

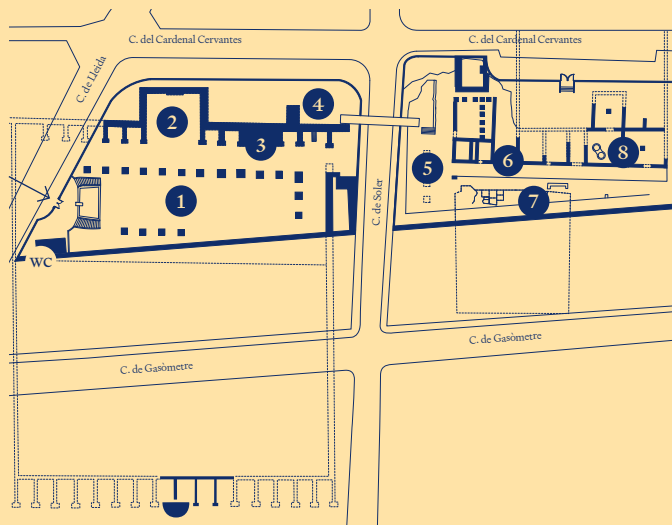
# Colonial Forum

English

Museu d'Història  
Tarragona

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# IVIH



1. Basilica (colonnade of the central nave)
2. Curia (*aedes Augusti*)
3. Vaulted areas
4. House with cistern (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC)
5. Unidentified porticoed building
6. *Decumanus*
7. Capitoline temple
8. *Insula*

Tarraco has its origin back to a large Roman military camp established in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Over time, it became a federated city with Rome or a Latin colony. The earliest evidence of the existence of a forum comes from an inscription dating the first quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Under Julius Caesar, Tarraco became a Roman colony in 45 BC, and was named *Colonia Iulia Urbs Triumphalis Tarraco*. From then on, the typical forum buildings of a Roman colony were constructed.

The basilica is part of the forum's monumentalization, which continued under Augustus, and was the social, administrative, political and judicial gathering place. It is a covered building with three naves, and the central nave was delimited by Corinthian columns, of which seven bases and the foundations of nineteen remain. On the north side, a line of small rooms, of unknown function, has been preserved, flanking a large central hall: the curia, meetings' seat of the *ordo decurionum* (the local senate) and the courts of justice.

On the other side of the bridge, can be found the remains of a building that has not yet been identified, although it could be a porticoed area dedicated to imperial worship. Nearby, there are the remains of another building, with simple columns and deposits, which has been interpreted as the *ararium*, the city's public treasury.

The *decumanus* is the cobbled street running east-west. On the southern side there are the foundations of the rear part of the colony's main temple: the Capitoline temple dedicated to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. On the other side, between two cardines, north-south streets, there is an *insula* or multi-family residential block. Within it, silos from an earlier chronology are preserved.

