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Les Ferreres Aqueduct



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Les Ferreres Aqüeduct

The most famous pipe to supply water to the city of Tarraco was one that captured the waters of the Francolí at the height of the village of Puigdelfí and that, circulating in parallel to a river bed and adapting itself to the contours of the landscape, save d one of the last valleys, where it met with a spectacular arcade structure, known as the Blacksmiths' Bridge or the Devil's Bridge.

This section was built in *opus quadratum*, dressed ashlar (in the form of a cushion) on the visible side and using the dry-stone method (without using mortar between the stone). Its total length is 217 meters and its maximum height is 27 meters. It consists of two overlapping rows of arches; the distance between the supports of the arches is about 6.30 meters, the upper level is 25 meters and the lower level 11. The height of the arches of this lower row varies according to the slope of the land: higher in the centre and lower at the ends of the gorge. The *specus*, which was the water channel, ran along the top.

This channel continued to the city where it was received in the *castella aquae*, settling tanks, where the water was then distributed to buildings like baths, public fountains and private houses.

To build this stretch of aqueduct various quarries were opened nearby, which were tapped for the construction and are still visible today, as well as the remains of a limekiln used equally in construction of the pipeline.

