



Archaeology at **HALMYRIS**

Field Season 2019 Introduction

Over the past eight seasons work on the Roman fortress of Halmyris has produced enigmatic material revealing the unique conditions faced by Roman legionary soldiers on the Danube frontier. In 2012 we began excavations in the ancient harbor, located directly below the walls of the fort, and in 2013 we opened five trenches in the fort alongside the walls above the harbor. In 2014 we continued work above the harbor, exploring the intensive 6th century building period in this area of the fort. We also excavated a 6th century defensive tower and dug trenches nearly two meters deep behind the late monumental entrance and tower. The 2015 team continued excavations in these areas; yielding well-preserved architectural features and numerous small finds including coins, weaponry, and ceramics suggesting that, during the Roman occupation, the harbor and the northeastern fort were areas of particularly intense activity. We also discovered the entryway to a previously unexplored defensive tower (Tower 3) in the eastern wall, which was excavated to depths of over two meters in 2016. In 2017 we further explored the area around Tower 3, as well as reopening investigations on Tower 12 of the western side, and additionally began the excavations of Tower 4, which may prove to be the largest tower of Halmyris. 2018 completed the excavation of Tower 12, and proved Tower 4 to be even larger than anticipated with 3 potential entranceways.

The field season of 2019 will concentrate on multiple promising areas including Tower 4 and the structures of the northeastern fort. We also hope to begin excavating areas of the civilian settlement identified in a 2016-17 survey project, as well as resume excavations of the harbor. 2019 promises to be a particularly exciting season given the proliferation of material culture discovered during the initial stages of excavation on Towers 4 and 12, and the high level of preservation throughout the northeastern area of Halmyris.

Excavation Details

Dates: 8 July to 3 August (4 weeks)

Cost: Approximately 1250 – 1300 USD for full accommodation, meals, transportation, and visits to nearby archaeological sites. All except the 300 USD administration fee is paid on arrival- the

admin fee is used to pay for the bus to/from Bucharest, the site bus, purchase tools, cover operating expenses, and includes the cost of the dig t-shirt.

Please note that all payments are made directly to the providers in the village, and are subject to currency fluctuations based on the price of fuel. We provide a range of prices because the Romanian Lei is known to fluctuate and it is difficult to estimate more than several months in advance. We are also in a position to cater for all needs, preferences, and pockets—the majority of our accommodation is priced at 70 lei/night but we also have some places available at lower and higher rates.

Minimum Qualifications: Age 18, no archaeological experience necessary, but must be in good physical condition and capable of working in temperatures ranging from 75-100°F.

Work: Volunteers participate in all aspects of the excavation, assisted by trained professionals.

Languages: English, Romanian

Location: Murighiol, Romania

Application Deadline: May 1, but we recommend you apply as soon as possible to ensure your place on the dig, as we are limited to accepting 50 volunteers.

Life at Halmyris

Accommodation: All volunteers stay in the village of Murighiol, located 2.5 km from the site and less than a kilometer from the Danube River. Murighiol is a traditional Dobrogean village, and only in the past decade have cars become more common than horses and carts! There are a variety of options for accommodation, all are fully equipped with electricity and hot water, some have air-conditioning, and others have fans and large private bathrooms. There is free WiFi access available regardless of where you stay.

Food: Volunteers eat three full meals a day at a local restaurant, the Green Delta. Breakfast typically includes bread, sausage, eggs, cheese, and coffee or tea. Lunch starts with either a soup or salad, followed by a main dish. Dinner equally substantial, and often followed by dessert. Romanian cuisine features cabbage, potatoes, lots of fish and chicken, pork, eggs, tomatoes, and cheese. All are locally grown/farmed and deliciously prepared. It is also possible arrange for alternative diets for vegetarians or vegans. Drinks are typically not included with meals, however, a full range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic are available at very low cost (approx. \$1 for a pint).

Transportation: We have a local bus that provides transportation to/from the site and on trips to nearby archaeological sites including Histria (Constanta), Salsovia (Mahmudia), and the Tropaeum Traiani (Adamklissi).

Daily Schedule:

Monday-Friday:

6:30am: wake up

7:00: breakfast

7:30-11:00: work on the site

11:00-11:30: break for a rest in the shade and a snack

11:30-1:30: work on the site

2:00pm: lunch

2:30-late afternoon: free time/siesta

~4:30-7:00: time for informal lectures, pottery cleaning, trips to nearby sites

7:00: dinner

7:00-bedtime: free time

Weekend Travel: Weekends are open for independent travel, in previous years groups of volunteers have enjoyed travelling to Constanta (~3 hours away by bus), a large city on the Black Sea with entertaining beach resorts, and Transylvania, which requires a longer train ride, but is well worth the effort. We are able to provide advice for travel arrangements, but all weekend travel is done at your own preference and discretion. Volunteers are also given one three day weekend, to enable enough time to travel to Transylvania, and on another weekend we host a river cruise in the Danube Delta.

Arrival & Departure

All students will have to arrange flights into Bucharest, arriving no later than Saturday, July 6, we will then travel together to Murighiol by private bus on Sunday, July 7. We will return to Bucharest by bus on Saturday, August 3, arriving in the early afternoon. More details will be provided once your application has been submitted and accepted.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Project Coordinator Emily Hanscam at e.hanscam@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.halmyris.org



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Volunteer Application 2019

Name:

Gender and/or preferred pronouns:

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

Email Address:

Current Occupation:

Education:

Archaeological experience (note, not a requirement):

Previous travel abroad experience (if any):

How did you hear about Halmyris?

Once you have completed the application, save it and send it along with your CV/resume (as one document) to the Volunteer Programme Coordinator, Emily Hanscam at e.hanscam@gmail.com