

Welcome to the Baelo Claudia Archaeological Ensemble

"...Baelo is a port from which you normally embark for Tingis (Tangiers) in Mauritania. It's also a trading centre that has factories for salting fish..."
Strabo (18 AD)

The city of Baelo Claudia is situated on the Eastern part of the Bolonia inlet, on the Northern shore of the Straits of Gibraltar. It is surrounded by an arc of mountains made up of the La Plata and San Bartolomé ranges. This makes the sea its best form of communication, and to this it owed its wealth and reputation. Its main economic resource was fishing, mainly for tuna.

Excavations have revealed the most comprehensive remains of a Roman city on the whole of the Iberian Peninsula, with extremely interesting monuments such as the basilica, the theatre, the market, and the temple of Isis.

Nowhere else on the Iberian Peninsula can you have such a complete view of a Roman city as in Baelo Claudia. Although this is its most interesting aspect, you can also enjoy its setting in spectacular scenery in the Straits Natural Park.

Institutional Centre



The Institutional Centre at the Archaeological Ensemble of Baelo Claudia was inaugurated in December 2007. It was designed by the architect Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra.

The building has a reception area and administrative centre, as well as exhibition, museum, restoration and storage areas to hold the numerous artefacts from the excavations conducted at the archaeological site since the beginning of the 20th century. It also has a library specialising in the Roman world, a lecture room and a scientific archive consisting of extensive documentation arising from investigations at Baelo Claudia.

The exhibition space comprises two permanent exhibitions rooms and another one for temporary exhibitions. The permanent exhibition rooms are situated in a double height area and have cenital lighting; from here visitors can appreciate an interesting view of the Bay of Bolonia.

The tour continues with the temporary exhibition room, a more dynamic environment leads directly to the Roman city.

Permanent collection

► Marble votive plaque dedicated to Isis, found at the foot of the first step of the temple (Museum of Cadiz)



Top floor

The top floor of the museum area provides a general overview of the city. It therefore has a model of Baelo Claudia with an explanatory panel that sets the city within its geographical context. In the corridor is a display case that uses text and interactive features to demonstrate the legal and administrative organisation of Baelo Claudia, the main cities and routes of communication in Hispania, and the city's evolution.

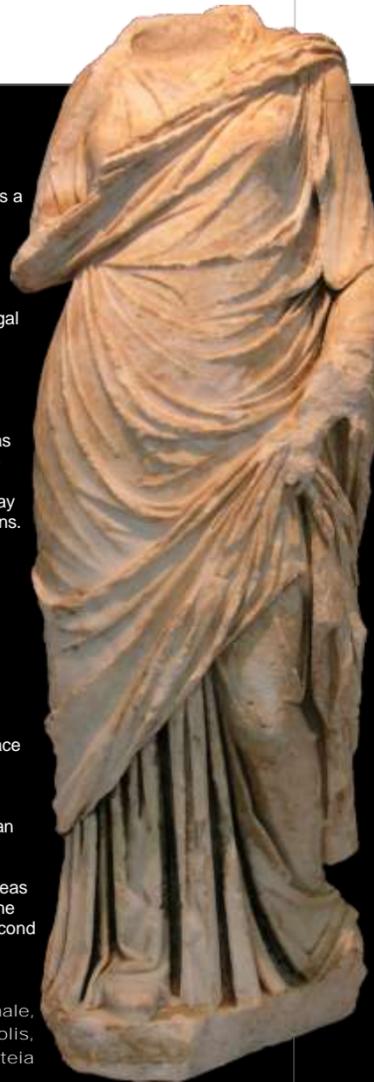
Completing this first section and serving as an introduction to the museum area is the "Piece of the Month". Situated next to the entrance, this is a regularly updated display of the items in the Baelo Claudia collections.

Ground floor

The ground floor is a large, elongated space focusing on Baelo Claudia as a Hispano-Roman city. This section links together the various themes which offer visitors different perspectives of the Roman city.

This ground-floor space comprises two areas separated by a large, transversal panel: the first section is double-height, while the second section has a lower ceiling.

► Sculpture female, located in the east necropolis, close to the Puerta de Carteia



The first room contains the section featuring **religion, urban planning and the economy**.

Religion and funerary world are represented at the end of the room, where there is a varied collection of grave goods and funerary items, including several votive plaques dedicated to Isis.

The central part of this room contains artefacts relating to the decorative arts. Consequently, art, sculpture and architecture are the protagonists of the display dedicated to **urban planning and architecture**. The monumental presence of a column from the city's basilica looms particularly large in this section.

The Baelo economy is exemplified at the front of the room by a series of amphorae and instruments associated with fishing, the basis of the city's flourishing economy.

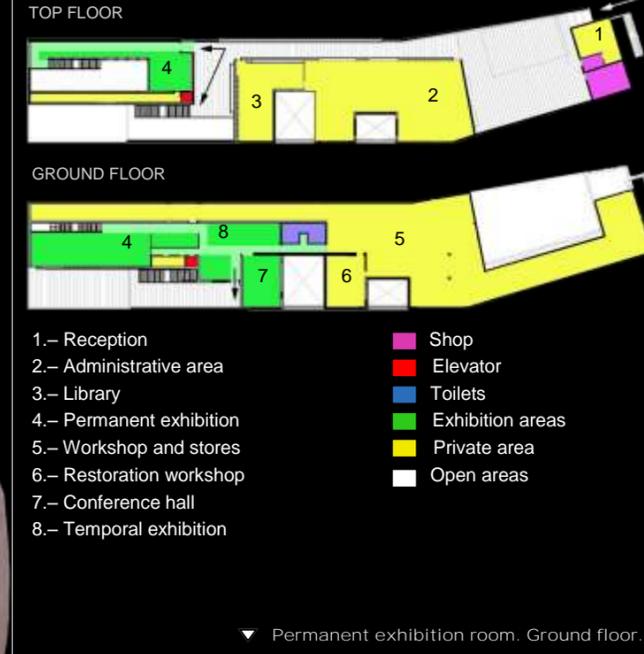
Beyond this room, the second exhibition area on the ground floor is dedicated to **the baths**. The most noteworthy piece is a sculpture, a roman copy of the Doryphoros recently found in the Maritime Baths of Baelo.

Next comes the temporary exhibitions room, where the subject matter is regularly updated, making this the most dynamic area in the centre.

► Late greco-italic amphora, located in the fish salting factories



Visitor information



► Permanent exhibition room. Ground floor.



Address, Opening Hours and Visits

Archaeological Ensemble of **Baelo Claudia**
Address: Ensenada de Bolonia s/n
11380 Tarifa (Cádiz)
Telf: 956 106 796 – 956 106 797
Fax: 956 688 688
baeloclaudia.ccd@juntadeandalucia.es
www.museosdeandalucia.es/cultura/museos/CABC

How to get to Baelo Claudia. Take the N-340 main road and at Km. 70.2 turn off onto the CA.P.8202 local road and continue until you reach Ensenada de Bolonia, the location of Baelo.

Public opening hours

To confirm hours and opening days, consult www.museosdeandalucia.es

Visits for groups:

Call to the Archaeological Ensemble. Telf: 956 106 793

Price

According to currently applicable rates

REMEMBER:

This historic site is here for your enjoyment. To make the most of your visit, please respect the archaeological remains, the plants, and all the facilities, and please respect instructions from the staff, who are here to help.

Photography is permitted in the public areas (without tripod or flash) for personal use; commercial photography for any purpose is prohibited. Finally, we want remember that children must at all time be accompanied and supervised by their parents or guardians.

We hope your visit will be an unforgettable experience.



Español
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RED DE ESPACIOS CULTURALES DE ANDALUCÍA

CÓRDOBA: Archaeological Complex of Madinat al-Zahra
ALMERIA: Historical Monuments of La Alcazaba
SEVILLA: Archaeological Complex of Itálica
MÁLAGA: Archaeological Complex of Dolmenes de Antequera
JÁEN: Archaeological Complex of Cástulo
SEVILLA: Archaeological Complex of Carmona
CÁDIZ: Archaeological Complex of Baelo Claudia



▼ View of the basilica, with the institutional building of the Archeological Ensemble of Baelo Claudia in the background



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RED DE ESPACIOS CULTURALES DE ANDALUCÍA

Singularities of the site

► Anthropomorphic figure or *baetylus* funeral stone found in the East necropolis at Baelo Claudia



NECROPOLIS

Founded during the High Roman Empire, the city had two cemeteries or necropolises: one on the road leading out of the city by the "Puerta de Carteia" gate to the East, and another at the opposite end, behind the road out of the city via the "Puerta de Gades" gate. Both of these funerary areas are therefore located outside the city, on the two access roads to Baelo.

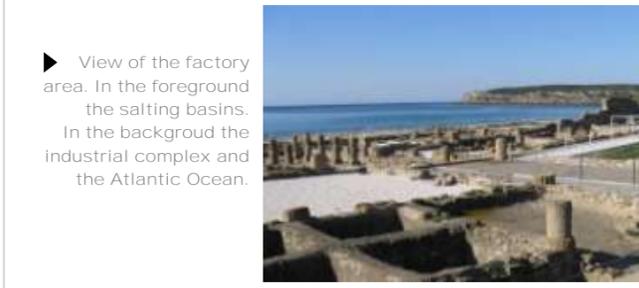
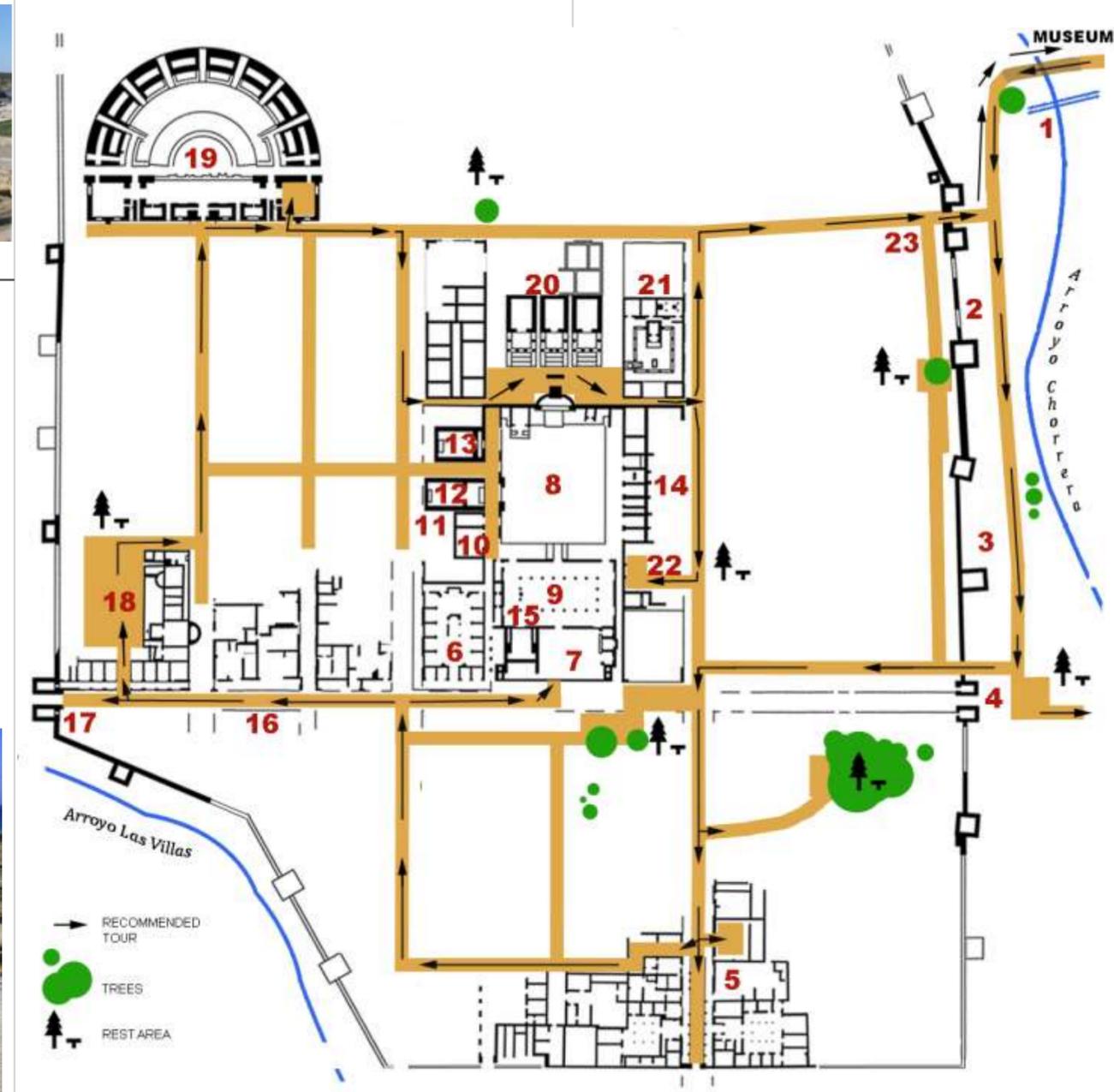
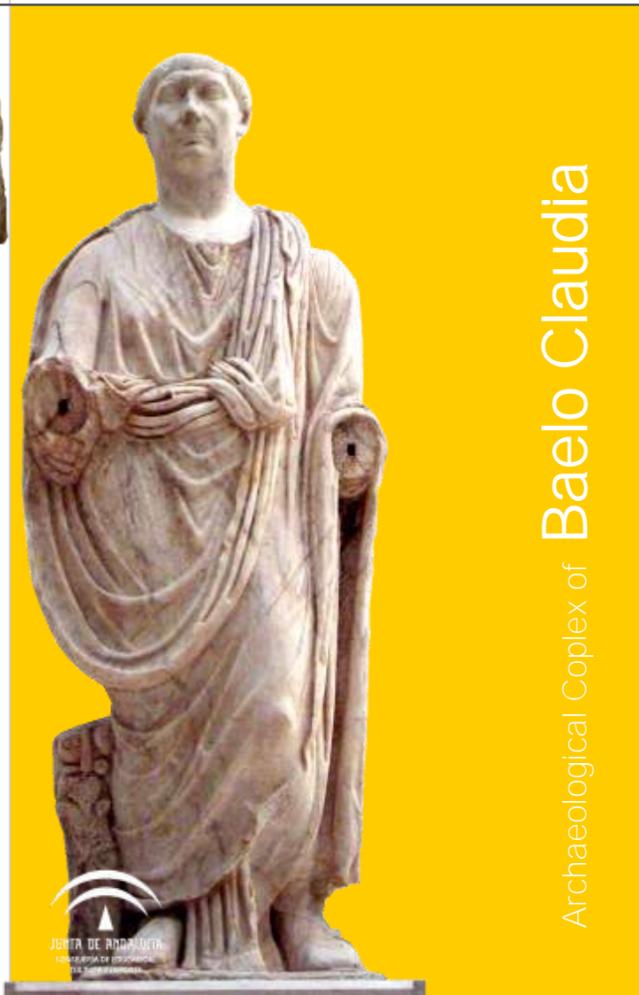
However, there is another important necropolis inside the city dating from Baelo's period of decline. It is situated near the city's east wall and straddles the adjacent stream.



▲ The Aqueduct of Punta Paloma. An arch of the aqueduct that crossed the stream of La Chorrera

AQUEDUCTS

Baelo's water was supplied by three aqueducts. The main one was the east aqueduct, which began 8 kilometres away in Punta Paloma. The importance of this aqueduct lay not only in the abundant volume of water it supplied, but also in the fact that it was further away. The second of these aqueducts was the west one, which used the aquifers of the Sierra de la Plata mountain range to supply water to the city's baths. The third and last aqueduct we know of entered the city at the most northerly point and was fed by the spring at El Realillo. To enter the city it passed over the city walls and filled a large deposit or cistern that can still be seen today in the upper part of the urban area. These aqueducts guaranteed a constant and reliable supply of water for the city for at least the duration of the High Roman Empire.



► View of the factory area. In the foreground the salting basins. In the background the industrial complex and the Atlantic Ocean.

Continuing along the *decumanus maximus* (16), we reach another of the city's main gates, the Puerta de Gades (17).

From here, we enter the bathing area (18) then head along *cardo 1* to the theatre (19), where the gently sloping hill was used for the seating area.

Finally, we visit the monumental or religious area which, situated on a higher terrace, clearly dominates the city's monumental and civic centre. This area comprises three symmetrical temples (20), traditionally identified as the Capitoline Triad, dedicated to the gods Juno, Jupiter and Minerva. With the rise of oriental cults, another temple was also added. Dedicated to the Egyptian goddess Isis (21), it is the only one in *Hispania* with the groundplan still intact. From the Temple of Isis we go to the viewpoint (22), where it is possible to make out the entire forum area with all the administrative buildings.

From here, we head East towards the exit, a secondary city gate (23), and from there make our way back to the museum.

◀ View of the basilica.

In the background a replica of the statue of the emperor Trajan



▼ View of the forum: In the foreground, the square with the basilica in the background

Recommended tour

Our recommended tour of the Roman city begins with a walk outside the city walls, taking in the east aqueduct (1), which supplied some of the city's drinking water.

Continuing parallel to the city walls, we are able to appreciate the architectural configuration, flanked by numerous towers (2). Following this line of walls, but before entering the city, we come to the large area of the late necropolis (3), which has been excavated in part over the last few years.

We now enter the city, next to one of the main gates, the Puerta de Carteia (4), which marks the axis of the city's *decumanus maximus*. As we continue along this road, we come to the intersection with the *cardo* and follow it south towards the salting factories (5), one of the largest industrial complexes that has been excavated in the Iberian Peninsula.

Continuing our tour, we return now to the *decumanus maximus*, treading its original paving, and come to the *macellum* or market building (6), which was built during the high imperial era to relocate the forum's commercial activities. Then we enter the South Square (7). Here, we can enjoy our first view of the monumental and civic centre of the city.

The monumental centre where administrative, commercial, cultural and religious activities were conducted, is situated at the intersection of the two main roads, the *decumanus* and *cardo maximus*, laid around the square of the forum (8). The forum is typical of the end of the Republic and early 1st century AD. The forum is surrounded by various public buildings. On the South side is the basilica (9), a two-storey building used for judicial and commercial activities. On the North side a tribune was built for public speaking and behind it was the monumental fountain dominating the square. On the portico to the west side, the following buildings were located, from South to North: the municipal archive or *tabularium* (10), the voting hall (11), the *curia* building (12), a road and a building which might have been a meeting hall for the local Senate or a *schola* (13). In the East portico are the shops, the *tabernae* (14). Before leaving the South Square, note the small public building adjoining the west side of the basilica. It has two side stairways: some researchers believe this is the *curia* (15).



History

Baelo Claudia emerged in the 2nd century BC in an area of great strategic importance: the Straits of Gibraltar. Its origin and subsequent development are closely associated with the salting industries and trade with the North of Africa, as it was the main port for present-day Tangier.

Around the dawn of the new era, the city experienced a period of urban expansion, culminating in the first half of the 2nd century AD with the construction of a large monumental forum, recreational buildings and an important salting complex, which was in fact the economic driving force of the city. It was at this time that Baelo received the name of Claudia and gained the status of a Roman city, ushering in the most important period of prosperity in its history.

In the mid-2nd century AD, Baelo entered a process of steady decline, undoubtedly aggravated by the earthquake which followed and devastated the city in the 3rd century AD. Following a piecemeal recovery, the process ended with the population abandoning the city around the 7th century AD.

Baelo Claudia is an obvious reference point for gaining an insight into Roman city planning and urban life during the Empire. It contains all the representative features that make up a Roman city, namely: forum, temples, basilica, administrative buildings such as *curia* or archive, market, theatre, baths, industrial zone, aqueducts, the entire city walls, and so on.

▼ View of the city of Baelo framed by the Bay of Bolonia. Punta Camarinal at the right

