



Caere Project 2024

Archaeological Excavation of an Etruscan city in Central Italy



Cerveteri is a town on the West coast of Italy, 48 km North of Rome, which lies on the site of the Etruscan city of **Cisra, called Caere by the Romans**. Caere was one of the metropoleis of the ancient Mediterranean, a rich and powerful city which was an ally of Carthage and developed good relationships with its southern neighbors the Romans. The site is famous for its necropolis of rock-cut tombs imitating houses complete with carved furniture and decorations, listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Many of the most famous Etruscan artworks, such as the Sarcophagus of the Spouses, were found in the tombs of Caere. While the cemetery has early attracted scholarly attention, the exploration of the city has begun much later and its general plan is still largely unknown.

The Project

The team of the Queen's University is **investigating a subterranean building in the centre of the city**, the so-called "hypogea of Clepsina" featuring wall paintings, inscriptions and scenic architecture. The excavation will also explore **the urban area** near the hypogea, where a regular urbanization pattern is coming to light, and explore a **network of tunnels and wells** dug beneath the ancient city.

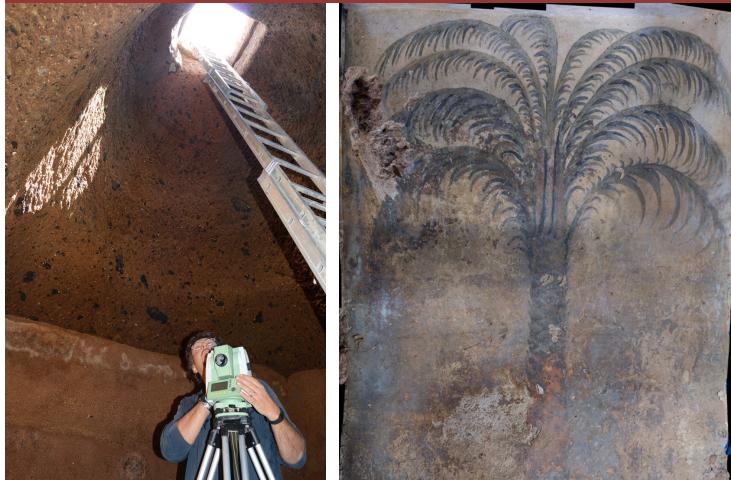


Field activities will include classes on Etruscan and Roman archaeology, field methods of archaeology, field conservation, and other topics of interest. During weekends daytrips to **Rome and to Etruscan and Roman sites and museums** of the region will be organized.



On Sundays, students have the opportunity to travel at their leisure. The town itself is very close to Rome and is easily accessible by train. Although Rome is one of the primary destinations for Sunday travels, there is plenty of options including Florence and Pisa.

How to Join



Participants can either enrol into the **full-credit course CLST 409 Archaeology Fieldwork Practicum** or the graduate course **CLAS 809** or join as **volunteers**. The program can accommodate up to 30 participants a year. **Non-Queen's students** may ask for **credit transfer** with the approval of their home institution.

Program dates (tentative) June 1st (check in) – June 29th (check out), 2024

How to apply Fill the application form posted on the website of the Department of Classics and return it via e-mail to the project director Dr. Fabio Colivicchi (colivcf@queensu.ca)