

# EXCAVATIONS OF THE ANCIENT SALONA EXCAVATIONS OF THE ANCIENT SALONA

Croatian excavation project 2020

*In cooperation with:*

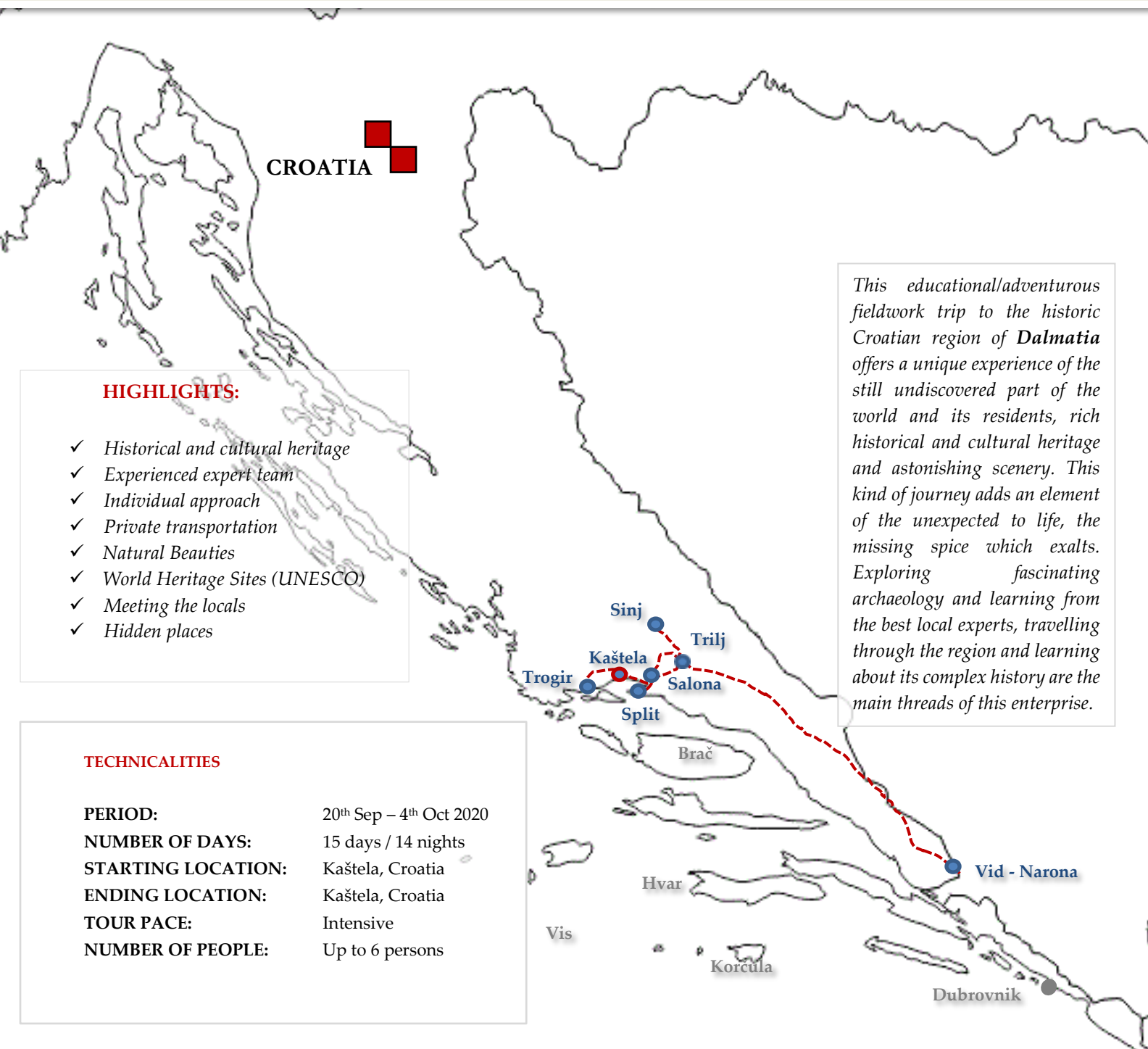


University of  
Zagreb



## BRIEF ITINERARY AND MAP:

DAY	DATE	PLACE / ROUTE	LODGING	ACTIVITIES	MEALS
DAY 1	20.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Arrival day/ Introduction to Ancient Salona	D
DAY 2	21.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Field work / Leisure time	BLD
DAY 3	22.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Split	Private apartment	Field work / Split & Diocletian`s Palace pt.1	BLD
DAY 4	23.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Field work / Leisure time	BLD
DAY 5	24.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Split	Private apartment	Field work / Split & Diocletian`s Palace pt.2	BLD
DAY 6	25.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Field work / Diving course - optional	BLD
DAY 7	26.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Sinj	Private apartment	Town of Sinj / Roman military camp Tilurium	BLD
DAY 8	27.9.2020.	Kaštela	Private apartment	Free day	BLD
DAY 9	28.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Trogir	Private apartment	Field work / Trogir	BLD
DAY 10	29.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Field work / Leisure time	BLD
DAY 11	30.9.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Klis	Private apartment	Field work / Klis Fortress	BLD
DAY 12	1.10.2020.	Kaštela - Salona - Split	Private apartment	Field work / Archaeological museum in Split	BLD
DAY 13	2.10.2020.	Kaštela - Salona	Private apartment	Field work / Farewell vineyard dinner	BLD
DAY 14	3.10.2020.	Kaštela - Vid - Omiš	Private apartment	Visit to the <i>in situ</i> Narona Museum	BLD
DAY 15	4.10.2020.	Kaštela		Departure day	B



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Historical and cultural heritage
- ✓ Experienced expert team
- ✓ Individual approach
- ✓ Private transportation
- ✓ Natural Beauties
- ✓ World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)
- ✓ Meeting the locals
- ✓ Hidden places

*This educational/adventurous fieldwork trip to the historic Croatian region of **Dalmatia** offers a unique experience of the still undiscovered part of the world and its residents, rich historical and cultural heritage and astonishing scenery. This kind of journey adds an element of the unexpected to life, the missing spice which exalts. Exploring fascinating archaeology and learning from the best local experts, travelling through the region and learning about its complex history are the main threads of this enterprise.*

### TECHNICALITIES

<b>PERIOD:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep – 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2020
<b>NUMBER OF DAYS:</b>	15 days / 14 nights
<b>STARTING LOCATION:</b>	Kaštela, Croatia
<b>ENDING LOCATION:</b>	Kaštela, Croatia
<b>TOUR PACE:</b>	Intensive
<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE:</b>	Up to 6 persons

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

DAY 1 (SUN) 20/9/2020 Arrival day / Kaštela - Salona



- :- Pick up at the Split airport / Transfer to accommodation in Kaštela for check-in
- :- Visit to the Ancient Salona site – introduction
- :- Transfer back to accommodation / Dinner
- :- Free time / Overnight

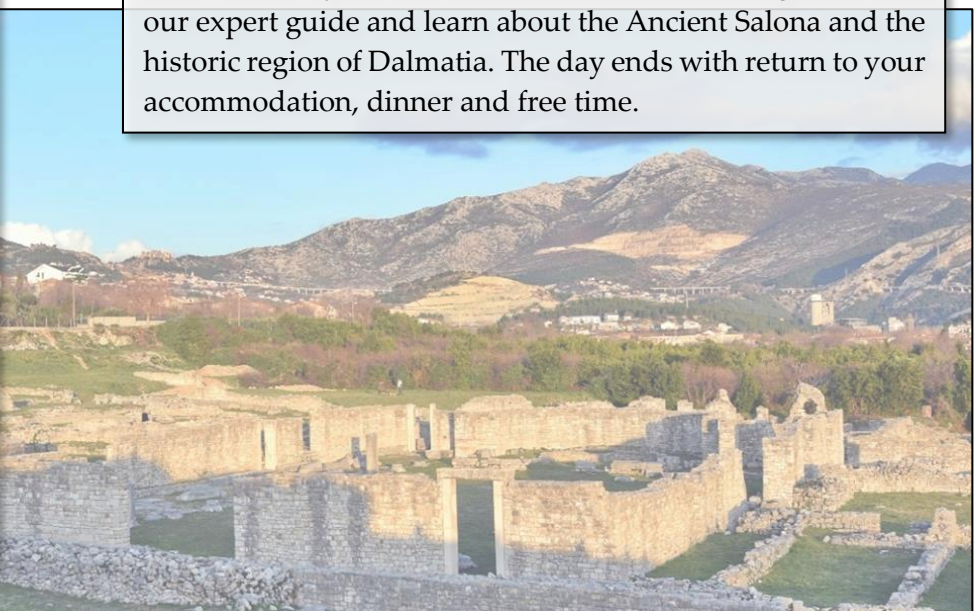
Welcome, our dear archaeology lovers!



Upon your arrival at the Split airport, our programme host will greet you and take to your accommodation in Kaštel Kambelovac, a 10-minute drive away. Located in a historic seafront settlement between two UNESCO - enlisted cities – Trogir and Split, Kaštel Kambelovac - one of 7 settlements of the town of Kaštela. This location at the sea front and near bigger cities is the ideal destination for a more relaxing, off the beaten path stay, especially during summer season. The studio apartments you are staying in are owned by a local family that has 40 + years of tourism and much longer tradition of winemaking, offering guests an experience of the authentic Dalmatian way of life, but also about the history of this land and local traditions. Buffet breakfasts and 3-course meal dinners will be served daily at the *Baletna Škola* (Balet School) restaurant, somewhat 100 meters from your apartment.




After a short rest and making yourself comfortable in your new “home”, you will visit the excavation site together with our expert guide and learn about the Ancient Salona and the historic region of Dalmatia. The day ends with return to your accommodation, dinner and free time.





- 07:00 Breakfast / Transfer to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Fieldwork at the excavation site Salona - basic instructions and introduction to the site \***  
(lunch provided on site)
- :- Return to accommodation / Leisure time
- :- Dinner / Free time / Overnight



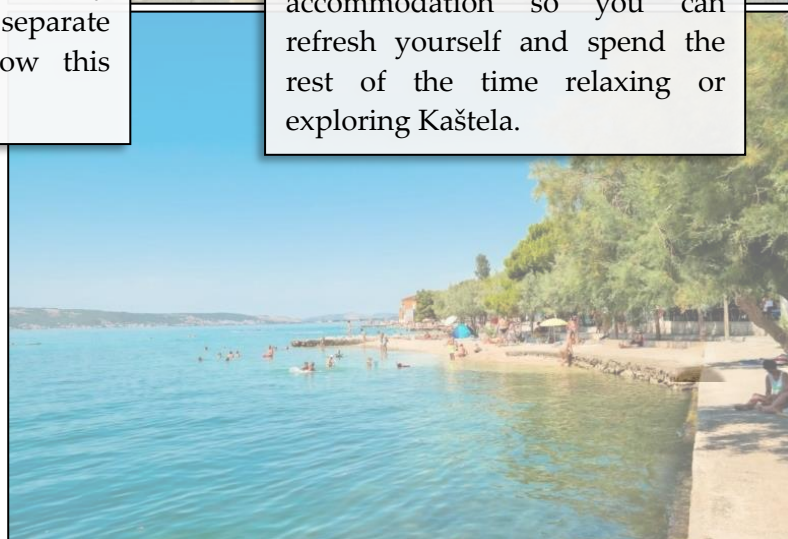
From Monday to Friday, the excavations will take place according to the same schedule, starting with an early breakfast and transfer to the excavation site. Catered lunch will be provided during a 30-minute lunch break close to the site. After excavations, we will drive you back to your accommodation. The drive takes about 10 minutes.

On your first day of fieldwork, you will be properly introduced to the expert team who will then take over, assigning you to your tasks.

There will be one team dispersed onto two trenches excavating inside the eastern extension of the ancient town, right beside the town main baths. The site is more closely analysed in the separate description below this itinerary.



After the first day of excavations, we will drive you back to your accommodation so you can refresh yourself and spend the rest of the time relaxing or exploring Kaštela.





- 07:00 Breakfast / Transfer to excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Drive back to apartment / Refreshment time
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Split & Diocletian`s Palace, pt. 1**
- :- Return to Kaštela
- :- Free time / Dinner / Overnight

Today, after the excavations and refreshment time, we start with our first tour. Since you have already seen and learned about Salona, we will take you to its descendant - the city of **Split**.

Due to the city's long and complex history,

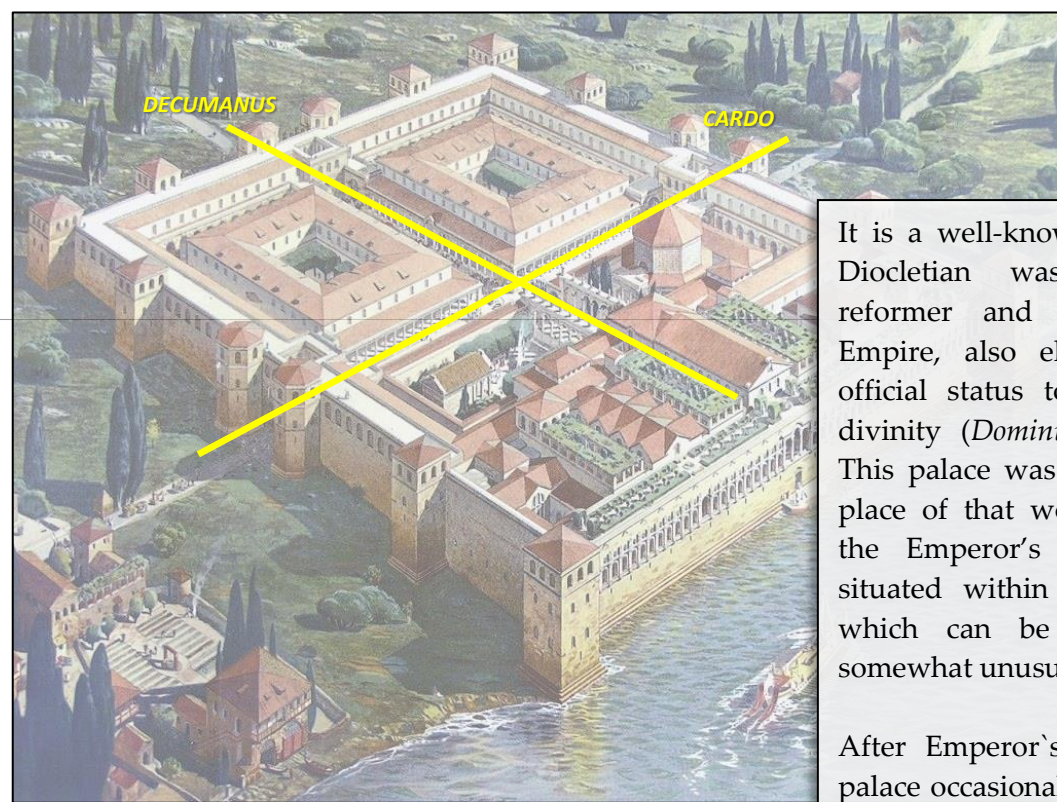
we decided to have two separate tours on different days, the first one exploring the ancient **Cardo** street, and the second one taking you along the **Decumanus** street.



Split is not only a city; it is a living monument of antique architecture intertwined with early Christian, Byzantine and Medieval art, enlisted as a World Heritage Site since back in 1979.

The city was born inside the spacious Roman palace built by the charismatic Roman Emperor Diocletian as his retirement residence.





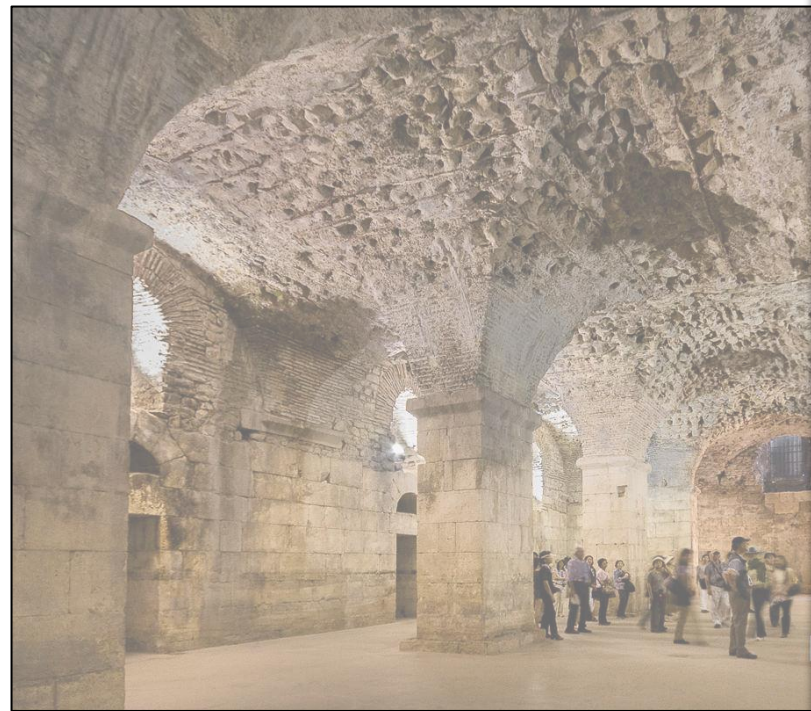
It is a well-known fact that Diocletian was a great reformer and restorer of Empire, also elevating his official status to that of a divinity (*Dominus et Deus*). This palace was in a way a place of that worship, with the Emperor's mausoleum situated within the palace, which can be considered somewhat unusual.

After Emperor's death, the palace occasionally served to various dignitaries of the time, including the "controversial" theory about it being a "gynaeceum" – cloth dyeing factory.

When the residents of Salona fled before the medieval barbarian tribes and found refuge in the Palace, the adaptations of the Palace started and sometime later mausoleum got transformed into one of the first cathedrals in the world – the cathedral of St. Domnius - bishop of Salona, thus becoming the patron saint of Split.

The Imperial substructures, the Peristyle, picturesque streets and squares, temples, sphinxes, medieval palaces, fruit and fish market... the vivid pulse of the city will embrace your perception. It's a beautiful picture and a pleasant melody, engraved into the hearts of its citizens.

After the tour of the city, our driver will take you back to Kaštela for your dinner and overnight.





-:- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site

**07:30 – 15:00** Field work\* / Lunch

-:- Return to Kaštela

-:- Free time / Dinner / Overnight

After today's fieldwork you have free time to rest and enjoy swimming, or perhaps read a book in the shadow of pine trees close to the beach.

Near your accommodation is the centre of Kaštel Kambelovac, a place with small Mediterranean square, small traditional fishing port, some bars and grocery stores, benches, kids and elderly villagers.

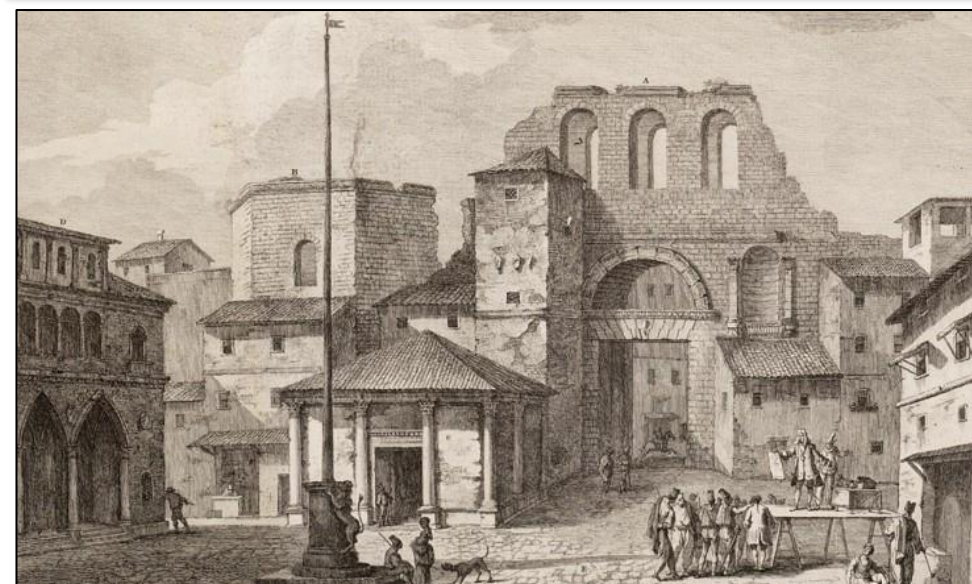
History of the place starts back in 1517, when in accordance to approval from 1478, noblemen and landowners from Split, brothers Jerolim and Nikola Cambi, built a castle on an islet to protect themselves and residents of nearby villages situated on the slopes of Kozjak mountain, above the present seaside settlement.



In addition to the area of the Cambi castle, castles of some other noble families have been built as well; also, locals built two castles: Velika and Mala Piškera. It was the only example where local villagers have built their own fortifications. Due to such large number of castles, Kaštel Kambelovac has developed in a stretched village shape, connecting to neighbouring sister settlements of Kaštel Gomilica and Kaštel Lukšić – the only of seven settlements without a square, but with magical Vitturi castle, the most presentable one of all preserved castles.

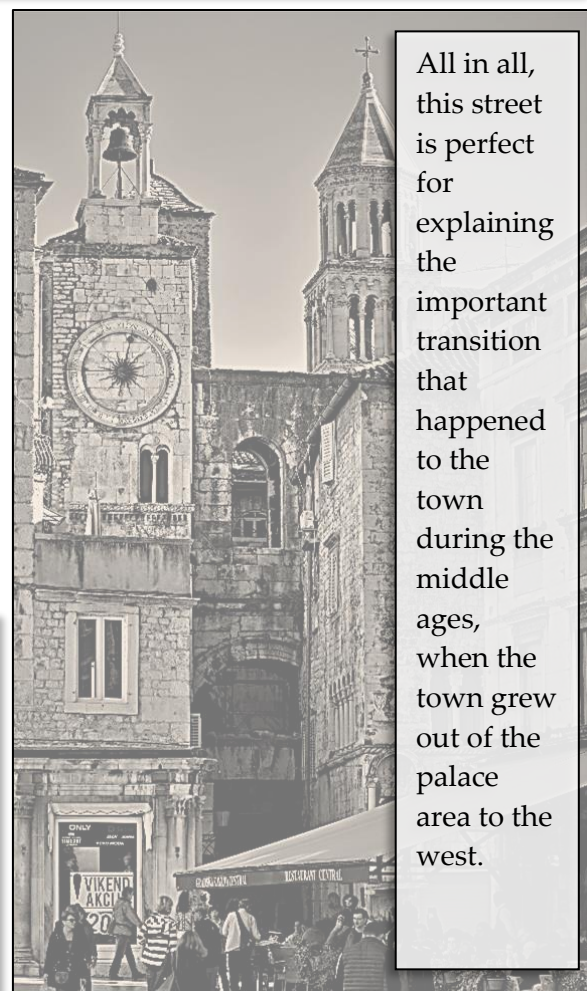


- :- Breakfast / Transfer to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela / Refreshment time
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Split & Diocletian`s Palace, pt. 2**
- :- Return to Kaštela / Free time / Dinner / Overnight

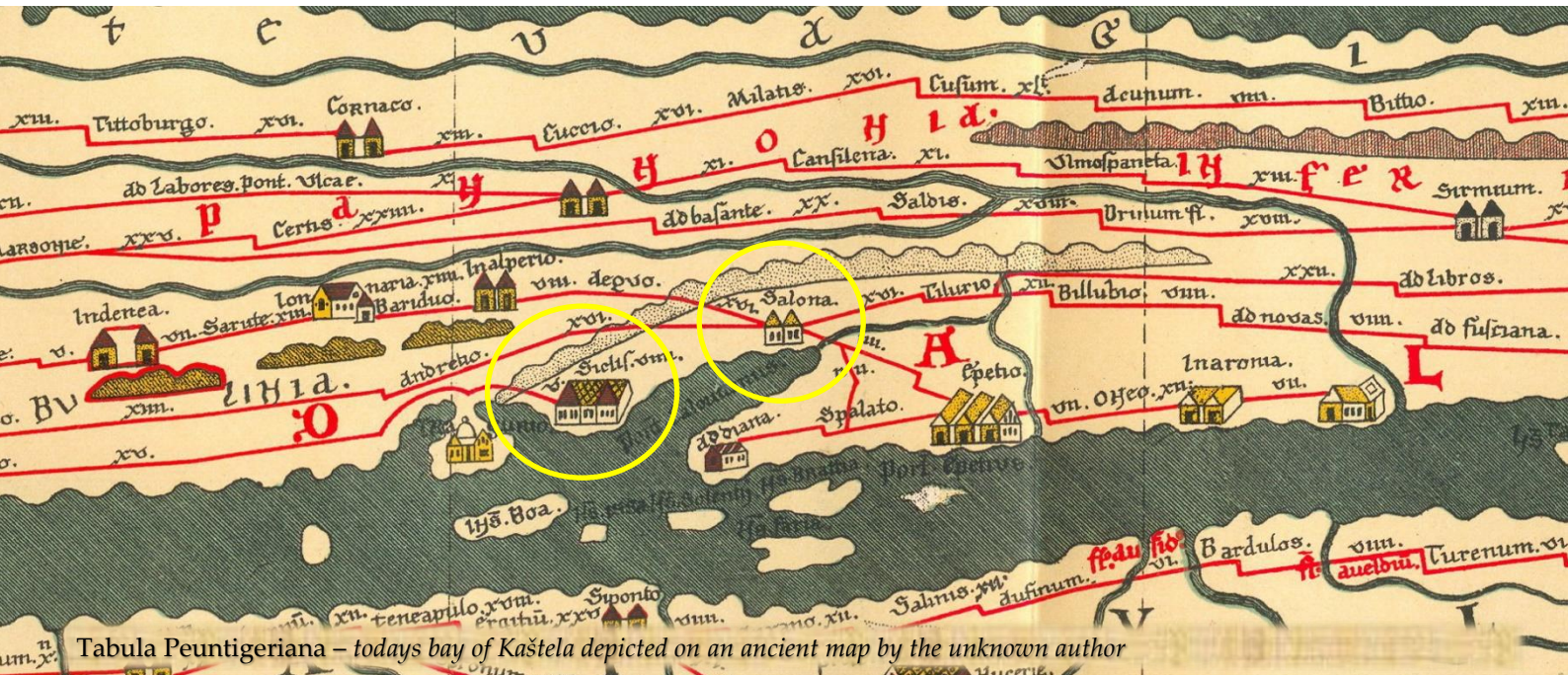


After another exciting fieldwork day in Salona, after refreshment at your accommodation we shall once more commence to Split for the second part of our tour of Split & Diocletian`s Palace.

This time we start from the green market, locally known as *Pazar*; stopping along the way in several important places. Curiously, all of them start with the letter P: *Pazar*, *Peristyle*, *Pjaca*, *Peškarija* (fish market) and the *Prokurative* Square, thus being a reason for some enthusiasts to call this street “the street of five pearls of Split”.



All in all, this street is perfect for explaining the important transition that happened to the town during the middle ages, when the town grew out of the palace area to the west.



- :- Breakfast / Transfer to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela
- 16:30 **Optional diving course / visiting the submerged ancient ports of Sicti settlement**
- :- Return to Kaštela / Free time / Dinner / Overnight

For today's post-excavation activity, we have booked an optional diving course with a visit to the remains of ancient town Sicti, located westwards, just behind the last of the seven Kaštela settlement. Seen that the docks of the ancient Sicti port are situated just meters away from the beach, which through time formed on top of the ancient remains, the dive isn't particularly demanding.

Although not everyone is keen on diving, some younger archaeologists or students might appreciate such experience. That is why this tour is organised as optional.

Sicti is still undiscovered piece of the puzzle that raises numerous questions. On the above picture of the Tabula Peutingeriana (copy of an ancient map from the 1<sup>st</sup> century), we can see how it was depicted in comparison to Salona, which according to historical traces was supposedly the biggest settlement at the time of the map's drawing by its true author.





-- Breakfast

09:00 Trip to the Roman military camp Tilurium and the town of Sinj / Traditional lunch

-- Return / Dinner / Free time / Overnight



On our first weekend, we shall cross the shoreline mountains and go slightly off the beaten tourist path to visit the culturally rich towns of Trilj and Sinj.

Both are stories unto themselves: Sinj with its archaeological exhibit at the Franciscan Monastery and the Alka Tournament Museum, and Trilj with the Roman Camp of Tilurium and river Cetina flowing through.

After the visit to the Alka Museum, we will have the to savour traditional local food, witnessing impacts on different cultures in our menu. After lunch, we shall start our return to Kaštela, and willingly make some interesting stops along the way.





### **Roman legionary camp of Tilurium**

is settled in the north-east part of a plateau above the town of Trilj, on the right bank of the river Cetina (Hyppus), as one of the most important military hubs in the Roman province of Dalmatia – encampment of the 7<sup>th</sup> Roman legion (*legio VII. Claudia pia fidelis*).

Covering an area of about 12 hectares, today the ancient settlement occupies the central part of the village Gardun which is situated right above Trilj.

The camp is located on a very important strategic point, dominating the surrounding area thanks to its elevation above sea level which allowed it control over the river Cetina passage.

In ancient times, there was a road that led from Tilurium to Salona, the centre of the Roman province of Dalmatia. The importance of this location is further emphasised by the existence of an earlier prehistoric settlement – the fortress of Illyrian Delmats – whose location coincides with the present-day church of St. Peter with cemetery and the nearby Stražbenica hill.

Roman historian Pliny the Elder gives us a written testimony that bears witness to that fact: “...*Tribulium, nobilitata proelis castella.*” Interestingly enough, the same historian also mentions the members of the legion stationed in this camp retiring to Siculi after their service.





**The Sinjska Alka** is a chivalry tournament that takes place annually, as it has done since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, in the town of Sinj, in the Cetinska Krajina region.

During the contest, knights ride horses at full gallop along the main street, aiming their lances at an iron ring hanging on a rope. The name of the tournament derives from this ring ("alka"), a word whose Turkish origin reflects the historical co-existence and cultural exchange between two different civilizations.

The tournament rules, codified in the 1833 statute, promote ethics and fair play, and stress the importance of participation in the community life. Participants must be members of local families from Sinj and the Cetinska Krajina region. The whole community helps to make, conserve, restore and reconstruct weapons, clothes and accessories to support the continuation of the tradition.

The tournament is also entwined with local religious practices, social gatherings, family visits and festivities both outdoors and at home. The Sinjska Alka is the only remaining example of the medieval knightly competitions that were regularly held in the Croatian coastal towns until the nineteenth century. It has become a symbol of local history and a medium for transferring collective memory from one generation to another.





- :- Breakfast / Free time
- :- Lunch / Free time
- :- Dinner / Overnight

According to our experience with participants from previous years, it is best to spend this day resting and relaxing, so you can gather your strength for the upcoming digs on weekdays. For the ones that would enjoy a simple walk, the Riviera of Kaštela with its beaches, restaurants and historic architecture offers many opportunities for exploring local life.

Alternatively, you can visit one of the nearby islands, or pursue some adrenaline-infused fun such as zip-lining or rafting. Numerous activities are only 30 minutes to 1 hour away from your accommodation and we'd be happy to advise on how to spend your free time and assist you with any plans.



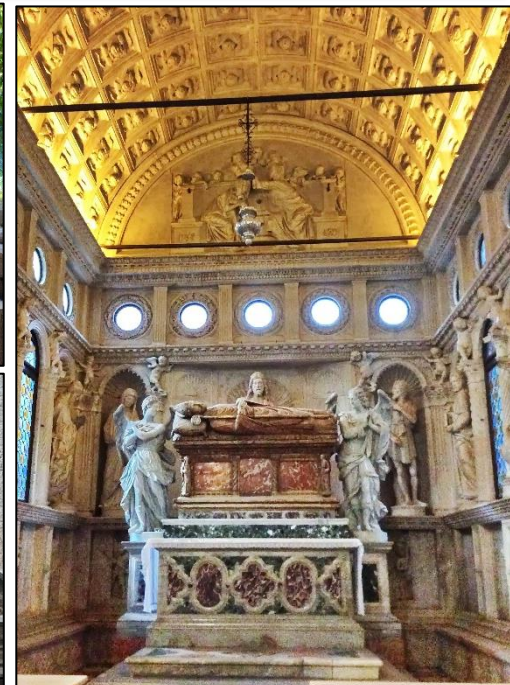


- :- Breakfast / Transfer to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Trogir**
- :- Return / Dinner and free time / Overnight



From Monday to Friday, the excavations schedule remains the same, starting with an early breakfast, followed by a short drive to the excavation site.

Today, after the excavations and refreshment time, we will pick you up for an afternoon visit to Trogir, one of the oldest cities on the Croatian coastline. Certainly, older than Salona and Split, as it was established as a Greek *emporion* back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.



**Trogir** is a small, 'amphibian' town, situated on an islet between a bigger island and the mainland. According to archaeological evidence, it seems to have grown as the sea level rose.

It is an excellent example of urban continuity ranging from the ancient times to the Middle Ages, offering a clear insight into the town's social and cultural development.

Exceptional Gothic and Renaissance buildings from the Venetian period complete the antique orthogonal street system further embellished by fortifications, public and private buildings, and especially the church architecture. A special emphasis should be placed on the cathedral, which was built over a period of 400 years, whose bell tower is a perfect display of that fact. The three-nave cathedral with the baptistery, constructed on the foundations of an early Christian basilica, abounds in exquisite works of art.

These can be reached through the unique work of master Radovan – Radovan's portal – the most significant achievement of Romanesque-Gothic sculpture on this side of the Adriatic. Another remarkable Renaissance achievement is the chapel of the Blessed Ivan Ursini, added to the church's northern wall in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.





- :- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Olive oil tasting / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela
- :- Free time / Dinner / Overnight



Today during lunch, we shall have an olive oil tasting complemented with a short lecture where you will learn something about this golden liquid with heavenly attributes, reveal its effects on human health as well as its importance for the local culture. During the tasting you will learn something about the production processes, as well.

Familiarise yourself with elementary characteristics of olive oil and find out the truth by comparing characteristics of top-quality olive oils with those of lesser quality. Enriched for the knowledge that you are taking home with you, apply it in your everyday life and in future be sure to use a proper product.

In addition, you will taste the different varieties of gourmet oils flavoured with freshly picked herbs: lavender, rosemary and sage and learn more about their implementation in cuisine. Ask whatever you want to know and enjoy in sensory experiences and newly collected knowledge at this miraculous place.

After excavations, you will have yet another afternoon for relaxing in Kaštela, followed by a dinner in restaurant.



- :- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela / Refreshment time
- :- Tour to Klis Fortress / Return to Kaštela
- :- Free time / Dinner / Overnight



After another interesting fieldwork day in Salona, we will return to your accommodation for refreshment and then continue to our next adventure – the Klis Fortress.

We will enjoy the company of Klis Uskoci, the 16<sup>th</sup> century guerrilla fighters against the Ottomans and Venetians, and tour the fortress, learning more about its turbulent history and the weaponry used back in the day by shooting a longbow and flintlock.



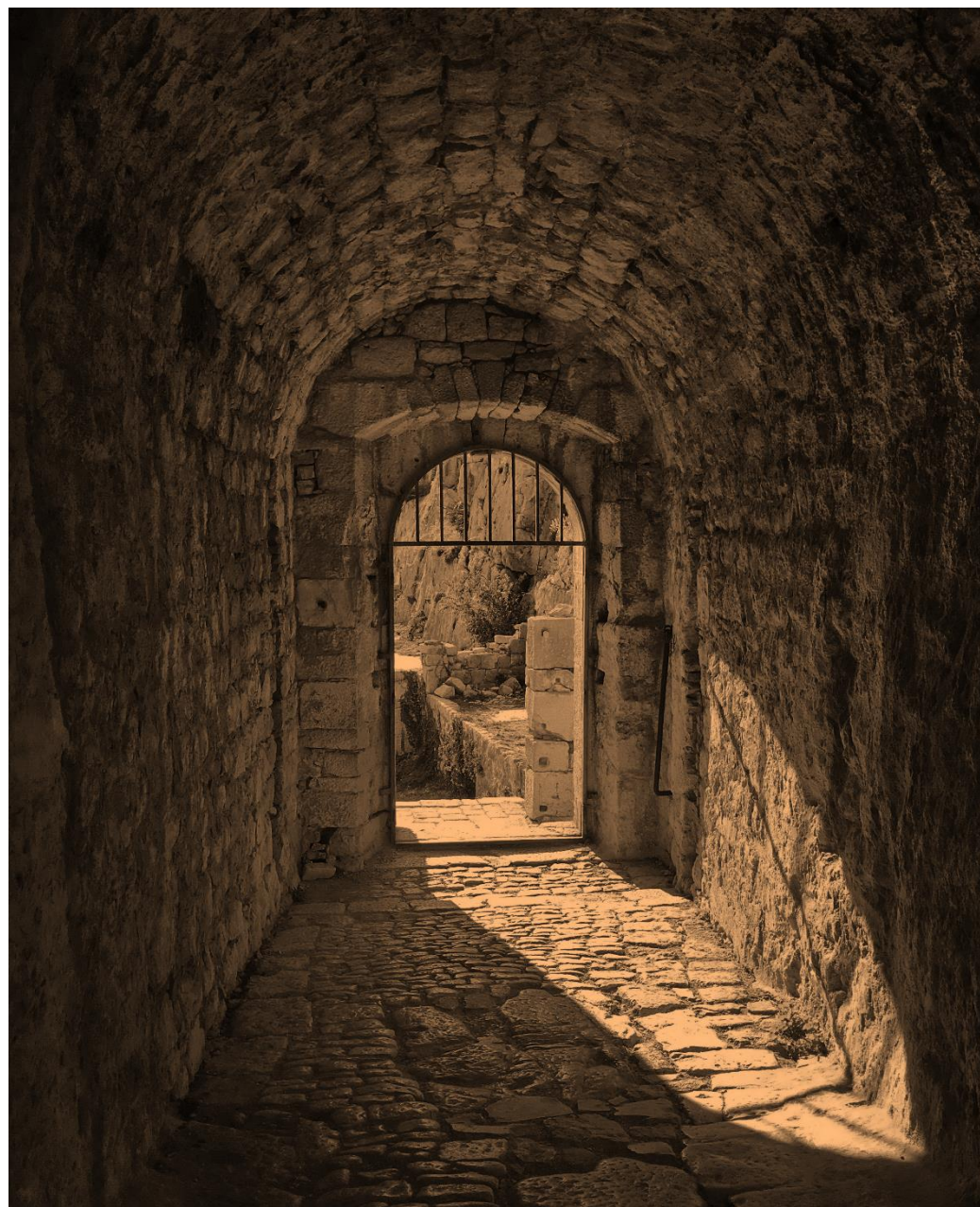
The Klis fortress, one of the most significant fortifications in Croatia, has had enormous strategic importance due to its position.

It is believed that the fortress was first established by the Illyrian tribes, while the first records about the fortress from the 10<sup>th</sup> century speak of the Roman fortress *Kleisa* being besieged by the Avars and Slavs which hastened the conquering of Salona in the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, at the time of the arrival of Croats. Two centuries later Klis had already become one of the centres of the Croatian state, being the seat of its dukes and kings.

After the Croatian rulers, the fortress was governed by Hungaro-Croatian kings, serving for a while as a refuge for the royal members of Hungarian court – the wife of Bela IV and their two little daughters – fleeing from Tatars. Later, it was governed by the frequently changing Croatian nobility.

The most turbulent time in the history of Klis was the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the period of the greatest Ottoman invasion to this area. Petar Kružić, captain and town duke, played an important role in its defence. Together with his warriors, the Uskoci, he managed to resist Ottoman attacks and sieges for two and a half decades. Klis fell with his death on March 12, 1537, which meant the loss of the most significant Croatian fortification in Dalmatia.

It changed hands again during the Candian (Cretan) War, occupying an important strategic position in the Venetian military system. The area of Klis was organized as a special military and administrative area ruled by the *providur* based in Klis. The fortress was completely restored and significantly enlarged, remaining under the flag of Venice until 1797 when it was taken over by the Austrians.



The last time it was used for military purposes was during WW II, mainly as the stronghold of the Italian and German occupation forces. Finally, in 1990 the flag of the sovereign Republic of Croatia was placed on it. Today, it is predominantly a very important resource in tourism and local culture, but also surprisingly found purpose in famous Game of Thrones series.





- :- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00 **Field work\* / Lunch**
- :- Return to Kaštela / Refreshment time
- :- Visit Archaeological Museum of Split / Return to Kaštela
- :- Free time / Dinner / Overnight

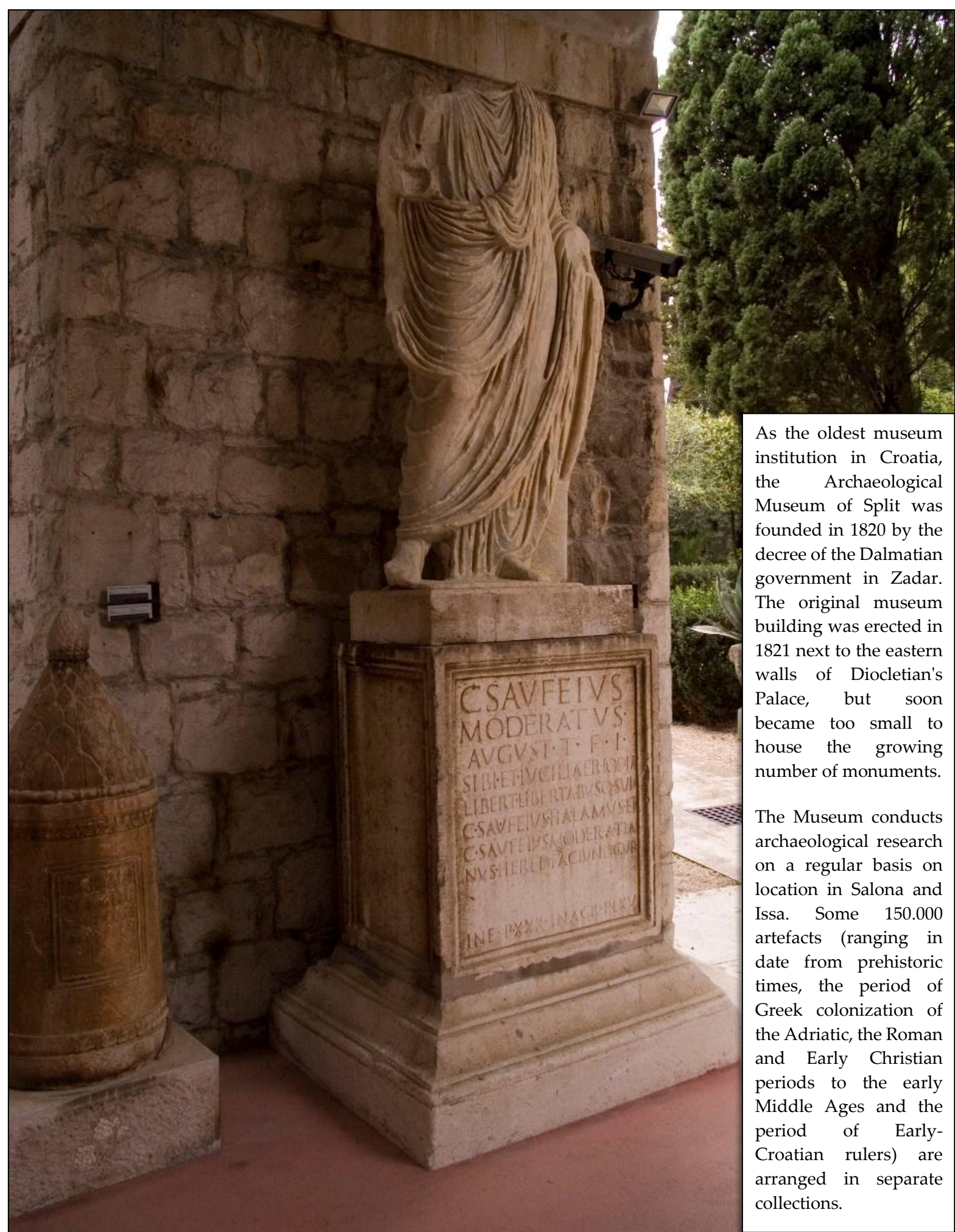


Today, we will finally visit the Archaeological Museum of Split, the actual hosts of this expedition.

The institution of Archaeological Museum is responsible for the Ancient Salona site, and was established precisely because of the abundant archaeological material found in the area of the modern-day town of Solin.



The first collections of such material date back to the period of Humanism, when the noble Dmino Papalić and the noted Croatian poet and writer Marko Marulić retrieved them from Salona during their walks in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



As the oldest museum institution in Croatia, the Archaeological Museum of Split was founded in 1820 by the decree of the Dalmatian government in Zadar. The original museum building was erected in 1821 next to the eastern walls of Diocletian's Palace, but soon became too small to house the growing number of monuments.

The Museum conducts archaeological research on a regular basis on location in Salona and Issa. Some 150.000 artefacts (ranging in date from prehistoric times, the period of Greek colonization of the Adriatic, the Roman and Early Christian periods to the early Middle Ages and the period of Early-Croatian rulers) are arranged in separate collections.

Of special interest is the collection of stone inscriptions from Salona (around 6000 items) and the collections of Graeco-Hellenistic ceramic objects, Roman glass, ancient clay lamps (around 1600), bone and metal fragments, as well as the collection of gems (the largest in the country). In addition, the Museum houses an extensive collection of ancient and medieval coins (over 70.000) and a rich library with an archive.



- :- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site
- 07:30 – 15:00** Field work\* / Lunch
- :- Return to Kaštela / Refreshment time
- :- Dinner party with wine tasting in the vineyard
- :- Return and overnight

It is the final day of your fieldwork, and the one on which you will part with your colleagues and Salona. Thus, for this evening experience we chose a nice party in a hillside of Kozjak mountain.

The owner of the apartments you are staying in has his vineyard directly above the village. Great company, magnificent vistas, barbecue and some premium Dalmatian wines will make this evening very special.



**DAY 14 (SAT) 3/10/2020 Kaštela – Vid (Narona) - Omiš**



-:-	Breakfast
08:00	Depart to Vid & Narona <i>in situ</i> museum / Explore the settlement and tour the museum
14:00	Lunch on a traditional river boat
-:-	Return / Free time
-:-	Dinner / Free time / Overnight

On our second weekend, just a day before your departure, we will take our longest trip so far – a trip to the Narona *in situ* museum to the south of the country. It is situated in a small town called Vid that lies on the river Narona, a tributary to the larger river Neretva.

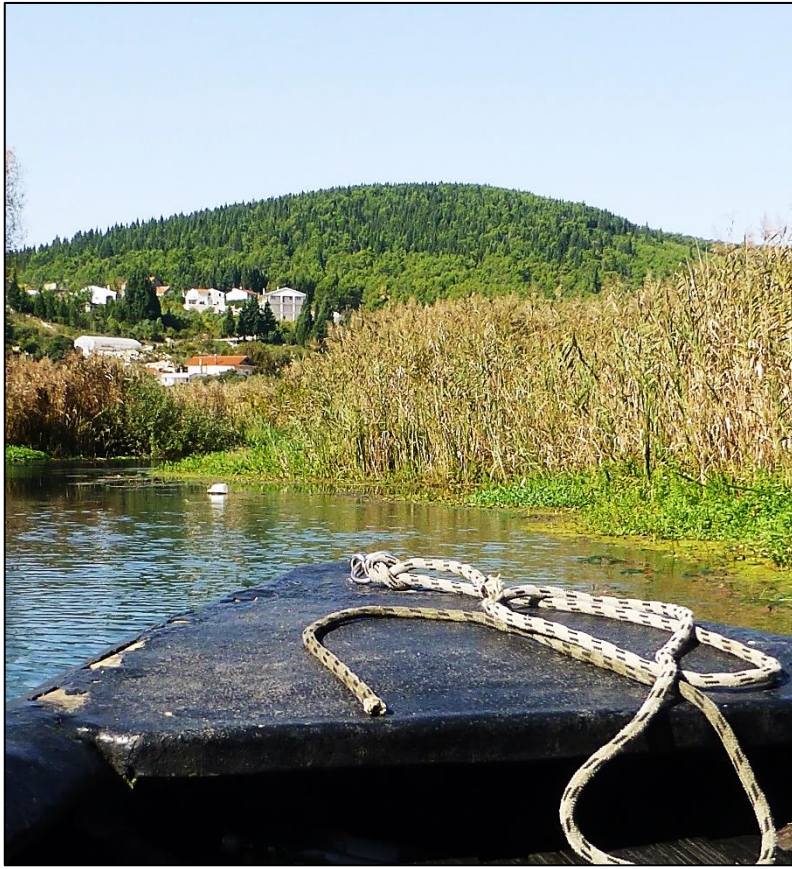
After our 2-hour drive, we stroll around the village a bit to see the abundance of Roman spolia built into local houses, followed by a guided tour led by the museum expert.





Archaeological research conducted at the *Plećašove štale* site in 1995 and 1996 led to a sensational discovery of the remains of a Roman temple – the Augusteum – and 17 marble statues, both outsized and of natural height. These finds inspired the idea of presenting this unique archaeological site in an integral fashion, including both the architectural remains and other specimens of the ample archaeological material.

The cornerstone of the future museum was laid on July 19, 2004. A directive passed by the Croatian Government established the Naron Archaeological Museum in 2005. After exceptionally demanding construction works, it was formally inaugurated on May 18, 2007 as the first *in situ* museum in Croatia. Such an approach to the presentation of an archaeological site has enriched Croatia's museum scene and has few peers at the European or even global level.



Never does exploring only architecture and history tell everything about certain area, especially area characteristic as this one. Therefore, having local lunch on a traditional wooden boat used on Naron river is a must.

On our way back, we shall make a couple of stops to enjoy spectacular scenery and discover some curiosities. On return to Kaštela, you will have your last dinner of the package.





- :- Breakfast
- :- Farewell transfer

All things come to an end, they say, but we hope that we managed to leave a permanent memory in your minds and hearts and established a good friendship with all the participants.

*\*In case of rain, the project envisions more indoor activities such as finds processing, documentation, restoration and extra workshops.*

*Schedule in the programme is subject to change depending on the arrival day (according to session) and the weather, since excavations and restorations will not be conducted on weekends (Saturday – Sunday). Those days are reserved for full-day guided tours or relaxation.*

## About Salona in the ancient period...



1. MANASTIRINE
2. TUSCULUM
3. CITY WALLS
4. EPISCOPAL CENTRE
5. AQUEDUCT
6. CITY THERMAE
7. FIVE BRIDGES
8. CITY INSULA
9. PORTA CESAREA
10. PORTA ANDETRIA
11. PRAETORIUM
12. FORUM
13. THEATRE
14. TEMPLE
15. KAPLJUČ
16. AMPHITHEATRE
17. WEST NECROPOLIS
18. MARUSINAC
19. BASILICA CUM BAPTISTERO
20. BASILICA ORIENTALIS
21. GRADINA



*Greek-Illyrian type of helmet, from the area of Dalmatia, ca. 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.*

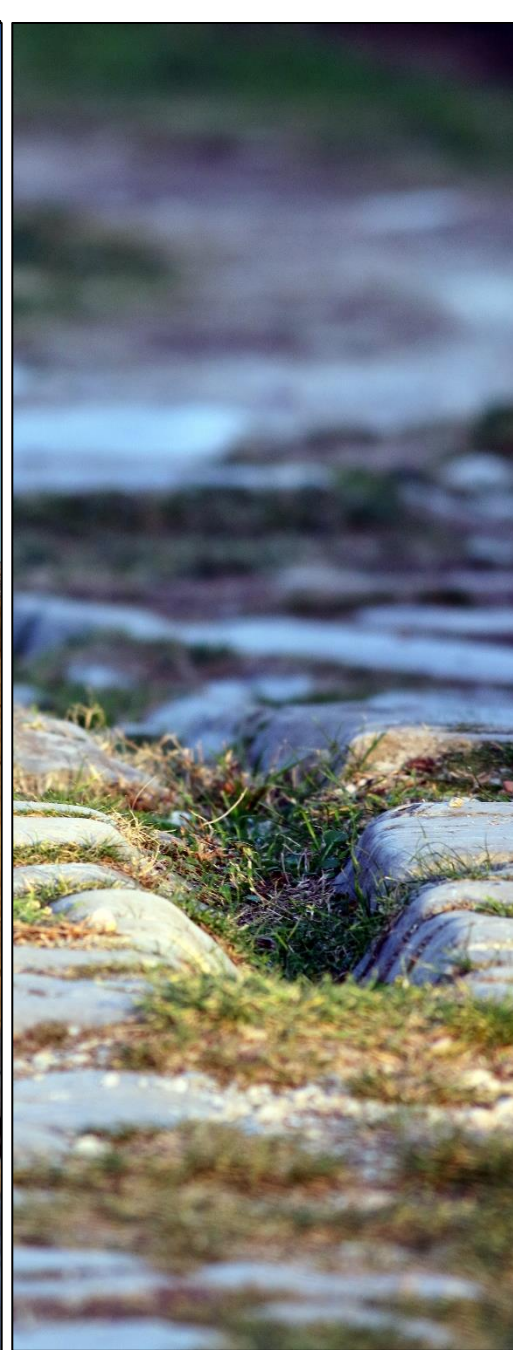


*Votive relief of Silvanus with iconography of Pan; from Split area, ca. 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.*

The ruins of the ancient Salona, capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia, lie six kilometres north of Split in what is today the town of Solin. Its favourable geographic position in the central part of the eastern coast of the Adriatic deep inside the well-sheltered Kastela Bay, on the delta of the river Salon (the present-day Jadro), and good road links to the hinterland all contributed to the quick and unhindered development of the town.

Initially, Salona was the coastal stronghold and the port of the Illyrian Delmats in the immediate vicinity of the ancient Greek colonies of Tragurion and Epetion. Along with the local Illyrian population and the Greek settlers, at the time Salona was inhabited by a large Italic community. Following the civil war between Caesar and Pompey in 48 B.C., Salona was granted the status of a Roman colony, thus becoming the centre of Illyricum and later of the province of Dalmatia.

After the last Illyrian rebellion had been stifled (Baton's Uprising, 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> year A.D. ), Salona entered a new period of peace and prosperity, as illustrated by its urban development and the intensive construction activity.



*Porta Caesarea & Roman wheel tracks*

The trapezoid-shaped old town nucleus was fortified with walls and towers, some parts of which date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. Of these fortifications, the eastern section of the town walls, built out of huge stone blocks with the door surrounded by octagonal towers (Porta Caesarea), dating from the Augustan Age, has been preserved to the present day. From here a road branched towards the south-east and south, with another branch leading north towards the inland regions of the Province.

The period of rapid development of Salona during the rule of Emperor Augustus and throughout the first century A.D. is characterised by the construction of numerous public buildings. In the south-eastern part of town, the Forum with a capitoline was erected as the centre of public, political and religious life of the region. Towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., a theatre that could hold 3,500 spectators was built next to the Forum. A representation of Salona with the theatre can be seen on Trajan's Column in Rome.

South of the theatre was the location of an older temple. Along the roads leading away from the town walls necropolises were built, as it was customary in the ancient Roman Empire. The most famous of these is the western one, called *in horto Metrodori*, located by the side of the road leading towards Tragurion. This necropolis is known for the "Cyclopean" construction of the walls encircling individual burial plots.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., the town started to expand westward and eastward. In the face of the threat posed by the invading Germanic tribes, the new extensions were fortified with defensive walls and rectangular towers. The town received its characteristic elliptic form with the east-west axis of approximately 1,600 metres and the north-south one measuring approximately 700 metres. During the construction of the town walls, individual buildings became integrated into their structure for the sake of a quicker construction. Incorporated into the fortifications were the overground part of the water supply system which supplied the town with drinking water from the Jadro spring as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C., and the most impressive Salonitan structure - the amphitheatre - that was erected in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century at the outermost north-west part of the town.

*Remains of the amphitheatre*



*Part of the town walls*

This ancient Roman building, whose arena was the venue for bloody gladiator contests, could hold almost 19,000 people. Found in the superstructure of the auditorium were two shrines of Nemesis, the goddess of fate and retribution who was worshipped by the gladiators. The Christians later turned these shrines into memorial chapels to commemorate the Christian martyrs killed in the arena.

In the town's eastern extension, ruins of residential buildings and remains of the town insula were discovered, while south-east of the Porta Caesarea ruins of a luxurious villa were found, probably the *praetorium*, the palace of the governor of the province. The palace floors are decorated with polychrome mosaics depicting mythological figures (Apollo, Triton, Orpheus).

In Salona, a large number of private and public *thermae* have been found. Among the best-preserved ones are the Great Town *Thermae* dating back to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century, located in the eastern part of the town.

*City's main baths*

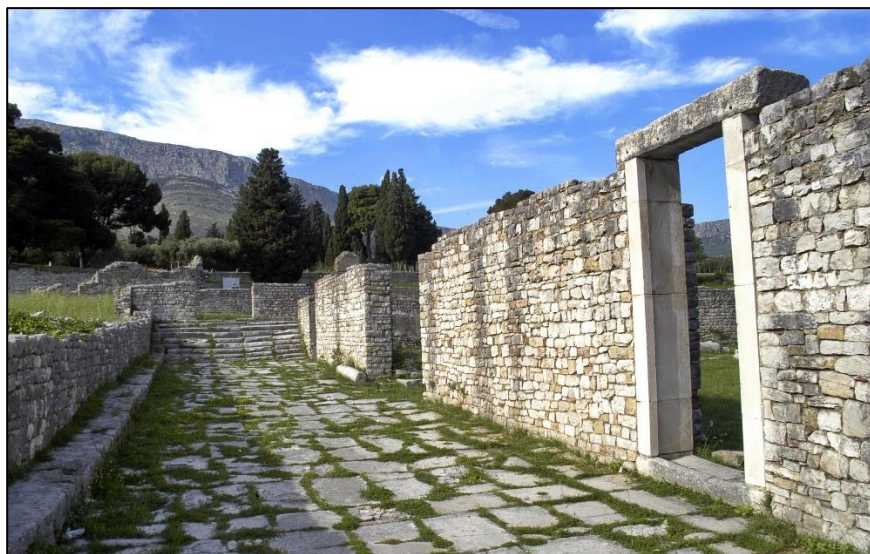
During Diocletian's rule, according to written traces a great number of splendid buildings were erected, the forum, temples and *thermae* were reconstructed, and an annex to the amphitheatre was built. At the time, it is estimated that Salona and the surrounding villages had a population of 60.000, with the urban life bearing a strong cosmopolitan stamp. Along with the official Roman religion, different oriental religions were practised in Salona, such as the cult of Isis and Cybele, with a particularly wide-spread worship of Mithras, the Persian god of light whose shrines were discovered on several locations within the town.



## *About Salona in the early-Christian period...*

Although Dalmatia was mentioned in the Bible [2 *Timothy 4:10*], we can follow the development of the Salonitan Christian community from the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century under the first Salonitan bishop - Bishop Venantius - who came from Rome on a mission to spread the Christian faith in the province of Dalmatia.

In the persecutions of 304 A.D. that were done under Diocletian's reign, many Christians perished in Salona. One of them was the Bishop Domnio, a prominent member of the Christian community, who was of Syrian descent.



*Basilica Urbana – present-day interior and 3D computer reconstruction*

*Remains of Basilica Urbana entrance*



With the Milan Edict of 313 A.D., allowing free practice of the Christian faith, begins the most glorious period in the Salonitan history. A powerful Christian community develops, and at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century the Salonitan bishop was appointed the metropolitan bishop of Dalmatia. During this period, numerous churches were built, completely changing the urban layout of Salona.

The town centre was moved from the Forum into the eastern part, where the tradition of cults had endured ever since the period of persecution of Christians.

Located in a nearby residential house was the oldest secret church (*domus ecclesiae*) called Oratory A, where the Salonitan Christians secretly met in the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the early 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, a large Christian complex, the Episcopal centre, was constructed southeast of Oratory A, with double basilicas (built on the site of an earlier church dating from the mid-4<sup>th</sup> century), a baptistry and the bishop's palace.





*Catachumeneum*



*Baptistry*

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the entire complex underwent reconstruction; the rectangular baptistry was turned into an octagonal structure with a cruciform pool. A room west of the baptistry had a polychrome floor mosaic depicting deer drinking water from a cantharus.

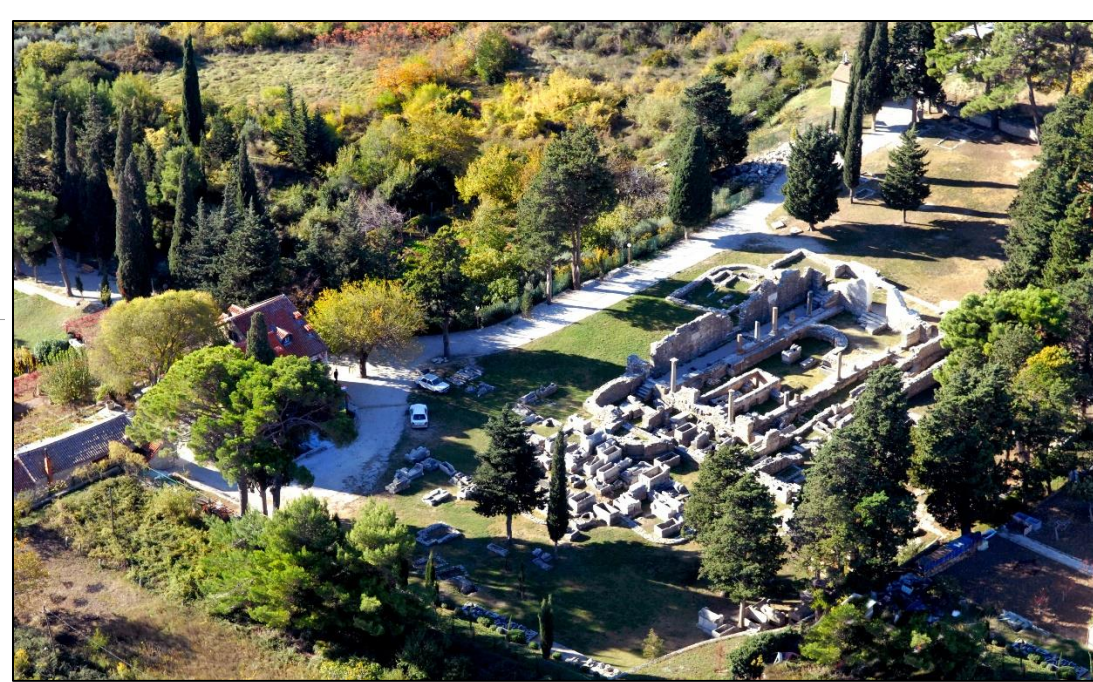
This mosaic representation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> psalm, symbolising baptism, has unfortunately not been preserved. Under the influence of Byzantine architecture, a basilica in the shape of a Greek cross was constructed in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by Bishop Honorius II on the site of the southern longitudinal basilica.

In 535 A.D., at the beginning of the twenty-year Byzantine-Gothic war, the Byzantine army conquered Salona, banishing the Ostrogoths from the town. The town walls were reconstructed once again, and triangular ends added to the rectangular towers to provide better protection.

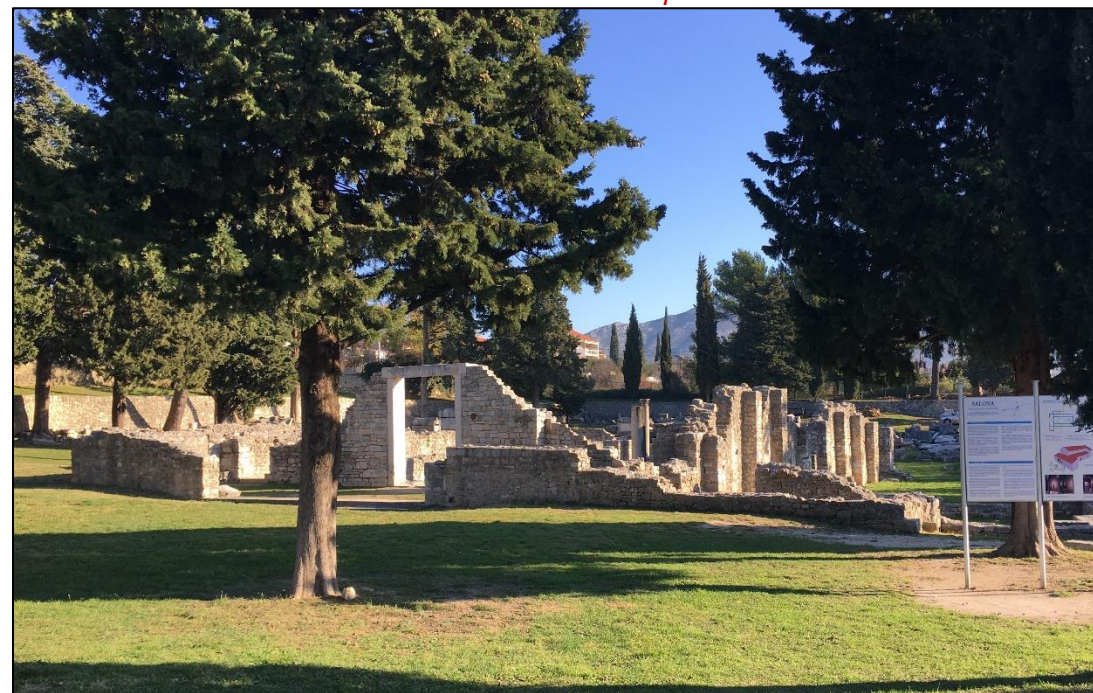
*Present Catachumeneum entrance and interior reconstruction*

*Baptistry interior reconstruction*

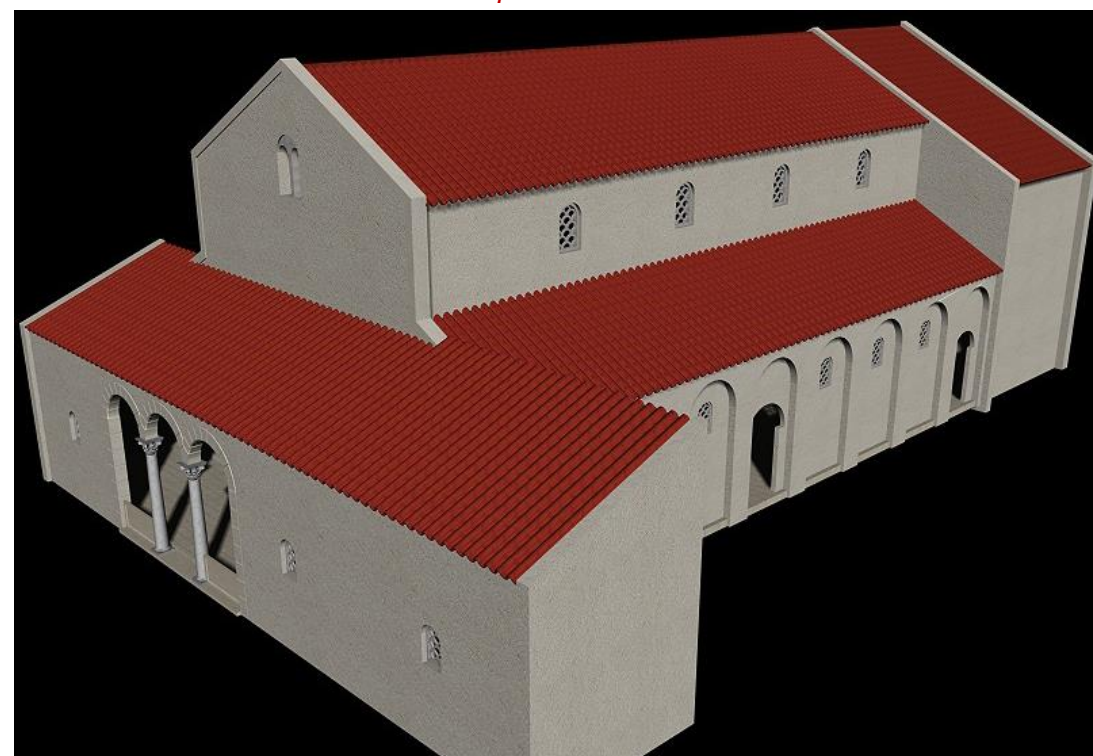




*Manastirine cemetary complex*



*Manastirine cemetary complex – ideal reconstruction*



Aside from the Episcopal centre, seven church buildings were discovered within the town walls. These date back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The basilica in Gradina (*central building with a dome – cupola*) was erected in the 6<sup>th</sup> century under the influence of Byzantines.

In the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, the first early Christian cemeteries were built at Manastirine, Marusinac, and Kapuljuc outside the town walls.

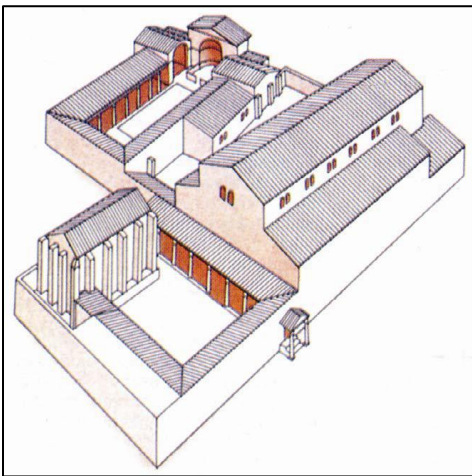
Salonitan martyrs, who were killed during so called Diocletian's persecutions, were buried on the site of old pagan necropolises. Their graves became places of worship around which Christian cemeteries with complex tomb structures developed. The oldest cemetery basilica was built in the mid-4<sup>th</sup> c. at Kapljuč, over the graves of five martyrs (*the priest Asterius and four soldiers of the imperial guard*).

Bishop Domnio (*locally, St. Duje, later the patron saint of Split*), who died a martyr's death in the arena of the Salonitan amphitheatre, was buried in 304 A.D. at Manastirine, and over his grave a memorial chapel was built. Soon to be erected around it were similar chapels which served as Christian burial places.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Bishop Gaianus had a large three-aisled basilica constructed over the cemetery complex, with Bishop Domnio's grave in the presbytery. Next to it are the graves of other Salonitan bishops, Bishop Domnio's successors, who were buried there in the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries.

East of the mausoleum, a large basilica was erected at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, and Anastasius' sarcophagus was moved into its presbytery. Next to this basilica, remains of another basilica were found. It was called *basilica discoperta*, as it was thought to have had no roof construction.

In a family tomb (mausoleum) at Marusinac lie the mortal remains of Anastasius, a martyr who was thrown in the Salonitan bay with a millstone around his neck.



*Marusinac area with mausoleum – ideal reconstruction on the left*



*Altar of St. Anastasius in Split Cathedral to the right*

At the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, after it had been invaded by the Avars and Slavs, Salona ceased to exist as an ancient urban settlement. Its residents fled to the off-shore islands or the nearby Diocletian's Palace which developed into the nucleus of Split in the Middle Ages. Along the eastern walls of the ancient Salona, a Croatian settlement sprang up that was soon to become one of the most important centres of the medieval Croatian state.



## **HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SALONA**

*Before providing any information about the excavations, it is important to mention that for a long time Salona practically served as a quarry for people who needed construction material. Sometimes demolished for strategic reasons, sometimes stripped from its lavishing stonework by hungry or greedy locals, little by little, the once big Roman city had turned to rubble.*

**1804** – First known archaeological excavations conducted by **Ivan Luka Garanjin**, an educator from Trogir. His endeavours were far from serious archaeological work, but nevertheless, he excavated some material to incorporate it in his park in Trogir, thus preserving them to this day.

**1820** – First systematic excavations started; however, the year is significant for Salona because of the founding of the Archaeological Museum in Split. Its first director **Karlo Lanza** conducted the excavations, later to be continued by his son **Frane Lanza**.

**1847** - **Frane Carrara**, an archaeologist from Split, is one of the two most significant archaeologists in these parts. Turning his back on collector archaeology and concentrating on the city itself, he started to determine the size of the city by revealing the ramparts first. In addition to a comprehensive plan of the city, he managed to identify some of the most important locations, thus paving the way for later research.

**1878** – This year marked the entry into the mainstream of European science with the establishment of an archaeological journal published by the Archaeological Museum in Split – “**The Journal of Dalmatian Archaeology and History**”, that is still being published today.

**1883** – **Frane Bulić**, considered as the father of our archaeology. Among his rich contributions to numerous fields ranging from the church and teaching to scientific and political activity, the many years of research he spent in Solin, continuing the task of Frane carrara, particularly stand out. His half-a-century long research in Salona was focused on the Late Antique and Early Christian buildings, primarily cemeteries, as well as large church buildings. His merits are indeed infinitely large and significant due to his dedication and persistence.

**1922** – **Eynar Dyggve** started to excavate together with Frane Bulić, but stayed and continued his research in Dalmatia, especially in Split and Solin, all the way to 1960. The ending of his work, which started with Carrara, is considered to be the end of the era of ‘major findings’.

## About the excavation site: Northeast of the Episcopal complex



### Description of the site and planned research

The area which we started to dig in 2018 is situated on the eastern part of ancient Salona. This, so far unexplored, part of about 2200 m<sup>2</sup> is flanked by city walls on the north side, large city baths on the southern side, the so-called Episcopal complex on the western side and a private property on the eastern side. This project is cooperation between Department of Archaeology (University of Zagreb) and Archaeological Museum Split. The excavation is primarily intended as field training for archaeology students. This means that the excavations are systematically-led which makes room for teaching not just the methodology of the excavation on a Roman site but also the typology of the found material.

The aim of this research is to establish a solid base for the excavation of a Roman site and to encircle all phases of the research: from survey, excavation, recognizing and sorting of the small finds to the interpretation of the site and its conservation, partial reconstruction of the walls and presentation. It is a long-term process, but with the openness to the public through popularization and dissemination of the results and through including various components of society, it can be an exemplary model of sustainable archaeological excavation.

Speaking of archaeological potential of this site, but also the whole urban perimeter of Salona, the most important fact is that this city, after having been abandoned in 7<sup>th</sup> century, did not continue its development into medieval and later modern city, so underneath the soil there is an outline of the whole city. Due to these historical circumstances, this excavation provides an excellent opportunity for high-quality not just for documentation and interpretation of the findings, but as well for presentation of the newly discovered construction inside the largest excavated complex at this site.

The building we dig has visible remains of a 10m long apse in diameter. Just behind the apse is the section of the city aqueduct stretching in the east-west direction. The wall we discovered next to the eastern part of the apse probably belonged to a water channel running from nearby aqueduct towards city baths. The planned agenda is focused on the research of the building with an apse and trying to discover its purpose. From the visible remains it is clear that the apse belonged to a building of larger dimensions, which makes it a good candidate for long-term excavation. The purpose of the building can't be determined due to the lack of data which could corroborate our present assumptions. According to the current knowledge of the buildings with apse in Salona, one can say that it might be a private residential building or the baths, although some other types of public buildings might be taken into consideration as well (determination as church is not likely, as the building has been orientated towards north).

This project includes primarily archaeological activities related to the building with an apse and contextualizing of the object with other architectural remains in vicinity. We started to dig on two separate positions, one attached to the apse (inside and outside of it) and one to the south of it, on the position we consider inner part of the building. Two excavation campaigns showed very complex stratigraphic situation in the part with apse.



The disposition of the layers indicates that there had been building activities prior to the moment of the construction of the building we excavate. During the 2020 campaign we will continue digging in two existing trenches, but we will also start to excavate a new one

Salona which has been excavated and which we excavate is a Late Antique (i.e. Early Christian) city (4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> c.). The excavated trenches are not large, but inside them we found a big amount of archaeological material, which might be expected, since we dig in one of the most important cities during the Late Antiquity. It is mostly ceramic material, but we have also found metal objects, glass, bones, bronze coins, stone inscriptions and a lot of mosaic tiles. Besides the ceramic ware, there have been found some objects of everyday use, like brooches, glass beads, dice, hairpins, weights etc.

Salona is an ideal example of this type of fieldwork because the students can apply acquired theoretical knowledge in archaeology but also to learn methodological principles of excavations which include setting the trench for excavation; defining and removing the layers; determination of the findings and stratigraphic relations; documenting the stratigraphic units; photogrammetric 3D modelling of the site; learning about the urban planning in the ancient Salona on the basis of the current research situation; preliminary classification and storage of excavated material; reading and interpreting inscriptions etc.



The participants who don't have previous experience in archaeology will be acquainted with the basic techniques and methods of archaeological research, which include not just recognizing different kinds of structures and finds but also principles of treatment of the excavated material. The students will complement their field training with practice of reading the inscribed stone material in the nearby early-Christian cemetery Manastirine, but all the other interested participants of the excavations are welcome. According to our personal experience, but also on the basis of the feedback from the tourist who participated last year, we can say that the joint work between expert team, students and tourists resulted in great working atmosphere.

## Expert team:



**Ema Višić-Ljubić**

Senior Curator  
Archaeological Museum in Split

## Positions:

- 1993 to 1994 - Intern Curator at the Archaeological Museum in Split
- 1994 - Curator of the Archaeological Museum in Split
- 1997 - Curator of the archaeological site of Salona
- 2004 - Secretary of the International Conference "The Church of Split & Salona in the first millennium", which was held in Split on 14 and 15 of May, 2004, organized by the Theological Faculty of the University of Split and the Archaeological Museum in Split.
- 2006 - Senior Curator at the archaeological site of Salona
- 2010 - Senior Curator of the auxiliary collection and the archaeological site of Salona
- 2010 – Member of the Council of the Solin Tourist Board as a representative of the Archaeological Museum in Split
- 2014 - Member of the Editorial Board of the Museum-edited "Journal for Archaeology and History"

## Important fieldwork research and conservation/restoration experience:

- 2005 / 2007 - Marusinac - audit research on the Basilica & Cemetery complex
- 2009 - 2012 / 2014 - 2016 - Marusinac - conservation and restoration of architectural remains of the Northern Basilica (aka. Basilicae discopertae) from the early Christian period and audit archaeological research
- 2011 / 2014 - The "16 sarcophagi" site - works on rehabilitation and conservation of the site boundary stone walls
- 2012 -2013 / 2015 - Manastirine – conservation work on architectural remains of the basilica
- 2013 - Gašpini - protective archaeological research
- 2015 - Manastirine - protective archaeological research north of the basilica
- 2015 - Manastirine-KIC (Cultural-informative Center) - protective archaeological research and archaeological supervision of construction works
- 2015 - 2017 - Manastirine - conservation project sarcophagus placed in situ. In cooperation with the Academy of Arts in Split performed by its students



**Dr. Sc. Dino Demicheli**  
University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Archaeology

### **Positions:**

- PhD in Archaeology obtained in 2012, University of Zagreb.
- Currently works as an assistant professor on the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb where he teaches epigraphy, Latin language and courses related to the Roman province of Dalmatia.
- His main field of interest is the Roman society in Dalmatia with a special emphasis on the research of the Latin epigraphic monuments from the Imperial period in Dalmatia. He is the author of numerous scientific papers with epigraphic themes and editor of several archaeological publications.
- Committee member of the International Association for Greek and Latin Epigraphy (AIEGL).

### **Important fieldwork research experience:**

- 2000 - Neolithic settlement in Dubovo-Košno (Croatia),
- 2001 - Medieval church at Bardolino (Italy)
- 2003 - Iron age hillfort Šutanj (Croatia)
- 2002 - 2003 - Medieval cemetery and church at Lobar (Croatia)
- 2004 - Neolithic settlement in Kruševica (Croatia)
- 2005 - Late antique settlement at Banjače (Croatia)
- 2008 - 2009 - Medieval settlement near Mrkopolje (Croatia)
- 2001 - 20014 - Roman legionary fortress of Tilverium (Trilj, Croatia)
- 2012 - 2014 - Roman settlement in Jabuka-Velić (Croatia)
- 2015 - Roman limes survey (eastern Croatia)

## *What you will learn....*

### **On the Fieldwork**

- How to dig and which archaeological techniques to use
- 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 on the site
- Basic procedures for sample collection
- Cleaning, labelling, classifying, restoration and documentation of findings

### **Workshops**

- Restoration workshop in the Archaeological Museum: ceramics, numismatics, faunal remains, metals and glass (*in case of rain*)
- Reading epigraphic inscriptions within the site perimeter
- Relative dating based on the classification of archaeological objects discovered in the stratigraphic sequence

### **Theory & Lectures**

- History, archaeology, economy and culture of the Roman civilization on this area (*in case of rain*)
- Introduction to the **Historic Site of Salona**

### **Museums and guided tours**

- Trip to Split: guided tour of **Diocletian's palace (UNESCO World Heritage Site)** and visit to the **Archaeological Museum in Split**
- Trip to Trogir: guided tour of **Trogir (UNESCO World Heritage Site)** and visit to the **Museum of the Town of Trogir**
- Tour and guidance of **Ancient Salona**
- Trip to **Klis Fortress**, guided tour and interaction with **Klis Uskok fighters**
- Full-day trip to the **Roman camp of Tilurium** in the Dalmatian hinterland, including a visit to a local museum and the town of **Sinj** and its **Alka Museum**, with lunch
- Full-day trip to the **Narona Archaeological Museum** in Vid with sightseeing of the '**Village Principality**' and lunch
- Diving course of the submerged Hellenistic and Roman port of Siculi (*additional, on request – extra charge*).



### Useful information

#### **Currency**

Croatian currency is kuna (HRK). There are coins in denomination of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 lipa, coins of 1, 2 and 5 kuna, and notes in denomination of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 kuna. ATMs can be found everywhere. Most hotels, restaurants and stores accept credit cards (American Express, Diners Club, Eurocard/Mastercard, Visa). Foreign currencies can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices, post offices, tourist agencies, hotels, campsites and marinas. Please, avoid changing currency on the airports.

#### **Tips**

In Croatia it is customary to leave a tip **if you are satisfied with the level of delivered service.** Usual amount for tipping per service is about 10 – 15 % of value of service itself. On request we can issue customized tipping itinerary.

#### **Travel Documents and Visas**

The travel document one requires to come to Croatia is a valid passport or another internationally recognized document, and an ID card (document which proves the holder's identity and citizenship) for citizens of some countries. Foreign visitors normally do not require a visa to enter Croatia – to confirm this information, [check the website](#) of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Those who require a visa need to obtain it prior to entering the country. This cannot be done at any of the Croatian border crossings. For more information regarding the visa regime and customs restrictions, please use the following [link](#).

#### **Embassies**

To see the list of foreign embassies and consulates in the Republic of Croatia, please see the following link of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

#### **Customs Regulations**

Customs regulations in the Republic of Croatia are harmonized with the regulations of other EU countries.

#### **Medical Services**

Foreign citizens do not have to pay for medical services if healthcare agreements have been signed between Croatia and the person's country of origin. For persons who do not belong to this category, any medical costs need to be paid in accordance with the healthcare service pricelist. In case of emergency, air and road transport is available.

#### **Shop Working hours and Public Service Operating Hours**

Most stores are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on workdays, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays (even longer during summer). On Sundays, most stores are closed depending on the time of the year. Public services and business offices usually work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

## What To Bring With You?

Before departing, we warmly recommend checking whether you have brought the following:

- Passports or another valid travel documents to enter Croatia
- Health insurance card
- Driver's licence (in case you intend to rent a car in Croatia)
- Airplane or other tickets to enter Croatia
- Insurance policy (We recommend that you purchase one before your departure)
- Visa (if required)
- Credit cards or cash
- Mobile phones, cameras and chargers
- Power adapter – converter for an EU type electricity wall-plug (if needed)
- Working shoes (for the excavations\*)
- A set of sneakers, walking or hiking shoes for the excursions and walking tours
- Clothing suitable for physical work, outdoor activities and even swimming (consider weather conditions from hot and sunny to rainy and chilly)
- A light raincoat for possible rainy and windy days
- Wide brim hat for the field work
- Medication - It is not necessary to bring over-the-counter medicine since you can buy all common types in Croatia (e.g. aspirin and anti-insecticides, sunscreen/tanning lotion, etc). It is recommended, however, that you bring any prescription medicines to last for the duration of this field school
- A good attitude for work, fun, learning

\*It is not necessary to bring any tools for archaeological field work.

## Water

Tap water is potable throughout Croatia. On site, there is enough water from the tap, so a glass bottle would be advisable while on site.

## Country Code

The country code for Croatia is 00385

## Time Zone

GMT +1 during winter, and GMT +2 during summer.

## Electricity

Power grid – 220V, frequency: 50HZ. Visitors from the USA need to use a transformer, while visitors from Great Britain need to use adapter for the Continental Europe grid in order to be able to use their electronic devices.

**Important Telephone Numbers**

Emergency number of your agent: +385 98 436 041 (Robert)

General emergency number: **112**

Ambulance: 194

Fire Department: 193

Police: 192

Roadside Assistance: 1987

(If you are calling from abroad, dial +385 1 1987 or +385 1 4693 700)

Croatian Automobile Club (HAK) – Traffic conditions: 072 777 777

(If you are calling from abroad, dial +385 1 4640 800)

**Climate – Adriatic Coast**

Mediterranean climate (with dry and warm summers and wet and mild winters). With some average of 2600 sunny hours per year, the Adriatic coast is one of the sunniest in the Mediterranean, with sea temperatures ranging from 25°C to 27°C during summer.

**Average Air Temperatures for coastal area in Croatia**

MONTH	MIN. TEMPERATURES (°C)	MAX. TEMPERATURES (°C)	RAINY DAYS
January	5,3	10,2	11,1
February	5,5	11,0	10,1
March	7,6	13,7	10,1
April	10,8	17,4	10,4
May	15,2	22,5	9,3
June	18,8	26,7	8,9
July	21,6	29,8	5,6
August	21,5	29,5	5,2
September	18,1	25,1	7,4
October	14,1	20,0	9,2

**Language and Communication**

Here are some of the most frequently used words and expressions which will facilitate your communication in Croatia:

ENGLISH	CROATIAN	ENGLISH	CROATIAN
Hello	Zdravo	Excuse me	Oprostite
Goodbye	Doviđenja	Sorry	Pardon
Good Morning	Dobro jutro	My name is...	Zovem se...
Good Day	Dobar dan	Where is the...?	Gdje je...?
Good Evening	Dobra večer	What time is it?	Koliko je sati?
Good Night	Laku noć	Today	Danas
Yes	Da	Tomorrow	Sutra
No	Ne	Yesterday	Jučer
Please	Molim	Hour	Sat
Thank you	Hvala	Day	Dan
You're welcome	Nema na čemu	Week	Tjedan
		Month	Mjesec

