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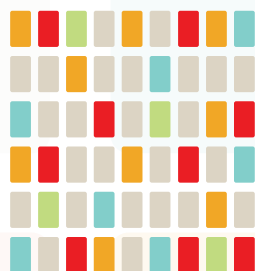
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Poster

Inside Ancient Osor (Cres Island, Croatia)

Ancient Osor, situated on the isthmus between Cres and Lošinj, was one of the most significant centres in the Kvarner region and an important maritime hub of the northern Adriatic. Its role in intercultural networks during the last millennium BCE is reflected in ancient written sources that associate the site with both mythological traditions and the circulation of essential metals.

As part of the international research project Osor beyond the Myth (N6-0292), new investigations were conducted using a multidisciplinary approach. In addition to geoarchaeological, geophysical, and underwater investigations, detailed analyses of material culture from settlements, graves, and underwater contexts were carried out. Archaeometallurgical, bioarchaeological, and anthropological studies were complemented by chemical and isotopic analyses (amber, tin, strontium, aDNA).

Most of the material culture originates from necropolises located both within and outside the urban area. The value of the items, particularly jewellery and clothing, indicates both local production and imports from various regions. Earlier interpretations had demonstrated extensive Alpine, Pannonian, and Mediterranean connections; the new data provide more detailed insights into these networks. The results address key gaps, providing new insights into the provenance of raw materials, Osor's role in economic networks, and aspects of the population's health and diet. For the first time, they offer a clear understanding of the society and lifestyle of the period, while highlighting Osor's strategic significance in the maritime and cultural networks of the northern Adriatic during the last millennium BCE.



Figure 1 Osor (photo: Hrvoje Serdar)

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