



www.aquileiaforum.org



Aquileia Forum

The **Aquileia Forum** project is a cultural initiative that, using the most advanced technology of **computer-generated virtual 3D representation**, aims to bring the historical heritage of the Roman town of Aquileia back to its past splendour.

Starting from a **3D model of the town in Roman Times**, the plan is to create an articulated multimedia system that includes **online virtual exploration**, futuristic **3D hologram-installations** and on-site **multimedia mobile guide**.

The development of this extraordinary project relies on funds and support from the corporate and the private world. The first step has just been taken with the launch of the website www.aquileiaforum.org. The objective of this first step is to introduce the Aquileia Forum and its great potential to the world, and ultimately to create synergies and partnerships that can secure the future development of the Aquileia Forum project.

In the following pages you will find more information and details about the project and how to support it. You can also browse the website www.aquileiaforum.org to learn more about Aquileia Forum and to taste a bit of the experience.

Contents

The project	page 2
Online Virtual Exploration	page 3
On-site Mobile Guide	page 4
3D Holograms Museums & Installations	page 5
How to support Aquileia Forum	page 6
The Association 'Forum di Aquileia'	page 7





The Project

The Aquileia Forum project is a cultural initiative that, through the most advanced technology of computer-generated virtual 3D representation, aims to exalt the historical heritage of the Roman town of Aquileia. Starting from a 3D reconstruction of the town in Roman Times, the plan is to create an articulated multimedia system that connects the web to the latest ways of presenting multimedia contents, and to the territory. The aspiration of the Aquileia Forum is to make this unique experience available to the world: everyone could visit and 'live' in first person the ancient town of Aquileia, brought back to its splendour of Roman times.



Aquileia was once one of the greatest and liveliest towns of the Roman Empire. Visiting what remains of those glorious times is always charming, although the **archaeological site of Aquileia** is nowadays predominantly a **'horizontal' site**: what survived the centuries mainly consists of beautiful floors and foundations, and of course the magnificent mosaics Aquileia is renowned for. Unfortunately much of what had been built has been destroyed in the centuries.

The Aquileia Forum, with its 3D virtual representation, aspires to bring all that grandiose past back to life.

Through a meticulous computer-generated reconstruction, **with the contribution of historians and historical documents**, it is possible to represent on screen the town as it used to be, with its buildings and streets, to a level of detail that allows to represent even single objects in an **absolutely realistic 3D display**.

The setting can be 'brought to life' with **animation, music and sound effects**; there can be virtual characters that 'live' in the virtual town too.

Those who visit the 3D will not only be able to witness life as it was in Roman Times, but can even **become part of it**.

This **'virtual journey'** is a unique learning experience: it involves all of our senses and, compared to what possible on a book or on the archaeological site, it is enriched of details that have gone lost in the centuries. All this is available to all, without having to physically travel anywhere. **A real jump into the past!**

The elements of the project

The Aquileia Forum aims to create an articulated multimedia system around the 3D virtual model of the Roman town of Aquileia. The idea is to put together a project that involves a variety of ways to use this virtual reality:

- **Virtual Exploration - Online**
- **Mobile Guide - On site**
- **3D Holograms – Museums**

Through these innovative methods, the Aquileia Forum can provide a **unique learning experience of edutainment**, which combines education and entertainment, with an **appeal for the wide public** and a special attractiveness to **the youngest ones**.



Online Virtual Exploration

The 3D virtual model of the town of Aquileia in Roman times will be available online for a virtual exploration.



There will also be the opportunity to create online workshops and events that take place in the virtual town, as well as to organize virtual tours, guided by the AI or by real people in real time represented by their avatar.

Online there will be specific **tourist routes** ready to follow. Each route will feature **dynamic pop up points of interest** like the amphitheatre, the port, the theatre, the circus, etc., each of them has a **description with historical references**. A hyperlink will take the user to a more detailed version of the virtual representation of that object, as well as **photographs** of that same object as it is now on the archaeological site. It will be possible to preview also what is available on site with the **mobile guide**.

Anyone entering the virtual city can create his/her own avatar: a virtual character representing a person's self. The virtual town will be populated by other characters: some of them are created by the Artificial Intelligence, while some others are avatars of real people that are 'in the game' in that moment.

These characters can interact among themselves, while they perform the working life and the social and political activities of the ancient Romans.





On-site Mobile Guide

By bike or on foot, you can follow a multimedia sat nav on fascinating tourist routes that combine the glorious history of Aquileia and the wild nature of the area.

Towards a **total integration of virtual and actual experience**, the tourists who visit Aquileia will be guided by a **bespoke multimedia sat nav** that will not only guide them through the most interesting archeological sites, but will also enrich their experience with specific multimedia highlights available for each location.



The sat nav device will **give directions** both visually on the screen and on the **blue-tooth headphones**. Its **touch screen system** makes it extremely easy to choose among the **many theme routes** accessible. Moreover, thanks to its built-in **GPS**, when in front of a point of interest, the sat nav will automatically start a **multimedia presentation with the place's highlights**.

One further interesting feature is a fascinating **'augmented reality'** function. By pointing the device's

camera at the object, on screen you will see a note with its name or even its 3D computer-generated reconstruction the way it looked like above the image of the object as it is now.

On the top of the sat nav system, all across the archeological sites (in particular in the Cathedral, in the museums and in all the other guarded areas) there will be some 'infopoint' stands, consisting in touch-screen devices that will provide more detailed information on the site.





3D Holograms Museums & Installations

Mixing the virtual world with real one: another point of great impact of the Aquileia Forum project. The idea is to present the 3D virtual model of Aquileia within an innovative exhibition space, using cutting edge presentations techniques, such as 3D holographic video projections.



The plan is to set up an exhibition area that includes some **maxi-screens** and **stands**, as well as a larger space, possibly a **theatre stage**. The projections would include images of the town and **scenes of the Roman city life**, performed by **life size actors**.

These **multimedia installations** would provide an extremely versatile layout that could be easily revised and updated, with minimum maintenance.



Besides the online contents, the 3D virtual model of Aquileia in Roman times will be available in the context of **a futuristic exhibition space**. The holographic video projection system allows **a spectacular 3-dimensional moving life-size hologram in full colour** to appear within a live stage. With no need for special glasses, spectators can see high **resolution life-size 3D images 'floating' and 'materializing' in the air** in front of them.

The charm of this vision can be enriched in order to get a **multi-sensory experience** with an even stronger impact.





How to support Aquileia Forum

The website www.aquileiaforum.org is the first step in the development of the Aquileia Forum project, whose implementation relies on funds and support from the corporate and the private world. The objective of this website is to introduce Aquileia Forum and its great potential to the world, in order to secure the project's future development.

There are 3 ways to contribute :

- become a Sponsor, if you are a private company, a state corporation or a foundation
- become a Friend of the Aquileia Forum through our individual membership program
- make a Donation of any amount

Here below the ways to become a supporter.

Our sponsors and friends are key elements of the project and they share the objective: to make the Aquileia Forum become a reality.

Sponsors



We rely on the vital support of the corporate world to secure the future development of this extraordinary project. By becoming a main sponsor of the Aquileia Forum, companies, trusts, foundations and corporations can associate with the cultural world.

For further information and details on how to support us, please contact info@aquileiaforum.org

Friends of Aquileia Membership



Anyone can support this fascinating project. By making a vital contribution to the development of the project, you can enjoy a whole range of benefits like:

- Lifetime membership for the first 1000 members
- A Membership Card of the association Friends of the Aquileia Forum
- Special discounts at the site and museums of Aquileia as well as special prices at selected hotels in the area
- Publication of your name on the Aquileia Forum register

Individual membership is 20 euro per year. Please visit the website www.aquileiaforum.org/supportus and follow the link to the online payment form to become a Friend of the Aquileia Forum.

Free Donations



We depend on everybody's support. All donations are extremely helpful and highly appreciated - they will have a direct impact on our work.

Please visit the website www.aquileiaforum.org/supportus and follow the link to the online donation form to send your contribution through Paypal (credit and debit card as well as PayPal account transfers are accepted).



The Association

The Cultural Association 'Forum di Aquileia'

The Cultural Association "Forum di Aquileia" is a non-profit organization that operates in the field of culture and arts. The main purpose of the association is to endorse social solidarity and, with its work, to spread the culture to underprivileged individuals as well as foreign groups.

The Association's activity is mainly centered on:

- conferences and seminars on the theme of European integration to encourage the growth of a true European culture based upon border-less international relations;
- the promotion of publications, contribution and scientific studies;
- the support cultural and artistic works by Italian and international artists

The President – Paolo Maurensig

Paolo Maurensig, the President of "Forum di Aquileia" for eight years, is a author of international reputation. He was born in Gorizia (Italy) in 1943 and he currently lives and works in Udine (Italy).

His first book *The Luneburg Variation* (Adelphi, 1993) was followed by *Canone inverso* (1996), *L'Ombra e la meridiana* (1998), *Venere lesa* (1998), *L'Uomo scarlatta* (2001), *Il Guardiano dei sogni* (2003) by Mondadori; later *Vukovlad, il signore dei lupi* (2005), *Gli Amanti fiamminghi* (2008). His latest novel *La Tempesta, il mistero di Giorgione* was published in 2009, by Morganti editore. His books are translated in 27 countries, including China and Japan.

He has written the screenplay for *Kidnapping* with Renzo Martinelli, and he has worked at the adaptation of his novel *Canone Inverso* into a movie directed by Ricki Tognazzi.

