DIOCLETIAN’S PALACE’S BASEMENT HALLS’ FLOORPLAN

Built as a foundation for imperial residence, these halls are today one of the best preserved Roman monuments in the world.

The walls of both wings of DIOCLETIAN’S Palace basement are carved with various sigillaria, done by people who lived in April and the floor, find as many as we as possible, and take pictures of them.

The Vestibule was once the main entrance to the Emperor’s home, built to make visitors feel humble in front of such a great men. Through its open ceiling you can spot the Cathedral’s bell tower, and it’s always a challenge to use vestibule’s acoustics and sing.

The Peristyle was the main square inside the palace, surrounded by temples and DIOCLETIAN’s mausoleum, today the Cathedral of Saint Domnius. For 17 centuries this imperial spot has been the true hearth of Split & a special attraction is the 3600 year-old Egyptian sphinx, brought to the palace during construction—ever since, it has been closely watching over Split. Can you see the hieroglyph at its base?

Spit has a unique cathedral, built as a burial place for an Emperor, and then turned into a church more than 1400 years ago. Don’t miss its 800-year-old wooden doors, designed for ordinary people to learn about the life and passion of Jesus Christ through carved pictures, with all the main events, from the Resurrection Scene, to the Last Supper and the Resurrection.

Early Christians converted the Temple of Jupiter, supreme god of Roman religion, into a baptistery. Instead of Jupiter’s statue, today there is a baptismal font, and another sphinx in front of it, here is the assignment—take a photo of yourself replacing a head on the sphinx! Did you know that people in Split have a name for the narrow passage next to the baptistery? We call it “Let me pass”, for obvious reasons.

DIOCLETIAN’S Palace had two main streets, the Cardo running north-south, and the Decumanus running east-west. Stand at their intersection, and witness how, after more than 1700 years, they are still the main streets in the centre of Split.

Hundreds of years ago, Medieval residents of Split built their houses with stones and bricks previously used for Roman buildings. They also included various decorations, placed randomly in the houses’ walls, such as the sphinx’ head next to a gardan created by residents of the neighbouring houses.

Right in front of the Golden gate, a giant statue of Gregory of Nin (Grgur Ninski) stands as a guardian of the city. This 10th-century bishop is one of the most important figures in Croatian national history, and the statue was made by the famous artist, Ivan Meštrović. Join all the people of Split and the tourists, and touch its toe to make your wishes come true!

The only palace wall which can’t be seen today is its western wall, except for the Western gate, or Iron gate. Stand in front of it and look at the old clock tower with its unique 24-hour clock. Can you guess what time is it?

The English language has developed, while Croatian has Marko Marulić. This 16th-century writer, who was born in Split, is considered the Father of Croatian literature, as he was the first person to write and publish in the Croatian language. Check his statue made by Ivan Meštrović on Brice Palace square, locally better known as the Fruit Square.

Play and Learn about DIOCLETIAN’S Palace

More than 1700 years ago, Roman Emperor DIOCLETIAN built himself a palace close to his birthplace, but even he could never have dreamed that it would grow into such a wonderful city as Split.

Today, DIOCLETIAN’S Palace is not a museum, it’s the heart of Split, open to everyone. Let us take you on a trip into the past, to learn about the Roman Empire and rich heritage of Split. Carefully read the descriptions and assignments, find all the requested locations on our maps of the Palace and its Basement, learn about them, and play with us. After you have found all locations and marked them on this map, it will be a great souvenir to remember our city when you return home.

Post your photos on social media, use our hash tag #SplitForKids

Welcome to Split!