

Welcome

Welcome to the Municipal Archaeological Museum of Jerez de la Frontera. During your visit around the different rooms, you will get to know the ancient history of this Andalusian region. Everything here comes from our region sites. That means that the objects that you are going to see were made by

the ancient inhabitants of Jerez and the surrounding area. They offer us a rich view of the life held thousands of years ago until Modern Times. We want you to enjoy this fascinating history as much as possible.

Location and historical data

The Museum of Jerez has a large history. Its origins date back from the middle of the 18th century, making it the first Antique Warehouse of Andalusia and one of the first archaeological museums, under the authority of a local council, that was created in our autonomous region.

Since its origin until 1982 it was located in the portico of the *Cabildo Viejo* of the city, the current location of the City Hall. In 1993 it was placed in the neighbourhood of San Mateo, heart of the old Hispanic-Muslim medina and one of the most historical places in Jerez.

It is composed of a group of buildings that, together with their patios, form a wide complex. The main building is a stately house that dates back from the last quarter of the 18th century and that was the first Secondary School that the city had. Additionally, the old school of Santo Domingo is used nowadays as an exhibition and conference room.

In 2005 the institution undertook enlargement and improvement works to be able to give a wider and up-to-date view of the history of the city and its surroundings, according to the latest research. It reopened its doors in 2012 with a completely renovated museum presentation.

Suggested tours

The museum is divided into three large thematic blocks, each of them introduced by a short length audiovisual presentation:

Jerez, before Jerez

Madinat Sharish

Xerez de la Frontera

Short tour

Is designed for visitors that have a limited amount of time or do not wish to spend so long on the tour.

With a selection of thirteen representative pieces of each cultural period or of any specific aspect of them, the visitor can discover information of the historical evolution of Jerez and its region in a quick and educational way.

Each one of these elements is highlighted in the general tour; placed either in a display cabinet or presented in a black frame on a red background. A small explanatory text points out the fundamental features of the piece itself as well as its historical context.



▲ Prominent feature quick tour

Full tour



Main Patio

Entrance space to the museum where large architectural elements from the Roman city of *Hasta Regia* are shown, together with a robed statue and different sculptural pieces corresponding to the pre-Roman and Roman periods.

Geography. ROOM I

The tour begins with an introduction to the geographical location and the palaeogeography of Jerez and its local region; with an extension of 1188 km², it is one of the biggest ones in Andalusia.

An audiovisual presentation introduces the first thematic block, that contains information about the first human settlements in our region, from the first communities of hunters-collectors to the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Palaeolithic. ROOM II

This room is dedicated to the material remains from the first phases of human occupation in this area. Their chronology covers between 600,000 and 18,000 years. A selection of carved tools from the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, found on the terraces of the river Guadalete, are shown here. The Upper Palaeolithic is represented by some cave painting reproductions from the Motilla cave.



▲ Pico trihedral. Lower Palaeolithic.



▲ Ceramic vessel. Neolithic.

Neolithic. ROOM II

The farming communities of the region began their activity around the sixth millennium BC and lived in caves and shelters of the mountain area. The decorated vase from the Sima de la Veredilla (cave) is a highlight.

Numismatics, Epigraphy and Manuel Esteve's Patio

Since these collections have some specific features, we recommend them to be visited at the end of the tour.

In the Numismatics room, a selection of coinage that circulated in the area of Jerez between the 3rd Century BC and the beginning of the 19th Century is shown. The epigraphy section is specifically dedicated to the Modern Age funds. Manuel Esteve's Patio, whose name pays a modest tribute to the first director of the museum after its formal foundation in 1963, contains pieces of an 18th century oil press, that were found in an archaeological intervention done in Morla street.



▲ Ceret currency or zenith. Hispanic - Roman. 1st century BC



▲ Cylindrical idol. 3rd - 2nd millennium BC

Cooper Age. ROOM III

Between the 3rd and the 2nd millennium BC one of the most significant stages of the Recent Prehistory is developed in the southwest of the peninsula, also known as the Chalcolithic or the Cooper Age.

During this time, characteristic cultural processes, such as the Beaker Horizon, were developed and the first metallurgical techniques appeared. Religious beliefs were captured on rich funeral clothing, such as Alcántara and Torre Melgarejo, and new religious symbols arose. Among these the magnificent eye idols are a highlight.

Protohistory. ROOM IV

Material testimony of the cultures of the 1st millennium BC is shown in the archaeological remains from two main sites: Mesas de Asta and Cerro Naranja. Also exhibited is the essential Corinthian helmet found in the river Guadalete (first quarter of the 7th century BC), one of the most ancient Greek bronzes in the Iberian Peninsula.



▲ Greek helmet. 7th century BC.



MVSEO

ARQUEOLÓGICO DE JEREZ

A NEW LOOK

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 E-mail: museo@aytojerez.es



GENERAL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS
 Tuesday to Friday: 10 am to 2 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm.
 Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 10 am to 2 pm.
 Closed: Mondays, 1st of January, 6th of January, Good Friday and 25th of December.

GROUP TOURS
 Group tours need to be arranged in advance:
 By phone: 956 149 561
 By e-mail: museoarq@aytojerez.es
 Filling in the form in the web site

SERVICES
 The Archaeological Museum of Jerez offers the following services: library, auditorium, education and cultural action department, investigation and restoration department, rest areas and audio guides.

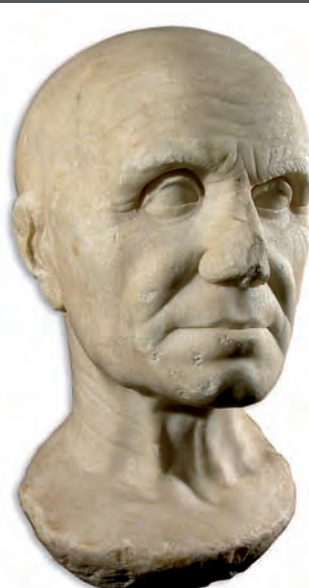
PICTURES
 Private but not professional pictures are allowed.

www.museoarqueologico.jerez.es

RESEARCHER SERVICE DEPARTMENT
 Contact the museum by phone or e-mail. Previous authorisation is required to study the archaeological funds.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM
 If you wish to take part in the museum activities, become a "Friend of the Municipal Archaeological Museum of Jerez". At the information desk you will be told how to register.

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▲ Bust - portrait of an old man. Rome. Augustan age.

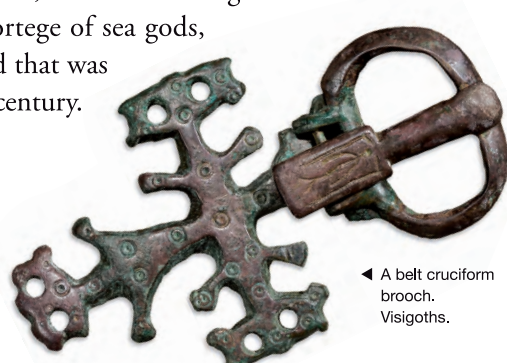
Roman culture. ROOMS IV – VI

With the Romanization of Bética (Andalusia) in the 2nd century BC, a radical cultural change occurred. Different objects, most of them from the Roman city of *Hasta Regia* and the archaeological site of Los Villares in Jerez, together with a varied collection of amphorae, sculptures, tombstones and funerary trails reveal different aspects of the everyday life over those centuries.

Notable for their uniqueness are the portrait of an old man, the bone carvings from a tomb or the front of a sarcophagus, decorated with a cortege of sea gods, that was found in the 16th century in Medina Sidonia and that was recently recovered after getting lost at the end of the 18th century.

Hispanic-visigoth culture. ROOM VII

The bursting of the Barbarians, specifically the Visigoths, in the Iberian Peninsula, did not caused a break with the previous period but served as a transition between the



▲ A belt cruciform brooch. Visigoths.



▲ Ataifor with a drawing of a deer. Hispanic - Muslim. 10th Century.

Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, as illustrated in the exhibits from the 6th and 7th centuries. These belt buckles are a good example of the goldsmithing art.

Islamic Period. ROOM VII

A new audiovisual presentation introduces the second thematic block, dedicated to the foundation of Jerez, *Madinat Sharish*, in the Islamic era and its development under the Almohad control.

The advances made in the past years by archaeological investigations in the urban centre in Jerez have made it possible to acknowledge the Pre-Almohad origins of the city, as well as to learn more about the medina in the 12th-13th century.

The tour around this room begins with a group of Caliphal green and manganese ceramics, that were found in the square Belen. A beautiful *ataifor* that represents a deer stands out among the rest.

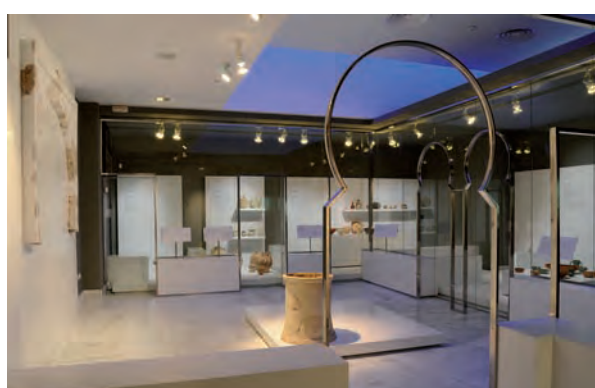
Pieces from the excavations in Arenal square and the Alcázar are also shown here. We can see a fragment of a ivory comb decorated with hares. Due to the fact that this material is limited and expensive, these sumptuary pieces were set aside for an elite.

For the Almohad period we have recreated a *maqbara*, a piece of wall with the door at a bend, a street and a house, where materials are distributed across the different domestic rooms according to their function.

Gallery

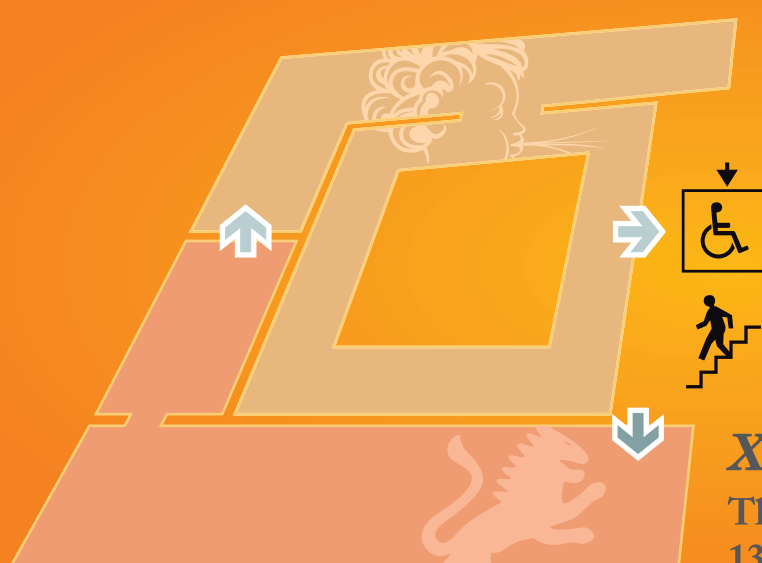
A number of exhibition panels on archaeological techniques and objectives are set up in the corridor of the first floor. We can admire "in situ" some structures of the medieval and modern age that belonged to a house. They were found during the enlargement works of the Museum.

At the end of the corridor a section dedicated to the Art Collecting can be found. All pieces there have, for different reasons, a singular story to tell about the conditions in which they were discovered.



▲ Partial view of room from the Islamic period.

The city of Jerez in the Early Modern Period 16th - 18th Centuries



floor 2

Xeres de la Frontera: The Christian city 13th - 15th Centuries



▲ English alabaster relief. 15th Century.

Christian Middle Ages. ROOMS VIII – IX

An audiovisual presentation introduces us to the third thematic block dedicated to Jerez, from the Castilian conquest in 1264 until the end of the Modern Age.

Despite of having witnessed the intense vicissitudes caused by the so-called "Battle of the Strait", at the end of the 14th century, the city gradually began to become part of the great commercial systems of the time, as the objects imported from different kingdoms in the Peninsula and Europe show.

Among all of them, that date from the 14th and 15th century, we can highlight an English alabaster relief that represents Christ's Resurrection, lustreware from the kingdoms of Granada and Valencia or the

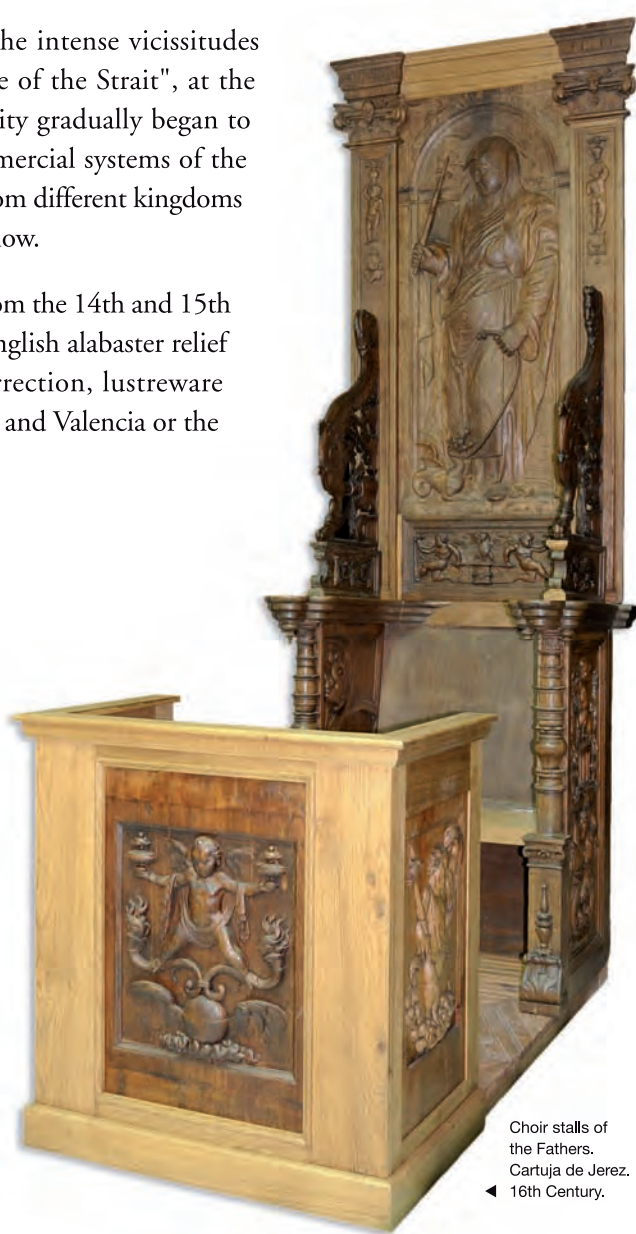
singular group of glasses found in Manuel María González street.

Modern Age. ROOMS IX – X

Modern society in Jerez de la Frontera followed the class model of the Ancien Régime. Each individual was obligatorily included in one of the existing classes, according to their social function: nobility, clergy and third or general state.

The objects shown here reflect aspects of the daily life in each of these strata.

The chair of a Renaissance choir, that the Carthusian monks donated to the city when they left the monastery, is to be mentioned.



Choir stalls of the Fathers. Cartuja de Jerez. 16th Century.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF JEREZ

A NEW LOOK