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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA

ROMAN FRONTIER WITHIN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION ROMANIA-BULGARIA



ASSOCIATION OF DANUBE RIVER MUNICIPALITIES "DANUBE"



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INTRODUCTION

This brochure features some of the most remarkable cultural and historical sites of the ancient Roman heritage, united within the route “Roman Frontier within the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-border Region”. It is located in the easternmost parts of the European continent.

The backbone of the route winds along the Lower Danube, which forms today a natural border between Romania and Bulgaria. The river once called Danubius (in Latin) was the northern border also of the Roman Empire. A powerful natural barrier, it served for protection and as a convenient trade route for providing supplies to the Roman legions.

There are few places having remained untouched by man in the 21st century. Ancient Roman sites are scattered along the Lower Danube, revealing the splendour of monumental complexes and beautiful buildings destroyed by the invasion of the northern tribes.

Few are the ancient settlements on which no modern cities have arisen: Ulpia Oescus (village of Gigen); Novae (Svishtov); Nicopolis ad Istrum (Nikyup); Ratiaria (village of Archar); Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi), etc. They give a real idea of the layout and scale of a Roman city, although they are still under exploration.

Remarkable are the remains of Roman Fortresses: partially preserved walls of Bononia (Vidin); Castra Martis (Kula); Sucidava (Corabia); Capidava (Romania) and others.

It is only in Romania at Drobeta-Turnu Severin and in Corabia that one can still see ruins of the majestic bridges of Emperors Trajan and Constantine the Great - a testimony to the power of one of Europe's most ancient civilizations. The wealth of the Northern provinces is evident in the many artefacts preserved in historical museums. Capitals of exquisite

craftsmanship are stored in Ratiaria, Ulpia Oescus, Nicopolis ad Istrum and Durostorum. Beautiful ceiling cassettes made of stone are preserved in Ulpia Oescus and Nicopolis ad Istrum. Inscriptions on marble and stone tell of the millennial grandeur of the Roman Empire and the lives of the local inhabitants.

Statues of the deities of the Greek and Roman pantheon have been uncovered, often representing Roman copies of ancient Greek compositions (“Hercules Resting” from Ratiaria - a copy of Lysippos's original work, “The Resting Satyr” from Ad Putea, “Eros” from Nicopolis ad Istrum - a copy of Praxiteles, Statue of Fortuna from Ulpia Oescus, etc.). Tombstones and dedication plates also belong to the Roman cultural heritage.

A wonderful illustration of the painting styles, used mainly in the rich Roman urban and country villas, in the public and religious buildings and tombs is the ancient Roman tomb in Silistra.

Unique floor mosaics from the ancient cities of Ratiaria, Ulpia Oescus, Tomis and others. Outstanding artefacts keep alive the memory of the thriving empire. There were also remarkable architectural achievements of the ancient civiliza-

tion which subsequently suffered a decline as these artefacts were destroyed by the invasion of the northern tribes.

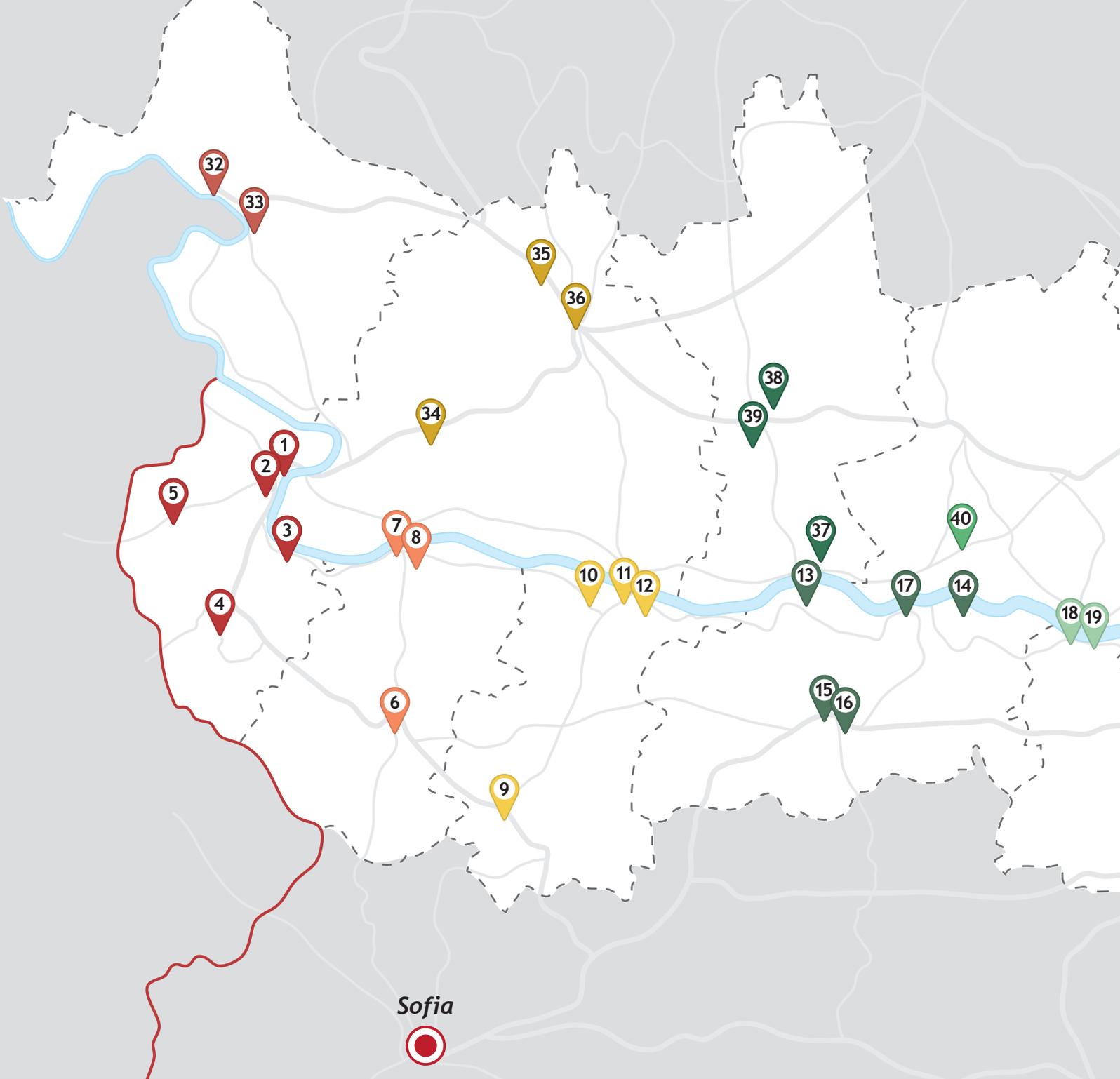
ROUTE “ROMAN FRONTIER WITHIN THE ROMANIA-BULGARIA CROSS-BORDER REGION”

It combines a cultural and historical route with a tourist destination. It includes sites in Romania and Bulgaria - synchronously connected and originally part of the Roman heritage. The authenticity and the connection between the sites is a reflection of historical memory, not an arbitrary manifestation of time. The route is a bridge between cultural identity, diversity, dialogue, tolerance and understanding in the contemporary context of a united Europe and an increasingly globalized world.

It is situated in the temperate climate zone, with four distinct seasons and a relatively mild climate compared to Central, Eastern and Northern Europe. This is a prerequisite for the development of this cross-border region as a year-round tourist destination.

The region has more than 4.7 million inhabitants. The main languages spoken here are Bulgarian and Romanian.





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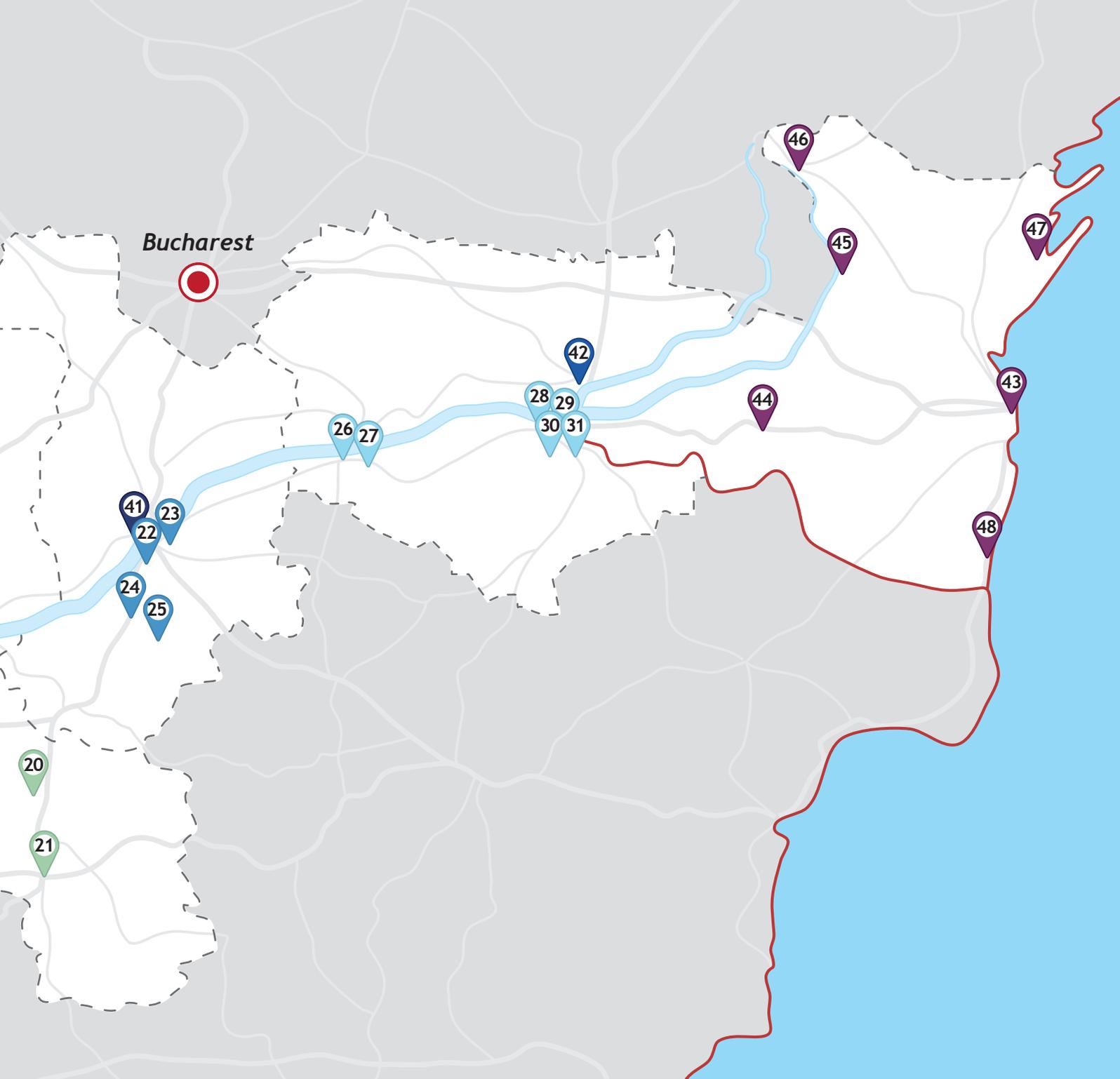
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ANCIENT FORTRESS BONONIA AND MEDIEVAL AND OTTOMAN FORTRESS BDIN

Bononia came to life in the late 1st-early 2nd century as a castle and road station of the Roman province of Moesia. It is located on the high right bank of the Danube. It is most likely that a military auxiliary troop building the Danube road was deployed in this place. In the 2nd-3rd century, the city flourished and the port served the Danube and merchant navy. Towards the late 3rd-early 4th century the ancient city had a solid fortification system, which placed it among the big urban centres of the Empire. The city had the shape of a rectangle extending north-south with an area of about 20 ha. The length of the northern wall was about 365 m and of the west - about 600 m. Archaeologists have uncovered 9 round towers with a diameter of 19 m and wall thickness of 3.7 m. Ancient Bononia was captured and destroyed by the Avars in the 6th century.

A medieval Bulgarian fortress was built on top of the existing foundations of the largest Roman fortress on the Lower Danube. The first construction works date back to the end of the First Bulgarian Kingdom (681-1018). The Vidin fortress was the most important fortification structure in Northwest Bulgaria during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom

(1185-1396). Bulgarian tsar Ivan Sratsimir (1356-1396) carried out its biggest expansion when a significant number of internal walls and towers were built.

The fortress played an important role during the Ottoman domination (14th-19th century). It is no surprise that the Turks used to call it "The Virgin Fortress" because it had never been captured by force. At the end of the 18th century, it was no longer used for defensive purposes but functioned mainly as a weapons warehouse and a prison.

Today it is the only fully preserved fortress in Bulgaria, better known as the Baba Vida Castle.

The courtyard is over 0.5 ha. It consists of two main walls arranged in 2 concentric quadrangles and 4 towers. The outer walls are surrounded by a moat full of water over which there was a drawbridge (now made of stone) at the main gates to the fortress. Inside, the authentic atmosphere has been preserved. The fortress is on the list of Bulgaria's 100 National Tourist Sites.

BDIN MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

The festival was founded in 2012. It has become a meeting place for the cultures of the peoples from Antiquity and

the Middle Ages, from the East and the West, the North and the South. Every year, the festival editions have different themes related to the recreation of the ancient and medieval atmosphere in the Baba Vida fortress: martial arts re-enactments, medieval music, armaments and clothing, tasting of medieval cuisine, church plate, etc.



VIDIN REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Archaeology collection is exhibited in the building of the Konaka Museum. The Antiquity section presents rich and varied collections of artefacts from the major Roman cities of Ratiaria (village of Archar), Bononia (Vidin) and the Roman fortress Castra Martis (town of Kula). The museum also holds a considerable number of stone sculptures - richly decorated Roman sarcophagi, tombstones, votive tablets, and statues, among them

standing out is the famous marble statue „Heracles Resting“ (2nd century, village of Archar). The abundance of collections of antique pottery, clay lamps, jewellery and household items is complemented by a rich collection of Roman coins from the republican and imperial period. Part of the archaeological richness of the Roman era is also displayed by the original floor mosaic found in a country villa next to Ratiaria (3rd century).



ANCIENT CITY OF RATIARIA

The ancient city of Ratiaria is the most significant Roman centre in North-western Bulgaria.

The city originated in the second half of the 1st century, in connection with the strengthening of the Lower Danubian Limes and the organization of the Danube fleet.

After the end of the Dacian wars in the beginning of the 2nd century, Emperor Trajan raised the rank of Ratiaria to a colony. This status entitled the city to

autonomy and its inhabitants became Roman citizens with full rights. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the city, which was organized based on the Italic principles, experienced its peak of prosperity. It turned into a large crafts and trade centre. There were workshops for architectural decoration, sculpture, tombstones and exquisite gold jewellery. In the 3rd century Ratiaria became the capital of the province of Dacia Ripensis, with a significant presence of major armies.

The city had one of the empire's weaponry workshops. Archaeological monuments also testify to the existence of an impressive arts centre.

“One-time majestic and famous Roman Ratiaria”, as the Austrian explorer Felix Kanitz described it, existed until 586 when it was captured and destroyed by the Avars.

Perhaps Ratiaria is the most beautiful yet still inadequately studied Roman city of the Lower Danube Limes.



ANCIENT CASTLE CASTRA MARTIS

The ancient castle Castra Martis was built on a steep southern slope above the gorge of the Voynishka River at the end of the 3rd - beginning of the 4th century as part of the Danube Limes. It occupied a key position in guarding the important Roman road from Bononia to Singidunum (Belgrade). Castra Martis played an important role in the protection of the border in the 4th-6th century. It suffered destruction during the Gothic invasions in the late 4th century and the Huns' raids in the first half of the 5th century. The fortress consisted of two parts: a small square fortification (quadriburgium) measuring 40x40 m, with power-

ful circular towers with a diameter of 12.5 m in the corners and a castle with the shape of an irregular quadrangle. It covered an area of 1.55 ha.

The castle was accessible only from the south, where the gate was situated. Probably at the end of the 4th century, the protection of the gate was reinforced by the construction of another narrower wall. Foundations of a Roman bath were discovered northwest. The quadriburgium is well-preserved and revealed in its entirety. Its fortress walls, built of stone and three-row brick girders, are 2.2 m thick and 2 m tall, and the southeast tower rises to 16.3 m.

KALETO ROMAN FORTRESS

The Roman castle near Belogradchik was built in the period 1st-3rd century to protect the road leading from the town of Ratiaria to the interior of the Empire. It was built on the highest terrace and later a medieval construction was built on it. In the immediate vicinity there was a citadel used as an observation point and for signalling.

The fortress made use of the inaccessibility of the rock formations with a height of over 70 m as it has two walls erected from the northwest and southwest with a thickness in the foundations of up to 4 m. The fortress had two water wells dug out in the rocks and going 5 m deep. In the 14th century, Tsar Ivan Sratsimir ex-

panded the old fort by building fortress garrisons in front of the rock massifs. During his rule, the fortress became one of the main fortifications in the region, second in scale only to the Vidin fortress - the castle of Tsar Sratsimir.

Belogradchik fortress was captured in 1396 during the Ottoman conquest of Bulgaria.

An almost complete reconstruction was carried out, followed by an additional expansion in the style characteristic for the Ottoman fortress construction. Typical European elements were added by the French and Italian engineers involved in its expansion.

Belogradchik Fortress is one of the most

well-preserved in Bulgaria. It has been declared a cultural monument of national importance and is part of Bulgaria's 100 National Tourist Sites.

It is among the best examples of a cultural landscape, of integration of cultural and natural heritage into a unique combination.

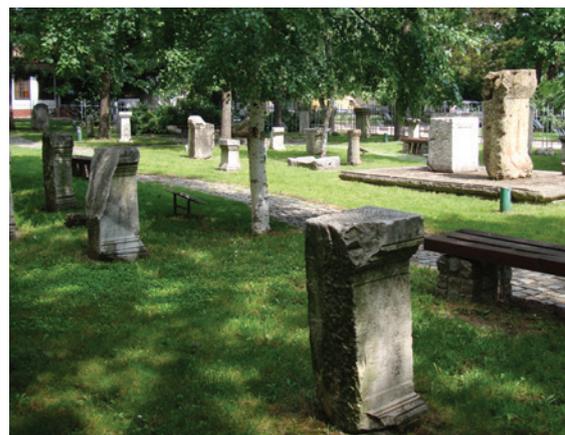
It is surrounded by the natural phenomenon of the Belogradchik rocks, "sculpted" by nature for more than 200 million years. Their reddish nuance is due to the content of iron oxide. The natural formations are diverse in shape and size and rise to more than 100 m in height. The impressive rock complex is about 30 km long and 6-7 km wide.



MONTANA REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Lapidarium archaeological exhibition featuring epigraphic monuments from the Roman era is on display at the site of the ancient town of Montana, spread over an area of 700 sq.m. in the park environment of the Priests' Garden. The three-dimensional composition includes 56 monuments found in Montana. The inscriptions on marble are the only written sources found to date about this provincial Roman city as a new cultural phenomenon in the Bulgarian lands.

They contain valuable information about Montana's history and culture in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, about the ancient deities worshiped in the ancient sanctuary - the cults of Diana - the "patron goddess of Montana", Apollo, Aesculapius, Hygieia, Latona, Silvanus and other deities, about the consecrators and the mentioned military units, about the glorification of then-ruling emperors, the governors of the province of Lower Moesia and other senior military and civilians.



ANCIENT CITY OF ALMUS

The town emerged in the late 1st-early 2nd century. Almus was the military camping site of detachments of Legio I Italica and Legio XI Claudia, as well as other troops. Probably it was in the second half of the 2nd century that one of the customs stations of the Empire was deployed there. In the late 3rd-early 4th century, the castle was reinforced.

It is supposed to have operated also as a river port serving both navy and merchant vessels. In the mid-5th century Almus was captured by the Huns. The castle has the shape of an irregular square with an area of 4.1 ha. The eastern wall is 200

m long and 2 m wide, the southern wall is 230 m long and 2.2 m wide, connecting at a right angle with the eastern wall. The western wall is 180 m long, while the northern (eroded by the river and crumbled in places) is 250 m long, with round towers in the corners.

Scholars have studied 90 m from the western wall of the fortress, discovering part of the western fortress gate. Remains of a ceramic and lead aqueduct have also been found in Almus. Numerous artefacts from Antiquity and the Middle Ages are now stored in the Lom Museum of History.

LOM MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Archaeology section showcases artefacts from the periods of Prehistory, Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The most representative monuments of antiquity have been discovered in the fortress cities of Ratiaria and Almus. Many of them have outstanding artistic value. This period also includes epigraphic objects showcased in the museum's lapidarium which offer valuable insights into Lom's ancient past.





VRATSA REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The archaeology exhibition showcases artefacts from the Roman and Early Byzantine ages (1st-4th centuries). Some remarkable exhibits are a bronze Roman diploma; a clay pot for religious purposes; a collection of stone plastics; bronze medical tools and a bone amulet. The exhibition showcases ceramic utensils, agricultural and handicraft tools, weap-

ons, whereas the photographic material focuses on the most important archaeological sites. In the Lapidarium one can see a four-colour mosaic from the village of Galatin (Krivodol municipality, Vratsa District), architectural details, tombstones and epigraphic monuments from the Roman era, the late Antiquity and the Bulgarian Middle Ages.



ANCIENT FORTRESS AUGUSTAE

Augustae was built as a fortified military camp in the mid-1st century, as the first fortification was made of wood and earth. The castle was naturally protected to the south by the Ogosta River, to the east and north by marshland. Access was possible only from the western side, where a fortified wall reinforced with a ditch was erected. In the 2nd-4th century Augustae developed as a Roman and an early Byzantine urban centre. Its total area reaches about 9 ha.

The fortress had the shape of an irregular pentagon extending from north to south. The fortress wall was dug inside up to 2.30 m and its thickness reached 2.50 m. Its walls were made of roughly worked stones, bonded with white mortar. The fortress had three gates - one to

the west, north and east. The defence system consisted of protruding towers. The necropolis was located west of the fortress. Archaeologists have uncovered the fortification system of the Early Roman camp and the settlement dating to the Late Antiquity. The western wall with three rectangular towers and the western gate of the stone fortification have been explored. The site of the severely destroyed northern gate has also been established. Buildings have been uncovered in the inner part of the site, located in the approximate centre of the early Roman camp. In the 3rd-4th century the city was restored periodically after the invasions of the Goths. The last destructive invasion by the Avars in the 6th century marked the end of its existence.

ORYAHOVO MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The permanent exhibition "Archaeology" features an interesting collection of artefacts from Antiquity. Unique in character are the statue "The Good Shepherd" and a stone cross dating back to the 4th century - wonderful examples of the Early Christian art. The statue "The Good Shepherd" participated in two international exhibitions organized in Rome (Italy) and Brussels (Belgium).



KAMAKA FORTRESS

The fortress is situated on a high hill which is only accessible from south-east. The fortress is protected from the East and West by deep gorges, and from the north - by a steep bank reaching the Danube.

The important Roman road from Belgrade to Constantinople "Via Singiduno usque ad Constantinopolim per ripam Danubii" passed nearby. The fortress was built in the 9th century and functioned as an important border post - part of the defensive system on the northern border of the Bulgarian state. It was completely demolished in the 16th century.

Remains are preserved in the north-eastern part of a fortification wall with a postern and in the south part - of the entrance to the fortress.



ROMAN CITY OF ULPIA OESCUS

The ancient city called Colonia Ulpia Oescus emerged during the period of 106-109 upon the remains of the military camp of IV Scythian and V Macedonian legions from the beginning of the 1st century. Many roads were then built to serve the army, administration and trade in the Empire and beyond. The military camp was given the status of a colony after the glorious victory of Emperor Marcus Ulpius Trajan (98-117) over the Dacians. The city became an important crossroads, experiencing a boom in the 2nd-3rd century when the central urban part was built. Monumental civil and religious architecture thrived.

Ulpia Oescus had the rectangular shape characteristic of Roman cities, with perpendicular streets laid out east-west and north-south. The streets were covered with stone slabs under which plumb-

ing and sewerage canals were laid. The city's entire area was 28 ha.

In the centre was the Forum Complex (97x200 m) which was made of limestone in Corinthian style. In its southeastern part is the Fortuna Temple built around 190. At the northern side of the Forum, the Temple of the Capitoline Triad was built in 125. It glorified the main Roman deities - Jupiter Optimus Maximus, Juno and Minerva. Closeby was the magnificent building of the Civilian Basilica (97x24 m) built in 135. This was where the court proceedings, government and trade in the Colony took place.

The city was in its heyday also during the 4th century under the rule of Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). On the bank of the Danube there was a large stone-wooden bridge between Ulpia Oescus near the village of Gigen and the

Roman fortress of Sucidava (Corabia). In the Early Christian era, Oescus was an episcopal centre.

The period of the Great Migration of the Peoples (4th-6th centuries) posed a new threat to the Roman Empire - barbaric invasions from the north. Their raids did not bypass Oescus which was captured by Attila's huns in 447 and was finally destroyed and burned down by the Avars in 586. Life in Oescus continued until the Turkish invasions in the 14th century, as there was a medieval settlement existing on the remains of the ancient city.

Ulpia Oescus is now an archaeological reserve. Today one can see remnants of streets, temples, a large civilian basilica. Archaeologists have also found a Forum Complex, temples of the Capitoline Triad (Jupiter, Juno, Minerva), public buildings, baths, etc.



ROAD STATION AND ANCIENT CASTLE DIMUM

Dimum Castle dates back to the 1st century AD, and gradually, from an unfortified settlement, it grew into a fortified border camp. Traces of Thracian tribes inhabiting the area have been found nearby.

Dimum was a very important point, which, with the creation of the province of Moesia in the beginning of the 1st century, became a customs station. From here, goods were imported for the *Novae* camp, luxury goods from distant Roman territories arrived, and the wheat from the fruitful Danube plain set off for the rest of the world.

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, a cavalry unit for guarding (*cuneus equitum Solensium*) was stationed in the castle. After moving the border of the Roman Empire to the right bank of the Danube in 275, Dimum's important role increased and

another four smaller fortifications were built, which gave the name to the entire fortification complex, *Quintodimum*.

In the Early Byzantine era, Dimum was one of the major urban centres on the Danube and it was the northernmost customs station of the Empire. In the city there are traces of the migration of Slavs, Avars, Goths, of life during the First and Second Bulgarian Kingdom and the Ottoman period.

Preserved and showcased are also parts of the western wall, the western tower, a guarding gate, part of the southern wall, the southern tower and monumental building. The western tower was rectangular, with an internal dimension of 9.8 to 11.7 m. Its walls were 2.7 m thick, lined with roughly cut stone slabs.

Dimum was declared a monument of national importance in 1968.



PLEVEN REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Pleven Regional Museum of History in boasts one of the richest exhibitions in Bulgaria.

The Antiquity Hall showcases artefacts discovered in the Roman city of Ulpia Oescus (village of Gigen) and in the late Roman and early Byzantine fortress Storgozia near Pleven: architectural details, multicoloured floor mosaics, sculptures and bronze images of deities of the Greco-Roman pantheon, household items, golden ornaments.

The museum's lapidarium features exhibits and stone monuments unearthed during the excavations of the ancient city of Ulpia Oescus and the Storgozia fortress.



ANCIENT FORTRESS OF STORGOZIA

The ancient settlement of Storgozia originally emerged as a roadside station located on one of the Empire's main roads, Via Traiana, connecting Oescus and Philippopolis. It probably inherited the name of a Thracian settlement that existed in the same place.

A garrison of a division of Legio I Italica stationed in Novae was deployed in Storgozia. Better economic conditions attracted the residents of nearby small settlements to the station. The increas-

ingly frequent raids of the Gothic tribes forced the inhabitants of the road station to move southward to the naturally fortified terrain of the Tuchenitsa River gorge, part of which is today's Kailaka Park.

At the beginning of the 4th century, an area of 31 decares was enclosed by a strong fortress wall, 2.20 m wide, built of cyclopean blocks and white mortar, two gates and three towers with different shapes.

Archaeological finds from Storgozia and its necropolis show evidence that the ancient city survived until the end of the 6th century when it was destroyed by the Slavs and the Avars.

Nowadays, two monumental public buildings have been discovered and restored in the interior of the fortress - an early Christian basilica (45.20 m long and 22.20 m wide) and a grain storage facility. The fortification system has also been preserved.





ANCIENT CITY OF NOVAE

Novae is the best-studied and protected Roman legionary camp in the northeastern provinces of the Empire. It originated as the seat of the VIII Augustus Legion around 45 AD. A quarter of a century later, the I Italian Legion was stationed in the camp. The elite troop was made up of new recruits, each of whom was “6 Roman feet tall” (1 Roman foot equalled 29.6 cm). Originally, the fort had an area of about 17.7 hectares and was later expanded to the east by another 10 ha. The camp had a rectangular shape, measuring 485 m at 365 m, and was built in immediate proximity to the high banks of the Danube. There was a gate on each wall, as the northern one led to a harbour. Behind the fortress walls were the legionary headquarters, the military hospital, the officers’ homes, the legionary baths, the soldiers’ barracks, the residence of the commander of the legion and the barracks of the auxiliary troops. The civilian settlement was located outside the fortress walls.

Novae was an important part of the Roman Defence System. The camp was also visited by Roman Emperors Trajan (98-117), Hadrian (117-138) and Caracalla (211-217). During the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), changes were made

in the urban planning and architecture. The city’s appearance was characterized by new buildings, churches, workshops of craftsmen. In the 5th-6th century Novae was also an episcopal seat. The city was last mentioned in the early 7th century. One of the most impressive buildings found in the camp is the Principia (the legion’s headquarters), built in the 1st century. It is now on display for visitors, with its partially restored buildings being a natural setting of a stage for reenactment events.

The Valetudinarium (military hospital) is located in the left front part of the camp and borders on the north with the inner street (Via Sagularis), which surrounds the entire camp. The hospital consisted of a chain of rooms (hospital rooms, a sanitary room, etc.) with a wide corridor. In the middle there was a courtyard surrounded by a colonnade in which a sanctuary dedicated to the gods of health Asclepius and Hygieia was found. The construction and operation of the hospital took place from the late 1st to the mid-2nd century.

The passage from the homes of the legion’s senior officers has been studied in the western front part of the camp. A large stone building of the “urban villa” type has been found, dating back to the

early 2nd century with an area of about 1600 sq.m. Some of the earliest finds in Novae were uncovered there, including coins, imported glass and pottery vessels, bronze objects.

The legion’s baths (Thermae legionis) occupied almost an entire neighbourhood. They faced the West, according to the Roman custom that going to the baths should be done in the afternoon. In various parts, furnaces were found where the water was heated in copper pots and hot air was released to the floor and wall heating systems.

EAGLE ON THE DANUBE, ANCIENT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The festival recreates the ancient history of the Bulgarian lands along the Danube - the way of life, culture and military clashes between Imperial Rome and the tribes and peoples inhabiting vast territories (Thracians, Dacians, Goths).

Re-enactors from Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Germany, Poland and other countries take part in the festival. The program includes scientific conferences and competitions. The festival was organized for the first time in 2008 at the initiative of the groups for historical reenactments “Legion I Italica” and “Cohors I Thracum” to the Svishtov Tourism Council.



SVISHTOV MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The archaeological exhibition is dedicated only to the Roman military camp and the early Byzantine town of Novae. Arranged on a thematic and chronological principle, it provides an insight into both the scope of the Roman expansion and the resemblances in everyday life and culture in the various provinces of the Empire. In one of the halls, a special emphasis is laid on the museum's rich collections of hair pins and needles, bone and bronze ornaments, small bronze sculptures and coins.

VELIKO TARNOVO REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Veliko Tarnovo Archaeological museum showcases the large urban, military-administrative and economic centres that existed in the region in Antiquity. The exhibition illustrates their history and their place in our cultural and historical heritage. Original exhibits and photographs reveal various aspects of the material culture of the Roman city of Nicopolis ad Istrum, the Roman military camp Novae, the centres for the production of artistic, domestic and building ceramics at Pavlikeni, Butovo, Hotnitsa, Byala Cherkva, the Peritensium and Discoduraterae emporia, the early Byzantine town situated on the hills of Tsarevets and Momina Krepost.

The most impressive among the exhibited monuments are: the collection of pottery vessels and moulds dating back to the 2nd-3rd centuries; votive tablets with images of ancient Greek, Thracian and Roman deities; bronze sculptures; engraved gems and cameos made of precious and semi-precious stones; ornaments and more.





ANCIENT ROMAN CITY OF NICOPOLIS AD ISTRUM

The city of Victory near the Danube (Nicopolis ad Istrum) was founded by Emperor Marcus Ulpius Trajan in honour of the end of the Dacian war (101-106). The settlement was built on a slightly elevated plateau on the left bank of the Rossitsa River. The foundation of Nicopolis ad Istrum was hewn on the Trajan's Column, located in San Marco Square in Rome. Nicopolis ad Istrum is the city where the biggest number of roads passed in Antiquity.

Two of the important roads of the Empire crossed in its outer periphery, mainly from Odessos (Varna) to the western Roman provinces and from Novae (Svishtov) to Byzantium (Istanbul). The city was built based on the so-called "orthogonal system" in which the main streets are situated north-south and west-east, as all others are parallel to them and intersect at right angles. All of them are paved with large slabs of dolomitized limestone and delineated with curbs. A drainage system was built under the pavement, which collected and drained waste water through a main canal. Around the central square (agora), built according to the Malaysian manner, the remains of a cannonade, a small theatre, public buildings and shops were found. There was a public bath, as remains of floor heating have been found in some buildings.

The city initially had no fortress walls, but they were erected at the end of the 2nd century with a height of up to 8 metres after a devastating barbaric attack. The north and south gates are well preserved, built of well-worked quadrae and framed with flanking towers up to 12 m tall. The main gate called the Porta Romana was located westward - facing the capital of the Roman Empire.

The city was supplied with water through aqueducts, the longest of which was 27 km. Nicopolis ad Istrum was an economically powerful city with a rich cultural life. Proof of its busy trade was found in coins minted at the urban mint, which put into circulation over 1100 different types. Stone-cutting, mashing, veterinary medicine, pottery, and other crafts were well developed. Some residents were professionally engaged in choral singing.

Because of the heterogeneous ethnic origins of the inhabitants, many cults were professed. The Necropolis of the city was located on both sides of the road to Novae and to the west. 121 mounds have been preserved.

It is believed that the ancient city was destroyed at the beginning of the 7th century by the Avars.

The remains of Nicopolis ad Istrum Modern offer modern people a good idea of what a Roman city looked like.

INTERNATIONAL ANCIENT ROMAN FESTIVAL "NIKE - THE GAME AND THE VICTORY"

The festival was organized for the first time in 2016. The program includes reenactments of Roman rituals, ancient Roman fashion, slaves market, gladiatorial games, demonstrations of Roman and barbarian armament as well as battles from the period of the Roman-Dacian and Roman-Gothic wars.

The traditional crafts market includes: Roman cuisine, a display of jewellery and ornaments, coinage and pottery. Participants are groups from Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, reenactors and craftsmen from all over Bulgaria, audience.



ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF YATRUS

The Roman and Early Byzantine castle of Yatrus is situated at the mouth of the Yantra River near the present-day village of Krivina. This is the best-studied Late Roman military camp in present-day Bulgaria.

In 270-275 under the pressure of the Barbarian tribes advancing from the north and northeast, the Romans were forced to leave Dacia province located north of the Danube. Thus, the lower reaches of the river again turned into imperial boundaries. For their effective protection, large-scale construction of fortresses began. At that time, on the right bank of the Yantra River at its estuary, a military camp was built - a castle named after the ancient name of the river, Yatrus. Yatrus occupied an area of

nearly 3 ha. The place is naturally protected by steep slopes from the north and northeast. The fortress follows the outline of the hill, which also determines its irregular shape. The width of the fortress wall in the separate sectors was 3-3.50 m and its presumed height was 10 m. Outside of the wall there were 10 strongly protruding, massive U-shaped towers. Two of them defended the only gate of the castle.

The settlement functioned together with a road station in the 2nd-3rd century. Yatrus survived until the 7th century when it was destroyed by the Slavs, Avars and Proto-Bulgarians advancing from the north. A Proto-Bulgarian settlement existed upon its ruins in the period from the 8th to the 13th century.





ANCIENT FORTRESS SEXAGINTA PRISTA

ning of the Severan dynasty). Interesting is the layout of the open-air temple. It is oriented to the northeast - southwest and resembles a Christian temple. Archaeologists have found there four intact votive tablets and also fragments of votive tablets of the Thracian Rider and Apollo, ceramics, coins, a sacrificial altar to Apollo with an inscription and other artefacts.

The building ceased its functions at the end of the 3rd century and in the 4th century, during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great, one of the most important buildings in the Roman military camp was built upon it - the Principia (the headquarters of the troops in Sexaginta Prista). The building had a rectangular shape and was oriented with its long sides in the direction northwest-northeast. It was built of natural unprocessed stones welded with mortar and had a size of 28.50x16.50 m. It ceased to function as a Principia during the riots caused by the Goths at the end of the 4th century. Then, as well as the territory of the military camp, the building was inhabited during Late Antiquity (5th-6th century) and during the First Bulgarian Kingdom (10th-11th century).

Sexaginta Prista fortress is now an open-

air museum where preserved and exposed are about 50 m from the north-western fortress wall and tower, six buildings, the temple of Apollo and the Principia. The exhibition area also includes a German WWII bunker in which the religious life in the province of Lower Moesia during the 1st and 3rd centuries is presented through votive objects. The museum has an exhibition hall which currently showcases scaled paper 3D models of archaeological sites along the Lower Danube Roman Limes as well as replicas of the most significant finds discovered in them.

ROMAN MARKET, ANCIENT FESTIVAL, RUSE

The festival was organized for the first time in 2012. The program includes reenactments of Roman rituals, ancient Roman fashion, slaves market, gladiatorial games, demonstrations of Roman and barbarian armament and battles from the period of the Roman-Dacian and Roman-Gothic wars.

The traditional market includes: Roman cuisine, jewellery and decorations, minting and pottery. Participants are reenactors and craftsmen from all over Bulgaria as the spectators are part of the show.

Sexaginta Prista is situated in the modern-day northwestern part of Ruse, on a hillside close to the Danube banks. The first Roman military camp (from the end of the 1st to the end of the 3rd century) was probably situated at the mouth of the Rusenski Lom River. The Sexaginta Prista fortress occupied an area of 4-5 ha. The remains on the hill (2nd-3rd century) are believed to belong to civil buildings, probably of a settlement near the camp which operated also as a cult centre.

One of them is the temple of Apollo, which was built in the last quarter of the 2nd century AD (under the command of Comodus or more likely at the begin-



RUSE REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Regional Museum of History in Ruse keeps a rich ancient heritage. The permanent archaeological exhibition is mounted in five halls. The Roman period is represented by small bronze and stone sculptures, votive tablets, objects from the everyday life of the Roman and Barbarian population in the province of Lower Moesia (Moesia Inferior). The exhibits reveal the pagan cults and the life

of early Christians.

On display is also ancient armament, including an iron cavalry helmet from the Late Roman period which is unique in Bulgaria, the golden treasure of Little Preslavets, jewellery and glassware found in the necropolises of the fortresses Sexaginta Prista and Tegra (near the town of Marten), numerous rare gold and silver coins, etc.



CHERVEN FORTRESS

The Ancient fortress of Cherven was probably built in the 6th century on a high rocky plateau on a meander of the Cherni Lom River. The fortification system of the early Byzantine fortress had an irregular layout.

It spread over an area of 2.4 ha. Fortress walls were built only from the east and west, and the 100 m high vertical rocks in the north and south posed an insurmountable obstacle.

In the 14th century, life in Cherven was burgeoning. The medieval Bulgarian citadel included an inner city situated on a high rock plateau and an outer city occupying its foothills. It had a sophisticated fortification system built in several stages, it was densely constructed and had a

diffused street network. It developed as an economic centre notable for its iron-working, construction and woodworking, household and artistic crafts.

Cherven was one of the most important military, administrative, ecclesiastic, cultural and economic centres of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (12th-14th century). Its importance grew after 1235, when it became the seat of the medieval Bulgarian Bishopric of Cherven.

Archaeologists have discovered a big feudal castle, fortress walls, underground water supply passages, public administration buildings, 16 churches, street network, residential buildings and workshops. There is a completely preserved three-storey tower.



ANCIENT CITY OF TRANSMARISKA

In the course of six centuries (1st-6th century), the Ancient settlement and Fortress of Transmariska, located on the territory of the modern-day town of Tutrakan, played an important role in the defence and functioning of the Roman and early Byzantine limes.

Transmariska came to life at the end of the first half of the 1st century AD. With the arrival of the 1st Thracian-Syrian cohort in the second century AD, Transmariska became an integral part of the Roman Defence of the Lower Danube. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, Transmariska retained its character - a camp of a not-large military unit and a civilian settlement, benefiting from the river's transport capabilities, the ancient road along the limes and the favourable economic conditions of the area.

The end of the 3rd century marked the

beginning of a new development of the fortification system and the role of Transmariska in the defence of the limes. The city became part of a major construction program to stabilize the defence power at the Roman border.

Emperor Diocletian personally visited Transmariska in 294, as an inscription has been preserved testifying to this, in which the fortress was called "a presidium". The castle was one of the four largest military centres of the Lower Danube Limes. Here resided the prefect of the second part of the XI Claudius Legion. Under his command were 5 cohorts of the legion. With them he controlled the river bank from the village of Ryahovo to the village of Dolno Ryahovo.

Later in the 5th and 6th centuries Transmariska was an episcopal centre. The city was continuously attacked and de-

stroyed by the Goths and Huns. The ancient settlement was ruined in the early 17th century as a result of barbarian invasions. The Roman and Byzantine fortress, located under the modern-day city, had an area of 65 decares. From the northern part of the fortress revealed are the fortress wall with two square towers with a pavement of stone slabs on the lower level and ceramics on the upper level. The wall had a gate in the middle between the towers and a postern gate in the eastern tower. The southern fortress wall of Transmariska with its two battle towers, one of which with the shape of a horseshoe and the other one fan-shaped, is a significant archaeological monument of culture and an interesting tourist site. The ancient castle of Transmariska was declared a monument of culture of national importance in 1968.



TUTRAKAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The archaeological exhibition presents findings from the 5th century BC, Thracian pottery, artefacts from the ancient fortress of Transmariska. The Lapidarium showcases a Roman grave stele from the 2nd century AD as well as archaeological finds.

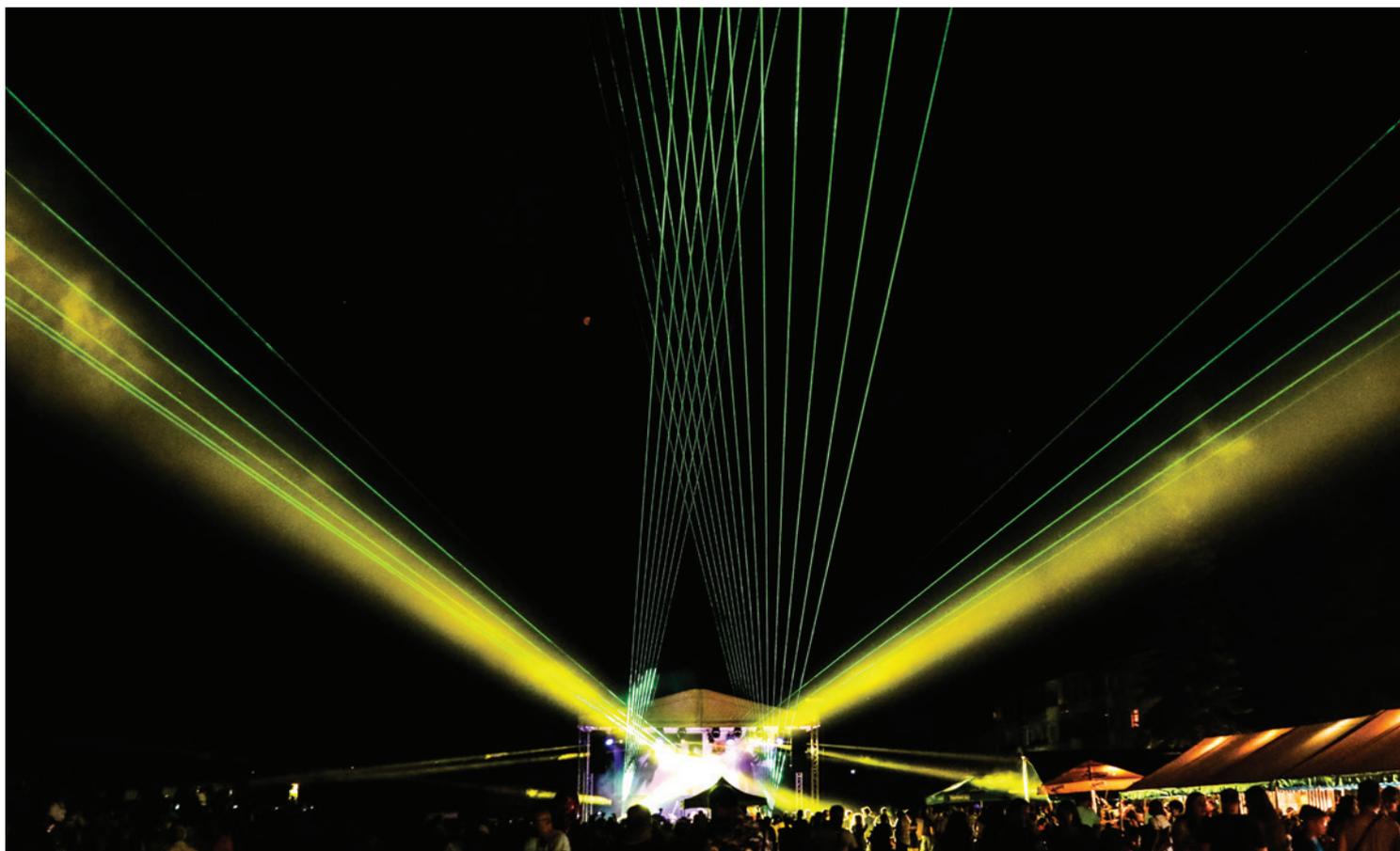


FIERY DANUBE FESTIVAL

This is one of the biggest summer events in the Bulgarian section of the Danube. The Fiery Danube Festival is the culmination of the annual week of the river, during which diverse cultural and sporting events take place.

On the last day is the traditional “River Feast” which includes competitions with fishing boats, swimming across the Danube from bank to bank, children’s cartoons, a boza-drinking contest, open-air exhibitions, culinary contests for most delicious fish soup, performances of local dance and music groups. There is scooter riding, flying with a paraglider, a cruise ship between Tutrakan and Oltenitsa, opera under the stars.

In the evening the wharf turns into a rock concert stage and when it gets dark, the light and fire show “The Fiery Danube” illuminates the river.



ANCIENT CITY OF DUROSTORUM

The first written evidence of the city is found in the order of Emperor Trajan of 106 regarding the transfer of the XI Claudius Legion from Pannonia to Durostorum. This shows that the city had already existed as a strong fortress. For nearly three centuries this legion served as a striking force against the barbaric tribes invading from the north.

Durostorum became a self-governing city, municipium, in 169, under Emperor Marcus Aurelius. In the 2nd century, the city reached its peak as an administrative and economic centre as well as an important customs station. Construction was under way of large and beautiful public buildings, temples, basilicas, baths and private homes, marble statues and bas-reliefs in the squares, water pipes were built. In 238 the Carpi captured the city, robbed it, and took its inhabitants into slavery. Durostorum was

ruined for the first time.

In the late 3rd-early 4th century a castle was built, which, with the existing legionary camp, constituted a second defensive belt. It is likely that in the mid-5th century, during the invasions of the Huns, the fortress was destroyed and in the early 6th century a new one was built, with its borders overlapping with the old one. It had a multi-angled layout. Around 590 the Slavs settled in the area. They also gave a new name to the city - Drastar. The city was rich and prosperous. Caravans arrived from the roads on the north and west, and ships on the river carried hides, honey, wax, salt from the Carpathian Mountains and cattle from Wallachia intended for Pliska and Constantinople.

At the fortress walls 4 solid triangular and 4 pentagonal towers located 12 metres from each other have been revealed.

The wall foundations, 3 m deep and 3.80 to 3.90 m wide, were built of small and medium-sized semi-worked stones and cyclopean blocks arranged in precise horizontal rows. The binding material was lime, river coarse sand and crushed building ceramics. Only the northern fortress wall was built entirely of stone and had no towers.

On the southern wall an early gate from the 4th century has been discovered, flanked by two almond-shaped towers. The construction was very solid, thanks to which the castle existed and was used until the beginning of the 19th century, when it was destroyed during the Russo-Turkish war. The city played an important role also over the coming centuries. As the old seat of a bishop, it has been recognized as the first among the episcopal cities of Bulgaria. In the 12th century it was a metropolitan centre.



SILISTRA REGIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Archaeological Museum in Silistra is housed in a building constructed between 1923 and 1924 as a branch of the Romanian National Bank in the town. The exhibitions cover an area of 400 sq m and feature artefacts from the prehistoric, ancient and medieval period.

Among the most valuable exhibits are the Roman stone sundial (the most impressive one ever discovered in the Bulgarian lands), a gold ring from the 3rd century, a column with the name of Khan Omurtag, seals of Bulgarian and Byzantine rulers, golden jewels from the time of the Drastar fortress and others.



ROMAN TOMB

The most well-known ancient monument at Durostrorum-Silistra in Bulgaria and abroad is the tomb with the frescoes, discovered in 1942. It is believed to be an emblematic work of the civilization in Late Antiquity from the mid-4th century. The tomb has a rectangular tomb chamber and semi-cylindrical arches. It is made of semi-worked stones, bonded with pink mortar, and the vault was made of bricks. It is oriented from the east to the west and has dimensions of 3.30x2.60 m, with a height of 2.30 m. The entrance is from the east, flanked by three large stone slabs, and the floor was bricked. The walls were plastered with lime mortar, mixed with gypsum, on which, before being dried, the colours of the frescoes were added, using the fresco al secco technique.

The rich mural decorations (geometric, animal and human figures, hunting scenes, a family couple and their servants) bear the distinctive features of the Constantine Age and one can feel the style of a gifted painter coming from the eastern provinces of the Empire (possibly Egypt or Syria).

Probably the owner left the city during the Gothic invasion at the end of the 4th century, which is why the tomb was not used for its original purpose.



ROMAN VILLA

Not far from the centre (forum) of the ancient Durostrorum, a large urban villa (villa urbana) was built in the 2nd century, inhabited by a wealthy Roman aristocratic family.

In the 3rd and 4th century it was expanded and rebuilt. During the Gothic invasions at the end of the 3rd century or in the mid-4th century it was destroyed and burned down. With the restoration of the city, an imposing massive public building (17x20 m) was built upon its ruins. It boasted a solemn hall as well as an apse and side rooms added later.

The architectural layout of this public building adheres to the architectural and construction principles of the residences of urban governors and bishops from the 4th to the 6th centuries. It is believed that it was part of the palace of the Dorostol bishops.

To the west, a large episcopal basilica has been studied and a small private bath has been revealed.



MUSEUM OF THE IRON GATES REGION

Situated in the immediate vicinity of the Roman castles, the Museum - whose bases have been laid since 1912 - houses an important collection of artefacts, including a Roman lapidarium. Besides, three of the nine rooms of the History-Archaeology section are dedicated to the Roman age, namely the Dacian-Roman wars, the Roman antique monuments, and the spiritual life in the ancient Drobeta settlement.

In 2010, the ruins of a Roman amphitheater were discovered in the yard of the Museum. According to the data presented in the Guide to Museums and Collections in Romania, this could be one of the constructions represented on the Column of Trajan, along with the bridge and the castle. The ruins of the Roman castle and of the term, the foot of the Trajan's Bridge and the remains of the Roman amphitheater can be visited at present within the archaeological park administered by the Iron Gate Region Museum. Periodically, the Museum hosts cultural and educational events such as summer schools, ethnography workshops for students, restoration workshops, etc.

DROBETA ROMAN CAMP

The castles and the settlement of Drobeta were founded during Emperor Trajan, when the bridge over the Danube was also built. They functioned until 602, when the Avars destroyed the Roman settlements north of the Danube. In 126 Emperor Hadrian gave the camp the rank of municipium.

Under Septimius Severus (193-211) it acquires the rank of colony, with an area of about 60 ha and a population of about 40,000 inhabitants. The Carp attacks (245-247) led to significant destruction, then repaired. From the time of Justinian (527-565) dates back the last restoration of the castle, which after the 5th century, after the Huns attacks, will be called Theodora.

The Museum of the Iron Gates Region has in its structure a section of History-Archaeology, and two of the halls exhibit representative exhibits for the Roman limes: a hall devoted to

the Dacian-Roman wars, and a hall dedicated to the ancient Drobeta, from the 2nd to the 3rd centuries AD.

THE RUINS OF TRAJAN'S BRIDGE

The first bridge on the Danube, Trajan Bridge, was built between 103 and 105, probably by Apollodorus from Damascus, at the orders of Emperor Trajan.

Built of stone and wooden beams, the purpose of the bridge was to allow the transport of the Roman troops and supplies necessary for the second military campaign to conquer Dacia. The bridge was demolished after nearly a century and a half, at the time of Aurelian withdrawal.

Today, a single pillar is visible on the Romanian Danube bank, near the Drobeta roman castrum. The pylon is an integral part of the archaeological park administered by the Iron Gate Region Museum.



HINOVA ROMAN CAMP

The Hinova castrum was researched as a result of building of the Portile de Fier water power system. A treasure of Thracian jewels was discovered here, in 1980, including 9639 gold items and weighing almost five kilos.

The castrum was built at the end of the 3rd century BC, on the Danube limes, with 4 corner towers and an access gate to the south side, flanked by 2 rectangular towers. The fortress was destroyed in 378-379, then remade, and it lasted until the beginning of the 5th century.

In Hinova one can also see a part of Brazda lui Novac or Valul lui Constantin (Constantine's Wall), a vallum-type fortress (a ground-made defense wall), about 700 km long.

This defensive line crossed the territory from the south of the Southern Carpathians, from Drobeta to the castrum in Pietroasele. It was about 3 m high, with a 2 m-deep ditch on the northern side. The defense wall defended the territories from the south and it seems to have been built during the reign of Constantine the Great, in the 4th century AD.





MUSEUM OF OLTENIA, HISTORY-ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

The Oltenia Museum is founded in 1915 as the Ethnography and Antiquities Museum of Oltenia, in a building constructed in 1905, and the archaeology department was created in 1926.

The museum currently hosts more than 20 collections totalling 170,000 items of numismatics, medallistics, memorial objects, etc. The collections of archaeological items include items from the neolithic age, from the metals' age,

from the Dacian civilization with Greek-Roman influences, as well as Roman provincial art items.

The numismatics collection includes the Roman republican treasures of Tzicleni (Gorj), Farcashele (Olt), Ishalnitza and Carna (Dolj); the Roman imperial treasures of Barca, Galicea Mare, Tunarii Vechi, Slaveni, Dobridor Leurda (Gorj), Butoiesti (Mehedinti). The treasure also includes Roman adornments.

ROMAN STONE CASTRUM FROM RACARII DE JOS

The Roman castrum dates back to the 2nd-3rd centuries A.D. and its mission was to dominate from a military point of view the area on the Lower Jiu. The fortress has dimensions of 170x145 m. During those times, a civil settlement developed around it, estimated to have about 40 ha. A military unit of riders, Numerus Maurorum (approx. 500 people coming from North Africa), was stationed here. A treasure of gold coins dating back to the reign of Vespasian, as well as many luxury ceramics, inscriptions and statues, was discovered during the research.

ROMAN STONE CAMP FROM CIOROIU NOU

Proof of Roman rule, the camp is dated in the 2nd century AD. Nearby, a rustic villa was also identified. The locality is situated 20 km north of the Danube. The fortification is located southeast of the present Cioroiu Nou village, to the edge of the cemetery, and its dimensions were set to be 235x130 m.

The importance of the camp derives from the fact that a detachment of Legion VII Claudia was cantoned in this camp. Several monuments - a temple, terme, a building with a hypocaust, dated to the 3rd century AD, have been researched here. From the text of an inscription, it appears that a military watch and guard point operated here in the third century. Partially destroyed by the Carps in 245, the fortification was rebuilt with trench and wall of defense.





ROMAN FORTRESS SUCIDAVA

As one of the largest Roman-Byzantine fortresses in Oltenia, the Sucidava Fortress dates back to the 3rd-6th centuries AD. An old military and economic centre of the Suci tribe had been located here. A bridge over the Danube was built during the reign of Constantine the Great, whose vestiges can still be seen nowadays. After the destruction caused by the Huns' invasions, the fortress is remade during the reign of Justinian, in the period 527-535. A basilica remains from the early Christian period, where some graves have been discovered. A special installation is the 18 m-deep well. Vestiges included in the fortress visit circuit: the tell-shaped settlement, with 11 phases of inhabitation; vestiges of the Geto-Dacian inhabitation; the Roman well of the 2nd century AD; the Roman-Byzantine Fortress; the portal of Constantine the Great's bridge over the Danube; the West Gate; the Building from the 4th-5th centuries; the Building with a Hypocaust; the Secret Well (6th century); the Paleo-Byzantine Basilica; the Tower Pillar of Constantine's Pasarelle.

THE ROMAN BRIDGE FROM CORABIA

The bridge built during the first Christian emperor, inaugurated in the summer of 328, stretched over a length of 2437.5 m, being considered one of the longest bridges in antiquity. Its life span was small until the end of the fourth century,

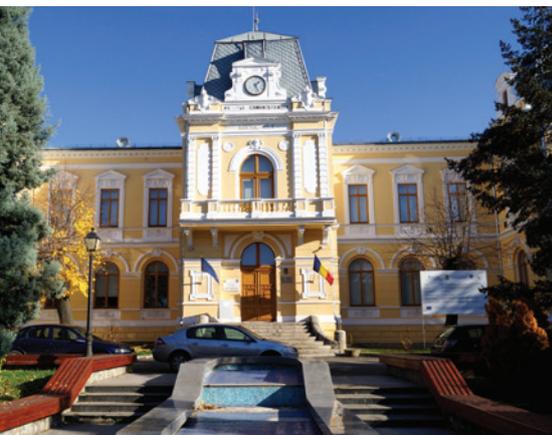
but it had the role of uniting the Roman territories from the north and south of the Danube. The ruins of the Roman bridge are about 40 m north of the bank of the Danube. The most well preserved northern portal had the role of saw-picking, being built on a platform made of irregularly cut stone, bound with mortar.





THE REMAINS OF ROMAN CITY ROMULA

Romula-Malva archaeological site is located on the territory of Dobrosloveni commune, Olt county, near Caracal, on the right bank of Olt. The site presents the vestiges of a Roman fortification (Romula) built in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD on the site of a Dacian fortress (Malva), around which an urban settlement later developed. During the reign of Emperor Hadrian, Romula was declared municipium. Today, the archaeological site comprises edifices in various conservation stages: stone and brick walls, canal with Roman bridge, gates of the city, Roman baths, the curia. However, a variety of artifacts are exhibited in the Caracal Romanati Museum.



MUSEUM OF ROMANATI, CARACAL

Municipal museum, with Archaeology profile, the institution hosts collections of ceramics, opaques, gems, fibula, inscriptions, statues and coins of the Roman age, coming from the Dobrosloveni (Romula) and Hotarani sites. The Lapidarium is located at the entrance of the museum, a valuable sector, which consists of over 20 pieces: sarcophagi, gates, funerary stones, supplies vessels. The resistance piece is the sarcophagus of Aelius Iulius Iulianus (3rd century AD), with the dimensions of 2.30 x 1.08 x 1.54 m, made of limestone from Vratsa, with beautiful sculptural ornaments; according to the inscription, the sarcophagus was raised by the deceased's wife, Valeria Gaemellina, along with the children. The sarcophagus was discovered near Romula in the Hotarani necropolis in 1952.



TELEORMAN COUNTY MUSEUM, ALEXANDRIA

The Teleorman County Museum was established on the occasion of the centenary of the city in 1934. At first it was hosted at the town hall, then at the Palace of Culture. In 1952 it became a museum of history, and from 1974 - a county museum. Archaeological collections include materials from archaeological excavations, surface research, and random discoveries, as well as numismatics. Lots of pieces come from the archaeological campaigns carried out at Albeshti, Dulceanca, Gresia, Roshiorii de Vede.



„TEOHARI ANTONESCU“ MUSEUM, GIURGIU

The „Teohari Antonescu“ Museum - Giurgiu was founded in 1934, bearing the name of the first professor of Archaeology in Iasi, Teohari Antonescu from Giurgiu, and since 1981 it is a county museum. It houses collections of bronze and archaeological pieces - ceramics and neolithic idols. iron, Daco-Romanes artifacts from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, as well as objects from the Dridu culture. 13 monetary treasures - 2,500 coins of gold, silver and common metal, some of them from the Roman period, found in Oinacu and Izvoru, are part of also from the museum's patrimony. It also includes two other sections, „Memorial History“ and „Ethnography“.

LOWER DANUBE MUSEUM, CALARASI

The Museum of the Lower Danube Calarasi, founded in 1950, is housed in a historic monument building, constructed in the 19th century, on Progresului str. 4. It is structured in two sections - Archaeology, art and ethnography. The collection of Archaeology consists of prehistoric materials (neo-eneolithic, from Sultana - Red River, Caves, etc.), but also from Roman antique - anthropomorphic materials, ceramic vessels, lighters, metal objects, many from the Byzantine fortress from Pacuiul lui Soare or from the Sucidava Springs.

Since June 2012, a fair of treasures - coins, gold and silver jewelery - dated from prehistory to late antiquity, are functioning in the building of the Calarasi County Council.



MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY CONSTANTA

The Museum dates back to 1977. It exhibits pieces of prehistoric, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and medieval Archaeology. In two halls, located on the ground floor of the museum, are reunified the archaeological monuments of outstanding value, rare and uniquely representative for the Roman dwelling stage, respectively for the Roman Empire art and culture: the collection of Tanagra statues (from early Hellenistic and Roman times); anthropo-

morphic ceramic pots or dionysial representations; the tomitansculpture treasure discovered in 1962 (the goddess Isis bust, the double act of the goddess Nemesis, the statue group Fortuna with Pontos, the statue of Serpent Glicon, etc.); the collection of imperial portraits (Antonius Pius, Caracalla, Gordian III, Filip Arab, Constantine); collections of gold ornaments (rings, earrings, bracelets, pendants, crosses), gemstones and cam-

eos; the treasure of silver pots discovered at Sucidava-Springs. Other Roman period artifacts include epigraphic documents, stamped bricks, milliar pillars, architectural elements, agricultural tools, various ceramic materials, among which the collection of litter, sculpture, votive and funeral - busts of citizens, a solar dial, representations of divinities Venus, Apollo, Hercules, Cybela, the Thracian Knight, portraits and funeral stars.





ANCIENT CITY OF TOMIS

The Tomis Milesian colony was established as an emporium (trade exchange centre) in the 6th century BC, on the Western seaside of Pontus Euxinus. It becomes a polis in the Hellenic period, as of the 4th century B.C. The city was member of alliances (pentapolis and then hexapolis) between pontic cities. The Latin poet Publius Ovidius Naso was exiled here in 9 AD by Augustus.

During the reign of Diocletian (284-305), Tomis becomes the capital of the Lower Moesia province. 7 early Christian basilicas are known here so far. Port facilities developed, the issue of potable water was solved, monuments were built. Ancient monuments are currently valorized, such as the Roman building with a mosaic (the citadel's agora), an ancient neighbourhood, the thermae, the Roman-Byzantine inner wall of the 4th-6th centuries AD.

THE ROMAN EDIFICE WITH MOSAIC

The Roman Edifice with Mosaic was probably built at the end of the 2nd century AD, and later enlarged and amplified. The mosaic pavement was made in the 4th century, the ensemble functioning long after the Aurelian retreat until the beginning of the 7th century. From the initial pavement a portion of about 850 sqm was preserved. The ensemble also includes rooms that served as warehouses or workshops in the ancient times. In the Roman era, the edifice is in the

immediate vicinity of the Ancient Port. The museistic arrangements shelter collections of merchandise from ships found in the building's storehouses: anchors, ingots, weights, amphoras with paints and resins, statuettes, collections of mosaics, marble planks, polychrome mosaic, pyramid heads. Previous epigraphic monuments discovered in different centers in Dobrogea are displayed in the former storehouses.

The mosaic-paved edifice is located on terrace B. A portion of 850 sqm has been preserved from the pavement. Terrace A represents the level of ancient dwelling, and terrace C is the level of halls (11 rooms with vaulted ceilings). At the same level, along the edifice, there is a number of rooms that served as workshops. Terrace D is the level of other ware-

houses for storing goods, right in front of the ancient harbor keys. They are currently below sea level. The connection between the terraces was made through a large and high scale of limestone.

TOMIS ANCIENT FESTIVAL

The festival aims at promoting the ancient lifestyle as well as the Roman cultural and historical heritage of the area and the Ancient city of Tomis.

Visitors can partake in diverse activities related to ancient arts and crafts, pottery-making workshops, metal-working and can also get acquainted with ancient textiles and clothing, gastronomy, military equipment, leather. The program includes music and dance performances as well as cultural excursions to the historic part of Constanta.



MUSEUM COMPLEX TROPAEUM TRAIANI AND ADAMCLISI ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Museum Complex of Adamclisi includes the Roman fortress, the museum and the triumphal monument. The fortress was founded after the wars of Dacia's conquest by Trajan were completed. One of the battles of 102 AD. took place here. Tropaeum Traiani became a municipality in 170. The fortress was rebuilt by Licinius and Constantin in 321, pursuant to the destructions inflicted by the invasions of migratory peoples. Trajan's monument was restored in 1977.

A tumul and an altar devoted to the Romans who had died in the battle of 102 were researched near the monument. Grigore Tocilescu said that the monument was "a birth certificate of the Romanian people".

Designed as a lapidarium, the museum's building includes archaeological vestiges discovered in the fortress and nearby. The museum exhibits original items of the trophy, including the colossal statue, the inscription and the frieze with arms.

Other exhibits include ceramic collections (including Roman and Byzantine amphorae), candles, tools, adornments, fragments of aqueducts, sculpture, epigraphic documents.





ROMAN FORTRESS CAPIDAVA

The Capidava Fortress is located on the right bank of the Danube, on DJ 223, between Topalu and the Danube. The fortress can be reached by using either the road from Harsova (E61) or the road from Cernavoda (the Feteshti-Cernavoda highway). The Capidava fortress is included in a touristic route in Dobrogea along with Harsova and Histria.

Research began here from the third decade of the 20th century. The fortress has dimensions of 127x105 m, and the fairly well preserved walls include 7 towers of various shapes. The main gate is on the south-east side. The gate communicating with the citadel's port is on the south-west side. It was erected from the times of Trajan, by sections of the V Macedonica and XI Claudia legions, at the beginning of the 2nd century AD, as a component of the Danube border. The name is due to the fact that "dava" meant "turn place" in the Dacian language.



CARSIUM MUSEUM

The museum illustrates, with the most representative discoveries in Harsova and around, the development of the material and spiritual civilization in the Danube area, from the neolithic to the beginning of the modern age. Outstanding items are exhibited, some of which were presented in international or national exhibitions typical for neolithic cultures (Hamangia, Gumelnita), for the culture of the metals' age, for Roman, Roman-Byzantine and medieval civilization.

ROMAN CARSIUM CASTLE

The Carsium Roman fortress was built in the 1st century AD on the site of a Getic settlement. At the beginning of the 2nd century AD, during Trajan's reign, the fortress was reinforced with a stone core. Written sources mention Carsium until the 7th century with various forms: Carsium, Carsom, Carso. Moreover, they also mention Roman military units stationed here - Ala Flaviana, the I Iovia Scytica legion, with the mission of protecting the Danube crossing place.

After the 7th century, the plateau hosted the medieval fortress, which was rebuilt by the Byzantines in the 10th century and then by the Genoan. A port facility was also operational during all historical periods. A wall of the fortress, about 40 m high, can still be observed nowadays towards the Danube.





MUSEUM COMPLEX HISTRIA

A Greek colony established in the 7th century BC by colonists from Milet, Histria evolved during the Hellenic and Roman period until the 7th century AD. The complex includes the Histria Fortress Museum and the ruins of the Greek-Roman city. Histria was discovered by the archaeologist Vasile Parvan in 1914 and

archaeological research has not been interrupted since. In the fortress one can see the stone wall from the Roman-Byzantine period, with towers and gates, the ancient streets and squares, foundations of basilicas, houses and stores, Roman baths, ancient temples. Established in 1982 and subordinated to

the National History and Archaeology Museum of Constanta, the museum exhibits items of Greek, Roman and Byzantine archaeology proceeding from the research in Histria and around. The collection includes ceramic and stone dishes, personal and domestic items, sculptures, architectural items, inscriptions.



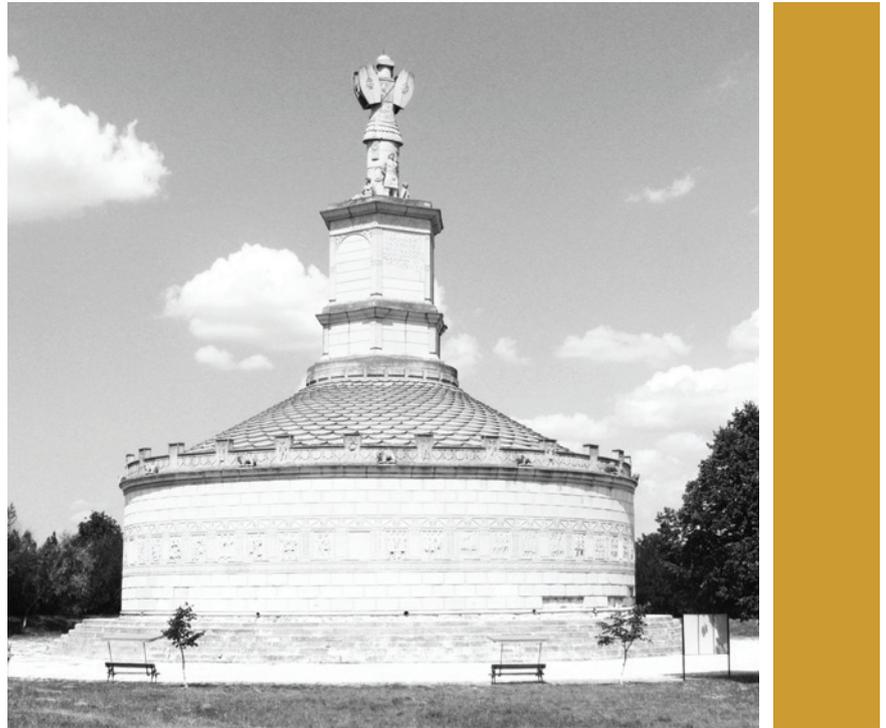
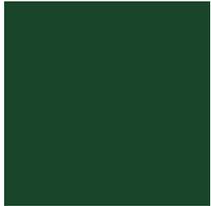
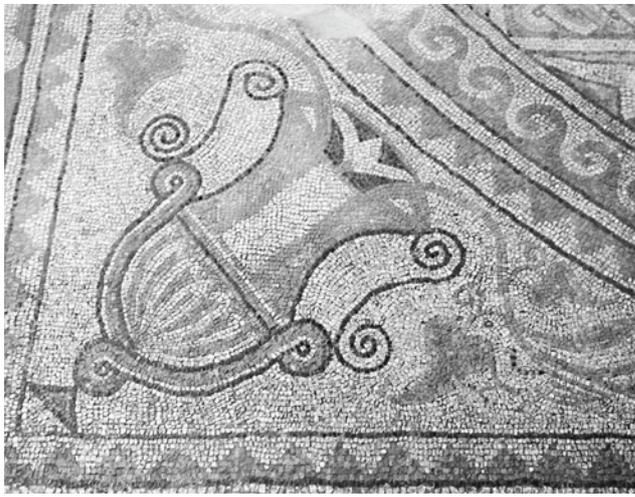
MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, CALLATIS

Callatis is the southernmost of the Greek colonies on the Romanian seaside. It was founded by colonists from Pontic Heraclea in the 4th century BC. It is the only Dorian colony with an oligarchic social system. In 262 BC it had a conflict with Tomis, which was helped by the Byzantine fleet.

During the 3rd-6th centuries AD public buildings were constructed, basilicas, and the walls of the enclosure. The invasions of the migratory peoples led to the decline of the city until the 7th century. At Callatis was discovered the only papyrus in the country, exhibited today in the

museum. The ancient harbor of Callatis, as well as a part of the ancient polis, are currently below the Black Sea level.

Today, some of the remains of the old Callatis Fortress can be admired at the Hotel in Mangalia. The vestiges were brought to light in 1993, on the occasion of repair and construction works. The archaeological site discovered was subsequently restored, arranged for sightseeing in the hotel lobby and the basement of the restaurant. Thus, vestiges can now be visited, the hotel being considered the only museum hotel with archaeological vestiges in Romania.



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