

## 6 Mid - Late Holocene evolution of the Tiber river delta plain

**Excursion Leaders:** **Ilaria Mazzini-** **Marco Mancini** (CNR IGAG), **Valerio Ruscito** (ISPRA), **Laura Sadori-Alessia Masi-Caterina Pepe-Marco Giardini** (Sapienza), **Renato Sebastiani** (SS-ABAP Roma)

Proposed Excursion Dates: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of July

Draft Itinerary: Sapienza University-Ponte Marconi-Portus-Coastal towers-Julius II Castle- Museum of the Roman Ships-Sapienza University

Definitive cost per head: €100 (including private transport from/to Sapienza University, navigation on the Tiber River, lunch and entry fees to the archaeological sites)

### Proposer Contact Details:

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### Description

The Tiber river delta plain is located 25 km west of Rome, in an area of great interest for the relationships between natural environmental changes and human activity. As ancient Romans, we will navigate the river from downtown Rome to the archaeological site of Portus, Rome's main harbour which owed its own existence to the proximity of the Tiber's mouth and the sea. During pre-Imperial



and Imperial Roman times, the landscape and the hydrography of the river were deeply modified. The evolution of the delta coastline is pinpointed by the presence of historical sites, reflecting the progradation of the coast through time. We will visit some of these historical landmarks, that trace exactly the progradation of the coastline due to disastrous flooding events that affected this area and the city of Rome. One of these events, the flooding of the 28th of December 1870 (+17m), finally led to the construction of the artificial riverbanks on both sides of the river inside the city of Rome. The construction of the dykes, and of 5 dams uphill during the 1960s, has completely changed the relationship between the city and the river, leading to a sensitive decrease of fluvial sediment supply to the coast.

*Above:* Old Map of Portus, Ostia Antica, harbour city of ancient Rome. Wall Painting in Gallery of Maps (1580-83) by Ignazio Danti Vatican Museums. *Below:* aerial view of the Fiumicino channel and the Trajan lake (2008). Photo by Konrad Zielinski released under CC-BY-SA license.