

Stories of Diocletian

Date: **August 29th – 31st 2024**

Location: **The Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian**

AUGUST 29TH (THURSDAY)

Opening of the event: Program "Togas & Tetrarchs" D 1.1

„Behold them, conquerors of the world, the toga-clad race of Romans! - Augustus“

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: 8:00 PM

"Togas & Tetrarchs" is a unique performance art program that takes the audience on a fascinating journey through time, exploring the evolution and transformation of the toga as a symbol of power, style, and culture.

Through a series of creative scenes, the performance showcases how the toga would have appeared and been interpreted across various historical periods—from the opulence of the Baroque and the elegance of the Renaissance, through the dynamic 20th century, and even into futuristic visions, such as those imagined for the 25th century.

Each segment of the performance is carefully designed to reflect the spirit of its time, combining elements of ancient aesthetics with modern design approaches. Inspired by glamorous events like New York's Met Gala, the scenography and costumes create a visually stunning experience. The final part of the show takes us into the future, where the toga adopts futuristic forms and innovative materials, seamlessly linking rich tradition with visions of the future.

"Togas & Tetrarchs" is not just a fashion spectacle but a deeply thoughtful artistic performance that celebrates the continuity and transformation of culture through the lens of one of the most iconic garments in human history.

AUGUST 30TH (FRIDAY)

Program "Being Prisca" D 2.1.

„Accipe vitam offers“

("Take everything life offers you")

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: 12 PM

The program "Being Prisca" is a unique collaboration between the Tourist Board of city Split and news portal Dalmatinski Portal, aiming to launch a campaign to select one local woman to take on the role of Empress Prisca during the traditional midday address at the magnificent Peristyle Square. This prestigious opportunity allows the lucky winner to experience the historical spirit of Split and the magic of imperial treatment.

In collaboration with experienced makeup artists, costumers, and experts, we will ensure that Empress Prisca shines in a historically authentic costume, complete with sophisticated makeup and a carefully crafted look. On the day of the event, Empress Prisca, accompanied by Emperor Diocletian, will step out before the gathered crowd at Peristyle Square, creating an unforgettable scene filled with historical grandeur and personal emotion.

The "Being Prisca" program is not just an event but a true cultural and historical celebration that honors Split's rich heritage and gives one of our fellow citizens the chance to become part of this fascinating story.

Program "A Memory of Imperial Split" D 2.2.

“Omnia praeclara rara”

(Everything that is precious is rare)

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: at 1 PM to 7 PM

The event continues with the program "A Memory of Imperial Split," offering visitors and locals a unique opportunity to take home what is most valuable—a memory from the heart of Split! At a specific location on Peristyle Square, an imperial chair will be set up, where anyone interested can assume the role of emperor or empress, surrounded by Roman guards.

Throughout the afternoon, completely free of charge, every visitor will have the chance to experience this historical moment, sit on the throne, and feel like true royalty, with the perfect backdrop of Peristyle Square. This program is not just an opportunity for a unique photograph—it's a time capsule that transports you to the era of Emperor Diocletian, creating an unforgettable experience.

"A Memory of Imperial Split" is not just a photograph but a special souvenir, a reminder of the moment when you became part of the imperial splendor of this beautiful city.

Program "Roman March" D 2.3.

„Fata viam inuenient“

(What is meant to be will find its way)

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: 20, 00 sati

Duration: approximately 45 min

The program "Roman March" is designed as a spectacular parade that will move through the heart of Split, gathering a large number of costumed soldiers, senators, courtesans, and history enthusiasts. This event allows participants to become part of a historical spectacle, bringing the authentic spirit of the Roman Empire to the city center.

Every detail is carefully crafted to create a Hollywood moment—from the many costumed soldiers to senators and courtesans marching through the streets, bringing incredible energy and historical ambiance. A special highlight of the parade is the arrival of Emperor Diocletian and Empress Prisca, which further enriches the experience and creates a magnificent sight.

"Roman March" is an event you won't want to miss, offering a chance to immerse yourself in the past and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Program „Legio III Diocletiana 298“ D 2.4.

„Quod sumus hoc eritis“

(like us, you will be)

Location: The Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

Program start time: 20, 30 sati.

Duration: approximately 45 min to 60 min

As a continuation of the "Roman March," the program is designed to showcase the "weight" of the history from which the Roman Empire emerged. Through formations and choreographies, participants will illustrate how challenging and demanding it was to bear the insignia of a legion in ancient Rome, highlighting the physical and mental strength of the professional soldiers of that era.

Visitors and locals will have the opportunity to learn about the customs and life of Roman soldiers, with photo opportunities and social interactions organized in the squares, creating an authentic historical atmosphere in the heart of Split.

AUGUST 31TH (SATURDAY)

Program “I – the Emperor Diokles“ D 3.1.

„Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur i illis“

(Times change, and so do we)

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: 12 PM

The program "I – the Emperor Diokles" represents a unique collaboration between the Split Tourist Board and the Dalmatian Portal, aimed at finding a passionate history enthusiast who will take on the role of Emperor Diocletian in a traditional noon address at Peristyle Square.

This exciting campaign seeks an individual who, with the help of professional actors and the program's creative team, will bring Emperor Diocletian to life, creating an unforgettable moment for all attendees. The program includes detailed preparations to help the future emperor fully immerse in the role, using scenic elements, a large number of soldiers, and historical authenticity. The goal is to connect two significant regions – Split and Salona – and highlight the beginnings of Emperor Diocletian, who ruled for 21 years and whose birth in Salona marked the start of his extraordinary influence in the region.

"I – the Emperor Diokles (I Am Diocletian)" offers a unique opportunity to become "part of history in the present moment" and experience the grandeur of one of the most important Roman emperors, leaving a lasting impression on all participants and spectators.

Program “Emperor's tour“ D 3.2.

“Exegi monumentum aere perennius

(I have erected a monument more enduring than bronze)

Location: The Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

Program start time: 12, 15 sati

Duration: approximately 120 minutes (3 tours)

Tourist Hit!!! Imagine having a private audience with Emperor Diocletian! An selected tour guide will assume the role of the Emperor, accompanied by his guard, leading a group of visitors through Diocletian's Palace. During this exclusive tour, the Emperor will share insights about his reign, legacy, and the values and advantages of life within his palace.

Interested citizens and guests can sign up at the TIC center on Peristyle Square for a free tour in the company of the Emperor. This unforgettable experience includes moments and photographs that will delight every visitor. Additionally, visitors will have the opportunity to dress in togas or military armor if they wish. The tour starts from the Vestibule, where participants gather in front of the TIC, and then they are escorted by soldiers to the starting point of the tour – the Vestibule.

Program "Pass (word)... shall I!?" D 3.3.

"Potius sero quam numquam"

(Better late than never)

Location: Jupiterov hram, ulica „Pusti me proć“

Program start time: 5 PM

Duration: approximately 120 minutes

Our entertaining and educational program aims to introduce visitors to the history of Split through an engaging activity. In the "Let Me Pass" alley, Roman soldiers will be stationed, ensuring that no one can pass without proper authorization! Above them, on a stone near the sphinx, Emperor Diocletian will be seated.

The goal is for the soldiers to ask tourists for a passcode before allowing them to proceed through a secret passage into the heart of the palace. As Diocletian is portrayed by a professional actor, tourists will be educated about historical facts in English. Imagine older visitors from Germany, America, or Canada when they are asked if they know the passcode for entry. Often, they don't know it! This is where the educational fun begins, with laughter and learning!

For example, if you hint that the passcode could be the name of Diocletian's wife or the type of government he established, you'll see visitors quickly searching Google.

This game, which we have previously conducted, has been a huge hit with guests. Beyond the challenge of guessing the passcode, it's marked by fun, interaction, and photo opportunities with Diocletian and the soldiers. A special moment occurs when the soldiers, after "tightening" their formation in the alley, let through the tourists who have guessed the passcode, then swiftly return to their positions as the next group prepares to try their luck with a new passcode.

Program „Tetrarchy - the walk of four“ D 3.4.

„Lex mihi ars“

Location: Peristyle square

Program start time: 20,00 sati

Duration: approximately 60 minutes

Program "Tetrarchy - The Walk of Four" offers an attractive and educational experience developed in collaboration with a professor and students from the Academy of Fine Arts in Split. The core of the program involves the roles of Emperor Diocletian, Emperor Maximian, and co-rulers Galerius and Constantius Chlorus, who will bring to life key moments of the Tetrarchy.

The program begins with an impressive presentation from the façade of Peristyle Square, where the four rulers will deliver speeches on the significance of the Tetrarchy—a

revolutionary political system established by Diocletian to stabilize and effectively govern the Roman Empire. The speeches will explain how the creation of two Augustan and two Caesar positions allowed for long-term political stability.

The choreographic approach includes a spectacular emergence of the imperial guard and the arrival of the legion, creating a dynamic scene with impressive choreography and audience interactions. After the speeches, the four rulers and their army will embark on a magnificent procession through the city, bringing the historical splendor and grandeur of the Tetrarchy to life.

"Tetrarchy - The Walk of Four" offers an unforgettable experience, combining historical education with a theatrical spectacle and allowing visitors to experience the grandeur of the Tetrarchy and the significance of Emperor Diocletian in a unique way.