

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM PRESERVES MATERIALS FROM PALAEOLITHIC TO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CHURCH DISPLAYS A WORK OF SINGULAR IMPORTANCE: THE PROCESSION OF THE "TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS" [EL TRIUNFO DE LA CRUZ], WHICH IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE "FARMER'S CROSS" OR, MORE POPULARLY, AS "THE SHE-DEVIL" [LA DIABLESA], A SET OF SCULPTURES BY NICOLÁS DE BUSSY DATED CIRCA



# MARQUO

Museo Arqueológico Comarcal de Orihuela

**OPENING HOURS:**

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY: from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 8 pm  
 SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS: from 10 am to 2 pm  
 MONDAY: CLOSED

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ENGLISH

# MARQUO

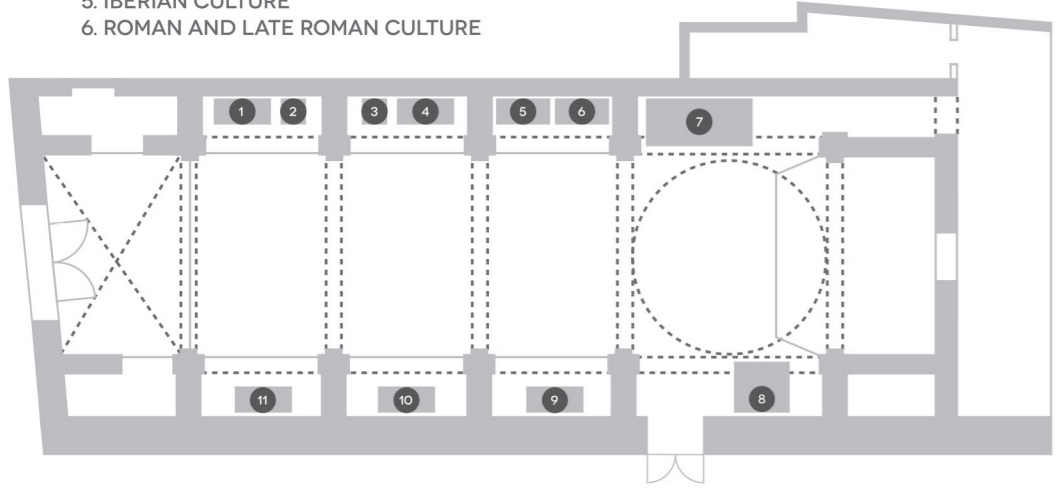
Museo Arqueológico Comarcal de Orihuela

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ORIHUELA



# REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ORIHUELA

- 1. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS
- 2. PALEOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC
- 3. COPPER AGE
- 4. BRONZE AGE
- 5. IBERIAN CULTURE
- 6. ROMAN AND LATE ROMAN CULTURE



- 7-9. ISLAMIC CULTURE
- 10. LATE MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN CULTURE
- 11. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

LOCATION OF MUSEUM

## HISTORY

The Regional Archaeological Museum of Orihuela is the heir to the former Antiquities Museum of the Santo Domingo School founded in 1920 by the Jesuit priest Julio Furgús, which is the origin of part of the current museum's collection. The Museum was created by the City Council of Orihuela, pursuant to the authorization granted by the Ministry of Education and Science on 16 February 1970, and it was located successively in the Palace of Teodomiro, in the Municipal Hospital, in the Palace of Rubalcava and, since 1997, in its present site at the Church of San Juan de Dios, which was built in the mid-eighteenth century.

## THE COLLECTIONS

The Archaeological Museum features materials from a broad and diverse time span: the oldest are from the Paleolithic and the most recent date from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most materials are of local or regional origin, and were discovered in surveys and excavations undertaken by the museum itself.

**The collections include the following notable items:**  
A set of objects from the Paleolithic lithic industry, carved on pebbles from the glaciais-terrace of Hurchillo, which includes a number of bifaces, possibly from the Acheulean period (roughly 300,000 B.C.).

A series of tools from the Copper Age (2500-1900/1800 B.C.) were found in burial caves (Cueva de los Roca, Cueva de San Antonio de Pádua, Cueva de Carlos IV, etc.) and settlements (El Rincón, El Cabezo, Las Espeñetas, etc.). The objects include arrowheads and silex knives, sledgehammers, adzes and polished stone axes, bone and copper bodkins, beads and ceramics (mainly ovoid and bell vessels).

From the Argaric Culture (1900/1800-1300 B.C.) there are diverse materials from excavations by Julio Furgús in Orihuela and Callosa de Segura. These include both metallic objects, such as bodkins, daggers and copper arsenate flat axes; ceramic objects such as basins, bowls, globular and carinate vessels and goblets, etc.; bone objects such as bodkins and spatulas and lithic objects, silex sickle elements and millstones).

From the Iberian Culture (550-40/30 B.C.) come ceramic sets from San Antón, Los Saladares and Calle Miguel Hernández, in addition to sculptures from the Cerro de los Santos (Montealegre del Castillo, Albacete): a female head and a small offering lady.

From the Roman Culture (end of third century B.C. – fifth century A.D.) and Late Roman Culture (fifth century-early eighth century) come ceramic sets, such as amphorae, common ceramic pieces and sigillatas, glass unguent jars and coins of different origins. Special mention should be made of mosaics from the fourth century A.D., a chapter comprised of two acanthus leaf crowns (dated between the fifth and sixth centuries A.D.) and the "Orihuela Tombstone", an important Hebrew relic dating from between the sixth and seventh centuries A.D. depicting the menorah flanked by two peacocks.

From the Islamic Culture (eighth to mid-thirteenth century A.D.) we would mention the manifold and abundant ceramics collections from urban excavations, showing a wide variety of shapes and decorative techniques. Of particular interest, among non-ceramic materials, is the epigraphic collection of the museum and a number of restored funereal monuments from the Muralla Cemetery (adjacent to the Plaza de la Soledad).

From the Late-Medieval and Modern Era (second half of the thirteenth to the eighteenth century) come a number of Gothic-Mudejar objects and crockery from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, mainly from pottery makers in Valencia (Paterna, Manises and Alcora) and Italy (Savona).

