



THE AMPHITHEATRE

The great Roman spectacle



YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE TARRACO AMPHITHEATRE

This edifice was built in the 2nd century AD by the sea for hosting all kinds of public shows and entertainments such as gladiatorial combat (*munera*) and the hunting and killing of wild animals (*venatio*).

Fights between gladiators were hugely popular in ancient Tarraco. Entrance was free and everyone used to flock to the amphitheatre, from the wealthiest citizens to the most humble townsfolk.

The gladiators fought one-to-one, overseen by a referee.

The losing gladiator had to plead for mercy. If it was granted, he lived.

If not, he was executed. Although films tend to show a different outcome, in most cases the losing gladiator's life was spared.

CAPACITY

The Amphitheatre had a capacity of 14,000 spectators, similar to the current capacity of the Nou Estadi, the home ground of Tarragona's Nàstic football team.

The Tarraco Amphitheatre also held public executions. In 259, three Tarragonan Christians were executed: Bishop Fructuosus and his deacons Augurius and Eulogius, for having refused to recognize the divine status of the Roman Emperor Valerian.

When Christianity became the official religion of the Roman state, a basilica was built on this spot to honour the martyrs.

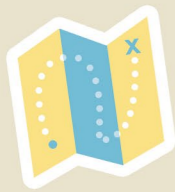
Centuries later, a church in the shape of the Latin Cross was erected over the site.

If you look closely, you can still make out the structure. Later on there was a convent here, and finally it was even used as a prison.



Many centuries have passed since the gladiators fought in the Tarraco arena, but we can still visit the same Amphitheatre. Are you ready to discover everything hidden within it? Let's go!





Take a good look at the ruins and identify which parts of the Amphitheatre are still intact. If you can't spot them at first glance, you can look at the panels.

- The arena. This is the central area, covered with sand.
- The podium. This was the wall that separated the arena from the stands and prevented the wild animals (or even an enraged gladiator!) from attacking the audience.
- The *pulpitum*. This was the tribune where the authorities sat.
- The *porta triumphalis*. The gate through which the opening procession (known as the *pompa*) emerged before the start of the games.
- The church of Santa Maria del Miracle.



TEST

Listen to the Amphitheatre's audio-guide and answer the questions

- The gladiators used to fight...
 - In teams
 - In pairs
 - Men against women
- Who financed the construction of the Amphitheatre?
 - The Roman Emperor
 - A provincial priest
 - The local citizens with their taxes
- In the *fossae* (underground rooms) there was a painting dedicated to a goddess. Who was she?
 - Nemesis
 - Saint Tecla
 - Juno
- Part of the stands were built...
 - From wood and cement
 - Using the rock from the slope of the land
 - On top of pillars and columns
- How were the audience distributed around the stands?
 - By order of arrival
 - Separated by sexes
 - According to their social status

COMPLETE THE DRAWING

What is the expression on the audience's faces?

What language did they use in ancient Tarraco?

- Tarragonan
- Latin
- Catalan



The Amphitheatre was built in the traditional shape.

What shape is that?

- Rectangular
- Round
- Oval

FIND THE INTRUDER

Beneath the Amphitheatre's arena there are even more Roman treasures waiting to be discovered. Two of them, however, are from the modern era. Let's see if you can find them.

THE SECRET OF THE AMPHITHEATRE

The wild beasts were brought to Tarraco by ship and they were unloaded on Miracle Beach. They were then brought up to the arena level by an elevator system. An intruder has sneaked into this drawing. It's a member of Tarragona's *Seguici* (popular retinue). Do you know what it is called?





BEFORE YOU GO...



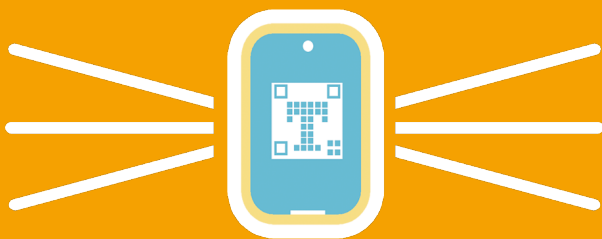
FIND THE TARRACO FLOWERS

Did you know that in Ancient Tarraco they used lots of flowers and plants that you probably know the names of? There is a good selection of them in the Amphitheatre Park. Look for them and write down their names.

- Pyrus communis* _____
- Laurus nobilis* _____
- Thymus vulgaris* _____
- Lavandula latifolia* _____
- Vitis vinifera* _____
- Rosa* _____
- Viola* _____

SEE HOW THE AMPHITHEATRE LOOKED IN THE 2ND CENTURY AD

Scan the QR code of the free Imageen Tarraco app and take an amazing journey.



TAKE A PHOTO AND SHARE IT WITH US

Go back to your favourite spot and take a photo as if you were a gladiator



Afterwards, share it on the social media with the hashtag #FamilyTarragona

Test answers: 1.b; 2.b; 3.a; 4.b; 5.c

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