# THE ROMAN **EMPERORS' CULTURAL ITINERARY IN SERBIA**

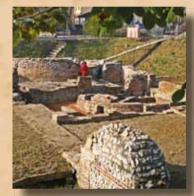
## ITINERARIUM ROMANUM SERBIA

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

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

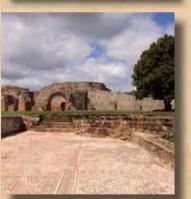
Far away from Rome, on the unpredictable Danube, the Roman Empire established its frontier - the limes. A sequence of fortresses were built by the road along which the legions advanced in their campaigns against barbarian tribes across the river. Next after the army ventured the merchants, artisans, 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

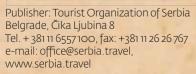












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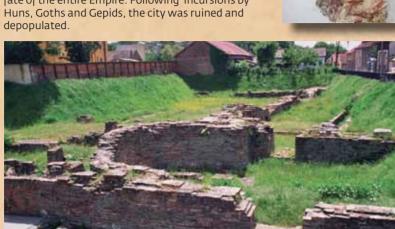
**Sirmium**The Capital of Pannonia and Rhetoric

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.

Later, Sirmium became one of the hubs of the early Christianity, but a place of Christian martyrs' suffering, as well. The well preserved remains of Christian basilica in the city center testify to this. In memory to the ancient glory of this city, a Festival of Public Speaking is organized, each June, at the Zitni Trg square, at the remains of the artisan district from

In the end of the 4th century, Sirmium shared the fate of the entire Empire. Following incursions by



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

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

# **Tourism Organisation of Vojvodina**

Telephone: +381 21 452 910, 420 758 E-mail: office@voivodinaonline.com www.voivodinaonline.com

figural and geometric motifs.

# Singidunum ntersection 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 www.beogradskatvrdjava.co.rs

Tourism Organisation of Belgrade ephone: +381 11 3061 410, 635 622 mail: office@tob.rs www.belgradetourism.org.yu

## National Museum in Belgrade under reconstruction

www.tob.rs

Naissus et Mediana

Naissus – Birthplace of the first Christian emperor

Naissus is the birthplace of emperor Constantine the Great, the ruler who

frequent stays in the Balkans, between 317 and 334,

imperial residence. The most elegant suburb of the

ancient Naissus was Mediana, where Constantine

built a commercial complex with a great number

favored its rapid economic progress, particularly

By this date about eighty buildings of the ancient

Mediana have been uncovered, decorated with

floor mosaics. Next to this building have been

splendid and well preserved mosaics. The central building is a villa with a peristyle decorated with

traced a thermae and granary, as well as the entire water supply system with aqueduct and water tower, and tombs decorated with frescoes.

prominent during the 4th century, from which

date the excavated artisan workshops where

weapons and silver plates were made.

City's position on an important trade route

of luxurious villas.

Naissus became an important city with a huge

pronounced Christianity the equal religion of the Roman Empire. During his

**Site visiting hours:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2

E-mail: ton1@nadlanu.com, ton2@nadlanu.com, www.nistourism.org.rs

m. on Sunday, closed on Monday – from April to November

Expert guide: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from April to November

Standing display visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address: Bulevar Cara Konstantina bb

National Museum of Niš

Expert guide: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Tourism Organisation of Niš** 

Telephone: +381 18 524 877, 521 321

Address: 59 Nikole Pasica St.

www.ni.rs

elephone: +381 11 330 6000 -mail: pr@narodnimuzej.rs www.narodnimuzej.rs

Museum of the City of Belgrade

elephone: +381 11 2638 744 -mail: office@mbg.org.rs www.mbg.org.rs

# Viminacium

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 necropoles 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 For visits announced in advance, tours can be organized beyond regular visiting hours, throughout the year. www.viminacium.org.rs

# **Tourism Organisation of Požarevac**

Telephone: +381 12 221 941 F-mail: topozarevac@nadlanu.com www.topozarevac.rs

# National Museum of Požareva

2 p.m. on Sunday

Telephone: +381 12 223 597 E-mail: muzejpo@ptt.rs, www.museum-po.org.rs Visiting hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to

# lustiniana Prima

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

ustiniana Prima – New capital of Illyricum

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@le.sbb.co.rs, www.lemuzej.org.rs Visiting hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday Tourism Organisation of Leskovac Mynicipality

+381 16 233 360, 233 361 toleskovac@yahoo.com, www.tol.org.rs

Lepenski Vir and Vinca by the Danube

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 ter

At the time of Roman emperors this powerful river was a natural road

in the part of Djerdap Gorge, an important natural barrier as well. The

Romans established their limes on the Danube, a frontier with a syste

fortifications which defended the Empire against barbarian incursio

Diana and Pontes are the names of the biggest forts here. But maybe

mastery is well seen from the remains of emperor Trajan's road at D the road which enabled his conquest of the until then undefeated barl Dacia. One of the most impressive building accomplishments of the ancie

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

Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, except Monday. Visits co

Telephone: +381 19 803 900, 64 289 66 59 (guide)

**Tourism Organisation of Kladovo Municipality** 

any time upon previous announcement.

Telephone: +381 19 801 690, 807 656

E-mail: tookladovo@gn

www.kladovo.org.i

rather the road, built as well, that

Road construction was comple

Emperor Trajan in 100 AC. To m

undertaking, he ordered to pos

The extent of the ancient Roma

above the road: the Traian's

it is visible only from the rive

in these territories.

illustrates the power of the ancient

thousand years in continuity.

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

Arche al site Vinča is located on the 14th kilometer of Belgrade – oad. The prehistoric settlement in Vinča originates from two stages arly Neolithic and the Late Neolithic Period. In the cultural layer, n ing horizons have been traced. Dwellings in the first horizon of dugout type, while in the remaining eight horizons squarevere built. Excavations at this site uncovered characteristic temmed goblets, amphorae, altars and specially rich and diverse plastic t pieces: cylindrical and flat statuettes. Based on these items not only the life in pre-historic Vinča can be d, but the early cultural history of the Danube basin as well.

# Tourism Organisation of Belgrade

radetourism.org.yu, www.tob.rs

tional Museum of Belgrade – under reconstruction ne: +381 11 330 6000

www.narodnimuzej.rs

neological site Lepenski Vir is located in the Gorge, on the lower Danube terrace. the center of one of the most important toric cultures. Excavations at this site d the remains of sacral architecture ing from 7.000 AD to 6000 AD.

itecture of Lepenski Vir is of unique style. ter of the settlement is a specious square, ere various rites were conducted. The oportions of this habitat allow for a hat the builders of Lepenski Vir had conc thematical knowledge. certa

ace stood round-stone sculptures s. In the early stage only heads were shaped, while iven the form of a human figure and became true

Visiting hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. m 1 April to 31 Octob

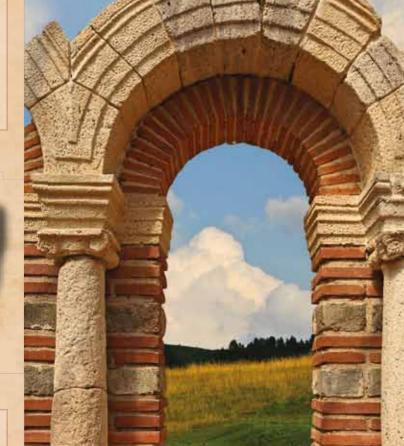


# THE ROMAN EMPERORS' CULTURAL



# ITINERARY IN SERBIA ITINERARIUM ROMANUM SERBIA







later the sculptures were

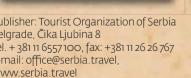
# Museum of Lepenski Vir

Donii Milanovac 19220 Tel Tourist Organisation of Majdanpek Municipalit Telephone: +381 30 590 184.









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**Felix Romuliana** Gamzigrad - Native town of Roman emperor Galerius

On the spacious plateau nearby Gamzigrad, surrounded by thrilling mountains

of the eastern Serbia, stands the Felix Romuliana, imperial palace of emperor

Gaius Valerius Galerius Maximianus, built in the 3rd and 4th century. Galerius,

born in this area, erected this palace for himself and his mother Romula, and On Magura hill, in the vicinity of the palace, in a religious rite, the early

died Galerius was elevated to the status of a god, together with his mother (apotheosis). This was the last apotheosis in human history. Felix Romuliana is the best preserved example of Roman royal court

The palace is surrounded by strong walls which defended the town – palace against barbarian incursions. The town encompassed: royal palace, small

Felix Romuliana was placed on the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage in

Buildings are richly decorated with frescoes, stucco works, floor mosaics with





**Visiting hours:** 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (from 1 April to 31 November). Visits can be organized at any time upon previous announcement to the National Museum of Zajecar. Expert guide: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (from 1 April to 31 November) Site address: by Gamzigrad Spa

## **Tourism Organisation of Zaječar** elephone: +381 19 421 521

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# National Museum of Zaječar Telephone: +381 19 422 930

E-mail: muzejz19@nadlanu.com

