

ARCHITECTURAL DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

Tarragona

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SPAIN




Tarragona
Living History

The first Roman city outside the Italic peninsula, Tarragona (formerly Tarraco) is not just a historically rich destination, but a literal monument for the ages. Capital of the Tarraconense region – the largest province in the Roman Empire – the city was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000 and each year welcomes thousands of guests to explore its authentic, millennia-spanning architecture. Serving as a testament to the engineering prowess of one of the earliest civilisations, the site is remarkably well preserved and offers visitors the opportunity to engage and surround themselves with tangible historical monuments.

Now in its 23rd century, the city boasts many of the archetypal architectural stylings of the Roman Empire. Among these; stone archways which betray the façade of former homes that were still lived in up until the Middle Ages and the Roman Amphitheatre, which would once have hosted up to 14,000 spectators to gladiator and wild beast fights. Tarragona is our Architectural Destination of the Year because it represents not only the architecture of the Roman Empire, but civilisation through the ages; stylistic flourishes and additions helping to sustain the city and turn it into a living monument to humanity's perseverance.