

Cammin Arte



OSTIA ANTICA

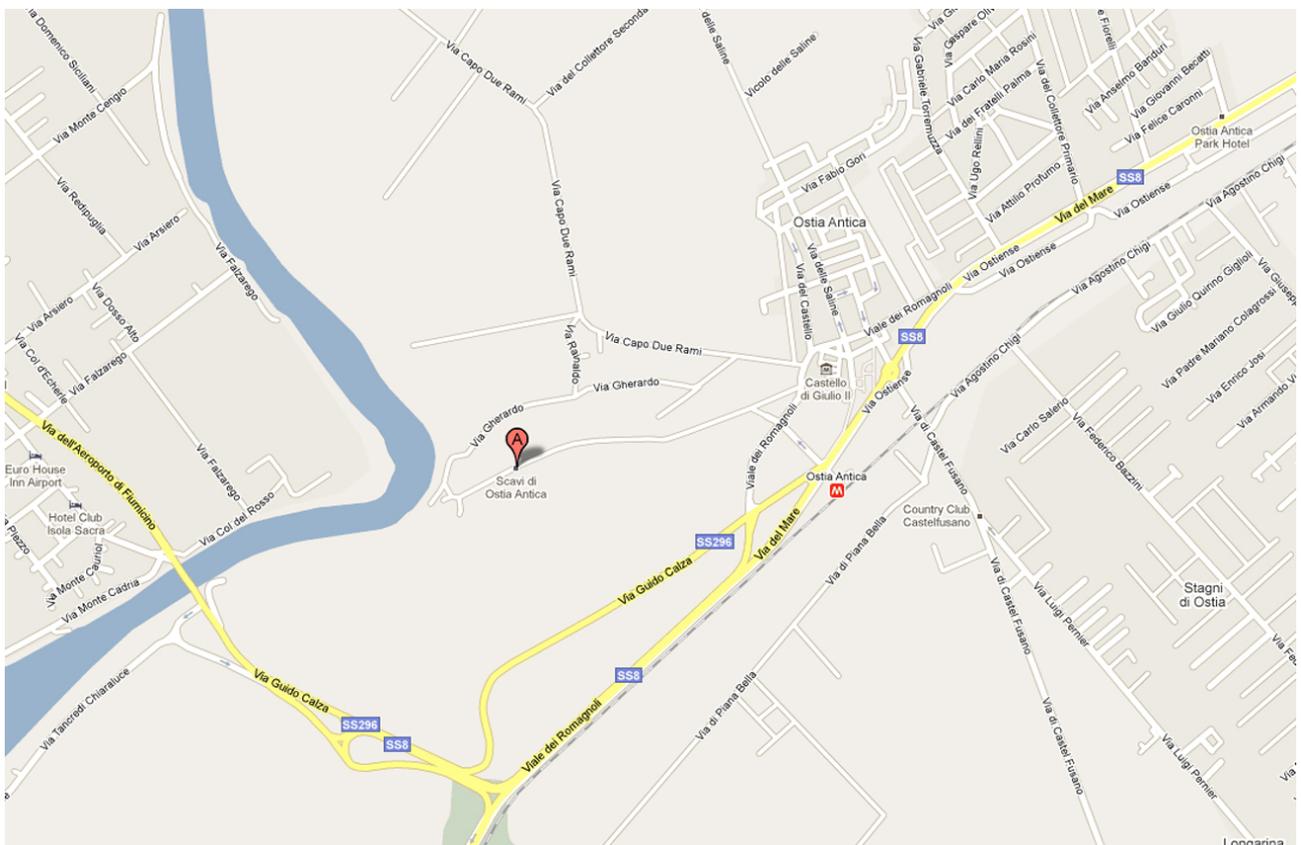
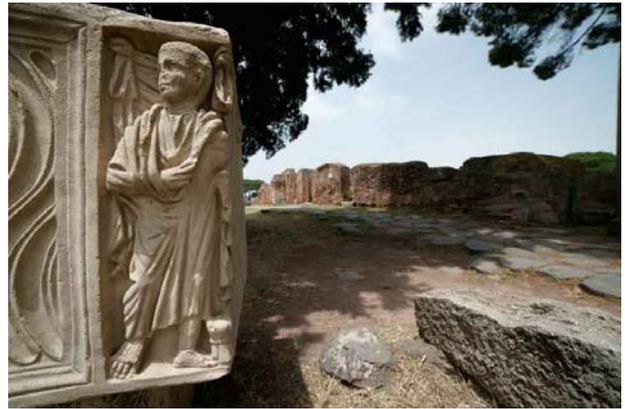


A visit to Ostia Antica is a trip through time: just like visitors coming from Rome 2000 years ago, we enter the ancient town along the Via Ostiense. Along the southern side of this road lies the necropolis that developed outside Ostia's town walls respecting the ancient laws. The entrance through the Porta Romana, which was opened in

the walls in the late Republican period, leads us to one of the most characteristic complexes of this town which was known for its commercial nature, given that it had a port and warehouses for storing merchandise from all over the Mediterranean, ensuring that Rome was always well supplied.

Our walking tour will lead to the forum and along the way we will see many interesting monuments: from the Baths of Neptune with their splendid black and white mosaics from the Antonine period (begun under Hadrian and inaugurated by Antoninus Pius in AD 139), to the Augustan-period theatre connected to the Piazzale delle Corporazioni. Here the floor mosaics of the rooms that surround the piazza record a variety of corporations or "trade associations", offering us insight not only into the main activities that were carried out in the port town (shipowners and merchants in particular), but also the origin of the various corporations, from Gallia Narbonese to Carthage and Alexandria in Egypt. Our route then takes us to the urban block containing the House of Diana, a superb example of a "popular" residential building (perhaps part of it was a hotel), the first phase of which was started in the Hadrianic period.

Along the same street we will visit a snack bar of the Imperial period: the extraordinarily preserved thermopolium. Our last stop takes us to the heart of every Roman town: the forum. The political, social and religious centre of Ostia will amaze you with its imposing Capitolium, the remains of a basilica and the Temple of Rome and Augustus.



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