

JULY 2020

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

Join us for a historical event!
Excavate a 6th Century B.C. Etruscan Tomb

TUSCANY, ITALY



Discovering the Etruscan "Cities of the Dead"



Archaeologist exploring a tunnel in a tomb.

INTRODUCTION

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici and CAMNES run a four-week intensive Archaeology Field School under the direction of a team of professional archaeologists. Students play an active role in the excavation of the Etruscan necropolises, the cities of the dead, near Tuscania.

This summer, students will have the opportunity to take part in what could be one of the most important discoveries in Etruscan archaeology of the decade. Participants in the 2020 Archaeology Field School are going to excavate the so-called Tomba dei Maiali Neri (Black Pigs Tomb), 6th century B.C., a monumental tomb in the necropolis of Sasso Pinzuto, Tuscania.

The tomb appears to be completely untouched, as suggested by the fact that the door is still in place, the ceiling is collapsed and a black-figured Attic Vase was discovered in front of it.

This program is an exciting and unique opportunity for a firsthand look at archaeological fieldwork and a new approach in understanding ancient civilizations. It gives the opportunity to learn and work in a real excavation environment, while gaining an understanding of ancient Etruscan culture and archaeological methods.

Through field trips and by examining the abundance of materials found in this region, students learn about the lives of the ancient Etruscans from archaeological evidence and literary sources.



*The outside of the Black Pigs Tomb,
in the necropolis of Sasso Pinzuto,
Tuscany, 6th century B.C.*



Archaeology Field School, July 2019

THE SITE

The archaeological area of Tuscania is composed by necropolises distributed throughout the modern town, which is believed to be an ancient settlement. LdM started to investigate two newly discovered “cities of the dead”, Pian delle Rusciare and Podere Pratino in 2005, with the recent support of CAMNES.

In 2020, CAMNES-LdM Archaeology Field School will take place at the necropolis of Sasso Pinzuto in Tuscania.

Past editions took place at the necropolises of Pian delle Rusciare and Podere Pratino (3rd-2nd century B.C.), both presenting characteristic hypogeum tombs. Etruscans buried their dead and deposited their belongings when celebrating funerary rituals. Many tombs had been violated over the years; however several have been left intact revealing an incredible number of ancient artifacts. One tomb held 47 graves with a total of 450 objects that LdM students and CAMNES are currently restoring in the ‘Archaeology Workshop’ course in Florence.

In previous sessions of the Field School, students have uncovered important archaeological finds such as a mirror decorated with gods, now exhibited at the National Museum of Tuscania.

FURTHER DETAILS

The LdM-CAMNES archaeological field school is an incredible journey in an inspiring environment. This program gives the possibility to dig and uncover 2500 year old artifacts and structures of the Etruscan civilization, while interacting with Italian participants, and enjoying the breathtaking countryside. Participants stay in Tuscania and absorb the atmosphere of this ancient Medieval town situated in the heart of ancient Etruria.

During the stay participants have the opportunity to visit, together with their instructors, the most important sites of Etruscan interest and the nearby area. Weekends are a perfect chance to explore the countryside and discover the castles, towns and the amazing aspects of this region, including the warm Mediterranean seaside just over 30 minutes away or the Bolsena Lake just 18 minutes away.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Duration:

Arrival Thursday July 2nd, 2020

Departure Thursday July 30th, 2020

Location:

Sasso Pinzuto, Tuscania (VT), LdM Tuscania, Italy.

TUITION

See separate price list on website

Prerequisites and Requirements:

- An up-to-date tetanus inoculation
- International Medical/travel insurance
- It is of paramount importance that every participant communicates to the enrollment offices any allergies, food intolerances or any kind of medical issues upon enrollment.
- No prerequisites and no experience of archaeology or knowledge of Italian are needed. The principal qualifications include a strong academic record, a desire to learn more about archaeology and the Etruscan civilization, and an enthusiasm to dig.
- Participants must bear in mind that the archaeological field school of Tuscania is a full-time workshop within a professional archaeological research project that includes a five day per week involvement including lessons, archaeological field activities and visits. Participants have Saturdays and Sundays off.
- The schedule includes a lot of fieldwork and walking during field trips. While at the archaeological site, fieldwork requires digging, stooping, bending and exposure to sun, wind and/or rain. This field school is not recommended to participants with allergies to sun and/or dust.

OUTLINE OF SCHEDULE

In the first part of the course, participants take classes that introduce them to the civilization of the ancient Etruscans as well as to basic archaeological theory and practice. Students also visit a number of local Etruscan sites and have field trips to some world famous Etruscan sites, such as Tarquinia, Cerveteri, Tuscania and the Archaeology Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome. During the final three weeks of the course students participate in the excavation of important Etruscan burial sites, it is therefore requested full cooperation and hard fieldwork labour. Participants must bear in mind that working days go from Mondays to Fridays.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Participants are responsible for proper usage and storage of their assigned tools and materials. Each participant is required to personally provide the following equipment, necessary to work on the archaeological dig:

- Simple, comfortable clothing for working in hot weather
- Safety-shoes (i.e. with a steel toe)
- Good-quality 100% cotton hat
- Strong sunscreen
- Bug spray
- An A4 size note-book to be used as an activity Journal.

Participants must bear in mind that all above-mentioned equipment and materials are MANDATORY and must be brought from home. If participants are found devoid of any of these items, the director of the project may deny excavation access.

Further details will be given during the first class.

Participants will be provided with necessary work and study materials, covered by the tuition.

TUITION AND APPLICATION

Prospective applicants must contact LdM for further details about the program and how to apply.

A maximum of 20 participants are accepted, with preference given to early applicants.



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

May 15th, 2020

The Tuition Fee includes:

- The entire course for a minimum of 148 contact hours and 6 credits (no additional registration fees required)
- Transfer from Rome International Airport 'Leonardo da Vinci' to Tuscania and back
- Accommodation in a hotel or B&B, double room with private bathroom (triple rooms will be assigned in case of odd student numbers)
- Weekday breakfast at the hotel, B&B, or at a Café
- Weekday lunch at the excavation
- Travel connected with course related activities
- Scheduled museum entries
- Social and cultural events organized by the institute

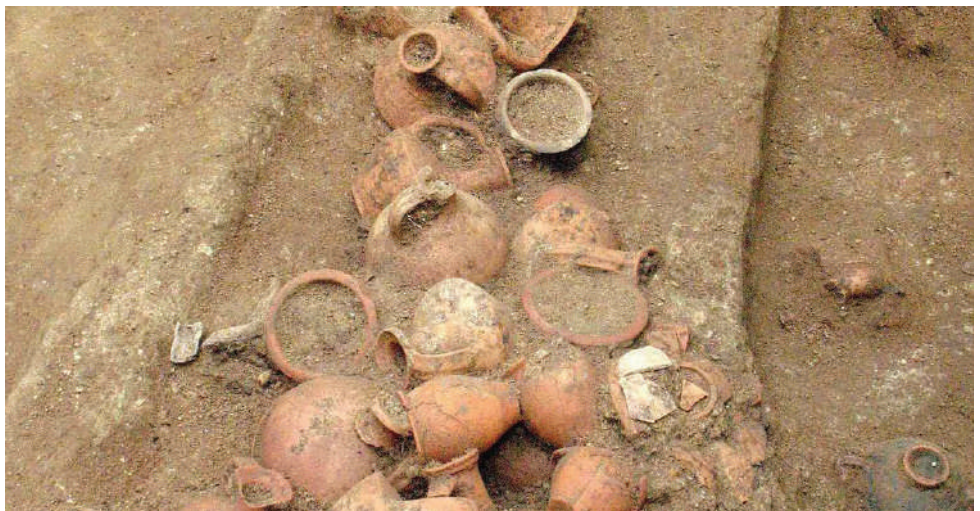
The Tuition Fee does NOT include:

- Meals other than scheduled (i.e. dinner, weekend meals, etc)
- Beverages (to be paid on-site)
- Required personal materials (to be brought from home)

Further details and suggestions about expenses will be given during enrollment and first classes.

TO ENROLL

See contact address or web site links on the last page.



SUGGESTED READINGS

- Etruscan Studies: Journal of the Etruscan Foundation 1994-2010 (available online at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/etruscan_studies/)
- Rasenna: Journal of the Center for Etruscan Studies 2007; 2009 (available online at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rasenna/>)
- S. Haynes, Etruscan Civilization. A Cultural History, Oxford (Oxford University Press) 2005.
- G. Camporeale et alii, The Etruscans outside Etruria, Los Angeles 2004.
- M. Torelli, The Etruscans, New York 2001.
- M. Sprenger, G. Bartoloni, The Etruscans. Their History, Art, Architecture, New York 1983.
- Stephan Steingräber, New Discoveries and Research in the Field of Southern Etruscan Rock Tombs, in Etruscan Studies: Journal of the Etruscan Foundation, VOLUME 3 - 1996, p. 75.
- G. Camporeale, S. Giuntoli, Il parco archeologico dell'Accesa a Massa Marittima (English version), Follonica 2000.
- T. F. Borrelli and M.L. Targia. The Etruscans. Art, History, Architecture - British Museum press.
- C. Renfrew and P. G. Bahn, Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice, London (Thames and Hudson), 2004.
- B. C. Trigger, A History of Archaeological Thought, Cambridge (Cambridge University Press), 2005.
- K. Greene, Archaeology: An Introduction, London and New York (Routledge), 2002.

CONTACT DETAILS

Further details of the on-going and other archaeological projects of CAMNES and LdM are available at:

www.camnes.org

www.ldminstitute.com

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