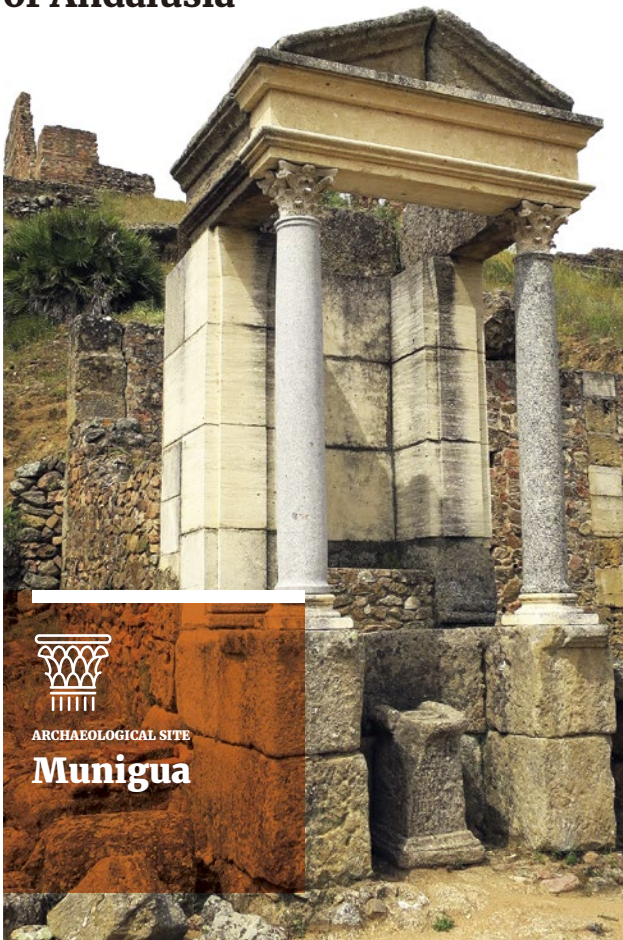


Archaeological and Monumental Sites of Andalusia



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Munigua

↑ Aedicula of Mercury.

HISTORY

4th century B.C. - 1st century B.C.

A previous Ibero-Roman settlement in the city of Munigua is known that has its origins in the 4th century B.C. A part of the town prior to the Roman city was located under the terraces Sanctuary. Domestic and industrial activity has been documented in the lowest area of the city.

1st century B.C. - 1st century A.D.

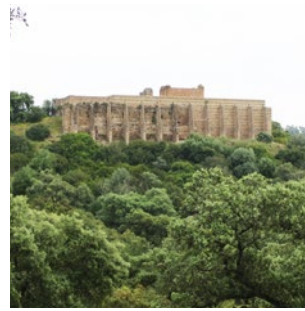
The oldest stages of the so-called house 2 are from the Roman Republic and Augustine era, which demonstrates the continuity of the Munigua settlement during the change of era.

Final third of the 1st century A.D. - End of 3rd century A.D.

The greatest splendour of the city coincides with the granting of municipium status to Munigua by the Vespasian emperor. From that time, the now Municipium Flavium Muniguense will suffer an authentic urban remodeling that will affect, fundamentally, the eastern hillside that is raised in this location. They will construct new buildings such as the terrace Sanctuary, the Forum, the so-called Podium Temple or the Aedicula of Mercury. They will construct new rooms in the thermal baths and at least some of the sections of the wall will be raised during this period. At the end of the 3rd century they suffered an earthquake that marked the beginning of its decline.

4th century - 12th century

The continuity of the settlement of this city has been witnessed until at least the Almohad period, although it never again had the importance it achieved in the first, second and third centuries.



← Western wall with buttresses on which the terrace sanctuary is raised. ← Access stairs to the Podium Temple. ↓ Detail of the apodyterium wall paintings of the thermal baths.



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FREE ADMISSION

FINDINGS

Over the course of the different excavation campaigns they have recovered in Munigua 45 high quality sculptures and more than 150 terracotta pieces from the 2nd century A.D., the majority of the latter originating from the funeral goods. From the funeral goods they also recovered jewels, vitreous and ceramic pots, vanity articles and coins.

Numerous are the inscriptions that bring us closer to the Muniguen society. Among all of them, it is worth mentioning a bronze tessera in which a contract that establishes the fidelity and clientelism of the Muniguen people with the Sextio Curvio Silvino Narbonne magistrate. Of great importance is also a bronze epistle, from the emperor Titus to the residents of Munigua. In it the emperor imposes a judgement to be honoured by the inhabitants of this city.

To the right, a sculpture of a woman. Currently identified as one of the Sirens. It has been interpreted as Hispania and as Venus. The head appeared in the thermal baths. The body was reused, as a construction stone, in a wall 20 metres more to the south of that building.



Agencia Andaluza de Instituciones Culturales
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA Y PATRIMONIO HISTÓRICO

SEE AND UNDERSTAND MUNIGUA

1 Wall

The construction of some of its sections has been dated in the 2nd century A.D. It's construction affected the two necropolises of Munigua. As a completely unusual fact about the Roman world, some of the tombs were included in the interior of the *pomerium*, which would be a violation of Roman laws since it was totally forbidden to bury within the city. The wall did not meet defensive functions for which it was designed and raised because, for reasons unknown until now, the north side was never built.



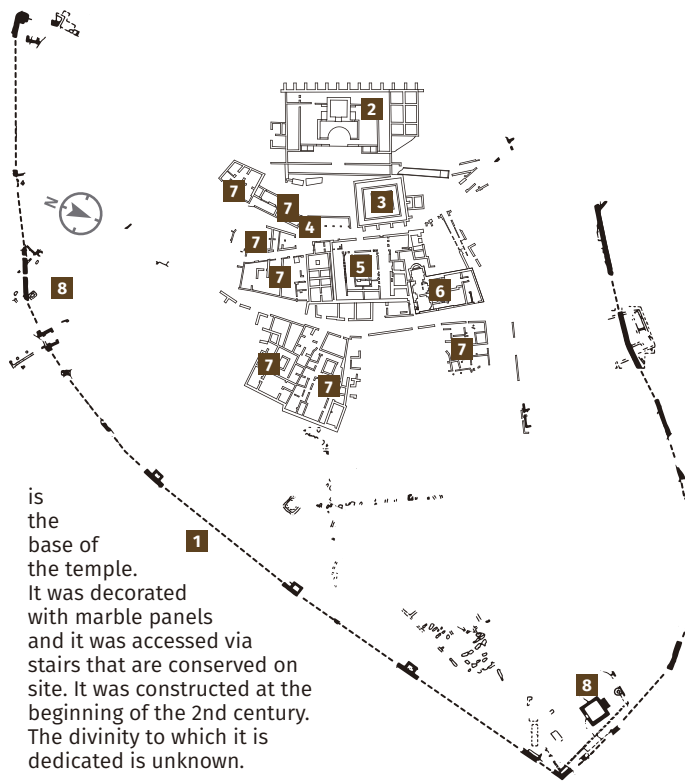
↑ Idealised reconstruction of the terrace Sanctuary.

2 Sanctuary of Terraces

It is raised at the highest point of a hill and for its construction, dated in the final third of the 1st century A.D., it was necessary to construct large retaining walls, especially on the western side. The building, which faces east, is symmetrically organised according to axial axis. It is accessed through sloped streets (one to the north and the other to the south) which are entered through identical doors. In the central terrace the semicircle exedra opens that frames the landscape it faces. Above it, on the last terrace is the *cella*, a small building in which the divinity would be housed. The inscriptions located in the area allude to the goddess Fortuna and to Hercules. The sanctuary would be connected to them. The Iberian settlement, of which some of its foundations can still be seen, was demolished for its construction. The sanctuary's walls were originally covered with various shades of marble. This building was the subject of extensive conservation and restoration interventions in the 1980s.

3 Podium Temple

It is shaped like a square block, reinforced with four buttresses that support it on its eastern side. The walls of the religious building sit on a podium upon which rests a smaller one, that



is the base of the temple. It was decorated with marble panels and it was accessed via stairs that are conserved on site. It was constructed at the beginning of the 2nd century. The divinity to which it is dedicated is unknown.

4 Aedicula of Mercury

It is a small temple that is located in the so-called Forum Street. On a podium a small *cella* is raised (on which the image of the divinity would be) that is flanked by two Corinthian-style columns. The columns would support the architrave and pediment. In front of the exedra an altar was located, on site, in which it is said that a man, Ferronius, dedicated it for a promise. Another, an Augustan priest named Lucius Fulvius Genialis, dedicated another inscription to Mercury. This appeared after the building's collapse. The walls of this small temple were plastered and possibly painted. Next to the *aedicula* there is a very large, rough granite stone table that could be related to this temple although the purpose for which it was built is unknown. It was used between the end of the 1st century and end of the 3rd century.

5 Forum

It is located on the eastern hillside of the local hill, on the intermediate terrace, below the Podium Temple, and above and on the same block as the thermal baths. In this area they discovered two inscriptions of two municipal magistrates, curiously, a father and son. The central area was occupied by the Temple, the patronage of which is unknown. The Curia is located to the north, a meeting place of the municipal senate, the Dis Pater Sanctuary, divinity of miners and the Tabularium, the city's archive. On the south side of the Forum the Basilica is located, where justice was



↑ Idealised reconstruction of the Forum Temple.

administered and legal and business contracts were closed.

6 Thermal baths

The current floor of the thermal baths has an L shape and, at present is presided over by the Nymphaeum. In addition to the nymphaeum, the *apodyterium* or dressing room has been documented, the *caldarium* which is the hot water room, the *tepidarium* or warm room, the *frigidarium* - cold water room - and, in a courtyard, the *praefurnium*, the oven. They are dated in the second half of the 1st century A.D. Subsequently, at the end of the century, a part of the Thermal baths would be sacrificed for the Forum's construction. They were remodeled numerous times throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries. In the *frigidarium* a statue of a nymph was discovered. This image is what resulted in the identification of the apsidal building as a nymphaeum. It is in the Thermal baths where the greatest number of statue fragments were found and, in its interior, wall paintings are still conserved. From the 4th century A.D. this building seems to have been used only as a home.

7 Roman houses

To date there are seven houses excavated in Munigua. They were different sizes - house 1 has a surface area of 500 square metres and came to have 22 rooms - its floors were adapted to the existing urban planning and underwent different renovations throughout its existence. All of them would have an upper floor, such as house 2 - next to the Forum - used the ground floor to carry out business operations. There are houses have, still, walls remaining that are 2 metres high. In one of the rooms in house 5, a treasure of 122 coins was discovered, almost all of them from the second half of the 4th century.



↑ Idealised reconstruction of one of the Munigua houses.

8 Necropolis

Surrounding the city, both to the south and the east, the necropolis of Munigua was located. The construction of the wall totally affected, and as a completely unusual fact, a part of the same that remained included in the city's interior. To date, 170 tombs, both of cremation and incineration, have been excavated. Familial or professional burial enclosures were found. It should be noted that, for its monumentality, a mausoleum built and used during the 2nd century A.D., of which walls of 2.7 m high are conserved. With a rectangular floor, in its origin it would be covered by a half barrel vault on the inside and a gabled roof on the outside. In it 5 burials were uncovered: 2 in sarcophagi (tombs A and B) and 3 bustum-type cremations (tombs C, D and E). All of them, except tomb A, contemporary to the construction of the building, were opened underground below the building. The cadavers were buried with more or less rich funeral grave goods. During the 4th and 5th centuries a good part of them were stolen.