

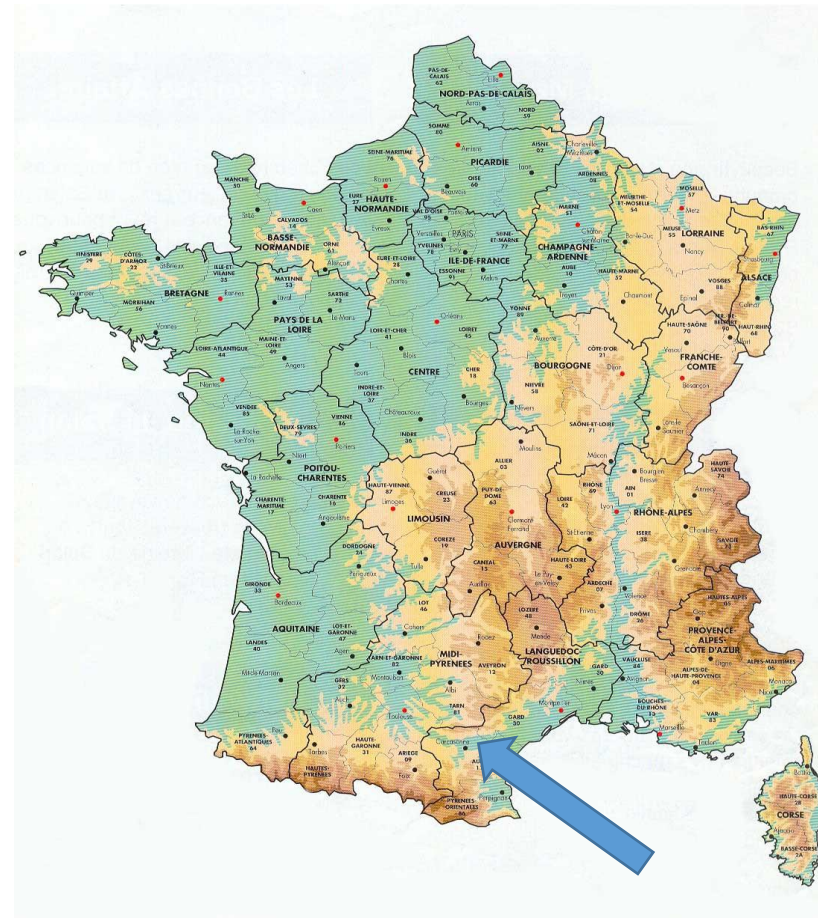
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

**Rest of Europe**

France

# Carcassonne (Aude - France).

Carcassonne.



# Carcassonne the Aude River, the old bridge and the medieval city.

- One of the best preserved medieval fortified cities. It was restored during the years 1846 to 1910.



From the pre-Roman period, a fortified settlement has existed on the hill where Carcassonne now stands.



- The earliest known occupation of the site dates from the 6th century BCE.
- It was a Roman settlement from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE until it came under Visigothic rule in the 5th century.
- In 724 Arabs took it but were driven out in 759 after a siege led by Pepin the Short.
- In the 9th century it became the seat of a count, and later of a viscount.



# An extensive building program over more than a hundred years.



The 12th century count's castle was built over the western part of the Roman walls; it was surrounded by a rectangular fortified enclosure in 1226. At the same time the external defensive walls were built, so as to make the town, completely impregnable.

Two final construction campaigns took place in the 13th and early 14th centuries, following unsuccessful sieges in 1240 and 1280.

By the end of the 13th century the town had assumed its definitive appearance as a medieval fortress.

Divider slide.



# Pont Saint-Bénézet , AKA Le pont d'Avignon.

- No more dancing. Bénézet was a shepherd boy in the Christian legend about building the bridge.





# Villeneuve = new village

- A bridge spanning the Rhone between Villeneuve-lès-Avignon and Avignon was built between 1177 and 1185.
- This early bridge (probably of wood construction) was destroyed forty years later during the Albigensian Crusade when Louis VIII of France laid siege to Avignon.



# The Albigensian Crusade.

- The Albigensian Crusade or Cathar Crusade (1209–1229) was a 20-year military campaign initiated by Pope Innocent III, to eliminate a sect of Christianity called Catharism, in Languedoc, in the south of France.
- The members of the sect came from Albi in Southern France.
- Present day Albi.



# Too difficult to maintain.

- The bridge was rebuilt with 22 stone arches.
- It was very costly to maintain as the arches tended to collapse when the Rhone flooded.
- Eventually in the middle of the 17th century the bridge was abandoned.





# There are uncertainties in the dates of various building programs.

The four surviving arches on the bank of the Rhone are believed to have been built about 1345 by Pope Clement VI during the Avignon Papacy.

The Chapel of Saint Nicholas sits on a platform beside the second pier of the bridge.

- It was constructed over an extended time, up until the sixteenth century.



View from the southwest of the tower where the bridge reached the opposite bank.

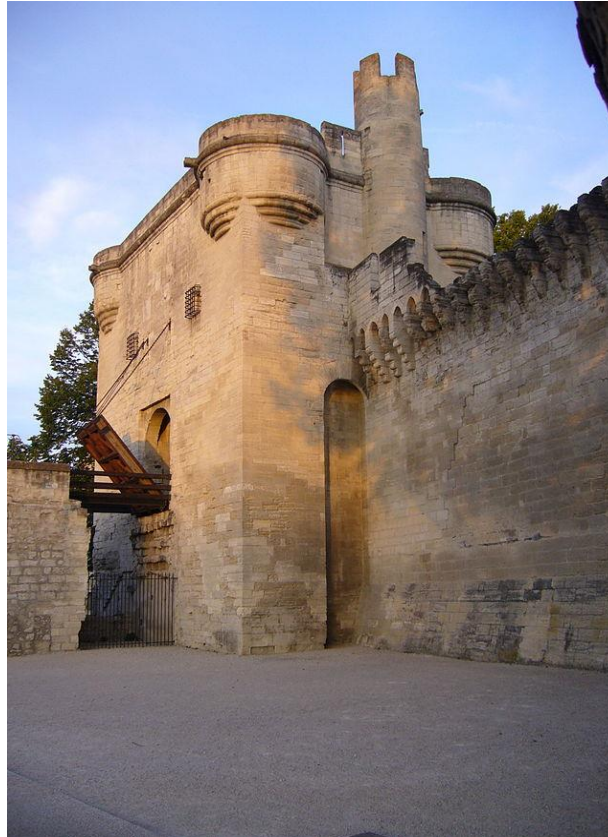
- Tour Philippe-le-Bel.





# On the Bridge of Avignon.....

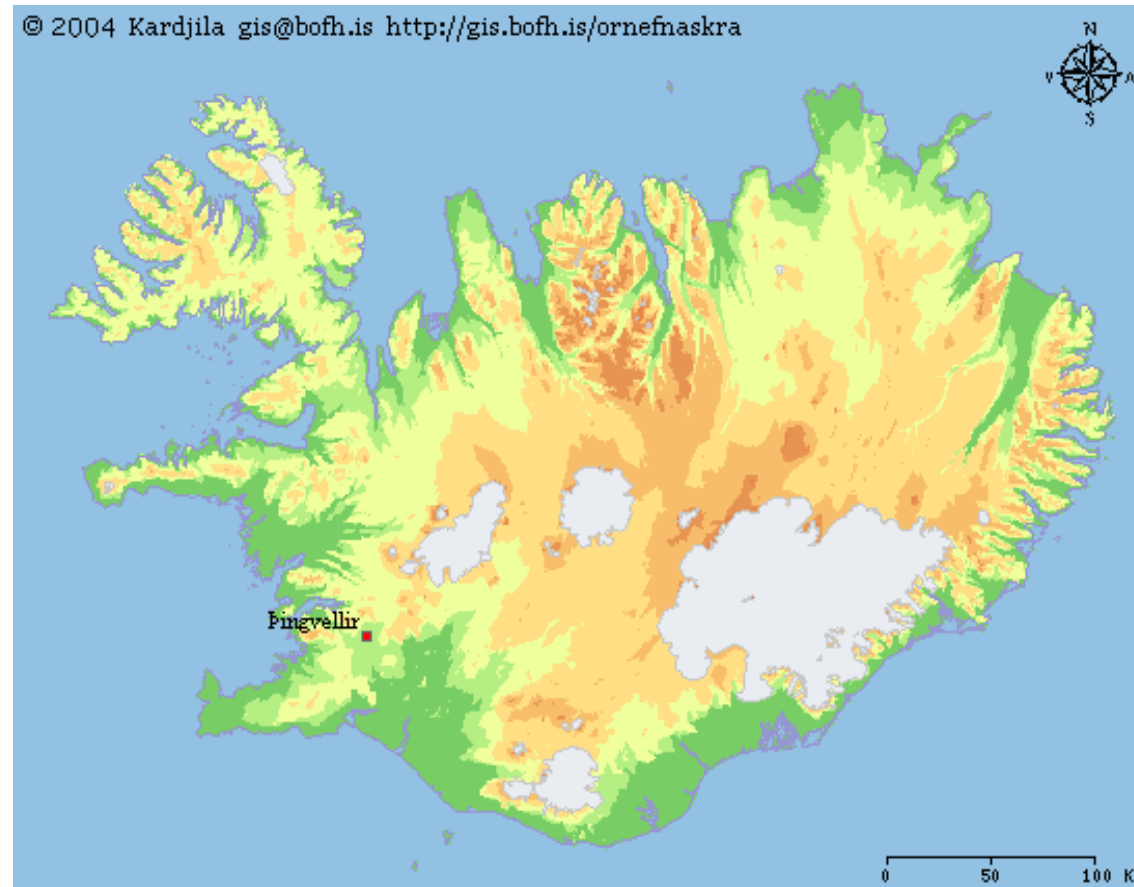
- "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" is a French song about the Pont d'Avignon that dates back to the 15th century.
- Drawbridge connecting the bridge to the gatehouse in the city wall.



Iceland

# Þingvellir(Bláskógar), Iceland.

- Location:



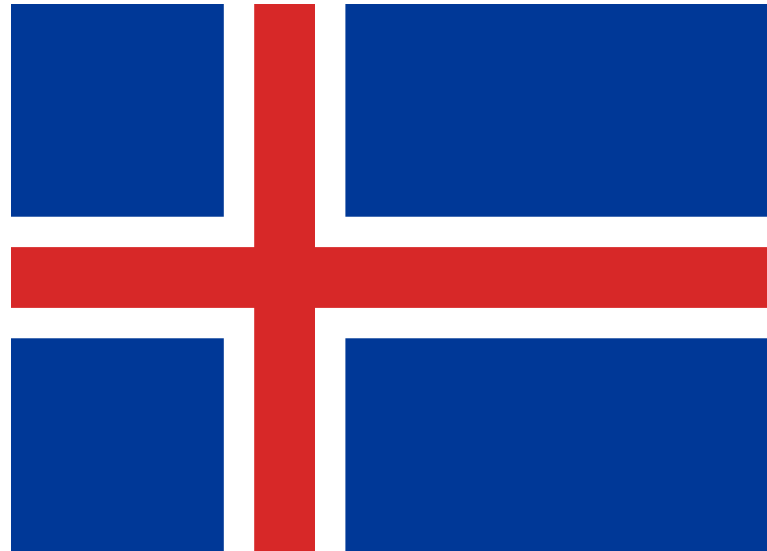
# History of settlement.

- The settlement of Iceland began in 874CE when the Norwegian chieftain Ingólfr Arnarson became the first permanent settler on the island at what is now the capital Reykjavík.



# A succession of rulers.

- In the following centuries, Scandinavians founded The Commonwealth of Iceland, bringing with them thralls(slaves) of Gaelic origin.
- From 1262 to 1918, Iceland was ruled by Norway and later Denmark.
- The country became independent in 1918 and a republic in 1944.





# Legislative Assembly.

- The Alþingi (assembly) at Þingvellir was Iceland's supreme legislative and judicial authority from its establishment in 930CE until 1271CE.



# Cultural centre for Iceland. 1

- Þingvellir was the centre of Icelandic culture.
- Every summer, during the Commonwealth period, people would flock to Þingvellir from all over the country, sometimes numbering in the thousands.



## Cultural centre for Iceland. 2

- They set up dwellings with walls of turf and rock and temporary roofing and stayed in them for the two weeks of the assembly.





# Cultural centre for Iceland. 3

- The Alþingi (assembly) at Þingvellir was Iceland's supreme legislative and judicial authority from its establishment in 930 until 1271.



# Cultural centre for Iceland. 4

- The Lögberg (Law Rock) was the focal point of the Alþingi and a natural platform for holding speeches.
- The exact location of the Lögberg is unknown, because of the changing geography of the rift valley over 1000 years.





# Cultural centre for Iceland. 5

- The Icelandic Law-speaker, elected for three years at a time, presided over the assembly.
- Before the law was recorded, the Law-speaker, standing on the Lögberg, recited it, and the complete assembly procedures, from memory, every summer.



# Cultural centre for Iceland. 6

Law-speaker is a unique Scandinavian legal office.

It has its basis in a common Germanic oral tradition, where wise men were asked to recite the law.

- A Law-speaker from Sweden.



# A broad range of activities.

- Anyone attending the assembly was entitled to present, from the Lögberg, his case on important issues.
- There were also social and commercial activities during the two weeks of the assembly.



Malta

# MALTA: ISLAND OF THE GEORGE CROSS.

- The George Cross was awarded to the island of Malta by King George VI of the United Kingdom in a letter dated 15 April 1942 to the island's Governor Lieutenant-General Sir William Dobbie, so as to "bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people during the great siege it underwent in the early parts of World War II."





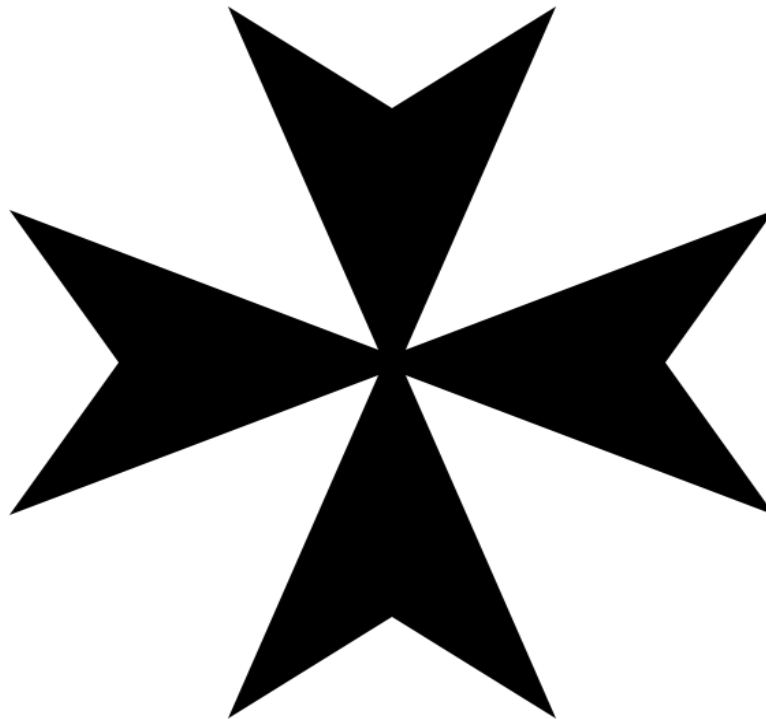
# Big Fat Italy is kicking poor Sicily (and Malta) into the Mediterranean Sea.

- Where.



Not to be confused with the medal.

- The Maltese cross, in Italy also known as the Amalfi cross, is the cross symbol associated with the Knights Hospitaller (the Knights of Malta) and by extension with the island of Malta.



# Crusaders wore this cross

- Its design is based on crosses used since the First
- It is also the modern symbol of Amalfi, a small Italian republic of the 11th century.
- The insignia of a Serving Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem (right).
- The City of Acre was the last Crusader stronghold, which was finally retaken by Muslim Forces in 1291CE.



# Assigning meanings to the eight points.

- St John Ambulance, The Venerable Order of St John's main service organisation, has applied secular meanings to the points as representing the traits of a good first aider:
- Observant, Tactful, Resourceful, Dextrous, Explicit, Discriminating, Persevering, Sympathetic.



# Approximate dates of the Temple Period in Malta.

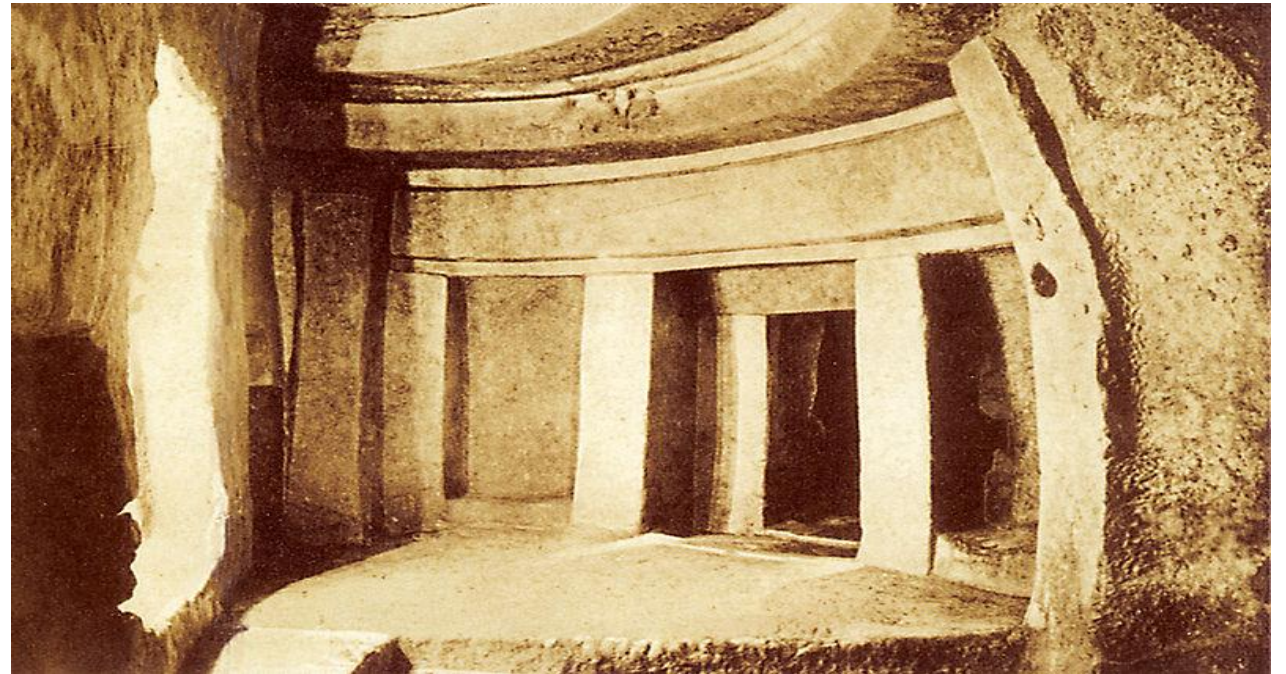
- The Temple period, from c.3600 - 2500 BCE, produced the most notable monumental remains.
- It is subdivided into three phases:
  - (i) Gigantija 3,600 - 3,200 BCE;
  - (ii) The Saflieni 3,300 - 3,000 BCE;
  - (iii) Tarxien 3,150 – 2,500 BCE.





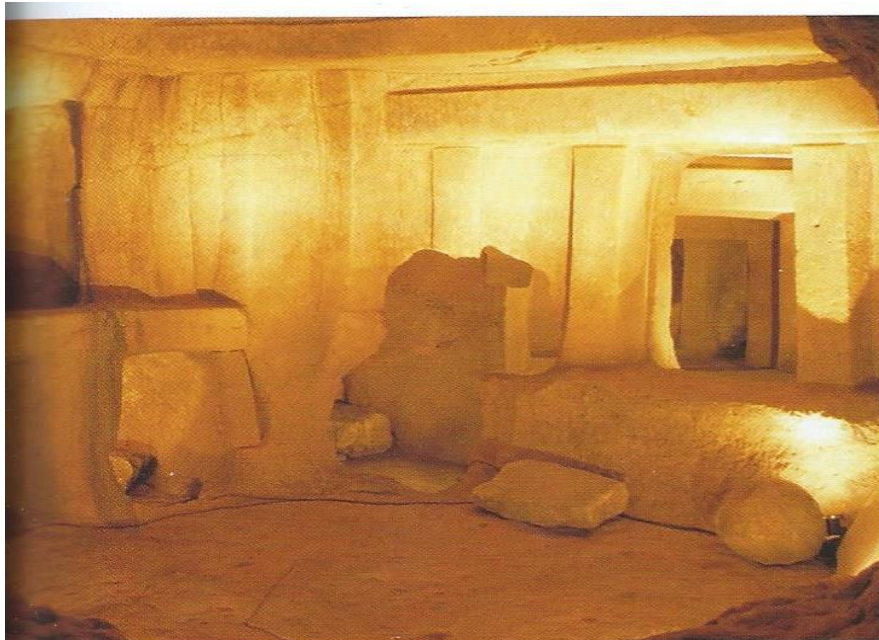
# The Hypogeum((Maltese: Ipogew), literally meaning "underground" in Greek.

- The Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni is a subterranean structure dating to the Saflieni phase (3300-3000 BCE) in Maltese prehistory, located in Paola, Malta.
- Photograph of the Hypogeum by Richard Ellis before 1910.



# The **Saflieni phase** is one of the eleven phases of Maltese prehistory.

- The Hypogeum is thought to have been originally a sanctuary, but it became a necropolis in prehistoric times, and in fact, the remains of more than 7,000 individuals have been found.
- It is the only known prehistoric underground temple in the world.



It at Paola.



# Entrance and carved stone relief, at Tarxien temples.

The Tarxien temple complex is found some 400 metres to the east of the Hypogeum of Ħal-Saflieni.



# Tarxien temple, altar.

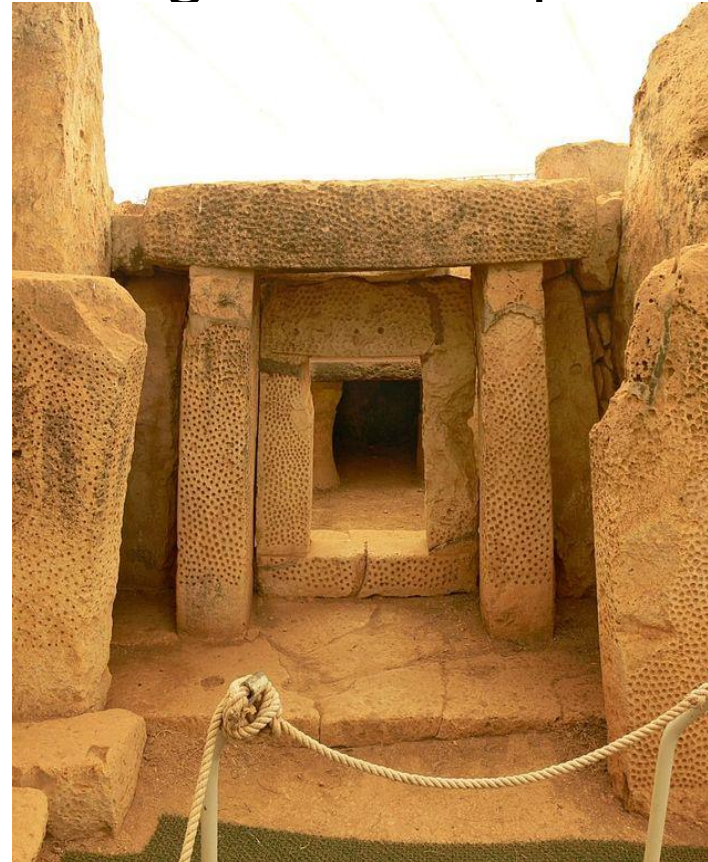
- This is a copy, the original is in the National Museum of Archaeologie in Valetta.





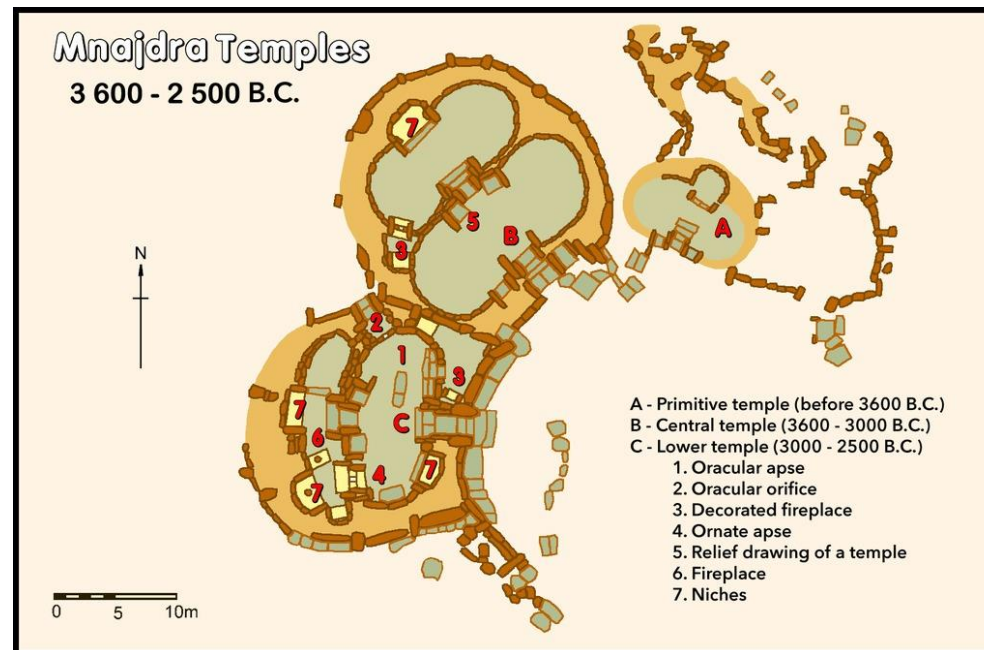
# Mnajdra temple (left) with Porthole slab(middle).

- Porthole slab in Mnajdra temple, Qrendi, Malta approximately 500 metres from the Hagar Qim megalithic complex.



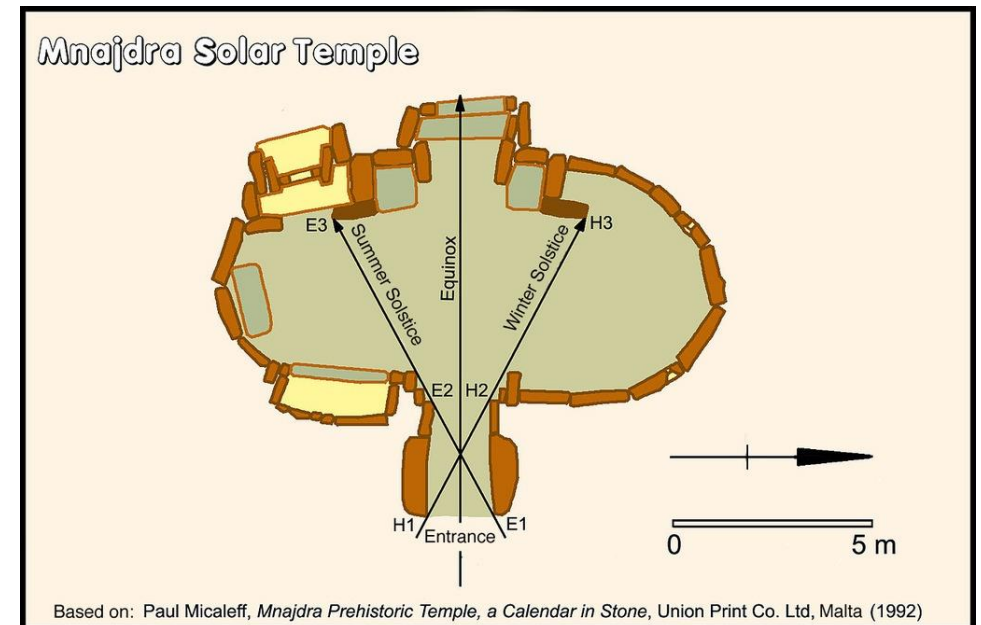
# The function of the temples has not yet been decided.

- Maltese folklore describes giants as having built the temples, which led to the name Ġigantija, meaning 'Giants' tower'.
- There are also suggestions that one or more of the temples had some connection with astronomical observations e.g. at Mnajdra



# Astronomical alignment.

- “The lowest temple is astronomically aligned and thus was probably used as an astronomical observation and/or calendrical site.
- On the vernal and the autumnal equinox sunlight passes through the main doorway and lights up the major axis.
- On the solstices sunlight illuminates the edges of megaliths to the left and right of this doorway.”



Norway



# Vegaøyen.

- Vega Archipelago is a group of about 6,500 islands, surrounding the main island of Vega, in the Norwegian Sea just south of the Arctic circle, and has been inhabited since the Stone Age.



# Main island, Vega(left).

- The islands bear testimony to a distinctive frugal way of life based on fishing and the harvesting of the down of eider ducks, in an inhospitable environment.
- There are fishing villages, quays, eider houses (built for eider ducks to nest), farmland, and lighthouses.



# A long association with the islands.

- The fishermen/farmers have, over the past 1500 years, maintained a sustainable living in an inhospitable seascape near the Arctic Circle, based on the now unique practice of eiderdown harvesting.
- It is not stated directly but it seems that the women collect the down.





# Moving population.

- Over 50 islands are, or were, inhabited, many seasonally. Common Eider adult male(left) and female.





# Vulnerable to any introduced predators.

- The eider's nest is built close to the sea and is lined with the celebrated eiderdown, plucked from the female's breast.
- This soft and warm lining has long been harvested for filling pillows and quilts.



# Eclipse plumage.

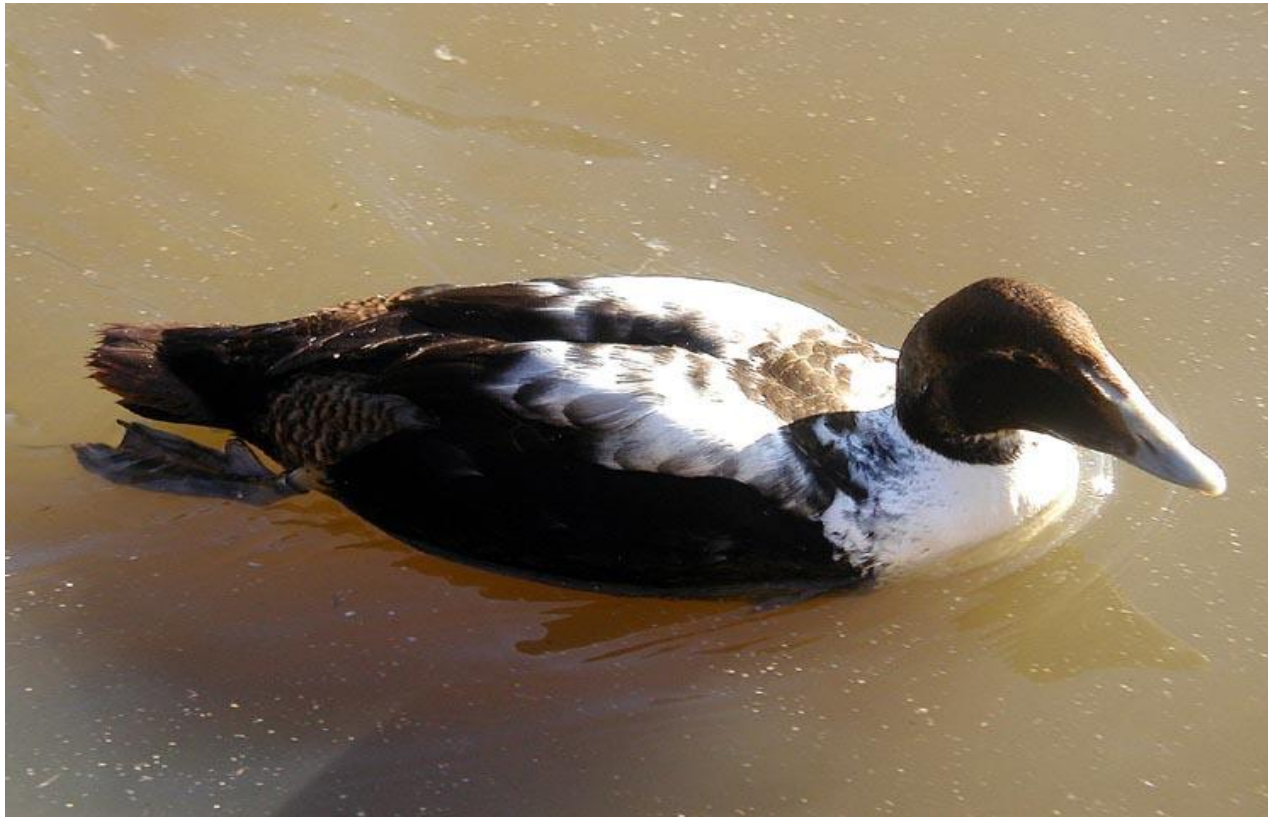
- The drakes moult into a dull plumage after breeding in mid-summer.
- This drab, appearance is called eclipse plumage.
- When they shed feathers to go into eclipse, the ducks become flightless for a short period of time.





# Male first winter plumage, similar to the adult eclipse plumage.

- By fencing the ducks in the inhabitants eventually domesticated the mostly wild ducks.



# A sustainable “industry” but the market has almost disappeared.

- Eiderdown has been largely replaced by down from domestic geese and synthetic alternatives.
- Although eiderdown pillows or quilts are now a rarity, eiderdown harvesting continues and is sustainable, as it can be done after the ducklings leave the nest and a third of the feathers are left to guarantee the survival of the birds.



Divider slide.





# Geirangerfjord, Norway.

- Location.



# Geiranger village at the end of the fjord.

- A popular tourist destination.





# The Seven Sisters Waterfall.

- Close up.





# From another angle.

- Note people

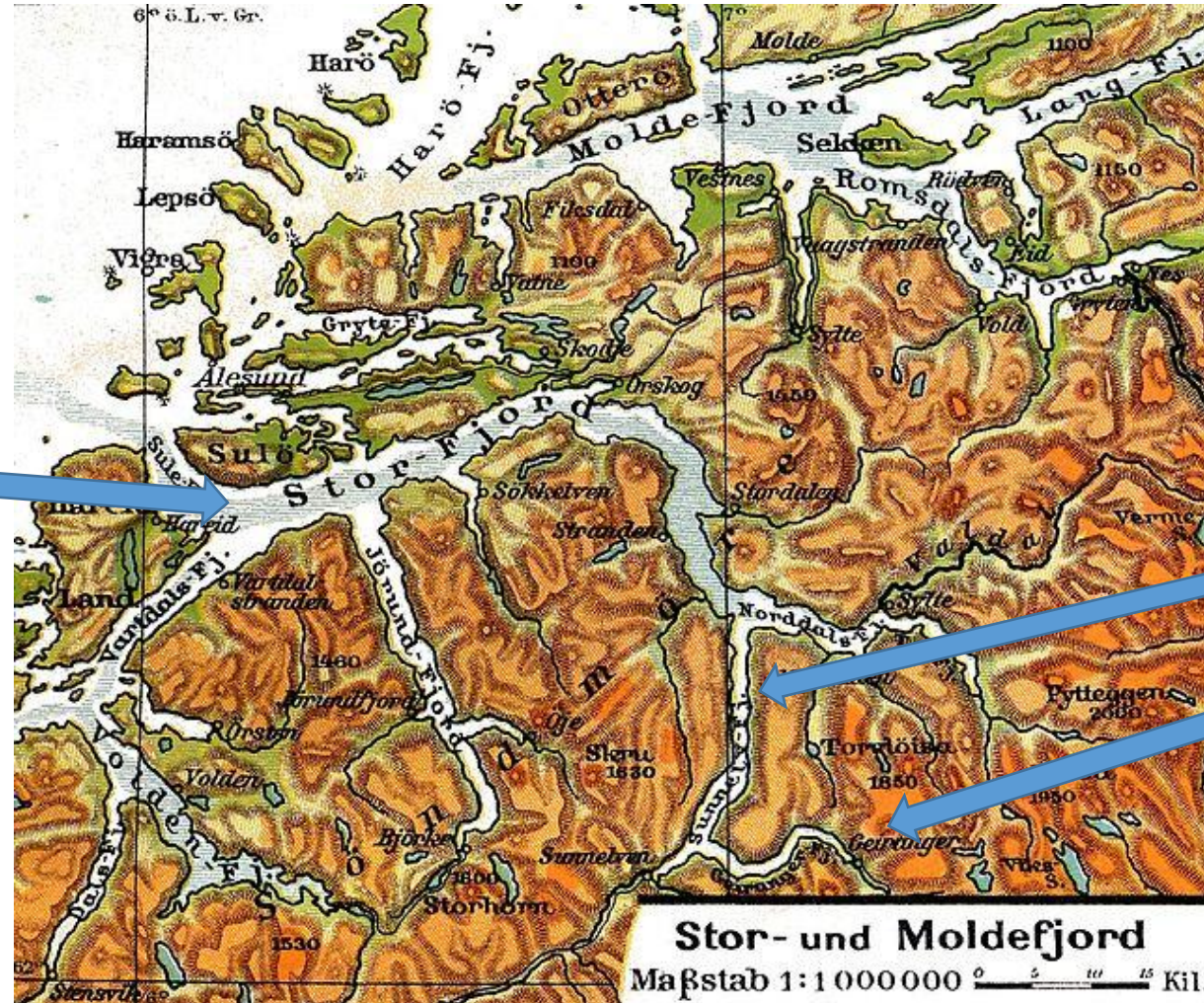




It is a 15km branch off the Sunnyslv-fjord, which is a branch off the Stor-fjorden.

- The Great Fjord

Stor-fjorden i.e. Great fjord.



Sunnyslv-fjord.

Geiranger



Along the fjord's sides there lie a number of now-abandoned farms.

- Some restoration has been made by the *Storfjordens venner* association.



# The farm Me-Åkerneset 1940, the northern shore of the Sunnysfjorden

- Vacated 6/12/1958, but preserved as World Heritage site.





Åkernes, Me-Åkerneset headland, the farm is in the lower part to the left in the hillside.

- The pink line identifies the Åkernes crevasse.





# Erosion and landslide threat.

- Today Geiranger and the farm are at considerable risk. The crevasse Åkernesrenna has in the recent years widened at an accelerating rate, and analyses show a landslide of 50-100 mega m<sup>3</sup> is possible.
- Kitchen interior of the farm preserved as it was when vacated in 1958.



# A Tsunami would devastate the farms, Geiranger, and other villages.

- The landslide will go directly into the Sunnysfjorden, causing a landslide induced tsunami of about 30m in height, which will sweep the fjords in ten minutes and devastate the areas adjacent to them.
- Me-åkerneset seen from Oaldsbygda, settlement across the Sunnysfjorden.



Romania



# Dacian Fortresses of the Orăştie Mountains.

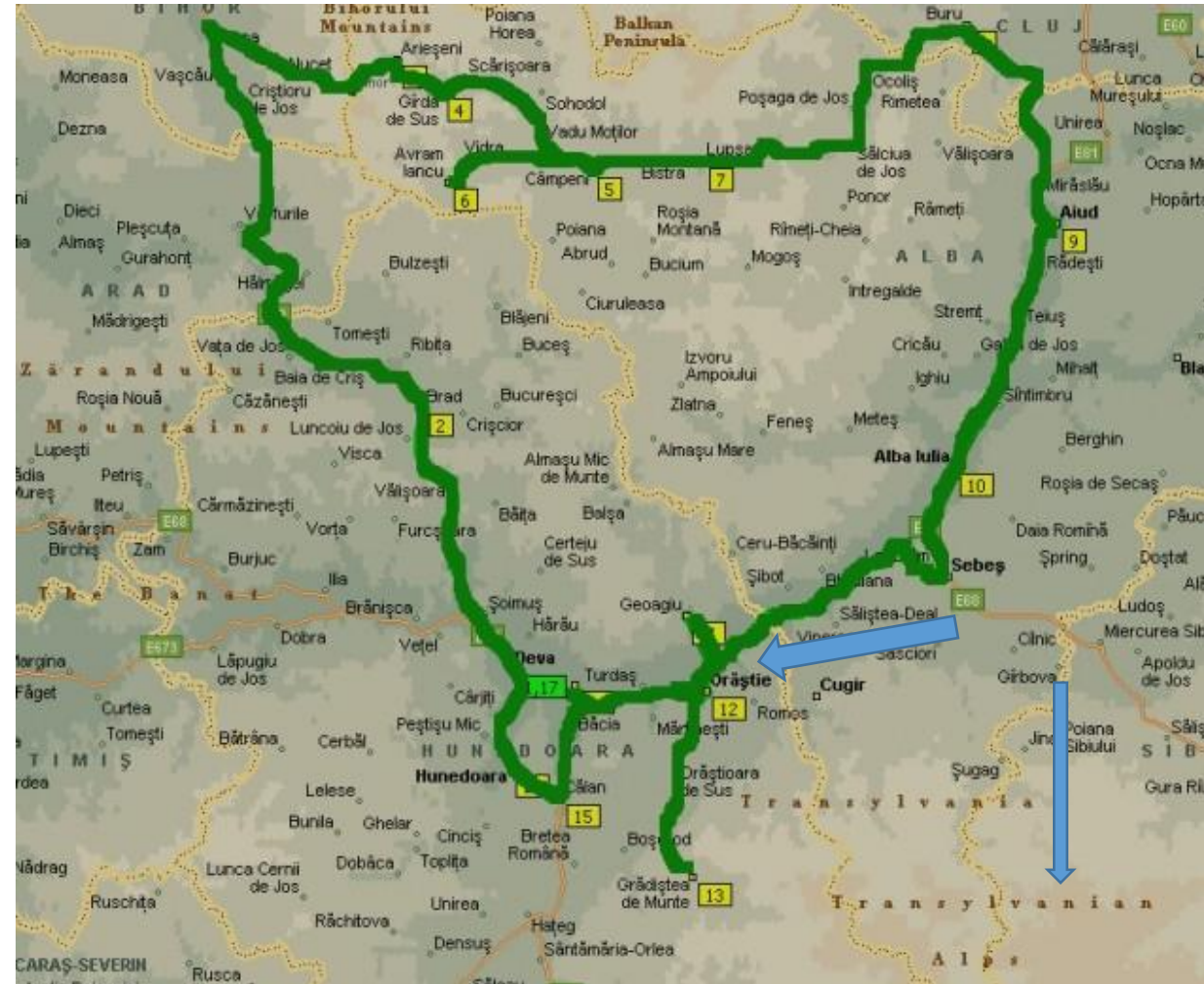
- The town of Sarmizegetusa Regia was the capital and major fortress of the Dacian kingdom, probably built in the mid first century BCE.
- There were 6 fortresses.
- Under reconstruction:





# Location.

- Near Transylvanian Alps, Romania.



# Sarmizegetusa Regia.

- There are three components of Sarmizegetusa, the capital of Dacia: the fortress, the sacred area, and the civilian quarter.
- Large limestone sanctuary.





# Paved Dacian road, Sarmizegetusa Regia

- The Grădiştea plateau is dominated by the fortress, which was the centre of secular and spiritual government.
- The sacred area is situated to the east of the fortress.
- Access is by means of a paved path on the west and a monumental stone stairway on the east.



# Dacian artefact from Piatra Roşie site.

- It is still a subject of debate if it is an shield umbo (protruding knob at centre of a shield) or a gate decoration.





# Subjugated by the Romans.

- In the spring of 101CE the Roman Emperor Trajan, took the offensive against the Dacians.
- Decebalus unified the Dacian kingdoms and concentrated his forces in the Oraştie Mountains, where he submitted to Trajan.



# Total defeat.

- An uneasy distribution of territory ensued, broken in 105CE when Decebalus seized the Roman governor Longinus.
- This time he could not hold the Dacians together against the powerful Roman army.
- His capital and his fortresses were overwhelmed and Decebalus himself committed suicide to avoid capture.
- This campaign is graphically depicted in the reliefs running round Trajan's Column in Rome.



Christianised Roman temple built with some materials from the Dacian Sarmizegetusa fortress.

- The Densuș Church (also known as St Nicholas' Church) in the village of Densuș, Hunedoara County, Romania is one of the oldest Romanian churches still standing.





# A Temple to the God of War.

- It is considered that on the setting of the present day church, there was once a Dacian temple dedicated to Zamolxis, upon which the conquering Romans built a temple dedicated to the god Mars.
- After the Roman administrative withdrawal, the temple became a Christian church.
- Roman inscription in the church's yard.

