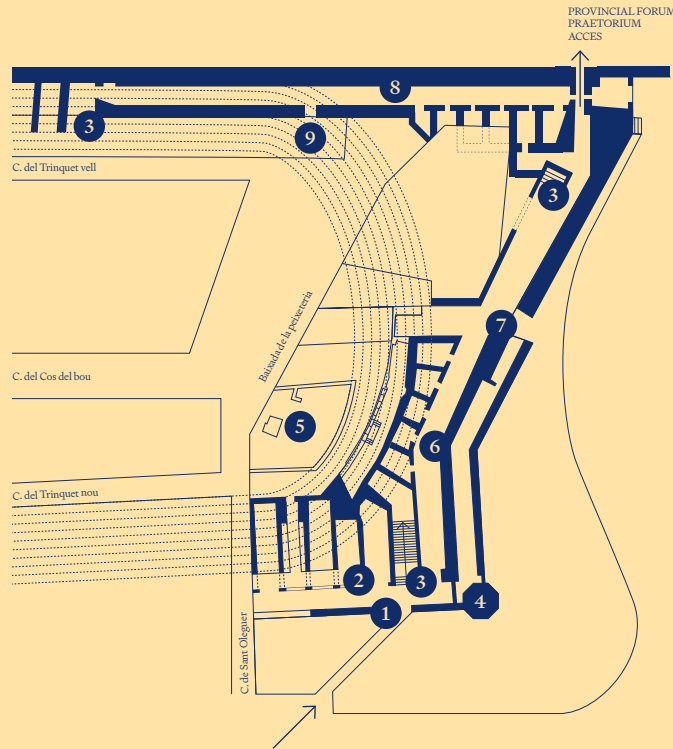


Roman circus

English

Museu d'Història
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1. *La Muralleta* (Small Wall) (1368)
2. Circus façade
3. Stairway leading to the stands
4. Torre de les Monges (Nuns' Tower) (14th century)
5. Circus arena and podium
6. St Hermenegild Vault
7. *Porta Triumphalis*
8. Circus longitudinal vault
9. Remains of the stand in Trinquet Vell street

The Roman circus was mainly used for chariot races. It is considered to be one of the best-preserved circuses in Western Europe. The usual races involved two or four horses: chariot or quadriga, respectively. The chariot competed with teams or *factiones* that were distinguished by colours: green, blue, white and red.

It was built at the end of the 1st century AD, and likely remained in use until the end of the 4th century AD. A century later, it was used as a residential area and in the 12th century, it became a suburb of the medieval city (el Corral), featuring only a few buildings. Through the 14th century it was part of the interior urban area with the construction of a wall known as *la Muralleta*, which was built in front of the Roman façade.

After crossing the wall, you can see part of the monumental façade, which in the past included around sixty semicircular arches. The staircase within the central arcade allowed the public to ascend to the top of the structure. The easternmost vault of the circus, known as the vault of Saint Hermenegild, also served as part of the access system to the monument. It is partially preserved, intersecting perpendicularly with the *Porta Triumphalis*, which granted access to the arena. The vault led to another staircase that provided access to the upper seating areas.

Adjacent to this, a long vault supports the upper section of the monument along its length. Since the recent reopening, remains of the stand can be observed on Trinquet Vell street. Additionally, various structures of the circus have been preserved within stores and restaurants in Font Square and Sedassos Square. On the opposite side, where the City Hall now stands, the *carceres* were located, serving as the starting point for the chariot races.

