

JULY 2022

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

TUSCANIA, ITALY

EXPERIENCE EXCAVATING 2500-YEAR-OLD ETRUSCAN TOMBS



Etruscan grave goods, Hellenistic period, Tuscania



INTRODUCTION

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici and CAMNES run a four-week Archaeology Field School in Tuscania, located in the Region of Lazio (Central Italy).

The LdM-CAMNES Archaeology Field School is an incredible journey in an inspiring environment, where students play an active role in the excavation of Etruscan necropolises, the cities of the dead. Under the direction of a team of professional archaeologists, students acquire archaeological methods, while gaining a firsthand look at archaeological fieldwork and a new understanding of the ancient Etruscan culture.

During this intensive program, participants learn about the ancient Etruscan Civilization and work side by side with Italian university students, taking part in a real excavation, where they dig and uncover 2500-year-old Etruscan artifacts and structures.

Through field trips and by examining the abundance of materials found in this region, students learn about the life of the ancient Etruscans from archaeological evidence and literary sources.





The town of Tuscania, Lazio region

THE SITE

The archaeological area of Tuscania is composed by several Etruscan necropolises distributed all around the modern town. It is believed that the different necropolises belonged to the same Etruscan city, located in the archaeological area of Colle di San Pietro (San Pietro hill). LdM started to investigate two newly discovered “cities of the dead”, in 2005, with the support of CAMNES since 2011 belonging to the Hellenistic period (4th-1st cent. BCE). The project then proceeded in 2020 to explore a new necropolis, Sasso Pizzuto, starting from 2021 in partnership with the University of Naples Federico II.

Sasso Pizzuto covers a very large area where hundreds of tombs have been discovered in the past. The archaeological project, hence the Field School, focuses on a series of hypogeum tombs belonging to the 6th century BCE, directly excavated in the tufa rock. The Etruscans buried their dead in these underground chambers and deposited their belongings when celebrating funerary rituals. Many tombs had been violated over the years; however, a few have been left partially intact revealing a good number of ancient artifacts still in position. The first large tomb that we excavated held several ceramic vessels with decorated Greek mythological scenes, which LdM students and CAMNES are currently restoring in the ‘Archaeology Workshop’ course in Florence.

FURTHER DETAILS

Participants stay in Tuscania, a historical hill-top town in Lazio (only 40 minutes from Rome), renowned for its medieval charm and situated in the heart of ancient Etruria. This area was inhabited by the Etruscans and covered the region that now comprises Tuscany and parts of Lazio and Umbria.

The Etruscan civilization flourished during the 7th and 6th centuries BCE and declined in the 3rd century BCE, when the Roman conquest caused it to fade.

During their stay, participants have the opportunity to visit together with their instructors the most important sites of the Etruscan civilization and the nearby area.

Weekends are the perfect chance to explore the countryside and discover the castles, towns and the amazing aspects of this region, including the warm Mediterranean seaside about 30 minutes away or the Bolsena Lake just 18 minutes away.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Arrival: Thursday June 30th, 2022

Departure: Thursday July 28th, 2022

Location: Sasso Pizzuto, Tuscania (VT) LdM Tuscania, Italy

APPLICATION DEADLINE

May 15th, 2022

OUTLINE OF SCHEDULE

In the first part of the course, participants take classes that introduce them to the civilization of the ancient Etruscans as well as to basic archaeological theory and practice. Students also visit a number of local Etruscan sites and have field trips to some world famous Etruscan sites, such as Tarquinia, Cerveteri, Tuscania and the Archaeology Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome. During the final three weeks of the course students participate in the excavation of important Etruscan burial sites, it is therefore requested full cooperation and hard fieldwork labour. Participants must bear in mind that working days go from Mondays to Fridays.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

- Please consult the Health and Safety section (<https://ldminstitute.com/students/health-and-safety/>) on the LdM website to learn about the Covid-19 related requirements to attend LdM courses.
- An up-to-date tetanus inoculation
- International Medical/travel insurance
- It is of paramount importance that every participant communicates to the enrollment offices any allergies, food intolerances or any kind of medical issues upon enrollment.
- No prerequisites and no experience of archaeology or knowledge of Italian are needed. The principal qualifications include a strong academic record, a desire to learn more about archaeology and the Etruscan civilization, and an enthusiasm to dig.
- Participants must bear in mind that the archaeological field school of Tuscania is a full-time workshop within a professional archaeological research project that includes a five day per week involvement including lessons, archaeological field activities and visits. Participants have Saturdays and Sundays off.
- The schedule includes a lot of fieldwork and walking during field trips. While at the archaeological site, fieldwork requires digging, stooping, bending and exposure to sun, wind and/or rain. This field school is not recommended to participants with allergies to sun and/or dust.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Participants are responsible for proper usage and storage of their assigned tools and materials. Each participant is required to personally provide the following equipment, necessary to work on the archaeological dig:

- Simple, comfortable clothing for working in hot weather
- Safety-shoes (i.e. with a steel toe)
- Good-quality 100% cotton hat
- Strong sunscreen
- Bug spray
- An A4 size note-book to be used as an activity Journal

Participants must bear in mind that all above-mentioned equipment and materials are MANDATORY and must be brought from home. If participants are found devoid of any of these items, the director of the project may deny excavation access.

Further details will be given during the first class.

Participants will be provided with necessary work and study materials, covered by the tuition.



CAMNES exhibition Reflection of a Society, in Florence 2017



Etruscan bronze mirror, Hellenistic period, Tuscania

HOW TO APPLY

Prospective applicants must contact info@ldminstitute.com for further details about the program and how to apply.

A maximum of 20 participants are accepted, with preference given to early applicants.

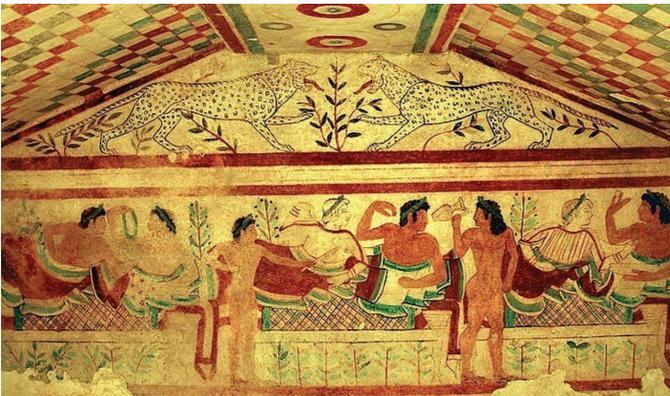
The Tuition Fee includes:

- The entire course for a minimum of 148 contact hours and 6 credits (no additional registration fees required)
- Transfer from Rome International Airport 'Leonardo da Vinci' to Tuscania and back
- Accommodation in a hotel or B&B, double room with private bathroom (triple rooms will be assigned in case of odd student numbers)
- Weekday breakfast at the hotel, B&B, or at a Café
- Weekday lunch at the excavation
- Travel connected with course related activities
- Scheduled museum entries
- Social and cultural events organized by the institute

The Tuition Fee does NOT include:

- Meals other than scheduled (i.e. dinner, weekend meals, etc)
- Beverages (to be paid on-site)
- Required personal materials (to be brought from home)

Further details and suggestions about expenses will be given during enrollment and first classes.



SUGGESTED READINGS

- A. Naso (ed), Etruscology, Boston (De Gruyter) 2017
- S. Haynes, Etruscan Civilization. A Cultural History, Oxford (Oxford University Press) 2005.
- G. Camporeale et alii, The Etruscans outside Etruria, Los Angeles 2004.
- M. Torelli, The Etruscans, New York 2001.
- M. Sprenger, G. Bartoloni, The Etruscans. Their History, Art, Architecture, New York 1983.
- Stephan Steingräber, New Discoveries and Research in the Field of Southern Etruscan Rock Tombs, in Etruscan Studies: Journal of the Etruscan Foundation, VOLUME 3 - 1996, p. 75.
- T. F. Borrelli and M.L. Targia. The Etruscans. Art, History, Architecture - British Museum press.
- C. Renfrew and P. G. Bahn, Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice, London (Thames and Hudson), 2004.
- B. C. Trigger, A History of Archaeological Thought, Cambridge (Cambridge University Press), 2005.
- K. Greene, Archaeology: An Introduction, London and New York (Routledge), 2002.

CONTACT DETAILS

Further details of the on-going and other archaeological projects of CAMNES and LdM are available at:

www.camnes.org

www.ldminstitute.com

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