Set in one of the most remarkable archaeological landscapes in southeastern Europe, the Iron Gates, the site of Schela Cladovei, which was occupied in turn by the last hunter-gatherers and first farmers of the region, is arguably the most important Mesolithic–Neolithic settlement to survive flooding of the Danube Valley following the construction of two massive hydro-electric dams.
Schela Cladovei is a Stone Age settlement on the left (Romanian) bank of the River Danube, a few kilometres downstream from the point where the river exits the Iron Gates gorge. Excavations have taken place there on various occasions since 1965, and most recently as a joint project between the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest and the University of Edinburgh. The current excavations are led by Adina Boroneanţ and Clive Bonsall. Schela Cladovei was occupied by Late Mesolithic hunter-gatherers between approximately 7000 and 6300 BC, then after a gap of about 300 years, re-occupied by Early Neolithic farmers belonging to the Starčevo-Criş culture. The excavations have revealed a rich array of cultural material, comprising bone, ceramic and stone artefacts, in association with burials and dwelling structures, together with valuable evidence of the economic activities of the Stone Age inhabitants.
Schela Cladovei
14 June–3 July & 5–24 July 2020

PROJECT ACTIVITIES …
Applicants are advised that days will be long and hot, and the work physically demanding. The working week will be six days; work days will start early, to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures.

Activities will include:
• excavation
• recording
• wet sieving and flotation
• finds processing
• environmental sampling
• field excursions to archaeological sites in Romania, Serbia and/or Bulgaria
Accommodation & Conditions …

In each 3-week team there are places for 11 volunteers on the 2020 excavation. Team members will stay in a rented house in Schela Cladovei, near to the archaeological site. Expect to share sleeping quarters. The accommodation is self-catering, although breakfast and the main evening meal will be provided. There are 3 bedrooms, with 5, 4 and 2 beds, respectively. Other facilities include: communal lounge with satellite TV, 2 bathrooms (with toilets), and a kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the dig house.
FINANCIAL ADVICE …

Spending Money: Prices in Romania are generally lower than in the UK. You are recommended to allow at least £40/week to cover food and other personal expenses.

Bring cash (Sterling or Euros); alternatively, if you have a bank cash card bearing the Visa Debit logo (with a PIN number), you will be able to get cash advances in the local currency from ATMs at the main banks. Many shops and restaurants also accept major credit cards.

N.B. Do not bring travellers’ cheques or sterling banknotes issued by Scottish banks!

Local currency: The Romanian Leu (plural: lei; ISO 4217 code RON) is the national currency of Romania. One leu is subdivided into 100 bani (singular: ban). The current exchange rate is approximately £1 = 5.00 RON.
SAFETY …
Participants must be fit and enthusiastic. Expedition members should familiarise themselves with the Field Safety Guidelines.

Medication: Basic first-aid kits will be available on site and at the dig house, but you should also bring your personal kit (see *What to Bring*). If you require medication on a regular basis, then you should bring your own supplies.

Vaccinations: Anyone working on an archaeological site should have been vaccinated against tetanus. If you have had a tetanus booster within the last year or so, then further vaccination may not be necessary on this occasion - but check with your GP! You should consult your GP about the other vaccinations that are recommended for British nationals travelling to Romania.
THINGS TO BRING …

• **passport** valid for at least 6 months from departure date (no visa required by holders of EU and most countries’ passports for a maximum stay of 90 days)

• **personal travel insurance** policy document

• **trowel**: robust trowel with a 4-inch long blade (ideally a solid-forged WHS pointing trowel)

• **sun protection**: hat, sunglasses, sun block (SPF30+)

• **sturdy shoes** for site wear (*not* open-toe sandals or heavy boots)

• **clothing**: light as well as waterproof clothing; also warm jersey for occasional cool evenings and early mornings

• **personal first-aid kit** (plasters, antiseptic cream, painkillers)
APPLICATIONS & PAYMENT …

- Applications to join the Field School should be made on the accompanying form.
- Minimum participation is 3 weeks. Cost is £230 per week (£690 for 3 weeks), which includes insurance, accommodation, 2 meals on workdays, a one-day field trip in each 3-week period, lectures, and on-site archaeological training. Participants must arrange their own travel to the site location in Romania.
- Training includes: excavation, recording, use of total station, wet sieving, and post-extraction processing.
- Edinburgh Archaeology undergraduate students may be eligible to claim back some of their fieldwork costs from the University.
- Once you have received your formal offer, you should pay your non-refundable deposit of £300 via ePay (deadline Friday, 10 January 2020). The balance (£390 if attending for 3 weeks) must be paid by Friday, 13 March 2020.
READING LIST …


University of Edinburgh

Archaeology Field School

14 June–3 July & 5–24 July 2020

Schela Cladovei, Romania

For further information, contact:

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