

# CROATIA

## Historic City of Trogir

### Brief Description

Trogir is a remarkable example of urban continuity. The orthogonal street plan of this island settlement dates back to the Hellenistic period and it was embellished by successive rulers with many fine public and domestic buildings and fortifications. Its beautiful Romanesque churches are complemented by the outstanding Renaissance and Baroque buildings from the Venetian period.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription**

**1997**

**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  
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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

**C (ii), (iv)**

### Justification provided by the State Party

(i) In terms of space and population Trogir is a miniature city, but its significance for the cultural and economic history of the Adriatic outweighs its restrained urban scale. Its institutions, its way of life, and its contribution to the National and universal culture and science make Trogir one of the most important Adriatic towns. In this city the echo of the ancient civilisation never died out. It is the city of uninterrupted humanistic traditions, legends and local myths.

The uniqueness of Trogir is made evident already through its topographical situation. The town emerged in the prehistoric and antique periods on the flattened islet in the marshy strait between the mainland and the island of Čiovo. Today, its urban fabric encapsulates a series of historic configurations in a perfectly balanced relation of stylistic formations. The oval outline of its historic centre was defined already in the prehistoric period. The street pattern is determined by the rectangular grid of the Hellenistic and Roman city whose forum has recently been located through archaeological

investigation. About two hundred Romanesque and gothic blocks of houses and palaces, and public buildings dominated by the cathedral of St Lawrence (c. 1200) make Trogir the best preserved medieval town on the east Adriatic coast. The remodelling of the main town square and of the city gate in the Renaissance period are paradigmatic examples of urban planning of that time. The baroque fortifications and the contemporary regulation of the green and built areas on the mainland and on the island of Čiovo left an equally powerful imprint in the rich cultural and historic stratigraphy of the town and its surroundings.

By the harmony of historical styles and by the balanced values of architectural achievements of public and private buildings from different periods, Trogir can not be paralleled to any other town on the east side of the Adriatic. Especially characteristic is the excellent quality of the sculpture of all stylistic periods from facades and interior of the Romanesque cathedral, from early Renaissance and baroque chapels and fortifications, from funeral and public monuments, but also from numerous patricians' palaces and houses. Trogir has always been a repository of sculptural masterpieces, from the relief of Kairos after Lysippus to the late antique and pre-romanescque sculpture, to the statues by the masters Radovan (1240), Mavar (c. 1340), Andrea Alessi (1466), Nicolò di Giovanni da Firenze (after 1467), Iohannes Dalmata (1480s), Tripun Bokanić (c. 1600). Most of these works were made primarily by Tragurians who earned their reputation on their errands in European countries. While Trogir presents itself as a collective work of art, individual works like Radovan's portal of the cathedral, or the early Renaissance chapel of Blessed John of Trogir by Nicolò di Giovanni, a pupil of Donatello, can enter any imaginary museum of universal sculpture. A solid base for these works was the limestone of superb quality. Already in ancient times Trogir was famous because of that stone. The Roman encyclopaedist Pliny the Elder said: *Tragurium marmore notum*. The history of the sculpture on the Croatian Adriatic could be written just using examples from Trogir, due to their quality in all the stylistic periods and according to their influence.

### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**:

Trogir is an excellent example of a medieval town built on and conformed with the layout of a Hellenistic and Roman city that has conserved its urban fabric to an exceptional degree and with the minimum of modern interventions, in which the trajectory of social and cultural development is

clearly visible in every aspect of the townscape.

### Committee Decision

(1997): The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv), considering that Trogir is an excellent example of a medieval town built on and conforming with the layout of a Hellenistic and Roman city that has conserved its urban fabric to an exceptional degree and with the minimum of modern interventions, in which the trajectory of social and cultural development is clearly visible in every aspect of the townscape.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required (*however, the SP makes mention of extensive work that has been completed with positive implications for the site's outstanding universal value*)

### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: inadequate  
Protected zone needs to be extended
- Buffer zone: adequate

### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- No details given

## 3. Protection

### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Cultural Heritage Protection and Conservation Act
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

### Actions taken/proposed

- improvements will be made through the management plan at the local level

## 4. Management

### Use of site/property

- Urban centre

### Management /Administrative Body

- No steering group is foreseen
- Managed under protective legislation, no coordinator is seen as necessary
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national and local levels involved in management
- The current management system is considered sufficiently effective

### Proposed actions:

- Production of a management plan for the historic centre is envisaged

## 5. Management Plan

- No management plan, although one currently under preparation
- Body responsible for implementation of management plan: details not available

## 6. Financial Resources

### Financial situation

- Funds from national and municipal budgets
- World Heritage Fund money was received (amount not given)
- Adequate

## 7. Staffing Levels

- 12 full-time staff, with additional regular volunteers
- Staffing considered generally adequate

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

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

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

- Faculty of Constructional Engineering at University of Zagreb, Restoration Dept of the Art Academy of Split
- Museum conservation facilities exist in connection to the institutions mentioned above
- Training needs exist in the area of metalwork restoration, particularly decorative arts

## 9. Visitor Management

- (year not given) Overnight stays: 90,934; visitors to Kamerlengo Tower: 55,000; Museum of City of Trogir: 4,000
- Trend: not specified
- Visitor facilities: not given, but museum mentioned above
- Tourism plan implemented

### **10. Scientific Studies**

- Monitoring exercises; archaeological surveys
- Studies used for basis of any interventions planned

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

- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local authorities, businesses, local communities
- No formal education policy, but plans to work within the school system have been discussed
- Heritage events: 'Trogir through the centuries', 'Radovan's portal', 'Riches of Trogir treasures'
- Facilities: guides, museum catalogues, souvenir shop
- Website managed by City of Trogir

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

<b>Reactive monitoring reports</b>
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- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul> |
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#### **Conservation interventions**

- Restoration of the Cathedral, museum, Monastery of St. Nicholas, St. Peter's Church, Church of Our Lady of Carmen. Partial restoration of Cipico Palace for the Music School and Lucić Palace for the City Library
- Present state of conservation: Adequate

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

- Environmental; human (development pressures)
- The increase in visitors has caused problems related to car and foot traffic, including noise and air pollution
- No emergency measures taken

### **13. Monitoring**

- No formal monitoring programme, but internal reports produced by Art-Conservation Dept

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

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