

The importance of the site is evidenced by a number of finds that have been collected ever since the end of the 19th century and preserved in Croatian museums. Parts of different stone monuments can be seen in the Gardun area, built into the walls of village houses.

Systematic archaeological research has been conducted since 1997 by the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, under the guidance of Mirjana Sanader, PhD, and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Split-Dalmatia County and the Town of Trilj, not forget to mention collaboration with locals. The research was carried out as part of the *Roman Military Camps in Croatia* science and research project, which was supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports through three project periods from 1997 to 2013. Since 2014, archaeological research has been carried out in the framework of the *Between the Danube and the Mediterranean. Exploring the role of Roman military in the mobility of people and goods in Croatia during the Roman Era* project, project number 6505, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. Finds of portable antiquities are characteristic of Roman military camps – pieces

of military and horse equipment, coins, fragments of ceramic ware and glassware, tools and other objects. At the same time, imposing architectural remains are uncovered, which are yet to show, through hard work of archaeologists and conservators, the size of the camp and the arrangement of buildings inside its walls.



The research has been funded by the Croatian Science Foundation through the project called *Between the Danube and the Mediterranean. Exploring the role of Roman military in the mobility of people and goods in Croatia during the Roman Era*, project number 6505.

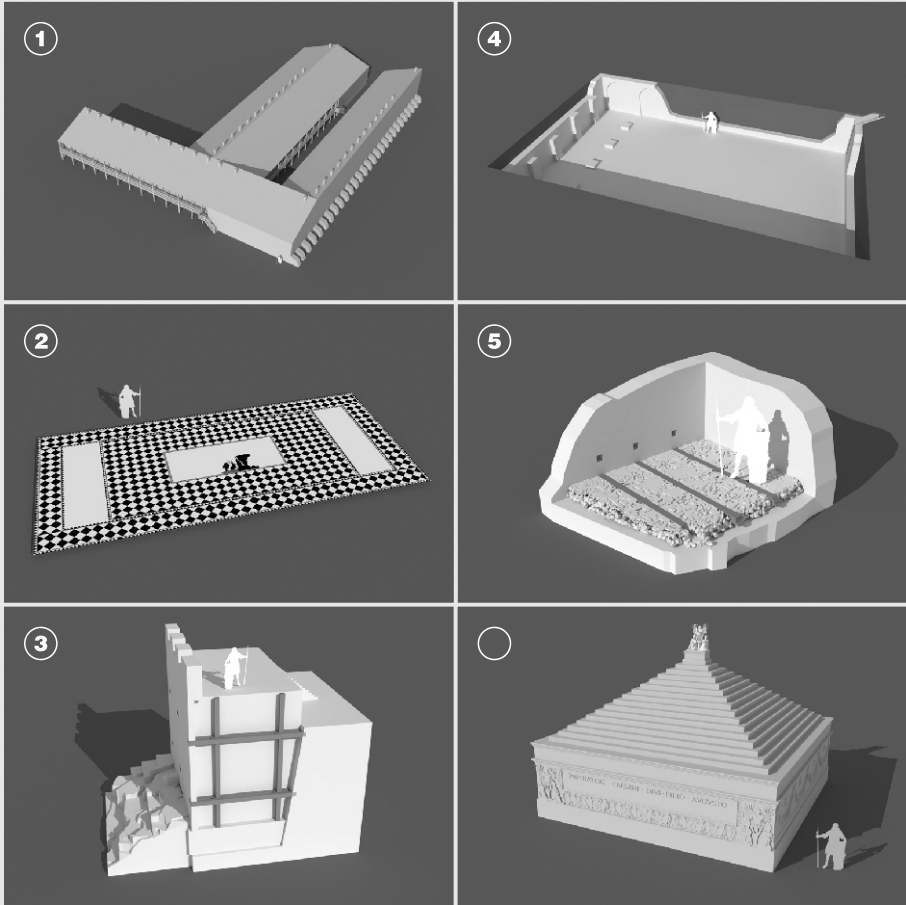


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- 1 SLEEPING QUARTERS
- 2 REMNANTS OF A MOSAIC
- 3 WEST SIDE OF THE DEFENSIVE WALL
- 4 CISTERN
- 5 BUILDING IN THE NORTH-WEST ANGLE OF THE CAMP
- LOCATION OF THE TROPAEUM WITHIN THE CAMP
- REMAINS UNKNOWN



TILURIUM – ROMAN MILITARY CAMP

The Tilurium Roman military camp (*Tilurium*), in the area of the today's Gardun village, was situated in the north-east of a plateau rising above the right bank of the River Cetina (*Hyppus*), the town of Trilj (*Pons Tiluri*) and the local river crossing. This position enabled the control of communications that led from ancient Salona across this area towards the mining town of Srebrenica (*Argentaria*) in eastern Bosnia, further on to the south-east via the trading colony of Narona (*Narona*) to the towns of Shkodër (*Scodra*) and Durrës (*Dyrrachium*) in Albania.

The Illyrian origin of Tilurium's name, a mention of Tilurium as an Illyrian hillfort (*castellum*) in Pliny the Elder's *Natural History*, *Book III*, 142, as well as the finds of prehistoric objects have all suggested that prehistoric people, including the Dalmatae, had also recognised and taken advantage of this strategic position.

Tilurium extended across an area of approximately 12 hectares and had an irregular layout. The finds have indicated the Roman presence from the end of the 1st century BC to the beginning of the 1st century AD. Afterwards the camp was fortified with a strong defensive wall, inside which different buildings were constructed to meet daily needs of a legion of about 5,000 men. During the first half of the 1st century Tilurium was occupied by the Roman Seventh Legion, whereas in the period from the mid-1st century to the mid-3rd century it was occupied by auxiliary troops.

