VINKOVCI TIMELINE

Vinkovci Timeline

TOURIST BOARD
CITY OF VINKOVCI
They say that history is made every day. The City of Vinkovci has been writing its own history without interruption for more than 8,000 years and is proud to bear the title of Europe’s oldest settlement.

The favourable topographic position was the major prerequisite for the colonization of the Vinkovci area in prehistory, which was also recognized in the 20th century when Vinkovci became the great and famous railway hub. Among the numerous prehistoric cultures, one should single out the two eponymous ones, the cultures which covered a larger area, and which were given their names after the local toponyms: Sopot (Early Stone Age Sopot culture) and Vinkovci (Early Bronze Age Vinkovci culture). Also, the oldest Indo-European calendar, the “Orion”, was discovered in Vinkovci, dating from the time of the Bronze Age Vučedol culture. The Romans founded a settlement in the City area, the Colonia Aurelia Cibalae, which during the course of the centuries became the third largest city in the province of Second Pannonia. Two Roman emperors were born in Cibalae, the brothers Valentinian and Valens, the only Roman emperors born in the territory of the modern-day Republic of Croatia. During the “Dark Ages” the market town Sveti Ilija (Szentillye) developed at the site of Vinkovci, and a smaller settlement belonged to it - a village - named Vinkovci (Wynkocz). After the Ottoman period, the perpetual mark in the City history was left by the period of the Military Frontier through a line of buildings constructed in the so-called Military-Baroque-Frontier style. The momentum of progress was unstoppable, and so through industrialization, Vinkovci ceased to be a townlet and received the status of a city, continuing to develop until the War of Independance, when the City sustained heavy damage and casualties. Not even that event was enough to interrupt the thread of continuity. Today Vinkovci continues to develop on the rich and fruitful heritage which our ancestors had left for us.