

**SPRING  
2026**



# **EXCAVATIONS OF THE ANCIENT SALONA**

## **Croatian excavation project**

by:



in cooperation with:

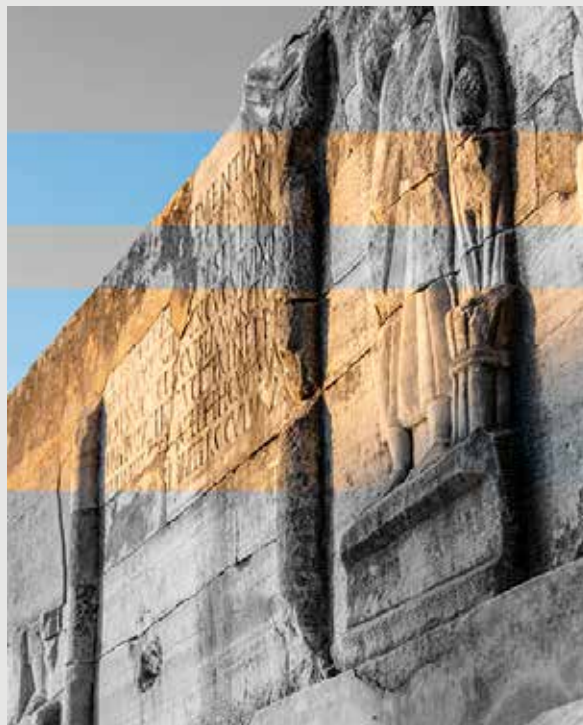


Sveučilište u Zagrebu

**UNIVERSITY  
OF ZAGREB**



**ARCHEOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM SPLIT**





# BRIEF ITINERARY AND MAP

| DAY    | DATE       | ROUTE                  | ACTIVITY  | LODGING       | MEALS |
|--------|------------|------------------------|---|---------------|-------|
| DAY 1  | 3.5.2026.  | Kaštela- Salona        | Arrival day / Introduction to Ancient Salona    | Salona Palace | D     |
| DAY 2  | 4.5.2026.  | Salona                 | Field work / Leisure time                       | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 3  | 5.5.2026.  | Salona - Split         | Field work / Split & Diocletian`s Palace pt.1   | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 4  | 6.5.2026.  | Salona                 | Field work / Leisure time                       | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 5  | 7.5.2026.  | Salona - Split         | Field work / Split & Diocletian`s Palace pt.2   | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 6  | 8.5.2026.  | Salona                 | Field work / Diving course - optional           | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 7  | 9.5.2026.  | Salona - Sinj          | Town of Sinj / Tilurium / Give back activity    | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 8  | 10.5.2026. | Salona                 | Free day  | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 9  | 11.5.2026. | Salona - Trogir        | Field work / Trogir                             | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 10 | 12.5.2026. | Salona                 | Field work / Leisure time                       | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 11 | 13.5.2026. | Salona - Klis          | Field work / Klis Fortress                      | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 12 | 14.5.2026. | Salona - Split         | Field work / Archaeological museum in Split     | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 13 | 15.5.2026. | Salona                 | Field work / Farewell vineyard dinner           | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 14 | 16.5.2026. | Salona - Krka - Bribir | Tour Krka N.P. & Bribir / Regeneration workshop | Salona Palace | BLD   |
| DAY 15 | 17.5.2026. | Salona - 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



The map displays the Dalmatian region of Croatia, highlighting the itinerary route with red dots and connecting lines. Key locations marked include Bribir, N.P. Krka, Sinj, Trilj, Salona, Klis, Trogir, and Split. The Adriatic Sea is visible to the west and south of the landmass.

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 discovering its complex history are the main threads of this adventure.

### TECHNICALITIES

- PERIOD:

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026.
- NUMBER OF DAYS:

15 days / 14 nights
- STARTING LOCATION:

Solin, Croatia
- ENDING LOCATION:

Solin, Croatia
- TOUR PACE:

Intensive
- NUMBER OF PEOPLE:

Up to 8 persons



Arrival Day - Kaštela - Salona

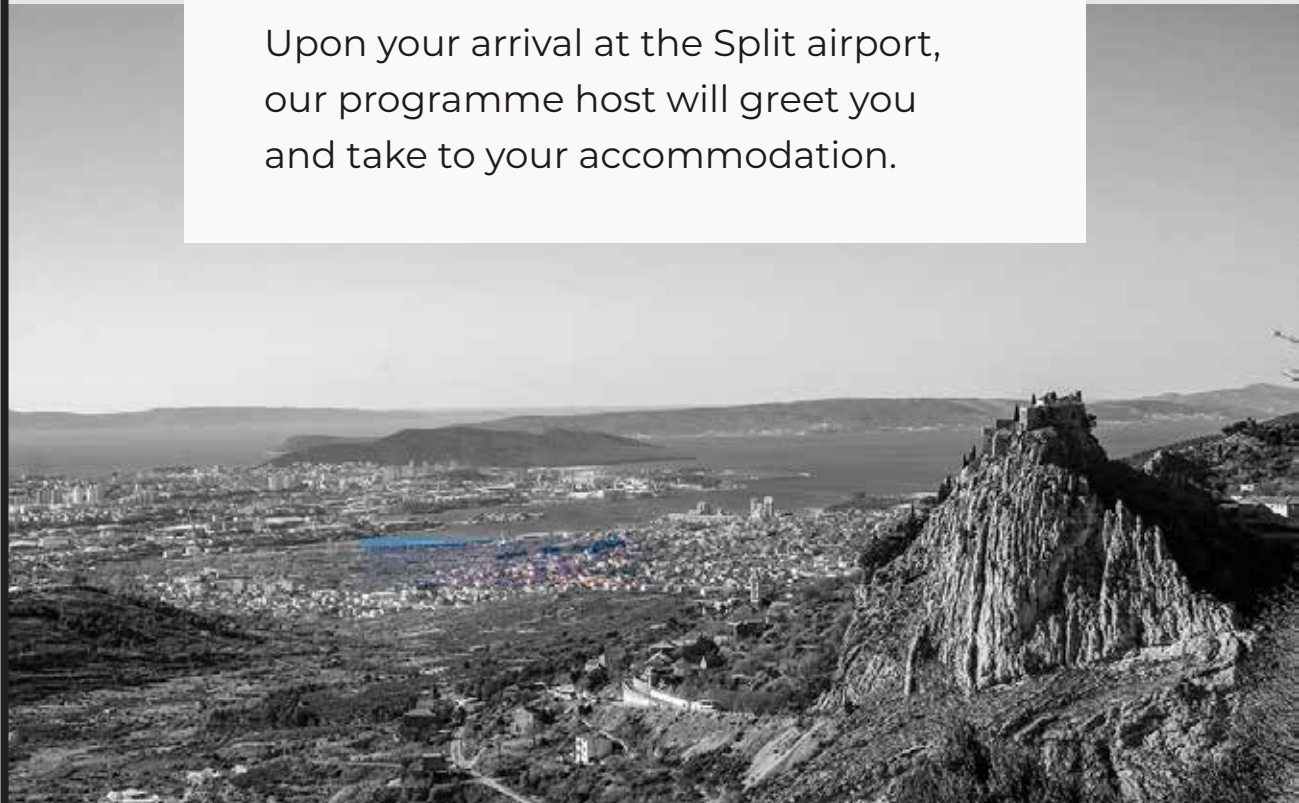
DAY 1

- -- : -- Pick up at the Split airport
- -- : -- Transfer to accommodation in Salona for check-in
- -- : -- Visit the Ancient Salona site – introduction
- -- : -- Return 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.



Located just above the excavation site in a picturesque historic town of Solin, between the two UNESCO - enlisted cities – Trogir and Split. It offers a delightful refuge from the crowds and excellent connections to all attractions. This location is ideal for a more relaxing, more remote stay, especially during the summer season. Buffet breakfasts and dinners will be served daily at the hotel restaurant.

After resting for a bit 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.





Salona

DAY 2

- 07:00 Breakfast / Short Walk to the Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 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.



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

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





Salona - Split

DAY 3

- 07:00 Breakfast / Walk to the excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / Refreshment time
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Split & Diocletian`s Palace, pt. 1**
- -- : -- Return to hotel
- -- : -- 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 fused with early Christian, Byzantine and Medieval art, enlisted as a World Heritage Site since 1979.

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





## Split

## DAY 3

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, somewhat unusually, within the palace.

After the Emperor's death, the palace was occasionally used by various dignitaries of the time, and according to a "controversial" theory it even served as a gynaeceum – cloth dyeing factory.



The adaptations of the palace started when the residents of Salona fled before the medieval barbarian tribes and found refuge within its walls, and sometime later the mausoleum got transformed into one of the first cathedrals in the world – the Cathedral of St. Domnius – bishop of Salona, who later became 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 pervade 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 your accommodation for dinner and overnight.





Salona

DAY 4

- -- : -- Breakfast / Walk to the Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15.00 Field work / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation
- -- : -- 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.

Located near your accommodation is the coast town of Kaštela – a long set of old coastal villages scattered along the coast between Salona and Trogir. The nearest is Kaštel Sućurac, a charming place with a small Mediterranean square, traditional fishing port, some bars and grocery stores, and an authentic green market.

History of the place dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when clergymen from the archdiocese of Split built a castle on an islet to protect the residents of nearby villages situated on the slopes of Kozjak mountain, towering above the present-day seaside settlement.



In addition to the the Bishop`s castle in Sućurac, castles of some other noble families have later been built along the coastline as well, forming seven small villages around them through middle ages, each carrying a unique name. Due to centuries-long connection between the villages, the Croatian government decided to form a town of Kaštela in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kaštela are still unaffected by mass tourism and, unlike Trogir and Split, have kept an authentic local life and customs.



Salona - Split

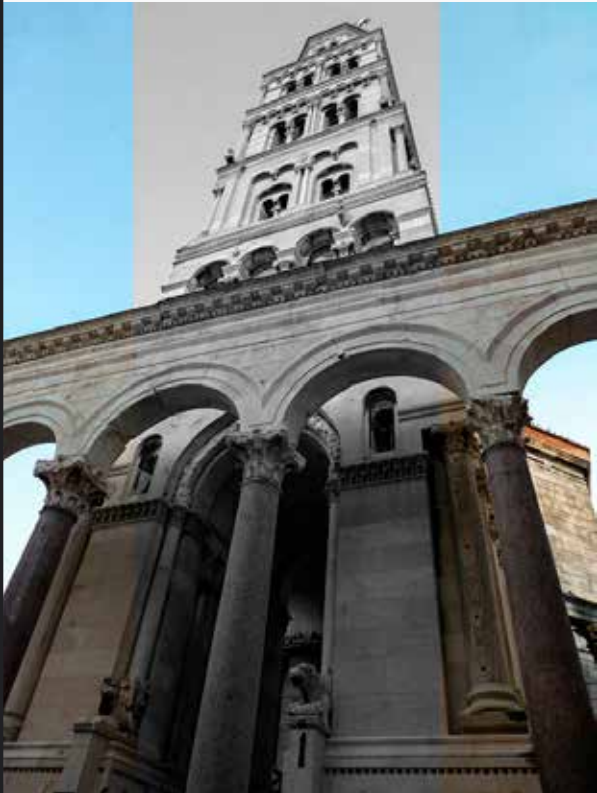
DAY 5

- :-- Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work / Lunch
- ---:-- Return to accommodation / Refreshment time
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Split & Diocletian`s Palace, pt. 2**
- ---:-- Return to accommodation / Free time
- ---:-- Dinner / Overnight

After another exciting fieldwork day in Salona and following a refreshment at your accommodation, we shall once more depart for Split for the second part of our tour of the city and the Diocletian`s Palace.



This time we start from the green market, locally known as Pazar, stopping along the way in several important places, all of which, curiously, start with the letter P: Pazar, Peristyle, Pjaca, Peškarija (fishmarket) and the Prokurative Square. Nicknamed “the street of five pearls of Split” by some enthusiasts, this street is perfect for explaining the important transition that the city underwent during the Middle Ages, when it expanded from the palace area out to the west.







Salona

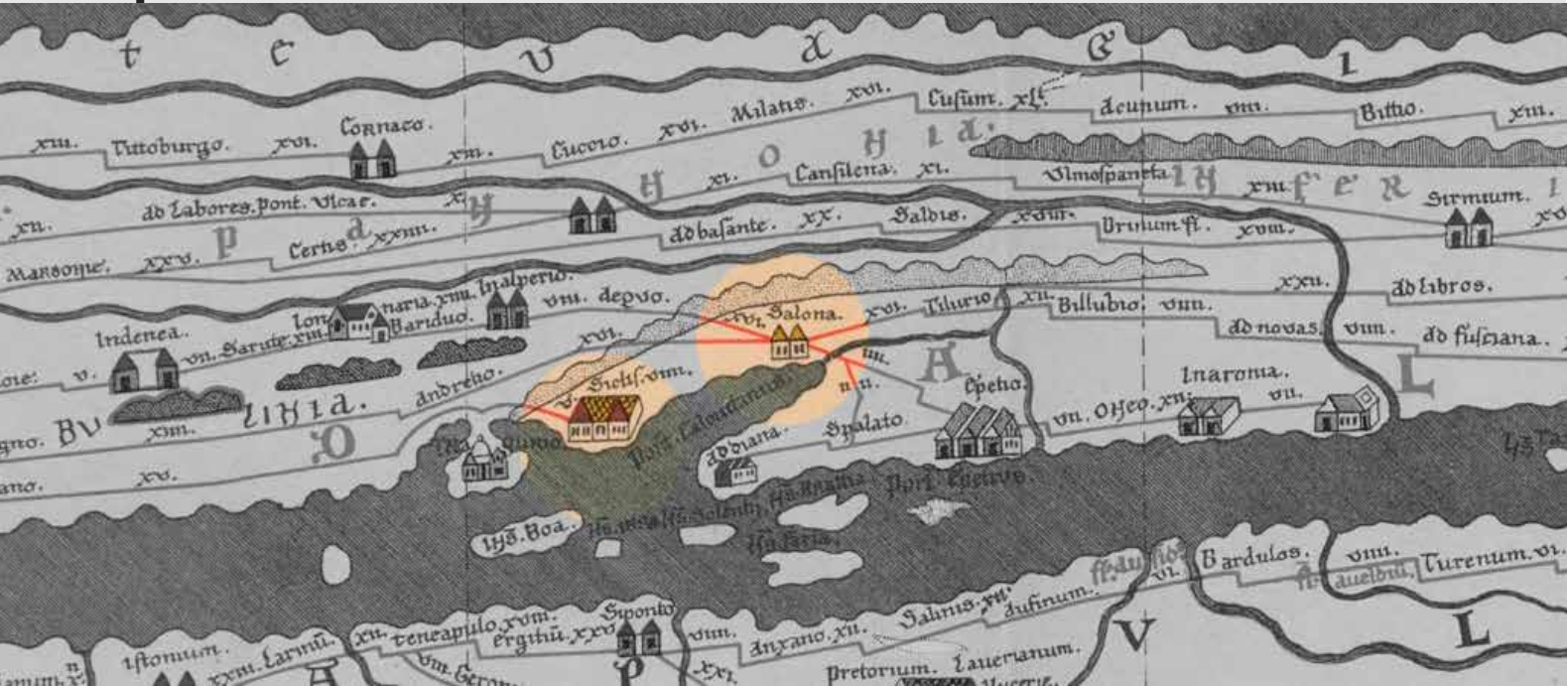
DAY 6

- - : - - Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work\* / Lunch
- - - : - - Return to accommodation
- 16:30 **Optional diving course** - *visiting the submerged ancient ports of Siculi settlement*
- - - : - - Return to accommodation / Free time
- - - : - - Dinner / Overnight

For today`s post-excavation activity, we have booked an optional diving course with a visit to the remains of the ancient town of Siculi, located to the west of the last of the seven Kaštela. Seen that the docks of the ancient Siculi 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.



Siculi is still undiscovered piece of the puzzle that raises numerous questions.

In 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 evidence was the biggest settlement at the time when the map was originally drawn.





Salona - Trilj - Sinj

DAY 7

- -- : -- Breakfast
- 09:00 Trip to the Roman military camp Tilurium and the town of Sinj / Traditional lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / 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 beneath.



After the visit to the Alka Museum, we will have the to savouring traditional local food, witnessing impacts on different cultures in our menu.

After lunch, we shall start our return to the hotel, making some interesting stops along the way.





2026.

(SAT)  
9.05.



Trilj

DAY 7

**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 which allowed it to control 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 Alka of Sinj 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 fused with local religious practices, social gatherings, family visits and festivities both outdoors and at home.

The Alka of Sinj 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 means for transferring collective memory from one generation to the next.







Salona

DAY 8

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

On the basis of 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 those who would enjoy a simple walk, the Kaštela Riviera 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.







Salona - Trogir

DAY 9

- -- : -- Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation
- 16:30 **Tour of the city of Trogir**
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / Dinner
- -- : -- Free time / Overnight

From Monday to Friday, the excavations schedule remains the same, starting with an early breakfast, followed by a short walk 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 church architecture in particular.

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.







Salona

DAY 10

- -- : -- Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work / Olive oil tasting / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation
- -- : -- Free time / Dinner / Overnight

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



Familiarise yourself with elementary characteristics of olive oil and find out the difference by comparing characteristics of top-quality olive oils with those of lesser quality. Enriched with the knowledge that you are taking home with you, apply it in your everyday life and from now on be sure to use the 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, followed by a dinner in the restaurant.





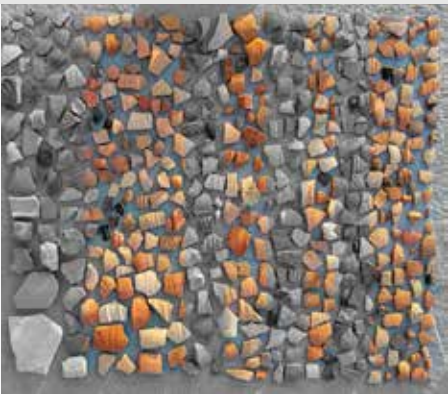


Salona - Klis

DAY 11

- -- : -- Breakfast / Drive to the Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / Refreshment time
- -- : -- Tour to Klis Fortress / Return to accommodation
- -- : -- 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.



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







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.





Salona - Split

DAY 12

- -- : -- Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work\* / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / Refreshment time
- -- : -- Visit Archaeological Museum of Split /
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / Free time /
- -- : -- Dinner / Overnight

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



The Archaeological Museum is the institution 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.





Salona - Kaštela

- -- : -- Breakfast / Walk to Salona excavation site
- 08:00 - 15:00 Field work\* / Lunch
- -- : -- Return to accommodation / 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.

One of the local villagers, a wine producer, has his vineyard cottage situated directly above the village. Great company, magnificent vistas, barbecue and some premium Dalmatian wines will make this evening very special.







Salona - N.P. Krka - Bribir

DAY 14

- - : - - Breakfast
- 8:00 Depart to N.P. Krka / Explore the park
- 12:30 Lunch @ a local household estate
- 15:30 Tour of the Bribir site with an archaeologist
- 18:30 Return to Salona
- - : - - Dinner / Free time / Overnight

On our second weekend, just a day before your departure, we shall take our longest and perhaps the most interesting trip so far. Driving to the north of the country, we will beat the crowds and enjoy Krka National Park falls.

The 7th national park in Croatia, known for its gorgeous lakes and waterfalls, was named after the eponymous river which forms numerous lakes, waterfalls and rapids on its way to the sea.



The most impressive waterfall is the Skradinski Buk: a 400 meters wide cascade boasting 17 travertine steps, spread across almost one kilometre in length, making it the largest travertine waterfall in Europe.





N.P. Krka - Bribir

DAY 14

After completing the walking circuit of Krka National Park, we continue by bus for a short drive into the nearby countryside, arriving at a small rural household where we are introduced to traditional architecture, everyday life, and a four-century-old hearth that still anchors the home.

Our visit unfolds outdoors, with a simple, home-hosted lunch served under the shade of a tree, prepared from local ingredients gathered from the surrounding small farms.

It is a gentle pause in the day, offering an authentic sense of the region.



Archaeological highlight of the day is the Bribir archaeological site, or the ancient settlement of Varvaria (Croatian: Bribirska Glavica), situated just above the farm. After another brief ride, we will have the privilege of enjoying the company of a knowledgeable archaeologist who participated in site excavations over the past decade. This site is a true multi-layered archaeological gem which, alongside its impressive history, offers spectacular views on the surrounding valleys.



As the sun begins to set, offering magnificent scenery as far as the eye can see, we shall slowly start our 1-hour drive back to your hotel.





Salona - Resnik

DAY 15

- -- : -- Breakfast
- -- : -- Farewell transfer

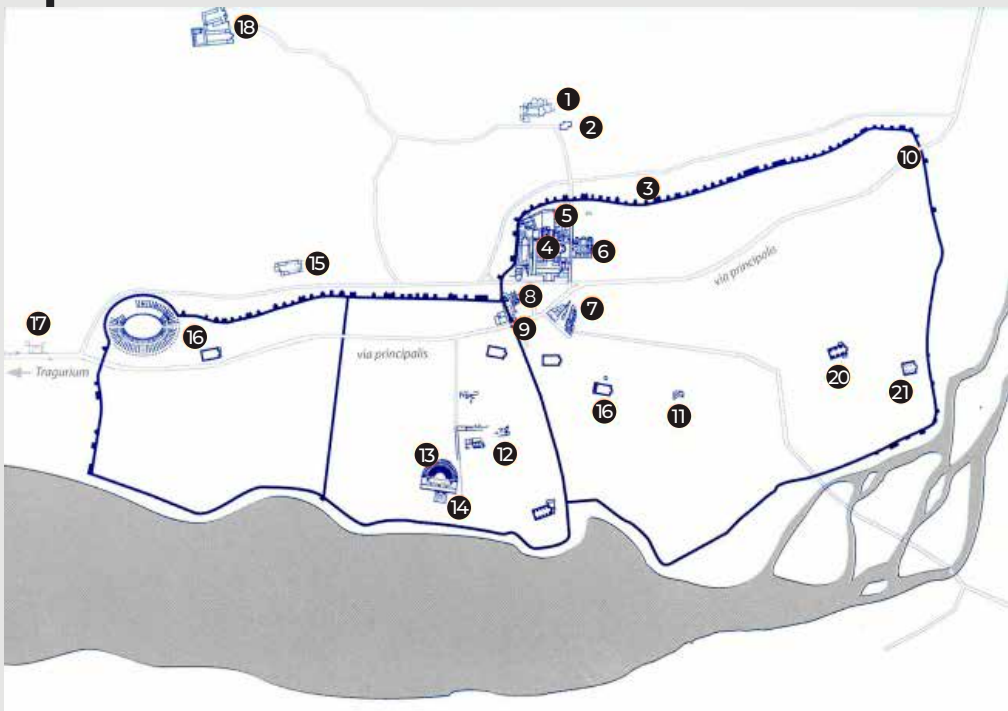
All things come to an end, but compelling experiences and newly established friendships last forever. As organisers of this particular experience, we hope we contributed to a lasting and meaningful impression in your minds and hearts.



In case of rain, more indoor activities such as finds processing, documentation, restoration and different workshops will be provided. The programme is subject to change depending on the arrival day 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.



## About Salona in the Ancient Period

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.

Porta Caesarea & Roman wheel tracks



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.



## About Salona in the Ancient Period

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.

Part of the town walls





## About Salona in the Ancient Period

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.



Remains of the amphitheatre



## About Salona in the Ancient Period

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.

City`s main baths





## 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.

Remains of Basilica Urbana entrance



Basilica Urbana ( present-day interior and 3D computer reconstruction )



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 baptistery and the bishop's palace.



# About Salona in the early Christian period

In the 6th century, the entire complex underwent reconstruction; the rectangular baptistery was turned into an octagonal structure with a cruciform pool. A room west of the baptistery 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.

Catachumeneum



Present Catachumeneum entrance and interior reconstruction



Baptistery



Baptistery interior reconstruction





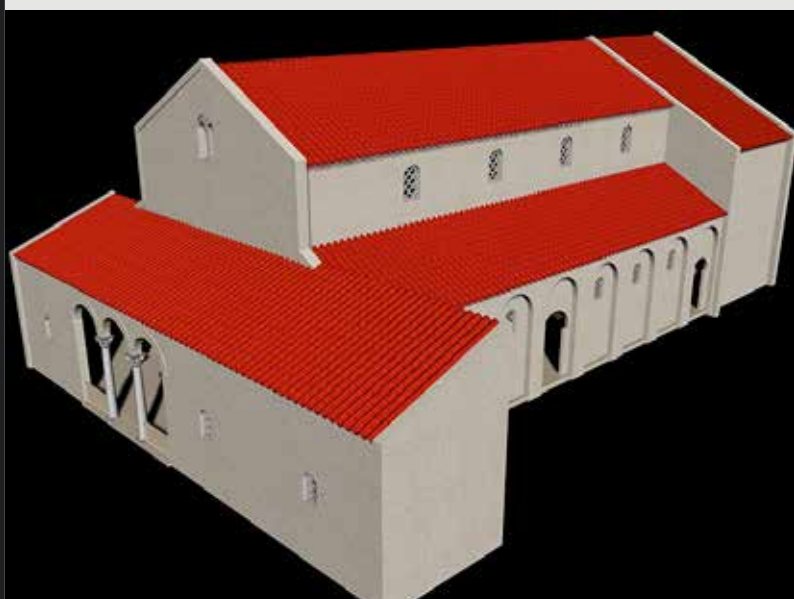
## About Salona in the early Christian period

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.

Manastirine cemetary complex



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).



Manastirine  
cemetary  
complex  
( ideal reconstruction )

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.

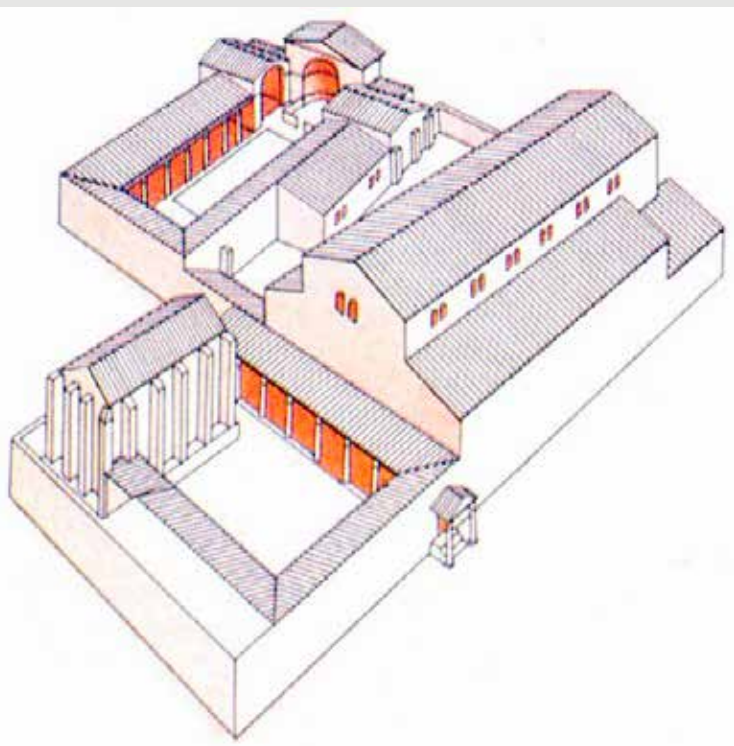


## About Salona in the early Christian period

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.

Marusinac area with mausoleum  
( ideal reconstruction)



Altar of St. Anastasius in Split Cathedral



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.

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.

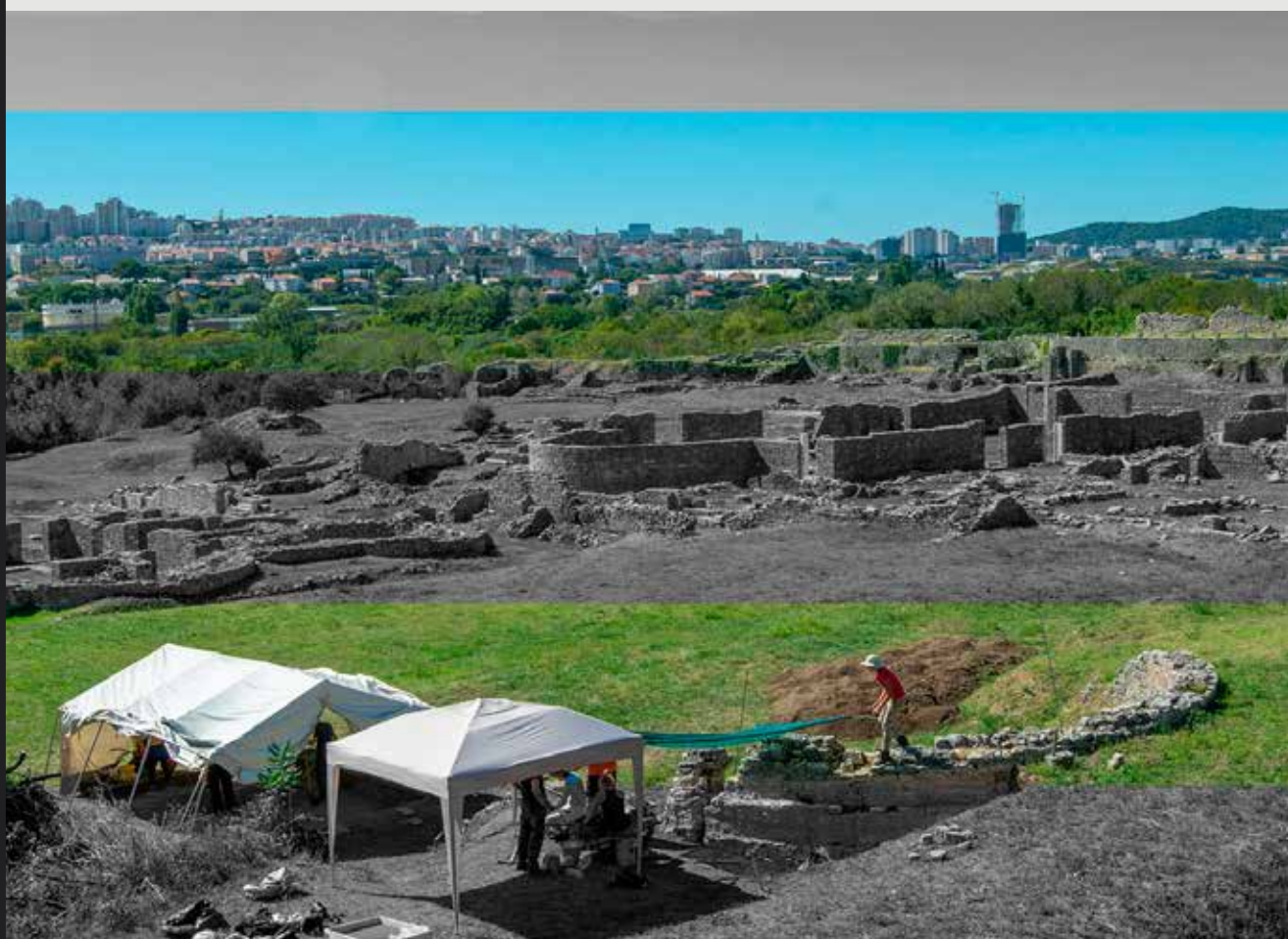
1883 – Frane Bulić, considered as the father of our archaeology. Among his rich contributions to numerous fields ranging from the church and teaching to scientific and political activity, the many years of research he spent in Solin, continuing the task of Frane Carrara, particularly stand out. His half-a-century 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 sites

### Site 1.: Northeast of the Episcopal complex



### Description 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.



## About the excavation sites

### Site 1.: Northeast of the Episcopal complex

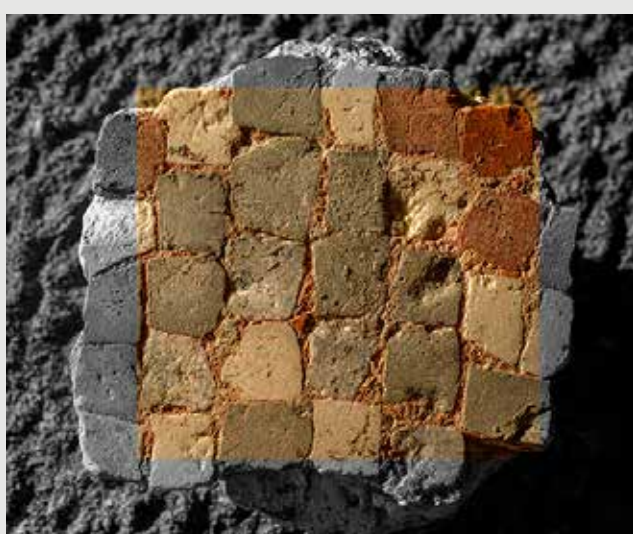
Speaking of archaeological potential of this site, but also the whole urban perimeter of Salona, the most important fact is that this city, after having been abandoned in 7<sup>th</sup> century, did not continue its development into medieval and later modern city, so underneath the soil there is an outline 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).





## About the excavation sites

### Site 1.: Northeast of the Episcopal complex

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 exiting 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.





## About the excavation sites

### Site 2.: City Walls and Towers

Exploring the historical layers of Salona's city walls and towers unveils a captivating narrative of construction, resilience, and the passage of time. The formidable fortifications erected around 170 AD, stretched over 4 kilometers, encapsulating the essence of a city that stood resilient against potential raids, particularly on its vulnerable northern side.

The meticulous archaeological endeavors of the NW part, commencing in 2021, brought to light the remnants of towers 15-18. These towers, standing as silent witnesses to centuries gone by, exhibit a diverse array in construction and size. Tower 15, a focal point of exploration, revealed a treasure trove within its confines. Notably, the discovery of the original mortar floor unveiled the operational space where soldiers once tread. Beneath this floor lies a foundation steeped in history, holding within it a remarkable two tons of ceramics, a mosaic of Salona's daily life and discarded remnants.



The remnants unearthed tell tales of a unique waste disposal practice, as the people of Salona seemingly disposed of their city's refuse within the tower's foundations. Alongside fragments of amphorae and culinary tools, the excavation unearthed a myriad of seashells, animal bones, and personal belongings. Among these treasures, artifacts like hairpins, jewelry, oil lamps, dice, coins, and other personal items serve as poignant remnants of lives lived within the shadow of Salona's defensive walls. Further enhancing the historical tapestry, the walls themselves bear witness to an unexpected symbiosis with epigraphic monuments. The incorporation of tombstones into defensive architecture, though a reflection of a lack of piety in antiquity, paradoxically preserved these inscriptions for centuries. Dating from the 1st to the 3rd centuries, these tombstones now offer a glimpse into the past, echoing stories of lives long gone. Today, they find sanctuary in museums, allowing us to study and appreciate the historical intricacies of Salona.





# EXPERT TEAM



**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 and conservation/restauration 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 Lobor (Croatia)       |
| 2004           | Neolithic settlement in Kruševica (Croatia)           |
| 2005           | Late antique settlement at Banjače (Croatia)          |
| 2008 - 2009    | Medieval settlement near Mrkopolje (Croatia)          |
| 2001 - 2014    | Roman legionary fortress of Tilurium (Trilj, Croatia) |
| 2012 - 2014    | Roman settlement in Jabuka-Velić (Croatia)            |
| 2015           | Roman limes survey (eastern Croatia)                  |
| 2020           | Salona, Gradina                                       |
| 2020           | Salona, Eastern city walls                            |
| 2021           | Salona, Northern city walls                           |
| 2021           | Salona, Western necropolis                            |
| 2018 - present | Salona, building with an apse                         |



## EXPERT TEAM



**Ema Višić-Ljubić**  
Senior Curator  
Archaeological Museum in Split

### Positions

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1993 - 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/restauration experience:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2005<br>2007               | Marusinac - audit research on the Basilica & Cemetery complex   |
| 2009 - 2012<br>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 / 2016                | The "16 sarcophagi" site - works on rehabilitation and conservation of the site boundary stone walls  |
| 2012 - 2013<br>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   |
| 2017 - 2020                | Salona, Manastirine   |
| 2020 - 2021                | Salona, Western necropolis  |
| 2018 - present             | Salona, building with an apse   |



## Give back activity



Since education and volunteering are the main threads of this tapestry, for volunteering activities we choose the most current ones.

Of course, they depend on the current needs of the community or individuals and on the programmes run by local volunteering associations.

As a company, we take pride in participating in many similar activities throughout the year. Still, no pride can match the satisfaction of our clients when giving back action is underway.



On previous occasions we have planted trees, made postcards for local charities, or participated in the making of a shelter for abandoned animals. Unfortunately, there are many more local actions which we could give a hand to, such as helping the homeless and poor people or children with Down syndrome.





## 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

### Agent 24/7 support:

Agent emergency phone number **+385 (0)98 436 041**

– Robert Bralić (Mobile/WhatsApp/Viber)

*Please do not hesitate to call your emergency agent first.*

*He is your best help while at the destination.*

### Arrival to destination - Sustainability

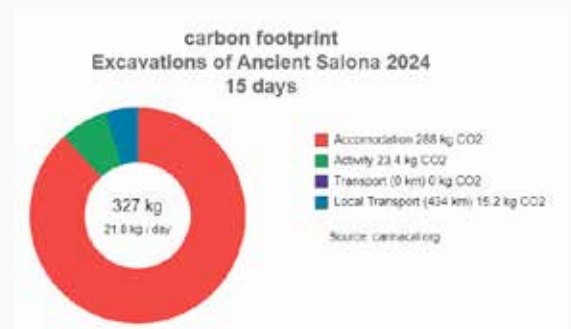
While we know how little influence we can have on your choice of transportation arrangements to your travel destination, if you find it possible and appropriate, we kindly advise using more sustainable travel solutions such as trains, ships or busses. In the case of flying, we recommend airlines with clear sustainability plans and management. More info here.

### Sustainability - traveler code of ethics

This is a shortened version of the UNTWO Global Code of Ethics for travelers.

### Carbon offset

The displayed carbon footprint overview is calculated via Carmacal, an online tool for measuring the carbon dioxide emissions per each traveler per product.



**IMPORTANT:** For the travelers who have purchased our travel programme, our guides have received clear instructions and education on how to guide travelers in a more sustainable way while at the destination.

- Travel with a genuine desire to learn more about the people of your host country. Acquaint yourself with local customs and be aware of other people's feelings, thus preventing what might be intrusive behaviour on your part.
- Your pre-trip research can be continued by asking questions while you are there. Any attempt to learn even a few words of the relevant language will make your trip a more rewarding experience for all involved.
- Realize that often the people in the country you visit have time concepts and approaches different from your own.
- Don't treat people as part of the landscape; they may not want their picture taken. Put yourself in their shoes, ask permission first, and respect their wishes. Many people love to see images of themselves, so if you are somewhere remote with your digital camera, show the locals the pictures you have just taken of them with your camera!
- Do not make promises to people in your host country unless you can carry them through.
- Ensure that your behaviour has no impact on the natural environment. Avoid picking flowers, removing seeds, damaging coral, and even buying souvenirs such as shells and skins. Understand that there can be no guarantees for wildlife; all sightings are a bonus.

## Useful information

- Try and put money into local people's hands: drink local beer or fruit juice rather than imported brands and buy and eat locally produced food. When shopping, even where bargaining is expected, do inject humour and remember that a low price almost certainly means a lower wage for the maker.
- If you want to take gifts, make sure they are appropriate (for example, there are few dentists in remote communities, so sweets are not recommended).
- If you really want your experience to be a 'home away from home', it may be foolish to waste money on travelling!

### **Documents:**

Scan copies of all your IDs and other important documents and email them to yourself in a password-protected document before you leave. Also, have copies in a safe place back home that someone can access if necessary. Make sure all electronic devices are password protected. You can also keep credit card numbers, bank contact info, and passport details on an encrypted storage app like ewallet (iPhone, iPad) or the android version [here](#).

**Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your re-entry date.**

### **Border crossings**

The Republic of Croatia applied the Schengen regime on 1 January 2023 entirely. This means that border checks on all internal land and sea borders of the Republic of Croatia were abolished. More specifically, there are no more border checks on the borders with the Republic of Slovenia, Hungary and the Italian Republic.

Border checks at airports will be abolished on 26 March 2023, for flights within the Schengen area, so if your arrival schedule connects through any of the EU countries after this day, it will be treated as domestic. If your trip includes any of the non-EU countries, cues are to be expected on entry to Croatia. For more information, visit our Ministry of Internal Affairs webpage [here](#).

### **Credit and Debit Cards:**

Call your banks and credit card companies to advise them of your travel dates so they don't shut down your cards when "unusual charges" occur. Most banks charge AT LEAST 1%, as well as a per-use convenience fee, for the use of ATM machines in Europe. Still, we feel that withdrawing money from an ATM machine as needed is the best way to access cash. Withdraw at least the equivalent of €200 upon arrival in Europe (all the airports have ATM machines) and then more as needed. Remember that many European ATM keypads only have numbers, not the corresponding letters. So, memorize your access code in numbers if you haven't already. Do not fall prey to the money exchange vendors found in the airports – they offer terrible rates!



## Useful information

Dollars are not accepted, and travelers' checks are rarely used anymore. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, AMEX less so. You will incur at least a 1% transaction charge for all credit and debit card purchases, unless you have one of the few credit cards that do not charge this fee. Note that Croatia, like most of Europe, has moved to the more secure "chip technology" on their credit and debit cards. Some US cards still have the magnetic stripe and may not be widely accepted. Please verify with your bank that your credit card is usable in Croatia. Most US banks are now issuing "chip and signature" cards, and you are advised to obtain one before traveling in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

### **WARNING NOTICE!**

Avoid Euronet and so-called "Commission-free" ATMs and use ONLY ATMs of banks that have their offices in Croatia, such as: (Zagrebačka Banka (The Bank of Zagreb), PBZ (Economic Bank of Zagreb), HPB (Croatian Postal Bank), Raiffeisen Bank, Erste Banka, OTP Bank.

### **Currency – Croatia**

As of 1 January 2023, the euro (EUR) is the Croatian currency and the sole legal tender in Croatia, replacing the previous Kuna. Banknotes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 euros, while coins of 1 and 2 euros and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents are in use. There is also a 500 euro banknote in circulation, which was discontinued in 2019, but is still legal tender.

### **Tips – general information**

In Croatia, it is customary to leave a tip only if you are satisfied with the level of delivered service. The usual amount for tipping per service/day ranges around 15 % of the provided service.

\*On request, we provide customized tipping suggestions as per your itinerary and service providers

### **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 (a document that 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 Affairs. Those who require a visa need to obtain it before entering the country. This cannot be done at any of the Croatian border crossings.

### **Embassies**

To see the list of foreign embassies and consulates in the Republic of Croatia, please see the following link of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Useful information

### Customs Regulations

Customs regulations in the Republic of Croatia are harmonized with the regulations of other EU countries. For more information, see the following link.

### 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.



## Useful information

### 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**

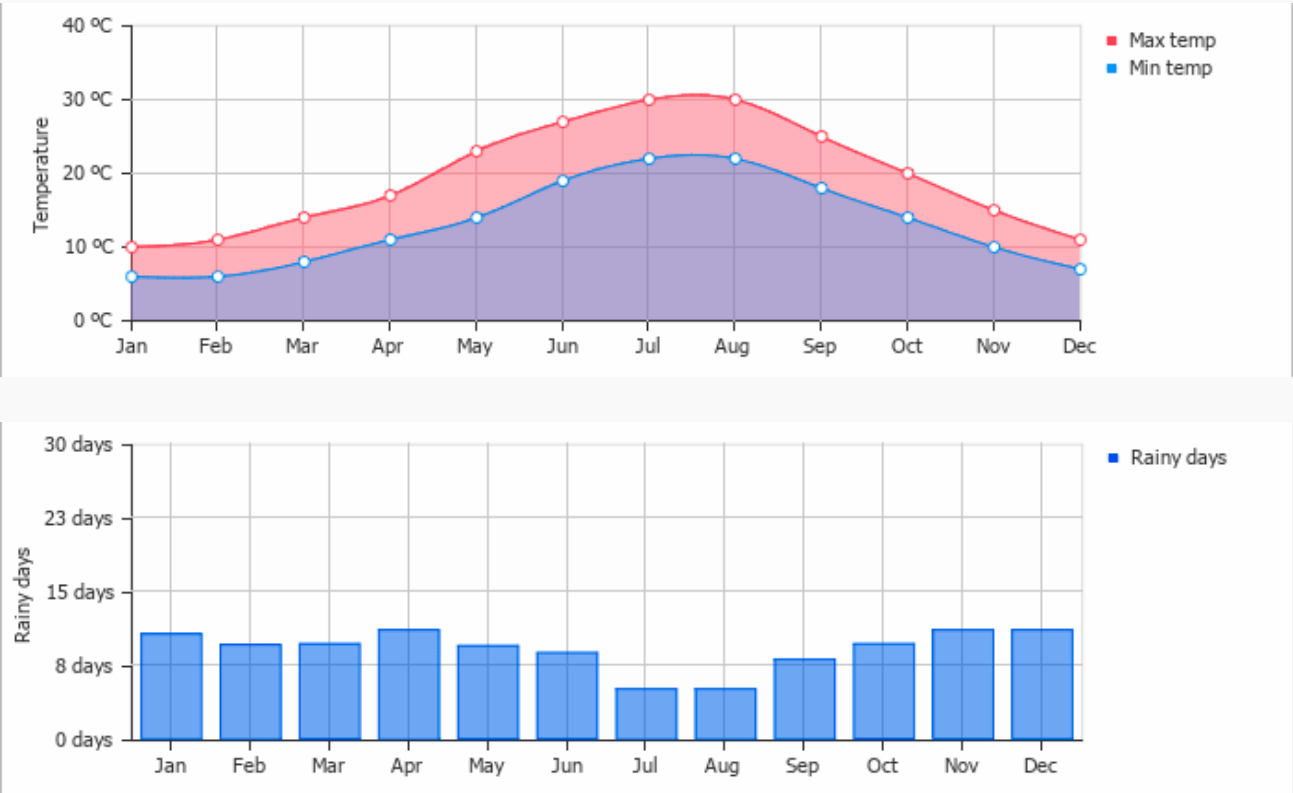
Roadside Assistance: **1987**  
(If you are calling from abroad, dial **+385 1 1987**  
or **+385 1 4693 700**

Croatian Automobile Club (HAK) **072 777 777**

Traffic conditions: (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.



## Language and Communication

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

| ENGLISH          |       | CROATIAN        |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| HELLO            | _____ | ZDRAVO          |
| GOODBYE          | _____ | DOVIĐENJA       |
| GOOD MORNING     | _____ | DOBRO JUTRO     |
| GOOD DAY         | _____ | DOBAR DAN       |
| GOOD EVENING     | _____ | DOBRA VEČER     |
| GOOD NIGHT       | _____ | LAKU NOĆ        |
| YES              | _____ | DA              |
| NO               | _____ | NE              |
| PLEASE           | _____ | MOLIM           |
| THANK YOU        | _____ | HVALA           |
| YOU'RE WELCOME   | _____ | NEMA NA ČEMU    |
| EXCUSE ME        | _____ | OPROSTITUTE     |
| SORRY            | _____ | PARDON          |
| HOW?             | _____ | KAKO?           |
| MY NAME IS...    | _____ | ZOVEM SE...     |
| WHERE IS THE...? | _____ | GDJE JE...?     |
| WHAT TIME IT IS? | _____ | KOLIKO JE SATI? |
| TODAY            | _____ | DANAS           |
| TOMORROW         | _____ | SUTRA           |
| YESTERDAY        | _____ | JUČER           |
| HOUR             | _____ | SAT             |
| DAY              | _____ | DAN             |
| WEEK             | _____ | TJEDAN          |
| MONTH            | _____ | MJESEC          |



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