



# Ammaia Roman Town Project, Portugal

## Course ID: TBD

### June 21 – July 25, 2020

#### FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Dr. Carlos Fabião, UNIARQ, Lisbon University, Portugal - [cfabiao@campus.ul.pt](mailto:cfabiao@campus.ul.pt)

Joaquim Carvalho, Ammaia Foundation, CIDEHUS, UE, Portugal [jcammaia@hotmail.com](mailto:jcammaia@hotmail.com)



#### INTRODUCTION

This field school is part of a larger research project that is being developed in Ammaia. Although the initial scientific archaeological work started in 1994, the Roman remains of Ammaia town were classified as a Portuguese National Heritage Monument in 1949.

With the first archaeological interventions initiated in Ammaia, it is possible to observe an important monumental complex, which is the main entrance to the town designated as the South Gate (Porta Sul). This gate leads in the direction of the provincial capital, Emerita Augusta, which, in Roman times, was the administrative center of Lusitania. Another important monument of Ammaia is the Forum, the main center of political, economic, social and religious life of the town and surrounding region. Here in the Forum, we have identified many of the monumental buildings: we can observe a *cryptoporticus* evidenced by some structures that formed the posterior and lateral boundaries facing northeast and the podium of the temple, possibly dedicated to the imperial cult and part of the frontal square including the Forum entrance, as well as shops and part of the remains of the Basilica.

Near the Forum, one of the thermal complexes of a public bathhouse of the town was also identified, having already excavated some structures such as a small *frigidarium* (a cold water indoor pool) and a *natatio* (an outdoor pool, only partially excavated).

In the past few years the archaeological team has also worked on not only the excavation itself but also on the conservation work to prepare the site for visitors. In the existing museum space, two exhibitions present materials that have been collected over time in the town, either in the course of agricultural work in the early twentieth century, or through archaeological excavations conducted during the period between 1995 and 2019.

The Ammaia Foundation has adopted a very important role in heritage restoration and presenting its importance on an international level. The scientific work still in progress, shows the excellent results that the archaeological work has achieved mainly through the application of new non-invasive technologies, particularly through the international project completed in 2014, called the Radio-Past project. This important non-invasive project transformed Ammaia into a "Laboratory for the introduction and practice of new technologies in Archaeology".

In the last few years, several campaigns of geophysical surveys were carried out in the area of the ruins within the 62 acres (25ha) of Ammaia's urban area. As a result, archaeological features of the town which were already known were plotted: namely the Forum area and the northern area of the Baths and the surrounding area to the east. As was verified from the results, the town has a well-delineated orthogonal urban organization (as the oldest traces seemed to demonstrate) with high density construction of "*roman insulae*" (44mx66m buildings) properly framed between the town streets.

In recent years, the archaeological team has worked mostly in the Forum monumental complex and even more recently, in 2019, at the Roman Amphitheatre, the 'newest' discovery in Ammaia. In 2020 we will continue the archaeological component of our investigation with excavations in the Forum Complex and in the Roman Amphitheater. We will also be testing some non-invasive geophysical techniques to check if we can identify some architectural structures by matching the new results with the urban plan of Ammaia from the Radio-Past project. We will also continue to work in the Laboratory on preventive conservation and restoration of archaeological artifacts, such as ceramics, metals (coins and different objects), glass, etc. Besides this, we will continue to carry out several conservation and restoration projects of the exterior structures belonging to the Roman town.

The Ammaia Foundation is a legal public institution, established on the 27th of November 1997. The Ammaia Foundation's purpose is obviously the implementation of the systematic, scientific archaeological excavation of the site, carried out through the establishment of Archaeological field schools for Portuguese and foreign students.

#### **ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS**

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

**Transcripts:** An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvurkl>.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The Ammaia field school is an opportunity to spend five weeks in a unique archeological site. Among the primary objectives of the Ammaia Field School is to provide students with a better

understanding of how archaeology is practiced in the field. This will be achieved by providing the student with classroom-based introduction in the basics of field methods in archaeology, and by providing a practical working knowledge of excavation, laboratory and field recording methods. The students will be integrated within an archaeological research team and they will receive intensive training on archaeological excavation and archaeological stratigraphic interpretation, according to the best practices of the discipline. Archaeological field surveys will be carried out with practical sessions of identification of archaeological sites by field walking techniques. The objectives include the Introduction to the identification and classification of Roman artefacts, ceramics, coins and small finds. In the evening, practical sessions in the Museum and Laboratory will be held where students can identify and classify Roman artefacts with tutorial orientation from the archaeological team. The Laboratory team will give some general lectures on field and artefact conservation practices.

### **PREREQUISITES**

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study onsite how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired, cold and wet and have to work outdoors. Students are required to come equipped with enough excitement, motivation, and adequate understanding that archaeological endeavors require hard, physical work.

#### **DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Our primary concern is with education. Traveling and conducting field research involves risk. Students interested in participating in any IFR program must weigh whether the potential risk is worth the value of the education provided. While risk is inherent in everything we do, we take risk seriously. The IFR engages in intensive reviews of each field school location prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it complies with all our standards and policies, including student safety.

The Ammaia archaeological field work involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. This program operates in an area where the average daytime temperature in June and July is between 20°C (68°F) and 30°C (102°F). Rainfall in the region can occur but not frequently and work continues in light rain. You are required to bring suitable water-proof clothing and footwear as well as sunscreen.

We do our best to follow schedules and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permit agencies, politics, environmental, personal issues or weather conditions may cause changes. This syllabus, therefore, is only a general outline. Students should allow flexibility and adaptability as research work is frequently subject to change.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the field school, students will be able to:

- Understand the different elements of an archaeological field project and the relationships between these elements
- Apply standard excavation methods to archaeological contexts
- Apply new excavation methods to archaeological contexts and artifacts
- Use standard recording techniques to document excavation results
- Undertake preliminary processing of archaeological artifacts and ecofacts
- Undertake preliminary analysis of archaeological artifacts and ecofacts

### **GRADING MATRIX**

Grading will be based on four components:

**Exam (10%):** An exam will be held at the end of Week 3 on archaeological field methods.

**Fieldwork participation (50%):** Students are required to participate daily in field school activities, including field and lab work.

**Field notes (20%):** Students are expected to maintain a field journal and present it for evaluation at the end of the field school. Project staff will instruct students on the standard requirements needed to complete the daily journal entries.

**A paper (20%):** Students will develop a research topic during the field school. This will be based on materials that will be made available before the field school begins. All topics are to be agreed with the project director. Papers will be due on Monday of Week 5.

## **TRAVEL & MEETING POINT**

We suggest you hold purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to departure date.

Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and a range of other factors may require the cancelation of a field school. The IFR typically takes a close look at local conditions 6-7 weeks prior to program beginning and make Go/No Go decisions by then. Such time frame still allows the purchase deeply discounted airline tickets while protecting students from potential loss if airline ticket costs if we decide to cancel a program.

The archaeological site of Ammaia is located very near the border with Spain, in the Serra de S. Mamede Natural Park; a wonderful, quiet and peaceful environment near the medieval towns of Marvão and Castelo de Vide.

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Please be sure to arrive in Marvão, Portugal on or before June 21 (Sunday). The field school activities will conclude on July 24 (Friday), and students should plan onward travel for July 25 (Saturday).

Students landing at the Humberto Delgado Airport in Lisbon (LIS), will be met by the project staff and transferred to Marvão. Students arriving by any other means of transportation to Lisbon (train, bus, etc.), should make their way independently to the meeting point at the airport.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the project director immediately. A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

## **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

Portugal is a member of the European Schengen Visa Agreement. Citizens of the US and Canada do not require visas to enter Portugal. As such, US citizens may enter Portugal for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after your designated departure date. Citizens of other countries should check the Portuguese Embassy website page in their home country for specific visa requirements.

No vaccinations are required but anyone working in archaeology in Portugal needs to have an up-to-date tetanus shot.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

### ***Ammaia***

Ammaia is located in a small village near Marvão, called São Salvador de Aramenha. Field School accommodation will be in the Quinta dos Olhos de Água farm, a five-minute walk to the Ammaia ruins.

### ***Living Arrangements***

Students will be accommodated in a recently constructed building (with 10 apartments) in Olhos de Água farm. In the same area there's a kitchen and a living room. Shared rooms hold a maximum of 4 people. There will be separate rooms for male and female students. There will be a bed for each team member, and you will need to bring your own sleeping bag and towels (see **What to Pack** for a checklist of items you need to bring). The apartments will be cleaned once a

week. It is the student's responsibility to maintain and clean the house for the rest of the week. Students will go to Ammaia field school on foot, about a five minutes' walk. Breakfast is the responsibility of each student, but other meals will be provided by the project staff. Lunch will be provided by a restaurant outside the Lab near the ruins and dinner will be at a restaurant in São Salvador, a 10-minute walk from the lodging apartments. Food and other amenities can be purchased at local stores. Different supermarkets are about a 10-15-minute drive from the Ammaia archaeological camp. All meals are provided from Monday to Sunday (students are responsible for their own meals at weekends if they go to explore the region or do other activities).

**Cell phones, Computers and Mail**

Check with your cell phone provider about call and data charges while roaming. If this is not provided, you can buy a prepaid cell phone when you arrive in Portugal. The cheapest deal costs about \$40 US.

If you plan on buying a phone in Portugal, please make sure you do it before going to Marvão--note: you will not find these shops in Marvão so make sure to get these items before arrival. Also note that plugs and electric currents in Portugal are different from those in the US. Plugs have three square pins and operate on 230V 50Hz.



**COURSE SCHEDULE**

All IFR field schools begin with a safety orientation. This orientation includes proper behavior in the field area, proper clothing, local cultural sensitivities and sensibilities, potential fauna and flora hazards, a review of IFR harassment and discrimination policies and a review of the student Code of Conduct.

**PROGRAM**

**Excavation:** Students will participate in guided excavations at the site of Ammaia and elsewhere in the archaeological complex.

**Non-Invasive techniques:** Students will participate in understanding the relationship between archaeological sciences like geophysical prospecting, geoarchaeology, and zooarchaeology.

**Recording:** Students will maintain a personal field diary which will remain as the property of the project as part of the excavation archive. Students will also participate in filling out specific excavation forms, map finds, and record stratigraphy.

**Cataloging:** Students will participate in field sorting and the cataloging of finds.

**Laboratory:** Scheduled lab tasks will include washing, sorting, and the cataloging of finds.

**SCHEDULE**

<b>Week 1:</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	Arriving	Welcome session
<b>Monday</b>	Morning Afternoon	Walking tour of Ammaia ruins and Museum Lecture: Ammaia History and Archaeology
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Afternoon	Lecture: Archaeological excavation methods Field trip: Medieval village of Marvão
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Afternoon	Archaeological Excavations at the site, trial; Lecture: Roman Classical Architecture

<b>Thursday</b>	Morning Afternoon	Lecture: Roman archaeological materials Laboratory: Technical session
<b>Friday</b>	Morning Afternoon	The Archaeology of Portugal Field trip: Medieval village of Castelo de Vide
<b>Saturday</b>	Morning Afternoon	Free Free
<b>Sunday</b>	All day	Free
<b>Week 2-5:</b>	Every week day	Excavations at the site; evening laboratory sessions
<b>Week 3</b>	Wednesday	Field trip: Visit to Mérida, ancient Provincial capital of Lusitania in Spain
	Friday evening	Exam: archaeological field methods
<b>Week 5:</b>	Friday	Close and backfill site Attending a Concert in the Ammaia ruins from the FIMM, International Music Festival of Marvão

#### *Onsite Daily Schedule*

We work on the site from 7:00am to 4:30pm with a short morning break at 10.30 and a lunch-break at 1:00pm. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, we work in the lab from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Before our evening meal we gather in the Lab and each excavation group gives a report on that day's progress. We will do regular tours of each work area.

#### **EQUIPMENT LIST**

All excavation equipment will be provided by the project. The excavation sites are only a short walk from our accommodation. The average daily temperature in Portugal in July is between 20°C (68°F) and 30°C (102°F). The site is in the Portuguese countryside in a Natural Park environment. Work will continue in light rain so wet weather gear is essential (see checklist below).

All of the items listed below must be bought in advance.

- Sleeping bag
- Towels
- Work clothes
- Walking boots
- Wet weather clothing including leggings
- Wellington boots (may not be necessary, but just in case....)
- Sun glasses
- Sun hat
- Insect repellent
- Adapters for plugs
- Flip-flops

#### **CURRENCY**

Portugal uses the Euro. Check with your bank to make sure that your ATM card works in Europe.

#### **MANDATORY READINGS**

*A reading packet will be available on the project website and other texts will be available during the field season.*

**For general information on Roman Lusitania (selected chapters will be provided prior to the online orientation):**

Alarcão, J. (1988) Roman Portugal, I: Introduction; II: Gazetteer (Inventário), ... fasc. 3 Évora, Lagos, Faro. 2 vols. Warminster: Aris & Phillips.

Harris, E. C. (1989) Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy. London & New York: Academic Press. Second Edition.

[http://www.harrismatrix.com/harrisbook.html?reload\\_coolmenu](http://www.harrismatrix.com/harrisbook.html?reload_coolmenu)

Renfrew, C.; Bahn, P. (2012) Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. London. Thames and Hudson. Fifth Edition.

Potsherd : Atlas of Roman Ceramics: <http://potsherd.net/atlas/potsherd>

Virtual Catalog of Roman Coins: <http://vcrc.austincollege.edu/>

### RECOMMENDED READINGS

BARATA, F. & CARVALHO, J. (2006). Preservation de la memoire paysagère et développement régional: la cite romaine d'Ammaia, in Lévêque (Ed), Paysages de Mémoire, pp. 399-410, Paris: L'Harmattan.

BORGES, S. (2002). A cidade romana de *Ammaia*: as termas do fórum (notícia preliminar). *Ibn Maruan*, 12, Marvão, p. 85-97.

CARVALHO, J. (2002). *Ammaia* e a sua rede viária, algumas propostas de trabalho. *Ibn Maruan*, 12, Marvão, p. 9-8.

CARDOSO, I. L. (2011). Cidade Romana de Ammaia: estudo das argamassas. Tese de para obtenção do grau de Mestre em Conservação e Restauro, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

CORSI, C. & VERMEULEN F. Eds. (2012). Ammaia I: The Survey A Romano-Lusitanian townscape revealed. Ghent: Academia Press.

CORSI, C.; VERMEULEN, F., Eds. (2014) – Ammaia II: The Excavation contexts 1994-2011. Ghent: Academia Press.

CORSI, C.; VERMEULEN, F., (2014) - Six years of research in *Ammaia*, Building a European field laboratory for non-destructive archaeological survey. In Conferências da Ammaia, Professor José Mattoso. Fundação Cidade de Ammaia, Marvão.

DIAS, V. S. (2014) A Cerâmica comum de *Ammaia*. Tese de Doutoramento em Arqueologia apresentada na Universidade de Évora, 17 Dezembro de 2014.

VV.AA. (2013) – *Ammaia a Roman town in Lusitania / uma cidade romana na Lusitânia*. CIDEHUS, Universidade de Évora. (ISBN: 978-989-95669-5-8)