Discover archaeology and the ancient art in The British Museum (London, England) & Dig in the Roman City of Sanisera (Menorca, Spain)

1. General Information

This program, which has been scheduled by The Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field Schools, is divided in two main parts. In the first part of the course students will gain experience in archaeological fieldwork by excavating in the Ancient Roman city of Sanisera, located in the Mediterranean island of Menorca. During the second part, students will visit London to discover the archaeology and ancient art in The British Museum, the most important collection of ancient art of the world, numbering some 8 million works. In 2013 the museum received a record 6.7 million visitors, an increase of 20% from the previous year.

Part 1. The archaeological fieldwork in Sanisera (Menorca, Spain)

The research is focused on the archaeological excavation of Sanisera and it studies what happened in this Roman port connected to the maritime traffic that sailed the Mediterranean during those times. As a result, we know that this is a very interesting archaeological site, with abundant findings of multiple artifacts that will help us to reconstruct its past.

The excavation at the Roman city of Sanisera provides all the archaeological documentation necessary for the student to acquire enough training and experience in all aspects involving an excavation of the Roman civilization from the II century B.C. to the VI A.D.

In the laboratory students will learn to classify all the artifacts found on the site, including Roman pottery, numismatics and faunal remains.

Time dedicated to this part of the program: 70%.

Part 2. Discover the city of London and The British Museum (England)

For the second part of the course, the Field Program has scheduled an archaeological tour around London. This tour will have a duration of five days and explanations will be in English.

The British Museum is the national museum of United Kingdom dedicated to history, art and archaeology. It is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence and originates from all continents, illustrating
and documenting the story of human culture. The museum is located in Bloomsbury, in the Montagu House.

The British Museum houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Egyptian antiquities (with over 100,000 pieces) outside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Its collection includes works such as The Rosetta Stone.

The British Museum possesses by far the world's largest and most important collection of Mesopotamian antiquities outside Iraq. A collection of immense importance, the holdings of Assyrian, Babylonian and Sumerian antiquities are among the most comprehensive in the world with entire suites of rooms panelled in alabaster bas-reliefs from highly important sites between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris and include the biblical cities of Nimrud, Nineveh and Khorsabad.

In addition, The British Museum has one of the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of antiquities from the Classical world, with over 100,000 objects. These mostly range in date from the beginning of the Greek Bronze Age (about 3200 BC) to the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine I in the 4th century AD. The Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean cultures are represented, and the Greek collection includes important sculpture from the Parthenon in Athens, as well as elements of two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.

Two of the five days of the stay in London will be used to discover the collections of ancient civilizations including antiques from Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, Rome, Etruscan and Europe archaeology.

The other days will be free for the student to meet other art museums such as National Gallery, Natural History Museum, The National Maritime Museum and the most emblematic monuments and places of the city.

Time dedicated to this part of the program: 30%.

2. What you will learn

2.1. In the Fieldwork:

- How to dig and which archaeological techniques are used.
- Use and handling of the tools that are used during the excavation process.
- Basic principles of stratigraphy.
- Recording the data obtained during the excavation using the Harris Method.
- Practice on the recognition of archaeological materials and Roman finds from the II century B.C. - VI A.D.
- Basic procedures for sample collection.

2.2. In the Laboratory
- Study and typological classification of archaeological objects of Roman archaeology: ceramics, numismatics, faunal remains, metals and glass.
- Relative dating based on the classification of archaeological objects discovered in the stratigraphic sequence.

2.3. Theory

- 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.

2.4. Art & Museums

- Visit London to discover the archaeology and ancient art in The British Museum, the most important collection of art of the world.
- Discover in London the collections of ancient civilizations including antiques from Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, Rome, Etruscan and Europe archaeology.

3. Directed at

If you have never excavated as a volunteer in a field school and are interested in excavating in a Roman city as well as visiting the best collections of ancient art of the world, then this course is a good choice. This program accommodates participants with or without previous experience.

This program is designed for students interested in focusing their studies in the archaeology of the most important ancient civilizations, and contemplate the best pieces that represent them.

You will learn to excavate and classify archaeological material found. You will identify different types of Roman pottery, amphorae, coins and other Roman archaeological material. After learning this in Sanisera, you will have a better understanding when you visit London.

You can’t miss the opportunity to practice in an archaeological excavation and discover London, the most popular city in the world watching all its art and culture through its museums and unique places.

By participating in this course you will have the opportunity to excavate in a unique Roman city in Menorca (Spain) and then explore the most remarkable archaeology from The British Museum.

Previous knowledge or experience in archaeology or computer systems is not required.
4. Field School life & language

This field school program, with a length of 16 days, will start in Spain. Students will meet in Menorca during the first day. Next and during the following days they will focus on the excavation in the ancient city of Sanisera, where they will work for 9 days. Students will receive an intensive introduction on basic aspects of field excavation techniques following the Harris Matrix. The fieldwork runs 7 hours per day, with time dedicated to excavation as well as laboratory work focused on Roman pottery. Courses are given in both English and Spanish.

On the 11th day of the course participants will fly to London, where they will stay for 5 days. During this time, students will carry out an archaeological tour around London in order to visit the British Museum and its archaeological collection. The rest of the days, during the stay in London, the group of students and the guide from our organization will decide to visit other museums, monuments and interesting places.

Once students finish the archaeological tour in London, they will have two days off in order to enjoy their free time in Menorca, from where they will go back home.

5. 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.

6. Sessions & Cost

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7. Course fee includes
• Course tuition.
• Accommodation.
• Daily transportation to/from the archaeological fieldwork.
• Flight to Menorca – London / London – Menorca (students can only take a cabin bag weighing up to 10 kg with maximum dimensions of 55cm x 40cm x 20cm).
• In case of needing to process Schengen Visa the mandatory letter of invitation will be written so you can travel and participate in our courses.
• Breakfast, lunch and dinner (only while in Sanisera - Menorca)
• Certificate of participation.

Airfare not included from the student home to/from Menorca (Spain). During the archaeological tour in London meals are not included (only 8 days of the 16 days of the course), although we will recommend some cafés and restaurants that do not exceed the average of 22€/day in meals. Entry tickets to museums and historical buildings are not included either.

8. 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 and reservations

For more information, contact:

Email: info@archaeology.institute

Web page: www.archaeology.institute