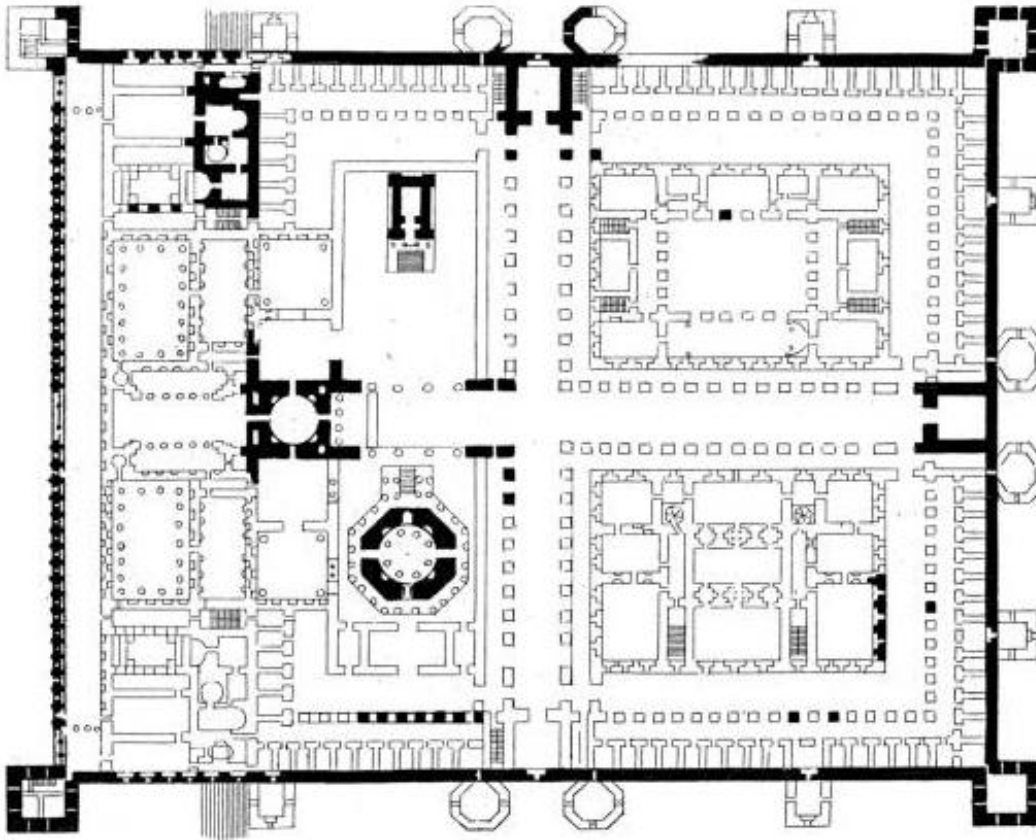




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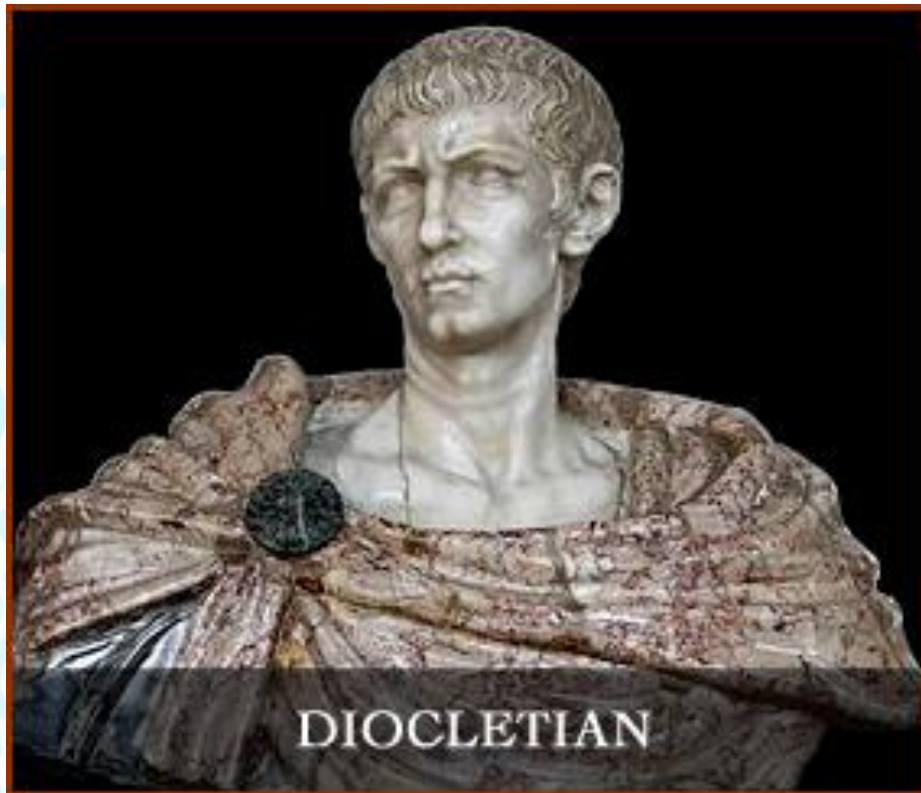
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Gaj Aurelije Valerije Dioklecijan



Gaj Aurelije Valerije Dioklecijan bio je vladar Rimskim Carstvom tijekom prijelaza iz 3. u 4. stoljeće. Rođen u blizini današnjeg Solina, Dioklecijan je započeo svoju karijeru kao rimski vojnik te je brzo napredovao zahvaljujući hrabrosti i vojničkim vještinama, postavši konačno car. Godine 284., vojska ga je proglasila carem, a on je vladao Rimskim Carstvom tijekom sljedećih 20 godina.

S obzirom na potrebu za učinkovitom obranom granica i vladavinom u ogromnom carstvu, Dioklecijan je uspostavio tetrarhiju, sustav vladavine četvorice vladara.

Nakon njegove smrti, svi natpisi i kipovi cara su uništeni, ali jedini sačuvani portret, koji pretpostavljamo da predstavlja Dioklecijana, nalazi se u njegovoj monumentalnoj grobnici, danas poznatoj kao katedrala sv. Duje.



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Dioklecijan i Priska

Kipovi četvorice vladara, poznatih kao tetrahija, izrađeni su od crvenog porfira, vrlo tvrdog granita. U prošlosti su krasili Konstantinopol (danas Istanbul), no danas se nalaze na bazilici sv. Marka u Veneciji.

Priska, Dioklecijanova supruga i majka njegove kćeri Valerije, zauzima važno mjesto u povijesti. Njezin reljef, zajedno s Dioklecijanovim, sačuvan je na istom mjestu - u monumentalnoj grobnici, čime se očuvala njihova zajednička prisutnost i naslijeđe.

Dioklecijanova palača

Dioklecijan je gradio svoju palaču u Splitu tijekom deset godina (295-305. godine). Kada je palača bila gotovo završena, on se odrekao prijestolja i vlasti te se nastanio unutar nje. Palača, zapravo zidana kao mali fortifikacijski grad, opasana zidinama Šesnaest Kula koje su čuvale prilaze i ulaze, s dvije glavne ulice, Cardo i Decumanus, dijelile su je na dva dijela - Dioklecijanov rezidencijalni dio i onaj za poslugu. Između njih su bili hramovi rimskih božanstava i veličanstvena carska grobnica.

Na sjeveru palače smješteni su vojnici i osobe koje su služile bivšem caru, dok su na jugu, iznad supstrukcija, bile Dioklecijanove privatne odaje - njegov stan s kojeg se pružao pogled na rivu uz more.



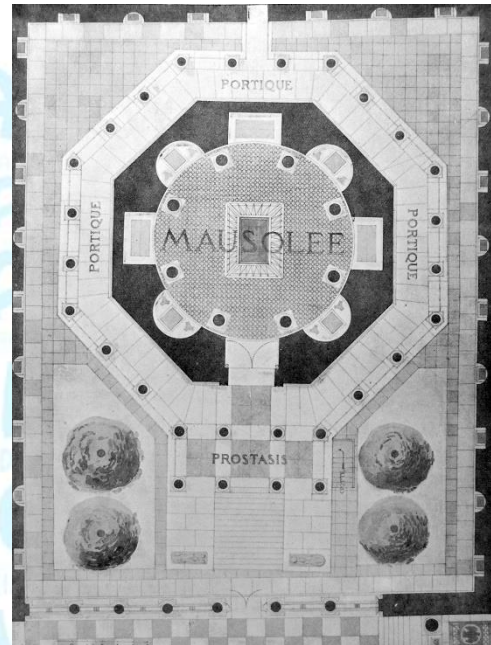
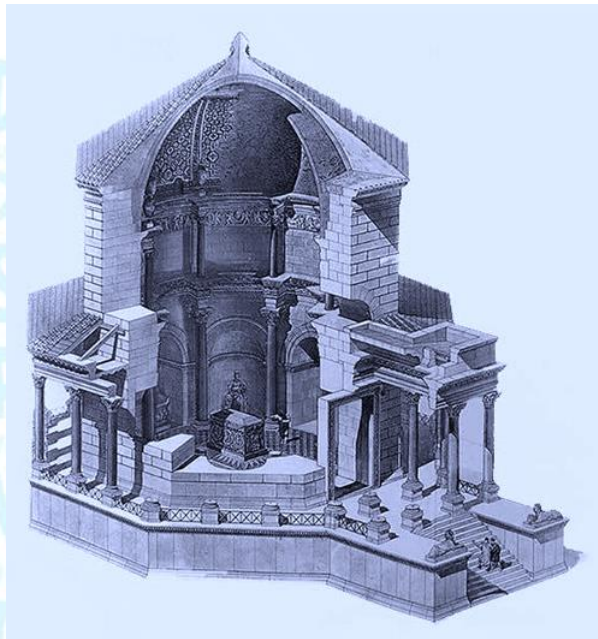
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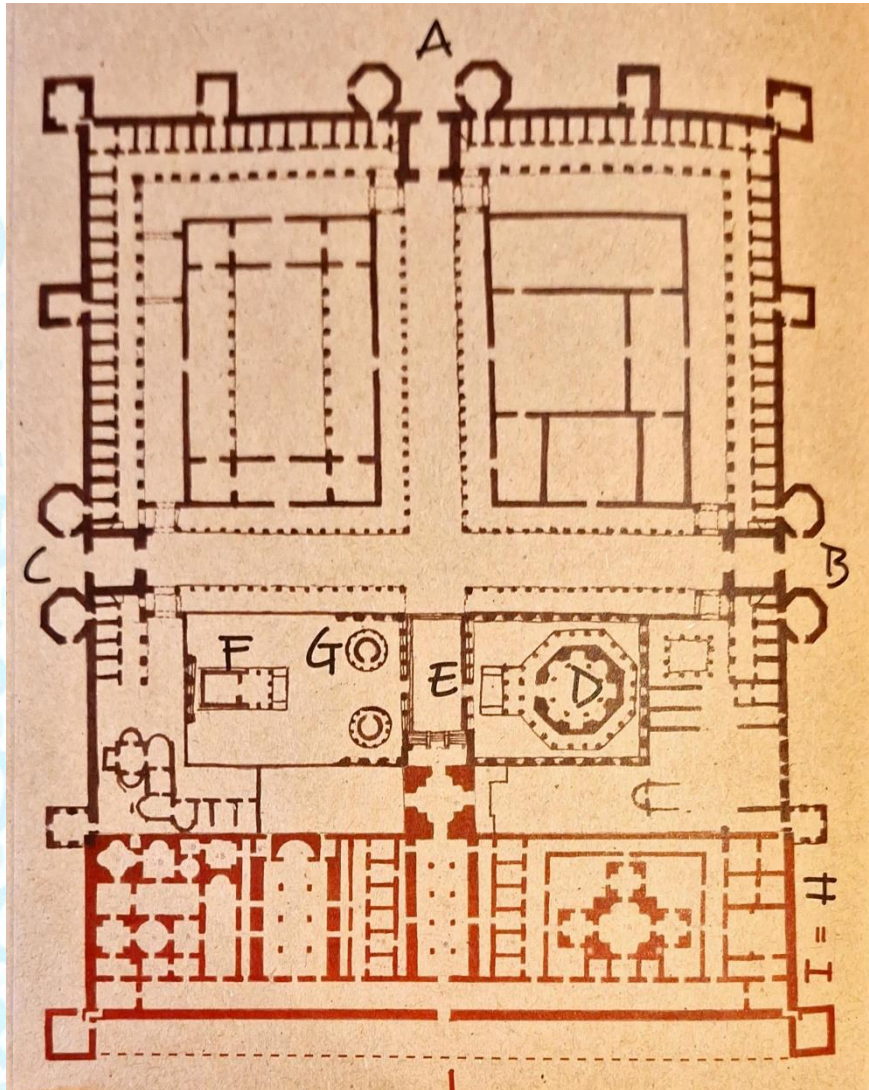
Zlatna vrata, glavni ulaz u palaču, bila su ukrašena kipovima četvorice vladara. Mauzolej, grobnica cara Dioklecijana, nazvana je po kralju Mausolu iz Halikarnasa, a nakon Dioklecijanove smrti postao je crkva, današnja katedrala sv. Duje.



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A- Zlatna vrata

B - Srebrna vrata

C- Željezna vrata

D- Mauzolej

E-Peristil

F - Jupiterov hram.

G - H

A = I - Dioklecijanov stan + Supstrukcije
"podrumi"

J-Riva



U svim prizemnim prostorijama, uklesani su neobični znakovi u kamen. No, što zapravo znače ovi enigmatični simboli?

Mnogi od tih znakova imaju veze s porijeklom, imenom ili vjerom graditelja, dok neki otkrivaju tajne same gradnje.

Primjerice, u grčkoj abecedi, Delta označava naše slovo D i broj 4. Bršljanov list simbolizira vječnost, dok dupin predstavlja simbol vode, mudrosti, proricanja i opreznosti. Sjekira se, s druge strane, tumači kao simbol pobjede.

Sfinge

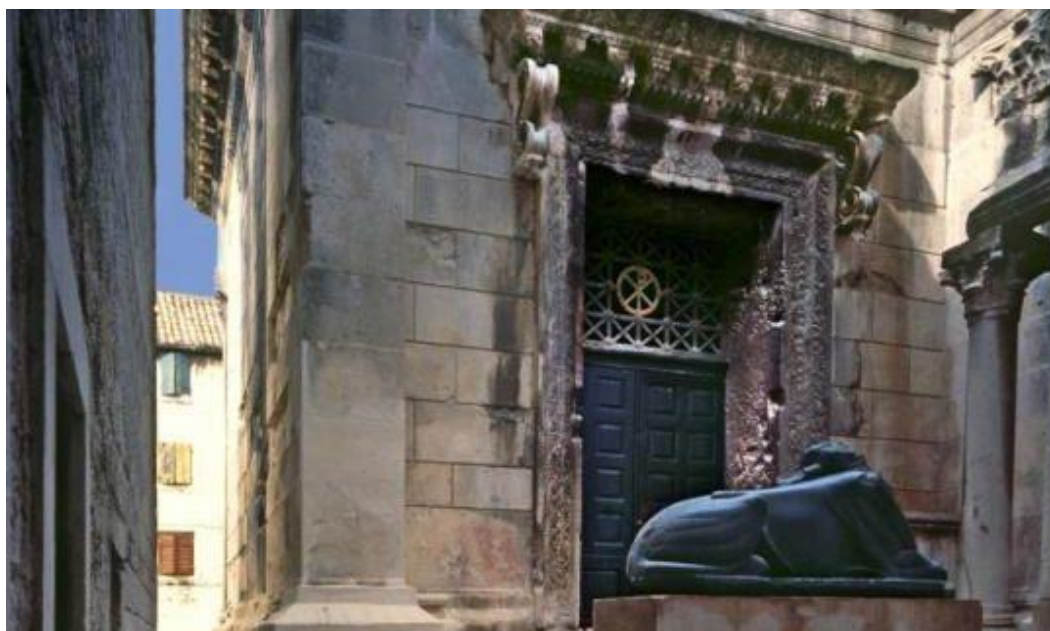
Posebno zanimljivo su sfinge koje krase palaču, a sve potječu iz Egipta. Prema grčkom mitu, sfinga je nastanjivala planinu blizu Tebe i izazivala svakog putnika koji nije znao riješiti njezinu zagonetku, ubijajući one koji su bili nesposobni odgovoriti.



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Sarkofazi

Bogati Rimljani su pokojnike često ukapali u sarkofage, kamene škrinje s ravnim poklopcem ili onima oblikovanim poput krova kuće. Posebno cijenjeni bili su sarkofazi ukrašeni reljefima prikazujući mitološke scene, dok su nešto pristupačniji bili oni s natpisima o životu i smrti pokojnika.

Blagovaonica

U središtu istočnog dijela Dioklecijanovih odaja dominirala je raskošna blagovaonica, poznata kao triklinij. Sastojala se od središnje osmerokutne dvorane (A) okružene tri manje prostorije elegantnog oblika (13). Ova prostorija bila je ukrašena raznobojnim mozaicima, zidnim slikama (freskama) te šarenilom mramornih ploča.

Ispred ulaza u blagovaonicu stajala je impozantna kamena fontana s ugrađenim instalacijama za protok vode. Voda pod pritiskom dolazila je do kamene posude, iz koje su četiri mlaznice stvarale blagi vodeni tok u plitkom četvrtastom bazenu.



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Kupalište

Kao i ostali Rimljani diljem Carstva, car Dioklecijan i stanovnici palače provodili su svoje slobodno vrijeme u kupalištima. Terme ili kupališta pružala su različite sadržaje za zabavu i rekreaciju, uključujući raznolike bazene i prostorije s različitim temperaturama. Osim higijenskih potreba, terme su bile mjesta za njegu tijela, preznojavanje i masaže, predstavljajući složeno zadovoljstvo i središte intenzivnog društvenog života.



Javni nužnik

Unutar rimskog kupališta nalazila se javna latrina. Za Rimljane, obavljanje nužde nije bilo povezano s današnjom privatnosti, pa su latrine bile i mjesta druženja. Toaletne školjke tog vremena imale su oblik izduženih kamenih klupa s više sjedala. Rupe na gornjoj površini klupe koristile su se za obavljanje nužde, dok se kroz rupu na prednjoj strani provlačila spužva na drvenom štapu, predstavljajući svojevrsni preteča današnjeg toaletnog papira. Nakon korištenja, spužva se ispirala u kanalu tekućom vodom i odlagala u posudu s morskom vodom i octom.



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Kanalizacija- Vodovod

Voda za piće, kupanje, fontane i druge potrebe stanovnika palače dovođila se iz izvora rijeke Jadro putem vodovoda (akvedukt) dugog 9 kilometara. Iako je Dioklecijanov akvedukt bio onesposobljen i zatrpan u ranom srednjem vijeku, obnovljen je u 19. stoljeću i danas ga koriste Splićani za iste potrebe. Otpadna voda iz kupališta teče ispod kamenih sjedala latrina, odnoseći otpad u kanalizaciju, a potom u more. Proučavajući zatrpane prizemne prostorije, otkrio sam brojne rimske kamenje cijevi za odvod vode, postavljene jedna na drugu kako bi omogućile protok vode.



SREBR
PODR
VESTIBUČ
VESTIE
DECUMANUS
DIOKU
VESTIBUL
BRONČANA VRATA
PERISTIL
PRISKA
SFINGE
ZLATNA VRATA
CARDO
DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE
PERISTIL
DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE
DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE
DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE
PROTIRON
PERISTIL



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A WALK THROUGH THE CITY



Grgur Ninski, a significant figure sculpted by Ivan Meštrović, stands as a remarkable statue in Split, leaving a lasting impression on tourists. This colossal figure portrays a Croatian bishop from the 10th century who advocated for the use of the old Croatian language in liturgical services instead of Latin. If you observe closely, you'll notice that the left big toe of the statue has been polished to a shine. Legend has it that rubbing this toe brings good luck and ensures a return to Split.

Gregory of Nin was a bishop in the medieval Croatian capital of Nin, remembered for challenging the Catholic Church in Rome. In 926, he called for the introduction of the national language into religious services to enhance worshippers' understanding of the word of God. However, the church insisted on delivering all services in Latin through the priesthood. Gregory became a crucial figure in Croatian history,



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defending Croatian culture, language, and statehood. Sculptures of him can be found in various towns and cities across the Balkan country.

In Split, there is a particularly large example of Gregory's sculpture, standing at a towering height of 28 feet (8.5 meters).

Crafted by Ivan Meštrović in 1929, the monument was initially placed in the center of Diocletian's Palace before being moved during World War II. Finally, in 1954, it found its current location just outside the city's Golden Gate. Gregory, deep bronze in color, has one golden big toe due to decades of constant rubbing.



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This charming colonnaded ancient Roman peristyle, nestled at the core of Diocletian's Palace, offers a delightful sight for visitors. During the summer, you might encounter local lads dressed as legionaries, enhancing the historical ambiance. Take note of the black-granite sphinx positioned between the columns near the cathedral. Dating back to the 15th century BC, it was one of twelve looted from Egypt during the palace's construction.



The Cathedral of St. Domnius, situated within the ancient area of Diocletian's Palace, was originally Diocletian's mausoleum. Designed by Filotas and consecrated in the 7th century, this stunning structure has undergone minimal changes since then. The cathedral features a 60-meter-tall bell tower, added in stages from the 12th to the 16th centuries, which can be climbed for fantastic views of the palace. Designed in an octagonal pattern with a double line of columns, some Roman originals, the Corinthian-designed cathedral boasts notable interior features, including the Altar of St. Domnius and a 13th-century hexagonal Romanesque stone pulpit.



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The Cathedral of St. Domnius, also known as the seat of the Archdiocese of Split and Makarska, holds immense cultural importance and a millennium-long history. The cathedral comprises two parts: the church, dedicated to Virgin Mary, and a bell tower dedicated to St. Domnius, the bishop of Salona in the 3rd century.



Emperor Diocletian, the founder of Diocletian's Palace, was the last Roman prosecutor of Christians, including Saint Domnius. In the 7th century, the Diocletian Mausoleum was converted into a Christian cathedral, making the cathedral of St. Domnius the



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second oldest structure in the world functioning as a Christian cathedral and the oldest Catholic cathedral still in use in its original structure.

Inside the church, you'll find the altar of St. Anastasius, crafted in 1448 by the renowned Croatian sculptor Juraj Dalmatinac. Noteworthy is the Flagellation of Christ, an impressive main relief on the sarcophagus. On the right side, the altar dedicated to St. Domnius, the patron saint of Split, features a ciborium erected by Bonino da Milano in 1429. The exterior of the church, originally Diocletian's mausoleum, is surrounded by 24 well-preserved columns, and two rows of red granite Corinthian columns encircle the domed interior. Another fascinating feature is the two wing gates made in walnut in 1220 by Croatian sculptor Andrija Buvina, adorned with 14 tablets depicting scenes from the life of Christ.

The St. Domnius Bell Tower, under construction since around 1100, presents a blend of Romanesque styles due to its extended construction period. Visitors often enjoy climbing its stairs to the top, offering an unforgettable panoramic view of Split and its surrounding islands. While an entrance ticket covers the Cathedral of St. Domnius and the baptistery (Temple of Jupiter), a separate ticket is required for those wishing to ascend the cathedral's bell tower.

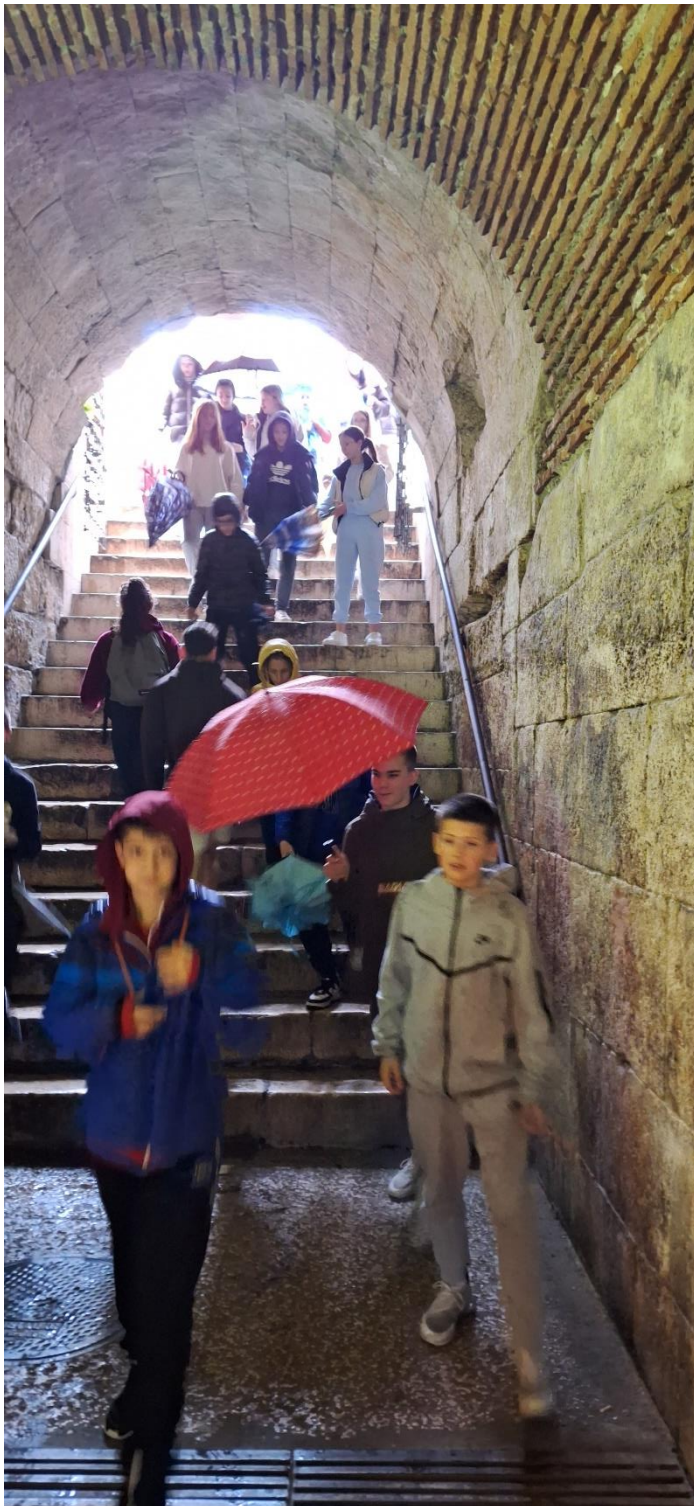
The basement of Diocletian's Palace is a notable spot for fans of the Game of Thrones series, as it was used as a filming location. Originally, the Bronze Gate of the palace opened directly from the water into the basements, facilitating the unloading and storage of goods. Today, this former tradesman's entrance serves as the main gateway from the Riva into the palace.



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While the central part of the substructure is now a bustling pathway adorned with souvenir stalls, entry to the chambers on either side requires a ticket. Although these basement rooms and corridors are mostly empty, occasionally housing a sarcophagus or a piece of a column, they exude a haunting timelessness that justifies the admission fee. For Game of Thrones enthusiasts, this is where dragons dwell – Daenerys Targaryen keeps her scaly brood here when she's in Meereen.

The Basements, also known as the "basement halls," are situated below the emperor's apartment in the southern quarter of the Palace. During the conversion of the palace into the city of Split, most of the residential complex was demolished, but the ground floor halls were remarkably preserved. In the early Middle Ages, a part of the complex was inhabited, and one of the halls was used for producing wine and oil.



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Access to the cellars is available through the Brass Gate or a staircase from the Peristyle. The Western part of the basement has been entirely preserved and is almost fully accessible for sightseeing. Although the Eastern part collapsed during the Middle Ages, it has been excavated, and a significant portion is also open for exploration.

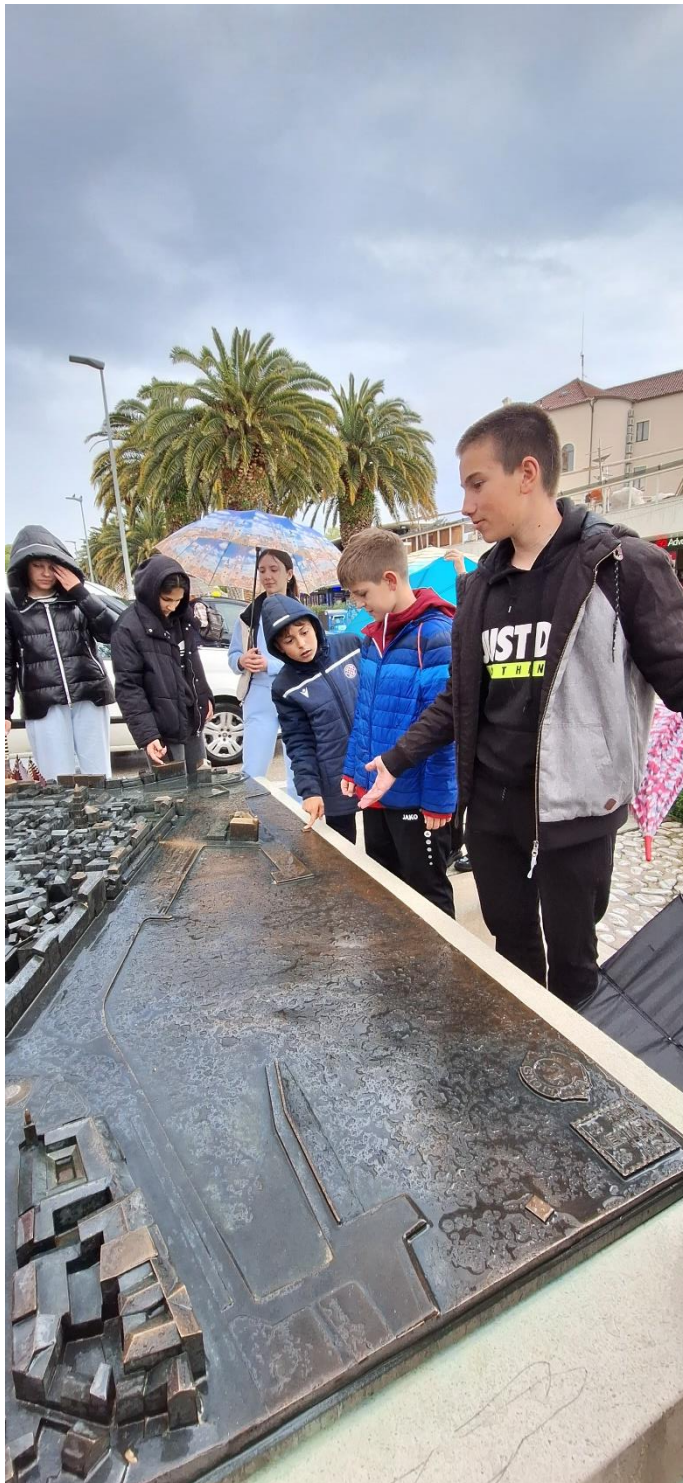
The magnificent Diocletian's Palace (Dioklecijanova palača) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the Roman military camp style and is remarkably well-preserved. Although Emperor Diocletian resided here for only eight years until his death in AD 313, the palace continued to serve as an essential administrative center and the governor's residence. In AD 615, during the sacking of the Germanic Avars, the palace became a refuge for the residents of Salona.



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Originally, the palace measured about 215 meters in length, 180 meters in width, and was surrounded by thick walls up to 28 meters high. Additionally, it had four entrances, including the Golden Gate, Silver Gate, and Iron Gate, each leading to two Roman-tradition roads. Notable attractions within the palace include the Temple of Jupiter, the Cathedral of St. Domnius, medieval Brace Radica Square featuring the 15th-century Marina Tower, the 17th-century Milesi Palace, and a statue of Marko Marulic, the founder of Croatian literature.

The citizens of Split take pride in Marjan Forest Park, a retreat dating back to the fourth century, offering a serene escape with its towering pine trees and walking trails. The famous Marjan Stairway, with 314 steps, leads to the Telegrin vantage point, providing breathtaking views of the sea and surrounding islands.

The Lazaret Coast, where the Tourist Palace and taxi stand are located today, played a vital role in

the 16th century. The construction of the Split Lazaret, a significant commercial and health building, was initiated here. The lazaret served as a quarantine facility for



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goods from the Middle East and the Far East, making Split a crucial hub between the East and Venice.



Initially built for health purposes, the lazaret was later repurposed for military, customs, and financial uses. It underwent several transformations, and today it is a part of Split's history, reflecting its crucial role in maritime trade and public health. The Riva, Split's lively promenade, showcases the south facade of Diocletian's Palace, making it a popular spot for locals and tourists alike. It has evolved over the centuries and remains a vibrant pedestrian zone, hosting cultural events, political rallies, and serving as a stage for city life, especially during the celebration of Sudamja dedicated to St. Domnius.



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