



ROMAN TARRACO

A journey back in time



The city beneath your feet has not always looked like this. The first inhabitants of the area were the Iberians, who founded a settlement here. Later on a group of Roman legionnaires established a camp next to the settlement, because Rome was set on conquering Hispania and this seemed a good place to start.

Over the years, these settlements were transformed into a city known as Tarraco, which grew to become one of the most important Roman cities in the Mediterranean.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Roman emperor Caesar Augustus visited Tarraco twice.

The first time he came to the Iberian Peninsula was to lead the army against the Cantabrians, but he fell ill and was brought here. He liked it so much that he stayed for two years!

Tarraco was the first Roman city to be founded outside Italy. In addition, it was the capital of the province of *Hispania Citerior* or *Tarraconensis*, the largest in the whole Roman Empire.

The city was Roman for almost 700 years. Over the centuries, the inhabitants who came later took advantage of the stones of the ancient Roman buildings to build their own houses. This is why in Tarragona you will find walls and other structures that are still 100% Roman. Thanks to the preserved remains and the work of archaeologists and historians, we now know what the city used to look like.

Let's go!

We suggest you take a tour of the *Part Alta* (old town) of Tarragona, following in the footsteps of the ancient Romans. To get started, go into the former assembly building (*Antiga Audiència*), where you'll find a model of Tarraco representing the city in the second century AD, at the time of its greatest splendour.



Then cross through the Roser portal and follow the Archaeological Walk along the Roman walls. You then come back into the historic centre and head for the Plaça del Fòrum. Can you see the remains of the wall at one end? This was once part of the great square of the Provincial Forum. Once a year, the leaders of the cities and towns from the whole province met up here.

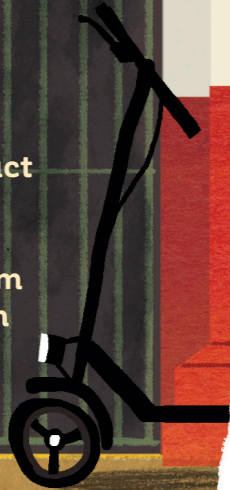




LOOK FOR

Find the following in the model of Tarraco:

- Via Augusta
- The Circus
- The Amphitheatre
- The Theatre
- The Ferreres Aqueduct
- The Necropolis
- The River Francolí
- The Provincial Forum
- The Colonial Forum
- The Port
- The Temple of Augustus



THE NUMBERS GAME

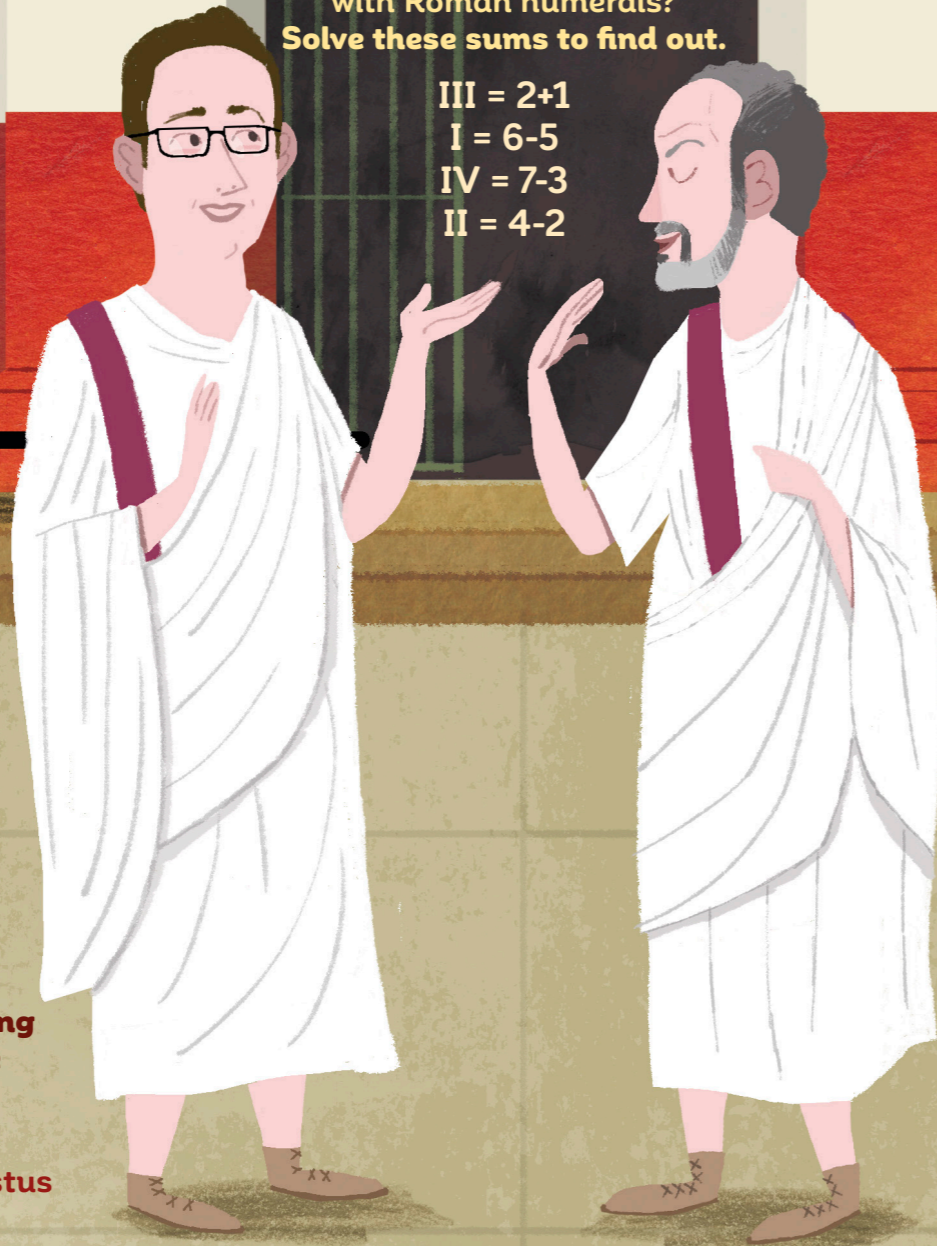
Are you familiar with Roman numerals? Solve these sums to find out.

$$\text{III} = 2+1$$

$$\text{I} = 6-5$$

$$\text{IV} = 7-3$$

$$\text{II} = 4-2$$



ROMAN SUDOKU

Solve this sudoku of Roman numerals.



FIND THE INSCRIBED STONES OF TARRACO

Many of the city's inhabitants used the stones of ancient Tarraco to build their own houses.

Go to the Casa Corderet store on Carrer Merceria and search the exterior walls for at least three fragments of stones featuring Roman inscriptions.



TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALK

You'll find a stunning section of the Roman wall that was built in the second century BC. As you go along the Walk, listen to the audio-guide and find the following:

- Two bases for equestrian statues
- A statue dedicated to Emperor Augustus
- The Paborde (Archbishop) Tower, and at its feet the little gateway where the fighting teams used to go in and out
- The eighteenth century cannons
- The Cabiscol Tower
- The Minerva Tower, the remains of the relief dedicated to the goddess, and the three chiselled heads that represent protective divinities
- The Socors Gate, one of the main entrances to the city



THE FORUM WALL

In Plaça del Fòrum, part of the wall of the Provincial Forum still remains. Take a good look at it and note here which shape is correct.



FIND THE SHE-WOLF

In Plaça del Rei there is a hidden statue of the she-wolf Lupercal suckling Romulus and Remus.

To find it, follow the instructions:

1. Stand looking towards the Nazareth Church.
2. Turn 90 degrees to the left.
3. Go forward until you reach the level of the steps to the Pretorian Tower.
4. Turn 90 degrees to the right.
5. Go down the steps.
6. Cross the walkway until you get to the gate of the tower.

You've found it! If you don't know who the twins Romulus and Remus were, look them up on your smartphone or tablet.

It's an amazing legend!



THE ENIGMA

Complete the inscription you'll find in Plaça del Rei and guess what it means.

_ A _ _ A _ O S _ I _ _ O _ _ M O _ _ S



FIND THE INTRUDER

In this drawing there are three elements that are not from Roman times.

Let's see if you can find them!

START

1. Antiga Audiència and model of Tarraco

2. Roser portal and Roman wall

3. Archaeological Walk

4. Plaça del Fòrum

5. Carrer Merceria

6. Plaça del Rei



BEFORE YOU GO...

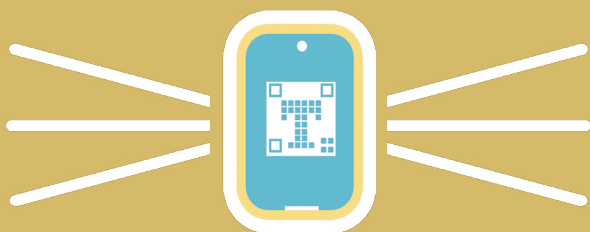


There was also a theatre in Tarraco. It was in the lower part of the city, near the port. You can still see part of the seating of the Roman theatre today, which was built in a semi-circular shape taking advantage of the slope of the land. Comedies and tragedies were performed here, as well as dance and pantomime shows.

Go to the Tarraco Theatre, read the information and link the following:

- Scaenae** ● ● The seating area for the audience
- Orchestra** ● ● The stage, where the performances took place
- Cavea** ● ● The area set aside for the highest-ranking members of the audience

Scan the QR code and you'll be able to see what the theatre was like and the space it occupied in the city.



TAKE A PHOTO AND SHARE IT

Take a photo of the monument of Roman Tarraco you liked best.



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