

# introduction

## The building and its collections

### The Museum of Almería

was founded on 28 March 1933. Outstanding items in its initial collection included those contributed by the Almería Provincial Commission of Monuments and the important collection donated by Luis Siret, a large part of which is exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century the museum has been enriched by the finds made in the various excavations carried out in the city and the rest of the province.

### Luis Siret,

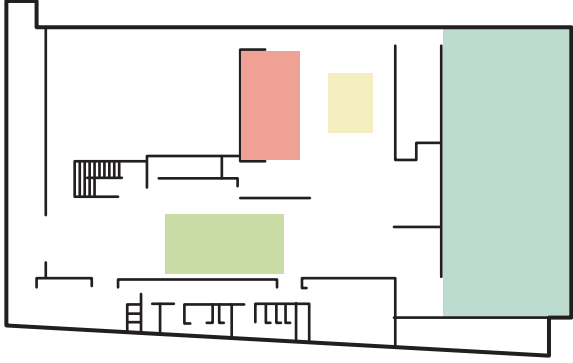
the official father of the museum, arrived in Almería with his brother Enrique in 1880 to work as a mining engineer. During his first working years he was responsible for a huge amount of archaeology. He excavated and studied numerous sites and the information he gained allowed him to establish the first Prehistoric sequence for the south-eastern Iberian Peninsula. However, what makes him an essential part of our museum is his discovery and investigation of such sites as Los Millares, El Argar, Villaricos, etc.

### In 1990,

structural problems in the old museum building caused it to be closed to the public. The Ministry of Culture, the owners of the institution, decided to build a new museum on the site of the old one. The new building was designed by the architects Ignacio García Pedrosa and Ángela García de Paredes. It is contemporary in style, with a splendid combination of light, volume and space, both in its interior and exterior.

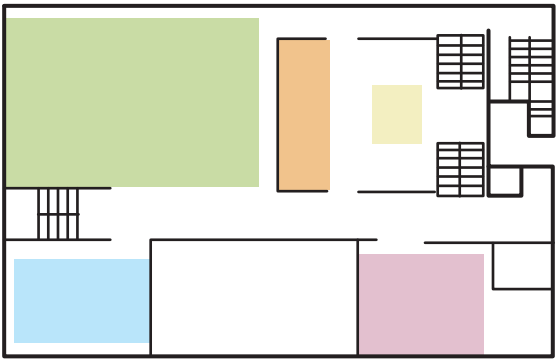
### As an exhibition concept

the museum decided to specialise in two particular cultural periods that distinguish our province: Los Millares and El Argar, societies from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC (on the first and second floors). The top floor is reserved for rotating exhibitions that will present and display the museum's extensive and varied collections in a dynamic fashion.



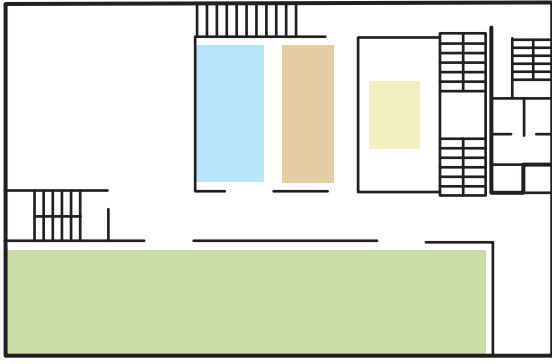
ground floor

- Temporary exhibition room
- Siret's Cloud
- The Stratigraphic Column
- The First Investigations



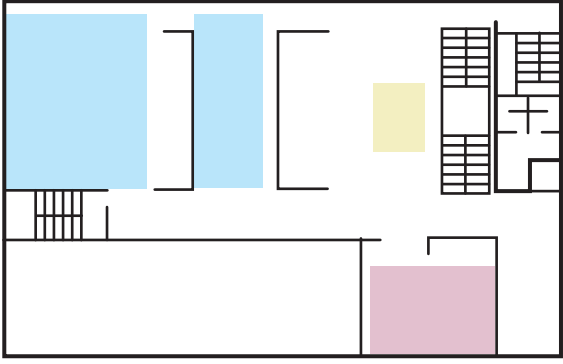
first floor

- The Stratigraphic Column
- The Study of the Los Millares society
- The First Farming and Stockbreeding Communities 5500-3200 BC
- The Los Millares Society 3200-2250 BC
- The Symbolic and Funerary World of the Los Millares Society



second floor

- The Stratigraphic Column
- The Study of the Argaric Society
- The Argaric Society 2250-1550 BC
- The Cultural Inheritance of Almería



third floor

- The Stratigraphic Column
- Roman Society and Trade in the South-East 206 BC-409
- The Islamic Society: Al-Mariyya 711-1489

# museum plan

The thematic development of the museum presents the exhibits in an informative way with graphics, illustrations, audiovisuals and models. The main objective is to illustrate the societies that lived in the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> millennia BC. As a complement the permanent displays, the first of a series of rotating monographic exhibitions can be seen on the top floor, in this case devoted to Islamic Almería.

The visitor is welcomed with a spectacular aerial display known as the *Nube de Siret* (Siret's Cloud). The images and illustrations were taken directly from the hand of Luis Siret and placed in a sculptural itinerary that invites you to walk around the museum.



Siret's Cloud and a detail of it



## ground floor

The ground floor, where your tour begins, has one of the most interesting museographic resources to be found in the museum and one of enormous educational value. It is an idealised, life-size reproduction of a stratigraphic cross section. Some thirteen metres high, it contains sixteen strata, from the mother rock to the present day, and visually presents the historical sequence of all the archaeological sites in Almería. Another outstanding feature of the Stratigraphic Column is the placement on its two narrower sides of two informative displays with very different characteristics.



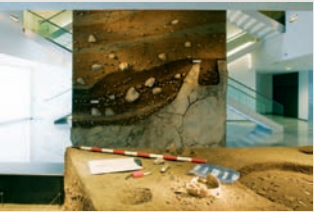
The Stratigraphic Column

The first is a chronological strip incorporating the archaeological interpretation. The other face of the cross section is more novel - a series of plasma screens that show different sequences in a loop and offer us differing concepts of time.

The exhibition area dedicated to archaeological research is a thematic itinerary that occupies the same space on the ground, first and second floors. It illustrates the various methods and auxiliary sciences that help historians in their work. The first resource in this sequence is a reconstructed cross

section of an archaeological excavation on the ground floor.

View of the ground floor



## first floor

The first floor begins with a room devoted to the first farming and stockbreeding communities, the highlight being a historical reconstruction audiovisual made using scientific data contributed by prestigious researchers.

The exhibition devoted to Millares is divided into three areas - the Model of Millares, the Circle of Life, and the Symbolic and Funerary World.

The Model of Millares is doubly innovative. For the first time in an archaeological museum, the historical interpretation of an area is shown through contemporary artistic language. This is a work of art that shows us what the

territory of Millares was like in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC. It is composed of the same materials that an inhabitant of the past may have used, but seen through the eyes of a contemporary artist.

Model of Millares



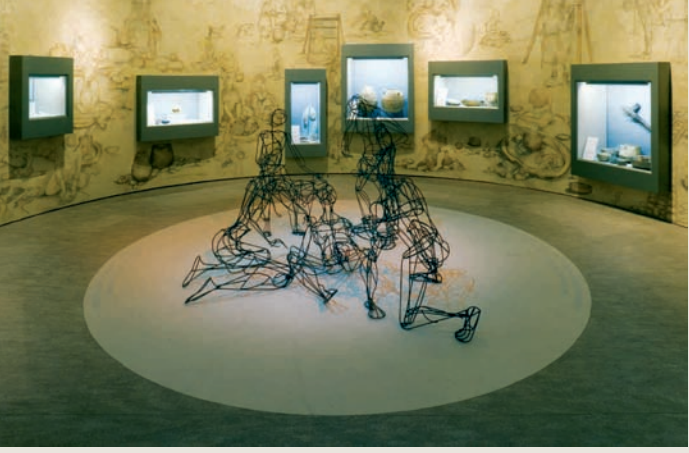
The Circle of Life presents exhibits and instructive illustrations of the same objects, a sculptural group, and an attractive audiovisual with a scientific and historical content.

In the room devoted to the Symbolic and Funerary World there is a collection of grave goods and symbolic elements, together with a resource in which an audiovisual projected onto the reconstruction of a funerary monument shows a burial ritual in the necropolis of Millares.

The Symbolic and Funerary World of Los Millares

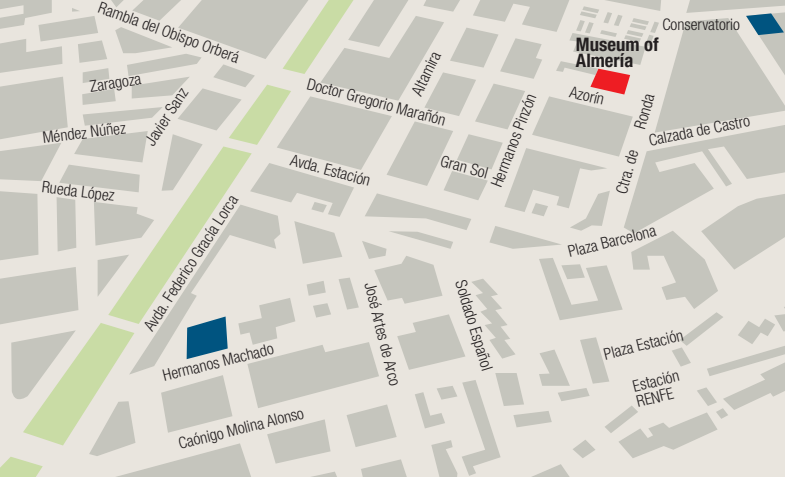


Grave goods from the Millares necropolis



The Circle of Life





photography: paisajes españoles



**Public Transport**  
Urban bus lines: Federico García Lorca Street, lines 2, 6, 7, 12, 18; bus stop at the Delegación Provincial de Salud at Carretera de Ronda 101, lines 2, 5, 6, 11, 20 and 30.



**T** Taxi ranks: Rafael Alberti Street and Estación Intermodal.



**I** Intermodal train and bus station: Plaza de la Estación - Ctra. de Ronda.



**P** Private Transport  
Nearest public parking: Avenida Federico García Lorca and Rambla del Obispo Orberá.

**MUSEUM OF ALMERÍA**

[museoalmeria.ccui@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:museoalmeria.ccui@juntadeandalucia.es)  
[www.museosdeandalucia.es/cultura/museoalmeria](http://www.museosdeandalucia.es/cultura/museoalmeria)  
[www.museosdeandalucia.es](http://www.museosdeandalucia.es)

Carretera de Ronda, 91  
04005 Almería  
General telephone: 950 17 55 10  
Fax: 950 17 55 40



## location

### second floor

The exhibition devoted to the Argaric people (2nd millennium BC) is on the second floor. The itinerary takes you via a ramp and a zig-zag and is conceived as a reflection on the strict stratification of the Argaric society. It evokes the paths that lead into Fuente Alamo, an emblematic settlement in this period of the province's history. In one of the display cases you can see the typology of Argaric pottery according to Luis Siret, a classification that is still used by researchers today. Particularly outstanding are the grave goods from tombs 75 (a gold bracelet) and 111 at Fuente Alamo. The latter is of a young girl with social prestige acquired at birth, evidence of the concept of "inheritance".



Argaric pottery from Fuente Alamo



Discovering the Argaric society

On the second floor there is a Cultural Heritage of Almería information point that doubles as a rest area. Visitors can consult a menu classified by thematic areas for information on other museums, monuments and folk festivals in the province, with details of location, telephone numbers, chronology, how to get there and, in the case of local fiestas, dates.



Display case with the grave goods from tombs 111 and 75



The Argaric territory. Organisation and exploitation

### third floor

There are two rooms on the top floor. In the first, "Roman Society and Trade in the South-East 206 BC- 409", the centrepiece is the statue known as the Bacchus of Chirivel. This is accompanied by part of a mosaic from the same location, El Villar de Chirivel; both finds were made during emergency excavations and on the mosaic you can see the marks made by the excavating machine that uncovered the site.

There are also numerous exhibits that provide evidence of the many years of Roman presence in the province. They range from gravestones dedicated to



Third floor

slaves to coins, hooks, various types of amphora (for salted fish, wine or olive oil), glass perfume holders, pieces of terra sigillata pottery, and a decorative stucco known as "The Birth of Bacchus" from Villaricos.



Sculpture of the god Bacchus from Chirivel

The part of the exhibition devoted to Islamic Almería is divided into two areas. One has a graphic in which we can discern the silhouette of the Alcazaba overlooking the bay and various grave goods. The other, called the "Cube of Islam" contains archaeological objects from the early maritime republic of Pechina and the later Madinat Al-Mariyya, large parts of which are still preserved below the streets of the present-day town. One particular find stands out from the excavations carried out as a result of the urban expansion of the town - a piece showing the engraving of a boat that was found in a Muslim house in present-day Arcos Street.

The museum has developed an activity programme that offers numerous different workshops aimed at adults and children, as well as talks, temporary exhibitions, concerts, plays, etc., all of which are designed for the enjoyment of townspeople and visitors alike.

The museum complex consists of the following spaces:

#### PUBLIC AREA

Square with gardens  
Entrance area:  
- Lobby  
- Security check and scanner  
- Ticket desks  
- Information point  
- Cloakroom  
Services:  
- Shop  
- Toilets  
Educational Department  
Assembly and conference room  
Library  
Permanent exhibition rooms  
Temporary exhibition room

#### INTERNAL AREA

Cultural objects reception area (loading and unloading)  
Restoration workshop  
Photography  
Storage rooms  
Changing rooms  
Researchers' room  
Archives  
Management offices, technical areas and administration



Dear visitor:

For many years now the Regional Ministry of Culture of the Junta de Andalucía has been making great efforts to modernise the museums of Andalusia to enable them to face up to the new cultural and social challenges and to make it as easy as possible for the public to visit their collections.

The Museums of Andalusia managed by the Regional Ministry of Culture form a network of nineteen very different institutions: the Museum of Almería, the Andalusian Centre of Photography, the Museum of Cádiz, the Cordoba Archaeological Museum, the Cordoba Museum of Fine Arts, the Granada Archaeological Museum, the Casa de Los Tiros Museum and the Granada Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Huelva, the Museum of Jaén, the Linares Archaeological Museum, the Úbeda Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Popular Arts and Customs of the Alto Guadalquivir in Cazorla, the

Museum of Málaga, the Andalusian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Seville Archaeological Museum, the Seville Museum of Popular Arts and Customs, the Seville Museum of Fine Arts and the Murillo Museum-House.

They welcome all those who wish to learn more about our homeland and our heritage through their collections and organised activities. This artistic, archaeological and ethnographic heritage reflects the way we were and how we have become what we are today. Through their exhibitions and activities, the institutions show what we aspire to be in the future. We welcome you to this museum and we wish you an enjoyable visit. We invite you to visit all the Museums of Andalusia and we thank you for this connection you have made with the heritage of Andalusia, which we believe will stay with you forever.

**The Regional Ministry of Culture of the Junta de Andalucía**



Main façade of the Museum of Almería

welcome



**Group visits**  
Please contact the museum. For school visits, click on "Application for visits by groups" on the website.

visit us

museum of almería

[www.museosdeandalucia.es](http://www.museosdeandalucia.es)

