

The archaeological promenade Walls

English

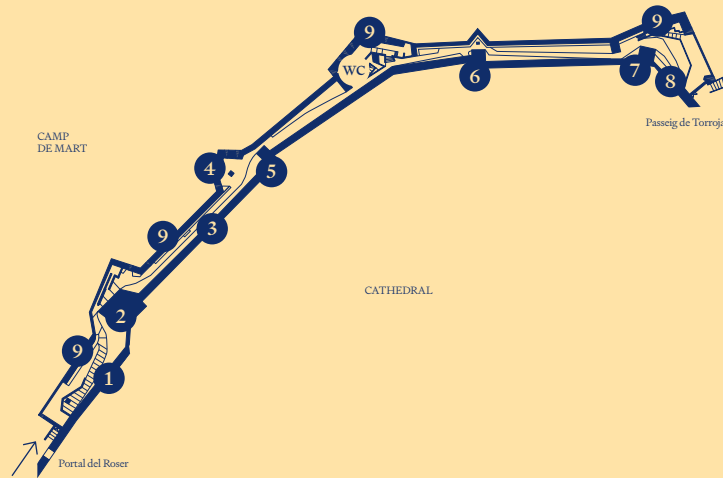


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1. A section of the second phase walls and patrol path (150-125 BC)
2. *Fortí Negre* (Black Fort) (16th century)
3. Facing of the first phase of the wall (217-197 BC)
4. Statue of Augustus
5. Archbishop's Tower (217-197 BC and 14th century)
6. Cabiscol's Tower (217-197 BC)
7. Minerva's Tower (217-197 BC)
8. *Porta del Socors* (Socors's Gate) (150-125 BC)
9. Low rampart fortifications (1709)

The Archaeological Promenade follows the 18th century fortifications, which were constructed to defend the city during the War of the Spanish Succession of the Spanish monarchy (1710-1714). In 1932 it became into the current promenade and was opened to the public as a romantic garden area.

The Roman wall is the most ancient monument preserved in Tarraco. The initial phase, likely dating from the 3rd to 2nd century BC, keeps three towers and small wall sections build with large stones. Most of the preserved wall sections belong to a second period, between 150 and 125 BC; they are formed by a megalithic base which hold an ashlar's facing. The Roman wall served not only a defensive function, but also defined the sacred boundaries of the city. Out of its original length of over 4.500 metres, only 1.100 metres are preserved.

The preserved sections of the wall are connected by three towers. The Archbishop's Tower retains its roman base, while the rest was rebuilt during the 14th century. The Seminary or Cabiscol Tower maintains its original appearance from when it was built. Lastly, the Minerva or Sant Magí Tower features some distinctive elements: there are some sculpted reliefs of human heads at the base and a relief that represents the goddess Minerva in the upper part.

The wall was equipped with small gateways near the towers to provide access to the city. These gateways, known as Cyclopean gates due to the large rocks used in their construction. The sole remaining gate is the *Socors* Gate, with a semicircular arch shape.

