

# BARCELONA ITINERARIES THE URBAN HIKING



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## Roman Itinerary

The beginning of everything in this city happened in the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. In this time, the city was named *Barcino* and nowadays, people can discover the ruins of the first walled enclosure in the only and unique neighborhood, the *Barri Gòtic* located in the *Ciutat Vella* district. It will take you only 1 day to walk this itinerary or 2 if you will plan to pass some times in museums.



From the *catalunya square* 0, you will head to the *vila de madrid square* to discover the **Roman necropolis** 1, just walk down *la rambla street* and the first street on your left, take the one that calls *canuda* until the first square. Walking above a footbridge, you will see 70 tombs dating between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.C. and how Romans built their graveyards outside the city walls.



*Roman tombs*

Meanwhile you will be here, although it is not during the Roman period, take a moment to discover:

- ❖ the Savassona Palace (calle canuda 6) 2.
- ❖ the Maja fountain 1

Let's keep the walk on the same street, when you will arrive at its end, turn right toward the cathedral, you will arrive on the **nova square** 2 where there is a bridge. Imagine how could be the life during the Roman period because here stands the ruins of one of the 4 wall entrances of *Barcino* calling *porta praetorian* (north side). The wall and the defense towers date from the 1<sup>st</sup> B.C. and 4<sup>th</sup> A.C. centuries but during the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the to-



*In front of the old bridge on the nova square*

wers have been renovated. The 3 other entrances were located at the following streets:

- ❖ llibreteria crossing tapineria (east side - cardo maximus) ③ that called porta principalis sinistra
- ❖ boqueria crossing banyes nous (west side - cardo maximus) ④ that called porta principalis dextra
- ❖ regomir crossing correu vell (south side - decumanus maximus) ⑤ that called porta decumana.

Take a look on the left tower, enclosed to the Ardiaca House, you will see the **Roman aqueduct** ③ from where the water was coming. In front, you will find a visual poem from Joan Brossa spelling the word Barcino.

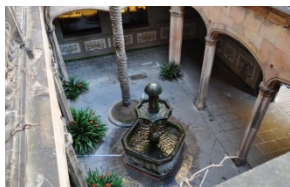


*Children frieze on the left and giant frieze on the right*

Now by looking towards the opposite side of the bridge, you will discover the CAB building (Architect Association of Barcelona) but surely your eyes will be attracted by the 3 friezes of Picasso ⑤. By taking one of the

main ways used by the Roman colony to get out/in of the city calling decumanus maximus (nowadays calling *bisbe street*), you will head to the **Ardiaca House** (calle santa llúcia 1) ④. It is the first street on your left after crossing the bridge. If the main door is opened, go inside, there is a very nice small courtyard with a fountain.

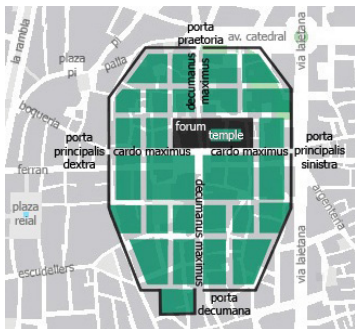
Go back to the *bisbe street*, few steps farther, turn left at the first street then right. Inside a small medieval courtyard of the Hiking Association of Catalonia, here is hiding the ruins of 4 columns of the **Augustus Temple** (calle paradís 10) ⑤ which



*Courtyard of the Ardiaca House*

was one of the temples located in the forum of Barcino. Near to this street number, try to spot a millstone and you will discover the

highest point of the Roman city calling the **Táber Mount** 6.



*The Roman city overlaid on the actual Barcelona*

Walking to the beginning of the *paradis street*, you will cross the road calling *ardiaca* (actually naming *baixada de la llibreteria street*) on your left and you will discover a big square where was the **Roman forum** 7 (now calling *sant jaume*). It was

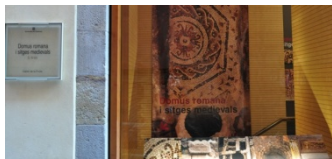
a meeting and politic discussion place; actually, it is on this square that the City Hall of Barcelona (in front of you) 6 and the Catalan Government Palace (at your right) 7 are located.

Turn right at the first street after passing in front of the entrance of the palace then take the first street on your left. The Morell House (calle fruita 2) is a building dating from 1851 but in 1999, a **domus** 8, dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, has been discovered during its renovation where people can find some ruins of the Roman house but also ruins of *tabernae* (a commercial building).

Now you will turn back, from the *baixada de la llibreteria street*,



*Entrance of the Hiking Association of Catalonia*



*Main front of the domus*