



Tarragona, SPAIN

古代ローマの面影を残す町

By Itxaso Zuniga

Freelance Photographer

Mention Tarragona and many people conjure images of its incredible ancient Roman monuments. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000, Tarragona's 14 monuments are the best examples to be found of Roman history in Spain. But as I was about to discover, this city on the northeast coast also has an excellent gastronomic tradition and a welcoming culture that probably dates back to that time.

In Roman times, it was called Tarraco. This place was the Romans' first Mediterranean harbor in Spain back in 218 B.C. Later, it became a military base for the empire. Over about 200 years, the Romans conquered the entire Iberian Peninsula through Tarraco, and its buildings are examples of the empire at the peak of its splendor in the 2nd century A.D.

I started my visit at the highest part of the city in Tarragona's Old Quarter. This area was surrounded by a great Roman wall that originally extended for almost 3,500 meters. Of that, 1,100 meters remain today. As I passed under the Roman portico, I soon found the Provincial Forum. Walking through a narrow labyrinth of streets, I reached the Roman Temple, which once was a magnificent temple honoring the emperor.

As I walked to the south, all of a sudden I saw the Roman Circus. Here was where horse chariot races were held in the 1st century. Tarragona's circus is the best conserved Roman Circus in the world. I was amazed to find all these monuments in the middle of the city, sitting amid tall residential buildings, shops and traffic. And I didn't have to worry about the distances between each site, as resident Gloria Fernandez told me: "We say that you can walk to each corner of the city center in less than 30 minutes."

Across the road, I found the palm-tree lined promenade overlooking the Mare Nostrum (our sea), as the Romans called the Mediterranean sea. That sunny winter day, I sat on a bench and enjoyed the views over Miracle Beach and the harbor. The most important Roman monument was waiting around the corner.

As I walked down the steps in a park, I recognized the city's famous landmark: Tarragona Amphitheater. I remembered seeing it as a primary school student during a long ago school trip here. It was much smaller than I remembered as a child, but still very impressive. The structure is very well maintained. Sadly, during the Roman era, this amphitheater was used for entertainment that included fights between wild beasts, races, gladiatorial battles and even public executions. In stark contrast to the excitement that once surrounded this place, the blue Mediterranean in the background provides a relaxing atmosphere.

魚介料理を堪能

Visiting all those Roman monuments whetted my appetite

and I decided to walk to the fishing neighborhood of El Serrallo. On the way, I passed by some other Roman masterpieces, such as the local forum that was the hub of daily life. Today, we can view a portion of the basilica ruins and some beautiful columns.

In Serrallo, I met Nati Aguilo, who saw me taking photos and spontaneously approached me to recommend a mural. In recent years, the old fishing village of El Serrallo had murals with boats and ocean views painted on the walls. "My parents were anglers and I was born in Serrallo," Nati told me. She is 81 years old, and she loves living in this neighborhood. "It has changed a lot since I was born, but it is still a little village by the sea," she said.

Like my local friends, Nati recommended having lunch at the seafood restaurant called L'Anhora. "You must try romesco de peix," she insisted. This seafood casserole is a typical Tarragona dish made with mussels, shrimps, langoustines, monkfish, sea bass and hake. It also includes potatoes and a thick romesco sauce — a tomato based sauce with toasted nuts, garlic and olive oil — that gives the dish its name.

At the restaurant's terrace facing



6



7



8



9



10



11

the harbor that serves both fishermen and **sports aficionados**, it was so sunny that it almost felt like spring. The **ambiance** was relaxed and even though it was a weekday, the terrace soon was full of diners. The romesco de peix was delicious — it is no wonder this dish is so famous. “We try other restaurants in Tarragona, but L’Ancora is the only one we keep coming back to again and again. The quality-price balance is the best in the city,” said Manel Garcia and Rafa Molina, Tarragona residents sitting at the table next to mine.

I wanted to visit one last masterpiece on Tarragona’s outskirts. The Roman Ferreres **aqueduct** is situated in the middle of a forest 4 kilometers north of the city. I reached there just as the last sunlight of the day **enhanced the colors of** this stunning structure. As I walked along the 25-meter tall aqueduct that stretches 217 meters long, the sun began to sink into the horizon. All day I had been learning about the Roman empire, impressed by its expansion and grand reach. This is the culture that became the base of all European civilization, and in this place I could feel its power.



conjure...of
 ~のイメージを想起させる
incredible
 素晴らしい、圧倒的な
Declared...site
 ユネスコ世界遺産として認定される
gastronomic tradition
 美食の伝統
at...splendor
 最高に輝いているときに、絶頂期に
Roman portico
 古代ローマのポルチコ。portico は柱廊や屋根がある歩廊で建物の入り口にあることが多い
honor(ing)
 ~を称賛する
Roman Circus
 ローマ劇場。circus は、古代ローマで戦車競走用に作られた競技場「キルクス」
horse...race(s)
 戦車競走。馬に戦車を引かせて速さを競うスポーツで古代ローマ・ギリシャで人気を誇った
amphitheater
 (古代ローマの)円形競技場

gladiatorial battle(s)
 (古代ローマの)剣闘士の戦い
In...to
 ~とは全く対照的に、大きく異なり。stark は「全くの、はっきりとした」
whet(ted)...appetite
 食欲を刺激した、興味をそそった。whet は「(感覚を)刺激する」
basilica ruins
 (通例、複数形で) (古代ローマの)裁判所、集会所の跡
column(s)
 (建物の)柱、円柱
mural
 壁画
angler(s)
 釣り師、釣り人
sports aficionado(s)
 スポーツの熱狂的ファン
ambiance
 雰囲気、空気
aqueduct
 水道橋
enhance(d)...of
 ~の色を鮮やかにした、際立たせた

1. タラゴナのランドマークともいべき円形闘技場
2. ローマ時代の公共広場跡でコリント式の柱が展示されている
3. ローマ劇場。古代ローマの人気スポーツ「戦車競走」が行われた
4. 紀元前1世紀に建てられたプレトリ(長官公邸、手前)とローマ劇場
5. タラゴナの考古遺産群の一つ「ラス・ファレラス水道橋」。短期間で建設され、「悪魔の橋」の別名を持つ
6. タラゴナの街並み
7. 目抜き通りで見つけた可愛い店。ブリキの動物たちが入り口でお出迎え
8. 英国から訪れたパトリックさん(右)。お待ちかねのカタルーニャ地方の郷土料理「romesco de peix」を前に笑顔を見せる
9. カスティ(人間の塔)のモニュメント。人間の塔はユネスコの無形文化遺産にも登録されているカタルーニャ地方の伝統行事で、タラゴナが発祥の地だ
10. 「romesco de peix」は、魚介類やジャガイモをナッツやニンニク入りのトマトソースで煮込んだもの
11. 土産物屋で売られていたローマ遺跡をかたどったマグネット
12. ヤシの木が並ぶ遊歩道からは美しい地中海が望める

■ 動画は (<https://youtu.be/Yk93i3C1ceY>) またはこちらのQRコードから⇒



今回の旅の筆者が訪れたのは、スペイン・カタルーニャ地方の世界遺産指定都市タラゴナ。古代ローマの歴史を物語る遺跡の数々で知られ、2000年にユネスコ世界遺産に登録されました。紀元前218年にローマ軍が部隊を駐留させたことから町が築かれ、帝国の主要都市として発展を遂げました。

筆者は、かつて城壁に囲まれていた高台の旧市街から探索を開始。南に向かうと、まずローマ劇場が目飛び込んできました。古代ローマで人気を博した戦車競走が行われた場所ですが、現代の建物が立ち並び、車が行き交う町の真ん中に遺跡が同居していることに、筆者は感銘を受けたといいます。

ヤシの木が並ぶ遊歩道でベンチに座り、地中海の眺めをしばし楽しんだ後、街のランドマークともいえる円形闘技場へ。小学生時代に一度訪れたときより大分小さく見えたものの、その存在感は変わりませんでした。公開処刑も行われていたという闘技場の背後には、青く澄んだ地中海が広がり、過去の血なまぐさい記憶を塗り替えるかのようにゆったりとした空気を作り出していました。

歩き回ってすっかりおなかがすいた筆者は、魚介類で有名な海辺地区へ移動。写真を撮っていると、この地域で生まれ育ったという Nati さん(81)に声をかけられました。お勧めのレストラン「L’Ancora」は、友だちからも勧められていた店でした。迷わずそこへ向かいます。

お店は平日だったにもかかわらず、あっという間に食事する人たちでいっぱいになりました。隣のテーブルに座っていた地元の Manel さんと Rafa さんは常連だそうで「色々試したけど、やっぱりこの店が一番！」と声をそろえていました。筆者はここでお墨付きの郷土料理 romesco de peix(魚介スープ)を堪能しました。

最後にもう1カ所、タラゴナ郊外で行きたい場所がありました。町から4キロほど北にある「ラス・ファレラス水道橋」です。ちょうど日暮れ時に到着すると、夕焼けがその建造物の美しさを照らし出していました。地平線の向こうに太陽が隠れていく中、筆者はヨーロッパ文明の基礎を作ったともいえるローマ帝国のエネルギーが、地面から伝わってくるのを感じたのでした。(タ)



12