



# The Museum of Tortosa

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OF THE TERRES DE L'EBRE



Museu de Tortosa



Ajuntament  
de Tortosa

## Museu de Tortosa

Rambla de Felip Pedrell, 3  
43500 Tortosa  
Tel. 977 510 144 / 977 510 146

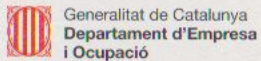
[museudetortosa@tortosa.cat](mailto:museudetortosa@tortosa.cat)  
[www.museudetortosa.cat](http://www.museudetortosa.cat)

### Opening times

1 October – 30 April  
Tuesday to Saturday 10 - 13.30 and 16.00 - 19.00  
Sundays and holidays 11 - 13.30

1 May – 30 September  
Tuesday to Saturday 10 - 13.30 and 17.00 - 20.00  
Sundays and holidays 11 - 13.30

Open daily except for 1 and 6 January, the first Sunday  
in September, and 25 and 26 December



TORTOSA TURISME



The Escorxador ('Slaughterhouse')  
A Modernist building  
by Pau Monguió  
in Tortosa

A hundred-  
year-old  
Museum



The old city slaughterhouse, a Modernist building designed by Pau Monguió (Tarragona, 1865 - Barcelona, 1956), was built on land reclaimed from the river Ebro between 1906 and 1908. The project features a structure divided into pavilions and allots specific areas for the different purposes.

The urban transformation of the city at the end of the XIXth century, with the demolition of the town walls, the development of the new suburban areas and the discovery of archaeological elements led to the creation of a Municipal Museum in 1900.

Through a gate in the wall that encloses this square plan building, the main façade can be seen from the street.

Inside, several pavilions are organized around a central body.

The mixed usage of masonry, ceramics and glazed roof tiles is inspired by Mudejar, or Moorish, architecture.

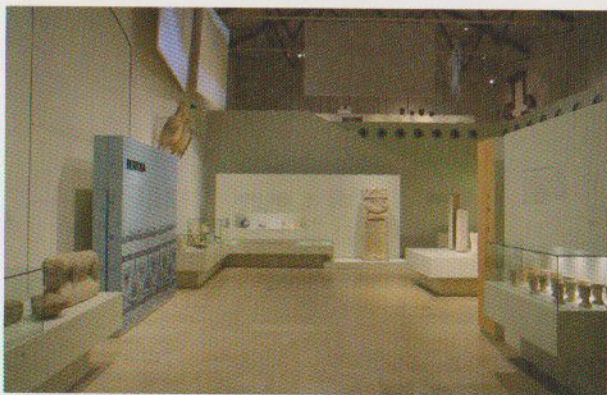


Joan Abril, the municipal architect, was a pioneer in collecting archaeological remains and he formed a private collection. Along with the member of Parliament Teodoro González, he fostered the creation of the Archaeological Museum of the Il·lencavonia in Tortosa –sited in the old Mercè School.

In 1910 the Museum was relocated to Saint Dominic's Church, where it operated as the Museum and Historical Archive until 1997.

The new Museum of Tortosa opened in 2012 in the old city slaughterhouse building.

## The present Museum



The key objectives of the **Museum** are to make the **Tortosa** municipal collection known to the general public, to preserve and spread the region's cultural heritage and to encourage research.

### **Antoni Garcia Gallery**

A gallery dedicated to temporary exhibitions relating to the region's cultural heritage and the visual arts.

### **Didactic room**

A space for the development of pedagogical workshops.

### **Reception desk and Tourist Information Office**

An area devoted to the attention of visitors both to the Museum and to the city in general, including a gift shop and an advice service on cultural and touristic activities.

### **Permanent exhibition**

The gallery is divided into six areas that explain the history of Tortosa and its region, from prehistory to the 20th century, through a selection of items from the municipal collection.

## Origins

### From tools to symbols

The prehistoric period of the Terres de l'Ebre –the lower course of the Ebro river– is an age of dramatic environmental and cultural change: the period when the first stone and bone instruments, ceramics, body ornaments and also the first works of art were produced.



Vase with embossed decoration, Neolithic

## The Iberians

### Our first identity

The Terres de l'Ebre were inhabited by an Iberian people known as the Ilercavonians. Vestiges of their presence in our region – settlements, metal objects, ceramics and inscriptions– tell of a developed society with strong links to other Mediterranean peoples.



Female bust, 4th-3rd century BC

## Dertosa

### A Roman municipality

The city of Dertosa –the name from which Tortosa derives– is mentioned in classical writings and was the capital of a vast municipium. Evidence survives of the importance achieved by Dertosa as a strategic enclave between the Mediterranean and the Ebro river.

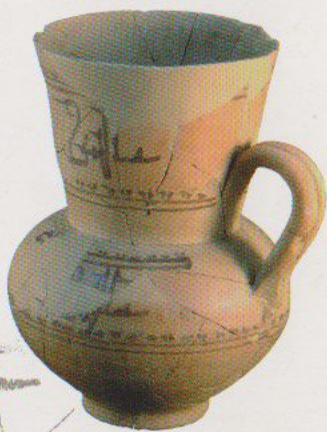


Funerary stele "of the Ship", 2nd century AD

## Turtuxa

### On the edge of Al-Andalus

Under the Moors, Dertosa was known as Turtuxa. It became one of the most important Moorish cities on the eastern side of the Iberian Peninsula and thrived on its commercial activity. Many outstanding material remains have survived the present day. The names of many villages around Tortosa prove their Moorish origin.

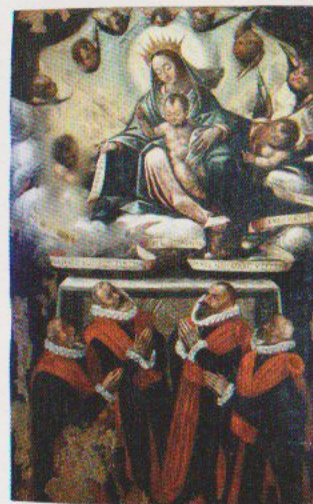


Andalusian jar, 12th century

## Tortosa

### At the centre of the territories of the Crown of Aragon

With the Christian conquest of Islamic Turtuxa in the 12th century, the name of the city became Tortosa. During the following centuries the city took on an important political, economic and ecclesiastical role as the capital of the Bishopric and the Vegueria, or Crown district.

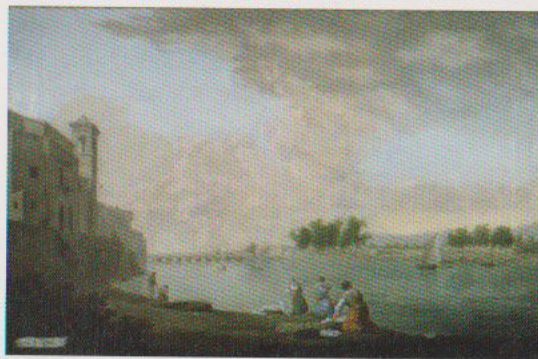


Virgin of the Counsellor's Panel, 16th century



## Modernity

### Dynamism and conflict



With the 18th century there began a period of revolutions and warfare which brought about major changes. The city's development ran parallel to the modernisation and political reorganisation of the entire region. After the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), Tortosa's role as the region's capital city was reinforced.

Mariano Ramon Sánchez, Vista de Tortosa. Colección Real 1781-1803