



## ***Digging remains and Biological Anthropology in Sanisera***

(Menorca – Balearic Islands – Spain)

### **1. General Information**

In 2008 the **Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field Schools** started its courses at the Roman city of Sanisera. During all these years many **students have come from all over the world to study abroad to Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) in order to dig up the Roman remains located at this classical site on the Northern coast of the island.**

**We recommend this field school to those students interested in bioanthropology, osteology, digging remains of the roman cities and classical archaeology.**

This course is divided in two parts. In this way, students can learn and experiment in both archaeological digs, developed in the land site: **Digging in the Roman city and Biological Anthropology in the tombs of Sanisera.**

#### **Part 1. Digging in Sanisera**

The research is focused on the **archaeological excavation of Sanisera** and it studies what happened in this Roman port connected to the maritime traffic that sailed the Mediterranean during those times. As a result, we know that **this is a very interesting archaeological site**, with abundant findings of multiple artifacts that will help us to reconstruct its past.

The excavation at the Roman city of Sanisera provides all the archaeological documentation necessary for the student to acquire enough training and experience in **all aspects involving an excavation of the Roman civilization from the II century B.C. to the VI A.D.**

*Time dedicated to this part of the program: 50%.*

#### **Part 2. Digging roman graves in the Necropolis of Sanisera**

Death in Rome has been studied in Sanisera since we started digging the first necropolis in 2008. So far we have excavated 90 tombs belonging to a Roman cemetery which could have been related to a basilica in the Roman city of Sanisera, which dates from the 4th and 6th centuries AD. The Osteology corpus in this necropolis includes more than 232 individuals.

**The fieldwork focuses on funerary structures**, specifically inhumation graves. Participants will learn and apply excavation techniques used in biological anthropology when excavating tombs. Students will also participate in lectures on skeletal anatomy and pathologies, classes and exercises related to the course material. In the laboratory participants will be instructed by an anthropologist and other archaeologists in the classification, study, and conservation of human remains and other related materials found.

*Time dedicated to this part of the program: 50%.*

## **2. What you will learn**

### *2.1. In the Fieldwork:*

- How to dig and which archaeological techniques are used.
- Use and handling of the tools that are used during the excavation process.
- Basic principles of stratigraphy.
- Recording the data obtained during the excavation using the Harris Method.
- Practice on the recognition of archaeological materials and Roman finds from the II century B.C. - VI A.D.
- Basic procedures for collecting C14 samples.
- Detecting graves to excavate in the Necropolis.
- Exhume the skeletal remains and record any finds.
- Scale drawings and elevations of tombs/individuals within the tombs.
- Record funerary structures and anthropological remains in context sheets.

### *2.2. In the Laboratory*

- Study and typological classification of archaeological objects of Roman archaeology: ceramics, numismatics, faunal remains, metals and glass.
- Relative dating based on the classification of archaeological objects discovered in the stratigraphic sequence.
- Prepare anthropological material in the laboratory.
- Cleaning, inventory and cataloging of recovered human bones during the excavation process.
- Basics of the methods used in human osteological analysis, including skeletal anatomy, palaeodemography and palaeopathology.
- Learning how to identify age, sex and height of buried individuals.
- Interpret what went on during the burial process of these individuals.

### *2.3. Theory*

- Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Bioarchaeology
- Skeletal Anatomy –Terminology-: generalities, dental structure, skull and other bones.
- History, archaeology, economy and culture of the Roman civilization.
- Introduction to the History of the Sanisera Site.

- The background of Roman funerary rituals.
- Minorcan archaeology before the Roman conquest of the Balearic Islands.

### 3. Directed at

If you have not previously participated as a volunteer in a field school and would like to experiment and gain knowledge with different excavation techniques and methodology during 16 days in two distinctly different sites, this course would be a good option for you.

**It is difficult to find a course that allows you to explore both biological anthropology and archaeology** where you can gain experience and knowledge in both excavating tombs with human remains and techniques used in excavating Roman structures.

**You will experiment in both archaeology and biological anthropology**, two areas with many similarities, but also many differences when excavating and treating recovered archaeological material in the laboratory.

At the end of this program you will have experience in both areas and will be able to better decide what path is best for you; biological anthropology or archaeology.

Both of the excavation sites are located on the northern coast of the island, surrounded by the sea and pristine and dramatic Mediterranean landscapes.

Previous knowledge or experience in archaeology.

### 4. Field School life & language

Participants will also be given lectures on methodology, Roman archaeology, Biological anthropology and classification of archaeological materials. Courses are given in both English. For every seven course days there are two days off.

### 5. Certificates

At the end of the Field Program, students will receive a certificate of participation stating the hours and activities of the course. Participants that perform exceedingly well in the course may receive a letter of recommendation from our organization upon request.

### 6. Sessions & Cost

Sessions	Dates	Cost
Session #7	2024   August 01 – August 16	\$ 2150
Session #8	2024   August 19 – September 03	\$ 1500
Session #9	2024   September 06 – September 21	\$ 1500

Session #10	2024   September 24 – October 09	\$ 1500
Session #11	2024   October 12 – October 27	\$ 1800
Session #1	2025   April 12 – April 27	\$ 1100
Session #2	2025   May 01 – May 16	\$ 1300
Session #3	2025   May 19 – June 03	\$ 1700
Session #4	2025   June 06 – June 21	\$ 1700
Session #5	2025   June 26 – July 11	\$ 1850
Session #6	2025   July 14 – July 29	\$ 1850
Session #7	2025   August 01 – August 16	\$ 1700
Session #8	2025   August 19 – September 03	\$ 1400
Session #9	2025   September 06 – September 21	\$ 1400
Session #10	2025   September 24 – October 09	\$ 1300
Session #11	2025   October 12 – October 27	\$ 1300
Session #12	2025   October 30 – November 10	\$ 1200

## 7. Course fee includes

- Certificate of participation.
- Visits to museums and archaeological heritage of the island. It is also possible to visit places of charm and beaches.
- Accommodation in the Student Residence in Ciutadella. Rooms separated by sex provided with air conditioning for the summer season and heat pump for the fall and winter months..
- Scrupulous daily cleaning of the entire residence by professionals.
- [In case of needing to process Schengen Visa](#) the mandatory letter of invitation will be written so you can travel

**Airfare not included from the student home to/from Menorca (Spain).**

**Meals are not included, although we will recommend some cafés and restaurants that do not exceed the average of 23 € /day in meals.**

**\* If you sign up for two sessions in a row (32 days) that take place in Menorca, the days between sessions (3 or 4 days) you will have the accommodation for free.**

## 8. Spaces available

The course is limited to 14 participants per session. Reservations are only effective when payment of the registration fee is received. If for any reason the course is cancelled, payment is returned according to the field school refund policy.

## 9. Information and reservations

For more information, contact:

Email: [info@archaeology.institute](mailto:info@archaeology.institute)

Web page: [www.archaeology.institute](http://www.archaeology.institute)