

„STORIES OF DIOCLETIAN“ 2026

23–24 June and 27–30 August

Otvaranje manifestacije (lipanj)

“DIOCLETIAN’S GALA EVENING”

Ars in Aeternitate – Art in Eternity

This year’s edition of the *Stories of Diocletian* festival will open with a spectacular Diocletian’s Gala Evening, which will bring together outstanding art, contemporary musical expression and a humanitarian mission in the unique setting of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This musical and stage spectacle will transform Diocletian’s Palace into a living stage where history, heritage and contemporary artistic creation come together. The special value of the programme lies in the fusion of classical musical tradition and modern arrangements, featuring performances by orchestras, soloists and musicians, along with the artistic contribution of DJ producer **Joe2Shine** and maestro **Veton Marevci**.

Citizens of Split and visitors will have the opportunity to experience this world-class production through the dress rehearsal and performances on **23 and 24 June**, making outstanding art accessible to a wider audience.

Following the June opening, the second part of the *Stories of Diocletian* festival, taking place from **27 to 30 August**, will bring a series of attractive interpretative and educational programmes that will transform the historic centre of Split into a space for encounters, learning and a shared experience of heritage.

****Continuation of the festival (August) ****

„POMPA IMPERIALIS”

Ex Palatio ad Populum – From the Palace to the People

Experience the magnificent staging of Emperor Diocletian’s arrival at the Peristyle, featuring 70 to 100 costumed Roman soldiers, courtiers and participants.

This spectacular historical ceremony brings the spirit of ancient Split back to the heart of Diocletian’s Palace, transforming the Peristyle into a living stage of the Roman Empire.

Join a unique encounter of history, heritage and tradition.

27 August | 20:00 | Peristyle

“BEING PRISCA”

A Tradition That Captivates

In collaboration with the Tourist Board of the City of Split and Dalmatinski portal, the **“Being Prisca”** programme brings the figure of Empress Prisca back to the magnificent Peristyle, offering a unique blend of history, theatre and the interpretation of cultural heritage.

A woman from Split portraying Empress Prisca, the wife of Emperor Diocletian and a resident of the imperial palace, revives the spirit of Late Antiquity through carefully designed costumes, providing visitors with a special experience of life in the time of Diocletian.

As part of **Diocletian’s Stories**, the programme connects heritage, art and the local community, creating a new experience of discovering the history of Split.

28 August | 12:00 | Peristyle

“Emperor's tour“

AUDIENTIA IMPERATORIS

Imperial Audience – A Meeting with Diocletian

The Imperial Audience with Diocletian

This programme offers a unique experience in which visitors become guests of Emperor Diocletian and enter the world of Roman history through a personal tour led by the emperor himself.

Accompanied by the Roman guard, visitors explore parts of Diocletian’s Palace while the emperor himself guides them through the story of his palace, the Roman Empire and life more than 1,700 years ago.

The programme will take place on 28 and 29 August, and participation is free of charge (registration is required at the Tourist Information Centre at the Peristyle).

The number of participants is limited to 20 people per time slot in order to preserve the exclusivity and personal character of this unique encounter with the emperor.

28 and 29 August | 12:15 | Meeting point in front of the Tourist Information Centre at the Peristyle

“PASS(WORD)... SHALL I!?”

Clavis Imperii

The Password to Enter the Past

In one of the most striking alleyways of Diocletian's Palace, with the symbolic name “Pusti me proć” (“Let Me Pass”), visitors will encounter an unusual meeting and a small historical adventure.

Can you get past the Roman guard? In this interactive programme in English, visitors will have to discover the correct answer to a question about Diocletian and his palace in order to successfully complete the challenge. Only after giving the correct answer will the Roman guard open the passage and allow them to continue their journey through history.

28 and 29 August | 16:00 | “Pusti me proć” Passage

„PRISCA VIVIT“

Evening Walk with Empress Prisca

Accompanied by Empress Prisca and the Roman guard, discover Diocletian's Palace from a completely new perspective. This special interpretative tour brings stories of life at the imperial court and reveals fascinating details hidden among the palace's stone streets.

The programme will take place on Friday and Saturday, 28 and 29 August, starting at 19:00. To preserve the uniqueness and intimacy of the experience, the number of participants is limited to a maximum of 20 people per time slot.

28 and 29 August | 19:00 | Meeting point in front of the Tourist Information Centre at the Peristyl.

„MILES PERDITUS“

Anybody seen a roman?

When a Roman Soldier Gets Lost in Modern Split

What would happen if Roman soldiers from the time of Emperor Diocletian suddenly appeared in contemporary Split? Through an entertaining street performance, the soldiers explore the city, meet passers-by, take photos with visitors and discover what their former home looks like today.

The streets of Diocletian's Palace

„I – THE EMPEROR DIOKLES“

Ego Imperator Diocletianus

Become Emperor Diocletian

One selected participant will have the opportunity to step back into the time of the Roman Empire and briefly take on the role of Emperor Diocletian, the most famous resident of the imperial palace. Under the expert guidance of Associate Professor Davor Pavić from the Arts Academy in Split (UMAS), and in collaboration with Dalmatinski portal, the participant will undergo a special preparation process that includes elements of acting interpretation, public performance and an understanding of the historical figure.

With authentic costumes and the unique setting of the Peristyle, this interactive programme offers a one-of-a-kind combination of theatre, history and personal experience, in which the audience does not simply observe the past as a story, but witnesses its revival.

29 August | 12:00 | Peristyle

„HARPASTUM- THE WORLD OF ANCIENT SPORTS

„Certamen facit magistros“

Experience a Roman Sports Competition

Inspired by an ancient Roman game, Harpastum brings a dynamic competition in which four teams compete through semi-finals and the final.

Preserving the spirit of the original game, the rules have been adapted to modern times, creating an engaging programme that attracts both participants and spectators.

Speed, strength, strategy and team spirit await you in the unique setting of the Peristyle.

29 August | 18:00 | Peristyle

“SAPERE AUDE“

Dare to Know!

An Interactive Encounter with Emperor Diocletian

Join Emperor Diocletian and his Roman guard in a unique walk through Diocletian's Palace. Accompanied by up to thirty Roman soldiers, the emperor will introduce visitors to the secrets, stories and special features of his palace, revealing why Split became home to one of the most remarkable Roman structures.

Through questions, conversations and engaging challenges, visitors will not be mere observers, but active participants in history, with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, discover new facts and experience Diocletian's Palace in a completely different way.

30 August | 18:00 | Peristyle and the streets of Diocletian's Palace