Glanum

Information

English

From the Gallic sanctuary to the imperial sanctuary

The ancient site of Glanum* has yielded a remarkable series of sculptures in marble or limestone. This is evidence of the significant process of Romanisation, especially in Provence from the time of Emperor Augustus*.

The discoveries made near the temples are presented: - a series of sculpted portraits, including that of Livia, the wife of Augustus*, and probably that of his sister, Octavia;

- parts of armoured torsos of captive Gallic warriors. These elements constitute a military trophy. These temples, dedicated to the emperor and his family, gradually replaced the Gallic sanctuary established around a natural spring.

The origins of Glanum*

The results of recent studies conducted on the collections of Glanum* are presented in the research laboratory.

These concern, in particular, the Gallic religious practices based on the study of a series of sculptures discovered in the Forum area and its surroundings. The rulers of the city of Glanum* had themselves represented as hero-like warriors sitting in the lotus position, sculpted in limestone embellished with brightly coloured pigments. They are also found on the decorations of the monuments of the city, where they stood alongside the deities of the Mediterranean.

The study of a large lintel designed to accommodate skulls on spikes presented as trophies reveals warlike practices.

Glossary

History

Augustus (63 BC - 14 AD): first Roman emperor. Glanum (Saint-Rémy-de-Provence): Gallic city established around a sanctuary of springs. Bathed in Greek and Roman influences, the city developed from the 1st century AD.

Montagnards: members of a political group of the French Revolution, in favour of the Republic and opposed to the Girondins.

Black Penitents: religious brotherhood of Italian origin, founded in 1586, constituting the papal troops protecting the pope in Avignon.

Tithe House: former St. Peter's Church dedicated, in the late Middle Ages, to a tax warehouse for every kind of taxes collected by the church. Tithing (decima) represents one tenth of the harvest.

Mullioned or criss-cross window: window consisting of vertical and horizontal elements dividing it into several compartments.

Practical information

Average length of the tour: I hour Guided tours in French.

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CENTRE DES

Hôtel de Sade

2,000 years of history

An architectural overview from Antiquity to the Renaissance

In the late fifteenth century Balthazar de Sade (1461-1518) had a mansion built in flamboyant Gothic style in the heart of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, at the site of remarkable civic monuments: ancient baths, mediaeval tower and Tithe house* and religious monuments: Notre Dame de la Tour and St. Peter's Churches built in the Middle Ages and the Chapel of the Black Penitents* built in the late 16th century.

A showcase for the Glanum* collections

In 1929, the building was acquired and classified as monument historique (listed building) by the state under the joint action of Jules Formigé (1879-1960), chief



architect of historical monuments, and Pierre de Brun (1874-1941), founder of the Alpilles Museum. From 1954, under the leadership of Henri Rolland (1887-1970), the Hôtel de Sade became the repository of excavation findings from the Glanum* site. The collections were

presented to the public in 1968. Major ancient sculptures from Glanum* are now shown there. A tour enables discovering, from the excavation to the laboratory, the various stages of archaeological research conducted by scientists for half-century.

* Explanations overleaf.

I The spacious reception room, on the ground floor, punctuated by cut stone arches, gives an image of the residence desired by Balthazar de Sade, the ancestor of the famous Marquis.

It currently hosts the exhibition about Emperor Augustus* and Romanisation.

2 The tower and the façade with mullioned windows* were built in 1513, in flamboyant Gothic style.

The archaeological path: from the excavation to the research laboratory

Archaeological excavations conducted before World War II by Jules Formigé and Henri Rolland revealed the only ancient building now visible in Saint-Rémyde-Provence: a vast bath complex, dating from the fourth century AD.

Its exceptionally well-preserved state, comparable to the thermal baths of Constantine in Arles, gives us an idea of the buildings of late antiquity. A more recent excavation, carried out in 2011,

by the archaeological centre of the Var, completed the floor plan of the bath complex.

- 3 The hypocaust, underfloor heating system of the rooms of the thermae is still visible in the southern courtyard.
- **4 The palaestra**, an area intended for the practice of physical exercises.

Other areas were also devoted to care of the body:

- **5 The pool** made available to the clients of the thermal baths;
- 6 The sauna (laconium);





7 The pool of warm water (tepidarium);8 All the unheated rooms and pools (frigidarium).

The buildings of the ancient thermal baths, built in small limestone rubble stones, were elevated. They were reused successively throughout mediaeval times as stately home, church and finally as a tithing* collection building.

9 Notre-Dame-de-la-Tour Chapel was built on top of the ancient thermal baths, at the beginning of the Middle Ages It was transformed into St. Peter's Church by the monks of the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Pierre de Montmajour in Arles, the owner. In 1318, St. Peter's Church and the adjoining buildings were assigned by Pope John XXII, to the archbishop of Avignon and were then converted into the Tithe house*.

10 A new adjoining chapel was built in 1563 to accommodate the Brotherhood of Black Penitents*, who occupied it until the Revolution. It was then used by a Montagnard* electoral section and then as a theatre, carpenter's studio and a blacksmith's workshop. It collapsed due to lack of maintenance in 1897. You can still see the beginnings of the intersecting ribs of its vault.

II The storerooms

Part of the collections from the excavations of Glanum^{*}: sculptures, mosaics and painted plasters are kept on the ground floor of the mediaeval building. It consists of a solid tower, headquarters of the stately home of which only the lower part can now be accessed.

12 The research laboratory

Housed on the ground floor of the old Tithe house*, this area, dedicated to the researchers, brings together the most ancient sculptures, dating back to the Gallic origins of Glanum*.

Tour