



- 1 Castellarnau House
- 2 El Pallol vault
- 3 Walls (Archaeological Promenade)
- 4 Canals House
- 5 Roman Circus-Praetorium
- 6 Amphitheatre
- 7 **Colonial Forum**
- 8 Medol Quarry
- 9 Les Ferreres Aqueduct

ENG

Colonial Forum




MIHIT
MUSEU
D'HISTÒRIA
DE TARRAGONA

TARRAGONA
ES CONNECTA
AMB LA CULTURA



PROPERTY OF NATIONAL CULTURAL INTEREST
Decree of 26th March 1954 (R-I-55-0068)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
(Cairns, 2nd December 2000)

Colonial Forum



The archaeological remains of the forum of Colònia were documented from the second half of the XIX century once the old renaissance walls that closed the city up to the current Rambla Nova were pulled down. It was evident that the remains were of great importance and therefore, in 1920, the excavation of the part that had not been urbanised was carried out and today is known as the Forum *Colònia* or *local forum*.

The site is made up of two parts separated by the Soler Street and joined by a metallic bridge over the street. In the area of Lleida Street, Cervantes Street and Soler Street, we can find a juridical basilica, a tribune and remains of old houses; meanwhile, in the second half, cordoned by Soler Street, Cervantes Street and Fortuny Street, part of the Capitol can be found, remains of a square and an island of houses surrounded by streets, one of which is stoned.

The basilica, a social, administrative, political and judicial meeting place, was a building covered by three naves, the central nave being double the width of the lateral ones. The interior portico that separated the naves was made of fourteen by four columns. Preserved *in situ* seven column bases on the south-east corner. A peculiarity of the Tàrraco basilica is that it had small rooms on one side, as wide as the distance between columns, which were probably used for public administration. The central room, in the middle of the smaller rooms and the main room of the basilica, was the meeting room for the senate and the clergy.

Outside the basilica, on the shortest end with Soler Street, above old drains, we can see remains of tribune related to the square, preserved on the second sector or the area.

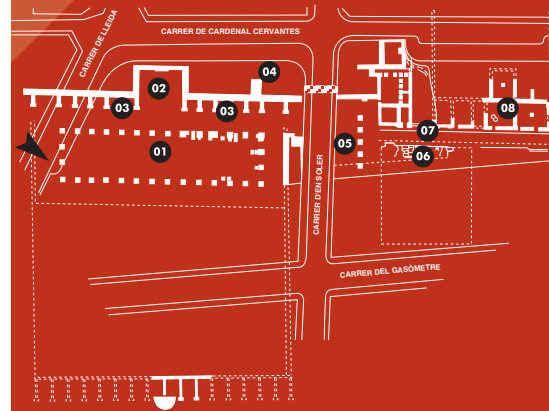
Behind the basilica there is a cistern from a private house that had to be knocked down in order to make it as well as a water deposit and canals.

Once we have crossed the bridge over Soler Street we get to an area that was probably a square and where many imperial statues were found.

A building with deposits made of thick plaques of calcareous rock and a small patio with small columns probably made up part of a bigger area related to city administration.

The Capitol was the main temple in Tàrraco, deicated to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. The only part that is preserved are the Roman cement foundations (*opus caementicium*), alternating pillars at the end of them, closed off by a wall. Therefore, from the street, we can only see the wall, as the façade of the temple faces the other way, where Gasòmetre Street is today.

The stoned street, partly rebuilt, limits the other side with houses where the façade has been preserved. Some of these houses have large interior cellars dating back to previous times.



01 Basilica. Columns of the central nave. **02** Curia. *Aedes Augusti*. **03** Vaulted areas. **04** House water cistern (2nd century BC). **05** Hypostyle Room. **06** Capitoline Temple. **07** Street. **08** Block of houses.