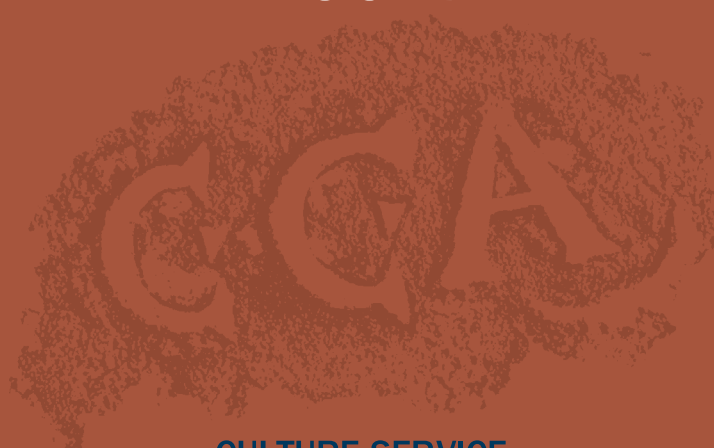
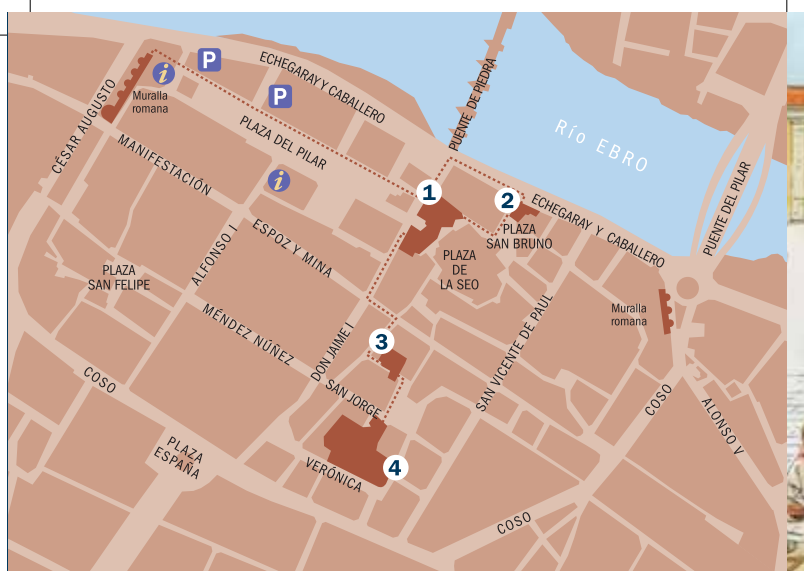


# Museums

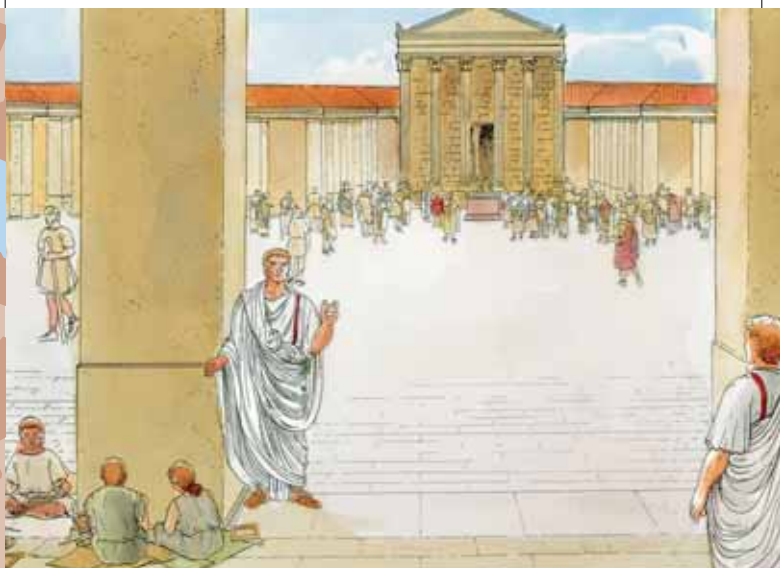
OF  
CAESARAUGUSTA'S  
ROUTE



**CULTURE SERVICE**  
TOWN HALL OF SARAGOSSA



- ① *Caesaraugusta Forum Museum*
- ② *Caesaraugusta River Port Museum*
- ③ *Caesaraugusta Public Baths Museum*
- ④ *Caesaraugusta Theatre Museum*



## THE CAESARAUGUSTA **Route**

*Caesaraugusta is the only Roman city that had the privilege of bearing the full name of its founder, **Caesar Augustus**. It is thought to have been founded in 14 BC, the exact date perhaps being 23<sup>rd</sup> December, coinciding with the fifty-fourth birthday of the Emperor. **Caesaraugusta** received the status of a tribute-exempt colony of Roman citizens.*

*During the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the city experienced a period of splendour in which large public works were undertaken.*

*The on-site museums devoted to the **Forum**, **River Port**, **Public Baths** and **Theatre** form the **Caesaraugusta Route**, an itinerary that helps us to discover the political centre and most emblematic public buildings of the Roman city and to experience the areas in which the colony's commercial, economic, political, social, cultural and religious activities took place.*



# CAESARAUGUSTA FORUM MUSEUM



Caesaraugusta Forum Museum. Exterior.

*This underground museum is located in La Seo square and houses the archaeological remains discovered during excavations carried out between 1988-1991 in this part of the city and which have been preserved on their original site.*

*The known architectural structures correspond to two successive stages in the colony's forum. The oldest structures date from the foundation of the Roman city and show the remains of a market: drinking water supply pipes, a sewer with its channels and one or two shop walls. From a later date there are remains of a more spacious forum, planned and started at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, during the epoch of Augustus and completed during the reign of Tiberius, in the first decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, which include a large sewer, channels and the foundations of part of the porticoes and adjoining establishments, outside the forum site.*

*The large structures of the forum are housed in the nearby **River Port Museum** that boasts a flight of steps that led to the banks of the Ebro River where the port of the Roman city was located.*



## THE FORUM

The forum was the nerve centre of the Roman city, the hub of religious, civil, economic and political life as well as the centre of municipal administration.

It was generally located at the intersection of the city's main road axes: *Cardo* and *Decumanus*, but in *Caesaraugusta* the forum was situated nearer the Ebro, due to the intensive boat traffic sailing up and down this waterway.

The layout of a forum was planned around a wide and open space, paved with large slabs. Forums were surrounded by porticoes that led to the most important buildings: the Temple, the *Curia* and the Basilica.

The *tabernae*, premises devoted to commercial activities, stood against the forum wall, looking out onto one of the main roads: the *Cardo*.

The local senate would gather in the *Curia* and from there they governed the city, controlled the public finances and passed laws and decrees. The senate was formed by life members drawn from the local aristocracy, who were known as *decuriones*. The duumvirs were subordinate magistrates who directed local administration and public works.



Basement, Shafts of columns and sewer.



## THE FORUM

The aediles of a lower rank were in charge of the administration of public services and the maintenance of streets and buildings. Two duumvirs and two aediles were chosen every year by the citizens to perform these tasks.

The main temple, the remains of which are preserved under the present El Salvador Cathedral, would have presided the double portico that surrounded the great forum square, occupying its south side. Details of archaeological excavations reveal that this religious building was probably one of the largest of its kind in Hispania. It would have housed the images of the imperial cult. Rituals and processions were led by the flamens or priests whilst the priestesses were in charge of the worship of the female members of the imperial family.

The basilica probably stood on the opposite side of the forum under what is now the Archbishop's Palace. Not only was it used to administer justice but also as a commodity market where transactions were carried out and as a meeting place. On occasions its porticoes were adorned with collections of statues.



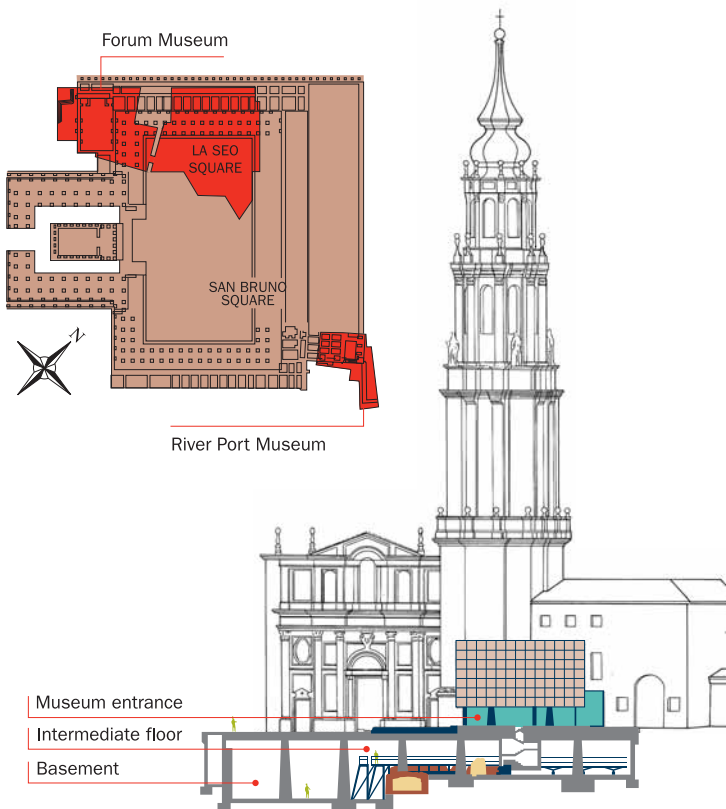
Basement, Showcases.

## SUGGESTED VISIT



In two areas that complement each other the museum houses the findings of the great forum that was planned and begun during the time of Augustus (end of 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) and completed in the times of Tiberius. Audio guides are available to visitors.

The basement houses the architectural remains of the forum dating from the reign of Augustus. There is also spacious room for the permanent exhibition and audiovisual material. The intermediate floor of the building contains the architectural remains of the square and the porticoes of the great forum during the time of the Emperor Tiberius.



*Caesaraugusta Forum Museum. Ground plan and vertical perspective.*





## Basement

The visit begins with an audiovisual presentation in which the Ebro River narrates the historical events that have taken place at this site, explaining the first basic dwellings that were erected on its banks to form the settlement of *Salduie* and the arrival of the Romans. An inhabitant of *Caesaraugusta* comes back to life to tell us about his experiences.

Then we see a set of models and video that ideally reconstruct the forum with its main buildings and its relationship to the actual street.

Further forward there is a model with audio information about Augustan market area.

Nine showcases in this room contain pottery remains uncovered during excavations, which are related to aspects of daily life that are also portrayed in drawings of virtually reconstructed scenes.

A large showcase exhibits fragments of lead pipes that formed part of a 26 metres long section of piping, found under the market area. These pipes supplied water to a central fountain.

Finally, visitors can see the inside of the large sewer that dates from the time of Tiberius and that was built to channel the waste waters of this part of the city towards the Ebro river. The marks left by the wooden planks used in its construction (a similar system to our present-day formwork) can still be seen on the walls. The material used was a mixture of lime, sand and stones, called *opus caementicium*.



Virtual reconstruction of the Forum porticoes.

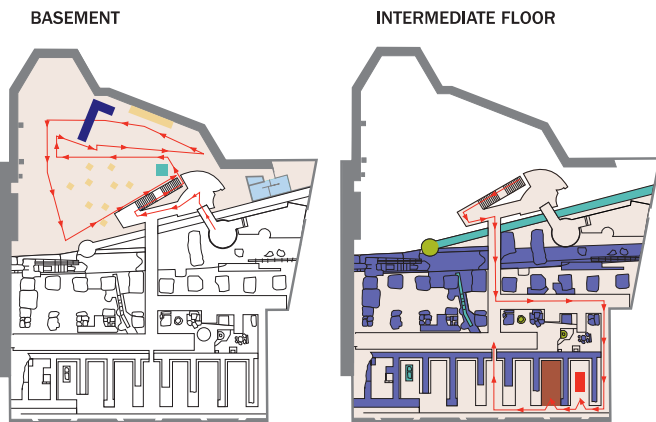




## Intermediate floor

In this area you can see different archaeological remains preserved in situ, such as the layout of the two sewers, a stratigraphic section, the drainage channel of the great forum in the time of Tiberius or the foundation footings of the forum porticoes.

The exhibition is completed with a backlit panel showing the composition of the city's governing bodies and its social stratification, a model of the forum porticoes in the time of Tiberius and the adjacent commercial premises as well as a scene from the basement of a pottery shop in *Caesarangusta* around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.



- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Toilets                           | Market area (time of Augustus)             |
| Permanent exhibition              | Remains of the forum (time of Tiberius)    |
| Market model (time of Augustus)   | Recreation of the basement of a Roman shop |
| Ideal reconstruction of the Forum | Other times                                |
|                                   | Forum model                                |



# CAESARAUGUSTA RIVER PORT MUSEUM



River port. Virtual reconstruction of the vestibule.

*During the demolition of a series of old buildings in 1989, the remains of some architectural structures were discovered, which formed the northeast boundary of what the great forum of **Caesaraugusta** was.*

*The structures remaining from this sector of the forum, which date from between the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, are the arches of a spectacular facade oriented toward the river, leading onto a vestibule and the flight of steps that joined the port docks and the forum square.*

*In some of the ashlar stones in this sector there are still the quarry marks made by the builders: soldiers belonging to the VI Victrix legion and X Gemina legion which, together with the IV Macedonia legion, founded the city of **Caesaraugusta**.*



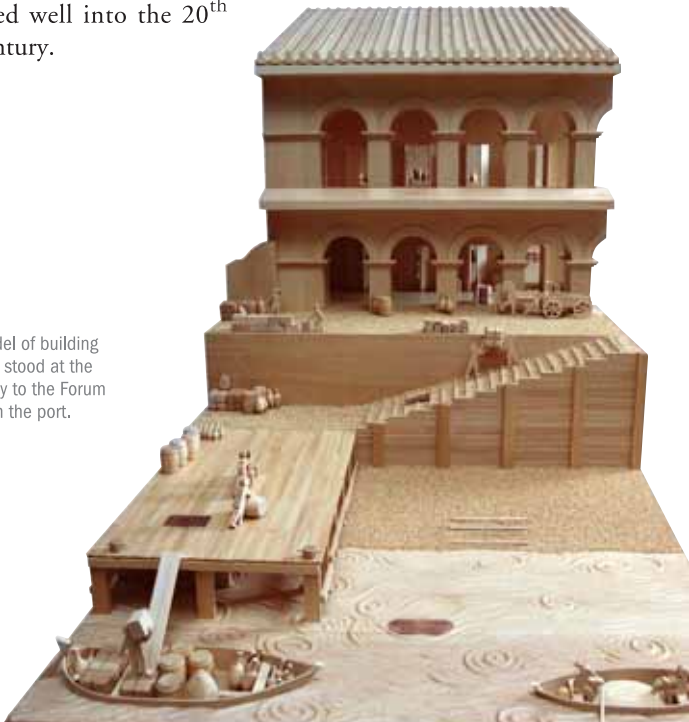
## THE RIVER TRADE

The Ebro River was navigable in Antiquity from the town of *Vareia* (Logroño) and its banks were dotted with wharfs and large ports. The port of *Caesaraugusta* occupied most of the right bank of the city along a straight, protected stretch of quiet waters after a tight meander. The port became the most supplying point in the centre of the valley.

Imported goods (pottery, marble, amphorae of wine and salted products, jewels and glass articles) were brought upstream from *Dertosa* (Tortosa) a sea and river port, which at the time did not have the Ebro delta. The raw materials of the valley (wool, skins, iron, linen, salt, wheat and wood) were transported downriver towards the Mediterranean.

The coins minted by *Dertosa* bear images of the boats that sailed the Ebro in Roman times. Cables were used to pull the boats upriver, an activity requiring great physical strength and which was still used well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Model of building that stood at the entry to the Forum from the port.



## SUGGESTED VISIT



The visit begins with an audiovisual presentation that narrates the evolution of the Ebro River since Antiquity, evoking the bustling trade that took place along its navigable course and inviting us to accompany a merchant from *Caesaraugusta* on one of his journeys.

Several panels explain the architecture of the remains preserved on this site. A large showcase contains different examples of *amphorae*, the chief type of container used in the food trade in Roman times. There is also a model of a flat-bottomed riverboat that would have been around twelve metres long.

Another model, equipped with audio information, faithfully reconstructs this architectural ensemble.

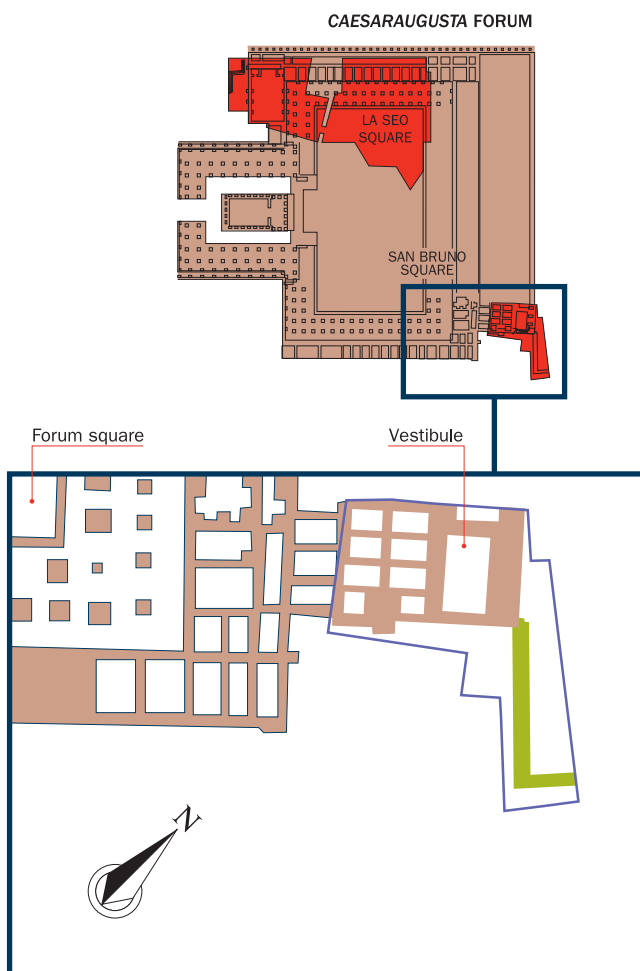
Finally, there is a measuring scale that we have called the *Ebrometer* which marks the two greatest river floods recorded and the differences in height between the current ground level and that of the forum square and vestibule.



Basement, Steps and *Ebrometer*.



## Ground plan



*Caesaraugusta Forum ground plan and details of the river port.*

### CONSTRUCTION PHASES

- Beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD
- Second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD
- Structures that are not preserved
- Current boundary of the building



# CAESARAUGUSTA PUBLIC BATHS MUSEUM



Caesaraugusta Public Baths Museum.

*The first remains of the Roman baths were uncovered in 1982, during building work in San Juan and San Pedro street. After their discovery the excavation site was enlarged to take in an adjoining area where further remains of this large baths complex were recovered.*

*The public baths were built at the centre of the axis formed by the chief Roman public buildings (the forum and theatre) and were operative from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.*

*Of the different rooms that the complex comprised, such as the changing room, hot, warm and cold rooms, gymnasium, etc., the only remains still preserved are several latrines (in use at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) that were knocked down to build, on the same site, a large open-air pool with porticoes for use by bathers.*



## THE PUBLIC BATHS

For most of the Romans the public baths were something more than just a place for personal hygiene since they also fulfilled an important function as a centre of Roman social and cultural life. Apart from bathing, the facilities were used for playing sports, reading, taking a stroll, or listening to music or poetry. Roman baths followed a ritual that involved alternating heat and cold. It was up to the users to choose the order in which they passed through the different rooms but usually they would begin with hot baths and end with cold ones. Men and women normally used the baths separately, either in different areas or at different times.

One of the posts within the system which governed the political and institutional life of the colony of *Caesaraugusta* was that of the aedile who, amongst other numerous functions, was responsible for supervising the maintenance and upkeep of the public baths, owned by the city, making sure they were well supplied with running water and wood.



Virtual reconstruction of the latrines.





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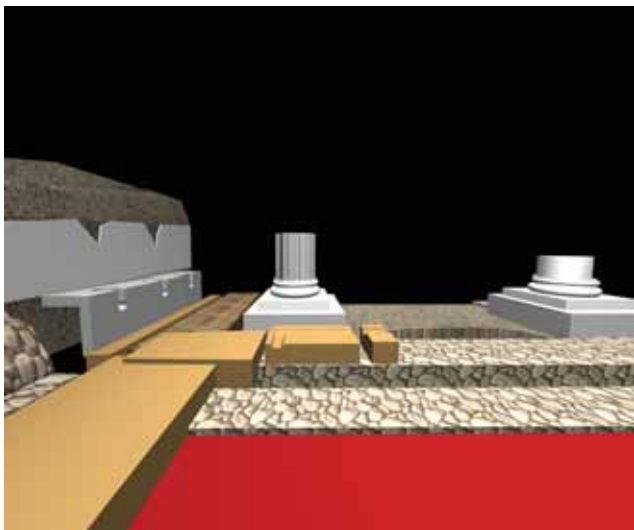
## THE LATRINES

The latrines belong to one of the first stages in the construction of the public baths and they remained in use until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. The room was probably square in shape and had a capacity for some 29 persons. A line of benches with holes ran all around the wall and underneath there was a deep sewerage channel.

In front of the benches at the feet of the users a small channel provided clean water for ablutions or to rinse the sponges and cleaning utensils that they used for their personal hygiene.

Part of one of the sidewalls with the benches on which the users sat has been reconstructed so that visitors can see the exact aspect the latrines would have had.

These latrines were dismantled around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and an open-air pool surrounded by a portico was built on the site. The two column bases, which are still preserved formed part of this portico.



Virtual reconstruction of the latrines and column bases.



## THE PORTICOED POOL



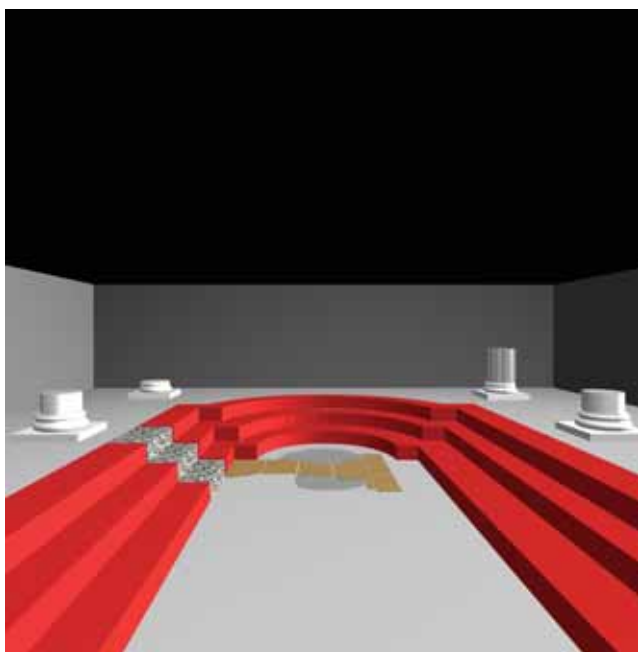
Virtual reconstruction of the porticoed pool.

This *natatio* was built around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. It was rectangular in shape and although only 9,7 metres of its length remains, it is thought to have originally measured 16 metres. The short section ended in a chevet and the pool had three steps around the whole of its perimeter leading down to the pool bottom that was tiled with rectangular marble slabs, some of which are still preserved *in situ*.

Three column bases and several of their supports are preserved from the portico that surrounded the pool and which was probably between 5 and 6 metres high.



## THE PORTICOED POOL



Virtual reconstruction of the porticoed pool.

All around the pool and in front of the column bases there were protective strips of marble to prevent the water of the *natatio* from splashing onto the portico with its marble-paved intercolumniations.

Originally the porticoed pool would have covered a larger area than we can now see. Of the wall coverings we preserve a series of marble slabs decorated with geometrical figures, crossed shields and other motifs. To complete the decoration of this room there would have been several sculptures.

## SUGGESTED VISIT



Column bases of the porticoed pool.

The visit begins with an audiovisual presentation in which a citizen of *Caesaraugusta*, who occupies the post of aedile, writes a letter to a friend in which he gives details of the amplitude and excellence of the facilities and the services that are offered, which make the baths a refined pleasure.

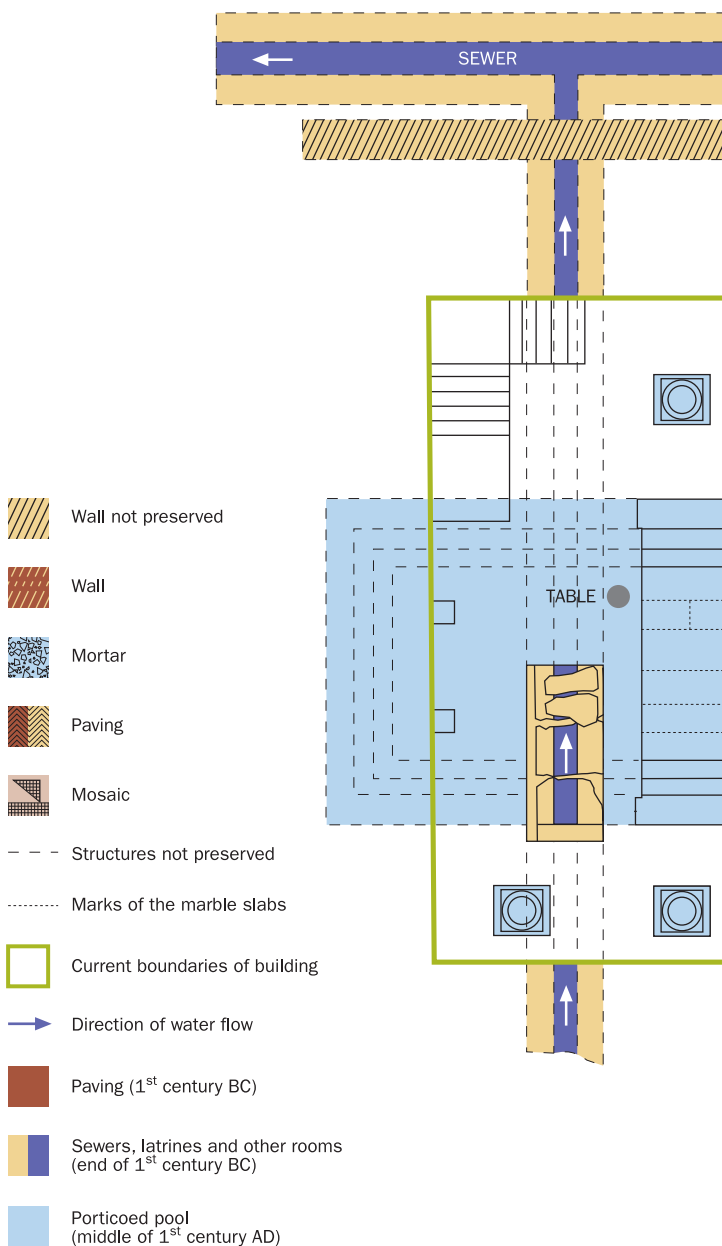
Three backlit tables provide a virtual reconstruction of the architectural remains that have been preserved.

A showcase exhibits reproductions of some of the common objects used for personal hygiene (towels, combs, tweezers, ointment jars, needles, strigils) together with several marble slabs that formed part of the decoration of the portico wall.

Another exhibit that can be seen is a model of the baths inspired by Los Bañales Roman baths (Uncastillo, Zaragoza) with audio information.

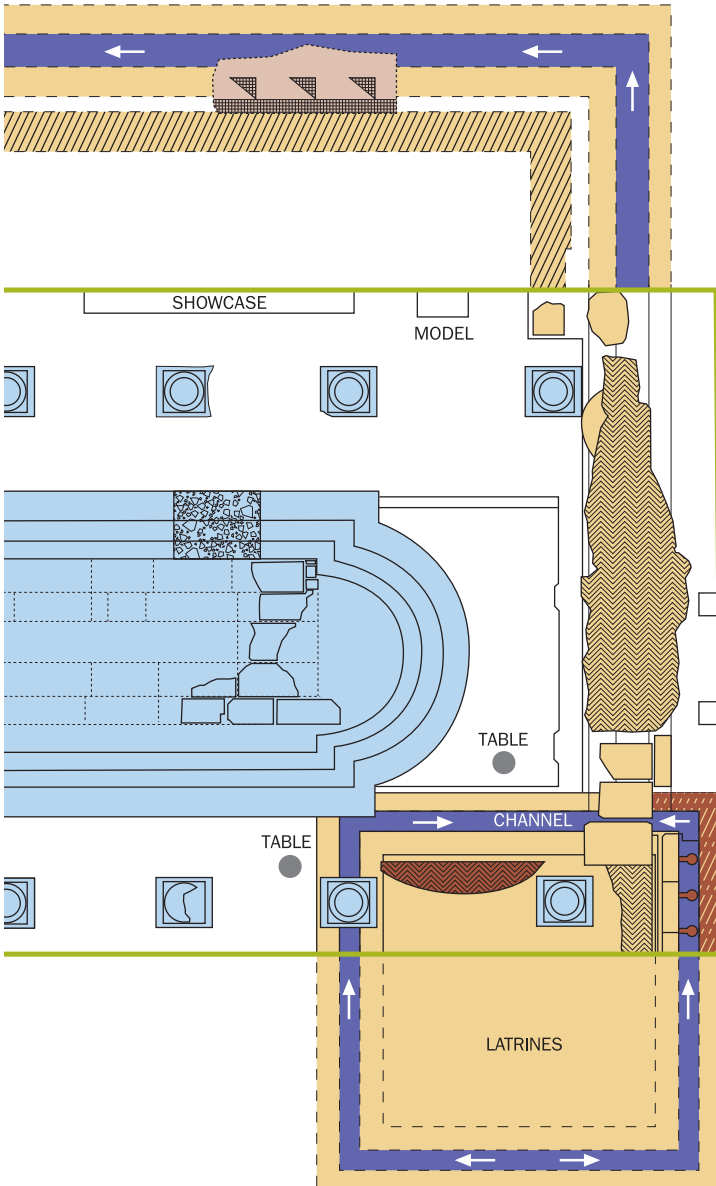


## Ground plan





## Ground plan



Caesaraugusta Public Baths Museum. Ground plan.



# CAESARAUGUSTA THEATRE MUSEUM



Caesaraugusta theatre. Aerial view.

*The Roman Theatre was discovered by chance in 1972 when work was begun on the construction of a new building in Verónica street.*

*After successive archaeological campaigns Zaragoza City Hall took over the final excavations that were carried out between 1998 and 2002, the year in which the construction of the museum began.*

*Of the series of public buildings remaining from **Caesaraugusta**, the theatre is the best preserved of the city.*

*For more than two hundred years it was a meeting place, a focal point for social life and leisure activities for both the city and its surrounding area, playing a significant role in transmitting the cultural, political and religious values of the Roman Empire.*

*Its location, at the highest point of the city meant that it overlooked, from the Ebro river to the Coso, a line of monumental buildings of which important archaeological remains are preserved the city's different museums: the forum and its area devoted to the river port, and the public baths.*





## THE THEATRE

The theatre, built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century within the town perimeter, stood out from the rest of the buildings as a point of reference in an essentially flat landscape. As time passed, the theatre's activity declined and during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the building was looted for its materials that were then used to build the nearby city wall during a period of political instability.



Head of a princess of the Julius-Claudius dynasty.

The best-preserved archaeological remains from the subsequent historical periods are those which date from the Muslim epoch when, after several centuries of use for diverse purposes, the growth of the medina brought with it the systematic occupation of this site by numerous dwellings, interconnected by a labyrinth of streets.

Virtual reconstruction of the *scaenae frons*, *pulpitum* and canopy.



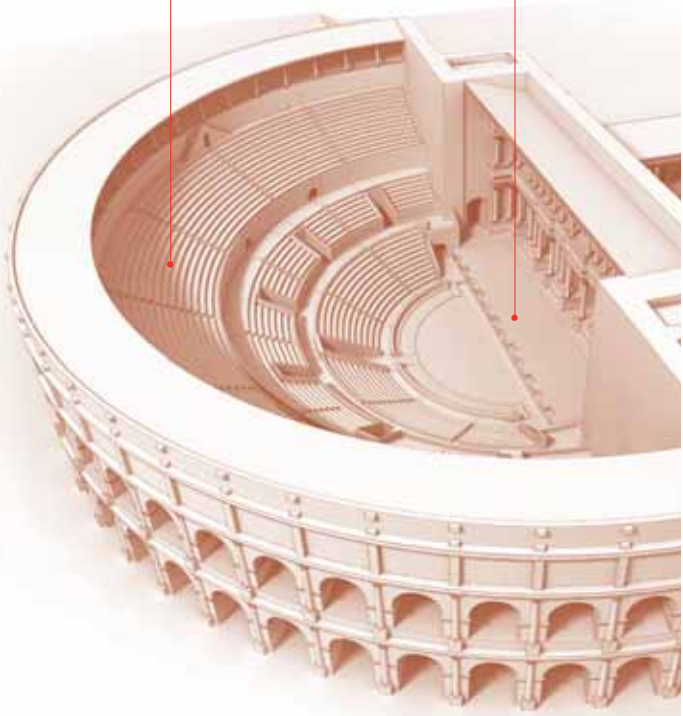


## THE THEATRE

During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, in the Christian epoch, the site once occupied by the theatre was divided by a wall between dwellings, separating the Jewish quarter from the rest of the city. This division remained until 1492 when, following the expulsion of the Jews, squares were gradually enlarged and accesses to the quarter were opened up.

Tiered seating

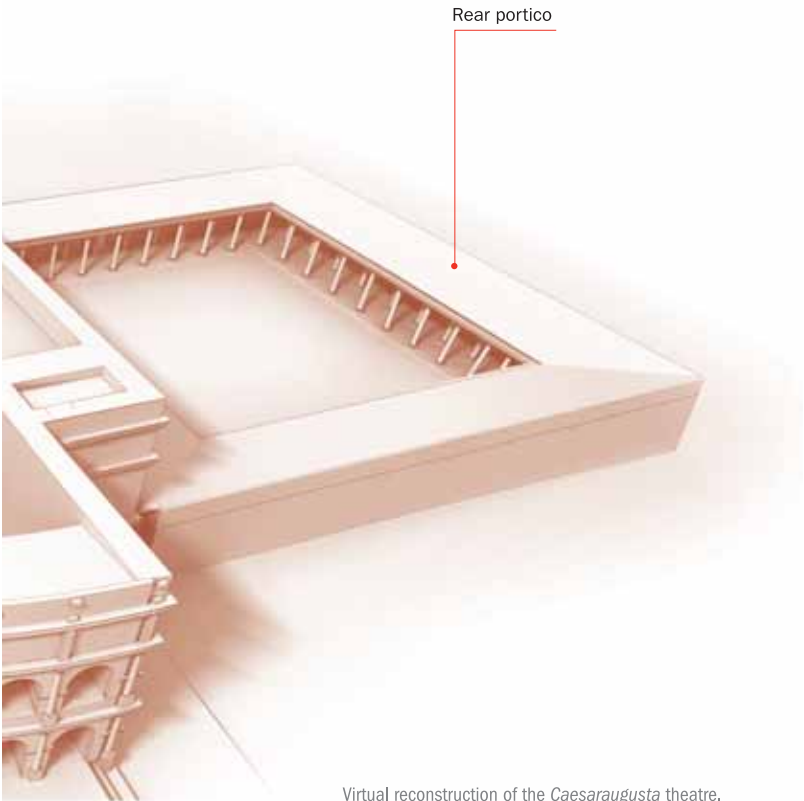
Stage





## THE THEATRE

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the site witnessed the economic and social splendour of renaissance Zaragoza. Churches sprang up in the surrounding area and many important families had their residences built in this district. Particularly noteworthy are the houses of Gabriel Zaporta, a wealthy merchant and that of the *Justicia* of Aragón, Juan del Pueyo. The latter house underwent major rehabilitation work in 1868 and the facade acquired the nineteenth century appearance, which, with some alterations carried out in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is still evident in the building that today houses this museum.



Virtual reconstruction of the *Caesaraugusta* theatre.

## SUGGESTED VISIT



### Ground floor

The visit begins with seven panoramic views that show seven moments in the historical evolution of the theatre site, followed by a summary in images and documents of the discovery and the archaeological excavations that have been carried out over a period of thirty years.



Situla adornment.  
1st Century AD.

- Temporary exhibition room
- I Discovery of the theatre
- Caesaraugusta Route
- Vestibule
- Cafeteria
- Toilets



Caesaraugusta Theatre Museum. Ground floor.



## Basement

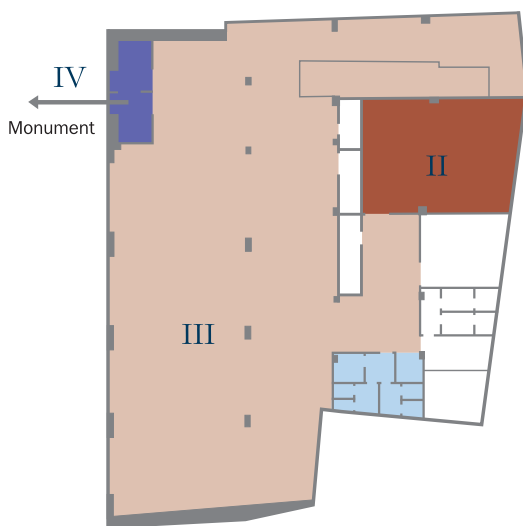
An audiovisual presentation invites us to travel back in time, from the discovery of the theatre in 1972 to the Roman Era, recovering scenarios and characters that inhabited this site.

The exhibits in this room that sits on part of the visible foundations of the quadriportico, help us to understand the architectural, decorative and functional aspects of this theatre, highlighting points of special interest. Several models and scenery along with a three-dimensional reconstruction introduce us to the morphology of the Roman theatre.



Alabaster Box, 11<sup>th</sup> century.

- II Audiovisual presentation: Time and memory
- III The theatre of *Caesaraugusta*
- IV Visit to the Monument
- Toilets



*Caesaraugusta* Theatre Museum, Basement.



## The monument

After visiting the basement, the visit to the monument begins at the same level as the ground on which the Romans trod, along the walkway that crosses the whole of the lower gallery of the building, which no longer has its dome and the *pulpitum* or wooden stage on which the actors performed.

With the aid of graphic reconstructions, visitors can imagine that they are inside the different areas of the *Caesaraugusta* theatre and are able to appreciate the grandiosity of the building which once stood some 25 metres high, the height at which the present roof has been installed.

In evening sessions, ten huge roll-down screens are used for the open-air projection of a reconstruction of the Roman theatre that includes images and sounds evoking the original atmosphere of the theatre and making us really feel part of it.

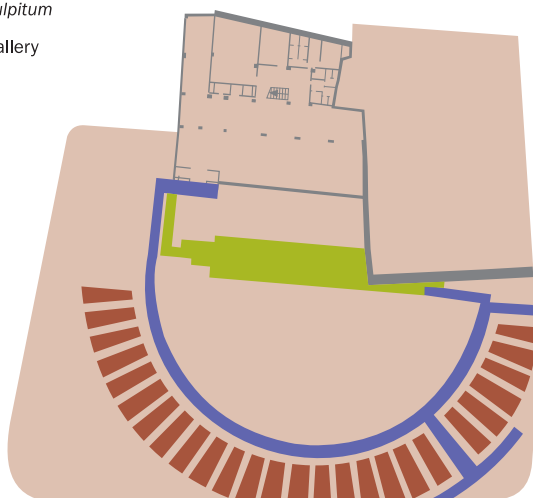


Pitcher, 14<sup>th</sup> century

### ROUTE

■ *Pulpitum*

■ Gallery



Caesaraugusta Theatre Museum, Monument.



## First Floor

This area of the museum uses audiovisual means, sound hoods and different scenes to introduce visitors to the Roman theatre, its dramatic genres, playwrights and actors, the participation of the general public, and the social and political life of the epoch.

A virtual theatre immerses spectators in the different types of performances that would have been staged in a city of the Roman Empire.

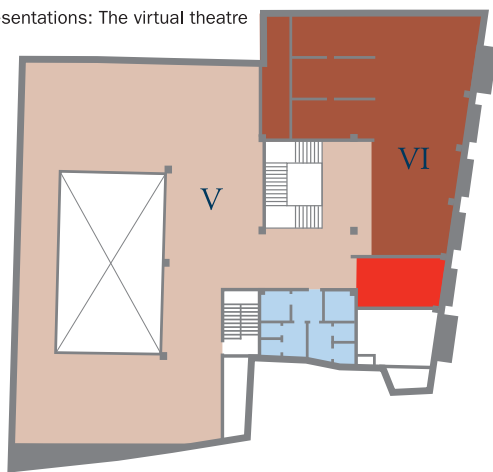
The visit continues with a description of the history of the site from the time when its theatrical activity ceased to the present day. The presentations of different household scenes from Muslim, Jewish and Christian epochs show the common and differentiating elements in the different cultures that occupied the site of the Roman theatre. A time line summarises the evolution of the historical events and of the urban constructions on the site up to the discovery of the Roman theatre in 1972 and the inauguration of the theatre museum in 2003.

■ V Life in the theatre

■ VI The site, a witness of History

■ Audiovisual presentations: The virtual theatre

■ Toilets



*Caesaraugusta Theatre Museum. First floor.*



## CULTURE SERVICE

### Torreón de Fortea

Torrenueva, 25. 50003 Zaragoza

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[museosmunicipales@zaragoza.es](mailto:museosmunicipales@zaragoza.es)

Information and reservations: +34 976 726 075  
Citizen service office: 010

Adapted museums  
Audiovisual presentations in Spanish, French and English  
Educational activities  
Audioguides (Forum Museum and Teatre Museum)

## Museums of the *Caesaraugusta* Route

### ***Caesaraugusta* Forum Museum**

Plaza de la Seo, 2, 50001 Zaragoza  
Tel: +34 976 721 221  
[museoforo@zaragoza.es](mailto:museoforo@zaragoza.es)

### ***Caesaraugusta* River Port Museum**

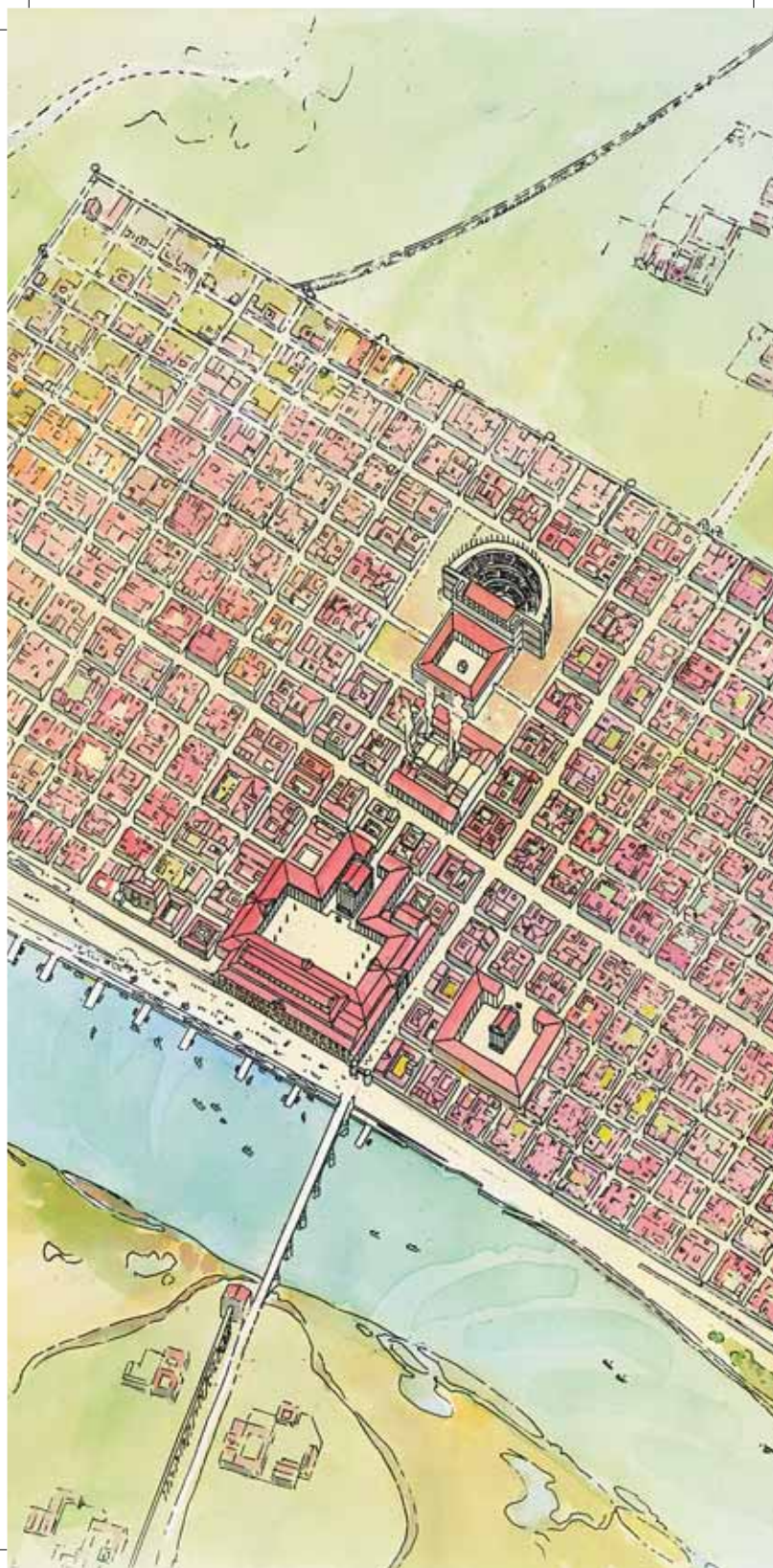
Plaza de San Bruno, 8, 50001 Zaragoza  
Tel: +34 976 721 207. Fax: +34 976 721 847  
[museopuerto@zaragoza.es](mailto:museopuerto@zaragoza.es)

### ***Caesaraugusta* Public Baths Museum**

Calle San Juan y San Pedro, 3-7, 50001 Zaragoza  
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### ***Caesaraugusta* Theatre Museum**

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