



Foto: DJ Foto

Cáparra Roman City

The ruins of Cáparra continue to remind us of the power of an empire, enabling us to sense and imagine it as we tour the remains of its Roman road, known as *Via de la Plata* (Silver Way) and which crossed one of the city's main arteries, the decumanus, helping it to blossom and distinguish itself thanks to a progressive period of monument construction. The vestiges of this past continue to attract visitors, who tour and recreate it in their own imaginations.

This ancient road, used since pre-historic times, cannot die, since it was always a natural road that connected north and south, and in time came to meet the Santiago Way that crossed the peninsula from Seville to Astorga to link up with the French Way. This is why this road is still alive, since pilgrims still come from southern Spain, and in increasing numbers.

Its origins date back to the first half of AD 1, though its roots may lie in previous indigenous populations with Celtic roots. Fully walled in, its remaining foundations can be seen today. It is open only through three access doors, located respectively to the east-west and southwest, the latter door standing out for the robustness of the defensive bastions that flanked it.

Interpretive e

In an enclosure stands the Cáparra Interpretive Centre, where you can get more information on the historical features of the city and watch an illustrative 3D video that recreates how the city was. From the centre you can visit the city of Cáparra for free. The visit can last over an hour.

Opening hours

The Roman city and Interpretive Centre are open all year round. In summer, from June to September: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. In winter, from October to May: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. The Cáparra enclosure and Arch can be seen outside opening hours. Tel: 927 199 485.



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How to get there

From the A66 (Silver Motorway) a few miles from Plasencia, take the detour at Guijo de Granadilla - Oliva de Plasencia. Or, also by leaving Villa de Plasencia in the direction of Gabriel y Galán reservoir. From there it is signposted.



Cáparra
 Roman City

Spaces of light and silence

TIERRAS DE GRANADILLA

Cáceres • Extremadura



The archeological work done throughout the years has discovered the city's different spaces: the administrative forum, the city's political and religious space, where the remains of the main buildings are visible today; the Basilica, curia and two of three existing temples, one of which is of Jupiter. We can glimpse roads and houses, commercial premises, recreate with our imagination a thermal baths complex, whose ingenious underground system of hot air conduction provided heat to some rooms and the palestra, where exercise was done.

The famous four-faced arch, the *tetrapylum*, stands out for being excellently preserved. The only one of its kind on the Iberian Peninsula which, as a Roman trophy, challenges time, remaining marvellously erect at 42.6 feet high in what is still the geometric centre of the city. Its beauty of four faces and balance of proportions stand out before this district's endless blues. This is where the two main streets come together: *Cardo* and *Decumanus*, leading to the forum and, like veins ordered by a ruler



and compass, the rest of the streets that gave life to the city branched out.

Outside the walls and outside time: the amphitheatre. Several necropoli continue to speak to us of the finitude of human stories, while the universe of the Gredos mountains draws the lines of the nearby horizon.



The city, now known as Casablanca, is located in a beautiful landscape open to the enormity of Extremadura, between Oliva de Plasencia and Guijo de Granadilla, and within the Alagón Valley on the banks of the river Ambróz on a promontory that dominates this river and the nearby lowland area. An olive grove with Mediterranean aromas combs the landscape as on a set of the ancient empire and surrounds the city.

The murmuring river Ambróz near the Roman city draws tongues of gentle water, over which the Roman bridge of Cáparra, declared a Cultural Heritage Site, and in perfect condition for use, continues to speak to us of the monumentality of a civilization that we carry in our blood and that, like the triumphant Arch of Cáparra, forms part of the vital storyline of this great land.



Floralia

Roman spring festival

Local action group Ceder Cáparra organises a beautiful event in may called *Floralia*, which recreates the Roman spring festival in honour of *Flora*, the goddess of fertility, and is celebrated with all manner of pomp and joy. *Floralia* is a success in citizen participation that successfully transports us via the five senses to a different time thanks to a careful selection of actors, costumes and scenery that successfully and perfectly recreate Roman culture. There are "Roman

workshops" for children throughout the day on flower crowns and mosaics, festive processions, quadriga shows, slave auctions, fights between Celtiberians and Romans, markets, theatre shows and even a tavern from the era. For one day, *Floralia* fleetingly returns to the Cáparra ruins the splendour it achieved when it became the municipium of Rome with Emperor *Vespasian*.