

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE BUTRINT FIELD SCHOOL

The Butrint Field School is run by the Albanian Heritage Foundation <http://www.albanianheritage.net>. Most of the other students on the excavation will be Albanian and from the University of Tirana, however the official language of the excavation is English. The Albanian team in charge of the excavation and most of the students are fluent in English, but if you want to learn some Albanian now is your opportunity. In the surrounding areas Greek is quite widely spoken and some people will speak English or Italian.

PEOPLE:

PRACTICUM DIRECTOR: THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME - Valerie Higgins



Valerie Higgins is Associate Professor at The American University of Rome and is Chair of Archaeology and Classics. She obtained her Ph.D. in Archeology from the University of Sheffield in 1991. Email v.higgins@aur.edu
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PRACTICUM FIELD SUPERVISOR: BUTRINT - Valbona Hysa.



Valbona Hysa is Director of the Butrint Field School and in charge of the excavation courses. She has a Masters degree in archaeology from Tirana University. Since 2005 she has worked for the Albanian Archaeological Rescue Unit, the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology and the Albanian Heritage Foundation. She is a co-author of the only published archaeological field manual in Albanian. Email valbonahysa@gmail.com; hysavalbona@hotmail.com

ARCHEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT TO THE BUTRINT FIELD SCHOOL - Oliver Gilkes



Oliver Gilkes is an archaeologist at Andante Travels, a company specializing in archaeological tours. Before that, until 2010, he taught archaeology in the Department of World Art Studies and Museology at the University of East Anglia and conducted research on the archaeology and cultural heritage of Albania. He has conducted several field schools for students under the auspices of the Butrint Foundation. He is the author of 'The Theatre at Butrint' published by the British School at Athens. His latest book, 'Albania: An Archaeological Guide' will be published later this year. ogilkes@googlemail.com

CONSERVATION PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR: BUTRINT – Albana Hakani



Albana Hakani graduated in History-Archaeology from the Faculty of History-Philology in Tirana in 2004. She finished her postgraduate program in Architectural Restoration and Conservation at the Centre for Conservation and Restoration of Monuments-Institute of Cultural Monuments in Tirana 2009. She worked as Monuments Specialist at Butrint National Park from 2005 until 2008, when she was appointed Head of the Conservation and Archaeometry Dept. at the Archaeological

Service Agency in the Ministry of Culture. She is a board member of ICOM Albania since 2006. Email: albana_hakani@asha.gov.al

ACTIVITIES:

Field School in Excavation and Post-Excavation

Instruction will be given in the following activities: archeological project management including health and safety, elementary surveying techniques including theodolite and level, excavation techniques, stratigraphic recording systems, archeological draughtsmanship, processing and recording of archeological artifacts, introduction to the post-excavation process, introduction to restoration, conservation and tourism.



Field School in Conservation

Instruction will be given in the basic principles of conservation in the field both as regards the standing monuments on the main site of Butrint and the recently uncovered material on the excavations of the Vrina Plain. Students will spend most of their time engaged in supervised practical work. This will be supplemented with presentations on aspects of conservation. The planned activities of the conservation field school may be adapted to address contingencies on the archaeological site or other unexpected conservation issues.

Other Activities

There will be several opportunities to explore the history and archeology of southern Albania including local sites and monuments and the medieval city of Gjirokastra (which has recently been made a UNESCO world heritage site).

THE WORKING WEEK:

The normal working week will be six days: five days of excavation and one day of visiting sites to put the excavations of the field school in a regional context. However, depending on the progress of the excavation, there is the possibility that the sixth day may also be given over to excavation.

The normal working day will be 6.30am -1.30pm with a 45 minute break during which refreshments will be provided. You will then return to Ksamil for lunch. After a break there will be other activities such as post-excavation work, presentations etc.

ACCOMMODATION:



Accommodation will be in a hotel in the nearby sea-side village of Ksamil. The village is a recent creation with extensive beaches, shops, bars and restaurants and an internet café. A regular public bus service provides access to the local town of Saranda c.30 minutes away.

There will be shared rooms (2-3) with a private bath and all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided. If you have particular dietary requirements please make this known

to Valerie Higgins or Valbona Hysa ahead of time.

PRICE:

€2000. This price includes tuition, accommodation as detailed above, equipment and medical insurance. It does not include the following: travel to and from the field school, insurance for personal property, food and drink outside the accommodation package detailed above, vaccinations, visa costs.

CLOTHES AND EQUIPMENT:

All equipment needed on the excavation is supplied. The following is a list of advised items to bring but it does not claim to be comprehensive. It is ultimately up to each individual to assess his/her own needs and neither AUR nor the Butrint Field School can accept responsibility for this:

- Strong shoes for excavation. 'Strong' is defined as either hiking boots or substantial tennis shoes. If you look closely at the photograph which was taken on last year's field school you will see that they are all wearing such shoes. Sandals and flip-flops are not acceptable on the excavation. Students who do not wear the appropriate footwear will not be allowed on the excavation because they will be in contravention of health and safety rules.
- Protection against the sun. The temperature can get high during the day. You need to bring a hat, plenty of high-factor sunscreen, and whilst you may be comfortable digging in shorts and a T shirt for a while, you will also need to bring along a long sleeved shirt and long trousers to protect yourself if the sun gets too strong.
- Insect repellent
- Swimming gear. The hotel is on the coast and most people like to finish the day by cooling off at the beach.
- Toiletries and items of personal hygiene. Ksamil is a small seaside town which has shops with basic items but it will not have the range of toiletries and cosmetics that you would find in a city or in a small town in the States. You are advised to bring enough with you for the duration of the excavation.

HEALTH:

Archaeological excavation is a physical activity. If you have a condition which might compromise your ability to complete the excavation you are advised to seek a medical opinion before registering for the course. If you have a medical condition of any type you must inform either Valerie Higgins or Valbona Hysa at the beginning of the Field School. If you are on medication you must make sure that you have sufficient with you for the duration of the excavation.

Students are advised to consult the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and follow its advice <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationAlbania.aspx>

VISAS AND SECURITY:

Visas can normally be obtained at the point of entry (usually there is a fee) but it is the responsibility of each individual to check his/her own status for this. US citizens are referred to the following website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1076.html

Butrint is situated in southern Albania, close to the border with Greece, and the area is generally safe although students are expected to exercise due caution with regard to their own safety. The advice of the official US government website concerning safety in this area is "visitors should maintain the same personal security awareness that they would in any metropolitan U.S. city."

TRAVELLING TO ALBANIA:

Participants are recommended to travel to Butrint via Corfu in Greece. There is a ferry and a hydrofoil service from Corfu to Saranda in Albania which is close to Butrint. Arrangements can be made to meet participants in the center of Corfu town and escort them to Ksamil. Alternatively participants can take a flight to Tirana international airport but this will involve a considerably longer and more expensive transfer. The costs of transfer from Corfu to Saranda and from Tirana to Butrint are not included in the cost of the field school.

MONEY:

The Albanian currency is lek. You are advised to change about \$130 into lek on arrival in Albania. You can obtain further lek in one of two ways. In the town of Ksamil, where you will be staying, there are places to exchange cash and ATMs though they do not necessarily accept all cards. Cash should be in the form of euros or dollars, the locals much prefer euros. Alternatively, you can go on a weekly trip into Saranda, the local port town, and use an ATM which does accept all major bank cards or credit cards. You should notify your bank or credit card agency that you are visiting Albania as they might stop the card if they suddenly see withdrawals taking place in Albania.

PERSONAL CONDUCT:

Please be aware that you are a guest in Albania and you are, in a sense, ambassadors for your country when you choose to participate in a project such as the Butrint Field School. Local people will notice what you do and, inevitably, draw conclusions about your country from your behavior. Please remember this in particular when you are socializing in the evenings and recognize that what might be considered OK in the bars on your home campus might not be appropriate in the context of a bar in a small seaside town in southern Albania. The best way to avoid embarrassing situations is to interact with the Albanian students and seek their advice on what is regarded as appropriate behavior.

Public displays of drunkenness reflect badly on the Butrint Training School and The American University of Rome and will not be tolerated. Sanctions will be taken against students who display such behavior.

FURTHER BACKGROUND ON BUTRINT

Southern Albania has a rich and varied history ranging from prehistoric hunter gatherers through Illyrians and Epirotes, and Romans to the Ottoman Turks. As a crossroads of the Mediterranean Butrint has been visited by them all and the varied culture of the area today shows traces of this kaleidoscope of civilizations.

From its mythical foundation by Trojan exiles in the 12th century BC until the 19th century AD, the ancient Ionian city-port of Butrint sat at the hub of the Mediterranean world, enjoying the fortunes and enduring the conflicts that prevailed throughout these long centuries. Situated on the south-west coast of Albania, opposite the Greek island of Corfu, the almost perpetual struggle to control the narrow straits in-between undoubtedly shaped Butrint's history and topography from the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BC through to the Napoleonic Wars. The city's rich history – from its days as a Hellenistic sanctuary, to its heyday as a Roman colony and then a flourishing early-Christian centre, to its ultimate

incarnation as a fortified medieval market town – can be traced through the extensive remains of defensive walls, castles, towers, and religious and secular buildings that still dominate the ruined cityscape today.



Other local sites that may be visited during the course of the field school:

Phoinice, the northern capital of ancient Epirus and the largest fortified acropolis in the ancient world is currently being excavated by an Albanian-Italian team which has uncovered temples, houses, tombs and one of the largest ancient theatres in the region.

The city of Kestrina dominates the plain south at Butrint. This Hellenistic site on its conical mountain overlooks a varied landscape which includes the prehistoric raised beaches of Xara, the Hellenistic fortified villa at Malathrea and the Byzantine monastery of Ciflik.

Saranda, the ancient city of Onchesmos, is the local main town and between the tower blocks, clubs and beaches of the cityscape traces can still be seen of the churches and the mosaics of the original town.

Gjirokastra is a unique Ottoman Turkish town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This austere but beautiful city of stone perched on the side of the mountain and dominated by its towering castle, is an hour's drive from Saranda.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following is by no means an exhaustive list of the publications on this area but it will help you get started if you are interested in reading about the area before you come.

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