The Roman army at the ancient fortifications

The Roman army was an army organized into regiments. Due to frequent major battles, conquests and internal unrest, the army was constantly reorganized and expanded. The organization of the military along the lines of the Claustra Alpium Iuliarum was part of a reform that privatized and strengthened the army's military system. In addition to the legionaries, auxiliaries were also trained and observed the visible terrain and organized quick and short actions if needed. The late Roman army also included groups of people who were not Roman citizens, such as mercenaries from barbarian tribes, most often Goths.

The Julian Alps cover north-western Slovenia, with a small section located on the Italian side of the border. Their location and position on the border of the Roman Empire made them a strategic location for fortification and the establishment of fortifications.

The Roman Empire had an army organized into legions. A legion was the basic unit of the army and was organized into sections. The legion was divided into cohorts, and each cohort was further divided into centuries. The Roman army included auxiliary forces, which were not citizens of Rome, and were recruited from the states and provinces of the empire. These forces were used to fight in wars and to enforce the empire's borders.

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Welcome to the cultural and tourist route Claustra Alpium Iuliarum - a wall that connects

Explore all areas that connect, on a small area, green landscape, wetlands, the coast and mountains, cultural and natural heritage, sports activities and incredible views.

Tarsatica, Ripsa and Raptina

On the coast of the Adriatic Sea and the Bay of Kvarner, there lies an archaeological site of the Tarsatica-Ripsa-Raptina section located on the Italian side of the border. Their vicinity of present-day Rijeka, we find opportunities to view the sea on one side and the mountains on the other, which reflect the diversity of the Kvarner region.

On this site, we can find a number of important cultural sites, such as the remains of walls, towers and fortlets. Getting to know the fort with a diameter exceeding 600 metres, can be a challenging task. However, a tour of the remains of walls, towers and fortlets will reveal the rich history of the area.

The walls, which were erected in the north direction, begin on the cliffs above the road connecting the ancient city of Rijeka with the modern road. In Roman times, relay stations served as resting places along the roads, in this case along the road connecting the ancient city of Rijeka with the modern road.

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Under the slopes of the Julian Alps, one can find traces of walls built in mountainous areas. It is assumed that there are also unknown, undiscovered traces here that could tell us much more about this ancient civilization. The defensive wall near Zarakovec forms part of the Roman defence system located in an uneven line. The defence system is known to us as the “lobor triumvirate” due to the location at the source of the Rječina River, the source of Pasjak. The fortlet was located along the ancient road (Claustra Alpium Iuliarum system). The traces are located in the area that was a part of the Roman road construction. The wall was destroyed at the time of the construction. The wall was built to protect the region of the Roman alpine system and the two villages.

11  SELO PRI ROBU

The four kilometre-long archaeological trail is a real attraction for experiencing nature and history in one. The trail follows the wall line that is part of the Roman road construction. The wall was destroyed at the time of the construction. The wall was built to protect the region of the Roman alpine system and the two villages.

12  RAKITNA

The Rakitna Plateau is another location in the Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana Marshes). While traces of two towers can be found in the forest, the wall can be followed in the form of an embankment that extends in an uneven line. There is an artificial lake in this area that offers swimming and fishing possibility. The walls and towers in the immediate vicinity of the houses, which were built in prehistoric times. The wall that has been poorly preserved in particular areas and the wall that is part of the defence system was erected on the foundations of ancient dry stone walls. The wall line follows the natural barrier of the Rječina River canyon. From the source of the Rječina River to the mountain valley below the wall. It is assumed that this modestly preserved fragment of the defence system functioned in conjunction with the nearby defensive or non-protective barriers.

13  NOVI POT

Borders change, civilizations change and states change. The Roman city was a defensive wall that protected the centre of the Empire from barbarian invasions, and it is on the location of this wall that the state border between Croatia and Slovenia is situated today. Nearly three kilometres of the defence wall can be observed at the site separating the two regions of the Claustra Alpium Iuliarum system and the two villages.

14  GRADAŠČE NEAR ROB

Underneath what looked like a simple earth embankment there is a tower. The wall extends over the hills, and in some places, there was a fortlet which could be used as a lookout or also served as a logistical hinterland for the soldiers. The modern fort is not a tower wall, making the fortlet a comfortable place in the cold winter months. While researching the site, they now know that there was a fort here that led to the fort being abandoned.

15  TABRŠČE

The fortified settlement, named Castra Romana times, was fortified by mighty walls and four towers. For its construction, an elevated section of the wall was used to form the base of the structure, which is why it served as a logistical breakdown for the defence system, especially the Alp Roman fort. The modern town of Appiaco still reveals traces of ancient wall and fortifications.

16  LANIŠČE

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17  ZAKOŠEC

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20  ZARAKOVEC

Rakitna is a small village located in the Ad Pirum region. The modern fort is not a tower wall, making the fortlet a comfortable place in the cold winter months. While researching the site, they now know that there was a fort here that led to the fort being abandoned.

21  TREBICJE

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22  NOVA GORICA

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23  HUBARA

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27  GRADNA ABOVE PASJAK

A small hamlet, a mysterious fortlet whose purpose is unclear, is located along the Croatian-Dalmatian border. It is here that the principium – the southernmost point of the frontier fort – is located. The fortlet was located along the ancient road connecting Tarsatica and Targeta (today’s Tribunj) and today follows the same road as the modern road. The fortlet is located near the Benete or Novi Pot barriers. The preserved parts of the wall reflect the Roman construction technology in which irregular pieces of stone were bound with plaster.

28  STUDNJUS

From the source of the Rječina River to the mountain valley below the wall. It is assumed that this modestly preserved fragment of the defence system functioned in conjunction with the nearby defensive or non-protective barriers.

29  JELENJE ON GROBNIKO POLJE

The exit from the Roman Tarsatica follows the Rječina canyon, and then follows a barrier system that extends across the Grobnikovo polje (Grobnik Field). Here you can explore the rich ecosystem of the Kobilji curek stream and also explore the rich ecosystem of the Kobilji curek stream and also explore the rich ecosystem of the Kobilji curek stream and also explore the rich ecosystem of the Kobilji curek stream.

30  SOLIN

A position 200 metres above sea level offers excellent views of the sea and land routes to ancient Tarsatica. The entire settlement is surrounded by 17 hectares of the ancient site and the wall that is part of the defence system was erected as a logistical breakdown for the soldiers. The modern fort is not a tower wall, making the fortlet a comfortable place in the cold winter months. While researching the site, they now know that there was a fort here that led to the fort being abandoned.

31  RIJEKA

The Roman city of Tarsatica was directly located along the coast of the Adriatic Sea. It is here that the principium – the southernmost point of the frontier fort – is located. The fortlet was located along the ancient road connecting Tarsatica and Targeta (today’s Tribunj) and today follows the same road as the modern road. The fortlet is located near the Benete or Novi Pot barriers. The preserved parts of the wall reflect the Roman construction technology in which irregular pieces of stone were bound with plaster.