

A VISIT TO THE CONCORDIA NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN PORTOGRUARO

The exceptional discovery of a late antique burial ground in Concordia Sagittaria in 1873, which was followed by extensive excavations that brought to light a spacious archaeological area, and the fruitful excavation campaigns carried out in 1880 and 1882 in the urban area of the old colony, defined the need to find a place to house the many findings.

When it was founded in 1885, the Museum was named the National Museum of Concordia (*Museo Nazionale Concordiese*), so as to highlight the strong link with the archaeological site located nearby.

Dario Bertolini was responsible for the management of the Museum and he saw to the first, all-important distribution of the archaeological material in the building.

The collections grew over the subsequent years with donations from private citizens of Portogruaro.

The building which houses the Museum was designed by Engineer Antonio Bon and is shaped like an early Christian basilica. Bearing testament to its era and culture, the Museum showcases stone findings located in the spacious room with three naves which reflects late nineteenth-century criterion. Amongst these, there are the large Roman era honorary bases aligned along the left wall and epigraphs inserted at different heights into the wall structure (of these, the group from the late antique burial ground of the militia in the right nave was deemed compact), architectural fragments of the urban area, funerary monuments and sarcophagi located between the inter-columns or in the naves.

This material, which comes from the ancient Julia Concordia and its land, is important in order to reconstruct the life of the colony.

Thanks to the MIBACT initiative, entry to the Museum is free every first Sunday of the month. You can also purchase an all-inclusive ticket valid for one month which allows you to benefit from entry to the archaeological area of Concordia Sagittaria.

You can reach the Museum from Concordia Sagittaria as it is only a few kilometres away (it is possible to even reach it on foot, along a beautiful walking-cycling trail which runs along river Lemene).