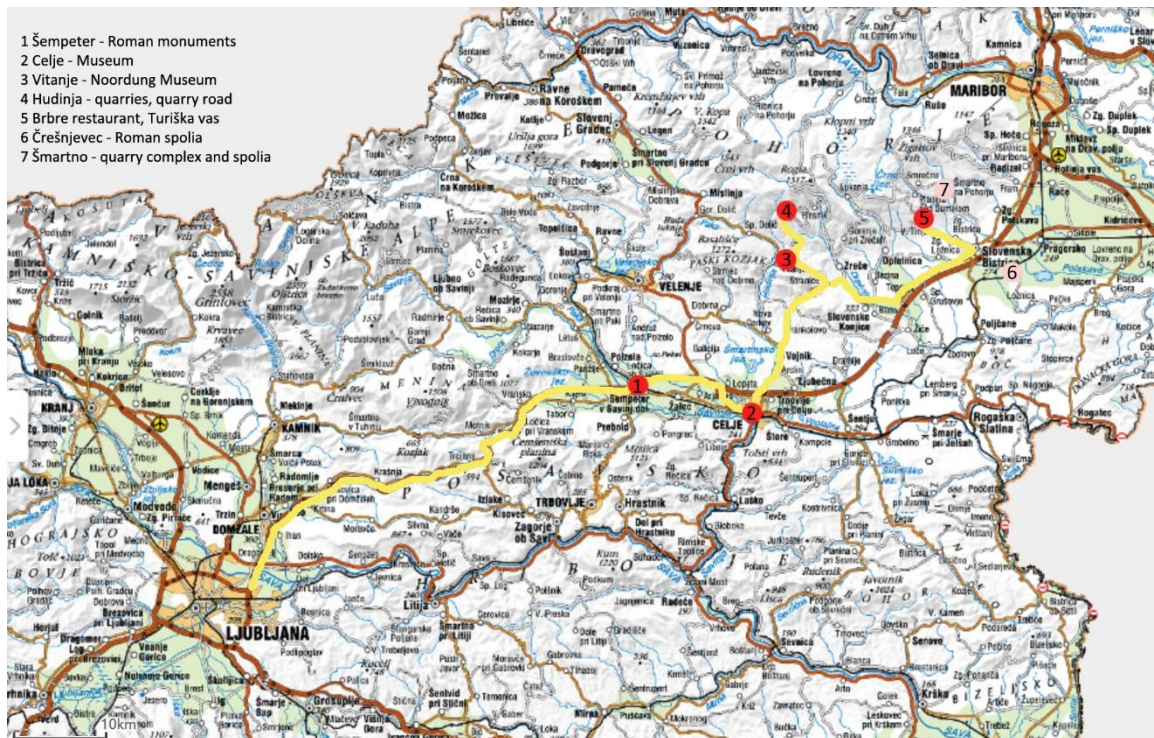
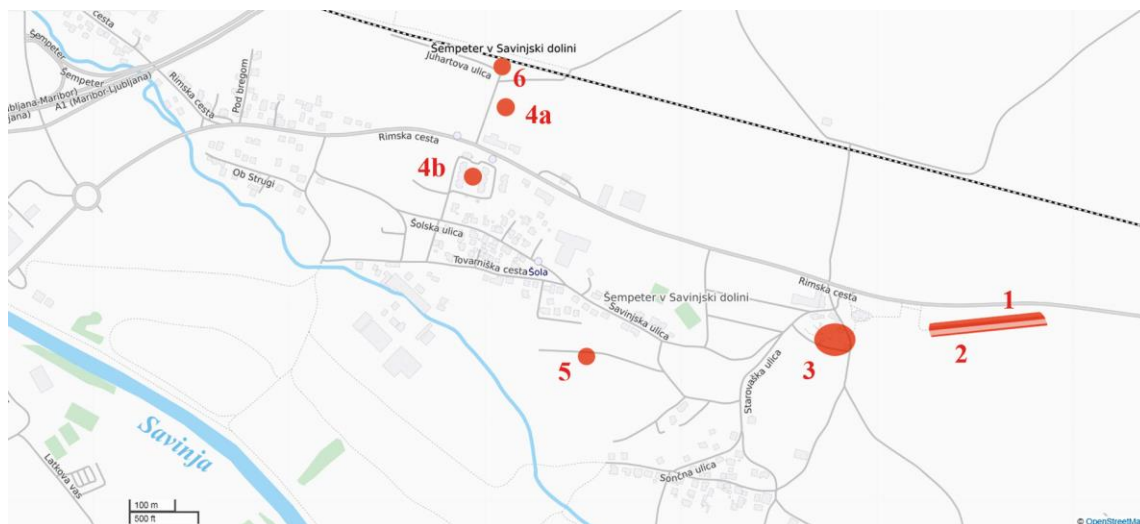


Full day excursion to Šempeter, Celje, Vitanje, Hudinja, Črešnjevce (80 € per participant)



1 Šempeter v Savinjski dolini – Roman settlement and its cemeteries



- Šempeter v Savinjski dolini with marked locations of the researched areas and individual finds:
 1 Roman cemetery (eastern part, preserved *in situ*); 2 Roman road; 3 Roman cemetery (part destroyed in a flood); 4a late Roman cemetery; 4b late Roman cemetery; 5 find spot of the votive altar for Iuppiter Dolichenus; 6 architectural remains, settlement?


The Emona–Atrans–Celeia road, which ran along the Savinja valley, must have been a decisive factor in the planning of the Šempeter necropolis and quite possibly the settlement as well. The burial ground which, judging by the graves from the eastern part of the necropolis, took shape in the mid-1st century and stayed in use until the great flood in the late 3rd century, occupied only the northern side of the road, since the Savinja River flew on the southern side. After the damage to the necropolis at the end of the 3rd

century, the late Roman necropolis took shape further to the north, indicating that the settlement must have lived on. Its remains are very scarce in Šempeter itself, so maybe they should be looked for further to the west.

The Roman cemetery lay along the Emona–Celeia road; along south side flew the Savinja River. During the 1952–1956 excavations, a portion of the former Savinja riverbed was excavated. It had been filled with gravel and stones in which parts of demolished tombs, ash chests, stelae etc. were located. Cross sections indicated that the river made a slight turn here. The excavations of the eastern part of the cemetery (1964 and later) uncovered a portion of the burial ground, which survived the flood. Graves and tombs were raked closely together in the direction towards the demolished tombs. Some grave plots had a walled central grave, while other graves within the plot were simply dug into the ground and covered with a pavement made of small river cobbles. Since remains of paving were discovered in several burial plots, it looks like the whole burial ground could have been paved with pebbles. The remains of the tombs survived only in the foundations of various shapes and sizes, some of which were shallow and poorly built, while the more massive foundations ranged from 60 to 100 cm deep. With some foundations, the walls of grave enclosures also survived, and on the surface between the foundation and the wall there were shallower, irregularly shaped grave pits. Some were walled with stones and extended up to 120 cm deep. In these graves, the inventory completely survived.

Since 1964, four reconstructed marble tombs were reintegrated in the close vicinity of where they had been discovered. The ground plan of the Spectatii tomb is preserved *in situ*. In 1978, a 300-m long presentation of the Roman road was added with reconstructions of graves and grave plots foundations. The Roman cemetery was registered as an archaeological monument of national importance in 2003. The tomb inscriptions from Šempeter speak of the functions of duumviri, aediles, priests and decuriones, performed by individuals in the administration of the Celeia municipium. Gaius Vindonius Successus was an aedile in Celeia; the tomb dates from the end of the 1st or the early 2nd century. Gaius Spectatius Priscianus and Gaius Spectatitus Finitus were duumviri or mayors of Celeia; their tomb dates from the mid-2nd or early 3rd century. The same function was held by Bellicius Victor who was also a decurio; his grave stele in the late Roman necropolis dates from the the end of the 3rd or the 4th century. The votive altar for Jupiter Dolichenus, built also in honour of Emperor Macrinus and his son Diadumenianus, features three Jupiter's priests – Aurelius Aquila, Aurelius Bassus and Varinus, responsible for the restoration of the temple ruined in a fire. The inscription dates from the period between 217 and June 218.

 [KiM 9: pdf](#) (23.6 MB) **Antične grobnice v Šempetru / Antike Grabmonumente in Šempeter**

 [KiM 14: pdf](#) (9.83 MB) **Vzhodni del antične nekropole v Šempetru / Die östliche antike Nekropole in Šempeter im Savinjatal**

You can download the pdf on your device (text in Slovene and German). Graphic content in full resolution is available in the printed version.



2 Celje (*municipium Claudium Celeia*)

Celje (pronounced [ˈtʃɛːljɛ], German: *Cilli*) is the fourth-largest city in Slovenia. It is a regional center of the traditional Slovenian region of Styria and the administrative seat of the City Municipality of Celje. The town of Celje is located below Upper Celje Castle (407 m or 1,335 ft) at the confluence of the Savinja, Hudinja, Ložnica, and Voglajna rivers in the lower Savinja Valley, and at the crossing of the roads connecting Ljubljana, Maribor, Velenje, and the Central Sava Valley. It lies 238 m (781 ft) above mean sea level (MSL).

Once the area was incorporated in the Roman Empire in 15 BC, it was known as *Civitas Celeia*. It received municipal rights in 45 CE under the name *municipium Claudium Celeia* during the reign of the Emperor Claudius (41–54). Records suggest that the town was rich and densely populated, after the Marcomanic war secured with the walls and towers, containing multi-storied buildings, wide squares, and streets. A Roman road through Celeia led from *Aquileia* to Pannonia (*Poetovio*, *Savaria*, *Carnuntum*).

The city was razed by German and Slavic tribes during the Migration period of the 5th and 6th centuries but was rebuilt in the Early Middle Ages. The first mention of Celje in the Middle Ages was under the name of *Cylie* in Wolfhold von Admont's Chronicle, written between 1122 and 1137. The town was the seat of the Counts of Celje from 1341 to 1456, with princely status from 1436. They once rivalled the Habsburgs for political supremacy in this part of the world. Celje acquired market-town status in the first half of the 14th century and town privileges from Count Frederick II on 11 April 1451.

Recent excavations, managed by the Celje Regional Museum, led to the discovery of two Roman mosaics, walls with frescoes and a hypocaust. Part of discovered remains is displayed *in situ* in a pavilion. The project received in 2019 the Europa Nostra Award.

For more information about Celeia cf. <https://www.pokmuz-ce.si/assets/Uploads/pokmuz-okc-tekst2.pdf>



Celje, pavilion with displayed archaeological remains (cf. <https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/pavilion-presentation-archaeological-remains-celje-slovenia/>)



Plan of Roman Celeia (cf. <https://www.pokmuz-ce.si/assets/Uploads/pokmuz-okc-tekst2.pdf>)



Celje Regional Museum in the Old Counts' Mansion



Celje Regional Museum in the Princely Palace

The **Celje Regional Museum**, the second oldest museum (founded on May 1, 1882) in Slovenia, is situated in the old center of the town. Its collections (from the prehistoric times till the I WW) are exhibited in the Old Counts' Mansion and the Princely Palace. The visitors shouldn't miss the famous Celje Ceiling, the story of the famous dynasty of the Counts of Celje and *in situ* presented remains of Roman town Celeia.



Celje Regional Museum, Celje ceiling, 17th century (by Petar Milošević)



Celje Regional Museum, Celeia town walls and part of the town under the Princely Palace (cf. <https://museums.eu/exhibition/details/1568/celeia-a-town-beneath-todays-town>)

3 Vitanje

Center Noordung - Center of Space Technologies Herman Potočnik Noordung (optional)



Vitanje, a small rural town hidden between the eastern slopes of the Karavanke Mnts. and Pohorje Mt., hides a futuristic facility designed according to the idea of a space station by Herman Potočnik - Center Noordung.

Herman Potočnik Noordung (1892, Pula – 1929, Vienna), who is related to Vitanje through his mother's family roots, was a futurist, rocket engineer and pioneer of astronautics and cosmonautics. In 1928 he wrote the book *The Problem of Driving in Space - The Rocket Engine* (Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums - der Raketen-Motor, Berlin 1929), which was also a great inspiration for modern space engineers in the development of technologies for space travel.

The Noordung Center promotes space technologies and human achievements in space. Virtual reality, simulators and projections are complex technologies that offer an effective insight into the mysteries of the infinite universe. The Noordung Center is also an excellent learning path of space experiences.

4 The Hudinja marble quarries and the marble road



A view on the part of the quarry complex of Hudinja

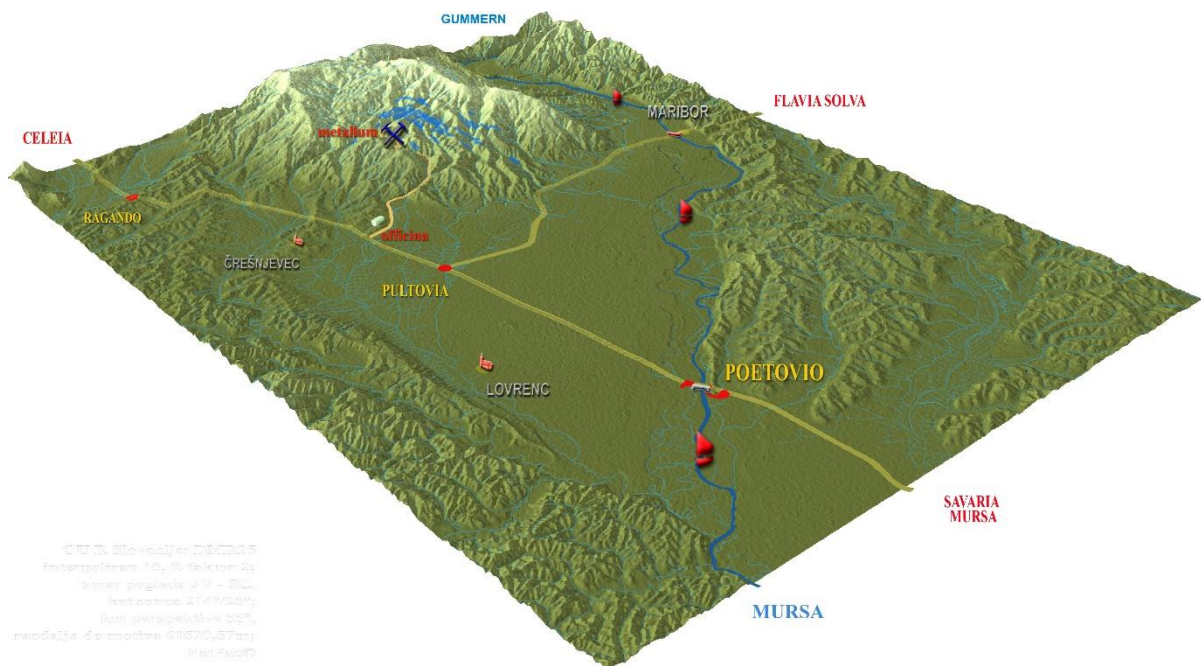


Part of the quarry road paved with marble stones

The ancient marble quarry complex in Hudinja near the church of St. Vid was first mentioned by Franz Ferk in 1893. In 1955, on the plateau above the quarry, a damaged skeleton grave with slabs was discovered. A half-column shaft found nearby is built into the chapel nearby as well as two sepulchral epigraphic monuments. Today the quarry area is meliorated and transformed into pastures. Different farms with their buildings were situated in flat areas near the quarry walls. Marble from these quarries was used mainly in *municipium Claudium Celeia* (mod. Celje).

In 2021 archaeologists identified a quarry road paved with marble stones leading in the straight direction toward the valley and Vitanje (possibly Roman *Upellae* on the road to *Iuenna* and *Virunum*).

5 Črešnjevec – Romanesque church of St Michael



The Romanesque church was built entirely of rough-hewn marble blocks with traces of wedge pockets and of some finished sepulchral monuments. The marble blocks were brought from the nearby Velenik hill, where there was a stonemason's workshop along the Roman *via publica Celeia - Poetovio*.