

HISTORY AND TOURISM AT THE PONTUS EUXINUS - BLACK SEA

The Museum for National History and Archaeology Constanta is a research institution, its main activities aiming a better knowledge regarding the Roman Province Moesia Inferior. The most important of them are archaeological excavations in Greek and Roman sites in the territory between the Danube and the Black Sea. All six units of the institution, located in Constanta (the central exhibition in the main building – an architecture historical monument itself - and the large Roman mosaic floor – about 800 square meters, protected by an adequate building), Histria (comprising the ruins of the ancient city and a site museum), Adamclisi, ancient Tropaeum Traiani (a complex composed of a museum with the original pieces of the Roman monument, built here by Emperor Traian after the Roman-Dacian wars, a replica of the triumphal monument and the ancient city site), Hârşova-Carsium (museum and site) and Cernavodă-Axiopolis present the long lasting archaeological excavations results to the interested public.

The museum was founded in 1879 and is a public cultural institution, financed by local authorities (Constanta County Council) of the Romanian State. It is ranged as a museum of national importance due to the rich patrimonial collections dated to all periods of our history. Apart from the above mentioned objectives, open-air preserved sites like the ancient cities in Capidava, Păcuiul lui Soare, Ulmetum as well as the cave churches in Basarabi-Murfatlar can be visited, all of them under the jurisdiction of the museum. These sites are also subject of archaeological excavations each year.

A complex restoration laboratory is also a department in which all found materials are properly restored and preserved. The Constanța museum main exhibition includes a prehistory section, a classical history section, a medieval section, a numismatic and a pipe collection. The most important compartment is at the ground floor, showing masterpieces of ancient sculpture, jewelry, coins, glassware, pottery and personal objects found in ancient Hellenistic, Roman and Late Roman graveyards of this province.

* Museum of National History and Archeology Constanța.

Since 1968 the results of our research are published each year in “PONTICA” volumes (41 have already been printed), in specialty volumes of the series “BIBLIOTECA TOMITANA” and recent history volumes “ANALELE DOBROGEI”.

Museum archaeologists and historians participate each year in national and international excavations and meetings at all levels, as well as in educational activities, such as guided visits and media debates regarding specific subjects.

During the last years the museum staff has implemented a series of projects financed by the European Union. One of them is aimed to identify and research on underwater archaeological sites along the Black Sea coast with the aim of presenting them to the public.

Local development is stimulated by the rich program of cultural activities organized by our departments and taking place in and around the museum, especially during the summer season, attracting a large number of tourists and members of the local community.

The institution has a large experience in promoting the ancient patrimony, Greek and Roman monuments. The museum staffs also have competence and experience in field research as well as in relations with tourist agencies and the public interested in cultural tourism and ancient history. By partnership agreements, the Museum for National History and Archaeology Constanta has good relations with education institutions of all levels, with tour operators organizing cruises in the Black Sea and on the Danube as well as with mass media (newspapers, radio and TV stations).

By European funded projects, sustained also by the County Council Constanta the museum has outlined two main tourist circuits for a large number of tourists visiting the Romanian seaside each year. The first one begins in Constanța and passes by the objectives in Basarabi, Adamclisi, St. Andrews Cave, Dervent Monastery, Păcuiul lui Soare to Silistra. The second one heads west from Constanța to Ulmetum, Hârșova-Carsium, Capidava, Cernavodă-Axiopolis.

Thus, a third of the institution total budget comes from ticket selling at the six subordinate museum units in Constanța County, but also from contract archaeological excavation works for public and private investments in the area. A large amount of this sum is used to enhance the quality of our exhibitions.