



ILLYRICUM TRAIL A BRANCH OF THE ROMAN EMPERORS AND DANUBE WINE ROUTE

Illyricum is a geographical term that was used by the Romans in the late first century BC and early first century AD to describe the new Balkan territory which they were conquering to annex to the Roman Empire. It included the lands which extended from the western boundary of modern Greece to the Alps on the west and from the Danube River on the north to the Adriatic Sea.

Two of the best known rulers of the Empire, Julius Caesar and the first Emperor Augustus are associated with the annexation of Illyricum. The Emperor Augustus left behind in his memoirs the record of this conquest, "I advanced the boundaries of Illyricum to the banks of the Danube."

Later the territory was divided into the provinces of Dalmatia, Pannonia, and Moesia adjacent to the province of Macedonia. Towards the end of the Empire, in the 4th century, Illyricum again gains currency as an administrative term, first in the reorganization of the provinces under the Emperor Diocletian and later as the Prefecture of Illyricum under the Emperor Constantine the Great. Because they were both born in this area, usually to military families, Diocletian and Constantine along with some of their predecessors are known as "the Illyrian emperors".

Today the term Illyricum is used to designate the modern countries of the West Balkan Region which stands ready to reveal its outstanding natural beauty together with hidden historic and archaeological treasures, still mostly unknown. Visitors will be amazed not only with the abundance and quality of evidence of the ancient Roman presence, but also will delight in exploring local gastronomy and sampling traditional recipes and wines – the true adventurer is always searching for new discoveries in food-and other cultural encounters.

Time is the key ingredient of a successful holiday on this trail. National and local tour operators and trip organisers will be happy to show you around, whether you prefer organised group travel or individual, tailor-made experiences. They will make sure you have all the comfort you need to maximize your experience. Top notch food and brand new accommodations, new roads, and friendly border control officers guarantee smooth travels along the Illyricum Trail. Museums, beautiful towns showing off a variety of architectural styles and nature parks are always worth a stop. If you are still not convinced, consider the unbeatable hospitality and friendliness of the people living along the Trail.

So, pack up, come and enjoy our tours and take home unforgettable memories.



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Colonia Iulia Iader and Aenona, Zadar and Nin, Croatia (250 BC - 400 AD); The Roman grid plans survives through-out Zadar's old town and Nin housed a temple of the Imperial Cult.



Narona, Vid, Croatia (200 BC - 620 AD / Augusteum: 10 BC - 400 AD); Croatia's first "in-situ" archaeological museum in the remains of a shrine of the Imperial Cult.



Timacum Minus, Knjaževac, Serbia (1st - 5th century AD); Roman fortress and settlement. Preserved remains of architecture, fortification walls, towers and graves from Roman and late antique period.

Via Egnatia: The Romans built the Via Egnatia in the 2nd century B.C. as part of their military penetration into the Balkan peninsula, including the area they knew as Illyricum. The road began at Apollonia and Dyrrachium, the landing points of the Adriatic Sea crossing from Italy. This was the

main route taken by Roman armies moving east to battle grounds like Pharsalus (Caesar vs. Pompey), Philippi (Augustus vs. Brutus and Cassius), Actium (Augustus vs. Antony and Cleopatra). Three Illyricum Trail cities are located on the Via Egnatia (Apollonia, Lychnidos and Heraclea

Lyncestis); Stobi, another Illyricum Trail site, was connected to the Via Egnatia by a regional highway which ran from Heraclea Lyncestis north towards the Danube River.

(map from internet Wikipedia)



Illyricum Trail

The Principle itinerary of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Life and lifestyle of the roman emperors
Sites with direct and documented associations with Roman Emperors

Architecture
Sites with well preserved and presented monuments of Roman architecture

Everyday life, art and culture
including civic life/political and social aspects of Roman culture, economic life/commerce under the rule of the Emperors

Religion in roman culture

Military achievements
Sites associated with the Roman military "presence-defense of the frontier on the Danube" or significant events in Roman military history



Mogorjelo
Roman name: not known
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 4th century A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: This is a good example of agriculture in the Roman countryside during the late Empire, a fortified Roman farm villa (villa rustica) with close design associations with Diocletian's Palace in Split.



Risan
Roman name: Risinium
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 2nd century A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: The site displays the excavated part of a luxurious Roman seaside villa (villa maritima) with well preserved examples of typical Roman mosaic floor decoration.



Podgorica
Roman name: Doclea
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 1st to 4th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: Doclea has the well preserved remains of a Roman forum and associated temple, law court basilica and bath structures. It is one of the best and most complete examples of a native settlement urbanized in the Roman manner.



Butrint
Roman name: Buthrotum
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 1st to 4th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: Originally a Greek city, Butrint was raised to Roman colonial status by the Emperor Augustus and prospered during the Empire as a port town on the Ionian Sea. The well preserved architectural remains show the influences of both Greek and Roman culture.



Pojani (Polini)
Roman name: Apollonia
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 1st to 4th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: Originally as a Greek colony the well preserved remains of Greek urbanism were adapted to Roman use as the city continued to prosper under the Roman Empire. Historically the port of Apollonia was used as one of the landing points for Roman armies crossing the Adriatic Sea from Italy and moving east along the Via Egnatia.



Ohrid
Roman name: Lychnidos
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 1st to 4th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: as a Greek city in the Roman period Lychnidos was strategically located at the crossroads of the Via Egnatia and a major north-south highway. The well preserved Greek theater is attractively presented in the historic center of the medieval town.



Bitola
Roman name: Heraclea Lyncestis
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 1st to 6th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: During Julius Caesar's wars against Pompey, Heraclea Lyncestis was an important supply base. In the late Empire its early Christian basilicas have well preserved mosaic pavements known for their high standards of execution.



Gradsko
Roman name: Stobi
Time frame of relevance to the Roman Emperors Route: 3rd to 4th centuries A.D.
Brief description and historical relevance: Stobi's beginnings as a town are in the Macedonian kingdom of Philip V, but the high point of prosperity is the late empire as an episcopal center with early Christian basilicas and mosaics, a bishop's palace and a Jewish synagogue.