

# The Gate of Cordoba

## Carmona

### The Gate of Cordoba

The Gate of Cordoba was erected between the end of the 1st century BC and the beginning of the 1st century AD, in the north-eastern side of the city, in the natural path of a depression and at the end of the Via Augusta towards Cordoba.



It originally had three openings: a central one, which had bigger dimensions to allow the transit of carriages and horses, and another two lateral ones for pedestrian traffic. Two towers on either side defended the gate. At the same time, two sections of the wall between the

tower and the adjacent elevations of alcor (a characteristic kind of stone of the area) completely closed off the access to the valley and the city.



*Groove for the portcullis in the central opening.*

The Gate of Cordoba had a second body from which the portcullis (a grating that could be raised or lowered) was operated. The existence of this portcullis is attested by the groove preserved in the first course of the central opening. This second body was accessed by the stairs located at the side entrances.

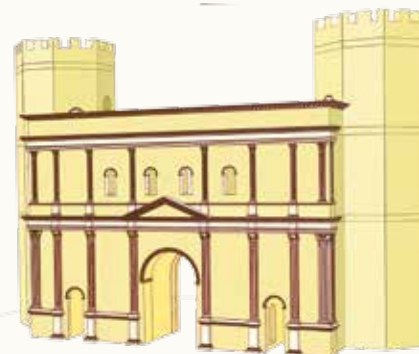


*Arch for pedestrian traffic.*



*Stairs at the side entrance.*

The whole gate was built with squared ashlar carved from alcor stone extracted from local quarries.



*Hypothetical restoration of the interior facade*

while in the two sections of the wall, the rusticated ashlar were left visible.

The interior facade protruded from the towers and had a podium on which semi-columns were resting, framing the three opening, and pilasters at the corners. On the external side, the overlap of architectural orders and the decoration with pilasters in bas-reliefs, extended to the towers, reinforced the propagandistic character of the construction.

The gate and the towers were stuccoed and decorated,

It is not until the Late Roman Empire that the two pedestrian openings were blocked. Besides, the gate underwent successive stages of destruction and reform, which would continue over time until reaching its current neoclassical appearance. That is the result of the remodelling carried out between 1796 and 1800 by José de Echamorro, an architect born in Carmona.



*Pillar in the south tower*

*Audio guide*







## The city

The Roman city of Carmona was arranged around two main streets, oriented perpendicular to each other. They were called *Cardo Maximus* and *Decumanus Maximus*. At the ends of these streets, there were four monumental gates. Of these, the two corresponding to the *Cardo Maximus* have been preserved: The Gate of Seville and the Gate of Cordoba.

At the intersection of these two streets was the forum, the true civic, administrative, religious, and economic centre of the city. It consisted of a rectangular square in which the most representative buildings were located (temple, basilica, curia, etc). In the case of Carmona, the *Cardo Maximus* corresponds to the urban route of the *Via Augusta*, which linked Cadiz with Rome.

Outside the walled enclosure, on either side of the *Via Augusta* towards Seville (known as *Hispalis* at that time) were the circus, the amphitheatre, and the burial sites.

## What to see

### NEAREST ROMAN STRUCTURES.

- Outside: *Via Augusta*. Roman road and Roman bridge
- Inside: *Cardo Maximus* and the remains of the Forum

### OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- Roman rooms of the City Museum.
- Mosaics in the City Hall.
- Gate of Seville.
- Hypogeal sanctuary in San Felipe church.
- Mausoleum in Paseo del Estatuto.
- Roman necropolis

