SANISERA
ARCHAEOLOGY INSTITUTE
for International Field Schools

CODE
course 014

Spain-Italy

Explore Underwater Pompeii & Discover Amphora & Shipwrecks in the Underwater Port of Sanitja

General Information

The Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field Schools offers annual programs in archaeology. This course is designed for students from around the world interested in studying abroad, gaining knowledge in Roman cities, classical archaeology and underwater archaeology.

This underwater archaeology course consists of three main parts:

During the first part of the course students will participate in an underwater archaeology survey. Immersions will focus on an underwater archaeological survey, exploring the Ancient Port of Sanitja and the coast of the Cape of Cavalleria. The aim of this project is to identify structures of the Roman city of Sanisera and underwater shipwrecks, as well as the associated cargo including amphoras and anchors.

The second part of the course focuses on Mediterranean shipbuilding techniques, both theoretical and practical. Students will put into practice their conservation skills with a ship constructed in the 1920s.

The third part course consists of studying the submerged archaeological remains of Portus Iulius and the Roman villas of the Baia Underwater Park. In order to do this, participants will travel to Naples Bay, Italy.

Part 1. Discover Amphora & Shipwrecks in the Underwater Port of Sanitja (Menorca, Spain)

Over the past nine years, The Underwater School in Archaeology has researched the ancient port of Sanitja via an intensive survey program. We have discovered 18 Roman shipwrecks with cargo, including amphoras, and more than 10 anchors from different time periods.

There will be a minimum of 12 immersions focusing on underwater archaeological survey exploring the Ancient Port of Sanitja and the coast of the Cape of Cavalleria. The aim of this project is to identify structures of the Roman city of Sanisera and underwater shipwrecks, as well as the associated cargo including amphora and anchors.

The port of Sanitja was not only occupied by Romans. There are also ruins of a Muslim mosque and an English defense tower which lead us to believe that we could find other vessels from these time periods. During the last years of survey, several anchors and three shipwrecks from the XVI-XIX centuries were discovered.

Course time dedicated: 65%.

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Part 2. Mediterranean Shipbuilding (Menorca, Spain)
Students will learn the basics about traditional Mediterranean shipbuilding, as well as learning which tools, instruments and methods are the most suitable in order to restore old vessels. Participants will also attend lectures on Roman shipwrecks, Roman amphora and Mediterranean shipbuilding techniques.

Course time dedicated: 5%.

Part 3. Study Submerged Archaeological Remains in Baia Underwater Park (Pompeii, Italy)
The Underwater Pompeii site is located in the bay of Naples and is managed by Baia Underwater Park. Underwater surveys show that Roman buildings are about 400 meters away from the present coastline, at a depth of approximately 9 meters. Underwater and aerial surveys have shown numerous submerged archaeological remains. Evidence of the submersion of the coast can be found in the ruins of the Temple of Venus, which today is about 3 meters below the quay of the port. Nearby, on the other side of the bay, two monumental complexes were also found: a villa belonging to the Pisoni family and a bath complex with a nymphaeum.

Another submerged archaeological site that participants will visit is Portus Iulius, a port which sank during Roman times. It was built in 37 B.C. by Agrippa and Octavian, and was abandoned in 12 B.C., merely 25 years after its extremely expensive construction. Later on, it was submerged due to several ground movements –Bradyseism- and volcanic activities including Vesuvius.

The coast's unique atmosphere even attracted emperors. For instance, Caligula celebrated his elevation to divinity by building a pontoon crossing the area, which he then rode over wearing the armor of Alexander. Emperor Claudius often visited Baia. Nero was so fond of this place that he ended up conceiving grandiose projects there, one of them being conveying all spa waters into a large basin intended to link Miseno with the Averno.

In 2006 the Baia Underwater Archaeological Park was created, the first of its kind in Italy. Because of this project we can visit these magnificent ancient ruins. The uniqueness of the archaeology in Naples Bay, both on land and underwater, has made this site famous worldwide.

This part of the course will focus on the recognition of structures, mosaics, sculptures, amphoras and Roman pottery in the Baia Underwater Park. Here, participants will put into practice the underwater survey methods learned during the previous part of the course. In Baia participants will record and prepare the photography inventory of the archaeological remains and materials located there.

Course time dedicated: 25%.

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Students will also attend lectures on Roman History, shipwrecks, Roman Amphoras, Ancients Ports and methods on archaeological survey.

What you will learn

In the Fieldwork

- How to survey and which archaeological techniques are used.
- Use and handling of the tools that are used during the survey process.
- Recording data obtained during the survey.
- Study submerged archaeological remains in Baia Underwater Park
- Practice in the recognition of archaeological materials and Roman finds from the II century B. C. to VI A. D. in the Underwater Port of Sanitja.
- Practice in the recognition of roman structures, mosaics, sculptures, amphoras and Roman pottery in the Baia Underwater Park.

In the Laboratory

- Recording data obtained during the survey -diary and systematic methodology sheets-.
- Study and typological classification of archaeological Roman objects discovered during the underwater survey.
- Relative dating based on the classification of the archaeological objects discovered during the survey.

Theory

- Underwater Archaeological background of Sanisera.
- Ancient trade in Sanisera and the Western Mediterranean Sea.
- Ancient navigation.
- Modern sail merchant ships (centuries 16th - 20th).
- History, archaeology, economy and culture of the Roman civilization.
- Introduction to the History of the Sanisera Site.
- Minorcan archaeology before the Roman conquest of the Balearic Islands.

Directed at

This program is recommended for absolutely any person that is interested in underwater archaeology and would like to immerse themselves during 20 days in the underwater world of Roman archaeology.

Would you like to see sculptures, mosaics, architecture, streets and buildings from Roman times underwater as well as learn techniques that are used to discover underwater archaeological sites? If so, then this is the course for you.

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On the Spanish island of Menorca, you will have the opportunity to become part of the scientific research team that have spent years recording shipwrecks, anchors and amphoras in the Roman port of Sanitja. You will learn and apply techniques and methodology used in underwater archaeological survey.

The water is very clear in Menorca, with an astonishing visibility…often up to 18 to 20 meters. The water is calm and mild in temperature and currant, allowing for excellent diving conditions in a natural and pristine Mediterranean atmosphere.

In the Undewater Park of Baia (Italy), which we call "Underwater Pompeii," you will have the unique opportunity to visit archaeological remains from the Roman world that no other place in the Mediterranean can compare to. You will also visit the archaeological remains of Pompeii as well as the most significant ruins along the coast of Naples (amphitheaters, baths, museums, etc).

After finishing this course, the training and experience gained will help you to decide if underwater archaeology is the area of research that you wish to focus on or if you want to continue on with underwater archaeology as a future profession. You will have also visited the most iconic and remarkable Roman underwater archaeological sites in the Mediterranean.

Previous knowledge or experience in archaeology or computer systems is not required.

Field School life & language

The field school course has a length of 20 days and will start in Spain. Students will meet in Menorca on the first day of the course. During the first 14 days participants will focus on the underwater archaeology fieldwork in the ancient port of Sanitja, exploring and surveying the port of Sanitja and the coast of the Cape of Cavalleria. The aim of this project is to identify structures of the Roman city of Sanisera and underwater shipwrecks, as well as the associated cargo including amphora and anchors.

The course runs six hours per day. The course is taught in English and Spanish.

Participants will then travel to Naples (Italy) and practice what they have learned in the port of Sanitja, at the Underwater Pompeii (Baia). Participants will also visit the Roman ruins of the city of Pompeii.

Participants will then return to Menorca for the last two days of the program which are free course days.

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Options

To participate in diving activities, it is necessary to have a diving certificate that will allow you to dive up to 18 meters in depth. For this reason, we have designed two groups to choose from our underwater archaeology course: with or without a diving certificate.

Group 1. Without a diving certificate: Those that do not have a diving certificate should choose this group.

Group 2. With certificate: Those that have a diving certificate from an internationally recognized organization (i.e. PADI), should choose this group.

Medical check

On the first day of the course, participants have to show a medical document stating that he/she is fit for diving activities. Participants that do not have this document on the first day will not be allowed to participate until they are able to present this document.

Certificates

At the end of the Field Program, students will receive a certificate of participation stating the hours and activities of the course. Participants that perform exceedingly well in the course may receive a letter of recommendation from our organization upon request.

Sessions & Cost

In 2014, 1 session, 20 days:
Session #8: September 20 – October 9 $ 2950

In 2015, 10 sessions, 20 days each:
Session #1 April 9 – April 28 $ 2,500
Session #2 May 01 – May 20 $ 2,700
Session #3 May 23 - June 11 $ 3,000
Session #4 June 14 – July 03 $ 3,300
Session #5 July 06 – July 25 $ 3,300
Session #6 July 28 - August 16 $ 3,300
Session #7 August 19 – September 07 $ 3,000
Session #8 September 10 - September 29 $ 2,700
Session #9 October 02 - October 21 $ 2,500
Session #10 October 24 – November 12 $ 2,500

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Course fee includes

- Accommodation
- Course tuition.
- Tanks, tank filling and weights.
- Daily transportation to/from the research site.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Accident insurance at the site.
- Included excursion.
- Open water diving certificate (PADI) for those in group # 1.
- Flight to Menorca – Naples / Naples – Menorca (students can only take a cabin bag weighing up to 10 kg with maximum dimensions of 55cm x 40cm x 20cm).
- Accommodation in Hotel Arco Felice (Naples Bay).
- Archaeological immersions at Baia Underwater Park
- Transportation from the Hotel Arco Felice to the diving centre at Baia Underwater Park.
- Certificate of participation

Airfare not included from the student home to/from Menorca.
During the days in Naples meals are not included (only 4 days of the 20 days course, although we will recommend cafés and restaurants that do not exceed the average of 20€/day in meals).
Entry tickets to museums and historical buildings are not included.

Equipment Needed

We encourage participants to bring their own dive gear, however, a complete set of diving equipment (with the exception of mask and snorkel which each participant must bring) can be rented at the reduced cost of 18 Euro per day.

Spaces available

The course is limited to 8 participants per session. Reservations are only effective when payment of the registration fee is received. If for any reason the course is cancelled, payment is returned according to the field school refund policy.

Information & Reservations

For more information, contact:
Email: info@archaeology.institute
Web page: www.archaeology.institute