

THE LOBOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL & BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, CROATIA

PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

What are the average weather conditions during the time of the field school?

Zagreb and Lobar belong to the climatic region of the continental climate, with temperatures ranging from 77 to 86 °F. Mornings are a little bit colder. You should bring suitable clothing (sleeveless T-shirt with long-sleeve work shirt on top, long pants, thick socks and hiking boots or some similar shoes). Always wear a hat and sunscreen. Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but not unheard of. One of the most important things to be patient and learn how to share your private and working area with other people.

Please describe the site(s) where the students will work.

We will work outdoors, but also indoors in the crypt and classrooms at the faculty. When we are outdoors, we will try to keep in the shade as much as possible to help with the heat, but you should expect to work in the sun, in potentially hot temperatures. While in the crypt and at the faculty we will be in a shady or air-conditioned space.

Are there special features of the program site?

Students will first arrive in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, which is rich in historical buildings and museums. In the northwestern part of Croatia, where Lobar is located, we will encounter the architecture of medieval castles and drinking water sources (springs). All the areas we will visit will give different experiences and richness of getting to know the culture of Croats.

Will there be other people onsite with the field school or working in the same area?

We provide students with the opportunity to meet and work with visiting experts.

What does an average week look like?

Typical work day at the site

6:00 - 7:00 am Breakfast
7:00 - 8:00 am Transfer to the site
8:00 am - 12:00 pm Fieldwork, lectures or workshops
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 - 4:00 pm Fieldwork, lectures or workshops
4:30 - 5:45 pm Transfer to Accommodation
7:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner
Evening Homework/free time

Saturdays: work at the site usually till 2:00 pm. If not fieldwork, we have field trips on Saturdays and free Sundays.

In case of rainy days, lectures, excursions and other activities will be held in the work area or in Zagreb.

What are the options for students to access money?

There are a lot of ATMs in Zagreb, where students are every day. There's no need to bring a certain amount of cash. Credit cards are widely accepted.

ACTIVITY LEVEL & ACCESSIBILITY

Please provide information about the physical requirements of the program.

Excavation during this program entails moderately strenuous physical activities - lifting, bending, kneeling, carrying. During the hot weather, every task becomes a little bit harder. We take care that students take enough breaks during the day and we take care about water. Water intake is very important. Bring your own water bottle to refill.

Please comment how accessible your site is for people with mobility challenges. Would someone using a wheelchair be able to participate? Someone who uses crutches or other assistive walking devices?

Unfortunately, it would be pretty difficult to access the site for someone using a wheelchair. If someone is using crutches, it is possible to participate and work at the site.

PROGRAM COUNTRY & CULTURAL INFORMATION

What do you love about the country and area you work in? What do you think students will be most excited to discover?

In addition to the archaeological finds that are always the most interesting for students, they are delighted by nature, natural springs, and the diverse landscapes that they encounter on the way from Zagreb to Lobar. In the vicinity of the site, they will encounter forests, rocks, and small rivers and springs surrounded by medieval castles and prehistoric Neanderthal sites. In Zagreb, they will have all the amenities of a modern city with a long history that is permeated by a modern way of life.

How large is the community where students will be staying? Will students have opportunities to interact casually with local residents? Please describe.

Zagreb has a population of just under a million, while Lobar has around 3.000. In the high-altitude settlement where the site is located, students will rarely encounter the local population. They will most often see them during Christian holidays.

Primary languages spoken by people in the area:

Croatian. People of Croatia are mostly fluent in English.

What are some things students may find surprising about the local culture?

Sometimes they could think people are arguing, while really they are having a normal conversation, which is a consequence of the unknown language and a temperament encountered in countries associated with Mediterranean culture. Croatians are mostly fluent in English, which could be surprising. Food is high in calories, and sometimes heavy for the students. Some students really love it, while some students prefer lighter food. A favorite is cevapi (traditional grilled minced meat).

Are there cultural aspects that students should be aware of before they come, particularly behaviors that could be offensive or misinterpreted (for example, eye contact, dress, gestures)?

Students need to know that people here connect quickly and they usually think that all the new people are friends, but as in any city, some people have other motivations. If you are dancing, chatting and giving your contacts to unknown people, you can make new friends, but also have unwanted experiences, so caution should be taken. If someone wants to be your friend and you are unsure, arrange to meet in a public place with other students rather than giving your personal information at first.

In Croatia, it is not polite to put your feet on a chair, whether it is in a restaurant, at the table on site, or on a bus (also not polite to put feet on a bed).

What cultural enrichment opportunities are students likely to have outside of the program?

Zagreb: a lot of museums, historical buildings, festivals, coffee shops, lakes, a Zoo etc.

Labor: just a few coffee shops, one pharmacy, one shop, one bakery etc.

Will students have opportunities to explore other areas of the country?

During the field school, students will have limited time to explore other areas of Croatia. You will be free on Sundays to explore the area. Usually, students are too tired to go somewhere outside of Zagreb, but there are buses or touristic arrangements to go somewhere else for a one day trip (Plitvice lakes or sea-side, for example).

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS**Please describe student accommodations.**

Accommodation will consist of shared rooms, with bathrooms, in a hostel. Linens, blankets, towels, pillows, and pillowcases are provided. The number of students in a room depends on the final number of students. They don't have a possibility to do the laundry in the hostel, but they have the public one nearby.

During the first three and the last two days, students will be accommodated in Zagreb. During the rest of our program, students will be accommodated in Labor or surroundings, or may stay in Zagreb. Croatia is a popular tourist destination in the summer, and it is not always possible to know far in advance what accommodation will be available.

Please describe how/how often students can do laundry.

Students can do laundry in a self-service laundry close to the hostel in Zagreb, whenever they need.

How are room assignments made? If rooms are assigned according to gender, how will you assign rooms for non-binary, trans and queer students?

Our rooms are assigned according to gender. Before arrival, we would like to speak with any student who has a personal need or desire that does not fit into the usual practice in order to provide what they need with respect to gender or anything else.

Are there options for single rooms?

There are options for single rooms with an additional charge of 65 Euro per day. Single rooms may not be in the same accommodation as the rest of the group. We will need to know at least two months in advance to make arrangements.

Will the program provide meals? If not all meals, please specify which meals students will be responsible for, and what facilities are available for them to get groceries and prepare meals.

Our program will provide meals. Our students will have breakfast and dinner in a hostel. There is a grocery store next to the hostel and in Lobor for snacks or to supplement meals with particular foods.

Please describe typical meals that are offered by the program.

Breakfast and dinner will be served in the accommodation, which can accommodate vegetarians, vegans, and students with various food intolerances. The students with specific dietary needs should report their preferences in the field school application, or communicate to us at least a month before the program starts.

VISA AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Indicate the visa requirements, if any, for US citizens. If there is a visa requirement, what type of visa should students apply for?

Citizens of the US, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand do not need a visa to visit Croatia for up to 90 days. All nationals who are holders of valid Schengen documents, as well as national visas and residence permits of Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania do not require an additional (Croatian) visa for Croatia.

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zagreb University can send an official invitation letter that, if needed, can be used at the relevant embassy to secure a visa to the program.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

If students will fly, what airport should they fly into?

Students should fly to the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Airport in Zagreb.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email Dr. Jana Skrgulja (jana.skrgulja@gmail.com; jaskrgulj@ffzg.hr) or Dr. Petra Niksic (pniksic@ffzg.hr). A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

Where will you meet students?

In most cases, students use Uber or Bolt App to go directly to the hostel. We will meet to welcome students at the hotel once everyone has arrived. The exact time of the meeting with the students will be provided after students confirm their flight bookings.

If the field site is not close to student accommodations, how will students get there? How long does it take?

If students are accommodated in Zagreb, we are driving by bus for about an hour to get to the site every day. .

PACKING LIST

Students will be provided with all the tools and equipment necessary for the excavation and other field research activities.

All students should bring the following:

Required

- clothes for both hot and cool weather, including:
 - short sleeve or sleeveless t-shirt
 - long-sleeve work shirt to layer
 - long pants
- thick socks
- hiking boots or shoes with good tread and some ankle protection
- light jacket
- light rain jacket
- wide-brimmed hat
- sunscreen
- Identification/passport
- Travel documents
- Prescription medication for the entire program period
- Credit/Debit card
- Extra glasses/contacts if worn
- Reusable lunch containers and bottle for water

Packing considerations

- **Will students need formal or nicer clothes?** Students don't need formal clothes, but usually they like to wear something else for a museum visit or faculty visit or going to the city, so they can bring some of their favorite summer clothes.
- **Are there items that are hard to get locally, such as tampons or sunscreen?** No.
- **Shower shoes or indoor shoes?** Indoor shoes or slippers are good choices.
- **Hiking boots/socks?** Hiking boots are a good choice, but not necessary.
- **Swimwear?** Zagreb has numerous places to swim in a swimming pool. If someone is going to the coast, they should bring swimwear and a quick dry towel.
- **How often can students do laundry?** They can do it whenever they want in a self-service laundry nearby.

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

insta- @lobor_ifr_bioarchaeology