Sa Cudia Cremada Field School

Mediterranean Archaeology in Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain)

2019 Campaign

Dig in a prehistoric sanctuary in the Mediterranean while learning proper excavation techniques and much more!

Study abroad archaeology program in Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain!

The site of Sa Cudia Cremada is part of Menorca Talayotica UNESCO nomination (Talayotic Menorca World Heritage site nomination)

MINORCA

TALAYOTIC

World Heritage Nomination
Sa Cudia Cremada
Field School

Mediterranean Archaeology in Menorca
(Balearic Islands, Spain)

2019 Campaign

Session 2019: September 2nd - 13th

2-week course in a Protohistoric archaeological site in a unique Mediterranean island

You will learn about:
Fieldwork methods, Lab work, Indigenous, Punic and Roman Archaeology

You will explore:
Mediterranean Nature, Culture, History, Geology and Traditions

Contact: sacudiafieldschool@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cudiacremada
Skype: sacudiafieldschool
FEES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

2-week course: **790** Euro, including: fees, course materials, pick-up service upon arrival to Menorca’s airport, accommodation, daily transportation to the site/the accommodation, accident insurance, snack during school time (sandwich, juice, fruits), lectures with specialists on Biological Anthropology, Zooarchaeology, Restauration, etc., workshops on Archaeological documentation and Photogrammetry, and weekly excursions

(Entrance to museums and archaeological sites included on the price).

(Transportation to/from Menorca and meals outside school time are not included)

For further information and signing up for the course, please contact:

E-mail: sacudiafieldschool@gmail.com

You can also find us via Facebook and Twitter:

https://www.facebook.com/cudiacremana
https://twitter.com/SacudiaCremada
In 2015 Sa Cudia Cremada Field School started digging in one of the cyclopean buildings located at this amazing prehistoric site from the talayotic culture of Menorca. We carried out a total of 2 sessions in summer 2015, with students coming from different parts of the world such as USA, Canada, Australia, England, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Armenia and the Netherlands!

During those sessions we excavated the most upper levels from the building and, while doing so, its whole layout and its main entrance were revealed. It has the typical horse-shoe shape layout of most of the prehistoric sanctuaries from the island, with its entrance towards the façade’s center. Also, inside the building we located several pilasters abutted to the internal side of its main walls as well as the Taula monument, which is located in the middle of its internal space!

From 2016 to 2018 we also carried out a session with students from all around the world (as well as another session devoted to laboratory tasks). We removed a tumble unit inside the building, which was mainly formed by large stone blocks, which once fell from the outer walls. More of the pilasters abutting the walls and the central monument, the Taula, were exposed.

How tall was the Taula monument? Which religious rituals will we be able to recognize through the evidence left at the sanctuary? Which deities did the talayotic community using this building worshipped to? This and many other questions need answers... and we can’t wait to go back to the field in 2019 to look for them!
THE TALAYOTIC CULTURE

The talayotic culture is defined by a series of cultural features which were developed by human communities during recent Prehistory in Mallorca and Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain). This society lasted over a long period of time in Menorca, covering approximately all the Iron Age. It started around the end of the 2nd millennium BC and the arrival of the Romans in 123 BC caused its rapid extinction. It was a relatively complex society whose members based its economy on farming and stock-breeding. Despite its heterogeneity due to the long period this society lived on, many of its intrinsic cultural features didn’t change over time, such as the cyclopean technique, hand-made pottery production, collective inhumation burials, etc.

Around 500-400 BC commercial relationships with foreign cultures increased, mainly by means of contacts with the Punics, which caused many changes in the indigenous culture of the Balearic Islands.

Besides, the talayotics (name given to the members of this society) left significant evidence of their strong religiousness, which was expressed in both their funerary world and their sanctuaries, the so-called taula enclosures.

These buildings are considered to be the religious centers of all settlements and were pre-eminent during the 2nd half of the 1st millennium BC. Of all these outstanding buildings that existed on the island, 32 are still preserved, which are unique and exclusive to the island of Menorca.
THE SITE

The archaeological site of Sa Cudia Cremada, in the vicinity of the city of Mahón, is located in an agriculture holding's property, where very well-preserved architectural, ethnological and archaeological elements blend in a unique and characteristic Menorcan landscape. Even though all the area is archaeologically rich, the most distinctive part is formed by a talaiotic settlement along with its necropolis. The most visible structures are three talaiots (monumental tower-like structures) around which the rest of the structural remains are organized in the dwelling area. Hence, this culture's name derives from the word talayot, its most characteristic and unique building.

![Image of the site]

The other distinguished structure in Sa Cudia Cremada is the taula enclosure, where archaeological fieldwork run by the field school will take place. In these buildings the main feature is a pillar with a lintel on the top part, called taula (meaning “table” in Catalan) due to its T shape, which is usually located at the central part. Even though we do not understand its whole meaning, it can be affirmed that religious ceremonies were carried out around it by the community. One of the most emblematic taulas in Menorca is located in the settlement Torralba de'n Salort.

Due to the exclusiveness of the talayotic culture as a witness of a past society, unique in the world as a significant evidence of the human being’s past, Menorca Talayótica (Talaiotic Minorca) aspires to become a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2020. This nomination is represented by 32 selected archaeological sites on the island, Sa Cudia Cremada being one of them.
FIELDWORK

The main aim of fieldwork is that of approaching the talayotic culture to students through different tasks related to an archaeological excavation. Fieldwork will be combined with lab work, lectures, workshops as well as excursions to discover the natural environment of an island which was declared Reserve of the Biosphere by the UNESCO in 1993.

During the course free days will be available to students so they can explore and enjoy the traditional horse festivals, whose origins date back to the medieval period, which take place in several towns in Menorca during summertime.

THE FIELD SCHOOL

For 2019 Sa Cudia Cremada Field School offers an archaeological course for students interested in gaining first-hand experience on fieldwork and laboratory tasks. We welcome university students, professionals as well as everybody who is interested in Archaeology and Mediterranean Protohistory (Iron Age). Thus, previous experience on the subject is not required.

2019 course will take place in one session with a length of 2 weeks. During the course, students will dig in the settlement's sanctuary during the first half of the day, whereas the second part will be devoted to lectures, laboratory tasks and workshops.
A. FIELDWORK:

Participants will excavate in the sanctuary using modern field excavation methods and will be trained in:

- The identification of archaeological remains and features.
- Stratigraphic methodology.
- Photographic documentation.
- Drawing plants and sections.
- The use of topographic instruments.

B. LABORATORY:

- Processing of materials found on site (washing, labelling, etc.)
- Drawing of archaeological materials.
- Classification and inventory of materials.
- Introduction to conservation and restoration.
- Proper packaging of materials.
C. Field Trips:

Every week a set of excursions will be designed in order to show students the most significant prehistoric remains of the island as well as materials on display in the 2 archaeological museums located in Mahón and Ciutadella.
HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR SA CUDIA CREMADA FIELD SCHOOL 2019 COURSE?

It is very easy to do it. You just have to send us an e-mail to sacudiafieldschool@gmail.com indicating your full name, DOB, country and the session you would like to attend our field school. Remember that we offer 1 session:

Session 2019: September 2nd to 13th

Once we send you a confirmation e-mail, you will have 14 days in order to pay a 200 € (Euro) deposit so that your space is reserved. The remainder of the costs can be paid up to a month before your field school course starts.

Details on the payment process will be sent to you on the confirmation e-mail. Failure to pay either the deposit or the rest of the costs before the deadline will cause the cancellation of your reservation.

Field School refund policy:

Deposits are non-refundable. 100% of the remaining costs (590 €) are refundable if you cancel your reservation 1 month before the course you signed up for starts. 50% of the remaining costs (295 €) are refundable if you cancel your reservation 3 weeks before the course you signed up for starts. For people cancelling their reservations in less than 3 weeks before the course starts, costs will not be refundable.
FAQ'S

1. Where is Menorca?

Menorca is an island located in the western basin of the Mediterranean Sea and belongs to the Balearic Islands region, which forms part of Spain. The Balearic Islands are located off the eastern coast of Spain and Menorca is the easternmost of them.

You can find useful information about the island on 
http://www.illesbalears.es/ing/minorca/home.jsp

2. How can I get to the island?

The easiest way to arrive to the island is by plane. However you can also come here by ferry. There are daily flights and ferries that come to the island from different parts of the Spanish peninsula and other parts of Europe (in the case of flights). Many people travel to the peninsula first, landing in cities such as Barcelona or Madrid, and from there they take a domestic flight to the island.

If you need any type of assistance while purchasing your trip to Menorca, we can help you with this.

3. What’s the weather like in Menorca?

As all Mediterranean islands, Menorca enjoys a great weather with warm summers and mild winters. When the Field School takes place, it is summer time and, hence, temperatures are warm with little chance to rain. You can get further information about Menorca’s weather following this link:

http://www.holiday-weather.com/minorca/averages/
https://weatherspark.com/averages/32044/Menorca-Balearic-Islands-Spain
4. Where is the site located?

The site of Sa Cudia Cremada is located in the outskirts of Mahón, the capital of the island, and the accommodation is located in a village near to the site, which means that it will only take 15 to 20 minutes to get to the site every morning with the fieldschool vehicles. Minorca’s airport is located in the outskirts of Mahón, which means that when you arrive to the island, you will be only 15 minutes away from your accommodation.

5. What type of clothing should I bring?

Since you will travel to Minorca on summertime, the clothes you bring have to be light, such as shorts, T-shirts, sandals, etc. For fieldwork time you will need to wear comfortable clothes such as sportswear, sneakers or hiking-boots. We highly recommend you to bring a hat or cap as well as sunblock. And of course, for your free time, make sure you bring your swimsuit and flip-flops, since Minorcan beaches are amazing and nothing is better than a refreshing swim after school time!

6. What other items should I bring?

As we already said in question 3, sunblock is very important, since you will use it during fieldwork as well as your free time. If you are under medication or have any health issue, do not forget to bring your medicines. If that is your case, we request you to let us know about this so that we are aware about your health condition. If you forget your medication or need to buy them while you are in Minorca, do not worry. We are located in the capital of the island, Mahón, where you will find many pharmacies. Also, the hospital of the island is located in this city.

Regarding other useful items you can bring, even though this is not compulsory, we encourage you to bring a USB as well as your laptop or tablet, in order to store course materials and for any course activity we design for you. If you do not have any of that, do not worry at all, we will provide any document on a printed version. Also, there are internet cafes as well as libraries in Mahón, all of them with computers you can use.
7. Do I need to bring any type of archaeological tools?

No. Everything will be provided by the field school. However, if you have a trowel and like working with it, you can bring it. Otherwise, we have plenty of them.

8. Do I have to be physically fit?

Digging requires some sort of physical effort and, thus, having a good physical condition is an advantage. However, we adapt fieldwork to everybody. And of course, we do not push students to dig fast. That is not the point. Our main aim is to carry out proper archaeological research in the field, combining excavation techniques with other duties such as drawing and using topographical instruments, so that you can carry out several tasks and learn different aspects involved in archaeological fieldwork.

9. Do I have any type of insurance?

Yes. You will have a complete coverage for any accident that could happen. On the first day of the course we will give you all details of your insurance. However, if you want to know more about it in advance, just email us and we will explain all about it.

10. Will I get a certificate of participation?

Yes. All students will have a certificate of participation at the end of the program. Also, recommendation letters are available for those students who perform well during the course.

11. Where will I stay while in Menorca?

Your accommodation, is just for field school students. It has bathrooms with showers as well as a fully-equipped kitchen.

If you need to ask other questions which are not included here, please do not hesitate to contact us at: sacudiafieldschool@gmail.com