

THE ROMAN EMPERORS' CULTURAL ITINERARY IN SERBIA

ITINERARIUM ROMANUM SERBIA

The Roman Emperors' Cultural Itinerary aims to connect all the places of rich antique legacy and employ these resources for the development of cultural tourism.

The Roman Emperors' Cultural Itinerary endeavors to connect all these places of immeasurable archaeological importance into one whole, such as it used to be back at the time when the Roman Empire stood on the Danube banks.

Far away from Rome, on the unpredictable Danube, the Roman Empire established its frontier – the limes. A sequence of fortresses were built by the road along which the legions advanced in their campaigns against barbarian tribes across the river. Next after the army ventured the merchants, artisans, and soon new towns emerged along all the important communications. In about two hundred years, starting from the third century, the Upper Moesia and Lower Pannonia turned from marginal border provinces into the center of the Empire's life. Illyricum and its elite troops gave birth to seventeen emperors who would rule the empire at the time of its worst crisis. Born either in prosperous towns on the limes or in craggy hinterland, some from among them would change the very appearance of the world known until then.

The fact that sixteen (establishment of birth data for the seventeenth is in process) emperors were born in the territory of Serbia attests to the importance of the this area of today's Serbia in the ancient Roman Empire.



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Sirmium The Capital of Pannonia and Rhetoric

Today's Sremska Mitrovica holds the true greatness of the ancient Sirmium, one of the most important towns of the Late Roman Empire.

Established in the 1st century, Sirmium was at the peak of its grandeur in the third century A.C. (295 A.C.) when it was pronounced one of the four capitals of the Empire. The system of roads, aqueducts and military fortifications, remains of the royal palace, thermae, theatres, and hippodrome evidence that this town was the center (legion camp, imperial city and episcopal center) of the entire area – the then Roman province of Pannonia. In this period, this was one of the major trade and transit centers of the Empire.



Site visiting hours: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Expert guide: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Museum of Srem

Visiting hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Standing archeological display: 15 Trg Stefana square, Sremska Mitrovica
Telephone: +381 22 623 245
E-mail: muzejsrema@neobee.net, www.muzejsrema.org.yu

Tourism Organisation of Vojvodina
Telephone: +381 21 452 910, 420 758
E-mail: office@vojvodinatourism.org.yu
www.vojvodinaonline.com

Singidunum Intersection of roads and cultures

Belgrade, Serbia's capital, undoubtedly ranks as one of the European capitals with exceptional geographic position. The city, located on the banks of two big rivers – the Sava and the Danube, on the slopes of the Balkan hills stretched down until meeting the Pannonian plane, has always been the intersection of important roads and a place of special military-strategic importance.

Among the numerous archeological layers of Belgrade, the Roman heritage takes a special place.

On the foundations of a Celtic town, Romans built a military camp and settlement Singidunum in the beginning of the 1st century. This city reached its peak at the time when the IV legion of Flavius was stationed here, when it got the status of a municipium (a city enjoying high degree of autonomy), and subsequently of a colony, as well.
Today Roman remains are mostly revealed at the Belgrade Castle, in the Kalemegdan Park, but in the broader town center as well. Memories of Roman times have persisted over centuries in the Belgrade tradition. Thus, one of the most attractive tourist sites at the Belgrade Castle is named Roman well, although originating from much later times.



Visiting hours: The Belgrade Castle is always open to public.
www.beogradskatrjdjava.co.yu

Tourism Organisation of Belgrade
Telephone: +381 11 3061 410, 635 622
E-mail: office@tob.co.yu
www.belgradetourism.org.yu
www.tob.co.yu

National Museum in Belgrade – under reconstruction
Telephone: +381 11 330 6000
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www.narodnimuzej.org.yu

Museum of the City of Belgrade
Telephone: +381 11 638 744
E-mail: museumbg@eunet.yu
www.mbg.org.yu

Viminacium Viminacium, my light! (Viminacium, lumen meum)

Viminacium is one of the most important Roman cities and military camps from the period from the 1st to 6th century. Civil community by the camp was granted the status of a municipium, city with a high degree of autonomy, at the time of Hadrian's rule (117-138). Under Gordian III (239) the city got the status of a colony of Roman citizens, as well as the right to mint local coins. The status of a colony was the highest status a city could get within the Roman Empire. Viminacium was several times selected for the place of troop concentration and a point of departure in numerous campaigns.

The location at the confluence of the Mlava and Danube rivers favored rapid economic progress. Exceptional finds uncovered in necropolises round the city (so far 14,000 graves have been found) confirm the assumptions on great richness of its inhabitants, while the frescoes uncovered in crypts represent the acme of the late antiquity art.

The city was several times devastated during the incursions by Goths, Huns and finally Avars. Excavations inside and round the city revealed the amphitheater, monumental edifices and traces of developed infrastructure, above all streets, aqueducts, sewerage system, and luxurious thermae.

Excavations so far have certainly confirmed the special importance of Viminacium as a leading metropolis in this part of the Danube limes.



Archeological site is open for visits from the beginning of February till the end of November.

Visiting hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in spring and autumn
For visits announced in advance, tours can be organized beyond regular visiting hours, throughout the year.
www.viminacium.org.yu

Tourism Organisation of Požarevac
Telephone: +381 12 221 941
E-mail: topozarevac@nadlanu.com
www.topozarevac.com

National Museum of Požarevac
Telephone: +381 12 223 537
E-mail: muzejpo@ptt.yu, www.museum-po.org.yu
Visiting hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday

Iustiniana Prima Iustiniana Prima – New capital of Illyricum

Iustiniana Prima, or Empress's town is one of the most important Byzantine towns in the Balkan peninsula inland. Emperor Justinian, who originates from Southern Serbia, decided to erect a town in his native area that would glorify his name.

Iustiniana Prima town lies on gentle slopes descending from Radan mountain towards Leskovac basin, at a place outside the main road routes.

The town core comprises three segments: the Acropolis, Upper town and Lower town. The Empress's town is an example of settlements built in the style of eastern towns, while designed blocks – insulae, with grouped but separated buildings within the interior space, belong to the Roman tradition.

The Empress's town is an exceptional monument of the ancient town planning and architecture. Remains of fortifications, streets with porticoes, basilica, public and private buildings, defensive walls, water supply system with aqueduct and huge cistern, floor mosaic in luxurious buildings all speak about the past appearance of the town and reflect achievements of the Palaeo-Byzantine civilization, built upon the Greek-Roman legacy.



National museum of Leskovac

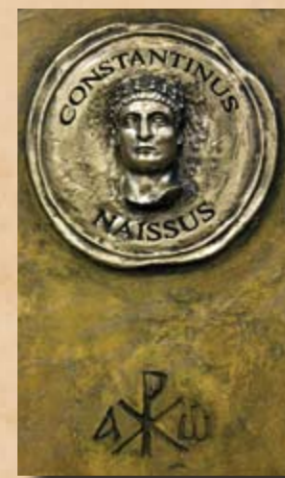
Telephone: +381 16 212 975
Guide service, telephone: +381 16 212 975
E-mail: muzejleskovac@e.sbb.co.yu
www.lemuzej.org.yu
Visiting hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday

Naissus et Mediana Naissus – Birthplace of the first Christian emperor

Naissus is the birthplace of emperor Constantine the Great, the ruler who pronounced Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. During his frequent stays in the Balkans, between 317 and 334, Naissus became an important city with a huge imperial residence. The most elegant suburb of the ancient Naissus was Mediana, where Constantine built a commercial complex with a great number of luxurious villas.

City's position on an important trade route favored its rapid economic progress, particularly prominent during the 4th century, from which date the excavated artisan workshops where weapons and silver plates were made.

By this date about eighty buildings of the ancient Mediana have been uncovered, decorated with splendid and well preserved mosaics. The central building is a villa with a peristyle decorated with floor mosaics. Next to this building have been traced a thermae and granary, as well as the entire water supply system with aqueduct and water tower, and tombs decorated with frescoes.



Site visiting hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, closed on Monday – from April to November
Expert guide: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from April to November
Address: Bulevar Cara Konstantina bb

National Museum of Niš
Standing display visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Expert guide: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Address: 59 Nikole Pasica St.
www.nis.org.yu

Tourism Organisation of Niš
Telephone: +381 18 524 877, 521 321
E-mail: ton@nistourism.org.yu, www.nistourism.org.yu

Magnum est stare et Danubii ripe How magnificent it is to stand on the banks of the Danube!

The Danube has from times immemorial bestowed life to people living on its banks. Here civilizations have been replacing each other for already ten thousand years in continuity.

At the time of Roman emperors this powerful river was a natural road but, in the part of Djerdap Gorge, an important natural barrier as well. Therefore Romans established their limes on the Danube, a frontier with a system of fortifications which defended the Empire against barbarian incursions.

Diana and Pontes are the names of the biggest forts here. But maybe it is rather the road, built as well, that best illustrates the power of the ancient Rome in these territories.

Road construction was completed by Emperor Trajan in 100 AC. To mark this undertaking, he ordered to post a board above the road: the Trajan's Board. Today it is visible only from the river, from a ship or a boat.

The extent of the ancient Romans building mastery is well seen from the remains of emperor Trajan's road at Djerdap – the road which enabled his conquest of the until then undefeated barbarian Dacia. One of the most impressive building accomplishments of the ancient times was the construction of a bridge on the Danube. This event was portrayed on the famous Trajan's Column erected in the Roman forum.



Archeological Museum of Djerdap, 19320 Kladovo

Telephone: +381 19 803 900, 64 289 66 59 (guide)
E-mail: arh@narodnimuzej.org.yu, amd@narodnimuzej.org.yu
Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, except Monday. Visits can be organized any time upon previous announcement.

Tourism Organisation of Kladovo Municipality
Telephone: +381 19 801 690, 807 656
E-mail: tookladovo@gmail.com
www.kladovo.org.yu

Lepenski Vir and Vinča by the Danube

The Roman Emperors' Cultural Itinerary runs, to a great extent, along the Danube course. Natural and cultural heritage are at no other place so uniquely united as in the Djerdap Gorge. A testimony to this are the two prehistoric sites of exceptional importance located at the Danube banks.

Vinča

Archeological site Vinča is located on the 14th kilometer of Belgrade – Smederevo road. The prehistoric settlement in Vinča originates from two stages: the Early Neolithic and the Late Neolithic Period. In the cultural layer, nine building horizons have been traced. Dwellings in the first horizon settlement were of dugout type, while in the remaining eight horizons square-shaped houses were built. Excavations at this site uncovered characteristic biconic vessels, stemmed goblets, amphorae, altars and specially rich and diverse plastic art pieces: cylindrical and flat statuettes. Based on these items not only the life in pre-historic Vinča can be reconstructed, but the early cultural history of the Danube basin as well.

Tourism Organisation of Belgrade

Telephone: +381 11 3061 410, 635 622
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www.belgradetourism.org.yu, www.tob.co.yu

National Museum of Belgrade – under reconstruction

Telephone: +381 11 330 6000
E-mail: pr@narodnimuzej.org.yu
www.narodnimuzej.org.yu

Lepenski Vir

The archeological site Lepenski Vir is located in the Djerdap Gorge, on the lower Danube terrace. This is the center of one of the most important prehistoric cultures. Excavations at this site revealed the remains of sacral architecture originating from 7,000 AD to 6000 AD.

The architecture of Lepenski Vir is of unique style. In the center of the settlement is a spacious square, a place where various rites were conducted. The shape and proportions of this habitat allow for a conclusion that the builders of Lepenski Vir had certain mathematical knowledge.

Round the fire-place stood round-stone sculptures presenting human figures. In the early stage only heads were shaped, while later the sculptures were given the form of a human figure and became true idols.

Museum of Lepenski Vir

Visiting hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. from 1 April to 31 October, except on Monday
Danijel Milanovic 09220
Telephone: +381 63 206 271
E-mail: arh@narodnimuzej.org.yu

National Tourism Organisation of Serbia
www.serbia.travel



THE ROMAN EMPERORS' CULTURAL ITINERARY IN SERBIA

ITINERARIUM ROMANUM SERBIA



Free sample



THE ROMAN EMPERORS CULTURAL ITINERARY IN SERBIA

Visa and entry requirements
EU, US and Canadian residents may enter Serbia without a visa. For other countries, a 30-day tourist pass is issued. Individual travelers from other countries may stay in Serbia until their visa expires.

Customs regulations
Personal items belonging to visitors in Serbia are not subject to customs duties. Foreign tourists may bring in an unlimited quantity of foreign currency, provided they declare it upon entering Serbia.

Credit Cards
DINERS, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS and MASTER CARD

Banks and Postal service
ATMs and post offices are open from 08:00-19:00 on weekdays and from 08:00-15:00 Saturdays. On Sundays there is usually a designated bank or post office that maintains needed services.

Shops
Shops typically open at 06:00 and work until 21:00, but some shops in Novi Sad and Srebrenica may typically operate from 06:00 until 15:00.

Health care
Hospitals and out-patient clinics typically work 24 hours a day. There are 10 pharmacies in Novi Sad, one in Srebrenica and a pharmacy that operates Sundays and at night.

Electricity
Electricity operates on the continental European standard, 230 V, 50Hz.

Water
Water from the public waters system is drinkable.

Time zone
Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 1 hour

Telephone dialing prefixes
To call Serbia from outside, the country code is +381. City codes are: Belgrade (011; Novi Sad (021; Nis (018).

Motorist assistance
The Auto-Motor Club of Serbia (AMSS) has service centers in Novi Sad and Srebrenica. AMSS telephone number for assistance is 987. www.amss.org.yu

Highway Tolls
Tolls are collected on the following highways: E-75 from Novi Sad to Srebrenica; E-75 from Belgrade to Nis; E-75 from Nis to Leskovac; and E-70 from Belgrade to Sid.

Air travel
JAT Airways +381 11 3114 222. www.jat.com
Nis Nikola Tesla airport can be reached at +381 11 209 4444

Ball travel
The Belgrade train station can be reached at + 381 11 2641 688, 2645 824. www.zrtemcentrbg.com

Bus lines
Belgrade Bus Station at: + 381 11 2636 299, 2644 655
www.serbia.travel



ROMAN EMPERORS BORN IN THE PRESENT-DAY SERBIA

Trajan Decius (249 – 251)
Hostilian (251)
Claudius II Gothicus (268 – 270)
Aurelian (270 – 275)
Probus (276 – 282)
Maximianus Herculius (285 – 305; 310)
Constantinus Chlorus (293 – 306)
Galerius (293 – 311)
Maximinus Daia (305 – 313)
Flavius Severus (305 – 307)
Constantinus Primus (306 – 337)
Licinius (307 – 324)
Constantinus II (337 – 361)
Vetranio (350)
Jovian (363 – 364)
Gratian (367 – 383)
Constantinus III (421)

GOMETIO SPOR RO

BIRTH PLACE OF ROMAN EMPEROR

NEOLITHIC SITE

MESOLITHIC SITE

ROMAN CITY

ROMAN FORT

MILESTONE COLUMN