

2nd International Conference
on the Emergence of the Neolithic in Europe

Conference city guide





Conference city guide

Dear ENE2025 conference participants,

We look forward to meeting you at the 2nd Conference on the Emergence of the Neolithic in Europe in Zadar, Croatia, May 22–25. This guide will help you plan your trip to Zadar, Croatia, and ensure an enjoyable stay.



ÖAW

AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



Austrian
Archaeological
Institute



University of Zadar
Univerzitet u Zadaru
Jadrutina 1 | 51000 Zadar



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM ZADAR



Croatian
Archaeological
Society

Zadar

Zadar is one of the oldest historical cities in Croatia, the former capital of Dalmatia. Old town, located at the end of a low-lying peninsula (Poluotok), is almost an open-air museum. The material remains of human existence and culture in the Zadar region date back to the Middle Palaeolithic Age. In the city itself, there are finds from the late Neolithic period in the Puntamika and Arbanasi districts of Zadar. In the late prehistoric period, Zadar was a Liburnian settlement, an important port, although the town as we know it developed under Roman control. The layout of the city, its walls, gates and important buildings were all built during this period. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Zadar became the administrative centre of Dalmatia and flourished under Byzantine, Croatian and Venetian rule, under which it remained until the end of the 18th century.

Photo by: Fabio Šimićev





Its turbulent history left many traces in the city's architecture and culture. In the centre you will find the remains of the largest Roman forum on the eastern Adriatic coast. In 2017, the fortified city of Zadar (Muraj) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Venetian defensive fortifications from the 16th and 17th centuries. The main entrance to the city (Land Gate) is located on the south side of the city in Foša harbour and is decorated with a winged lion and St. Chrysogonus. Old Zadar is especially known for its many beautiful churches. The remarkable round church of St. Donat dates back to the 9th century, the Church of St. Mary (1091) houses one of the most important church treasures in Croatia and the Romanesque church of St. Krševan was consecrated in 1175. There is also the Cathedral of St. Stošija (Anastasia) from the 13th century, the largest and most beautiful Romanesque church in Dalmatia, as well as the Franciscan church and monastery (1282). Zadar is also famous for its palaces. Of the 5 palaces, two stand out in particular: the Rector's Palace and the Procurator's Palace. Not far from these palaces are Petar Zoranić Square and the Renaissance Five Fountains Square, which are surrounded by the city walls, the Captain's Tower and Queen Jelena Park.



The most popular street in the city is Kalebarga, or officially Široka ulica. It is a symbol of the city. Kalebarga begins at the People's Square, the city centre of Zadar, famous for its clock tower. There is also an old city quarter Varoš, the main place for socialising and everyday rituals such as drinking your morning coffee. When it comes to modern architecture and attractions, Zadar has a unique blend of architecture and music to offer, the world-famous Sea Organ, which is located right next to another modern installation, the Greeting to the Sun. Both of these facilities are easily accessible via the Riva, Zadar's famous seafront promenade, which connects it to the University of Zadar and Foša harbour.

Did you know?

Maraschino is an original Zadar liqueur that has been made from the local Dalmatian cherry variety since the 16th century. Recognizable by its characteristic sweet taste and unique aroma, Maraschino was loved by the French kings Louis XVIII and Charles X, the British King George IV and the Russian Tsar Nicholas. It was a favorite drink of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, who enjoyed it after lunch or dinner.

Alfred Hitchcock once said that “the sunset of Zadar is the world's most beautiful”.



University of Zadar

The University of Zadar is the oldest higher education institution in Croatia and one of the oldest in Europe. The centuries-old university tradition began in 1396 with the founding of the Dominican *Studium Generale*, which was later called *Universitas Jadertina*. The modern development of higher education in Zadar began with the founding of the Faculty of Philosophy in 1955, which was rounded off by the founding of the University of Zadar in 2002. Today, the University of Zadar is a modern international educational and scientific institution dedicated to academic excellence and innovation in research. It places great emphasis on international cooperation and maintains numerous partnerships with institutions around the world.





The University of Zadar has 27 departments which makes it the largest fully integrated university in the Republic of Croatia. It offers a wide range of study programme in the fields of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a dynamic learning environment and encourages collaboration between students and faculty.



The Department of Archaeology is one of the oldest at the University. The wealth of archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity is the reason for the long tradition of archaeological research in Zadar and the professional and scientific approach to defining, understanding and preserving the information recorded in the cultural landscape. Accordingly, the aim of the department is to train staff who will successfully respond to the demands placed on them and correctly assess the value of archaeological heritage in everyday life.



The University is located on the Old Campus, in the centre of the city, on the Peninsula, at the end of the Zadar waterfront. The unique location of the campus in the immediate vicinity of the sea, which is inspiring for all the senses, perfectly reflects the vision of the University as a Mediterranean source of knowledge, but also shows the central position of the University and students in the life of the city.

Museums

Archaeological Museum

The museum was founded in 1832, making it the second oldest museum in Croatia and one of the oldest in this part of Europe. Completed in 1897, the Museum's first permanent exhibition was located in St. Donat's Church. In 1974, the Museum moved to its present-day premises in Zadar's historical core. Today it exhibits prehistoric archaeological material from the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods, the Metal Age (Bronze and Iron Ages), the Roman and Byzantine periods and archaeological finds from the 7th to 15th centuries.



Since its founding – almost 200 years now – Archaeological Museum Zadar has been relentlessly accomplishing its mission: preserving the identity of the area and community it belongs to and cooperates with. The interesting and educative exhibitions organized in the Museum help the people of Zadar and their guests expand their knowledge of the rich history of the city and its surroundings.

The stained glass windows of the Archaeological Museum in Zadar reflect the remains of the Roman forum and the early medieval church of St. Donat, with which the museum is inextricably linked.

If you are looking for a unique and original gift for someone or if you merely want a souvenir to remind you of your visit to Zadar, come to museum shop. You will surely find something you like.



For more information please visit:

<https://amzd.hr>

Museum of Ancient Glass

The Museum of Ancient Glass is a contemporary cultural institution that is unique in the world. It is located in the renovated palace of the Cosmacendi family from the second half of the 19th century, whose original architecture was supplemented by an extension on the north side due to the requirements of the museum concept of the permanent exhibition and the daily museum activities. It is an archaeological museum, but it specialises in antique glass. Its exhibition presents a unique collection of over 5000 different glass objects from antiquity, i.e. from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD. Over 1500 complete glass objects are presented in the permanent exhibition, which is divided into eight thematic sections. In addition to the permanent exhibition, various glass workshops are organised throughout the year. The Museum of Ancient Glass in Zadar has a luxurious souvenir store where you can buy publications and exclusive souvenirs made by hand in the museum's glass workshops by glass blowing, which are replicas of real antique glass objects.



For more information please visit:
<https://www.mas-zadar.hr>

International Centre for Underwater Archaeology

The International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar was founded in 2007 in the frame of the Croatian Conservation Institute and soon – pursuant to an international agreement signed



between UNESCO and the Republic of Croatia in 2009 – became an independent public institution and gained the status of a UNESCO category II centre. ICUA's core tasks are to conduct activities and education in the fields of research, conservation and restoration and the promotion of underwater cultural heritage, in particular at the international level. Through its activity ICUA is also a strong proponent of the ratification and implementation of UNESCO's 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. ICUA works in accordance with the principles laid out in the Convention and its annex and contributes to expanding opportunities in other European and Mediterranean countries. Through its work in developing and disseminating the latest methods of investigation in underwater archaeology, conservation and restoration, training and the exchange of knowledge, ICUA Zadar has become an important focal point for these activities in this part of Europe. Centre is located in the complex of the former church and monastery of St. Nicholas on Zadar peninsula. It is a complex whose remains lie on numerous archaeological layers originating from the Prehistoric times, through the Ancient Period, Middle Ages and Modern period.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.icua.hr>

National Museum Zadar

The Zadar National Museum has been involved in the development of the public museum system since 1832. Today, its collections comprise around 100,000 objects and represent the cultural capital of the identity of the city of Zadar and the entire Zadar region.



As a proud guardian of the traditions and cultural heritage of the people of this region, the Zadar National Museum today has four departments - the Department of Natural History, the Ethnological Department, the Zadar City Museum, the Gallery of Fine Arts; two regional collections - the Veli Iž ethnographic collection and the Mali Iž cultural-historical collection; three exhibition pavilions and cultural monuments - the City Lodge, the Rector's Palace and the Small Arsenal Visitor Centre; two professional services – the Documentation and Pedagogical Service and the Administration and Accounting Department as general services.

For more information please visit:
<https://nmz.hr>

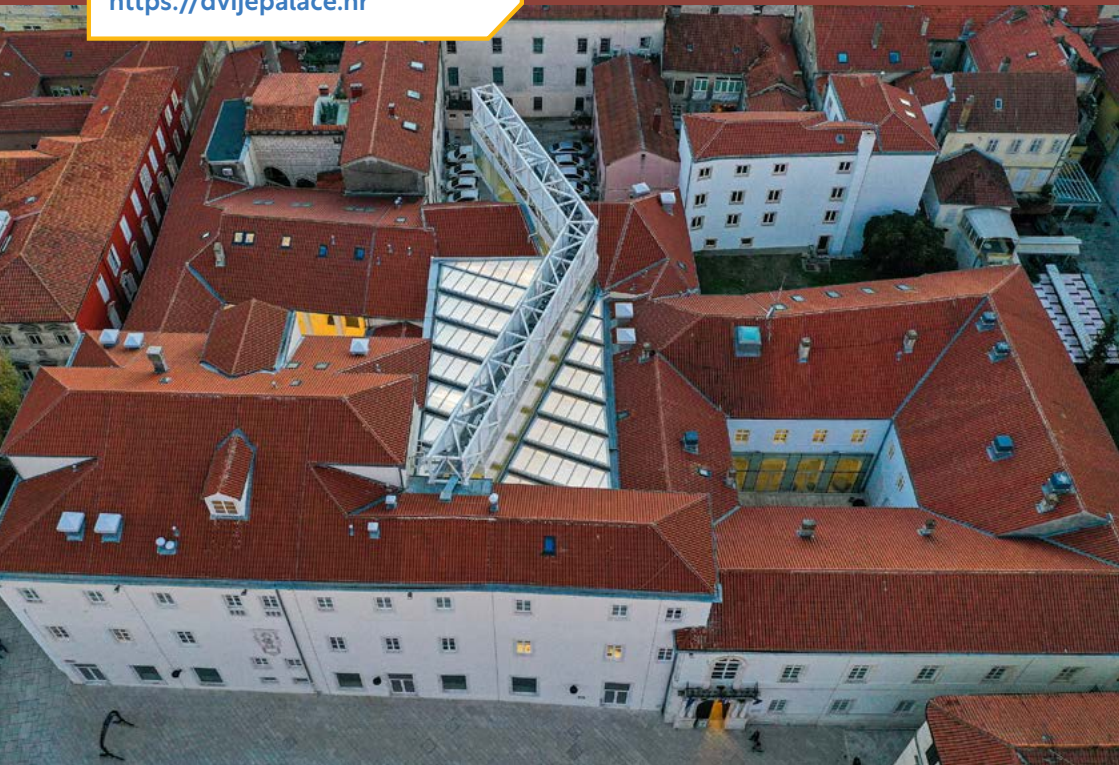


The Two Palaces Museum

The reconstructed Procurator's Palace, which together with the Rector's Palace forms the Two Palaces Museum complex, was officially opened in April 2022. The new Two Palaces complex covers an area of seven thousand square meters and, with its unique labyrinthine spatial organization, houses four museums united in one institution. A steel structure is pressed into the fabric of the palaces, while all floors and functions are connected by a winding glass hall which, together with a network of staircases, elevators and bridges, creates the impression of a spider's web. The beams of the construction conceal devices that are necessary for the museum's air conditioning. In addition to the exhibition and educational spaces, there are also rooms for the branch of the Zadar City Library and two concert halls in which the Zadar Concert Office performs.



For more information please visit:
<https://dvijepalace.hr>



The Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art

This is one of the most valuable collections in Croatia, popularly known as the Gold and silver of Zadar. In the eight contemporary halls, on an area of about 1,200 m², the gold and silver of Zadar

shines in dazzling beauty. This priceless treasure has been preserved over the centuries and even during the war by the Benedictine nuns. Some valuable exhibits – lace, church fabrics embroidered with gold thread – were made by the nuns themselves. The special value, charm and significance of the exhibited objects lies in the fact that most of them are works by locally known and unknown masters or that they are closely associated with Zadar and the Zadar region. In addition to metalwork, the reconstructed interior of the old Croatian church of St. Nediljica from the 11th century is also on display.



University archaeological collection

One of the specialties of the Department of Archaeology is the archaeological collection. Archaeological research has produced a large number of finds from early prehistory to recent times, some of

which are now presented in the exhibition on the Department of Archaeology to give students and other visitors to the University an understanding of the work of the department. With the creation of the archaeological study collection, the trend began to expand the basic activities of the department with the aim of improving the scientific, professional and educational processes, but also to promote studies and archaeology in general by participating in various popularization programs, from the Museum Night to the Science Festival. Today, almost 800 objects are on display. The oldest date from the Middle Palaeolithic, the most recent from the modern era.



Do you want to know more about Zadar?
Explore Zadar Tourist Board!
<https://zadar.travel/>




Getting to Zadar


By Plane:

► Destination: Zadar Airport (ZAD)

Zadar Airport is located about 8 km from the city center. It is well connected to other major Croatian and European cities especially during the summer period. Companies such as Croatia airlines, Lufthansa, Ryanair, EasyJet and Eurowings offers direct flights from mayor European cities. If direct flights are unavailable, you can connect through larger European hubs such as Zagreb or Split. For more information visit: <https://www.zadar-airport.hr/en>

There are several options to get from Zadar Airport to City Centre:

 **Taxi/Uber/Bolt:** Taxi available 24/7 at the airport, Uber/Bolt through their apps. The ride to the city center takes approximately 20 minutes.

 **Public Bus:** There are airport buses approximately every 30 minutes after the arrival of a scheduled flight. Bus line 2 runs between the airport and the Zadar centre (Old town/Peninsula/Poluotok). The first station of the airport bus is the Main bus terminal in Zadar, and afterwards the bus continues to the center. The ride to the City center takes approximately 30 minutes

► Destination: Split Airport – Saint Jerome Airport (SPU)

Split Airport is located 130 km from Zadar. It is a larger airport and may provide you with more options of coming to Croatia. From there you can come

to Zadar by renting a car, or by bus (from Split). For more information visit: <https://www.split-airport.hr/index.php?lang=en>


► Destination: Zagreb Airport – Franjo Tudman Airport (ZAG)


Zagreb Airport is located 300 km from Zadar and is the largest airport in Croatia. From there you can come to Zadar by renting a car or by bus from Zagreb. For more information visit: <https://www.zagreb-airport.hr/en>

By Bus:

Zadar is well-connected by bus to several European cities. Companies like FlixBus operate regular services to Zadar from destinations such as Zagreb, Split, Vienna, Munich, and Budapest. For more information visit: <https://www.flixbus.hr/> or <https://www.omio.com/>

The main bus station is located at Ante Starčevića 1, about 2 km from the Zadar centre. There are several options to get from Main bus station to City centre:

 **Taxi** is available at the Main bus station. **Uber/Bolt services** are available through their apps normally in whole Zadar area.

 **Local bus** runs from the Main bus station to different parts of the city. The line 2 runs to the City Centre/Old Town. For more information visit: <https://liburnija-zadar.hr/en/city-transport/>

If you want to know more, see the **Guide to Zadar:**

<https://getbybus.com/en/blog/zadar/>

Accommodation in Zadar

Zadar is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Croatia, so book your accommodation well in advance! Fortunately, there are plenty of options. As you can see on *Booking* or *Airbnb*. We will give you just a few suggestions here.

► Hotels in the historic center

Bastion Heritage Hotel is a 4 star historic hotel with modern amenities and luxurious decor. You can find it in Bedemi Zadarskih Pobuna 13.

Hotel Almayer is a 4 star boutique hotel offering a blend of modern amenities and historic charm. The hotel features individually designed rooms, a cosy garden, and a gourmet restaurant. You can find it in Ulica Braće Bersa 2.

Hotel Art Kalelarga is a 4 star boutique hotel known for its stylish rooms and excellent service. You can find it in Ulica Majke Margarite 1.

► Hotels in walking distance from the historic center

Hotel A'mare Zadar is a 4 star hotel with modern amenities and luxurious décor, just minutes from the old town. You can find it in Bana Josipa Jelačića 4A.

Hotel Kolovare is a 4 star hotel with a modern and original architectural structure adapted to the Mediterranean area. You can find it in Bože Peričića 14.

Falkensteiner Club Funimation Borik is a 4 star family hotel offering all-inclusive options and various sports facilities o 4 km away from the Old Town but connected through public transport. You can find it in Majstora Radovana 7.

► Apartments/Guesthouses

There is a wide range of possible accommodation in Zadar in the section of hostels, apartments and guesthouses. **Boutique Hostel Forum, Hi Hostel Zadar, City Class Accommodation or Piazza Room** are just some of them.



ene2025

Photo:



Photo: Fabio Šimićev