



MUSEUMS

**CONSTANTA COUNTY
A DISCOVERY THAT IS ALWAYS RECENT**



MUSEUMS

National History and Archaeology Museum Constanta

The building of the **National History and Archaeology Museum Constanta**, once the old City Hall of the city, hosts one of the largest and fascinating collection of archaeological objects from Romania. The history of over two and a half millenniums of existence of Tomis - the old Greek name of the city Constanta - as the whole region between the Danube and the sea, meant for the archaeologists the discovery of some exceptional artifacts. The richness of the museum from Constanta consists of the variety of the parts exposed as well as the value of its collections.

In the two rooms from the ground floor of the building designed for the Thesaurus of the museum are exposed parts with an exceptional value, many of them being unique. In the first room one can admire a glass vessel collection from the Roman period, with splendid - even spectacular - shapes and decorations. We mention the "the cup of gods", a vessel representing the divinities Hermes, Winter, Hiems Herakles and Hymen; the bowl with the Greek inscription "Be glad to exist", or a vessel from the 6th century a.C. discovered in the crypt of one of the seven Christian basilicas from Tomis. In the second room of the Thesaurus is presented the most important discovery ever made in the city on the shore of the sea. It is about a storehouse of ancient statues made of 24 parts representing the divinities from the Pantheon of the city: Goddess Isis, triple Hecate, Fortuna with Pontos, Thracian knight, Cybela, Dioscurii, Nemesis etc. Among the 24 statues the Glykon snake is noticed for its value and artistic achievement, a marble monolith, a masterpiece of the 2nd century a.C. The uniqueness of the part consists of the way in which the anonymous artist succeeded to reunite different representations with the individual symbolism: a snake with antelope mouth, human eyes, ears and hair, snake body and lion tail.

The first floor of the museum is fully dedicated to archaeology: pre-history, within which the Neolithic era is represented by the originality and almost modern beauty of the artifacts (although they are almost 6000 years old), of the tools and idols belonging to Hamangia, Boian or Gumelnita culture. Next is the bronze era, corresponding to the formation of the first Thracian tribes; the iron era, to whom a granite menhir-statue of a Thracian-Scythian leader and a bronze cult tank belong, both from the 5th century b.C.

The great Greek colonization process lead to the foundation of some colonies with an intense cultural and economic life in the west-Pontic Dobrogea area. Histria, Tomis and Callatis are the main Greek colonies where the higher Greek civilization elements came in contact with other ones, those of the natives, as we can see in a huge room dedicated to this event. the Greek vessels, Tanagra type clay statuettes, the first coins minted in Romania, the marble architectural elements give uniqueness to the room and to the museum holding these vestiges.

The six centuries of Roman life in the territory between the Danube and sea are exposed elegantly and with professionalism in several rooms. From the Roman conquest, with the moment of the battle from Adamclisi (Tropaeum Traiani) and then of the whole Dacia, until the Romans left Dacia, before the visitors are unrolled maps, ceramic, glass or bronze materials, earthen lamps or statues, inscriptions or military poles, bricks with stamps of Roman legions, capitals, column bases, aqueduct elements.

The Christianity in Dobrogea in the 3rd-4th century a.C. is a period of an overwhelming importance for the spiritual life of the people. To this phenomenon was dedicated an entire room with images of the tomb – hypogeum with paintings from Tomis, with inscriptions, capitals, gables, Paleo-Christian basilicas plans etc.

The last part of the visitation circuit from the 1st floor is dedicated to the integration period of Dobrogea in the Byzantine Empire – 10th century a.C. The representative parts come from Capidava, Dinogetia, Murfatlar (Basarabi). The presentation is completed by maps and navigation maps, coins issued by the Roman rulers, weapons from the 17th century, ceramic vessels from the feudal period etc.



Glykon Snake



The thinker from Hamangia

The 2nd floor of the museum contains a series of images and objects starting with the 18th century until the modern period of the existence of Dobrogea. Here are presented the moments of the revolution from 1821 led by Tudor Vladimirescu, the revolution from 1848, the Union of the Romanian Participates from 1859 under Al. I. Cuza, the Independence War from 1877, the First World War etc. Room 16 is dedicated to the exceptional event of the finalization of national unity from 1st December 1918.

This floor also exposes other two exceptional collection: one with coins and bills from the rich inventory of the numismatic collection of the museum and the second with a collection of 620 pipes and cigarettes came from European workshops, valuable parts, very interesting in aspect and totally original in such an exposure.

Art Museum from Constanta

The Art Museum Constanta is situated on 82 - 84 Tomis Ave., from Constanta.

Profile: modern and contemporary Romanian plastic art

Located by the shore of the sea, in one of the great European ports, Constanta, the Art Museum is nationally considered an important and representative space for keeping and capitalizing the Romanian plastic creation from the modern and contemporary periods.



The Art Museum Constanta

Founded in 1961 with a modest patrimony, belonging to the old pinacoteca of the City Hall, **The Art Museum Constanta** offers to the worldwide public over a century of the evolution of Romanian painting, sculpture and graphic, trying at the same time to show and set through reference works the place and role of Dobrogea, of the marine landscape in the context of national creation.

From a patrimony of over 7800 works, about 1500 are exhibited, both at the headquarters from Constanta, as well as in the two sections from the city and county - the Sculpture Museum "Ion Jalea" And the Art Museum "Dinu and Sevasta Vintila" from Topalu.

The permanent exhibition of the museum from Constanta is based on monographic cores of the masters and suggests a complex image of the creation of each. Thus the visitor can admire numerous works belonging to Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Ioan Andreescu, Stefan Luchian, Iosif Iser, Nicolae Darascu, Gheorghe Petrascu, Theodor Pallady, Stefan Dimitrescu, Francisc Sirato, Nicolae Tonitza, Camil Ressu, Vasile Popescu, Jean Al.Steriadi, Lucian Grigorescu, Ion Tuculescu, Alexandru Ciucurencu, Marcel Iancu, M. W. Arnold, Corneliu Michailescu, Max Hermann Maxy, Margareta Sterian, Micaela Eleutheriade, Magdalena Radulescu, Lucia Dem. Balacescu (painting), Dimitrie Paciurea, Gheorghe Anghel, Ion Jalea, Corneliu Medrea, Alexandru Calinescu, Oscar Han, Milita Petrascu, Hans Mattis-Teutsch (sculpture) and many others.

In the basic exhibition are also presented decorative art pieces - European and extra-European, meant to complete an atmosphere of contemplation and elevation.

The museum organizes numerous temporary exhibitions, of modern and contemporary art, from its own patrimony or from abroad, of some stages, creations, evolution directions, personalities, young designers on their way to success, Romanian, European and Universal art, by its own organization or in collaboration with other prestigious institutions from the country and abroad.

The museum edits exhibition catalogues, Romanian modern art studies, cultural and urban anthropology research.

The Sculpture Museum “Ion Jalea” - Constanta

The museum is situated on the 26 Arhiepiscopiei street from Constanta being founded in 1968.

Profile: sculpture

Originally from Dobrogea, the great master of the Romanian sculpture, Ion Jalea (1887 - 1983), whose artistic activity passed over seven decades, donated in 1968 to the city he was so spiritually and affectively connected, a number of 108 works constituting his current collection.



Ion Jalea Museum

Enriched over time with another generous donation from the donor's family, the museum offers the visitors a suggestive image of the diversity of the creation of Ion Jalea. By approaching all genres of sculpture with the same command of the expression means, turning to the most different inspiration sources, Ion Jalea left for his posterity an impressive work, a large part being exposed here, at the shore of the sea.

The bi- and tridimensional works, made in stone, marble, bronze and gypsum, cover the thematic area of a creation setting out the modern and contemporary art of the past century. The religious, mythological and symbolic theme, the investigation of rural life, the composition with figures are his favorite areas; among the genres of the art, his favorites are the expressive and representative portrait, the nude - generally female, the historical and allegorical figure.

The Art Museum “Dinu and Sevasta Vintila” Topalu

The museum is situated on the territory of Topalu from Constanta county, being founded in 1960.

Profile: modern and contemporary Romanian art

Built by the generous donation of 228 works by dr. Gh. D. Vintila and functioning in the parental home from Topalu, the Art Museum “Dinu and Sevasta Vintila” is considered one of the largest and most representative village museums from the



Dinu and Sevasta Vintila Museum

country, due to the exceptional values it offers for contemplation to the visitors. Sava Hentia, Ioan Andreescu, Nicolae Grigorescu, Stefan Luchian, Gheorghe Petrascu, Nicolae Darascu, Theodor Pallady, Nicolae Tonitza, Iosif Iser, Dimitrie Paciurea, Ion Jalea, Corneliu Medrea, Alexandru Ciucurencu are only a few names of the important creators of our national art, presented in this museum.

The collection presents all great creators from the modern period, insisting on those the donor was especially fond of and admired; these are the creators from the Group of the four, established in 1925 and made of the painters Nicolae Tonitza, Stefan Dimitrescu, Francisc Sirato and the sculptor Oscar Han, to which is added the exceptional creation of the painter Theodor Pallady.

Romanian Navy Museum, Constanta

The museum is situated near Constanta Port on Traian Street and is hosted by a construction built in 1909, when in Constanta was founded the Higher Navy School, the first higher education institution from Dobrogea.

The Romanian Navy Museum presents chronologically the history of the military and commercial navy from Romania. The evolution of navigation in the antiquity is illustrated by some maps in stone, moldings from the Column Traian, models of Greek and Roman ships, original anchors, amphorae.



Sailors in uniform

Dacian and Roman fighters are also presented in natural size as some very well executed mannequins.

The medieval period is represented by two great leaders: Mircea the Old and Stefan the Great. Belonging to this period is exhibited a model of the “Moldavian drapers” - a ship built in our country, and a “monoxil” - traditional navigation means on the Danube and smaller rivers, built from the trunk of only one tree - dating from the 15th century. Original navigation kits are also exhibited. A separate section within the museum is the collection of model ships, containing 150 models of the civil and military ships that were a part of the Romanian fleet over time. Among them, one can admire the models of brig “Mircea”, of “Elisabeth” cruiser, of transient “Carol I” and “Princess Maria”.

The museum also contains anchors and steering wheel collections. Wooden, iron and steel anchors are exhibited. The oldest steering wheel of the museum is the one from “Elisabeth” cruiser, built in England in 1888.



The building of the Navy Museum

Natural Sciences Museum Complex from Constanta

With an institutional tradition of half a century, with an excellent material basis and a multidisciplinary structure, **the Natural Sciences Museum Complex** from Constanta is an important landmark in the cultural and scientific landscape of the municipality, with emblematic value for the summer offer of the Romanian seaside.



Dolphinarium show

The Natural Sciences Museum Complex is placed on the western side of Soveja square, on Mamaia Avenue, on the North Eastern side of the city. Made of an alternation of buildings, the complex is built during the period 1972 - 1973 and modernized during the period 2006- 2007.

In this generous space are placed: **the Danube Delta Micro-reservation, Dolphinarium, Planetarium - the Astronomic Observer and a Permanent Exhibition of Exotic Birds.**

The park of the complex is an excellent recreational area, with alleys and banks, placed among trees and vegetal arrangements. **The space of the Micro-reservation** has a body of water, surrounded by oaks and spontaneous vegetation, a glimpse of lacustrine ecosystem.



Dolphinarium

The specialists of the complex are always preoccupied by the growth and diversification of the patrimony, currently counting over 30.000 exhibits, representing fish, aquatic mammals, birds, mollusks, crustaceans, planetarium equipment, etc.

Aquarium Section:

The Aquarium of Constanta, the first section of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex, placed by the sea shore on the cliff of the Casino, in its immediate vicinity, is the first public aquarium from Romania and was inaugurated on 1 May 1958. The building hosting it, built at the beginning of the 20th century, had to be totally rearranged, having until the 1950s another destination. For this reason the construction does not meet the requirements of a modern aquarium. Nevertheless, the Aquarium from Constanta remained the biggest institution of this kind from the country, although subsequently other natural science museums founded sections with the same profile.

The expositional space is designed for the presentation of the permanent aquatic fauna and flora exhibition in 57 tanks, but also for the temporary exhibitions with biology and aquatic ecology themes.

A unique museum institution for the natural science museums from the country due to its expositional patrimony made exclusively of living organisms, the Aquarium from Constanta also has naturalized collections of fish and marine and freshwater invertebrates, belonging to the aquatic fauna from different geographical areas of the world.

To ease the presentation of the creatures but also the access of the visitors to information, the expositional patrimony represented by over 120 species of aquatic creatures, is structured on several sections. The distribution of aquatic organisms on sections is based on ecological and bio-geographical criteria, and within the section, when placing different species in the tanks, the taxonomic criterion was complied to as reasonably possible.



Aquarium



Ornamental carp

Marine Section:

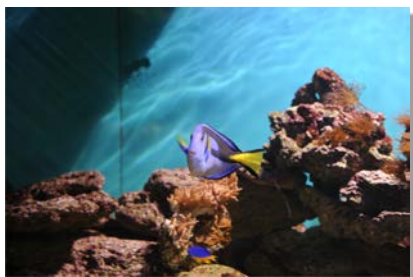
This section hosts species of fish and invertebrates from the Black Sea and migrants from the Mediterranean Sea. It is the largest and most representative section of the Aquarium, both by the capacity of tanks as well as the importance of the species presented. The biggest tank (30 m³) hosts the biggest sturgeons collection, famous for its scientific importance as well as the longevity of the specimens in captivity (18-20 years). All 3 sturgeon species are presented, Pontic-Caspian species, some specimens exceeding the size of 150 - 180 cm. Interesting for the visitors are also the non economic species, less well known like: the stingray and sea fox, shrew and dragon, sea stars, sea horse, needle and thread, sea dog and sea roosters, etc.

Freshwater Section:

The freshwater section presents species of freshwater fish and invertebrates populating the swamps and seaside lakes as well as the waters of the Danube Delta. Next to familiar species of: cyprinids, carp, crucian, rudd, roach, bream, caracuda are also presented the raptor ones like: catfish, pike, perch, etc.

Exotic Fish:

The exotic ichthyofauna is also very well represented, belonging to different freshwater ecosystems from the tropical and under-tropical areas of Asia, Africa, America and even Australia. The great shape and color variety of the over 60 species populating the 4 sections of exotic fish is completed by the richness of the submerged tropical plants. The cultural-educative institutional quality of the Aquarium from Constanta is not given only by its organizational character, but especially by its scientific character substantiating the growth, preservation, research and capitalization activities of this patrimony for the information, education and recreation of the visitors of all ages.



Exotic fish



Sturgeons

Dolphinarium Section:

The Dolphinarium from Constanta began its activity on 1 June 1972, being the first museum of this kind from our country and the first of the South East Europe at that time. The exhibition presents the world of the cetaceans living in different seas. In the amphitheatre with pool are organized demonstrations with the dolphins from *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* specie and with seals from South Atlantic, *Otaria byronia* specie.

In the Black Sea there are three subspecies of dolphins: bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and afaelin.

The Dolphinarium of Constanta hosted in its tanks all three species of dolphins from the Black Sea. The first were the bottlenose dolphins (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*) and the common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis ponticus* L. 1758), and almost 20 years ago the afaelin or big dolphins as the *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* specie is called (*Montagu, 1821*) were also brought.

By the exhibitions it shows, by the guidance activities of ecological education it performs, the biologists-curators try to share with the visitors a part of the knowledge gathered after hours of study and work with the dolphins and sea lions.

By organizing symposiums, scientific communication sessions, with the local and foreign specialists, they contribute to maintain the current level of specialty knowledge.



Seal - *Otaria Byronia*



Black Sea dolphin

Exotic Birds Section:

Within the Natural Sciences Museum Complex Constanta, starting with 1982, the Exotic and Decorative Birds Exhibition entered the tourist circuit placed in the immediate vicinity on the Micro-reservation.

On a covered surface of 100 m², in large lofts, with proper compartments for food, nesting, flight and rest, the representatives of different species of birds from Asia, Africa, Australia and New Guinea may be admired. Among the terrestrial vertebrates, the birds are the richest group in species, amounting to $\frac{3}{4}$ of their total. The Exotic and Decorative Birds Exhibition, enriched every year, offers the visitors of all ages the possibility to recreate themselves in a pleasant and instructive manner, by extending their knowledge horizon over the avifauna of different bio-geographical areas.



Great Alexandru

The collection reunites 19 **exotic birds** species corresponding to a number of over 150 specimens. It's about species like *The Great and The Small Alexander* in a variety of colors, *Rosella Budgerigar* with a special color palette, *Amazon Parrot*, attractive by its capacity to imitate human language, *Bird of Paradise*, *Cinteza Gould*, as well as a considerable number of *Whipper Budgerigar* with varied colors.

The Parrots are considered the most intelligent birds. Especially interesting is their capacity to imitate human voice; the explanation for this availability is that because they don't have a specialized vocal language, as that of the singing birds, they can reproduce by imitative learning different sound manifestations from the environment - words pertaining to human language, the song of other birds and other sounds or noises.

Outside the expositional space there is a reproduction space where every year, with the support of the specialists and qualified personnel, different color varieties for some species were obtained. Within the Exotic and Decorative Birds Section different partnerships, cultural - educative manifestations, thematic or permanent exhibitions are carried out, established for some specific events like guiding or extra-curricular biology lessons applied to improve the training of pupils or students.

Events like: *The International Day of the Bird*, *Year of the Dove*, etc. are marked, and different promotional and informative materials are sold to the visitors.

Micro-reservation Section:

Within the Natural Sciences Museum Complex Constanta, starting with 1985, the Micro-reservation entered the public circuit; it extends over a surface of about 6 ha, 3 of which represent a body of water with swamp vegetation. This objective was created to offer the visitor a more complex image over the nature of Dobrogea.



Swans

The patrimony of this objective holds the aquatic avifauna (pelicans, swans, wild ducks and geese), the terrestrial avifauna (peacocks, pheasants) and mammals (mouflons, fallow deer, deer), which are found in Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation and Negureni Reservation. Most of these specimens are natural monuments and rare species with a more reduced representation in the natural biotops.

Some specimens were obtained by exchange with other Zoos and others were purchased or donated. Annually, the reproduction and growth in captivity of many specimens belonging to some varied species (mouflons, fallow deer) were successfully.

In the **Micro-reservation** are found, in a special natural frame, a number of 29 species with an effective of over 120 specimens.

All these „residents” benefit from „lodgings” in progress of compliance with the European norms, the current tendency being to remove the concrete platforms and surrounding metallic bars.

During the summer, on the natural lake of the Micro-reservation you can admire the pelicans and swans colonies majestically floating. During the cold season, all avifauna specimens benefit from heated shelters.

Besides the recreation and relaxation side, the **Micro-reservation** also organizes visits of the pupils and students to complete the specialty information (biology-ecology) with the help of our specialists. Also, the active involvement in the volunteering programs allow animal lovers to attend the supervised feeding of the animals. Their food is framed in the diet established for each specie. Within the section was also initiated a rescue center to shelter and keep in quarantine the specimens braought by different people, especially in the cold season.

Planetarium Section:

The Planetarium from Constanta was the first objective of the **Natural Sciences Museum Complex** from the current location, near Mamaia resort. The public is varied, from the preschoolers to the elderly.

Outside the season, the children (preschoolers and pupils) and the young (students) visit the Planetarium in organized groups, to achieve the objectives from the curriculum, as geography, ecology, physics,



Planetarium

astronomy - optics lessons, many of them based on a partnership contract between the school and the museum (Planetarium) and astronavigation seminars for the students of the Maritime University from Constanta.

In the summer, the public becomes very varied, heterogeneous, the largest percentage being constituted by tourists. For those who never visited a planetarium, it is an unforgettable experience.

The planetarium demonstration is a projection on an artificial canopy of a starry sky. In the room provided with air conditioning you can spend a night in a few dozen minutes, always having the safety of a „clear sky”.

The planetarium has a cupola with the diameter of 8m and a capacity of 80 seats. The projection device which performs the demonstrations is a ZKP -2 type (1988), made in Germany (Karl Zeiss Jena).

In the hallway of the Planetarium, an astronomy exhibition may be visited. In the cupola of the planetarium take place demonstrations with the ZKP -2 projector and you can see: stars (about 5000); planets; the Moon; constellations (zodiacal constellations); comets; meteorites; the Galilean satellites of Jupiter; artificial satellites; the Solar System - the rotation movement of the planets from the Solar System; determining horizontal, equatorial and ecliptic coordinates; demonstrations with the Trippensee planetarium: the formation of seasons, equinoxes and solstices, Sun and Moon eclipses.

The Astronomic Observer was founded in 1970. At the entrance into the Observer, the Universe exhibit can be visited, presenting the structure of the Universe, starting from the metagalaxy until the structure of the Solar System, presenting the planets in images and their characteristics. Within the Astronomic Observer is also the astronomic observations cupola. This has a diameter of 5m and hosts Cassegrain type Telescope with mirror, with the diameter of 150mm, real focal distance (900mm), equivalence (2250mm), and the max magnification =360X.



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