



**MUSEO  
ARQUEOLÓGICO  
DE MURCIA**





**THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM** of Murcia was created by a Royal Decree of the Ministry of Development on 6th July 1864, thanks to the contribution of the Provincial Committee of Monuments. For many years, the archaeological collections were displayed alongside those of Paintings and Sculpture in the Orient Hall of the *Teatro de los Infantes* in Murcia (1864), in the *Contraste* building (1866) and in the building constructed by Pedro Cerdán Martínez en 1910, which is currently the Museum of Beaux Arts of Murcia. In 1953 the archaeological collections were transferred to the building constructed by José Luis León as the Cultural Centre and Provincial Centre for Archives, Libraries and Museums. In 1962, the building and the archaeological collections were declared a Historical-Artistic Monument. The museum will later be known as the Museum of Murcia, Archaeological Section.

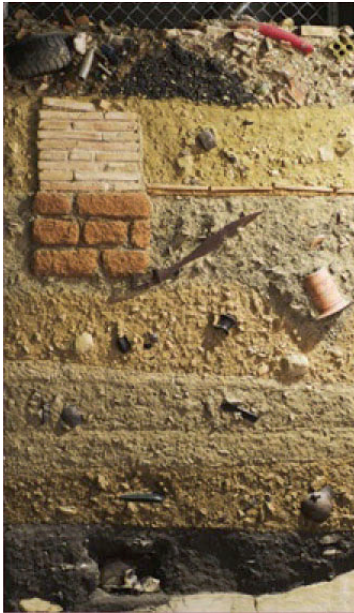
Eventually, it became a separated entity, and the Archaeological Museum of Murcia was created by a Ministerial Decree on October 7th, 2003.

Its ownership belongs to the State, but it is managed by the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, through the General Directorate of Beaux Arts and Cultural Property. As an institution with a long history of conservation and diffusion of archaeological and artistic heritage, the present Archaeological Museum houses notable collections of materials from diverse archaeological sites in Murcia. In sixteen rooms, a journey through Prehistory, from the Paleolithic period until the Bronze Age (in the ground floor); and through protohistory and ancient history, from the Iberian culture until the Paleo-Christian and Visigothic Periods (in the first floor).

## GROUND FLOOR

### ROOM 0 // INTRODUCTION / PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This area was conceived as an introductory space to the museum. In this room, a scale model of the region of Murcia is presented, as well as a virtual itinerary through the main archaeological sites, organized by cultures and municipality.



*Simulation of an archaeological stratigraphy*



*Burins. Cave of the Algarrobo, Mazarrón*

### ROOM 1 // THE PALEOLITHIC PERIOD

The Paleolithic period was a very large era, since it encompasses from the origin of hominids (more than two and a half millions of years ago) until the climate changes occurring in the Holocene (about ten thousand years ago). During this period, humans evolve as species, discovered fire, and developed diverse technological advances within a subsistence economy based on hunting, fishing and harvesting. In the case of the region of Murcia, the period is well documented from the Middle Paleolithic onwards. In this room, collections from Musterrian sites as Las Toscas (Molina de Segura), Cerro de la Fuente (Yecla) and Cueva Antón (Mula) are exhibited. An additional prominent collection is the epi-Paleolithic remains from the Cueva del Algarrobo (Mazarrón). An audiovisual presentation explains the different stages which took place in human evolution; while another shows the existing variety of stone objects and their use.



## ROOM 2 // THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD

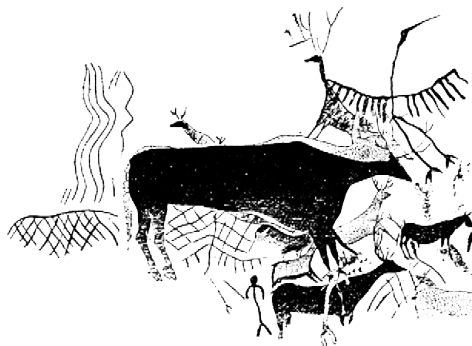
This decisive period in the history of human evolution (VIII – IV millennium B.C.) is characterized by the gradual consolidation of the sedentism of societies and the beginning of agriculture and livestock farming, after slow and unequal processes of experimentation. In the room, a reproduction of a cabin has been reconstructed. Besides, a collection of decorated pottery fragments from the Hondo del Cagitán (Mula) is exhibited, together with a set of axes from the Neolithic-Eneolithic tradition.



*Reproduction of a Neolithic cabin*

## ROOM 3 // PREHISTORIC ART

From the Upper Paleolithic until the Bronze Age, the European communities developed the first manifestation of an aesthetic and symbolic intention which can be defined today as art. The relevance of the examples of cave paintings found in Murcia led the UNESCO to declare them a World Heritage Site on December 2nd, 1998. In the room, two simultaneous audiovisual presentation show the process of producing a painting, and a projection of the main prehistoric paintings found in Murcia on a reproduction of a cave wall.



*Cave paintings of Cave II at Canto de la Visera, Yecla*

#### ROOM 4 // TECHNOLOGIES

Diverse technological developments allowed prehistoric societies to adapt to their environment more satisfactorily, and to gradually improve their living conditions. In the room, three visual presentations show how stone, bone and pottery objects were made. Besides, a selection of tools at different stages of development and of diverse degrees of complexity illustrates the concept of evolution.

#### ROOM 5 // THE ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

A laboratory environment, with different analytical instruments and replicas of archaeological objects shows the scientific character of Archaeology and its value as a science, which allows us to understand our past.



*Bell-shaped vessel. Murviedro, Lorca*

#### ROOM 6 // THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

Between the IV and the II millennium B.C., many transformations in settlement patterns and in funerary customs took place, which brings to light the appearance of more advanced societies. Throughout the period, important technological developments arose, including copper metallurgy, which was crucial in the period. The first part of the room is dedicated to daily life. In it, a reproduction of a chalcolithic house is shown. Also, a selection of bone, metal and pottery objects is displayed in a cabinet, which presents the development of economic activities in the settlements (from which that of Murviedro (Lorca) is highlighted). In cabinet 4, a valuable collection of bell-shaped items can be observed. These objects are a cultural horizon of European diffusion divided between the Chalcolithic Period and the Bronze Age. The heterogeneity of the burial rites characteristic of the period is explained in the final section of the room; the cabinets here show different funerary objects proceeding from diverse sites with multiple burials such as those of Barranco de La Higuera (Fortuna), Loma de Peregrinos (Alguazas) and Murviedro. At the same time, an audiovisual presentation describes the process of building a Megalithic funeral monument.

## ROOM 7 // THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DEATH

An audiovisual presentation brings us closer to the world of death and prehistoric beliefs. It explains how the study and analysis of funerary practices helps us to discover numerous details about the societies of the past.

The room is complemented with the recreation, made with original pieces, of three types of burials including the trousseau: tomb in stone cist from Argaric times, according to the example from the Bagil's necropolis in Moratalla, the tomb of Iberian times incineration from Cabeceo del Tesoro's necropolis in Murcia, and the inhumation of Roman middle imperial times from Algezares, Murcia.



*Reproduction of a house from the Argarian site of Los Almendricos*



*Room of Death*

## ROOM 8 // THE ARGARIAN BRONZE AGE

During the second millennium B.C., the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula is defined by a peculiar cultural horizon with well-defined features, known as the Argarian culture. An introductory interactive presentation allows us to leaf through a facsimile edition of the book "The first metal ages in the south-east of Spain", by the Siret brothers, who were pioneers in the archaeology of the area, especially the Argarian culture. In cabinet 2, a collection of pottery materials of great quality is displayed; among them, the

carinated vessels of La Bastida (Totana), the cup from Cabezo Negro (Lorca) and the lenticular vessel from Monteagudo deserve especial mention. In the following cabinet, diverse objects explain the proliferation and generalization of the use of metals such as copper, bronze and silver in order to produce tools, weapons and ornaments. Of especial interest are the sword from Cabeza Gorda and the dagger with eight rivets from Monteagudo. Behind, a reproduction of the Y/Z house of El Rincón de Almendricos (Lorca) introduces us in the daily life of an Argarian settlement. Near it, characteristic objects such as stone mills, pieces of pottery, loom weights, stone and bone tools and roof fragments from sites as La Bastida and the Rincón



*Cup. Cabezo Negro, Lorca*



*Lenticular vessel. Monteagudo*

de Almendricos are displayed. The Argarian funerary practices were characterized by the burial of corpses within the settlements or in nearby areas. A large cabinet shows different models of Argarian burials in urns, cistae and double urns from sites at Puntarrón Chico (Beniaján), Los Molinicos (Moratalla) and Loma del Tío Ginés (Puerto Lumbreras). In cabinets 6-7, exceptional collections of objects are shown, found in two important Argarian sites of Murcia, namely Monteagudo and La Batida at Totana. In cabinet 8, which is dedicated to funerary objects, cista number 1 from El Rincón de Almendricos can be admired.





*Ringed axe. Peñarubia, Lorca*

#### ROOM 9 // LATE BRONZE AGE

At the end of the I millenium B.C., the human communities from the south-east of the peninsula underwent a series of transformations when different cultural elements from the Atlantic, European and (later) Mediterranean Bronze Ages were overlapped. Throughout the period, survivals from previous eras can be seen, but new ways of exploitation of natural resources appeared, along with an increase in exchange networks, the development of metallurgical activities, and the introduction of important technological advancements. In the room, a collection of metal objects is displayed, among which the lateral-ringed axe of Atlantic type found at Peña Rubia (Lorca) is outstanding. The collection of objects from the burial complex at Llano de

los Ceperos (Lorca) confirms the adoption of incineration in the burial rites of the period. In the last part of the room, an interactive presentation shows the main cultural groups of the European Late Bronze Age and the Phoenician trade routes in the Mediterranean area.

#### ROOM 10 // METALLURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Metallurgy is one of the most important technological developments in recent Prehistory. In this room, metallurgical processes are explained by means of an audiovisual presentation and diverse objects related to mining and metallurgical work.



*Ear dilators. Murviedro (Lorca)*

## FIRST FLOOR

### ROOM 13 // EL PASO A LA HISTORIA

Introductory room to the Iberian and Colonial world, including an animation about iconography of Iberian ceramics.

### ROOM 14 // THE IBERIAN CULTURE

The internal evolution of indigenous societies at the end of the Bronze Age and the contributions of people from eastern and central Mediterranean area (Phoenicians, Punic-Carthaginians, Greeks and Etruscan) stimulated the development of the Iberian culture in large part of the peninsular territory between the VII and I centuries B.C. In the first part of the room, ob-

jects from the site of Los Molinicos (Moratala) are shown together with a recreation of a house from the same site, which enables us to appreciate the different practices of Iberian economic exploitation and the development of life in the settlements. Cabinets 3 and 4 exhibit pottery objects which show the formal and decorative evolution of Iberian pottery. Together with these splendid collection of pottery, an audiovisual presentation recreates a potter creating a kalathos. All this shows the important development in the production of specialized pottery enabled by the proliferation of the use of the potter's wheel. Among the objects displayed, two of the most outstanding are the kalathos from burial 500 at Verdolay,



*Deity playing the harp. Cabecico del Tesoro, Verdolay*



from the II century B.C.; and a double-truncated cone-shaped glass with a very realistic zoomorphic design known as the 'glass of the goats and the fish'. A good selection of Attic and Punic pottery, as well as pottery from Rosas, can be seen in the room displaying trade, with remarkable objects such as the Attic skyphos from Castillejo de los Baños (Fortuna); the bell kraters from Cabecico del Tesoro (Verdolay) and Galera (Granada); and the oenochoe with red figures from Alcantarilla. The Iberian religious world, which was undoubtedly influenced by indigenous cultures and by other elements of the Mediterranean culture, is well represented in the room. Here, exceptional objects found at the Sanctuary of the Light (Verdolay) are displayed, among which, the collection of votive offerings and the stone head of a goddess are noteworthy. The Iberian society is known largely due to the burial objects recovered in the necropolis, since they present differences based in social status and gender. In this room, funerary objects belonging to warriors are displayed, with

remarkable panoplies, such as those found in burial 597 at El Cabecico del Tesoro and those form burial 7 at El Castillejo de Los Baños. The transformation processes of the Iberian society are explained by analyzing the evolution of the burial objects which appeared in the necropolis of El Cabecico del Tesoro from IV to I centuries B.C. and which connect with the process of Romanization of the territory. Finally, a series of sculptural elements found in burial contexts illustrates the artistic development achieved in the Iberian Period. Among these sculptures, the funerary monument of Coy (Lorca) and the seated sculpture of Verdolay are noteworthy.



*Iberian Censer*

*Reproduction of an Iberian house from Los Molinicos, (Moratalla)*



▲  
*Kálathos vase.  
Cabecico del  
Tesoro. Verdolay*



*Obverse Iberian buckle*



*Reverse Iberian buckle*



*Glass of the goats  
and the fish. Cabecico  
del Tesoro, Verdolay* ▶



*Iberian sword named  
"falcata"*



## ROOM 15 // ROME

From the II century B.C. the indigenous societies of the peninsula were involved in a deep transformation process caused by the Roman conquest of their territory, which occurred after the confrontations between the Romans and the Carthaginians at the end of the III century B.C. The importance of the mining wealth of the south-east of the peninsula explains the

efforts of Carthage and Rome to control the region. An audiovisual presentation, together with a collection of objects related to mining from Mazarrón and Cartagena reveals the financial value of this activity during the period. Additionally, objects from the republican period are displayed in this room, among which the collection of terracotta items from Calvi and



*Reproduction of a Roman ship*

the mosaic with an inscription from La Loma de las Herrerías (Mazarrón) are especially significant. The region kept commercial exchanges with Rome and neighboring areas, thus a recreation of a ship represents the continuous flow of commercial activities in the Mediterranean area. Mining, together with agricultural and fishing activities attracted colonists and merchants and stimulated the apparition of elites, the gradual development of populated areas and the important process of monumentalizing the cities, with a relevant example in the city of Cartago Nova (Cartagena), which can be seen in a scale model. The urban growth and the differences in social position and wealth caused the formation of diverse architectural solutions to accommodate the population. The characteristic models of the period are the domus in the townships and the villa in the countryside. In this room,



*Terracotta of a female bust. Calvi, Italia*



*Two-faced bust/herma. Calle Monroy, Cartagena*

tableware and domestic decoration objects are displayed, together with mosaics and wall decoration from the villas of Huerta del Paturro in Portmán (La Unión) and of Los Torrejones (Yecla). Besides, a cabinet shows objects related to personal embellishment and hygiene, such as needles, glass containers for unguents and amulets from diverse origins. Finally, it is important to mention the group of sculptures consecrated by the dispensator Albanus of Mazarrón; the Hercules of Los Torrejones (Yecla), the Pudicitia of Cartagena, the hermas found in Monroy street in the same city and the fragments of sculptures from the villa in La Huerta del Paturro. At the end of the room, an epigraphic collection of commemorative and funerary nature is displayed, together with the altars of Begastrí (Cehegín) and Monteagudo (Murcia).

## ROOM 16 // THE EARLY CHRISTIAN AND VISIGOTHIC PERIODS

Widely differing factors, such as the constant pressure at the frontiers of the empire and the growing autonomy of the provincial aristocracies, caused a deep crisis in the Roman state and society. The imperial authority was kept until well into the V century AD. along the coast of Murcia, but the formation of the Visigothic kingdom at the end of the century led to its disappearance and the consolidation of the local aristocracies, which were based on large agricultural and livestock estates as economic model. In the middle of the VI century AD., the constant crisis of the Visigothic monarchy facilitated a brief Byzantine occupation of the southeast of the peninsula and part of Andalusia, under the emperor Justinian. In the room, architectural remains from the mausoleum of La Alberca are displayed. The mausoleum is dated from the IV century AD. and it is considered one of the most important buildings of late antiquity in the Iberian Peninsula. There are also architectural elements from the Basilica of Algezares,

dated from the VI century AD. This basilica is described as an important religious complex belonging to the local aristocracies of the period. Likewise, the fragments of sarcophagi from Murcia and Los Torrejones (Yecla) are equally significant; together with a magnificent collection of objects from late antiquity, found when the port of Mazarrón was dredged, and in El Salto de la Novia (Ulea).



*Antefix of a lady. La Alberca,  
Murcia*

## ROOM 17 // VISIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The journey through the permanent exhibition ends with an audiovisual presentation where diverse moments of the work of an archaeologist can be seen; from the research and the excavation of an archaeological site until the study of the findings in the laboratory.

### WINTER (september - june)

From tuesday to friday: Sunday and holiday:  
From 10 am to 2 pm. From 11 am to 2 pm.  
From 5 pm to 8 pm

#### Saturday:

From 11 am to 2 pm.  
From 5 pm to 8 pm.

#### December 24th y 31st:

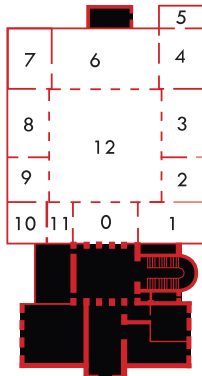
From 11 am to 2 pm.

### SUMMER (july - august)

From tuesday to friday Saturday, sunday and holiday  
from 10 am to 2 pm. from 11 am to 2 pm.

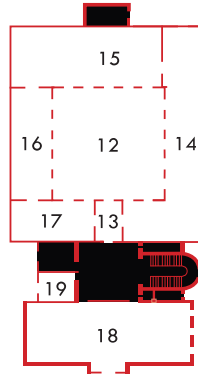
**CLOSED** all mondays, december 25th, january 1st  
and 6th, Holy friday, Orchard proclamation and  
Burial of the sardine evening.

### FREE ENTRANCE



### GROUND FLOOR

- 0// Physical environment
- 1// The Paleolithic Period
- 2// The Neolithic Period
- 3// Prehistoric Art
- 4// Technologies
- 5// The Archaeology Workshop
- 6// The Chalcolithic Period
- 7// The Archaeology of death
- 8/9// The Argarian Bronze Age
- 10// Late Bronze Age
- 11// Metallurgical Technology
- 12// Shields courtyard



### FIRST FLOOR

- 13// Crossing to the History
- 14// The Iberian Culture
- 15// Rome
- 16// Early Christian and Visigothic Culture
- 17// Audiovisual room
- 18// Temporary Exhibition
- 19// Didactic Workshop



### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING FOR GROUPS AND GUIDED VISITS:

[www.museosregiondemurcia.es](http://www.museosregiondemurcia.es)  
[museosregiondemurcia@carm.es](mailto:museosregiondemurcia@carm.es)



Avenida Alfonso X El Sabio, 7  
30008, Murcia  
968 23 46 02