# Object of the Season



What are mansiones and mutationes?

Why they were so important for roman travellers that their names from the ancient itineraries are preserved to the day?



If you were planning to travel in the ancient Roman times, you would realize that the locations of mansiones (mansiones) and mutationes (mutationes) were very important data and that you should be familiar with them.

Mansios were facilities promoted by the Roman State, serving as inns to meet the needs for rest and provisioning of travellers of the vias. They were distributed in a planned manner at approximately regular intervals along the roads, ensuring service throughout the road network.

On the other hand, **mutationes** were service stations also associated with road networks, specifically intended to provide food for horses and assistance to carriages.





### Ruta Vía de la Plata



### **SPAIN**

#### VILLAFRANCA DE LOS BARROS

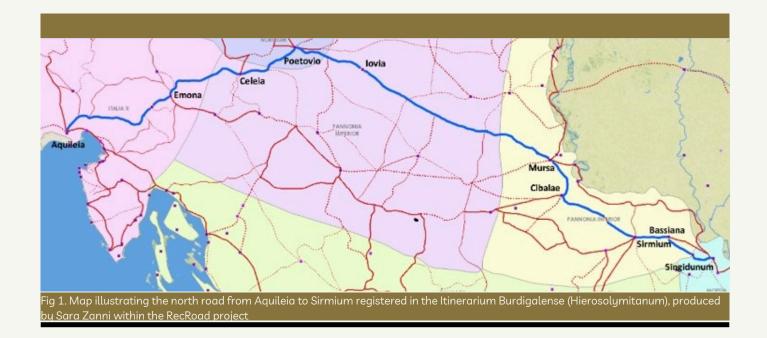
Naturally, the **Ruta Via de la Plata**, due to its original
nature as a Roman road, is
not exempt from the
presence of such facilities.

The **Antonine Itinerary** lists 16 stations between Mérida and Astorga, some of which later developed into urban settlements, such as Cáceres and Salamanca.

During Roman times, the current municipality of Villafranca de los Barros became part of the boundaries of the city of **Augusta Emerita** (Mérida), the capital of Lusitania.

Several villae associated with the patricians of Emerita, such as **Villagordo** or **Perceiana**, were established near the road.

The Antonine Itinerary mentions Perceiana as a mansio on the road Itera b ostio fluminis Anae Emeritam usque, which led from Italica to Augusta Emerita and was therefore located in Villafranca de los Barros, in the province of Badajoz.



## Sirmium

#### **SFRBIA**



#### **PANNONIAN ROADS**

Some of the most important roads terrestrial which connected the West, and the East of the Roman Empire were running through Sirmium. late antiquitu seat. crossroad and one of the most populous towns of *Illyricum*. The largest number of ancient Roman travellers had to stop on the journey from the West to the East in Aquileia, a picturesque North Italian town, one of the most important Adriatic From here you had to decide which one of the two main Pannonian roads uou will choose.

As we know that the Romans were tracing their roads following natural topography of the area – valleys, ravines and rivers, these two roads followed the Sava and the Drava courses. They were built for military purposes during the reign of the emperors **Augustus** and **Tiberius** and finally were finished by the times of the **Flavians** 

During the later period the infrastructure along them developed. These main routes enabled the foundation of the towns and the other stopping places (mansiones) and stations for changing horses or carriages (mutationes) which were built on the regular intervals.

The most useful data about the position of the stations along the roads are given by ancient itineraries Tabula Peutingeriana, Itinerarium Antonini Augusti Itinerarium **Burdigalense** (Hierosolymitanum) which have been preserved until the day thanks to the later manuscripts. They give us information about the distances between each station which was useful when you wanted to plan the dynamics of your journey weather you were travelling bu foot, on the horse back or in the chariot.

The biggest amount of data is given in the *Itinerarium Burdigalense* ("Jerusalem itinerary") which is the



oldest known Christian itinerary written by an anonymous pilgrim from the city of Burdigala (now Bordeaux in France, former Gallia Aquitania) to the Holly Land (Fig. 3).



Fig 3. Overview of the pilgrim route from Itinerarium Burdigalense, produced by Sara Zanni within the RecRoad project

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Yes.	2000,000	Was.	
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9 mansio Ad Flexum	mil xı	6 mutatio Ad Nonum mil vm 11 mutatio Iovalia mil vm	
10 mutatio Beneventum	mil x	7 civitas Emona mil xm   12 mutatio Mersella mil vm	
11 civitas Verona	mil x	s mutatio Ad Quartodecimo mil x 13 civitas Mursa mil x	
12 mutatio Cadiano	mil x	9 mansio Hadrante mil xm 563 i mutatio Leutuoano mil xm	
13 mutatio Auraeos	mil x	50 fines Italiae et Norci. 2 civitas Cibalis mil xu	
59 1 civitas Vincentia	mil xı	ss mutatio Ad Medias mil xm 3 mutatio Celena mil xr	
2 mutatio Ad Finem	mil xt	12 civitas Celeia mil xnı 4 mansio Ulmo mil xr	
3 civitas Patavi	mil x	561 1 mutatio Lotodos mil xn	
4 mutatio Ad Duodecimum	mil xu	s mansio Ragindone mil xn 6 mutatio Vedulia mil vni	
s mutatio Ad Nonum	mil xı	3 mutatio Pultovia mil xn 7 civitas Sirmium mil vm	-
6 civitas Altino	mil vini	4 civitas Petovione mil zn s fit ab Aquileia Sirmium usque milia cccxii,	$\subseteq$
7 mutatio Sanos	mil x	5 transis pontem, intras Pannoniam 9 mansiones xun, mutationes xxxvim.	•
s civitas Concordia	mil vnu	6 inferiorem. 10 mutatio Fossis mil vini	
9 mutatio Apicilia	mil vm	7 mutatio Ramista mil vm 11 civitas Bassianis mil x	
10 mutatio Ad Undecimum	mil x	8 mansio Aqua viva mil vm 12 mutatio Noviciani mil xn	
11 civitas Aquileia		9 mutatio Popolis mil x 13 mutatio Altina mil x1	23
		10 civitas Iovia mil vm 14 civitas Singiduno mil vm	
fit a Mediolanum Aquileia usque n mutationes xxun, mansiones vuu			
14 mutatio Ad Undecimum	mil xı .		
50 1 mutatio Ad Fornolus	THE SAME WAS TRANS	2 mansio Lentolis mil x1 3 mutatio Tricornia castra mil v1	
2 [mutatio Castra	mil xu]	3 mutatio Cardono mil x 4 mutatio Ad Sextum miliare mil vu	
3 inde sunt Alpes Iuliae.		4 mutatio Cocconis mil xu s civitas Aureo Monte mil vi	
4 ad Pirum summas Alpes	mil vun	5 mansio Serota mil x 6 mutatio Vingeio mil vi	
eoder #		6 mutatio Bolenta mil x 7 civitas Margo mil vun	
59 12 mil- #   CGL1] numeri collecti efficiunt CCXXVIII		7 mansio Maurianis mil van s civitas Viminatio mil x	
13 mut # I sunt mutationes xxxx		s intras Pannoniam superiorem. 9 ubi Diocletianus occidit Carinum.	
560 2 versum omisit librarius, quod nuno legitur, mut cus alia manu postea adveriptum est. sed excidit polis		9 mutatio Screna mil vm 10 mutatio Ad Nonum mil vm	
abundat, mansio Pluvio Frigido mil xtt. cam eni	m mansionem hoe	codex st codex st	
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Fig. 2 List of the stops from Itinerarium Burdigalense (Hierosolymitanum)

The itinerary, as well as *Itinerarium Antonini*, chooses the northern road (Fig. 1) passing through the following towns: *Emona, Cleia, Petovione, Iovia, Musa, Cibalis*, **14 mansiones and 38 mutationes** (Fig. 2). It provides us data about distance between *Aquileia* and *Sirmium* of 390 miles (577,2 km) which can be considered as accurate.[1]

Modern Google Maps data provides the distance of 596 km between the two places and indicates that it takes 5 hours and 51 minutes by car to cross it, or 135 hours by foot.





It was certainly the time the pilgrim would spend walking. It would take almost 20 days if

they travelled 30 kilometres per day.

If we assume that a regular ancient Roman traveller would require this time frame to spend on the road from *Aquileia* to *Sirmium*, it means that they had to use almost every mansio from the ancient itinerary if they wanted to sleepover, rest and provide supplies.

If you were travelling using carriage or on the horseback or you could pass the average distance of 80 km per day changing the horses each 15 km in the mutationes.

The southern road from *Aquileia* to *Sirmium* registered in *Tabula Peutingeriana*, which was following the course of the Sava River, was a little bit shorter (335 miles/495,8 km). It mentions the following stops: *Ponte Sonti, Fl Frigi, in Alpe Iulia, Longatico, Nauporto, Emona* (town), *Aceruone, Ad Protoriu, Crucio, Noviodunum, Romula, Quadrata, Ad Fines, Siscia* (town), *Ad Praetorium, Servitio, Urbate, Marsonie, Ad Basante, Saldis, Drinum* fl. (Fig. 4).

Link to the 3D Reconstruction of the Roman bridge across the River Sonzo/ Soča in Mainizza/Majnica and mansio next to it on the road from *Aquileia* to *Sirmium*, video produced within the ARCHEST project: <a href="https://vimeo.com/240070954">https://vimeo.com/240070954</a>

