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DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE SOUTH-EAST REGION

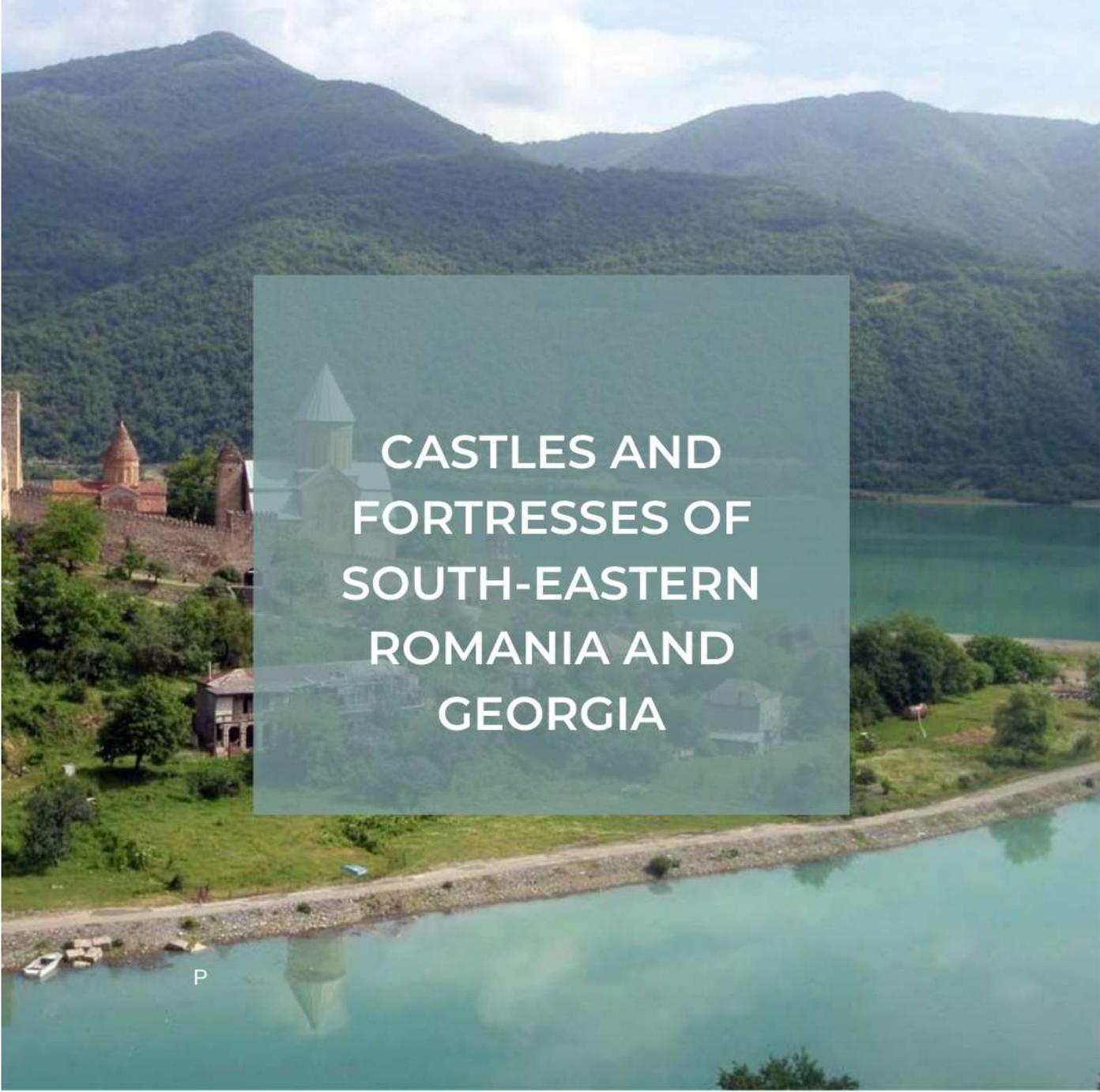
Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE
Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the
Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117**



**CASTLES AND
FORTRESSES OF
SOUTH-EASTERN
ROMANIA AND
GEORGIA**

P

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Castles and fortresses of south-eastern Romania and Georgia

At the first part of our route tempts visitors to take a journey through Romania in the 7th century BC to the 1st centuries AD, in the Classical Antiquity. The Pontic-Danubian region acted as a link between the imperial authorities of the Mediterranean and the migrant people of the Pontic steppes. This link took the form of both trade and open conflict, thus resulting in a variety of distinct settlements. In the dynamics of this region, the Greek cities, which sprouted along the shores of the Black Sea starting with the 7th century BC, have a special place. Later to be annexed to Rome's Balkan possession, the region displays both Hellenistic and Roman sites which can be discovered by cultural tourists. The Route links the archaeological sites with their individual (unique) histories, in the introduction of Greek and Roman culture along the Black Sea. The trail expands over 2 counties - Tulcea and Constanța, encompassing more than 15 archaeological sites, 3 museums dedicated to the subject and other smaller archaeological parks located in the main cities.

Traces of humanity from the Stone Age can be traced within geographical borders of modern Georgia in. You can see this in the Second part of our route.

Here, at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, such great powers and empires clashed as: the Christian and Islamic and worlds of Persia and ancient Greece collided in fierce battles. Russians and Ottoman empires had large scale ground wars as well. There were also civil wars. There are also small castle-towers, just 10-15 meters long and wide. The feudal lord lived there and the castle was rebuilt. Initially, the forts were built on the top of mountains, in inaccessible places, the fort was naturally protected from both sides by harsh terrain and natural highground gave advantage to archers.

Castles were built in strategic places, particularly on roads with high strategic importance such as supply routes.

The building material was mainly stone, rarely wood. For example, during the Arab rule, Tbilisi had a wooden defensive wall. Before the invention of firearms, the thickness of the wall was important. For example, the wall of Samshvildi was six meters wide. Obviously, many castles were built here, both large castle towns to small, road blocking ones and signal towers. Many have survived with their majesty and today, are already attracting tourists; Many have been forgotten and lost in the bosom of wildlife or in city buildings. Finding and discovering their traces is interesting and a unique experience to some.

The tour will tell you about them, their epoch, their strategic purpose, their relationship, their rich history and kings who ruled over them.

Technical features:

Administrative geography/counties included: South-East Romania and Georgia

Duration of the tourist route: 15 days

Seasonality: spring, summer, autumn

Transport accessibility: car, bike, boat

Main goals:

- Get acquainted with the ancient cultural heritage of regions
- Strengthening image, identity and visibility of the regions
- Setting the framework for long term cooperation of various stakeholders
- Learning about history and social situation of the countries
- Improvement of tourism and popularity of regions

Sector 1

Cernovoda – Braila - Tulchea – Constanta – Cernovoda

Time 7 days with overnight stays

Sector 2

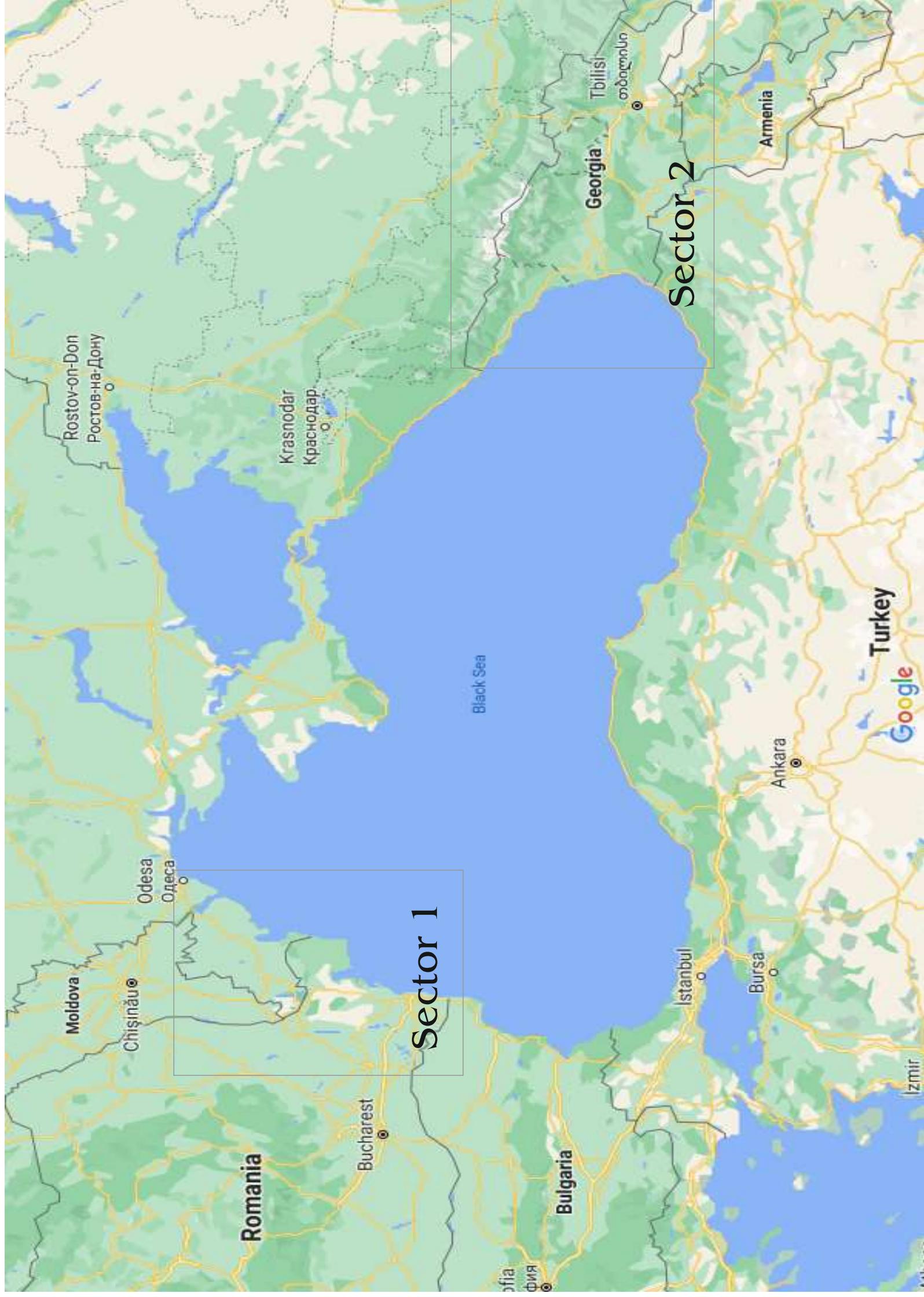
Kartli – Kakheti – Samtskhe – Imereti – Samegrelo

Time 8 days with overnight stays



Keywords:
archaeology
ancient cultures
equestry

Types of sites:
archaeological sites of Hellenic origin
archaeology museums, city
archeological parks
sites connected with Military
archaeological sites



Rostov-on-Don
Ростов-на-Дону

Krasnodar
Краснодар

Moldova

Chişinău

Odesa
Одеса

Romania

Bucharest

Bulgaria

Sofia
София

Istanbul

Bursa

Ankara

Turkey

Google

Izmir

Georgia

Tbilisi
თბილისი

Armenia

Sector 2

Sector 1

Black Sea

Sector 1

Start point: Cernovoda

Stop-point: Braila, Tulchea, Constanta

End point: Cernovoda

Route:

Cernovoda – Braila - Tulchea – Constanta – Cernovoda

Targeted types of tourists: motivated cultural tourists, incidental cultural tourists

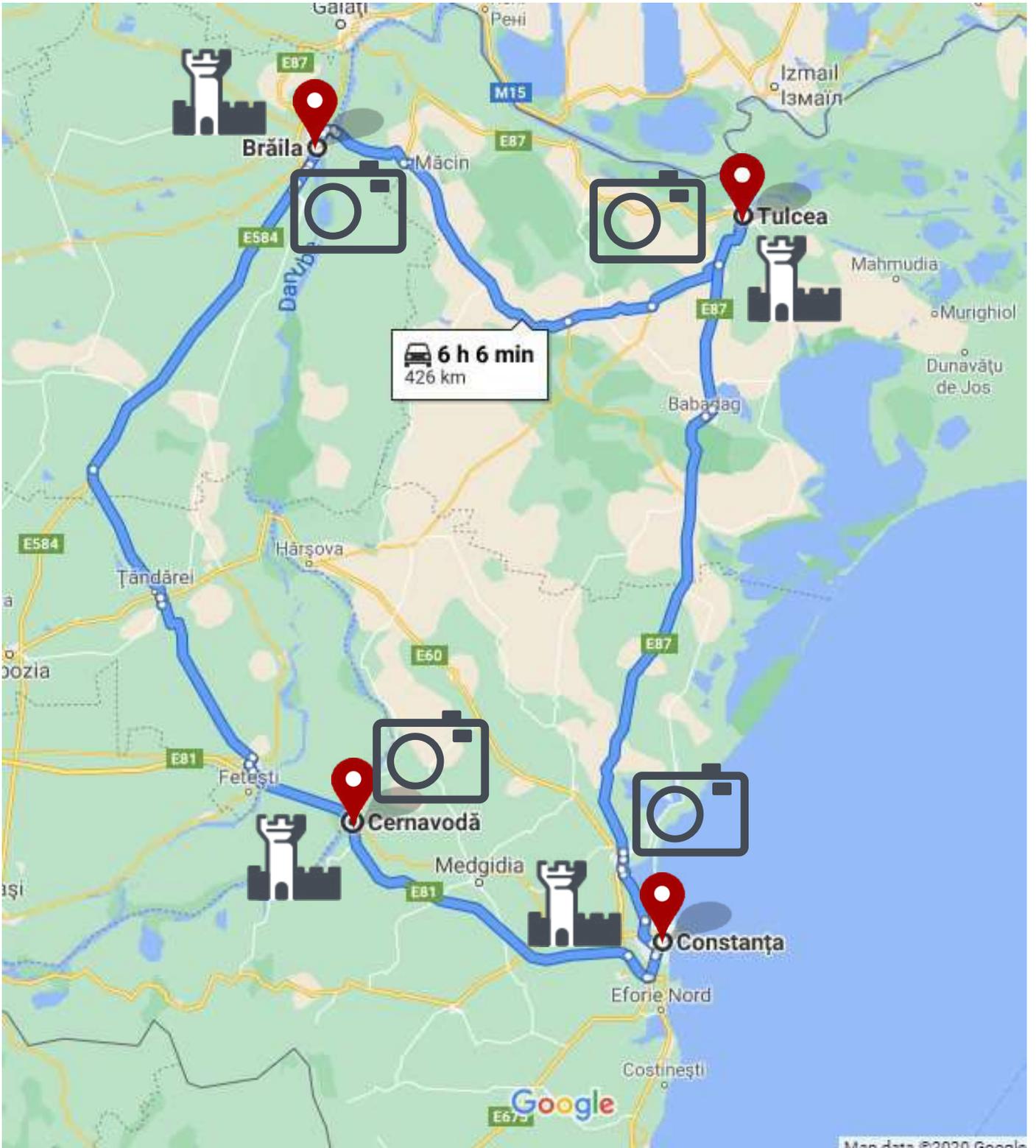
Main targeted country markets: Hungary, Israel, Germany

The route offers the possibility to explore the archaeological remains along the Old Danube, by car or bike. The route starts in Bucharest, with a first stop-point in Cernavodă, where tourists can observe the historical remains of the Hamangia Culture, found at the Axiopolis Museum, or explore the breathtaking sceneries and relax along the Domneasca Mare Lake.

Moving upwards to the Northern part of Dobrudja, tourists can visit Capidava, Ulmetum, Carsium, Beroe and Troesmis Fortresses, admiring both the archaeological remains left behind by the Greeks and the Romans and also the amazing vistas of the Old Danube. In Troesmis, travelers can explore the Măcin Mountains, detouring from the main route, choosing one of the 5 thematic trails from Greci commune: Țuțuianu, Dealul cu Drum, Cozluk, Măcin Stories, Turcoaica. In Măcin, the adventurous tourists can opt for 3 detour routes: Culmea Pricopanului, Fântâna de Leac, Jijila Valley, all in the Natural Park of Măcin Mountains. Continuing on the main routes, from Măcin, tourists can continue on their way to Brăila, passing the Danube by ferry, from Smârdan commune.

Next the route offers the possibility to explore the archaeological remains in the Northern part of Dobrudja, by car or bike. Continuing from the first sector, the route starts in Brăila, with a first stoppoint in Dinogeția and moving on to Noviodunum.

Along the way, tourists can opt for 5 hiking trails, from Luncavița, Nifon, Niculițel or Balabancea: Țuțuianu, Dealul cu Drum, Crapcea, Cocoș - Sarica, Niculițel. Continuing on the main route, tourists can spend the night in Tulcea, where they can visit the remains of the ancient fortress of Aegyssus, take a boat ride on Ciuperca Lake, take a stroll along the Danube waterfront, or explore the museums the city has to offer.



Activities and designated places:



scenic views



castles, fortress, antic place

Sector 2

Start point: Kartli

Stop-point: Kakheti, Samtskhe, Imereti

End point: Samegrelo

Route:

Kartli – Kakheti – Samtskhe – Imereti – Samegrelo

Targeted types of tourists: motivated cultural tourists, incidental cultural tourists

Main targeted country markets: Turkey, Azerbaijan, Ukraine

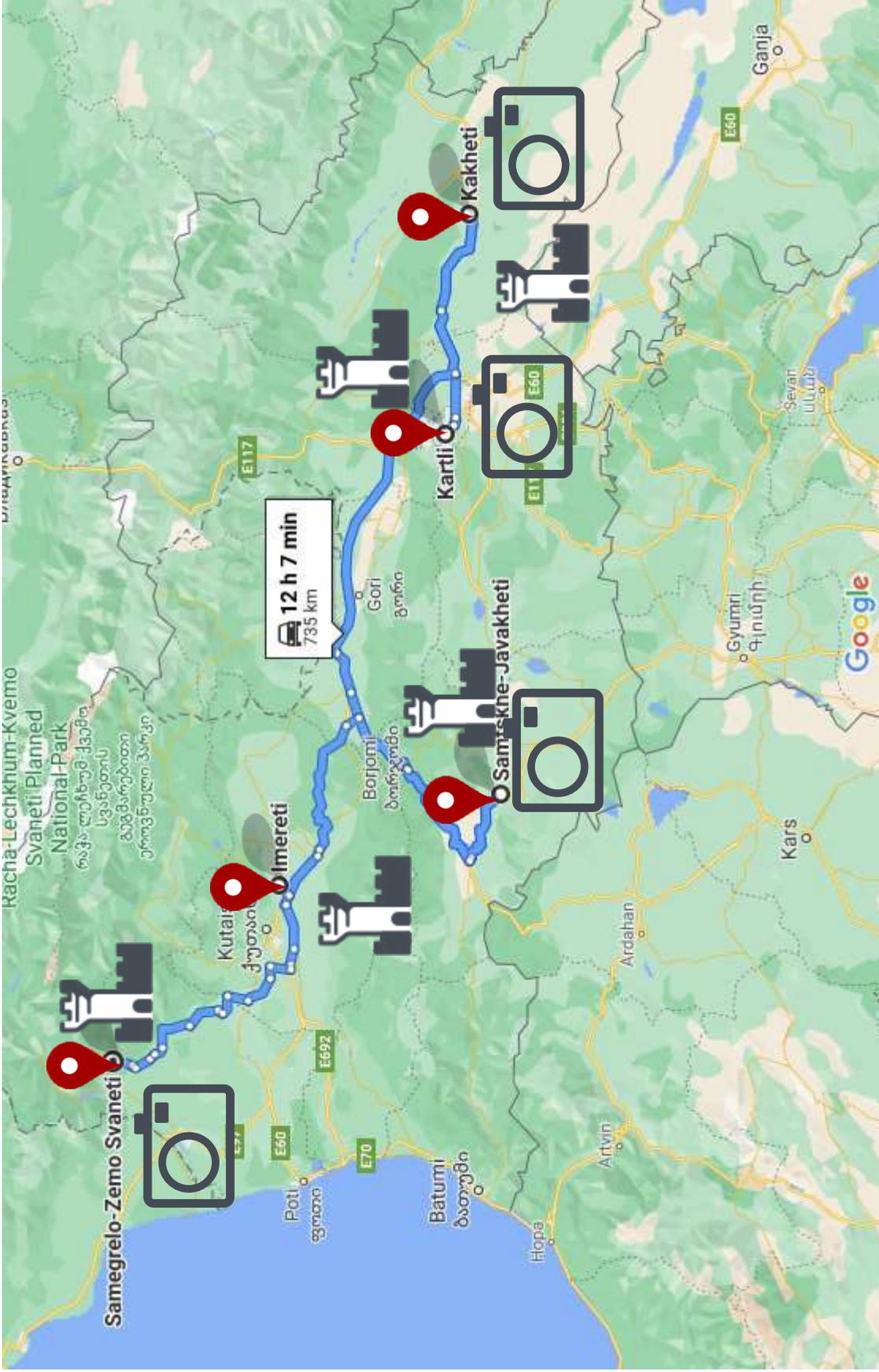
Kakheti is a historical region in eastern Georgia, rich in monuments of various periods and diverse nature. Here you will find ancient settlements, unique temples, castle towers, mesmerizing forests, waterfalls, alpine lakes, vast fields of green and even a colorful desert. Ancient history, interesting culture, breathtaking nature and resorts make Kakheti very attractive for those who want to have a pleasant vacation and travel.

Georgia's military route from Tbilisi runs north of the right bank of the Mtkvari River, ascends to Zhinvali, and ends at Jvari Pass. The road from the pass runs to the town of Stepantsminda, from where the road will be crossed by a bridge on the left side of the river Tergi.

Dariali gorge starts at the confluence of the river Chkheri. This is the Georgian-Russian state border, where checkpoints are located: Zemo Larsi and Kazbegi.

From the 1st century onwards, the Aragvi and Tergi valleys have been crossed by the narrow and difficult road connecting the North Caucasus countries and the Middle East, the inaccessible walls of which ended at the door of Dariali. The Georgians had fortified this valley with a wall. The control of the road and the Dariali Gate has long been of interest to the great powers of the former Asia. After the establishment of Arab domination in the South Caucasus (VII century), the Arabs and Khazars avoided the door of Dariali. In order to prevent the invasions of the Alan-Khazars, the Arabs fortified the Dariali Valley. That is why this road is a strategic and politically important object and there are many protective historical fortresses on it.

Georgian military road is currently one of the sections of the European highway E117.



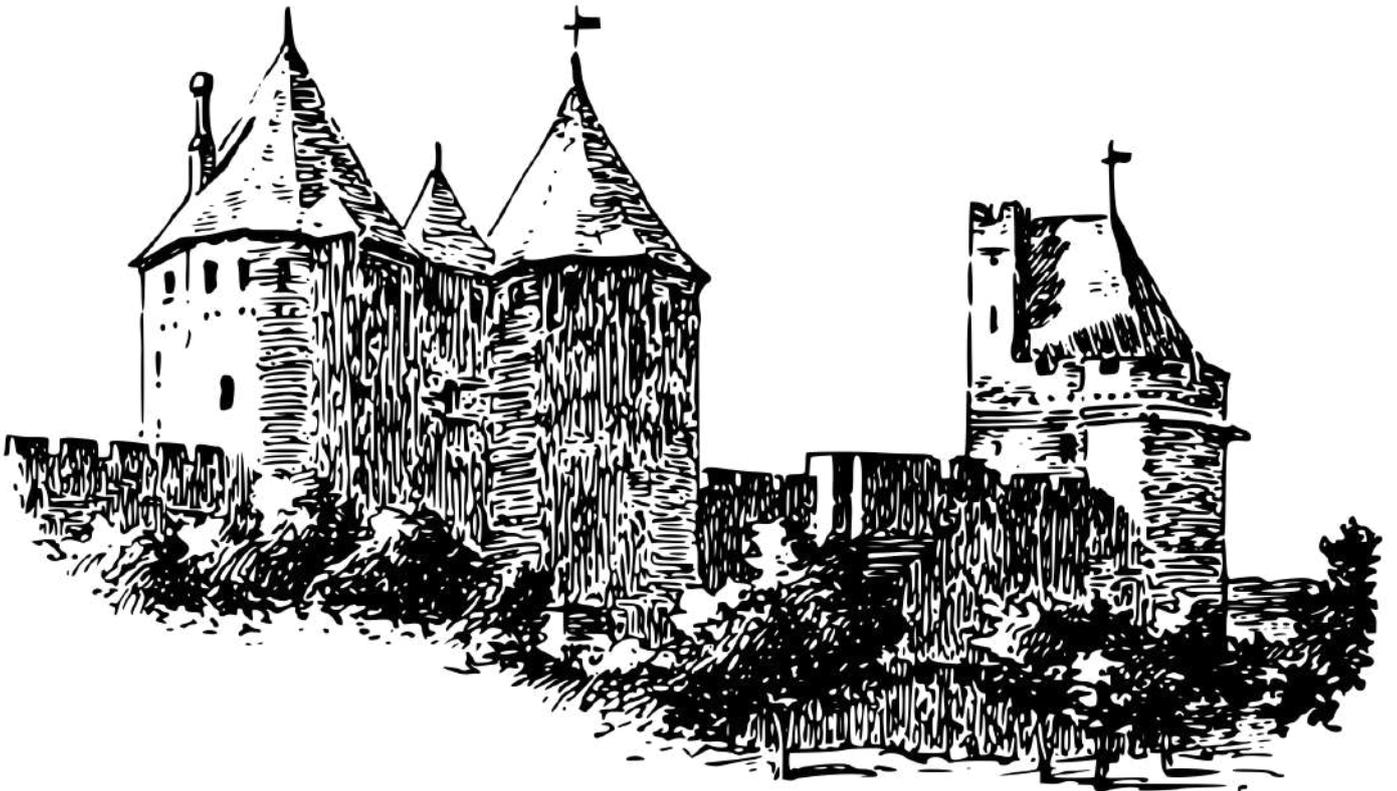
Activities and designated places:



scenic views



castles, fortresses, antic place



AXIOPOLIS MUSEUM OF HISTORY



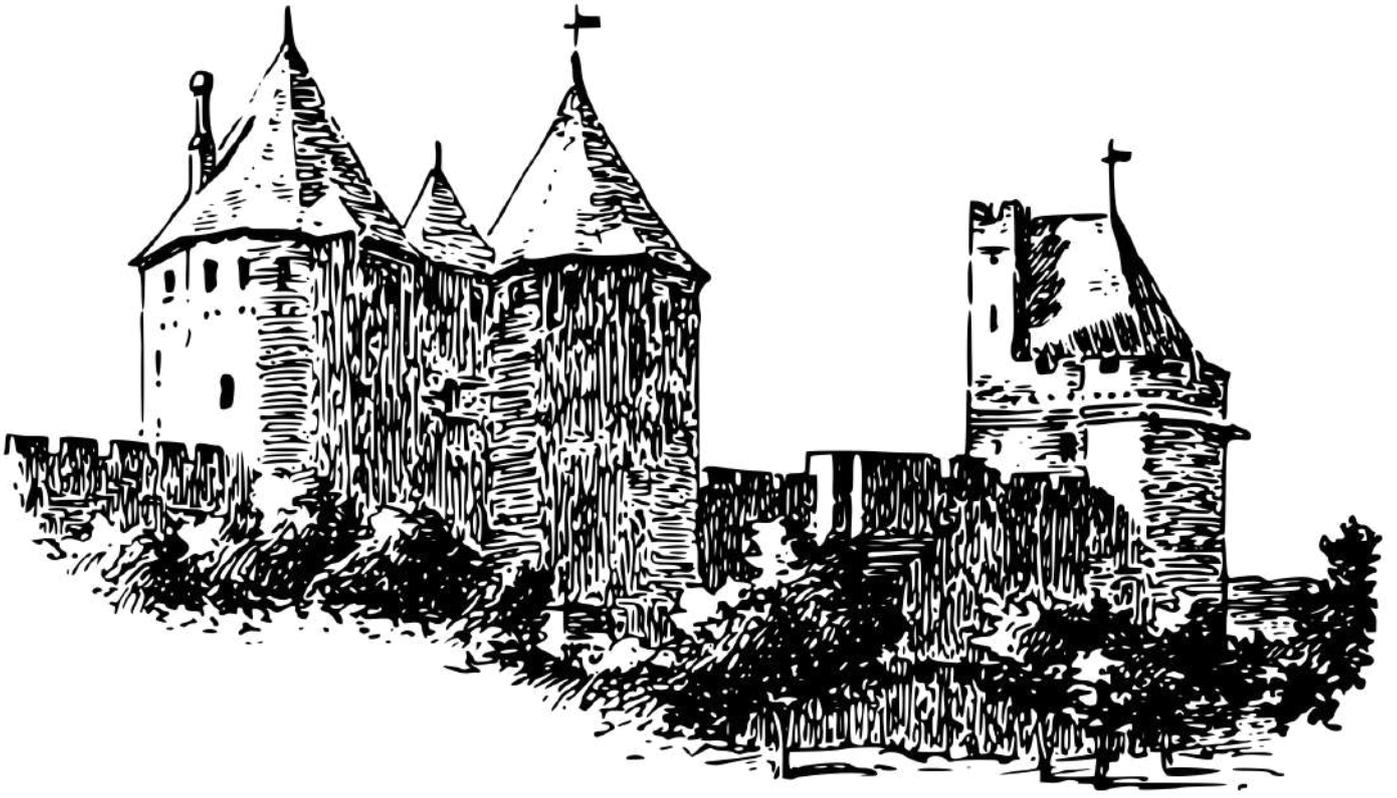
AXIOPOLIS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

At the beginning of their journey through Dobrudja, tourists can make their first stop at the History Museum Axiopolis, located in the city of Cernavodă. The main profile of the museum is archaeology, notably prehistorical, Dacian and Roman archaeology. The restored building that hosts the artifacts is divided into 5 rooms and a main hallway, displaying a collection of local and regional prehistoric remains, Roman and Dacian relics and decorative art pieces from the 19th century. Visitors can get familiarized with the Neoneolithic culture (displayed in Room 1) and admire the dark ceramics produced by the Hamangia culture. Room 2 displays the funeral inventory of a Hellenistic tomb from Medgidia dating from the 2nd century BC, Hallstattian vessels discovered at Cernavodă and Rasova, funeral and ceramic urns of import and amphorae.

useful information

address: 19, Ovidiu Street, Cernavodă

contact: +4 0241 487 170



CAPIDAVA FORTRESS



CAPIDAVA FORTRESS

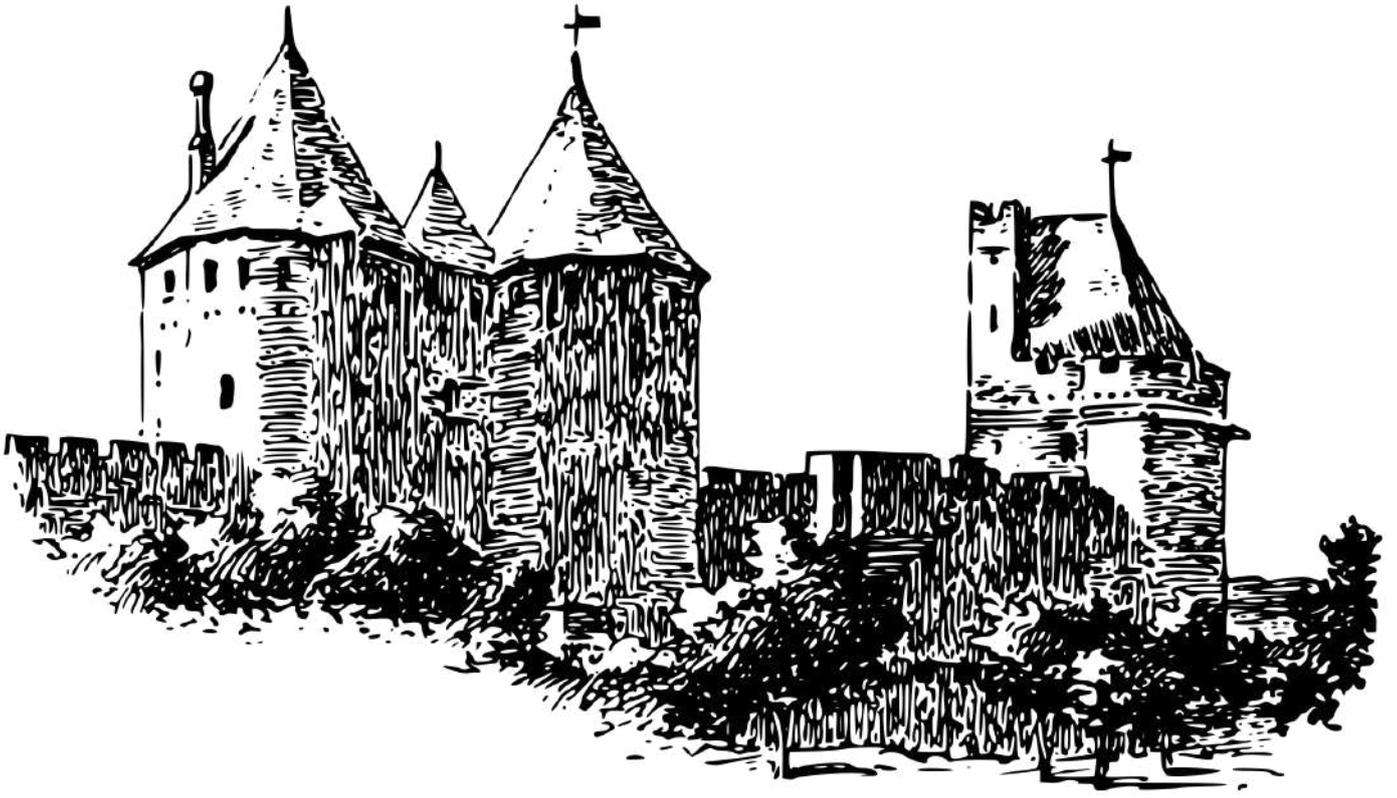
The remains of Capidava Fortress lie along the Danube's Eastern front, at half the distance between Cernavodă and Hârșova, the main road passing by the exterior wall of the fortress. Capidava occupies an important place in the Ancient Roman defense system, being one of the many castrums and fortifications built during Emperor Trajan's rule (starting from the beginning of the 2nd century AD). Visitors can see the enclosure walls, the Southern gate of the citadel, guarded by a rectangular tower and the main access. A secondary gate (poterna) has been constructed in the North-Western tower and represents the start of the visiting tour. In the Southern sector of the fortress, tourists can see the remains of the biggest building in the complex, namely the guard house (horreum) and the remains of a residential area, with houses organized along small porticos or courtyards. In the opposite side of the citadel, the remains of a ProtoChristian basilica can be found near the surrounding walls.

useful information

address: Capidava village, Constanța County

contact: ioan.opris@capidava.ro

website: <http://www.capidava.ro>



ULMETUM FORTRESS - PANTELIMON



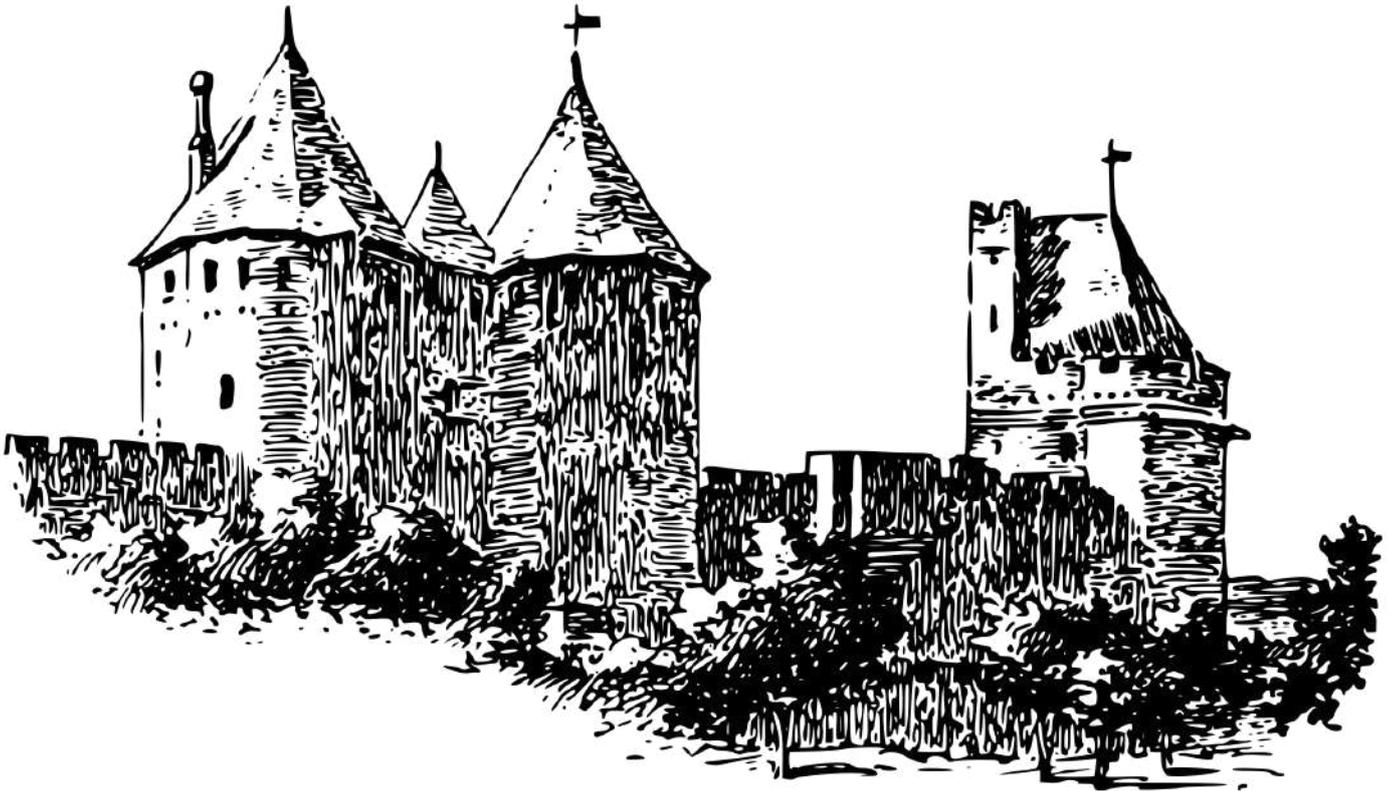
ULMETUM FORTRESS - PANTELIMON

According to historical sources, the fortress was built around the 3rd century AD, during the late Roman period and lasted until the 6th century, during the Roman-Byzantine era. It is a small to medium fortress, which gradually became a fortified settlement and was attacked and nearly destroyed by 3 Hunnic waves in the 5th century. The ancient settlement of Ulmetum has the form of a rectangular triangle with a curved hypotenuse. On the corners, the fortress is provided with 3 round towers. It has 2 gates flanked by 2 towers with a semicircular front side (in the form of the letter U). The South-Eastern side displays 4 rectangular towers, while the other 2 sides of the fortress have 2 rectangular towers each.

useful information

address:

Pantelimon commune, Constanța County



CARSIIUM FORTRESS AND MUSEUM
HÂRȘOVA



CARSIUM FORTRESS AND MUSEUM - HÂRȘOVA

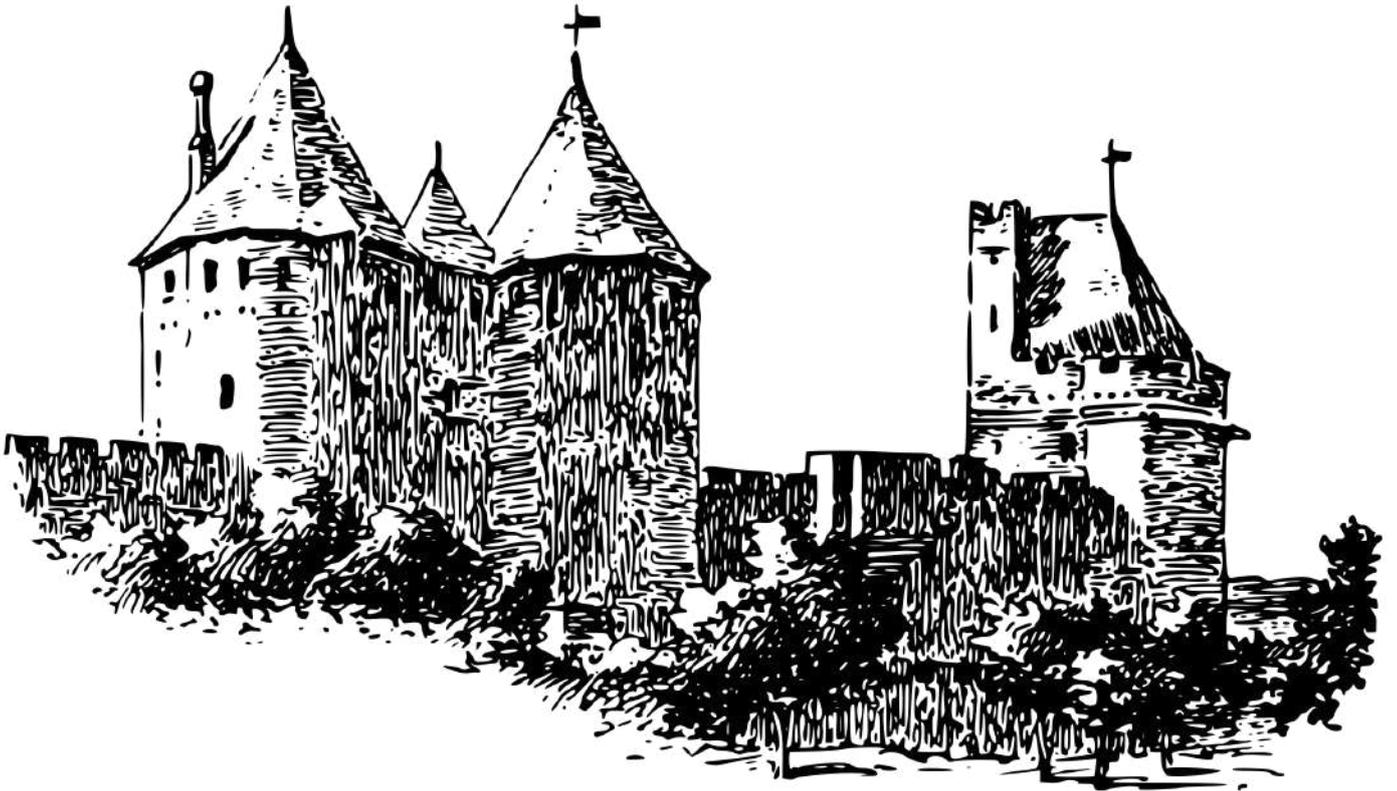
The Roman and Roman-Byzantine citadel was built on a former Getae fortification, in the 1st century AD. In the 2nd century AD, during the Dacian Wars, Emperor Trajan fortifies the citadel with stone walls. The massive walls are the only visible remains of the former fortress. The Commander Tower, situated in the Northern part of the site is 9 m high, while a monumental wall, 40 m long marks the area in which the river port activated until the destruction of the citadel (17th - 18th centuries). Not much is known about the archaeological site, the Fortress of Carsium, housing throughout time the Romans, the Byzantines and the Genoese. The Carsium Museum displays nowadays the most representative archaeological findings from Hârșova and its surroundings, illustrating the civilizations that reigned the Danubian region, starting from the Neolithic Period to the beginning of the Modern Era. The museum has among its collections particularly valuable pieces typical of Neolithic cultures (Hamangia, Gumelnița), from the Metal Age cultures, from the Roman civilization, Roman-Byzantine and from Medieval cultures.

useful information

Carsium Fortress - 4, Dobrogea Street, Hârșova

Carsium Museum - 27, Revoluției Street, Hârșova

website: www.harsova.ro



TROESMIS FORTRESS - TURCOAICA



TROESMIS FORTRESS - TURCOAICA

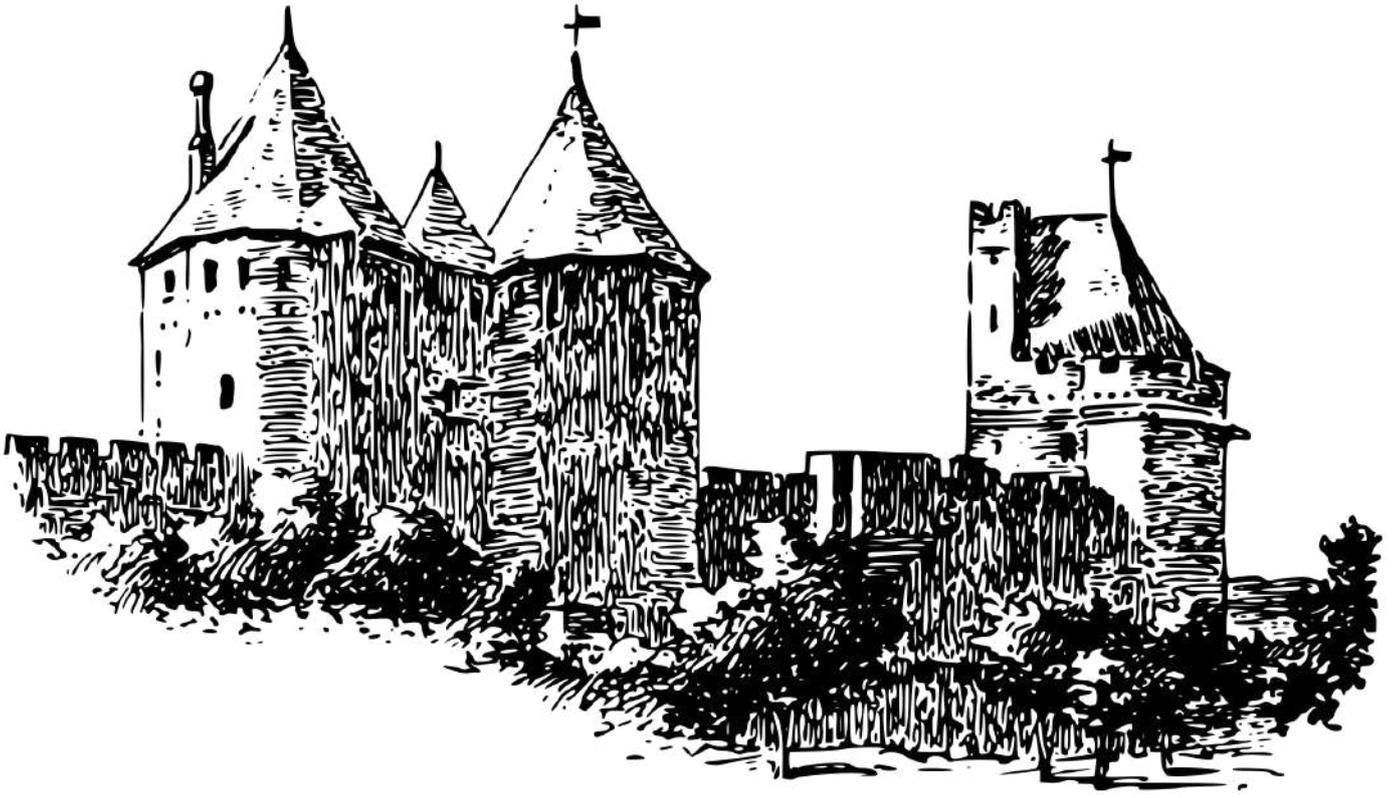
Troesmis was one of the main cities of the Getae tribes. The fortress is located in the North-West of Dobrudja, on the bank of the Măcin branch of the Danube, 3 km North from Turcoaica commune. It was throughout the ancient period an important strategic point, its oldest mention being in the Pontic of Ovidius. Around the year 100 AD, it is recognized as a Roman military center, due to the development of a civil settlement between the Eastern and Western citadels where craftsmen, merchants etc. are established. The ruins of the fortress were not investigated on their entire surface, but until now 3 waves of defense, a canal, 2 aqueducts, horseshoe towers at the corners, 2 Christian basilicas and the walls of several buildings, were excavated. The road to the archaeological site is a difficult one, the site infodelta.ro recommending travelers to take the DN22D road, and afterwards a dirt road orientated towards the Danube.

useful information

address:

Turcoaica commune, Tulcea County note:

the Troesmis Fortress does not have any visiting hours or guided tours included



ARRUBIUM FORTRESS - MĂCIN



ARRUBIUM FORTRESS - MĂCIN

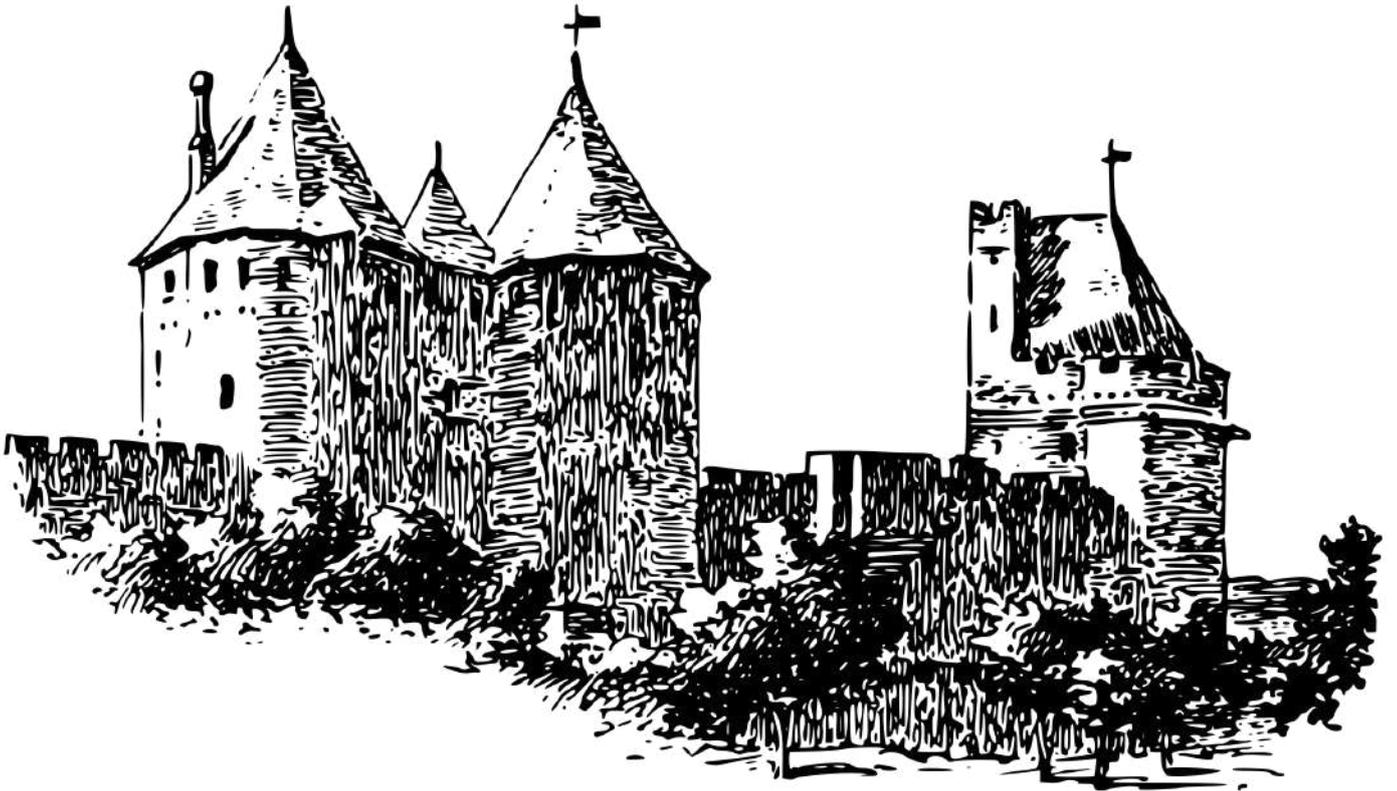
The ruins of the Roman castrum Arrubium are situated on the North-Western part of Măcin city. The fortress was first documented in 100 AD, being a part of Emperor Trajan's system of military settlements in order to attack the Dacian King Decebalus. The fortress ceased to function in the 8th century AD and in the 10th and 11th centuries, it was transformed into an early medieval settlement. Visitors can easily access the site from the town of Măcin, although there are no formal tour guides or information points available.

useful information

address:

Măcin commune, Tulcea County

website: <https://cetatea-arrubium.business.site> contact: +4 0340 100 311 note: the Arrubium Fortress does not have any visiting hours or guided tours included



DINOGEȚIA FORTRESS - GARVĂN



DINOGETIA FORTRESS - GARVĂN

Dinogetia is a Roman - Byzantine fortress located on a small island, near the Garvăn commune. The settlement benefited from a favorable natural position, located in the proximity of the Danube. The fortification was built by the Romans in the 2nd century AD, on a former Getae settlement. The fortress suffered considerable damage, and by the end of the 3rd century AD, it took the form of the Byzantine settlement we know today. Nowadays, the 3 meters thick wall, dating from the 6th century and formerly guarded by 14 towers, is kept. Inside the enclosing walls, travelers can see the ruins of a basilica, believed to be one of the oldest in the country. After the 1990 restorations, Dinogetia became an important tourist spot. At the moment, there are no formal guided tours of the archaeological remains, although they are accessible to travelers.

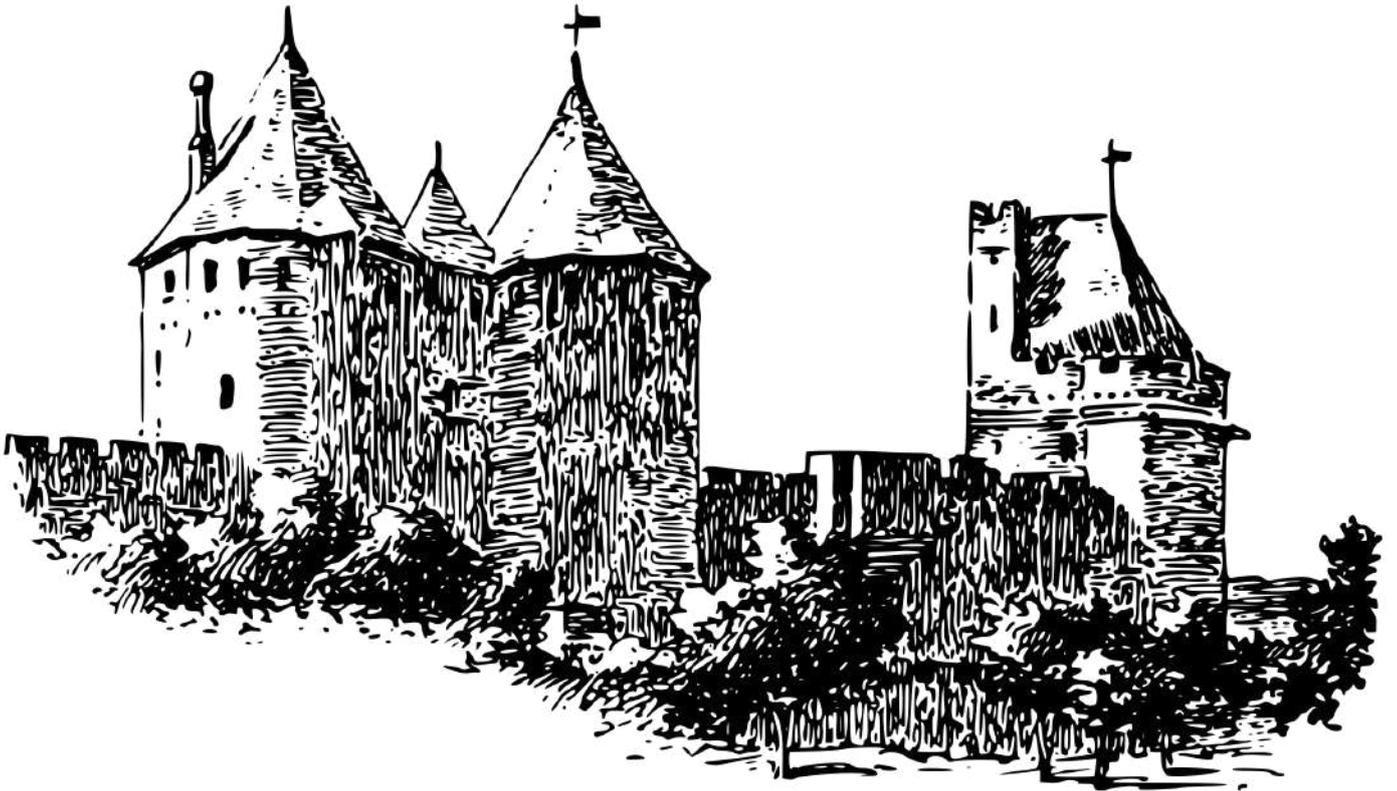
useful information

address:

Garvăn commune, Tulcea County

contact: + 4 0340 100 311 note:

the Dinogetia Fortress does not have any visiting hours or guided tours included



NOVIODUNUM FORTRESS - ISACCEA



NOVIODUNUM FORTRESS - ISACCEA

Although most of the archaeological material has not been excavated yet, tourists can still visit the Noviodunum fortress, located near the town of Isaccea. The geographical position of this settlement offered the Romans the possibility of supervision and control of the border of the entire Roman limes located North of the Danube. The late Roman fortress was surrounded by massive fortifications, including large, impressive towers. The inside of the area has not been uncovered yet, but a Christian basilica has been identified. Historical sources demonstrate the fact that the fortress was reused during the Byzantine era. Around the fortress, a large civil settlement and cemeteries with numerous graves have been found, which can be dated to the Roman and Late Roman periods, as well as the Byzantine era.

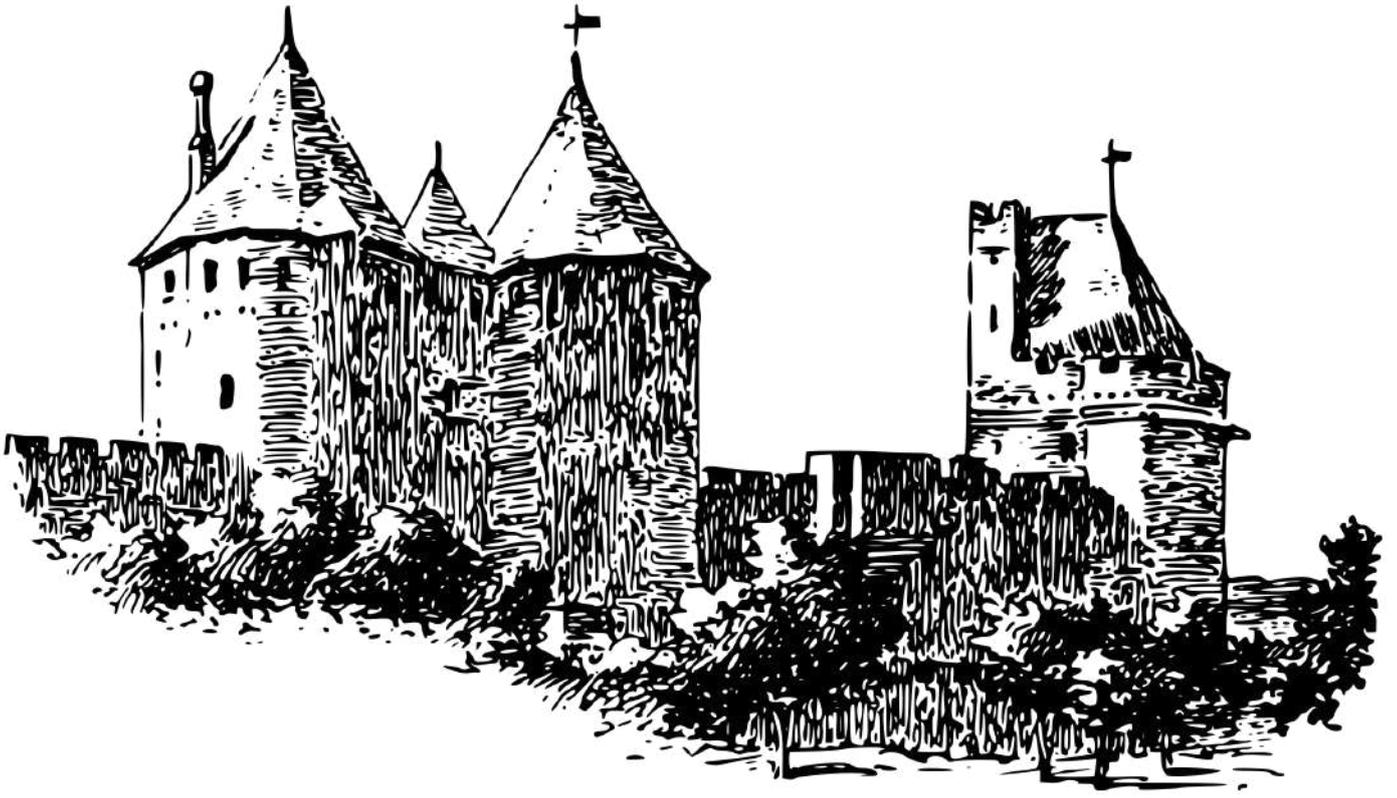
useful information

address: Isaccea commune, Tulcea County contact: +4 0340 100 311

website: www.noviodunum.ro

visiting dates and hours: May - September - 10:00 - 18:00

October - April - 08:00 - 16:00 Closed on Mondays



AEGYSSUS - TULCEA



AEGYSSUS - TULCEA

Located on the Monument Hill in the North-Eastern section of Tulcea, the fortress was built at the end of the 4th century BC. Its name, of Celtic origin, derived from a legendary founder, Casprios Aegyssos. Reporting the events of the year 12 AD, when the town was attacked by the Getae, Ovidius called it the attribute uetus urbs (old town). At the beginning of 2nd century, the town was included in the Danubian limes (boundary). Then, starting with the 3rd century, it became an important military headquarters. The 6th century finds it as an episcopal residence. Urban life knows an end in the first quarter of the 7th century and a revival in the 10th and 11th centuries. Currently, on the Monument Hill, several archaeological complexes from the late Roman epoch can be visited.

useful information

address:

1bis, 14 Noiembrie Street, Tulcea Municipality, Tulcea County

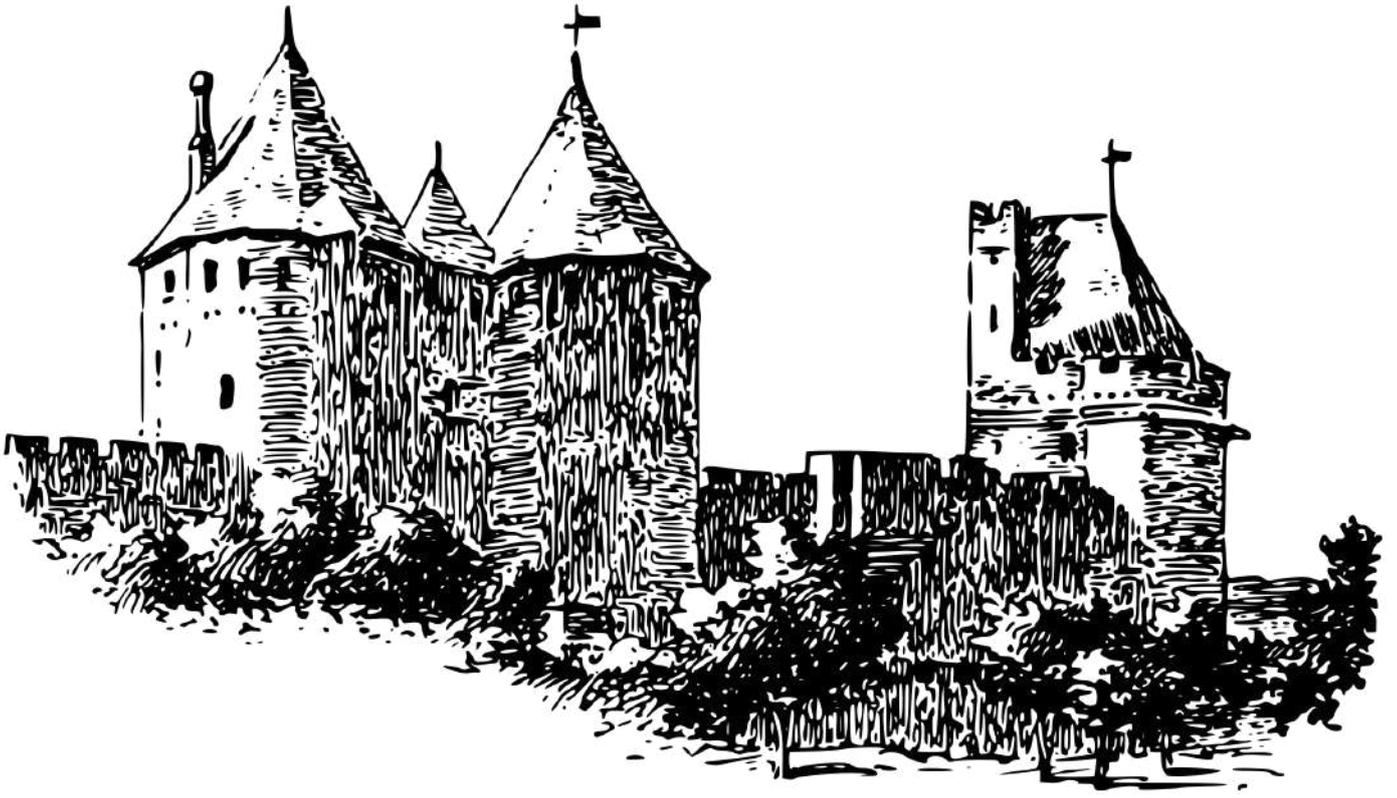
contact: +4 0340 105 652; email: relatiipublice@icemtl.ro

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-deistorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>

visiting dates and hours: Tuesday - Sunday - 08:00 - 16:00

Last entry - 15:30

Closed on Mondays



HALMYRIS -MURIGHIOL



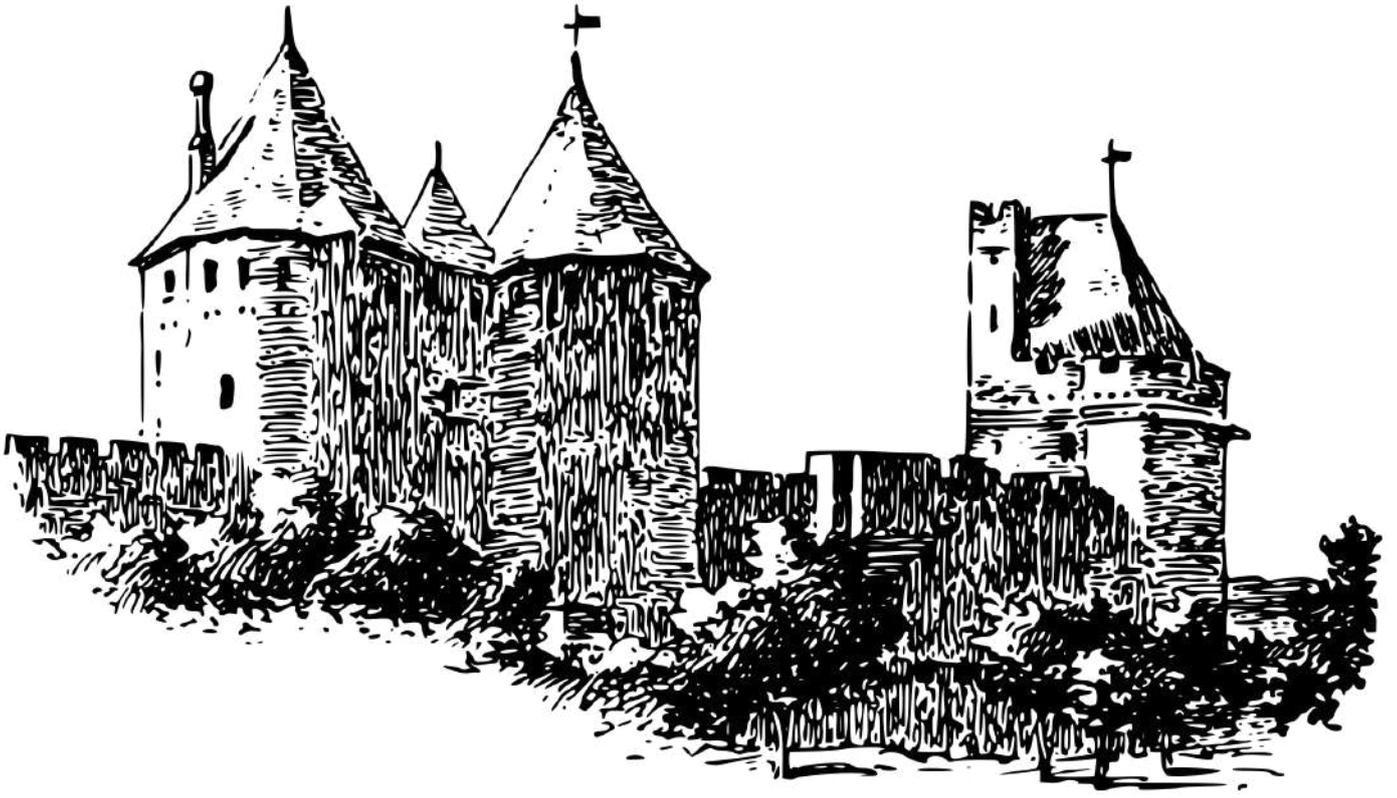
HALMYRIS -MURIGHIOL

Halmyris has been shaped by more than 1,500 years of history, as multiple civilizations once ruled the point where the Danube River poured into the Black Sea. Halmyris was one of the most important military, civilian, economic and religious centers in the region throughout antiquity. Today Halmyris sits in the oasis of natural beauty that is the Danube Delta, a site of local tourism, religious pilgrimage, and archaeological exploration. Archaeological sources show that the first stone castrum at Halmyris was built during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. Although the original layout of the Trajanic fortress is largely covered by later reconstructive phases, the plan seems to follow the typical 2nd century layout of a Roman fort, composed of a rectangular defensive wall, rectangular towers and a gate on each side. Structures found within the establishment include numerous barracks, a private thermae or bathhouse and a basilica. Tourists can visit the ruins of the citadel driving from Murighiol towards Dunavățul de Sus, near the Sfântu Gheorghe (Saint George) branch of the Danube Delta.

useful information

address: Murighiol commune, Tulcea County email: relatiipublice@icemtl.ro

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/halmyris-en/>



ENISALA FORTRESS



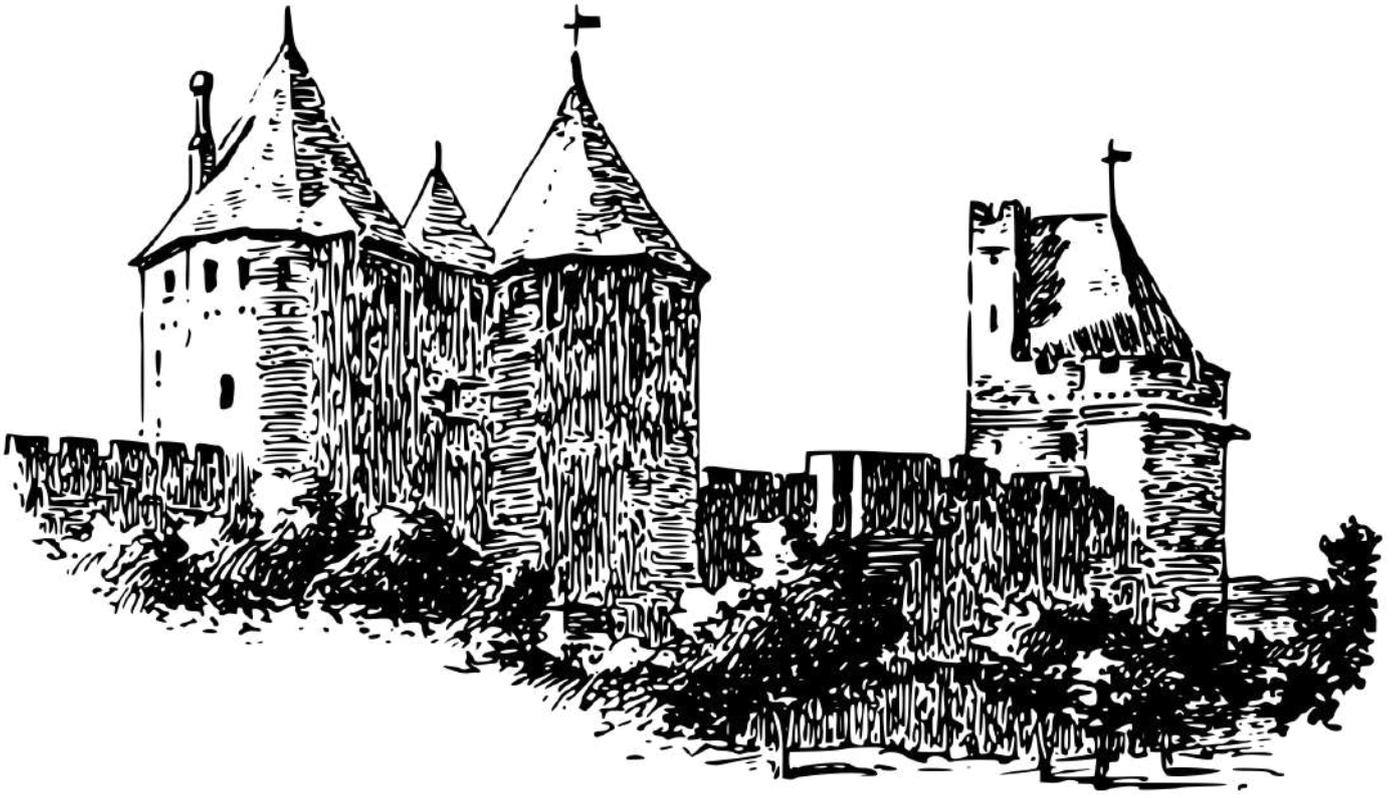
ENISALA FORTRESS

The Enisala Fortress is one of the monuments of military architecture on the territory of Romania, built in the Middle Ages. The fortification was built in the second half of the 14th century by an authority targeting the Danube Gorge area. Archaeological sources indicate that Enisala was part of the chain of Genoese colonies that includes the cities of Delta - Chilia and Likostomion, the White Fortress at the mouths of the Dniester, Caffa in the South of Crimea. Between 1397-1416 the fortress of Enisala was part of the defensive system of the Romanian country during the reign of Mircea cel Bătrân. After the conquest of Dobruja by the Turks in 1419 -1420, an Ottoman military garrison was installed in the fortress. Tourists can enter the fortress on its Southern side, through a gate with a very high opening, provided with a double arch and protected by a massive pentagonal bastion. Coming from Murighiol, tourists can take the DJ222 road to Enisala commune.

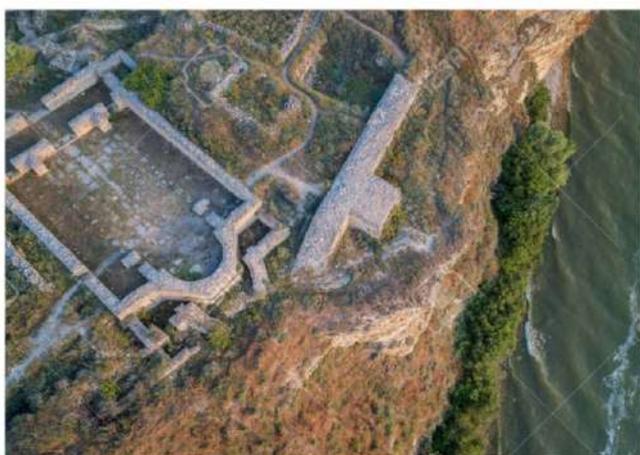
useful information

address: Enisala commune, Tulcea County

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/enisala-medievalfortress/>



ARGAMUM FORTRESS - JURILOVCA COMMUNE

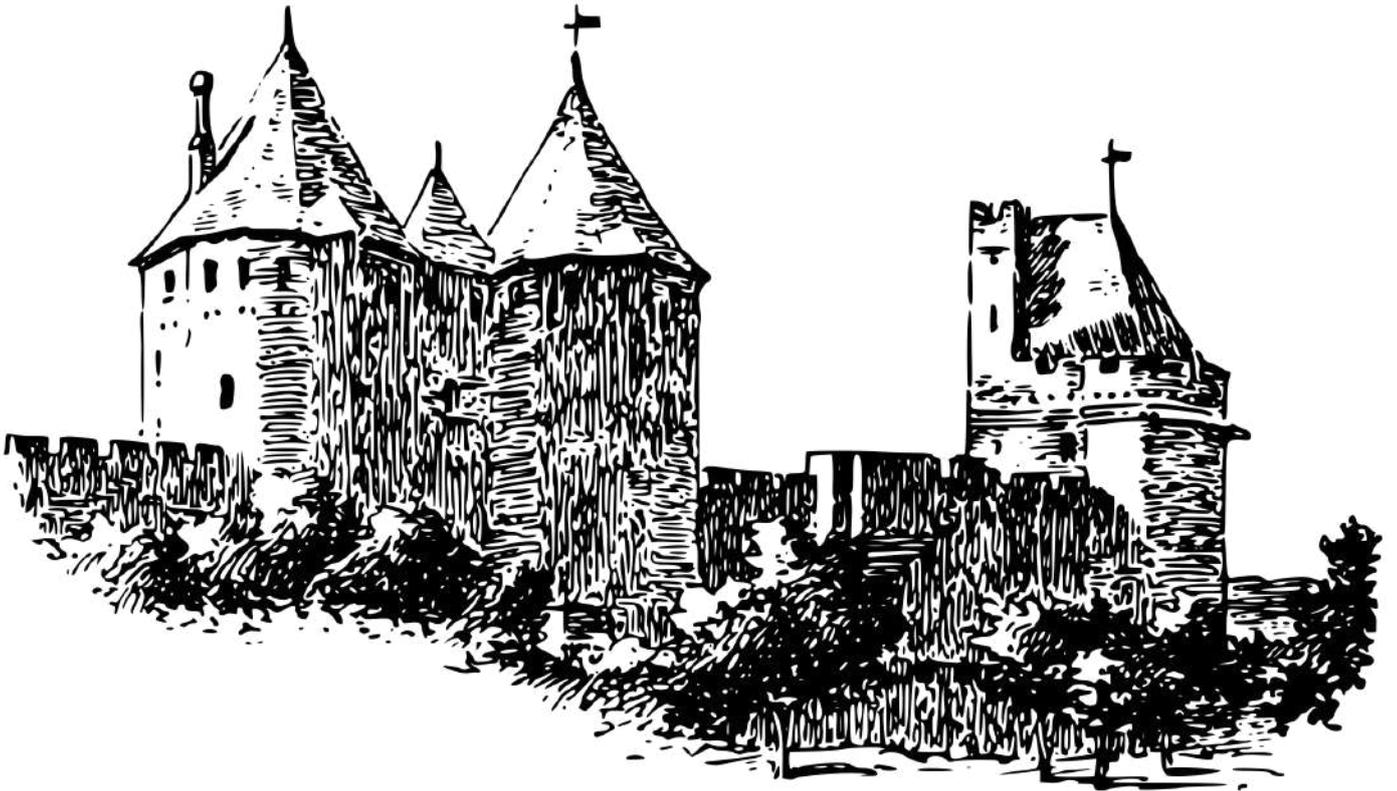


ARGAMUM FORTRESS - JURILOVCA COMMUNE

One of the oldest Greek settlements on the territory of Dobrudja, Romania, Fortress Argamum, originally named Orgame, was founded by Greek colonists from Asia Minor, sometime in the 7th century BC, to protect the gulf beneath the Doloşman Cape that offered shelter for boats during storms. The fortress was built on what was formerly the Black Sea: Doloşman Cape and today Razim Goloviţa bank, which is part of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, in Tulcea County. In the Roman period, the fortress was named Argamum and many noticeable archaeological discoveries date from this time. The Fortress of Argamum stretches over 2 and a half hectares but the archaeological site's surface is much larger. There important relics were discovered like trade coins, bronze arrowheads, bronze shaped dolphins, glassware, pottery tools, bone and metal ornaments and clothing items. However, most of the city is still underground.

useful information

address: Jurilovca commune, Tulcea County



IBIDA FORTRESS - SLAVA RUSĂ VILLAGE

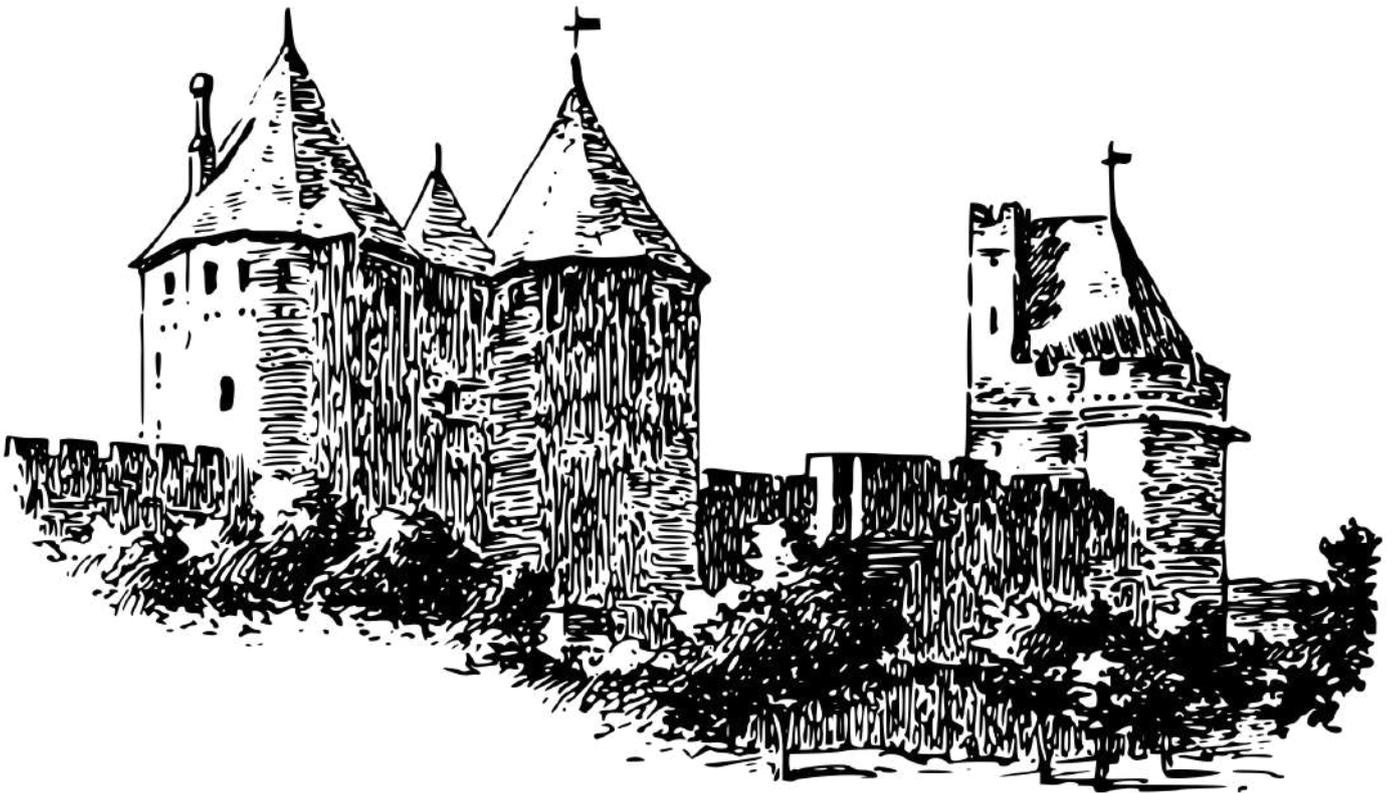


IBIDA FORTRESS - SLAVA RUSĂ VILLAGE

Expanding over 24 hectares, the fortress is located on the Western edge of the Slava Rusă village, on the valley of the Slava river, being the only fortress whose fortified space is crossed by a watercourse and presents works of embankment, sewerage, bridges. Currently, the fortress is covered more than half by the village. The archaeological site is very complex, the archaeological research carried out sporadically has led to the identification of archaeological remains and traces from the Middle Paleolithic, Neolithic, from the Roman, Roman-Byzantine and early medieval times. In the center of the fortress there was discovered a basilica with 3 ships and 3 apses, 7 levels of living. 2.5 km West of the fortress was discovered a PaleoChristian monastic complex and 2.5 km East of the fortress was discovered a Gothic settlement with a wave and groove.

In 2001, the archaeological research carried out revealed the entire Western Gate, considered to be the most important discovery, representing a defense and access device in the fortress. Unfortunately, the site does not offer guided tours on a regular basis.

useful information address: Slava Rusă village, Tulcea County



HISTRIA FORTRESS - ISTRIA COMMUNE

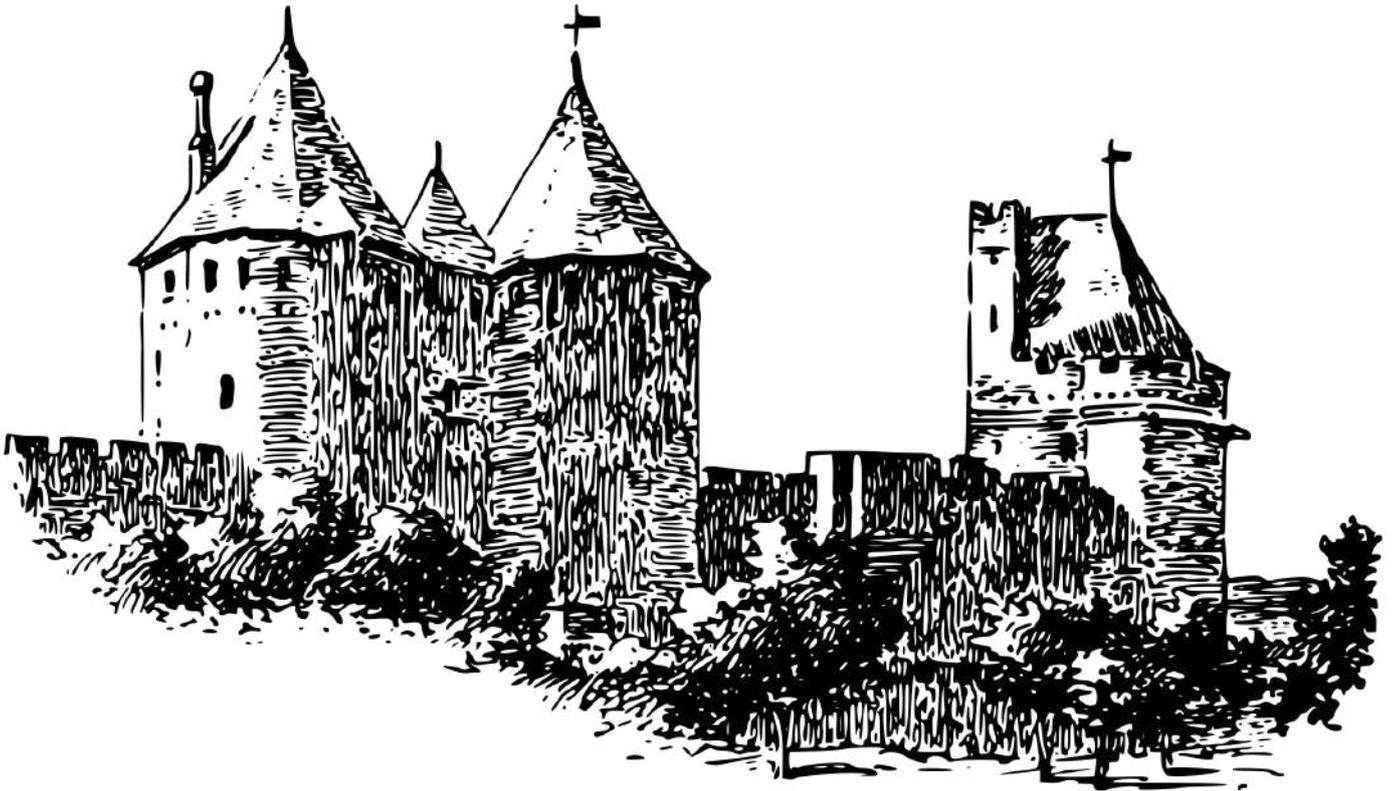


HISTRIA FORTRESS - ISTRIA COMMUNE

Located on the shore of Lake Sinoe, the Fortress of Histria is the first Greek colony on the western shore of the Black Sea and the oldest city on the Romanian territory. It was founded in the 7th century BC by Greek merchants and navigators, and permanently abandoned in the 7th century AD. The city of Histria has had an uninterrupted development in both the Greek and in the Roman period, being for a long time the most important economic center at the mouths of the Danube. The settlement was surrounded by defense walls, the water supply was made through pipes and the streets were paved with stone. Unfortunately, the Gulf of Halmyris on the bank of which the settlement is located begins to collapse with sand, closing the direct exit to the Black Sea. The fortress of Histria will be definitively abandoned after invasions that destroyed a large part of the settlement. The preserved ruins of Greek temples in the sacred area, paved streets and neighborhoods of Roman houses or workshops, civil and Christian basilicas and, in the center of the city, one of the largest Christian basilicas in the region, dating from 6th century AD can all be seen on the site.

useful information

address: Istria commune, Constanța County



HISTRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
- ISTRIA COMMUNE



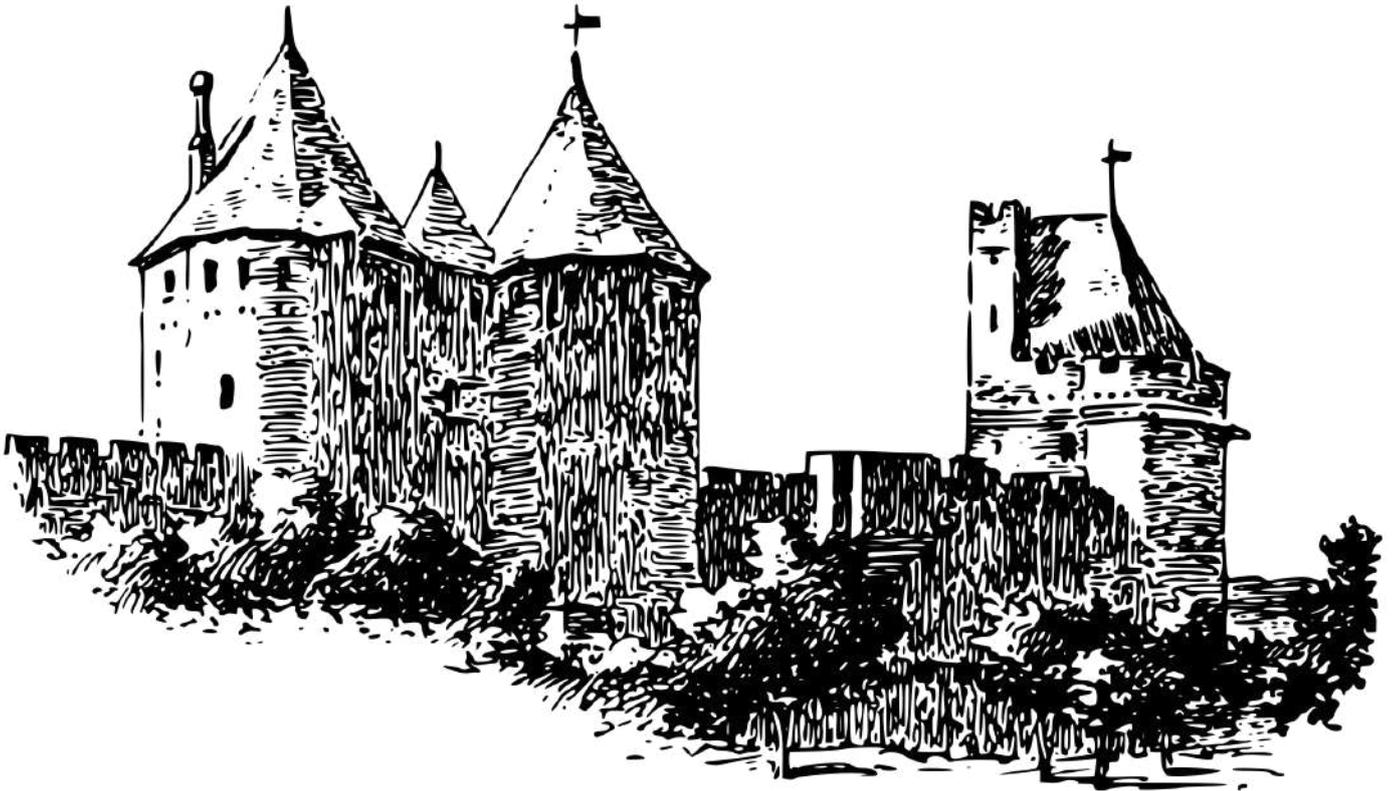
HISTRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - ISTRIA COMMUNE

Founded in 1982, under the authority of the Museum useful information of National History and Archaeology in Constanța, in a new building, the museum displays pieces of Greek, Roman and Byzantine archaeology, revealed by the excavations of Histria and its surroundings: amphorae, inscriptions, pottery, glassware, ornaments, Hellenistic bas-reliefs and others.

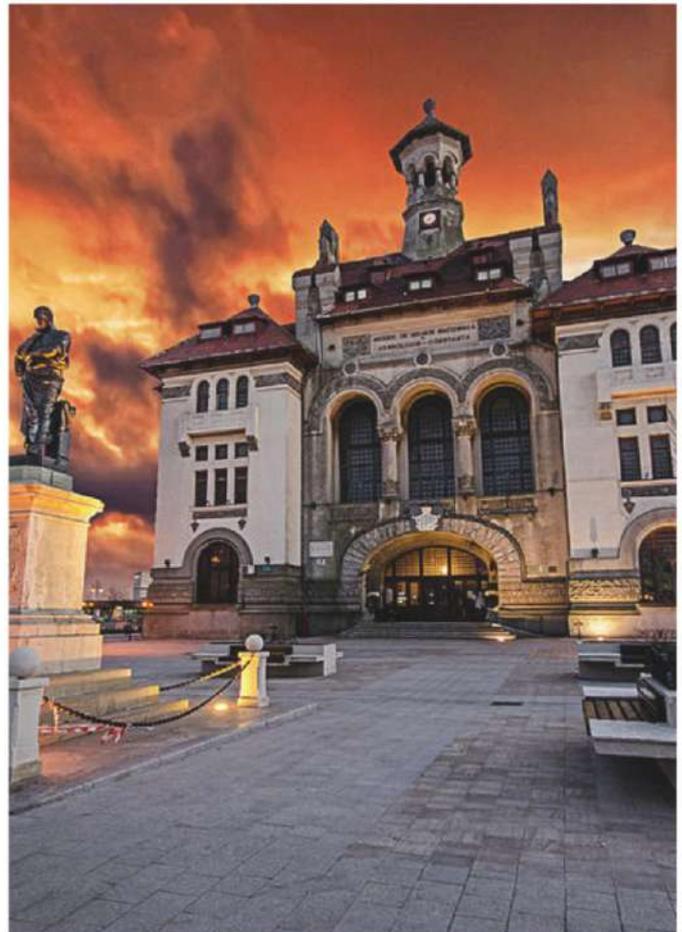
useful information

address: Istria commune, Constanța

website: <http://www.cimec.ro> bas-reliefs and others. visiting hours:
09:00 - 20:00 (during the summer) 09:00 - 17:00 (during the winter)



MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY - CONSTANȚA



MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY - CONSTANȚA

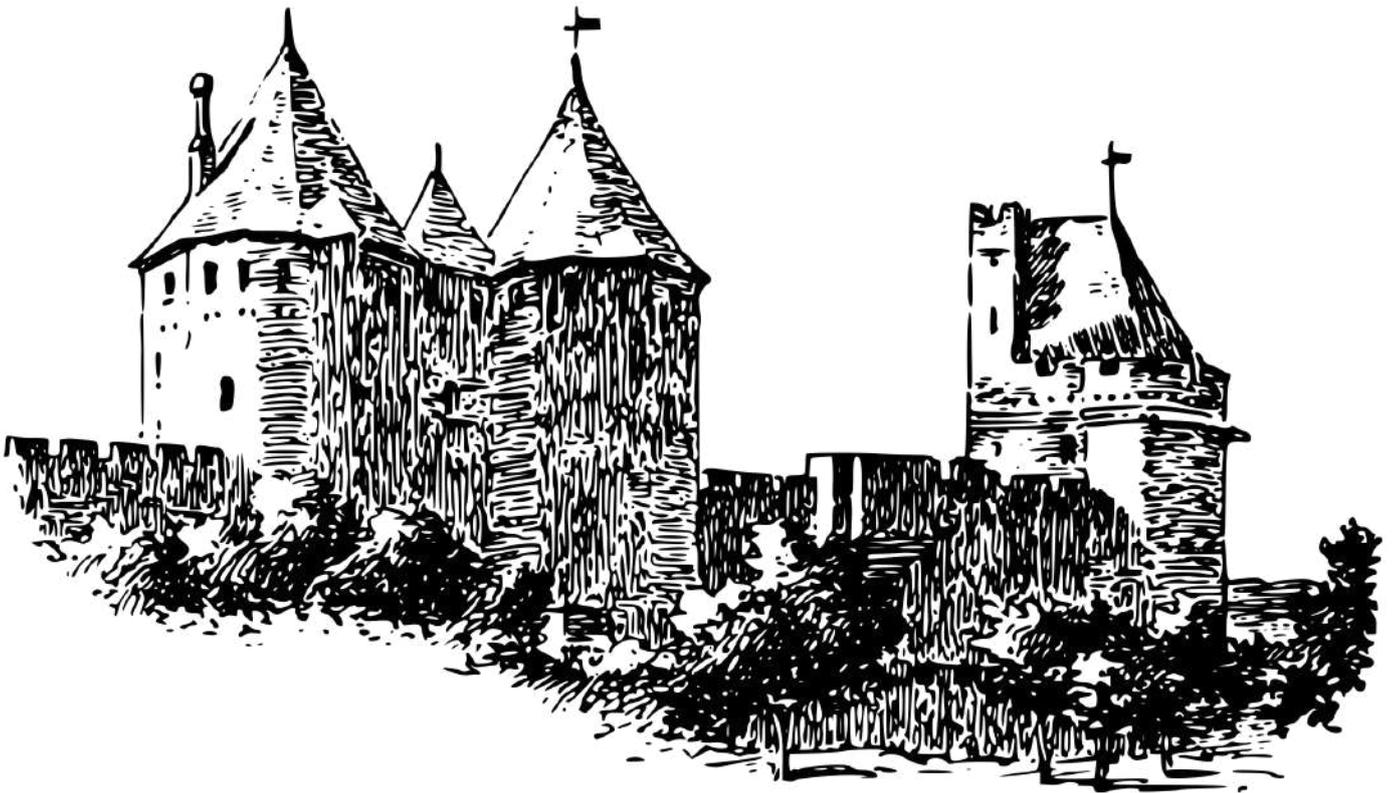
The Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța is one of the richest museums in Romania. It houses objects of Greek, Romanian, Byzantine and medieval origin (tools and weapons made of stone, bronze and iron), ceramics, ancient architectural elements (columns, capitals, pediments, decorations, etc.), ancient sculptures, glass vessels, statues made of bronze, jewelry, numismatics (the collection includes silver, bronze and gold coins, some of them being unique), and so on. At the ground floor of the museum there are two rooms where archaeological monuments of special value, rarities and unique pieces are displayed: Glykon snake, Fortuna statuary group with Pontos, Aedicula with the double representation of the goddess Nemesis - one of the most remarkable pieces of the Museum (2nd century AD), collections of gold ornaments, stones and cameos, the treasure chest of silver vessels Sucidava - Izvoarele, etc.

useful information

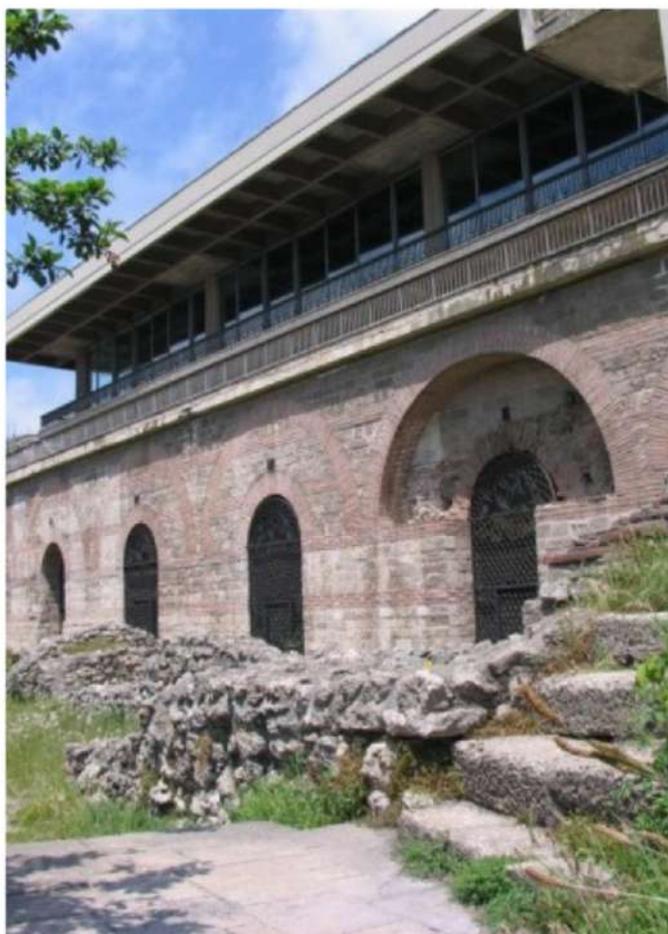
address: 12, Ovidiu Square, Constanța, Constanța County

contact: minaconstanta@gmail.com +4 0241 614 583 /+4 0241 618 763

website: <http://www.minac.ro>



ROMAN BUILDING WITH MOSAIC
- CONSTANȚA



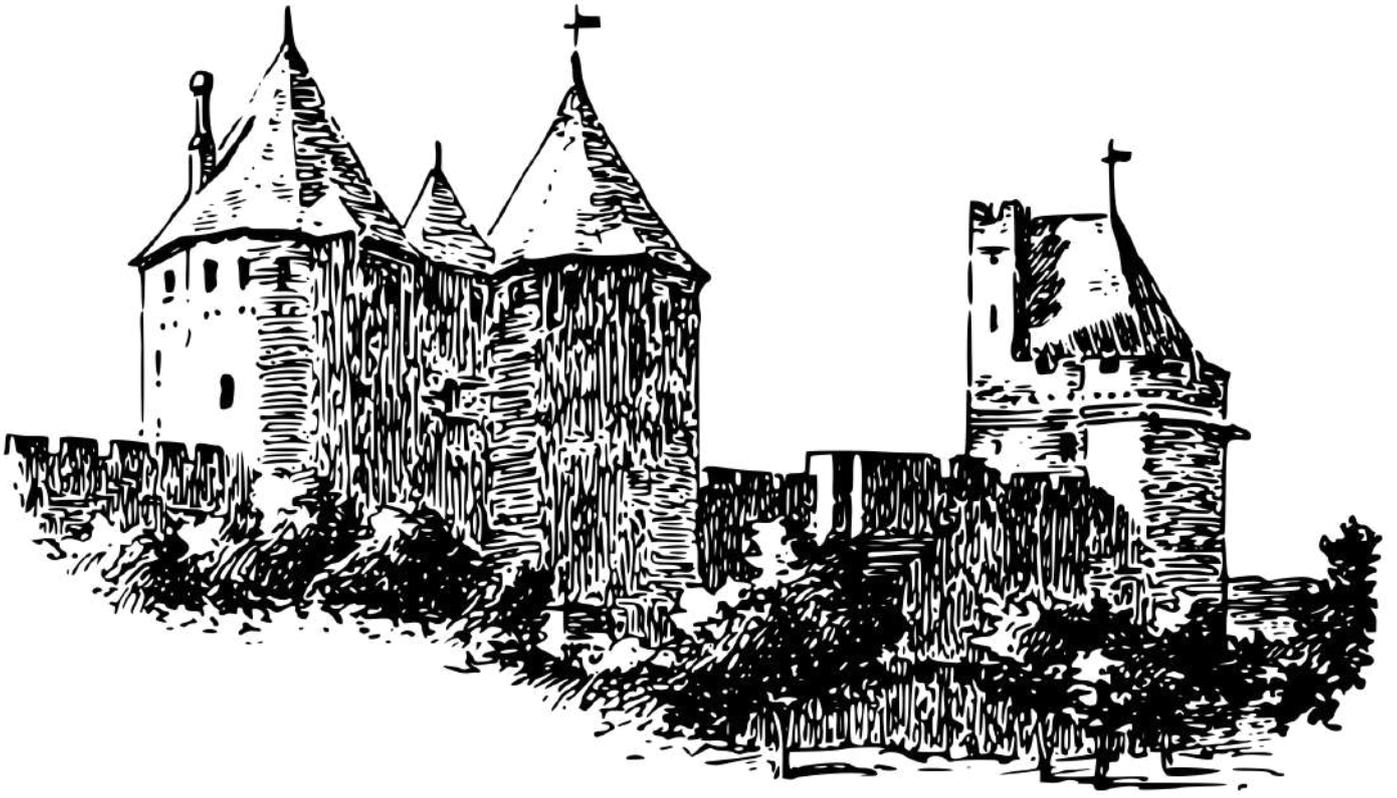
ROMAN BUILDING WITH MOSAIC - CONSTANȚA

Constructed between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, the building represents an architectural jewel of the early Byzantine period West of the Pontus Euxin. The imposing construction was carried out in Antiquity on 3 terraces, cut in the slope of the cliff and leveled to ensure the stability of the construction. It was located right on the docks of the old Tomitan harbor, from where it opened its first suite of rooms. It contained 11 vaulted rooms used as warehouses for the merchandise brought by the commercial ships that docked in the port. The feature which gave the building its name, as we know it today, the mosaic carpet was spread over the entire surface of the room. The portion that sat on the sloping terrace was the best kept, and the part above the 11 rooms on the lower level collapsed with their vaults, seizing the goods stored there. Some of the collapsed pieces could be recovered. The Roman Building with Mosaic is part of the Museum of History and Archaeology Constanța and can be visited, both during the summer and the winter season.

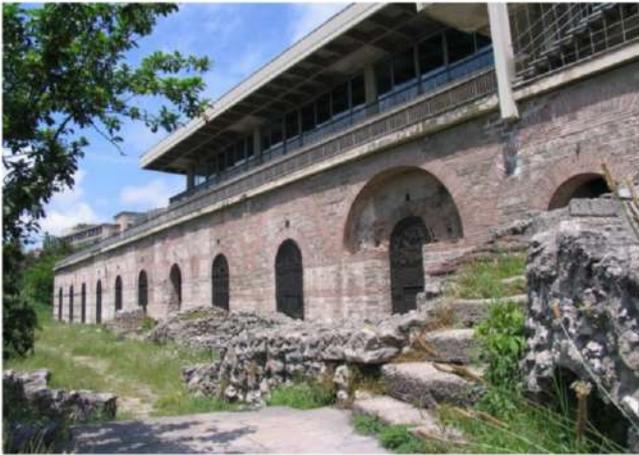
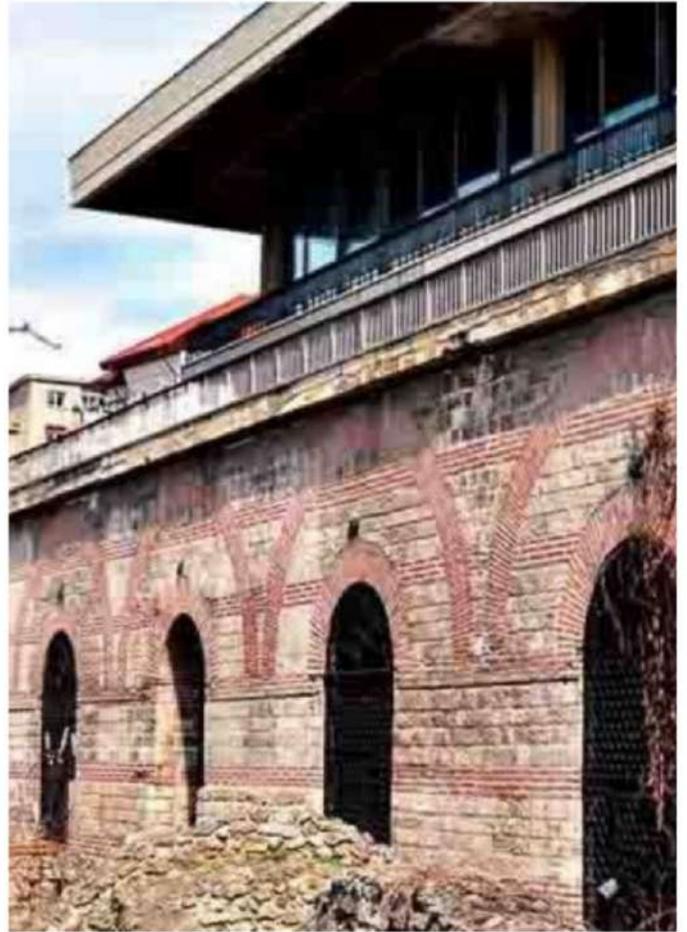
useful information

address: 12, Ovidiu Square, Constanța, Constanța County

website: <http://www.minac.ro>



ROMAN THERMAE - CONSTANȚA



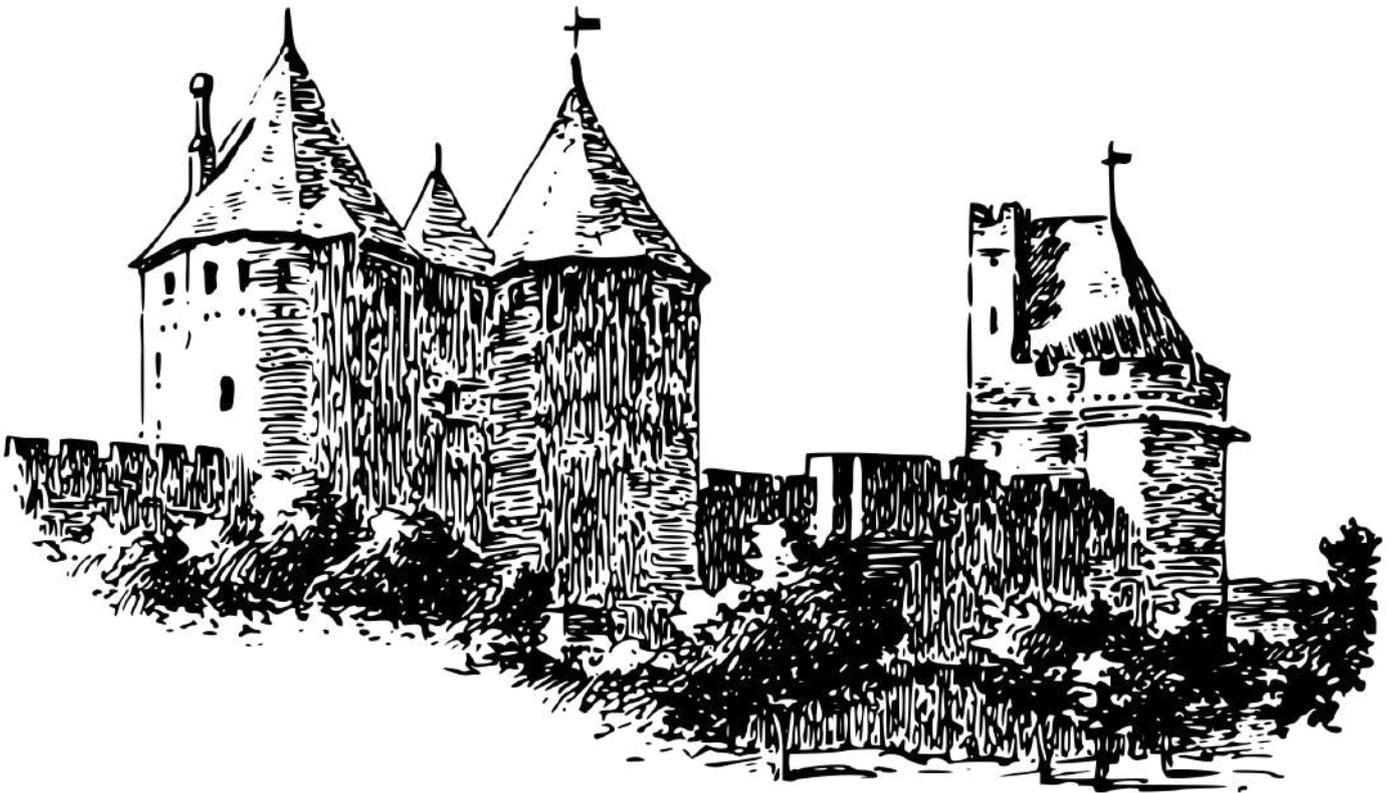
ROMAN THERMAE - CONSTANȚA

Towards the Southern part of the city's seafront, the remains of an ancient building, known as Lentiaron, were partially discovered by researchers in 1964. Due to the nature of the constructive material and the architectural style, it was proved that the building represented the public baths, which were closely linked to the Building with Mosaic, possibly representing a Southern extension of it. The main hall of the building and a vestibule, provided with a connecting staircase between the building and the rest of the city, were the only remains preserved from the complex. The imposing thermal building from the ancient city Tomis is relatively unknown, with many rooms and compartments specific to the baths still being hidden in the ground below the city's seafront. However, the dimensions of the cleared rooms allow the imaginary reconstruction of the monumental architectural proportions of the building, most probably raised during the same period as the Roman Building with Mosaic.

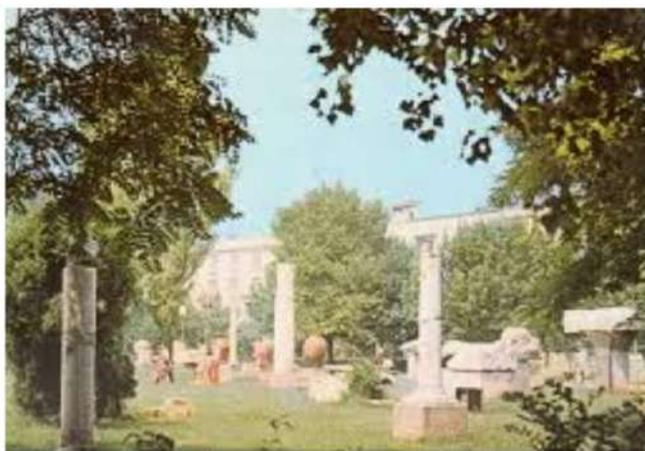
useful information

address: Profesor Doctor Ion Cantacuzino Street, Constanța, Constanța County

website: <http://www.minac.ro>



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK AND MOSAIC
MAP OF ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS
IN DOBRUDJA - CONSTANȚA

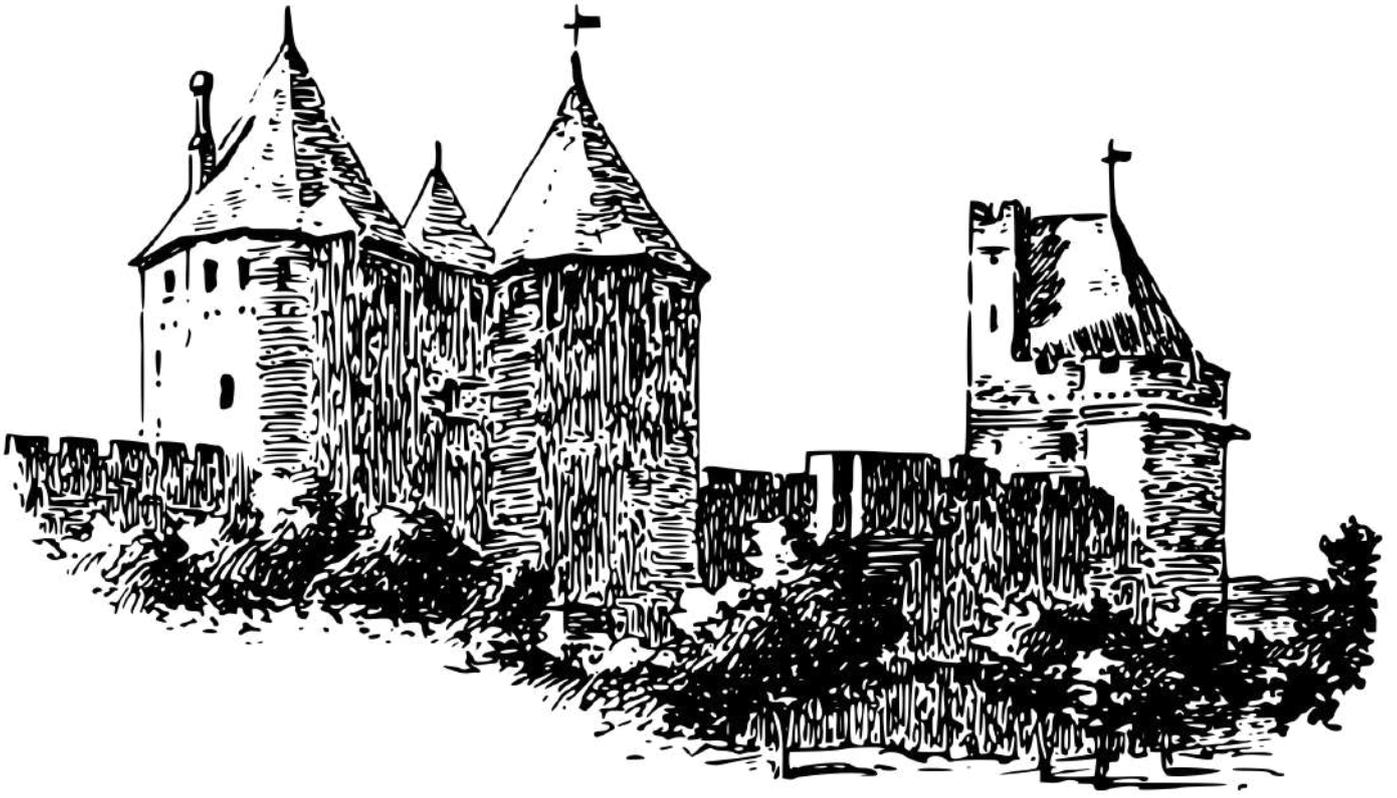


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK AND MOSAIC MAP OF ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS IN DOBRUDJA - CONSTANȚA

Located in the peninsular area of the city, the side of the park from Ferdinand Boulevard is still bordered by the Roman enclosure wall, a construction dating from the 3rd century AD, which has 2 entrance gates to the fortress. Also here tourists can see the remains of the Butcher's Tower, rebuilt during the Justinian period, a series of other architectural fragments of the ancient Tomis, as well as objects such as amphorae, columns etc. On the wall of the building at the Eastern end of the park, tourists can see the map of the ancient settlements in Dobrudja, an objective realized on a large scale and made of natural stone.

useful information

adress: Arhiepiscopiei Street, Constanța, Constanța County



HYPOGEUM TOMB - CONSTANȚA

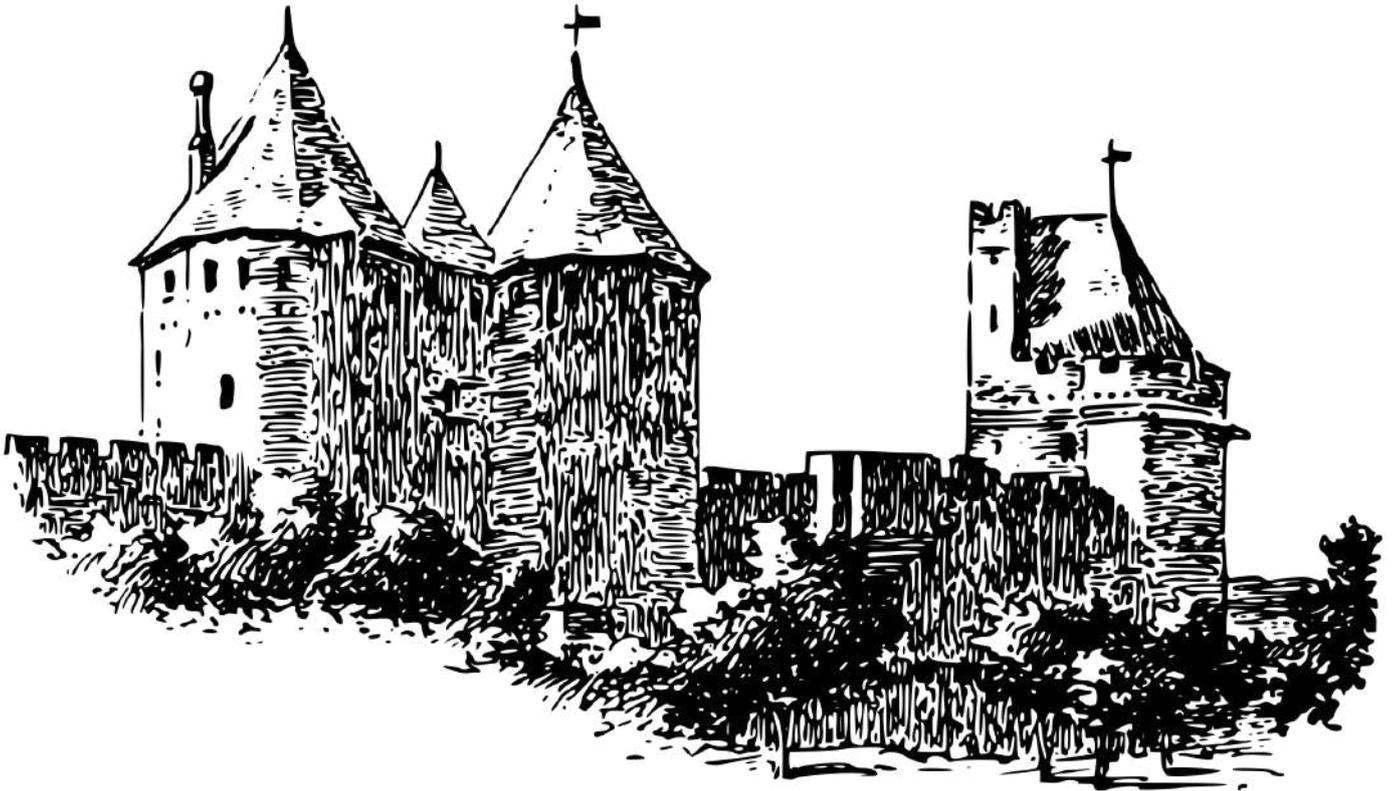


HYPOGEUM TOMB - CONSTANȚA

Located at the intersection of Mircea cel Bătrân and Ștefan cel Mare streets, at a short distance from the Black Sea shore, The Hypogeum Tomb or “The Banquet” is unique in the ancient landscape of Dobrudja, being part of a large necropolis of Tomis. It is a family cave like tomb, built around 330. Inside the tomb, 5 skeletons have been discovered, 4 adults and a child. The cave is decorated entirely with a paint applied al-seco, on a layer of fine plaster. Thus, on the surface of the Northern wall there is a fresco marked by powerful symbolism, representing a celestial ritual mass, fact revealed by the glasses held by 2 of the deceased, probably husband and wife. The drawings made researchers believe that the tomb was erected at the border of 2 different periods: Roman and Byzantine, but also at the border between the last remains of paganism and the dawn of a Monotheistic religion. The cave is not open to the public, but a high-fidelity copy can be viewed at the Museum of National History and Archeology in Constanța.

useful information

note: the tomb is not accessible to tourists, however, a 3D reconstruction of it can be found at the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța.



CALLATIS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY
- MANGALIA

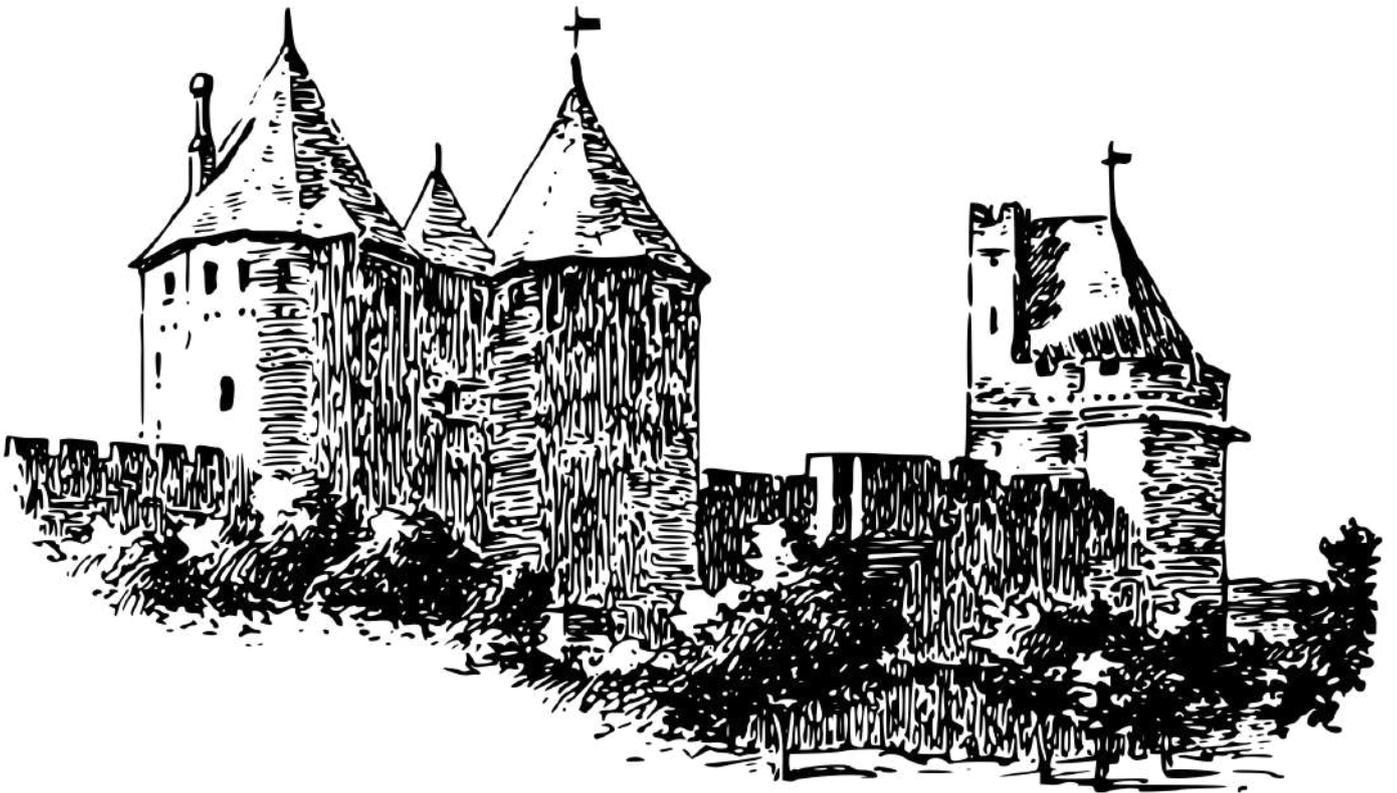


CALLATIS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY - MANGALIA

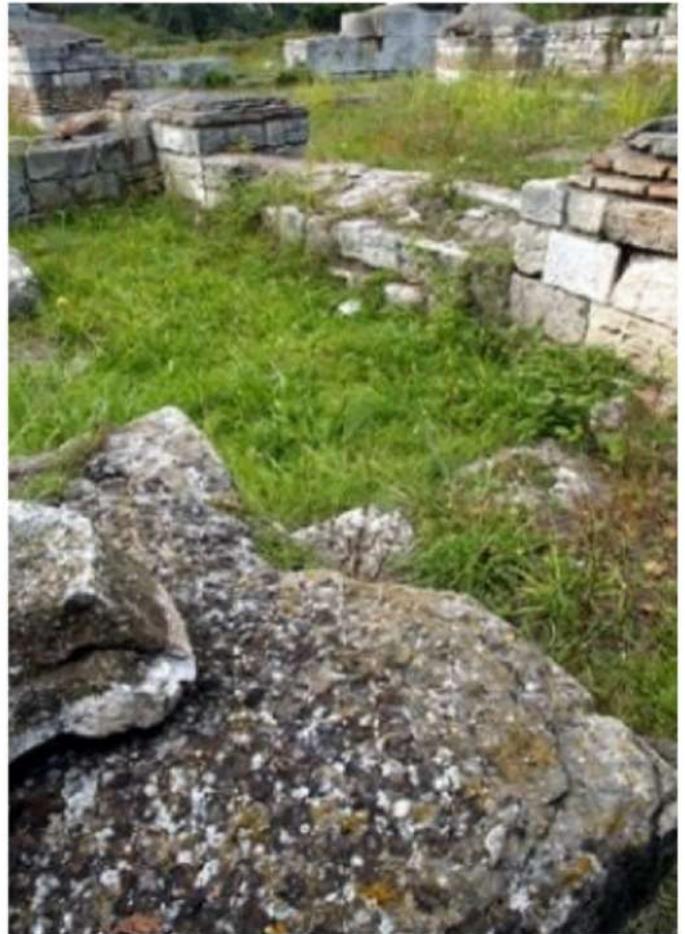
The Callatis Mangalia Archeology Museum offers a varied cultural offer to the visiting public. In the permanent exhibition of the museum, the public can notice numerous architectural fragments (columns, capitels, architraves, metope friezes, cornices with buckles, etc.), various ceramic vessels (amphorae, hydri, kantharos, lekythos), opaques, aqueducts, Tanagra statues, glass vases, funerary stars, inscriptions, representations of some deities, ornaments, jewelry, coins, metal objects, etc. Entering the museum, visitors can see the famous papyrus tomb, dating from the 4th century BC, researched in 1959, restored and preserved in the museum's basic exhibition. The tomb had been covered with 3 stone slabs, and inside it was found a papyrus written in Greek. The tomb was surrounded by a stone ring that can be seen even today. Papyrus is the only such artifact found in Romania and is the oldest in Europe.

useful information

address: 23, Constanța Road, Mangalia, Constanța County



CALLATIS FORTRESS RUINS - MANGALIA



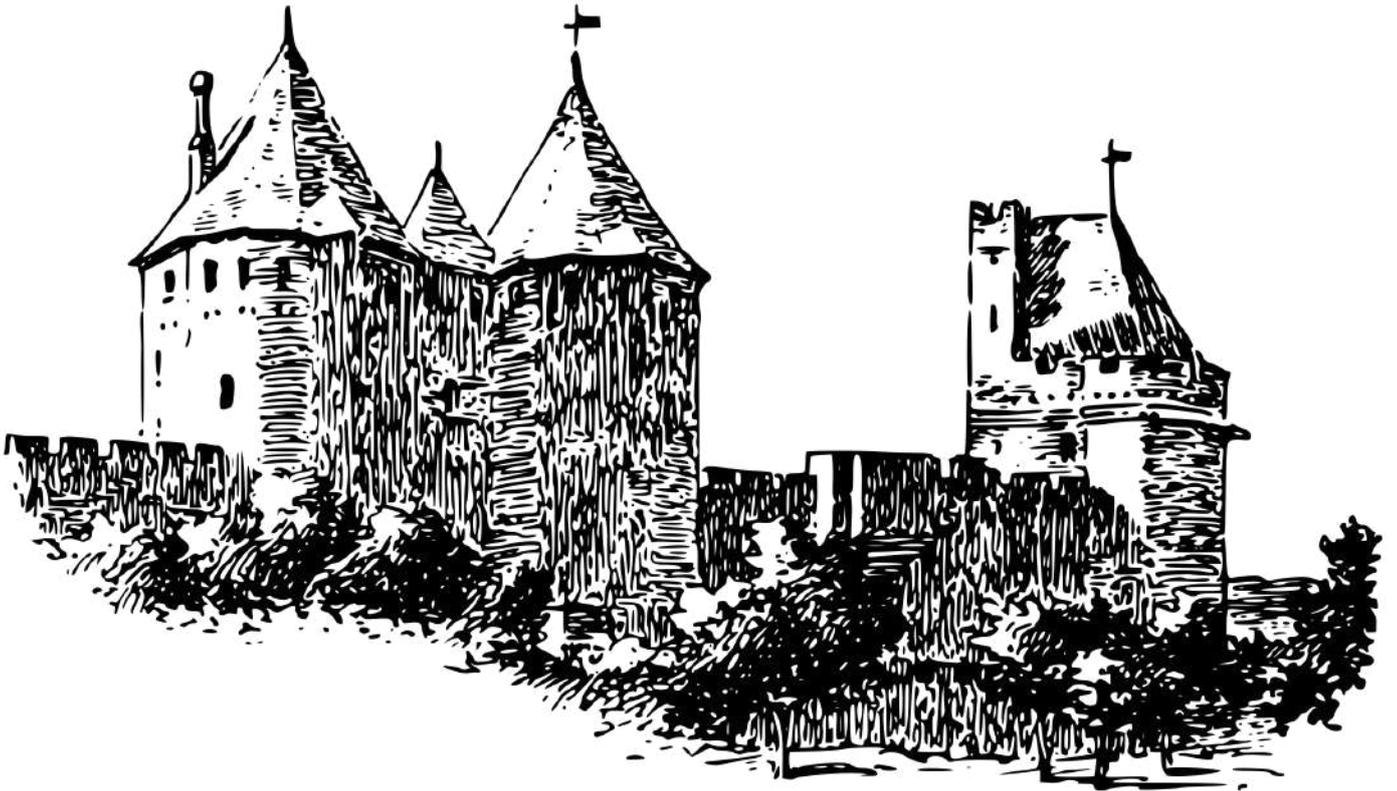
CALLATIS FORTRESS RUINS - MANGALIA

The ruins of the ancient fortress can be seen in different parts of the contemporary city. The most notable sites represent the North-Western and the Northern part of the Doric fortress. Near the Museum of Archaeology, towards the center of the city, tourists can take glimpses of the old defensive North-Western tower, and of the ancient columns and various architectural fragments, as well as sarcophagi from the Roman period. Another important archaeological monument is the Northern wall of Callatis. The defense wall surrounded the most important surface of the Hellenic city. The ancient fortress had 2 enclosures: the first - built at the end of the 4th century BC, and the second, in the 2nd century AD. The wall protected the main buildings of the city (temples, markets, public and private buildings).

useful information

address:

50, Constanța Road, Mangalia (the NorthWestern part of the ancient city)



THE ROMAN BYZANTINE NECROPOLIS
- MANGALIA

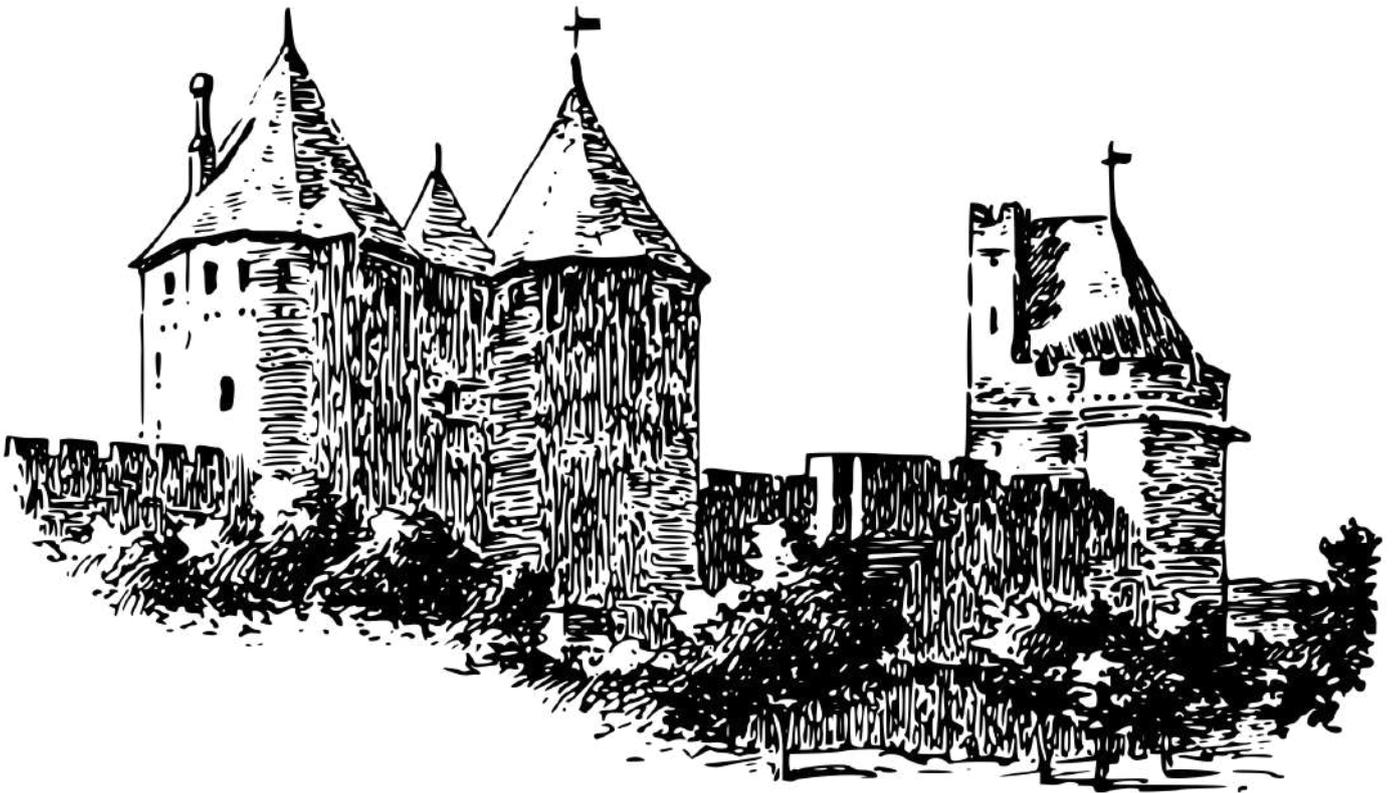


THE ROMAN BYZANTINE NECROPOLIS - MANGALIA

The Roman-Byzantine necropolis (built in the 4th-5th century AD) is located in the Western part of Mangalia. As a result of several years of archaeological excavations, the Roman-Byzantine necropolis of Callatis continues to reveal funerary monuments, which confirm an intense spiritual life in the Callatis fortress. The most important discovery in the region is the tomb painted with psalms. The access passage to it is covered with 3 limestone slabs and from the level of the last step, the ceiling is vaulted and plastered with the same material used in the funeral room. Above the entrance, as well as on the side walls of the dromedary, different inscriptions and a cross are painted with red paint.

useful information

note: the actual archaeological site is not accessible to tourists, however, for more details regarding the necropolis, tourists can contact the Callatis Archaeology Museum.



THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT OF ALBEȘTI



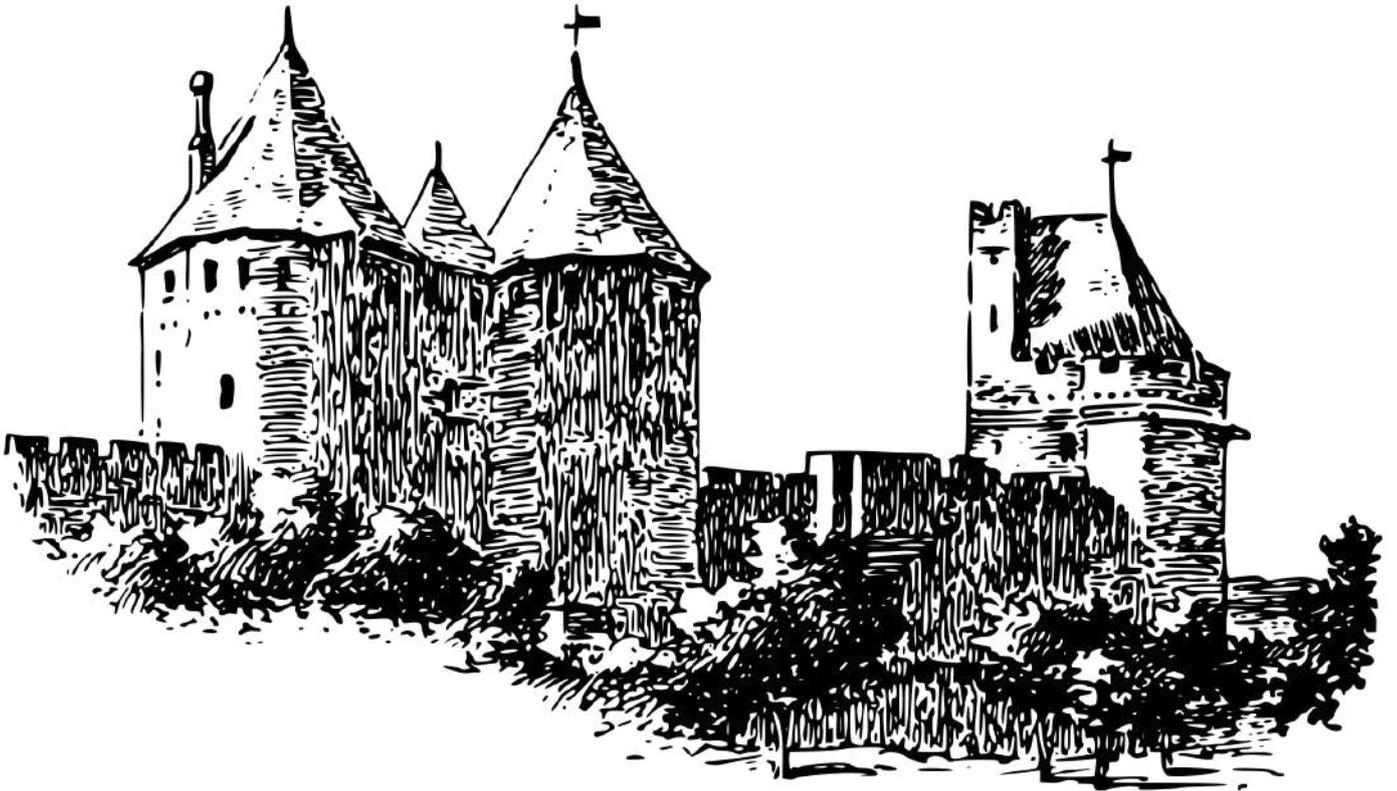
THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT OF ALBEȘTI

The fortified settlement of Albești is located in the Callatian territory, on its Western boundary and on the line of a traffic artery that ensures the connection between the settlements in the South-East of Dobrudja and those in the Danube area. It falls into the category of permanent fortifications, designated by the term *frurion*, with role in the defense and agricultural exploitation of the area. The proximity to Callatis, but especially the manner of building the enclosures, the quasi-urban character of the settlement and the preponderance of the Greek materials, support the idea of a Callatian creation. The other elements - Getic and possibly Scythian, identified by inventory objects and forms of their own spiritual manifestations, give the measure of the Greek-indigenous character of the settlement. Not as renowned as the other ancient fortification of Dobrudja, the road to the Albești settlement is a difficult one, once stirring away from the main road (it can also be accesible by car, but there is no main motorised road leading directly to the archaeological remains).

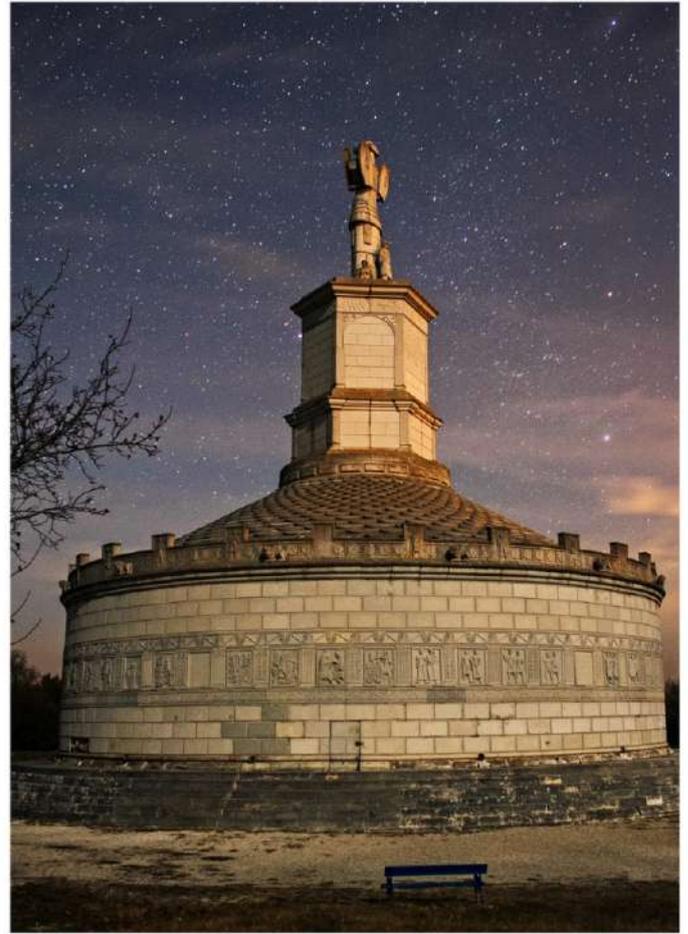
useful information

address: Albești commune, Constanța County

website: <http://www.minac.ro>



TROPÆUM TRAIANI
AND ADAMCLISI MUSEUM



TROPAEUM TRAIANI AND ADAMCLISI MUSEUM

The fortress of Adamclisi, located in the SouthWestern part of the village with the same name, at approximately 1,500 m from the triumphal monument, on the Urluia valley, was built at the orders of Emperor Trajan for the families of the veterans who participated in the Dacian wars (and is considered the largest Roman civil settlement in the territory of Dobrudja). The city was rebuilt in the 4th century AD and it witnessed another flourishing period during the 5th century, when it became an important religious centre. North-East of the settlement, about 1.5 km on the side road that runs from DN3 to the East of the village, a triumphal monument can be found. The triumphal monument from Adamclisi constitutes one of the most important monuments of Roman provincial art. It was rebuilt in 1977, according to one of the hypothetical models of the old ruined monument. On the same plateau, 250 m West-North-West from the monument, is the funeral altar dedicated to the approximately 3,800 Roman soldiers who fell on the battlefield. Moreover, the Adamclisi Museum contains archaeological remains discovered in the fortress of Tropaeum Traiani, at the monument (the original pieces) and in the immediate or further vicinity.

useful information

address: Adamclisi commune, Constanța County



Manavi Fortress-Complex



Manavi Fort ress-Complex

East of Tbilisi, 50-60 km to the left of the road, on the mountain slope, there is a fortress - called Manavi.

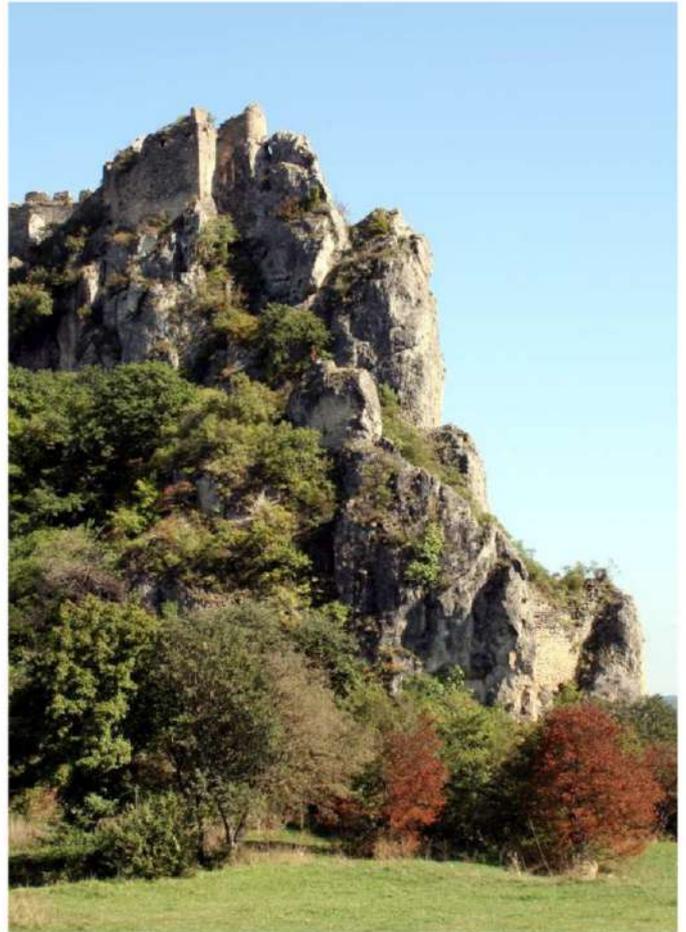
The old building layer of the castle dates back to the X-XI centuries, the new one is from the XVI -XVII century. It consists of two parts: the elevated place stands the citadel with the reservoir, the ruins of a large tower house, a small tower, an medium sized tower house; The ruins of a two -story building; The entrance was located from the north. From the fortress you can clearly see the surrounding environment. Currently, there are three churches on the territory of the fortress. Manavi Fortress was one of the centers of feudal Kakheti in recent centuries. The castle was distinguished by its strategic importance. It was erected on the top of a mountain, where it overlooks the valley and you can see up to almost 10 -15 km. From the beginning of the XVIII century, King David II of Kakheti made Manavi a residence and he ruled the country from there.

Useful information:

Address: Sagarejo Municipality Village Manavi



Castle-town Khornabuji



Castle-town Khornabuji

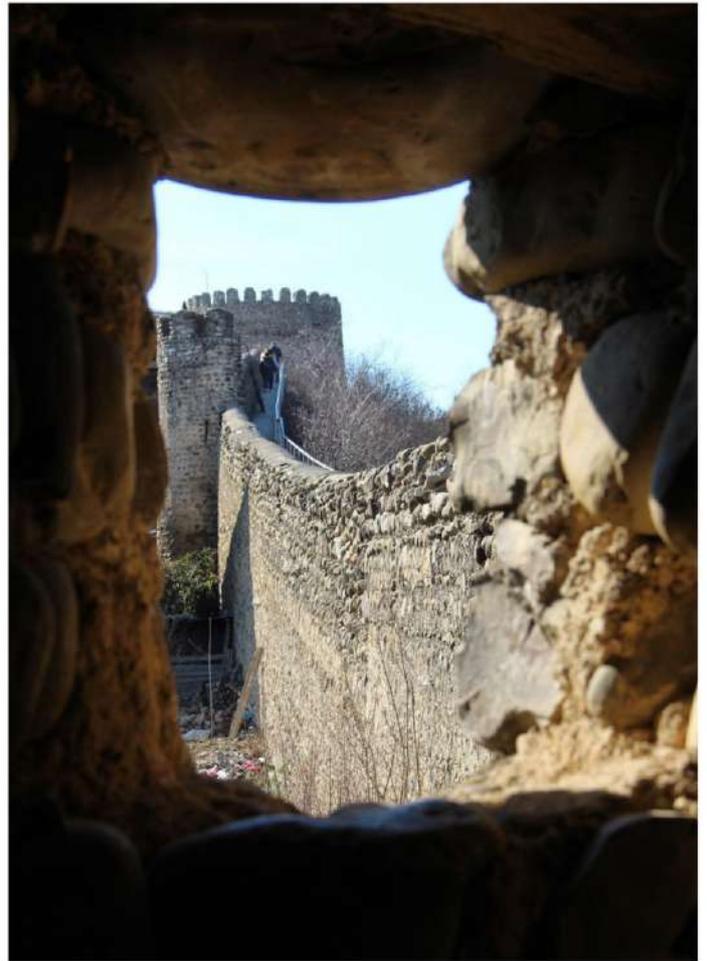
Castle-town Khornabuji was built in a strategically important place and controlled the fields of Iori and Alazani at the same time. Khornabuji means "support of the sun" in ancient Iranian. There is an opinion that the name of the ancient Georgian tribe is implied in this name. People call it Tamar Fortress. King Vakhtang Gorgasali founded the Episcopal Cathedral in the 5th century and declared it a princely estate. After the formation of the United Feudal Monarchy of Georgia (early 11th century), Khornabuji became the center of the region. On the outskirts of the country, where important trade routes passed, making it a strategic, cultural and military center.

Useful information:

Address: Located near the town of Dedoplistskaro.



Sighnaghi fortress-defensive wall



Sighnaghi fortress-defensive wall

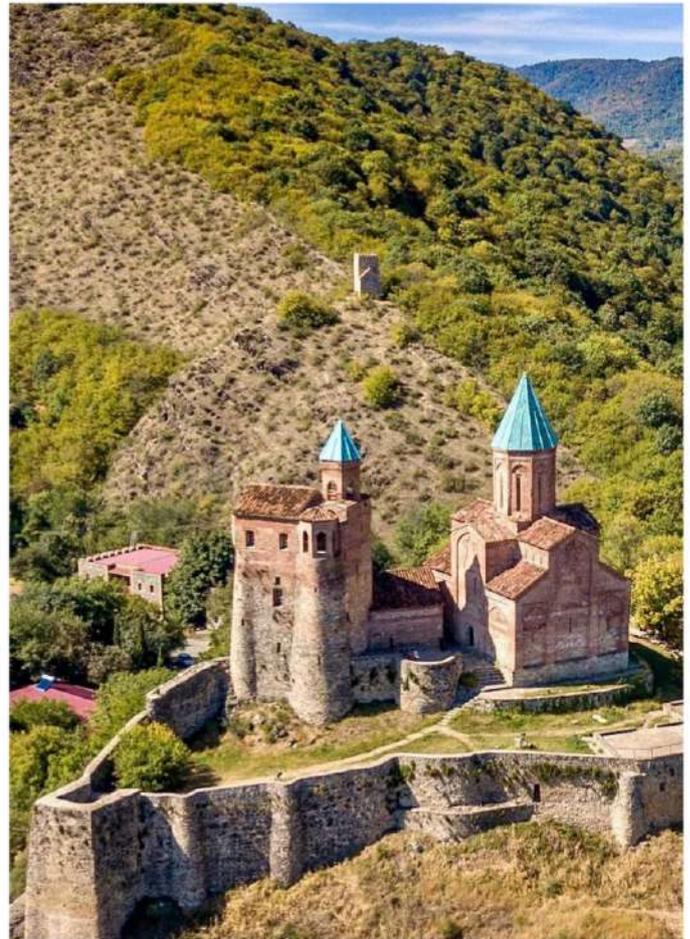
Four kilometers long fortress-defensive wall in the town of Sighnagh was built in 1762 by King Erekle. Cylindrical towers are located along the entire length of the wall. There is a total of 23 towers, the distances between them are different. The entrances are cut into the fortress walls. Most are wide real gates; some are narrow and their designation is a spare door.

In the middle of the 18th century and the second half of the 19th century, large forts were built so that not only the locals but also the inhabitants of the nearby villages could take refuge there. The defense to the entrance was meticulously arranged. If the gate had towers, then the protection was from the towers, and if the entrance was cut directly into the wall, then special artillery was arranged in the walls.

The wall and towers of Sighnaghi Fortress are built of cobblestone. Insignificant amount of brick is used in the construction. In the second half of the 18th century, Sighnaghi Fortress was considered to be one of the most reliable strongholds in Kakheti. As a fortress, it did not lose its significance in the early 19th century.



The Gremi Complex



The Gremi Complex

History of Gremi as a city dates back to the 15th century, when King George I of Kakheti (1466-1476) made it the capital of the Kingdom of Kakheti. Gremi retained this status for two centuries. There were active literary activities and caravan routes. That is why it has become the center of political, economic and cultural life in Kakheti. The whole history of Gremi is connected with the names of the kings of Kakheti. It is probable that there was a small settlement here, which was turned into a city in the XV century. Like Kartli-Kakheti, Shah Abbas's expeditions in the 17th century proved to be the most difficult period for Gremi, which turned the majestic fortress into a ruin. The Gremi Architecture Complex consists of a variety of buildings. There is a domed church of the Archangels, a three-storey palacebell tower, agricultural buildings, a wall, a secret exit to the river Intsobi. There are baths, a market and a caravanserai. The most eye catching part of the Gremi is the Archangel complex, which stands at the end of a rocky ridge and consists of a high walled domed church and palace-bell tower, however, the south-west corner of the church borders the palace-bell tower, which is cut down to leave a passage in between the buildings. The complex has been a museum-reserve since 1975, where 2,056 exhibits are preserved and a series of paintings - portraits of kings - are presented.



King Erekle's Fortress in Telavi



King Erekle's Fortress in Telavi

King Erekle II's Castle - Palace is located in the Kakheti region, in the city of Telavi. The architectural complex is the only royal palace in Georgia that has survived fully intact to this day. The complex, with its architectural and historical features, is a remarkable monument of cultural heritage. The famous palace "Lords Castle" was the residence of the kings of Kakheti.

The palace door church, the east door and the bath were built during the reign of King Archil. In the second half of the 18th century, Erekle II built a large wall around the palace, which reaches a height of five meters. In addition to the main large door, the castle wall had other spare entrances, one to the south and one to the north. The church of King Erekle was built in 1758. In addition to the church, it also had defensive functions, it had artillery/gunman post under the roof. Ten meters away from the church stood a large tower, 14 meters, the likes of which is nowhere to be found in Georgia. This tower was built by Queen Darejan and until the 1840s, there was an 8-meter-long artillery cannon here, which was always ready to repel the enemies. In 1927, King Erekle II's palace-museum with unique exhibits was established here.



Ujarma Fortress-town



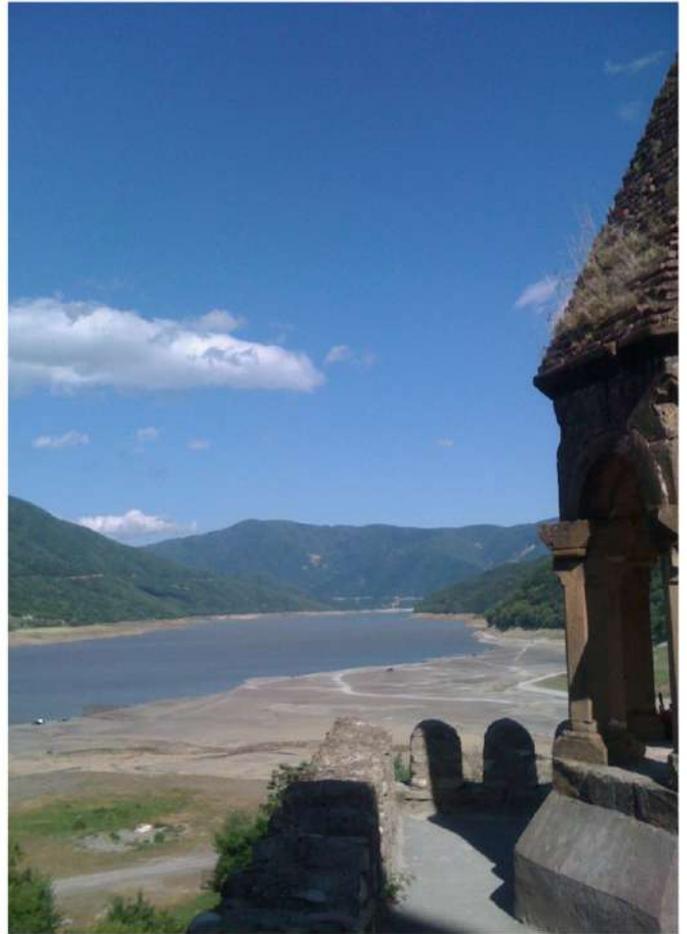
Ujarma Fortress-town

The city of Ujarma was founded in the era of feudalism in the III-IV century. From the 4th century, Ujarma was one of the main cities of Kakheti. The city experienced a rise in importance and size in the second half of the 5th century, when Vakhtang Gorgasali turned it into one of his residences, built numerous buildings and strengthened the defense of the city. He was severely wounded in a battle with the Persians and died here. Later, Vakhtang's heirs ruled Kakheti from Ujarma.

In 914, the Ujarma was conquered by Arabs and was raided and ransacked. Nevertheless, it was soon rebuilt and continued to exist as a small settlement. Remains of the castle's main citadel's wall and towers, a small crusader's door church, the ruins of a twostory royal palace, a reservoir and other ancillary buildings are preserved in the ruins today. The fortress wall stretches to the bank of the river Iori, it is possible that the city had its own water supply system. Overall the castle is built with a rare and captivating architecture.



Zhinvali fortress

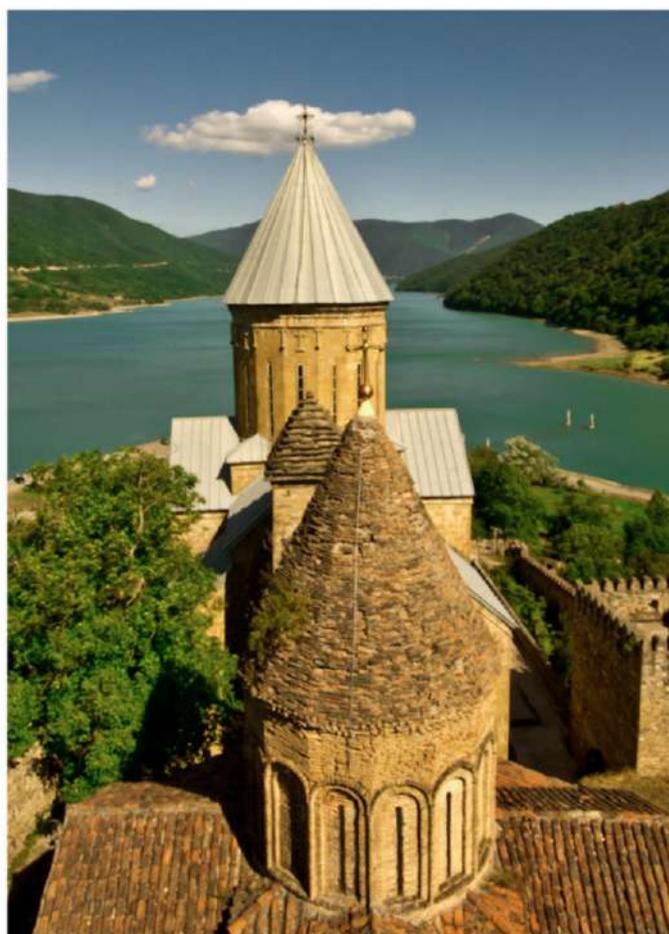
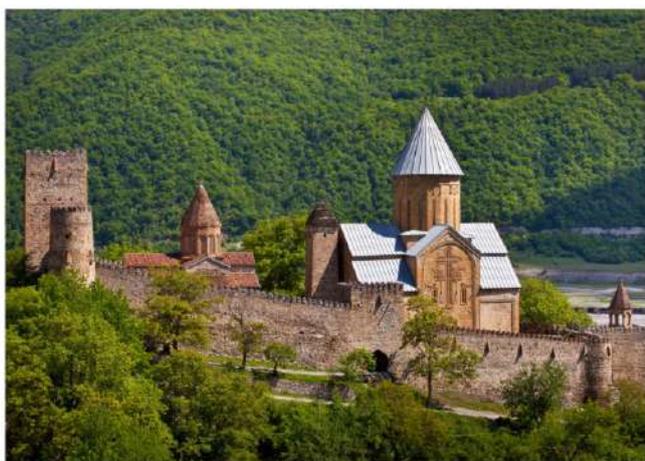


Zhinvali fortress

In the place where the Zhinvali Reservoir is today, the rich medieval, Georgian city of Zhinvali was located with its castles, towers, roads and palaces. The Zhinvali dam flooded, the city gates and the city gates and the 12th-century "Jvaripatiosani" temple, when the water level in the reservoir drops, the dome of this temple appears above water. Which is immersed in water for 6 months and visible in other 6.



Ananuri fortress



Ananuri fortress

Ananuri Architectural Ensemble is one of the most important monuments of the late feudal period of Georgia. It houses cult, military and cultural monuments. Although the monuments of this epoch can be found on the territory of Georgia, only a few of them are gathered together and relatively well preserved.

In the past, this place was the main key point of the Aragvi government, where it gathered the main roads coming through the region. The ensemble was built in the XVI-XVII centuries. It includes towers, 3 churches, a bell tower, a cell and a reservoir. It is built of crushed stone and bricks. In 1960-1968, the monument was restored. The ensemble is built on a slope from west to east and is surrounded by a strong defensive wall. The towers had residential, defensive, and offensive purposes. On the inside of the wall there is a reservoir, which consists of two water tanks and a drinking water storage room - "source". The castle has endured many battles, and kings have often taken refuge with their families and entourage. In addition to an interesting designation, the ensemble stands in a picturesque nature landscape.

Useful Information:

Adr.: Dusheti municipality, village Ananuri



Zakagori Fortress

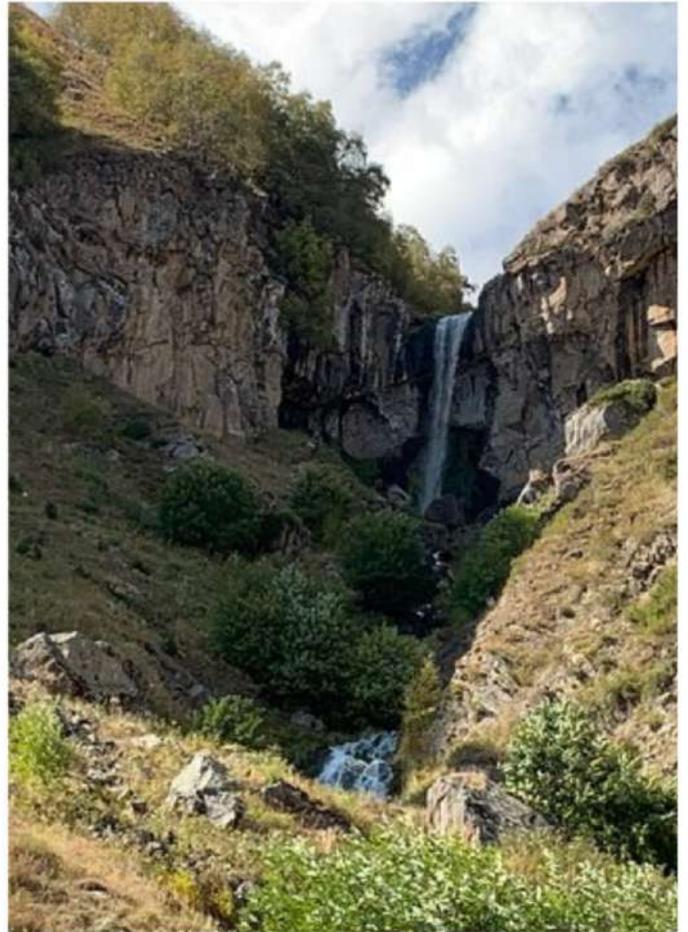


Zakagori Fortress

In the Middle Ages, it played an important role in the defense system of the Truso Valley. The residential part of the village belongs to the XIII-XIV centuries, and the towers date back to the XVII century. Zakagori became a village in the 50s of the XX century. It consists of five residential districts, one tower house and two defensive towers. Between the second, third and fourth districts there is a large square, in its north-eastern part there is a tower house, and in the south and north there are towers. Defensive structures, unlike residential houses, are built of crushed stone. The houses are mostly two-storey, built of crushed stone. The roofs have been destroyed almost everywhere. The first floor is for agricultural purposes, relatively low and less lit with sunlight. The entrances are narrow and low. The small windows are evenly spaced from the outside. The second floor is residential, the doors here are relatively large and spacious compared to the first floor. Almost all storages have two or three rectangular windows. On the outside of the houses there is a massive stone staircase leading to the second floor.



Arsha Cliffs



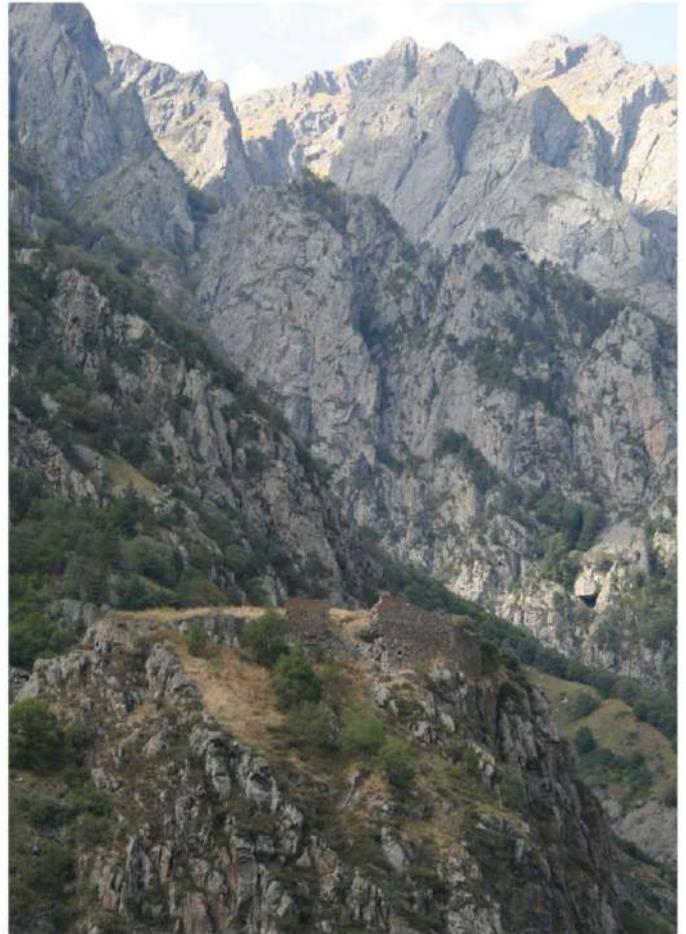
Arsha Cliffs

The cliff to the left of the road is clearly visible. Tourists can also see the caves if they look closely enough. In some of them, there were human living quarters. During the invasions, the population sheltered themselves in the caves so it became a makeshift fortress. Towers can be found in the valleys, they served as a defensive and as time signaling purposes. Nearby about in 20 minutes on foot tourists can find Arsha waterfall.





Dariali Gorge (The Natural Castle)



Dariali Gorge (The Natural Castle)

After Stepantsminda, the road continues and leads to the RussianGeorgian border. This section of the road runs through the valley of the river Tergi, which is known as the Dariali Valley. The valley is quite narrow, surrounded by high mountains, and due to its natural condition, it was a fortress in itself, defensively enclosing the north, which from ancient times gave it great strategic importance. This path is the muse of many poets and artists, and there are many stories and poems written about it. Today, the paved road runs through many sections of the tunnel. However, if desired, the old road can also be explored. There is a beautiful temple of the XXI century directly on the Russian border.





Kistani village-fortress



Kistani village-fortress

Kistani is a historic village in remote Khevsureti that is currently abandoned and uninhabited. There are the ruins of the towers, and on the neighboring mountain two more towers - in better condition. They can also be seen from Shatili Road, from the village of Lebaiskari. The towers were used for defense and barns. The road sign "Kistan" is shown on the road, but the village itself is abandoned due to difficult living conditions. The Khevsureti people are warriors and in times of hardship they often appeared as the savior of the Georgians. This happened in 1659, when the Khevsureti army attacked the Persians like an avalanche, and in one day the whole of Kakheti was cleared of invaders. This corner is truly a paradise for ethnographers or anthropologists.



Shatili village-fortress



Shatili village-fortress

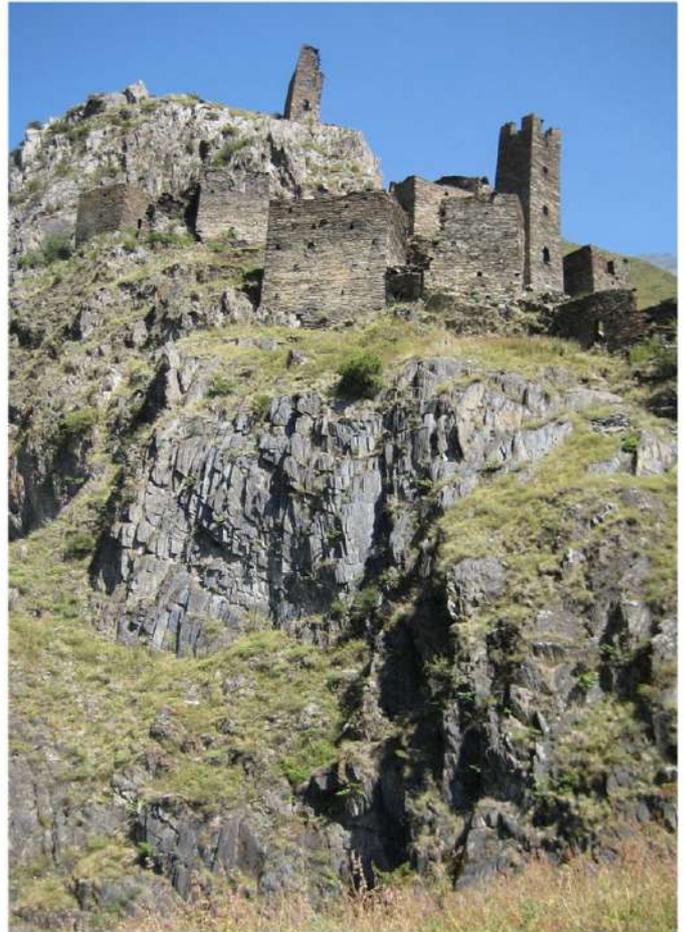
Shatili - is one of the brilliant, unique monuments of Georgian construction art. The rock-cut village was both a residence and a fortress, guarding Georgia's northern crossings for centuries (now restored).

The edges of the village are joined by a series of fortified houses, and a single, impenetrable defensive wall is formed, which locks down the village. Shatili is connected to the outside world by the only narrow road leading to the Arghunis gorge. Shatili is terraced, the main type of buildings are flat-roofed houses and tower dwellings. Local clayslate is used as a building material. A narrow stone staircase leads to the whole height of the village between the buildings, here and there are planks made of wood - passages, in case of enemy invasion people could maneuver around the village without going into the street.

Since 2007, Shatili has been included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Shatili Towers are a unique monument of Georgian construction art, which are almost completely preserved. It is a place full of myths, legends, history and traditions, which is a subject of constant interest for both Georgian and foreign tourists.



Village-fortress Muco

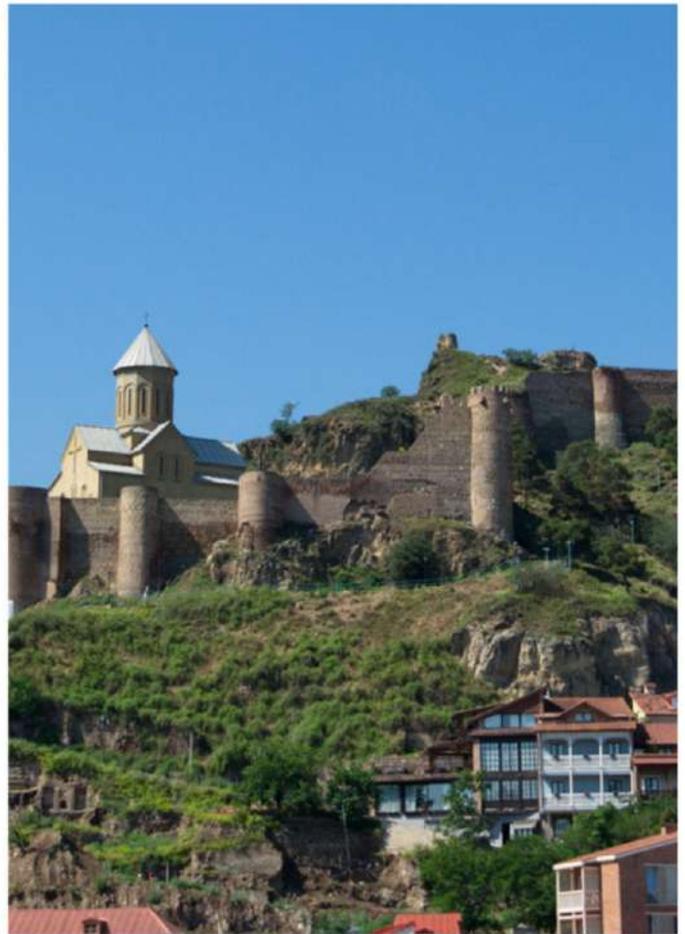


Village-fortress Muco

Mutso is another historical fortress-village of Khevsureti (height 1880 m above sea level), which is 12-15 kilometers from the village of Shatili. It has been one of the most complete fortifications, defensive systems since ancient times, and a stronghold for the roads coming to Georgia from the north. Mutso is one of the oldest settlements in Khevsureti. In 1769 it was burnt down and demolished, and after the invasion of Shamil's company in 1820, life in the fortress-village was virtually extinguished. Mutso is located on three terraces of difficult terrain. Local slate is used as a building material, the gap between the slates is filled with fermentation for thermal insulation. The buildings stand side by side and their outer walls form a battlefield. Most of the buildings have four floors, although there also have been six floor buildings. Barns are mostly arranged on the first floor of the fortress-houses, On the second floor - the bakery, the third and fourth floors are residential. The 5th floor was used to store food supplies, labor tools and weapons. On the third, lower terrace of the castle-village, there is the village cemetery. Here are chapels, which were used by the population for burials and worship.



Narikala Fortress



Narikala Fortress

Narikala Fortress is located in the historical district of Tbilisi. It is one of the fortresses that surround the whole Tbilisi. The date of its construction is considered to be IV century AD, but recent archeological excavations have revealed that the castle existed here much longer. During its existence, the castle has been damaged, destroyed and rebuilt many times. Which was caused by the ongoing wars. Because of this, many of its buildings have been altered or completely destroyed. During the Arab rule in Georgia in the 7th century, Narikala was owned by the Arabs. The castle was later liberated by David the Builder in 1122. The castle was also raided by the Mongols. TemurLeng also leveled it to the ground. It was captured by the Persians in the 17th century, and in 1747 King Erekle II liberated Narikala from the Persians, but this freedom ended in 1795 during the invasion of Agha-Muhammad Khan. In 1827, much of the castle wall was damaged and destroyed by an earthquake. In the 19th century, when external attacks ceased, the wall lost its function. They were given flats and balconies. In 2012, archaeologists discovered a part of the Tbilisi wall, which was 110 meters long, on Pushkin Street in Tbilisi. Historians date the fence to the 11th-13th centuries. Five towers were also found, including two large ones. At one time, this fence covered the whole of Tbilisi at that time.



Bebris Castle

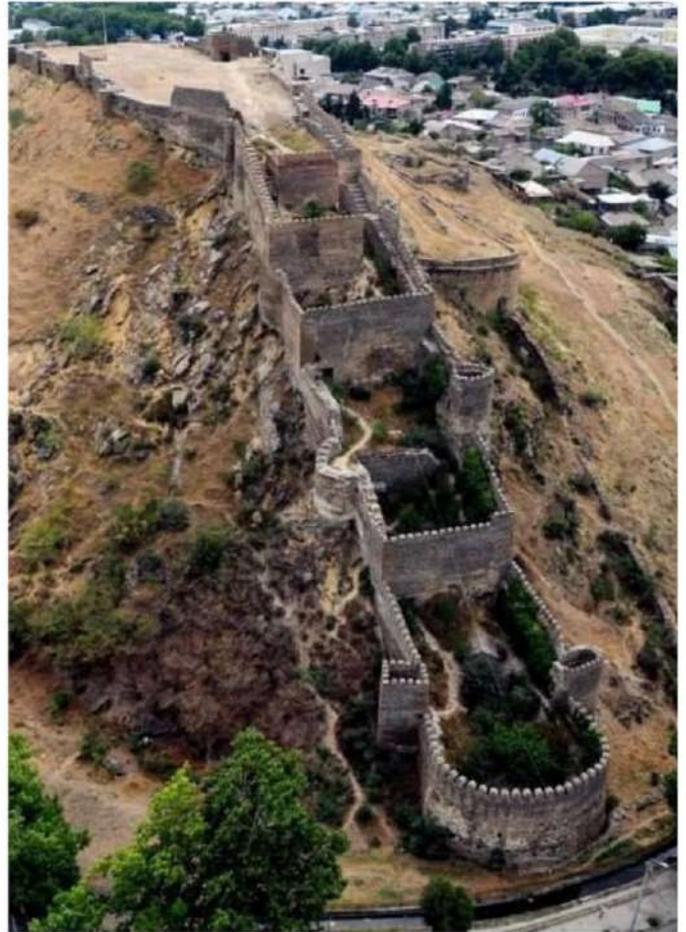
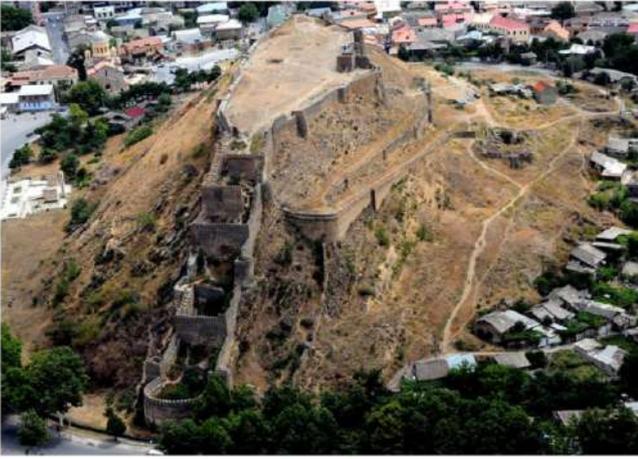


Bebris Castle

Bebris Castle is located in the northern part of the city of Mtskheta. From the 4th to the 18th century, Bebris Castle was a functioning fortress. Once upon a time, it closed the gates of Mtskheta from the Aragvi gorge and defended the city. The castle is built of pieces of cut stone all equal in size. It consists of a citadel and a lower courtyard. The shape of the citadel is triangular. The tower stood in all three corners. Three floors of the largest south-west tower remain, and they have not only defensive but also residential purposes. There is one interesting detail left in the towers - the combat holes (bow and arrow were used as a primary ranged weapon during fortresses' prime), which is probably made for arrows to pass through. According to historical sources, in the 12th century, King Demetrius died in Bebris Fortress and was transferred to Gelati in Kutaisi. The total area of the fortress is about 1500 square meters, and the inner yard is 600 square meters. The floor covering in the towers was made of wood. Near the Bebris castle there is an important archeological monument - Samtavro cemetery and settlement.



Gori CastleY

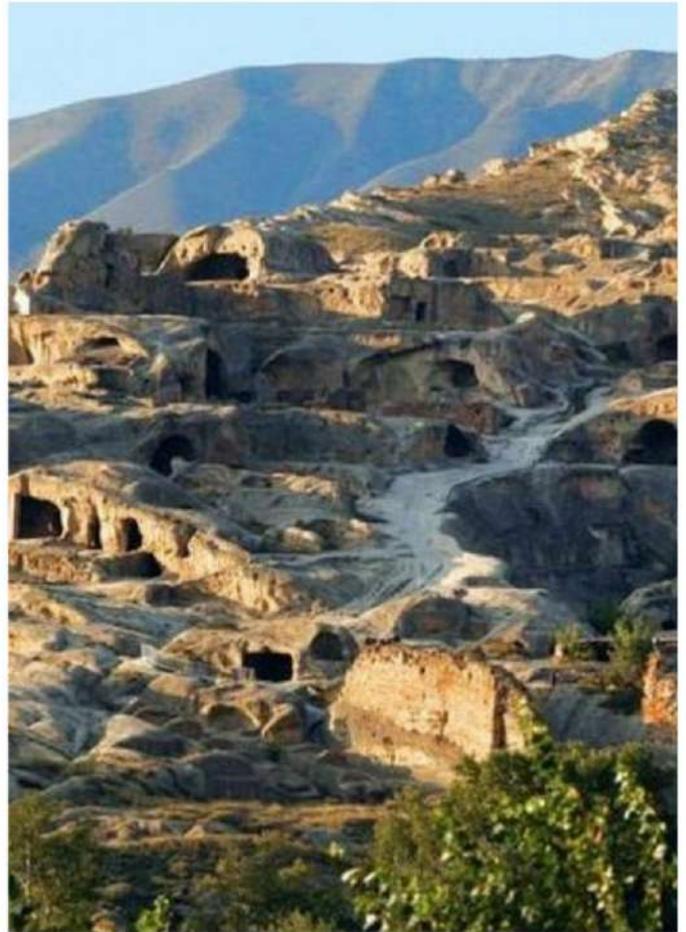
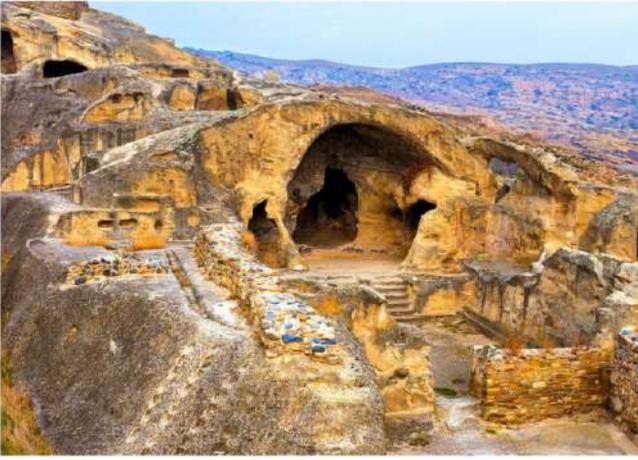


Gori Castle

Gori Fortress stands on a high rocky hill. The ruins and archeological data on the northern slope testify that here in the last centuries of the first millennium (BC), there was a strong fortress, and around it there was a village. "Gori Fortress" is first mentioned in historical sources in the 13th century. Gori Fortress was an important strategic point; Its conquest meant political domination over the whole of Shida Kartli. Over the centuries, Gori Fortress has been repeatedly renovated and remodeled. The main part was restored in the 1730s by King Rostom. The present-day look to the castle was given to it in 1774 by King Erekle II. The castle is built of cobblestone; The cut stone is found in the earlier layers. The oval citadel is surrounded with auxiliary fences to the south and east. The original entrance to the castle is no longer visible; In the middle of the south wall is a vaulted gate from the late period. In the south-eastern section tourists will find the ruins of a small church. The castle had a tunnel to draw water and a reservoir. Gori Fortress was significantly damaged by the 1920 earthquake.



Uplistsikhe



Uplistsikhe

Uplistsikhe is a rock-cut town, one of the oldest settlements in the Caucasus, and a city center. It is located in Shida Kartli, 10 km east of the city of Gori, on the left bank of the river Mtkvari. Uplistsikhe - today is an open-air historical-architectural museum-reserve. The name Uplistsikhe was still called during the time of idolatry (VI-IV centuries BC), so the lordship of the tribal chief, lord is a term denoting power and not religion. It is highlighted in an easily processed sandstone massif with an area of 9.5 ha. The city has streets, squares, a sewage system, four gates, a 41-meter-long secret tunnel that led to the Mtkvari River, and during the siege the city was fortified with water and sanitation, a fence, and so on. Written sources first mention it in the 7th century. During the struggle for the unification of Georgia (IX-X centuries), the weakened fortress-town of Uplistsikhe passed from hand to hand. Georgian kings, Kakheti princes and Armenian kings fought selflessly for domination of Uplistsikhe in the IX-X centuries.

Useful information:

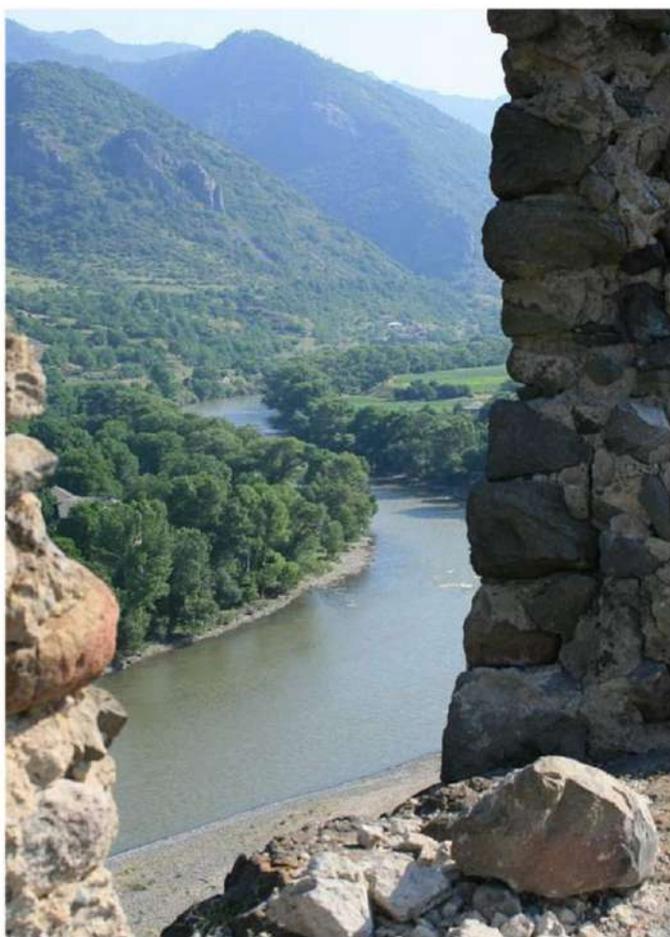
Address: 10 km east of Gori:

Open: 10.00 - 17.00 Every day

Tel: 595 52-07-78; 595 52 07-79



Atskuri Castle



Atskuri Castle

Atskuri Castle, one of the most important large-scale complexes among the Georgian fortifications, and has a long history and functioned from the 10th to the 19th centuries. Atskuri Fortress, built on an inaccessible rocky cape, protected and controlled the Mtkvari gorge and the road connecting South Georgia with an important strategic location. The high walls of the fortress, which encloses a large area on the slope, leading to a difficult terrain where the lower and upper castles are separated. The wall includes piers and ova and elongated towers of imperfect geometric shape in the plan. Also noteworthy is the arched tunnel connecting the castle, which starts from the west side of the road on the banks of the Mtkvari and climbs to the lower terrace of the yard. The project was developed in 2015.

Useful information:

Atskuri Castle is located in the village of Atskuri, Akhaltsikhe Municipality, on the right bank of the Mtkvari River.



Rabati Castle



Rabati Castle

Rabati Historical Castle is located in the administrative center of Samtskhe-Javakheti region, in the historical district of Rabati. Rabat Castle-Complex has been restored today; it consists of buildings from different periods of the Middle Ages. The castle-complex was the most important defensive structure in the region, its walls remember many hard battles and brutal sieges. For centuries, it has been the residence of Akhaltsikhes owners. The fortress was surrounded by three mighty walls and the surrounding area was connected by an underground tunnel.

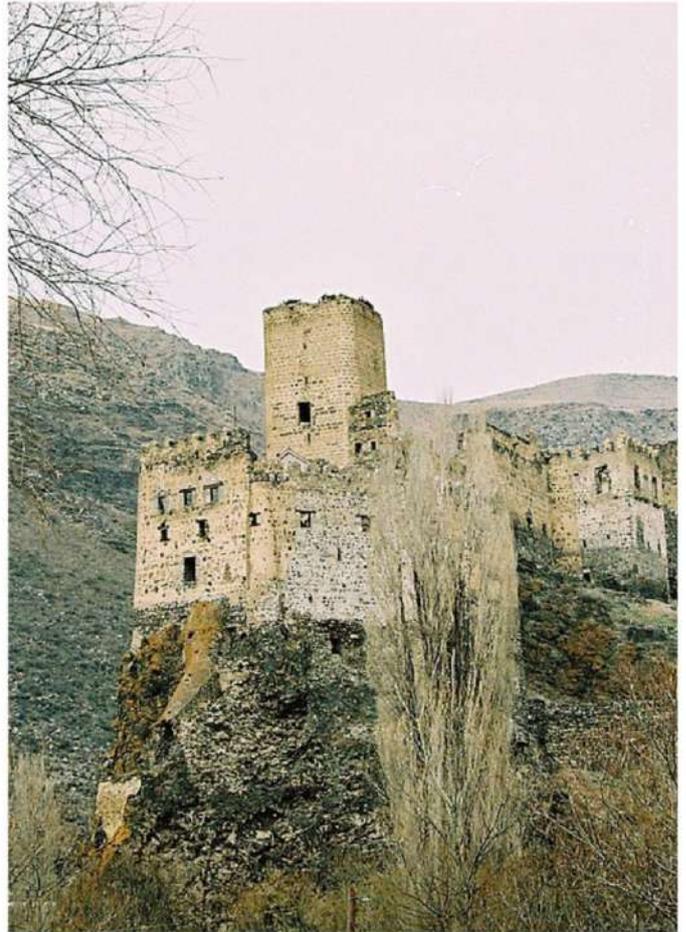
The history of the castle dates back to the 9th century. In the XII-XIII centuries the castle became the residence of the Jakeli clan, it was rebuilt and expanded. It is from this time that the toponym "Akhaltsikhe" appears. As a result of the ongoing restoration in 2011-2012, the wall, citadel, IX-X century Orthodox Church, mosque, madrasa, minaret and Jakeli Palace were renovated on the territory of the fortress-complex.

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 everyday

Entrance Fee: 6 GEL



Khertvisi Castle



Khertvisi Castle

Khertvisi Fortress - a medieval castle located in Javakheti, in the village of Khertvisi, at the confluence of the rivers Paravani and Mtkvari, on a high rocky mountain (now Aspindza municipality). Khertvisi was a stronghold throughout the feudal era. Khertvisi was located on an important highway, subject to the settlements of the surrounding region. In the 16th century, along with other castles in Javakheti, the Ottomans conquered Khertvisi and. It later became the center of the Ottoman administrative unit. It was taken over by King Erekle II in the 1770 s. Khertvisi has been rebuilt many times, with an early medieval construction layer observed. The castle consists of a citadel and a robust wall. The citadel is perched on a narrow, rocky ridge of the mountain, inaccessible from the northeast. Water was supplied through a tunnel from the north-west. Since 2007, Khertvisi along with the Vardzia Monastery has been included in the preliminary list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Useful information:

Address: Javakheti, Khertvisi village

Ticket price - 10 GEL Open: 10.00 -19.00



Tmogvi Castle

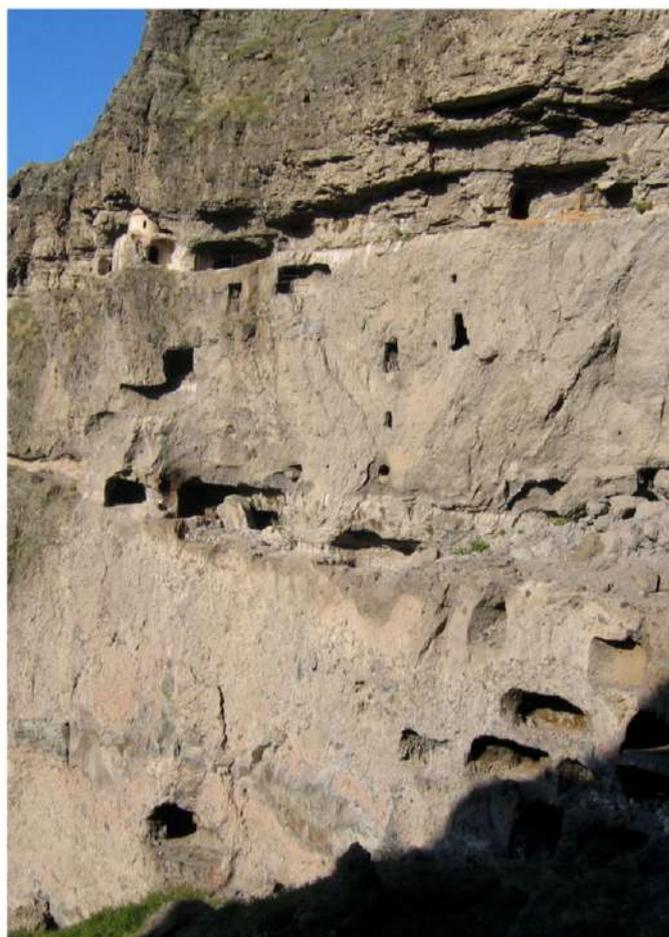
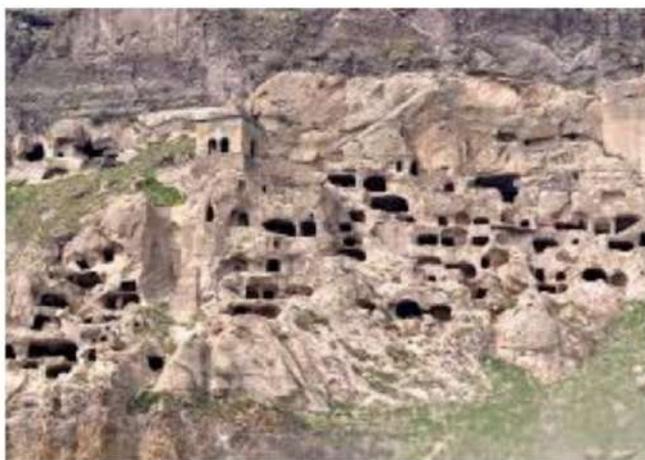


Tmogvi Castle

Tmogvi Castle - a historic castle-town in Georgia is first mentioned in sources in the X century. It controlled the road that entered Georgia from the former Asia through the Mtkvari gorge. The advancement in importance of Tmogvi Fortress must have begun in the IX-X centuries. In the 10th century, the Arabs tried to take it, but to no avail. In the 16th century, the Ottomans entered Samtskhe and captured Tmogvi, after which it entered the Ottoman political-administrative unit - Akhalkalaki Liva with its surrounding area. In the XVIII century the population of Tmogvi decreased. His old glory faded. Tmogvi Castle is built on a high rocky mountain. Due to the peculiarities of the relief, its boundaries and walls are erected at different heights. The western part of the fortress is relatively better preserved - with three steps built into the walls. To the south-east, the wall was welded to the cave, which was connected by a secret tunnel in the rock above the citadel and below the river. Mtkvari. In the middle of the castle, a small area was completely occupied by buildings. Built on a basalt plinth, built of smoothed tuff frames, the rectangular building covered with a two-ply roof seems to have been a church. The ancient layer of Tmogvi Fortress is built of equal rows of smoothed squares of tuff. A rough-hewn stone wall appears a bit later.



Vani caves

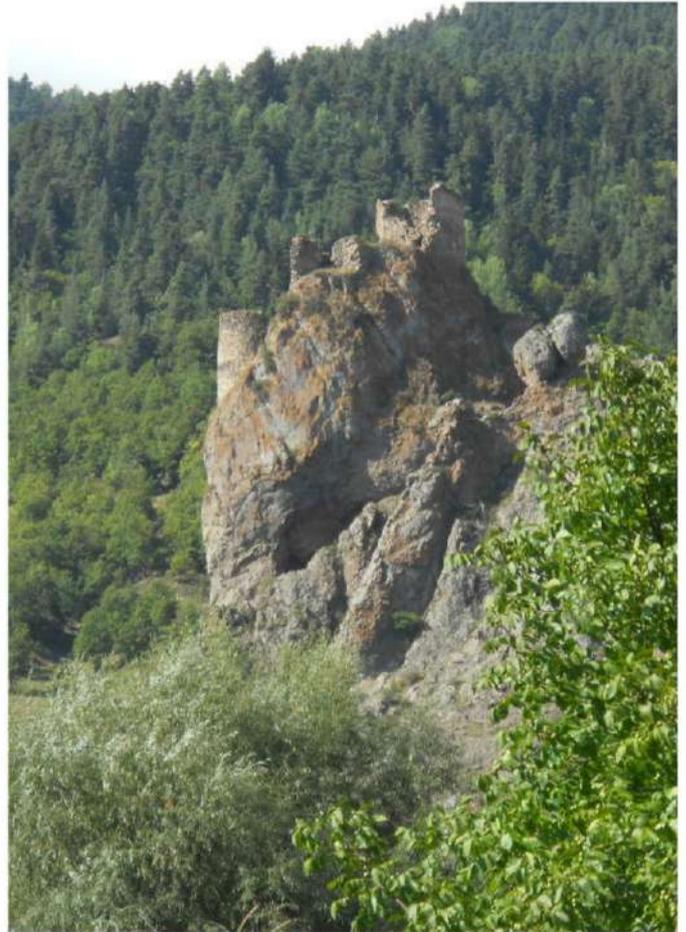


Vani caves

Vani Caves, Vahan Boilers - Cave Complex and Desert-Monastery, a monument of Georgian architecture and culture of VIII century defensive importance in historical Javakheti, Vani boilers were expanded in the IX-XI centuries. In the central part of St. George's Cathedral new groups of caves were excavated. In 1089, a strong earthquake destroyed the central part of the Vani caves. In the XII century the caves of Vani were in the hands of Queen Tamar and reconstruction began, the monastery was rebuilt, St. George's Cathedral, the gate of the church, the bell tower and the church were built. However, in the 16th century, it was first raided by the Persians and then by the Ottomans, after which it was abandoned. The rock plot of Vani caves is located on 16 floors with up to 200 slopes. The monastery complex includes rock-cut stalls, agricultural storehouses, crypt, shelter, Tunnels and 6 churches. Remains of 3 waterways and reservoirs, fragments of paintings and important inscriptions of historical significance are preserved. As a result of archeological excavations, a cellar and pottery workshops were discovered, and a defensive tower was discovered on the terrace, guarding the approaches to the border.



Zanavi Castle



Zanavi Castle

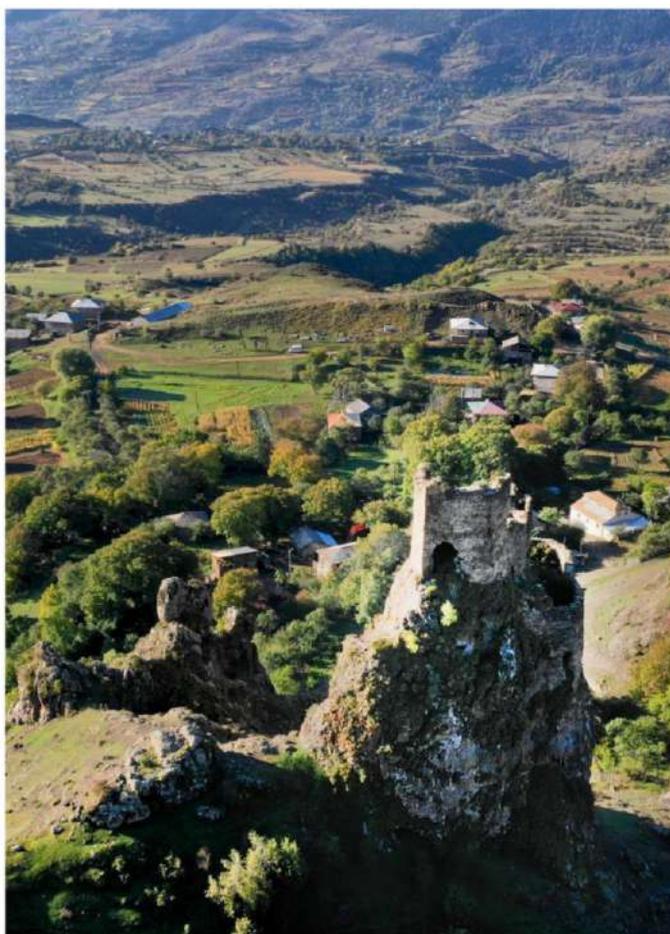
Zanavi Fortress is built on a steep cliff and dates back to the late Middle Ages. The castle is built of pieces of rock on lime mortar. Traces of late repairs are noticeable. The back tower of the inner castle has three floors. The arrangement of its stones is more regular than that of the defensive wall surrounding it. The tower has overlooking each side, on the second floor there is a fireplace. The arched door of the south wall runs through the inner courtyard, where a rock-cut water storage is located. Further south is the second tower, which houses the remains of a church. Below it is another tower, which is round in shape and adjacent to the defensive wall. The magnificent views of the impregnable, steep Zanavi Fortress make this place especially attractive for visitors, its nature unsullied by technology and men make it a truly unique experience.

Useful information:

Zanavi Castle is located in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, in the village of Patara Zanavi, Adigeni Municipality



Oqros “Gold” Castle



Oqros “Gold” Castle

Golden Castle - a fortress in Samtskhe -Javakheti, located at 1700 meters above sea level. The castle stands on a huge rocky massif and is difficult to access (even inaccessible from some sides). It is one of the largest castles in Georgia. The exact date of construction is unknown. It was probably built in the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century, and we have no earlier written record of it. In the XV - XVI centuries, during the rise of the Turks, it played a major role in the defense of the Meskhetians. The fortified forces here controlled a very large area, monitoring the roads, and because of the location and strength of the fortress, they were able to withstand the siege for a long time. The Golden Fortress is often mentioned in the 16th century, in which the stories of the last days of the existence of the Samtskhe principality are narrated. In 1578, during the invasion of the Turkish commander Lala -Pasha, the wife of Qaikhosro Atabagi, was fortified in the Golden Fortress, trying in vain to save Samtskhe from the invaders.

Useful information:

Fortress is located in SamtskheJavakheti, near the village of Bolajuri, Adigeni Municipality

TYPES OF CLIENTS TARGETED

ORIGIN

local
national
international
(DE, HU, IL)

AGE

20-40 years old
middle aged
(40-59 years
old)

BUDGET

medium budget
high budget

TRAVELER PROFILE



Motivated cultural tourist

higher education background
medium to high income
considerable interest in culture
considerable interest in social and environmental issues

Incidental cultural tourist

This group likes to add cultural components to their holiday. However, they have another primary reason for their trip. They may participate in cultural activities that fit their plans

MARKETING STRATEGY



ONLINE

1. Promotion on website and social media accounts
2. Integration of social media influencers and support of local population and local tourism stakeholders
3. Promotion and partnership with tourism digital newspapers and tourism blogs
4. PDF guidebook and mobile app



OFFLINE

1. Promotion via billboards, leaflets at hotels and restaurants, partnership with tourism offices
2. Establishing partnerships with tour operators and local tourism service providers

NEW PRODUCTS / SERVICES RECOMMENDED



1. The integration of archaeological sites with gastronomical tourism
Ex. : Tavola Mediteranea <https://tavolamediterranea.com>
2. Virtual reality shows in certain archaeological sites

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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020
Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube” Euroregion”

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