

A significant location of the ISTER route in Hungary: Salla and its territory

One of the significant stations of the Hungarian section of the Roman road defined in the Ister project is Salla, which is located at the intersection of the river Zala and the Amber Road in Zala County. The history of the Zala County section of the Amber Road dates back to pre-Roman times and is still used as a road of international importance, although its significance varied in Roman times. Salla is a typical example of a settlement whose importance has been determined primarily by the trade routes. Salla was thus connected to the network of the Pannonian road by two important roads: the Amber Road and the road running in the Zala Valley.

It can be concluded from the finds from Celtic times that there was a settlement here, but there is no evidence that it was permanently inhabited. In Roman times, the area soon became an important place and therefore became a settlement. Emerging Roman legions established their first camp here in the early 1st century. With this, rapid development began in the settlement, which is also proved by the appearing stone buildings. In 124, Emperor Hadrian granted the town the status of a town called Municipium Aelium Salla. After that, the settlement showed a changing picture, it was remodeled and expanded several times. The occurrence of Roman settlement traces was observed during the 20th century. Archaeological traces were excavated in the 1980s and 1990s. A significant part of the finds can be studied in the exhibition of the Gőcsej Museum in Zalaegerszeg.

The remains of the walls of a house (Villa Publica) built in the 4th century were excavated. The building was later expanded with underfloor heating, murals, and a bathroom. Remains of plant ornamentation have been found, and some stucco fragments as decoration of the building. No traces of luxury were found during the excavations that characterized the villas of the wealthier landowners, such as the mosaic floor of Villa Romana Baláca. A lot of pottery fragments were found in some of the rooms, while in the rest only poor ceramic finds were found. Salla was emptied by the Romans, probably by the end of the 4th century, and all that was movable was taken with them. Most of them left for Italy, and those who stayed here probably fled to the nearest fortified settlement, the Keszthely-Fenekpuszta fortress, thus handing over the area to the peoples of migration.



Zalalövő - romkert, tervezett felújítás helyszínei



-  2. századi épület maradványok
-  4. századi épület maradványok

