperors and the Danube Wine Route are welcomed, helping to expose and promote the millenary heritage of Constanta.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Transport access to the site and travel time from nearby destinations

Constanta benefits from an international airport located in the Mihail Kogălniceanu commune, 26 km north-northwest of Constanta.

The **buses from the airport** run every 15 minutes and they arrive at the bus station Constanta Sud Herli-Sof (near the railway station). The service is offered by the local company Transevren. The bus stop is located next to the car park, a few yards from Autonom and Hermann car rental. The journey between the airport and the bus station lasts between 35 and 50 minutes. From there, one can reach the city centre in about 20 minutes by taking one of the buses: 2-43; 5-40; 43C; 43M; 101C.

A **daily Intercity (Express) train** service runs between Bucharest and Constanta, and takes approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes. In the summertime, there are several daily trains with a half-hourly service between Constanta and Mangalia, stopping at all the Black Sea towns and resorts along the way.

City Tour buses run every 25 minutes during the summer season, from the railway station to Mamaia. These are hop-on/hop-off buses and the big advantage for passengers is the possibility of interrupting the tourist route for sightseeing purposes and continuing the trip with another one-way bus from any station, all included in the price of the original ticket. All major tourist attractions are included on the route of City Tour buses, both from Constanta city and Mamaia. The schedule is as follows:

- June 16–June 30, 09:00–18:00
- July 01–September 09, 09:00–22:00
- September 10–September 16, 09:00–18:00

Visiting conditions: tickets, working hours, guides (languages) on site

The Museum of National History and Archaeology of Constanta and all major archaeological vestiges are located in the old city centre.

The **Museum of National History and Archaeology** is located on the Black Sea coast, in Ovid Square, in a town which is the main maritime gate of the country. It is accommodated in an edifice, itself an original monument of the Romanian school of architecture. It is not only a regional museum, illustrating the development of the province bordered by the Danube and the Sea, but also a national one, concentrating on the main elements of Romanian history. In the Treasury room the most valuable collections are displayed: glass, jewellery, Greek-Roman sculptures and many other important artefacts. On the first floor, artefacts are arranged chronologically, starting with the first signs of human habitation in Dobrudja, in Prehistory, until the Middle Ages. On the second floor, an exhibition about the Communist period in Romania is arranged. Each year, the museum organises temporary exhibitions displaying artefacts from other museums in Romania or abroad, as well as exhibitions presenting the most important archaeological finds from each excavation campaign.

Museum of National History and Archaeology and Roman Edifice with Mosaic

Opening times

During summer season (May 1st–September 30th), open daily, 09:00–20:00

The ticket desk closes at 19:00

October 1st–April 30th, open from Wednesday to Sunday, 09:00–17:00, Mondays and Tuesdays, closed

The ticket desk closes at 16:00

Admission charges for the Museum of National History and Archaeology

Adults 20 lei

Pensioners 5 lei

Pupils/Students 5 lei

Admission charges for the Roman Edifice with Mosaic

Adults 10 lei

Pensioners 5 lei

Pupils/Students 2.5 lei

Special discount for visiting both the Museum and the Edifice

Adults 25 lei

Pensioners 10 lei

Pupils/Students 6.25 lei

Groups can request guided tours in Romanian or English, free of charge.

Printed materials, brochures, VR and other electronic presentation devices

At the museum, printed guides in several languages can be purchased from the gift shop. Also, various brochures and flyers with tourist information are available for free. The history of some important archaeological monuments, such as the Painted Tomb or the Monastery Cave Complex of Basarabi-Murfatlar, can be discovered by watching short presentation films inside the museum, in the exhibition rooms. Additionally, the museum is accessible for sight impaired people, having a tactile floor and explanations written in Braille, as well as

replicas of some important artefacts that can be touched and studied.

Time to be spent on site (quick visit and full tour)

A full tour, which includes the Treasury room, first floor and a small exhibition on the second floor, lasts about 1.5–2 hours. A quick visit can be completed within 30–45 minutes. Visits to the Roman Edifice with Mosaic take about 15–30 minutes.

Other attractions near the site (distance and access)

Given the fact that the museum is situated in the centre of the peninsula, in the old city centre, one can see many historic buildings and museum all around. These are all located in a relatively small area and can be reached easily, by taking a short walk.

When starting the itinerary at port gateway no.1, in front of the passenger terminal of Constanta Port, one will first see the **Carol I Lighthouse**, the **Harbour Museum** and the **silos**. Anghel Saligny, whose statue stands uphill, near the port entrance, was a renowned engineer who built a large part of Constanta's modern harbour. His most remarkable work was the King Carol I railway bridge from Fetești-Cernavodă, over the Danube, built between 1890 and 1895, which was, at the time, the longest bridge in Europe. He also planned and built, between 1884 and 1889, the first silos in the world made of reinforced concrete, which are preserved today in Constanta, Brăila and Galați. The Maritime Railway Station is one of the iconic buildings from the inter-war period in Constanta. It was inaugurated in 1935 in the presence of the royal family and passengers would get off the train here to board the ships. The Harbour Museum is located in the building known as the Queen's Nest or the Royal Pavilion. The building was planned

and built under Anghel Saligny's direct leadership, in 1909 and 1910. Originally designed as a wooden construction resembling a boat, it was restored in brick and reinforced concrete between 1927 and 1928. The museum presents the traditions and port activities of the ancient Tomis period to the present day. It is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00–16:00.

When exiting the port, one can take a walk on the **promenade**. The entire area is designed in the Art Nouveau style. Three iconic buildings can be admired there. The **Casino** is the emblem of Constanta, a symbol of Romania's largest port. The building was designed by the Romanian architect of French origin, Daniel Renard. It was inaugurated in 1910 in the presence of Prince Ferdinand. In front of the Casino, the pavilion-restaurant was built, which is currently the Aquarium.

The **Aquarium** is open daily between 09:00–17:00. The entrance fees are as follows: Adults – 12 lei; Pupils/Students – 3 lei; children up to 7 years old – free.

The **Headquarters of the Navy** is a historic, neoclassical building. It was built in 1881 by the English company Danube and Black Sea Railway, the same company that constructed the Cernavodă–Constanta railway. The building served for a long time as a hotel, initially named Terminus (due to the fact that here was the end of the railway), and then Carol.

Walking on the promenade, one reaches the **statue of Mihai Eminescu**, Romania's national poet, and the Genovese lighthouse. It has a height of 16 metres and was built between 1858 and 1860 by the French engineer Artin Aslan. The promenade ends with Tomis Marina, a perfect place for dining, drinking and enjoying a beautiful sea view and nautical leisure activities.

Besides the Harbour Museum and the Museum of National History and Archaeology, Constanta benefits from four more museums located in the old city centre.

The **Ion Jalea Sculpture Museum** houses 108 sculptural pieces, drawings and sketches, statues and busts, all donated by the sculptor himself or by his family, after his death. The sculptures of the Dobrudjan artist are also noteworthy due to the fact that he worked with only one hand; he lost his left hand during World War I. The museum is housed in a beautiful neo-Romanian architectural style building, a historical monument, built in the early 20th century by the architect Victor Ștephănescu. It is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday, between 10:00–18:00, and a ticket for an adult costs 10 lei, while for pupils and students the cost is 2.5 lei.

The **Folk Art Museum** must be visited if one wants to learn more about the traditional clothing, customs, traditions and crafts of the Romanian people. The main exhibition of the museum covers all folk art categories, allocated to ethnographical areas. The collections include ceramics, wood and glass icons, popular costumes, fabrics, textiles, adornments and household items. The museum building dates back to 1893 and is a historical and architectural monument that was initially the town hall and then a post office. It is open daily, between 09:00–20:00 during the summer season, and between 09:00–17:00 during the rest of the year. The entrance fee is 5 lei for adults and 2.5 lei for pupils, students and pensioners.

The **Art Museum** displays various art works on three levels in two buildings, linked to one another; the first building dates to 1895 and has neoclassical styled exterior decorative elements; the second building is modern, built between 1980 and 1982. The first building houses art works of great importance by famous Romanian

painters and sculptors. Compositions, portraits and landscapes by artists of more recent generations can be admired in the second building. The museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, between 10:00–18:00 during the summer season, and between 09:00–17:00 during the rest of the year. The entrance ticket costs 10 lei for adults and 2.5 lei for pupils and students.

The **Romanian Navy Museum** is the most important institution of its kind in Romania. It houses precious evidence of the evolution of the military and civilian navy. The museum is located in the building (constructed in 1909) of the former Navy School, the first institution of higher education in Dobrudja. The institution owns more than 37,000 pieces, grouped into 33 collections, and presents the history of the Romanian navy. It is open from Wednesday to Sunday, between 09:00–17:00. The entrance fee is 10 lei for adults and 5 lei for pupils and students.

Hotels, restaurants and catering near the site

There are several hotels located in the area, some of which have sea view rooms: Ten Hotel Colonadelor, a four star hotel, situated on 53 Traian Street; The Ibis Hotel, a three star hotel, located on Mircea cel Batran Boulevard, no. 39B–41; Hotel Carol, a four star hotel, 15 Mihail Kogalniceanu Street; Ferdinand Hotel, a three star hotel, 12 Ferdinand Boulevard; Voila Hotel, a three star hotel, 22 Callatis Street. Unfortunately, two other beautiful hotels, located in historical buildings, the Intim, built in 1880, where our national poet Mihai Eminescu spent a few days while visiting the Black Sea, and the Palas, opened in 1914, and presently under renovation, are not currently open to tourists.

After spending a relaxing day at the beach, one can take lunch or dinner either at the Tomis Marina, or on the peninsula. There are plenty of restaurants and cafes to choose from. At the Tomis Marina, besides international food, one can try fish and seafood. Romanian tradi-

tional food is served at La Ana si Ion and international food at Le Premier, Esplanada, Scapino, Zebrano, New Pizzico and others. Walking down Tomis Boulevard, there are all kinds of restaurants, à la carte or fast food, coffee shops and bars. One can also try some restaurants serving Greek food – Nikos, Turkish food – Kaptan Baba, Lebanese food – Byblos and others.

Other tourist attractions near the site

The old city centre of Constanta, especially Ovid Square, was restored a few years ago. Taking into account its specificity and proximity to the shore and the harbour, it is a very animated area, especially during summer. **Concerts, shows and festivals** of all kinds (Seafood Festival, Ice Cream Festival, Food Truck Festival, Romanian Traditional Food Festival and many more) often take place in this area. In 2018, for the first time, a Christmas fair was arranged in Ovid Square. During the summer, one of the largest festivals of electronic music, Neversea, takes place on the beach in Constanta.

and replicas of artefacts, virtual tours, 3D presentation films and virtual reality headsets). Even though some small steps have been made, museums in Constanta are still far from truly benefiting from all the opportunities that new technologies offer.



Recommendations for improvement and future development

Despite the above mentioned, there is still much to be done. All relevant institutions and events should be better promoted. Flyers in foreign languages, posters and billboards should be available to tourists at information centres, cultural institutions, hotels and restaurants. The staff of the tourist industry should be involved more and awareness must be raised that only by working together can more tourists be attracted, to the benefit of everyone. Also, museums should be encouraged to embrace more new technology in order to attract younger visitors. Exhibitions should be more interactive, using the principle "learning through play". New media technologies offer a great resource in this regard (3D scans

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Constanta – Histria

Plane

Constanta Mihail Kogalniceanu International Airport (CND) (www.mk-airport.ro/ro); regular bus service from airport to Constanta train/bus station

Train

Constanta train station (Gara Constanta), address: Blvd Ferdinand 45; daily trains from/to Bucharest, Iasi and Suceava; daily Intercity (Express) service between Bucharest and Constanta; several daily summertime trains between Constanta and Mangalia

Boat

Constanta's port for cruise ships and private boats via the Bosphorus Strait or the Danube; private charters available at marinas on east coast

Car

From Bucharest to Constanta via the "Sun Highway" (Autostrada Soarelui – A3); Bucharest–Fundulea–Lehliu–Drajna–Fetesti–Cernavoda–Constanta (DN A2/DN A3); Constanta–Istria (DN22/E87); Tulcea–Babadag–Mihai Viteazul–Constanta (E87 south)

Histria

Plane

Constanta airport (49 km) (www.mk-airport.ro/ro) and Bucharest (290 km)

Train

Stations in Constanta (49 km), Cogealac and Mihai Viteazu (Bucharest–Tulcea line)

Bus

Regular service from Constanta and Tulcea

Boat

Harbours in Constanta (49 km) and Tulcea (87 km)

Car

Constanta–Tulcea (E87) (54 km)

Bicycle

No cycle paths, use secondary roads



WINE VIGNETTE: LOCAL VARIETIES AND LESSER KNOWN WINE BRANDS ALONG THE ROMAN EMPERORS AND DANUBE WINE ROUTE

Legend has it that even the ancient Argonauts sailed the Danube on their quest for the Golden Fleece. The Danube has always been an important commercial route, but also a significant European wine source. The vineyards along the banks of the Danube have been producing grapes since the times of the ancient Romans and Thracians.

Nowadays, wine producers along the Danube cherish tradition and history, but also employ state-of-the-art technology both in the vineyards and wine cellars in order to produce authentic, high quality wines. The keywords that describe Danube wines are **authenticity** and **diversity**. A tour along the Danube will open up a completely new world in front of your eyes: grape varieties that thrive only in local vineyards, authentic wine styles and impressive landscapes.

The name of the **Baranja** wine region in eastern Croatia comes from a phrase in Hungarian (*bor anyia*), which means "wine mother". This explains the importance of wine in the daily life of the local population centred around "gator", i.e., authentic local wine cellars dug horizontally into layers of alluvial soil on the banks of the Danube. Wines made from Graševina, the most notable local grape in Baranja and Srijem, show amazing versatility, offering a range of styles from fresh vibrant young wines that pair well with Danube fish, to mature golden-coloured aged wines. Graševina from Ilok and its surroundings will further excite your palate with top-notch predicate wines (late harvest, selected harvest of dried berries, ice wine, etc.).

The **Srijem** wine region in Croatia and the **Srem** wine region in Serbia basically show similar features of terroir and climate. It was precisely here that the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus planted the first vineyards outside the Apennine Peninsula in the 3rd century AD. In the Serbian part of the Srem wine region, Graševina is also called Grašac, whilst local winemakers produce light-bodied dry wines and experiment with Grašac in an attempt to make long maceration orange wines, the wine style that is becoming more and more fashionable nowadays.

A further tour along the Danube will bring you to the heart of **Mt. Fruška Gora** and the picturesque town of Sremski Karlovci. This town is famed for its production of "bermet", a fortified aromatised wine with

a centuries-long tradition. Fruška Gora also continues the tradition of "svatovac" wine, a red wine made from Portugieser grapes, fermented for just a few weeks before being released for sale on the third Thursday of November. The name of this wine is derived from the Serbian word "svat" (wedding guest), which implies that the wine is served once the season of wedding celebrations in the late autumn begins.

The Danube region has a strong link to the ancient Roman times. Since the Roman times, there are two places on the Danube which have been particularly well known for their excellent quality of grapes. The Romans used to call these places "Mons Aureus". Nowadays, these are known as **Bansko Brdo** in Baranja and **Zlatno Brdo** in the vicinity of Smederevo. In the 19th century, Zlatno Brdo (Golden Hill) was esteemed for its production of top quality Smederevka wine. A visit to Zlatno Brdo in Smederevo should also include a tour of the royal vineyards of the Obrenović dynasty.

Further exploration of the Danube wine regions continues to **Negotin**, nestled in the vicinity of the Iron Gates gorge. The special micro-climate influenced by warm winds coming from the south and the moderating effect of the Danube make this spot the hottest and sunniest wine region in Serbia. Hence, this part of Serbia is particularly suited to the production of excellent red wines, primarily Cabernet Sauvignon and the local grape Black Tamjanika. A visit to Negotin must also include a tour of "pimnica", traditional wine cellars from the 19th century, and Bukovo Monastery, which has been producing wine for centuries.

Vidin in north-western Bulgaria is home to Gamza, an ancient wine variety which was once common throughout the Balkans. Gamza is also known in the Balkans as Kadarka. It is characterised by red berry flavours and a savoury, herbal profile with hints of spiciness, not unlike Italian Barbera or Pinot Noir from Oregon. Other jewels to look out for in the Danube region of Bulgaria are white wines made from Sauvignon Blanc, Dimyat, Chardonnay, Traminer and Tamjanka.

A tour of the Danube region for wine lovers means an exciting exploration of authentic flavours and aromas. The richness of its wine tradition and history results in a diversity rarely found elsewhere.

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