

# Harbor Ruins

## An Analysis of the Most Influential Environmental Factors in the Decline of Roman Harbor Settlements

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### The Investigation

I examined the effects of the two most influential environmental processes on the decline of Roman harbor settlements, silting and rising sea levels, on two Roman harbor settlements: Ostia, near Rome; and Soline, on St. Clement off the coast of Croatia. I participated in archeological research at Soline, where I observed the effects of rising sea levels, and learn archaeological research methods, which I then applied to my research for both sites. I also traveled to Ostia to observe the effects of silting.



Ruins (built about 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century AD) of settlement at Soline Bay, St. Clement, Croatia



Me at the Soline site.



The excavation site, Soline



Map of ancient Ostia, Italy (79 AD)

### The Results

Harbor settlements had to combat the effects of silting and rising sea levels, which rendered harbors unusable over time. These combative processes required money and labor on a regular basis. Therefore, these processes imposed unique financial burdens on settlements that helped exacerbate the decline of many harbor settlements.

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