

# CROATIA

## Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

### Brief Description

The ruins of Diocletian's Palace, built between the late 3rd and the early 4th centuries A.D., can be found throughout the city. The cathedral was built in the middle Ages, reusing materials from the ancient mausoleum. Twelfth- and 13th-century Romanesque churches, medieval fortifications, 15th-century Gothic palaces and other palaces in Renaissance and Baroque style make up the rest of the protected area.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription**

**1979**

**Agencies responsible for site management**

- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia - The Administration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Runjaninova 2, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Email: [martina.juranovic-tonejc@min-kulture.hr](mailto:martina.juranovic-tonejc@min-kulture.hr)  
Website: [www.min-kulture.hr](http://www.min-kulture.hr)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

**C (i), (iii), (iv)**

### Justification provided by the State Party

The historical complex of the city of Split, with the Palace of Diocletian, has multiples significance not only on the national scale of Yugoslavia<sup>1</sup> but also in a universal sense. Considering that the Palace of Diocletian is, in a broad sense, the best preserved of all existing ancient imperial residences, it represents, for the international disciplines of archaeology and art history, a key monument for any research and study on the buildings of this type as a whole (the Urbanistic Plan and the lay-out of the buildings) or as separate units, which also are unique monuments of their particular type (Diocletian's apartments with substructure, the Mausoleum, the Temple of Jupiter, the ramparts and gates). The Palace has exerted considerable influence on subsequent developments in urbanism

<sup>1</sup> At the time of inscription of this site on the World Heritage List, Croatia was part of former Yugoslavia. The above texts are taken from the original nomination dossier.

and architecture since early Christian times up to the new era not only in the Dalmatian region but also on a European scale (as revealed by the lay and religious architecture since late Antiquity in various places around the Mediterranean up to the classical period of British architecture). The Palace is therefore the most outstanding archaeological architectonic complex existing in Yugoslavia.

The greatest value of Diocletian's Palace derives from its continued existence throughout the late Antiquity; then it was converted into a live medieval city in the Early Middle Ages whereas it now assumes the present function of a large urban centre. Owing to its continuous identity, the Palace has become a first-class medieval urbanistic monument and one of the most significant examples of the architectural transformation of an original antique pattern into a medieval city whose principal elements have been preserved up to present times. Many buildings dating from the Middle Ages and more recent periods, a great number of which have been acknowledged as ranking among the most valuable properties of the national historical and artistic heritage, (the Paleo-Croat churches, the Romanesque houses, the portals by André Buvina, the architectural achievements and sculptures by Georgius Dalmaticus) take on a special significance in view of this continuity.

The historical complex of Split is a monument of outstanding value because it allows us to take a view of this continued persistence through history as well as examine each separate period, since the time of the reign of Diocletian, one of the most eminent emperors of Roman Antiquity, up to our present times which saw so many major events that shaped the history of Yugoslavia.

### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

The importance of the monumental ensemble of Diocletian's Palace from the archaeological and urbanistic points of view is clearly supported and obviously meets the criteria of UNESCO. A more precise delimitation of the area would appear to be appropriate.

### Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- Outstanding universal value not defined at time of inscription
- The outstanding universal value has changed since inscription
- Statement of significance did not exist at time of inscription
- No change required

**Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

**Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

**3. Protection****Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- No details available on specific Laws and Agreements
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective, but improvements are needed

**Actions taken/proposed**

- Within the framework of the Historic City Centre management plan, protection of the property will be looked at
- Date of completion of plan: 2007

**4. Management****Use of site/property**

- Urban centre

**Management /Administrative Body**

- Management under protective legislation, site management by the City of Split
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

**Proposed actions:**

- A Historic City Centre management plan is being designed;
- date of expected completion is 2007

**5. Management Plan**

- No management plan, but one is currently being drafted
- Implementation will commence: 01.2007
- Body responsible for implementation of management plan: City of Split

**6. Financial Resources****Financial situation**

- State and municipal budgets provide the bulk of funding annually
- WH Fund (amount not given)

- Cooperation with Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Florence; SER.CO.TEC, Trieste; Antiqua Foundation; World Monument Fund; Europa Nostra
- Adequate

**7. Staffing Levels**

- number of staff : 20
- Staffing considered adequate, augmented by regular volunteers

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation
- Good: promotion
- Average: management, interpretation, education, visitor management

**8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques**

- Scientific institutions: Dept of Conservation, Croatian Restoration Institute
- Museum conservation facilities: Archaeological Institute, City Museum of Split, Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments
- Training through internships and workshops with Dept. for Conservation & Restoration, Split Art Academy
- Pronounced need for metalwork restoration

**9. Visitor Management**

- visitor statistics: (Split Tourist Board): 2004 - 199,224 visitors
- Trend: moderate growth
- Visitor facilities: guides, museums within the site
- No tourism plan in place, but facilities considered adequate at this time

**10. Scientific Studies**

- Condition surveys; Archaeological surveys
- Studies used sometimes for educational and exhibition purposes, as well as to properly assign all possible work on the monuments

**11. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

- There is adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities

- Need for awareness raising: there is more signage needed at the site
- The World Heritage emblem is used on some, but not all publications
- There is not an agreed education strategy for the site, but there are plans to work with schools
- 2 large-scale events with various themes have been carried out between 1997 and 2004 that have included travelling exhibitions; various local exhibitions have also taken place

## ***12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)***

<b>Reactive monitoring reports</b>
------------------------------------

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul> |
|---|

### **Conservation interventions**

- Conservation and restoration has been carried out on eastern substructures of Diocletian's abode, resulting in new and significant archaeological information. Also, major work has been carried out on major buildings with the Palace complex, as well as other buildings in the site of Split
- Present state of conservation: described as "Patchy"

### **Threats and Risks to site**

- Human pressures: development pressures, visitor and tourism pressures

## ***13. Monitoring***

- No formal monitoring programme

## ***14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions***

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation of the site
- Weaknesses of management: a decrease in the population of the historic city centre

### **Future actions:**

- The programme of revitalisation within the Historic City Centre is currently being drafted