

presented) as well as murals inspired by designs widely used in Italy at the beginning of the 1st century of our era (« third Pompeian century »).

NECROPOLIS

Located outside the ramparts, the *Forum Iulii* necropolis (ancient burial grounds) included graves (isolated or grouped in enclosed areas) and funerary monuments (aediculas) which formed a long strip extending on both sides of the city's access roads.

The first rite that the local population adopted was **cremation** : the urns which were to contain the ashes of the deceased were made of various materials such as glass, ceramics, lead or sandstone. As for **the burial**, which appeared around the 11nd century A.D, the grave in a framing of tiles (*tegulae*) is the most recorded. In accordance with the beliefs of the time, **many offerings** were placed with the dead person in the tomb : the most common were ceramics and balsam jars (small flasks) in glass, used for scented oils. Sometimes mirrors, toiletries and even small bronze or silver jewels were placed in the tombs. Bronze coins, time-worn or of little value were the offering to Charon who was in charge of taking the dead person beyond the Styx, the river in the Underworld.

ARCHEOLOGY AND MULTIMEDIA

Virtual tour of the Roman fish tank

Thanks to a 3D headset, immerse yourself in the archaeological crypt and go back to the 1st century BC where the ancient shore stood, a freshwater cistern and then a fish tank. Time travel guaranteed!

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Discover the holographic presentation of Minerva's helmet and her crest, unearthed during the excavations of the Pourcin stadium.

Fréjus belongs to the French National Association of Cities and Regions with Art and History Heritage.

The Ministry of Culture, Heritage department, awards the title « Cities and Regions with Art and history Heritage » to territorial communities maintaining, valuing and sustaining their heritage. This guarantees the skills of the Architecture and Heritage facilitators and of the tour guides, as well as the quality of their services. From the ancient remains to the XXIst century architecture, these territories put the diversity of Heritage on show. Nowadays, a network of 202 cities and regions provides its expertise throughout France.

Learn about Fréjus, a city with Art and History Heritage...

The Archaeology and Heritage department coordinates the initiatives of Fréjus, a city with Art and History Heritage. Cultural programming is presented throughout the year in order to make the public discover and better understand the City heritage. They are available to teachers to build education activities. The Tourist Office guides/lecturers welcome you on many interesting visits. They know every aspect of Fréjus and invite you to « take a new look at the city » For information contact the Tourist Office.

Opening hours

- From October 1 to March 31
Tuesday through Saturday
9:30 AM – 12 and 2 – 4:30 PM
Closed on Sundays, Mondays and Bank holidays
- From April 1 to September 30
Tuesday through Sunday
9:30 AM - 12:30 and 2 – 6 PM
Closed on Mondays and Bank holidays

Rates

- Single ticket : 3 €
 - Fréjus Pass : 6 € (reduced : 4 €)
- Admission to the Amphitheatre, the Theatre, the Archaeological Museum, the local History museum and to the chapel « Notre Dame de Jérusalem »
- Free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult.
- Detail of the conditions of free and reduced to the reception.

Archaeology and Heritage department

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FOCUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



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FORUM IULII, A ROMAN COLONY

The Roman City of *Forum Iulii* was established, under the initiative of Julius Caesar from the year 49 B.C, on a sandstone overhang dominating the mouth of the river Argens, on the edge of a wide bay. Thus, the city took control of the main communication routes, either by sea or land. Following the arrival of the veterans of the VIIIth legion, decided by the Emperor Augustus in the year 27 B.C, the colony adopted a larger-scale urban plan. The building of a theatre, of an amphitheatre, of an aqueduct and of thermal baths cemented the city's status as a major town and significantly improved the quality of life for its inhabitants.

At the same time, the range of economic activities developed and grew rapidly : the cultivation of olive trees and grapevines, the wine production, a part of which was reserved for export, metalworking as well as the exploitation of large and good quality clay deposits which contributed to the creation of a real pottery industry. The collections of the Fréjus Municipal Museum are presented in four rooms of the medieval episcopal building. In each room, through objects from archaeological excavations conducted from the XVIIth to the XXth century, you will approach one aspect of the history, of the urban planning, of the economy and of the daily life of this city in the Roman era.



seated figure, probably a divinity, wearing a long dress with a tightened drape. Of outstanding quality and originality, **the two-headed Hermes in Carrara marble** has become the symbol of the city of Fréjus. Two divinities, Pan-Faunus, the goat-god, and perhaps Bacchus, with his carefully combed beard, must have originally topped a disappeared pillar.

The acroterion*, in the shape of a tragic mask, as well as a **representation of a lion**, found in the Roman theatre, prove that local sandstone could be used as an alternative to marble. These items surround **the so-called « panther mosaic »**, a polychrome work discovered at the Clos de la Tour and placed in 1921, in a very good state of preservation. The central emblem shows a panther, an animal generally linked with Bacchus, whose processions and feasts are also evoked by kantharos and ivy leaves.

CERAMICS

The establishment of a number of pottery workshops on the outskirts of the town of Fréjus, ever since ancient times, was motivated by the presence of a large good-quality clay deposit, at an accessible depth, north and east of the ancient conglomeration. These clays, which gave light-coloured and fairly fine limestone ceramics, were exploited almost continuously from the Antiquity to the XXth century.

* Decorative element of the roof.

STATUARY

Since the XVIIth century, a lot of antique carved elements have been uncovered on the territory of Fréjus : Of these, some probably belonged to the monumental decoration of public and private buildings of the Roman city (theatre, thermal baths, large homes). Such is the case of a **head attributed to Jupiter**, made with great care and larger than life-size, as is the lower part of a statue representing a

As for the products, the sets presented in the showcases give an indication of the variety of creations : **architectural terracotta plaques** with moulded heads of divinities can be seen beside many different forms of **tableware and kitchenware** as well as wide ranges of **amphoras** for the export of local wine.



HOUSING

From the age of Augustus (first Roman Emperor from 27 B.C to 14 A.D), town planning in *Forum Iulii* adopted an orthogonal plan, marked with the *cardo* and the *decumanus* (main urban roads, one north-south and the other east-west). This enforced a geometrical division of the blocks (*insulae*) and the construction of quadrangular houses (*domus*) respecting the same module. In the following centuries, some of these houses became larger dwellings, with gardens, colonnaded porticoes, murals, mosaics as well as new facilities such as running water, latrines and sewers.

Particularly well-preserved, **a house discovered underneath Place Formigé**, in front of the town hall, therefore west of *cardo maximus*, gives a good example of the luxury housing in the Augustus era. All the rooms are set around a central courtyard (*atrium*) decorated with murals. A trompe l'œil decor of cypress and little birds evokes the atmosphere of a garden. The dining room (*triclinium*) the main reception and state room, is fitted with a black and white mosaic floor (partially