

SAGUNTO ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM



Nileotic scene. Bas-relief, third century AD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



- 1 ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM
- 2 ROMAN THEATRE
- 3 Plaza de Armas. ROMAN FORUM
- 4 Almenara gate
- 5 Plaza de Almenara (Citadel)
- 6 Plaza de Conillera (Albacara)
- 7 Plaza de Tres Castelletts (Albacara)*
- 8 San Fernando Gate
- 9 Mahoma gate
- 10 Moneda Tower
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- 12 Plaza de San Fernando
- 13 Plaza de Estudiantes
- 14 Islamic Gate
- 15 Hercules Tower
- 16 Plaza de la Ciudadela
- 17 Penó Tower
- 18 Plaza de Dos de Mayo
- 19 Watchtower
- 20 Tres Pouets. Iberian walls*

*CLOSED TO PUBLIC

SAGUNTO ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM



Head (Diana?)
Hellenistic or Roman copy

Sagunto Archaeology Museum is located in a former merchant exchange building, originally dating from the 14th century. On exhibit in the ground floor are some of the archaeological pieces that attracted the attention of travellers and historians in the 16th century, including the Roman statue of a man clad in a toga with *bulla*. Evidence of the early Romanization of the Iberian city of Arse can be seen in the Iberian inscriptions, in various sculptures and in a group of bronze statues reflecting the religious sentiments of the time.

Built in the Augustan era, the Forum is another landmark in Sagunto's transformation into a Roman town. The process can be appreciated in the scale model of the forum and the exhibition of a number of objects that would have been located in this civic centre, such as honorific inscriptions and the statue of a man clad in toga. On exhibit in the hall on the first floor dedicated to trade is a collection of coins, amphorae, a *statera* (weighing scales) and an anchor. In the other halls on the first floor, visitors can see a

selection of domestic sculptures, mosaics and paintings that would have decorated the town's noble houses. A visit to the museum concludes with a large display case featuring everyday objects used by the inhabitants of Saguntum.



for cultura



MUSEUM, THEATRE, CASTLE AND INSCRIPTIONS HALL

OPENING HOURS:

Summer (April - October)
Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 am to 8.00 pm
Sunday and public holidays: 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Winter (November - March)
Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 am to 6.00 pm
Sunday and public holidays: 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

ADMISSION FREE TO ALL SITES

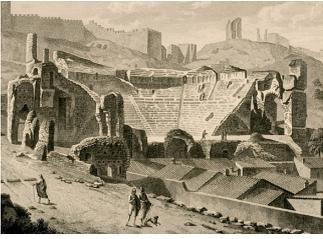
INFORMATION:

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✉ museosagunto@gva.es
www.cult.gva.es/dgpa/museosagunto/index.html



THE ROMAN THEATRE



The Roman Theatre of Sagunto at the beginning of the 19th century
Alexandre de Laborde: *Voyage pittoresque et historique de l'Espagne*, Paris, 1811

The Roman theatre has always loomed large over the history of Sagunto and in the 10th century the Persian scholar Al-Razi described it as “a palace built over the sea”. However, during the Peninsular War in the early 19th century, the upper part of the seating area was destroyed. Following archaeological excavations the construction has been dated to the mid-1st century AD.

The theatre is located on the upper part of the northern slope of the castle hill, next to the Forum. It was declared a National

Monument in 1896. In Roman times the theatre had a capacity of around 4000 spectators. The *orchestra* is the space between the stage and the *cavea* (sitting area), which was divided into three sections: *ima*, *media* and *summa*. The large stands closest to the *orchestra* were reserved for city magistrates. The top of the *cavea* was surrounded by a continuous portico. The *proscenium* is the place where plays were performed, and the *auleum* or retractable front curtain was sunk into the floor underneath. The main body

of the stage was as high as the seating area, and was covered by a wooden roof. Actors entered the proscenium through three doors framed by semi-circular walls: the *porta regia* in the centre and the *hospitalia* on the sides.



THE CASTLE

The castle was strategically located overlooking the coast and the banks of the Palancia River, one of the main routes inland.

The Iberian town of Arse was located at the western part. The current walls are a combination of repairs and restructuring to the Islamic fortification, in which one can appreciate Muslim walls and subsequent reforms dating from the Gothic and Renaissance periods as well as during the Peninsular War. Latest research dates the Islamic wall to the 11th century, with some parts built on

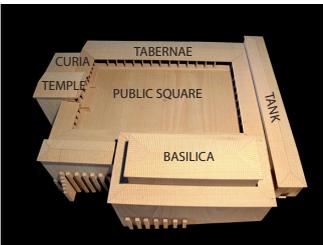
the pre-existing Iberian-Roman fortress.

The fortress is now divided into various plazas. The Islamic citadel was located in Plaza de Almenara (formerly Saloquia) while the outer walled enclosure known as *albacara* occupied Plaza de Conillera and Plaza de Tres Castelletts. Here one can appreciate the typical crenelated walls of Islamic fortifications. In times of danger people and cattle retreated to the *albacara* for protection. A bastion with embrasures was built in the north-eastern part of Plaza de

Almenara in the late 16th century. In Imperial times the Forum was at the centre of the town and this was also where the Christian governor's residence was located. The western sector includes the Plaza de Estudiantes, Plaza de la Ciudadela, Plaza de San Fernando and Plaza de Dos de Mayo; the defences of these last two plazas had embrasures.



THE IMPERIAL FORUM



Model of Imperial Forum (hypothetical restoration)

The Forum was the political, social and religious centre of Roman towns and cities, and was located in what is now Plaza de Armas in the remains of the castle. The basilica, headquarters of the tribunal, was on the western side of the forum while trade took place in the line of *tabernae* (shops) on the eastern side. The temple was on the northern side, next to the *curia*, the headquarters of the city Senate. The plaza was paved with grey limestone cobbles, like the one with an inscription belonging to Cneo

Baebio Gemino, a wealthy citizen of Sagunto.

Remains of the basilica



THE INSCRIPTIONS HALL

Located in the castle, in Plaza de San Fernando, the Inscriptions Hall has one of the best collections of Latin inscriptions in the Iberian Peninsula. It also exhibits a large number of Hebrew inscriptions and Roman architectural elements.



Burial mound with Hebrew inscription, 14th century



Honoric inscription dedicated to Scipion