11. Maritime trade

Ancient shipwrecks discovered in the region provide valuable information on the cargo transported at various times and the vessels used. The “maritime trade” area is mainly devoted to a presentation of the artefacts recovered from the Fourmigue wreck, which was discovered in 1980, off the coast from Golfe Juan. Parts of the ship, anchor stocks (a lead piece designed to keep the anchor on the seabed) and rings (used for sail brails) as well as a reconstruction of a Roman ship are also displayed for visitors.

12. The “sensory square”

The “sensory square” allows visitors to explore the museum’s collections and archaeology using an interactive, artistic, educational and fun approach. This welcoming space is open to everyone (children and adults), including those with motor, visual or mental disabilities.

Opening hours

Open daily except Tuesdays

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from 1 November to 30 April.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from 2 May to 31 October.
3. The pre-Roman era

This is devoted to presenting archaeological artefacts from the protohistoric period. The first two display cases provide an insight into life in the Nice region in the Bronze and Iron Ages. The third case contains a reproduction of a patera; the original, dating from the IVth century BC, is housed in the British Museum. A last display case contains three items and a reconstruction of the "Ilonse Wild Boar", which was discovered in 1995.

4. The pacification of Liguria

This area, which covers the pacification of Liguria, presents visitors with a model of the "Trophy of the Alps", located in La Turbie. Its inscription lists the names of the 45 conquered peoples. The pacification campaign initiated by Augustus took place in the summer of 14 BC and allowed Rome to take control of the Alpine passes.

5. Daily life in Cemenelum

This area allows visitors to learn about the everyday life of the inhabitants of Cemenelum by means of objects used in a Roman home (the domus). It contains a number of ceramic objects for use as tableware: a dish, cooking pot, funnel, mortar, olpe, oil lamps, etc., as well as decorative and functional bronze items.

One display case is dedicated to dressing and adornment. These objects were discovered in the baths, streets and, most frequently, at the bottom of drains/sewers. Musical instruments (Jew's harp, antique cymbals, bells,) keys, game pieces, handicraft and farming objects also provide a picture of the daily life of the city's inhabitants.

6. The buildings: techniques and decor

This belvedere provides an extensive view of the archaeological site. A model positioned in the centre of the rotunda presents a theoretical restoration of the three bathing complexes. Another model presents the heating system, which allows the air to circulate within the baths: the hypocaust. Alongside the models, there are exhibits of building materials (Roman tiles: tegulae, pilae, ventilation) and decorative items: marble, glass fragments, painted plaster and mosaics, as well as statues, Corinthian style capitals and lead pipes.

7. Antonia Minor

The marble statue of Antonia was discovered in the frigidarium of the Northern baths in 1957. Antonia Minor is the wife of Drusus and the mother of the Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD), who granted the inhabitants of Cemenelum Roman citizenship.

The presence of this statue, an inscription and the head of the Emperor Claudius, of which visitors can see a cast, demonstrate the city's inhabitants' attachment to the Emperor and his family.

8. Administrative and political life

There are clues relating to the city's administrative and political life in the Latin inscriptions found at Cimiez. Cemenelum, which was elevated to the rank of capital of the prefecture, and subsequently of the province, would benefit from the appointment of a Prefect and a Procurator. The Governor was assisted by permanent staff, such as Aurelius Rhodismianus, an Imperial freedman occupying the position of secretary responsible for tax administration.

Certain inscriptions also provide information on the auxiliary troops stationed in Cemenelum: the Gaetulorum, Nauticorum and Ligurum cohorts.

9. Deities and cults

The relationship between the inhabitants of Cemenelum and religion is known to us from studying inscriptions. Deities of the Roman pantheon (Jupiter, Mercury) are mentioned on altars and plaques. Alongside tributes to Roman gods, there are also tributes to local deities: the Matres Vediantiae (Vediantian goddesses) recorded in Cemenelum and Centondis (second local deity) mentioned on an altar.

10. The dancing faun

The Cemenelum faun was inspired by the famous faun in Pompeii. This Greek style bronze statuette, produced by lost-wax casting, dates from the age of Augustus. The faun was discovered in 1904 around 50 metres from the Avenue du Monastère. It was acquired by the City of Nice on 12 February 1973.