

The Roman City of Clunia



Iberian As CLOVNIOQ

Arevaci Clunia

All we know about the Celtiberian city come through the Roman remains. During the Sertorian War, Pompey laid siege to the city of Clunia, where Sertorius was resisting. At Sertorius death (75 BC), Pompey and his followers occupied several towns: Clunia, Uxama, Termes, Valentia, Calagurris and Osca.

Twenty years later Clunia started would become the theater of the latest chapter of the Numantine War. After Numantia's fall, it appears as an ally of the Vaccaei whom, years before, had helped Clunia itself. Metellus crushed them and besieged Clunia but didn't manage to subjugate it (56 BC). The following year Afranius, Pompey's legate, finally succeeded in subduing Vaccaei, Arevaci and the city of Clunia.

The exact location of the Arevaci city is not known. Nonetheless, in the surroundings remains of pre-Roman settlements have been documented.



Tiberius As coined in Clunia



Roman Clunia

Under Tiberius (14-37 AD) Clunia has the statute of Roman municipality; in fact with this emperor the city minted coins with his effigy and the names of the city's magistrates. We know that Clunia was the capital of the provincial court in the middle of the 1st century AD, legal and religious centre of a vast area connected through major routes passing from the city or close to it.

In the revolt against Nero, Galba took shelter in Clunia, stirring up the Legio Septima Gemina (Seventh Twin Legion) and waiting to be proclaimed emperor by the Senate. It is possible that the city of Clunia was named *Sulpicia* after Galba (Servius Sulpicius). Through the *tabula patronatus* of the National Archaeological Museum we know that in 40 AD Clunia was still not a colony and its citizens adopted a patron; through the *tabula patronatus* of the Vatican Apostolic Library (222 AD) we know that Clunia at the time was still capital of the provincial court. The first to mention Clunia as a colony was Ptolemy (2nd century AD), naming it with its full name COLONIA CLUNIA SULPICIA.

Clunia survived until the late seventh century but its importance in Visigothic time declines, as seems to prove its disappearance from the literary sources, the lack of a mint and the establishment of an Episcopal see in Uxama.



Gold earrings found in Clunia



Archeological site of Clunia

Opening times:

Summer: from 10:00 to 14:00 h & from 16:00 to 20:00 h
 Winter: from 10:00 to 14:00 h & from 15:00 to 17:00 h
 Closed on Mondays

Last admission 30 minutes before closing

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COLONIA CLVNIA SVLPICIA



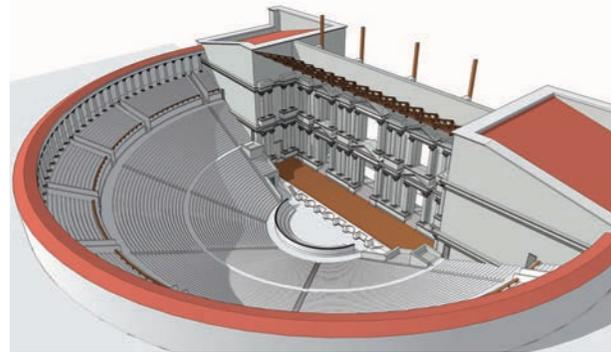
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Archeological site. Peñalba de Castro. Burgos



1. Theatre. 1st Century.

The stands were partly leaned on the hillside and partly carved on the rock, at the top there was a gallery which was used to access. The audience looked at a stage which consisted of two floors of Corinthian columns among which were placed sculptures and doors through which actors entered and left the scene. At the top of the stage was placed an inclined wooden sounding board which allowed the sound to reach the highest parts of the stands. During the 2nd century, it was converted into a venue for wild animal shows and fights.



Reconstruction of Clunia Theatre

2. Thermae "The Arches II" 1st Century.

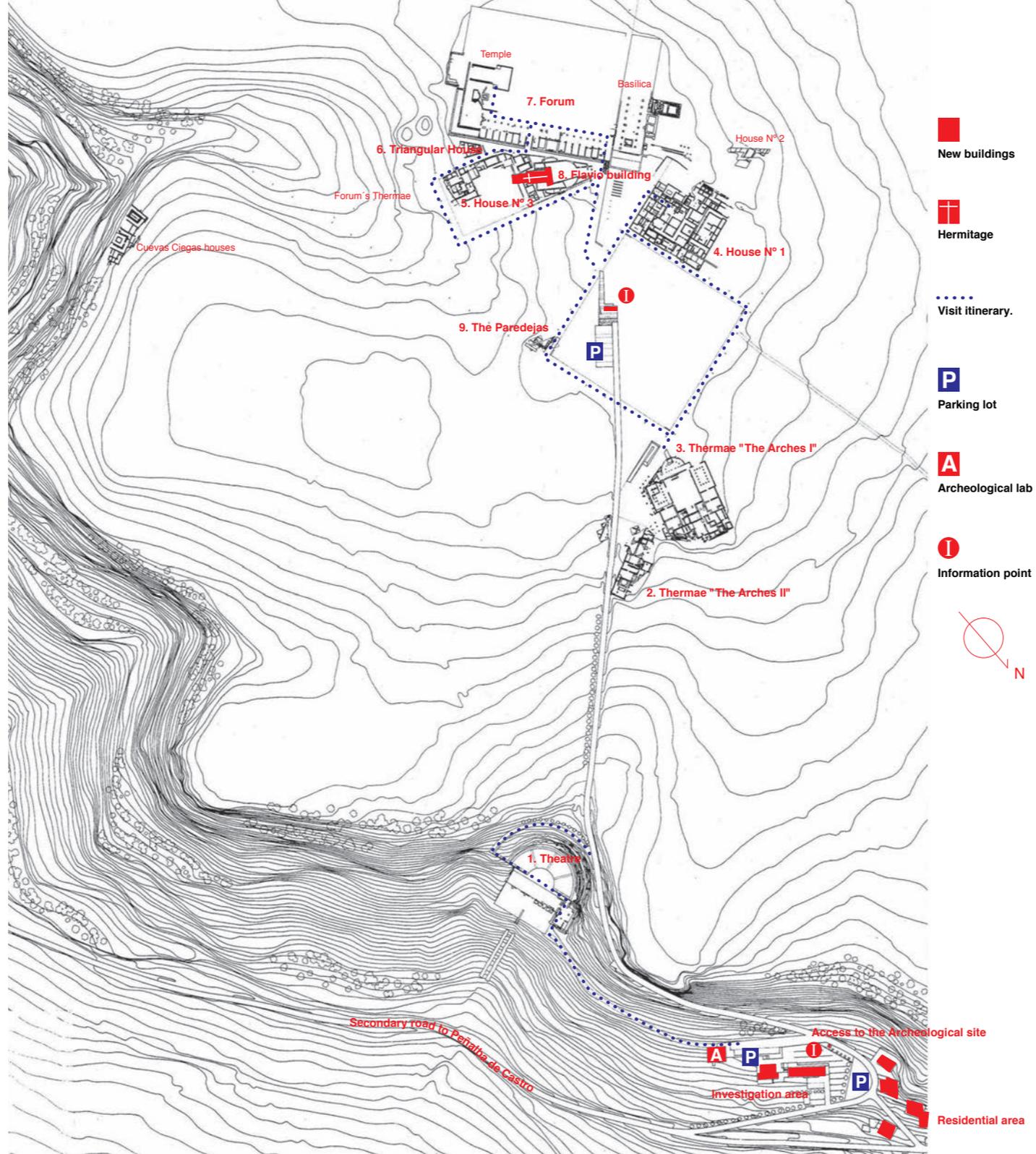
This bath complex is not excavated in all its extension, so its exact plan is not known. Its main body consists of a palaestra which gives access to a series of rooms where the different types of baths were held. The whole displays several phases of construction, as in "The Arches I".

3. Thermae "The Arches I" 1st Century.

A bath complex with a symmetrical structure; the main areas divided into two along a longitudinal axis, leaving an external area, in the centre, where usually the pool (*natatio*) was located. The main entrance, a semicircular portico with columns, is connected with an external porticoed street or square. The whole clearly shows various phases and reuse, which lasted till the 5th century AD.



Longitudinal section of the thermal baths of Clunia



4. House n.º 1. 1st Century to 4th Century.

Its boundaries on the North and East side are not known with complete accuracy. It was excavated by Taracena but it has never been correctly interpreted. It has several phases of construction with multiple and deep transformations. The large underground rooms and the group of mosaics catch the visitor's attention.

5. House n.º 3. 1st Century to 5th Century.

The total area of its extension is not known, as its Northeast half still has to be dug out. At a later stage, some rooms disappeared after the construction of the Flavio building and the chapel. It had paintings on its walls and mosaic floors.

6. Triangular House.

It occupies the space between the decumanus of the house No.3 and the Forum. It has a black and white mosaic.

7. Forum. 1st Century.

It's a large public square conceived not only for the municipality, but also to gather citizens from the whole provincial court on special occasions. In the Forum would take place the activities that marked the life of a Roman citizen.

The religious function is at the head of the forum, represented by the Temple of Jupiter. The commercial function develops in the central area, a porticoed square, where there were small shops called taverns and under the portico where street merchants could be found. The legal function is developed at the back of the forum, in a building called Basilica; large covered space where lawsuits are resolved and contracts sanctioned, it was also used to keep the laws and as a register. In its condition of provincial court, once a year the Basilica would be used to receive the Governor of the Province (Hispania Citerior) and to carry out the trials related to the territory of the whole provincial court.



Forum of Clunia

8. Flavio building. Late 1st Century.

The function of this building is still a mystery. Its peculiar plan allows to identify a great access through a portico with four columns. The body of the building consists of a large rectangle finished with a semicircle at its North side, with two areas located symmetrically around a peristyle.

9. The Paredejas.

It is a partially excavated building, a great formwork wall made of mortar and pebble still survives.