

A Soldier's Life on the Edge of Europe

Castrum Cumidava: Home of the VI Cohors Cumidavensis

Archaeology of the Roman Frontier

Rasnov, Transylvania, Romania

July 3 - August 6, 2016



Duration: 5 weeks (2 weeks minimum)
Costs: US\$1575 for 5 weeks. (\$450/week for short stays)

It includes:

- Excavation registration, taxes, fees, lectures and most gear
- Housed in double/triple occupancy rooms in our base house or in a beautiful hotel in Rasnov, a few miles from Bram Stoker's Bran Castle
- Breakfast and dinner - Monday-Friday

ROMAN MILITARY EXCAVATION AND SURVEY

The Transylvanian Limes (*Limes Alutanus*) was the richest, hard fought and unstable European frontier of the Roman Empire. Our project seeks to explore the human dimension of the military presence on the imperial frontier, assessing the military aspects of Roman colonization from various anthropological perspectives. We are first and foremost interested in the different vectors of creolization resulting from the dynamic cultural, social, economic, religious, political and military interaction between the “representatives” of the Empire and the autochthonous Dacians. Our multiscalar and multidirectional approaches aim at exploring the various elements that constituted the daily lives and practices of the soldiers and how they responded to the imperatives and pressures generated by the liminal environments emerging on the imperial frontier.

The VI *Cohors Cumidavensis*, stationed in *Castrum Cumidava* on the Transylvania Limes, was likely formed in Noricum, from German Romanized conquered populations. Through the exploration of their barracks, we will focus on the evolution of their personal and military practices as they dynamically integrate their Germanic origins, Roman imperatives and Dacian local realities. The excavation takes us from the early Dacian Wars wooden *castrum* to the stone fort abandoned during the Aurelian Retreat of 271AD.

This project will introduce our participants to a multidisciplinary integrative approach, combining excavation, remote sensing, and field survey. They will learn to perform geospatial analyses, such as military terrain analysis and/or using various vegetation indices to locate other structures as well as the civilian settlement(s) associated with the *castrum*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.archaeotek-archaeology.org

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