

Roman Theater Museum of Lisbon

About

This is an on-site museum, located in the historic area of the city; this site of the Museum of Lisbon aims to reveal what used to be one of the most important monuments of the city of Olisipo.

The museum is set inside two buildings from different eras, one from the eighteenth century and the other from the beginning of the nineteenth, an example of industrial architecture, which used to house a printing press and a leather bag factory. The building was renovated and adapted to host the Museum of Lisbon – Roman Theatre.

The site has a long-term exhibition and is an archeological dig site.

Possibly built in the time of Augustus, during the century. I d. C., and rebuilt in the time of Nero (according to an inscription described by authors of the 18th century), this Roman building was discovered around 1798, when the caboucos were opened for the construction of buildings under the general project of Pombaline reurbanization. post-earthquake of 1755. Knowing the finding, the architect Francisco Xavier Fabri made the first excavations on the site, while making a detailed graphical survey of the state of the property. These designs are of great importance at present, for they present us, for example, with the still almost intact *proscenium* wall, which was originally composed of ten rectangular and three semicircular *exedrae* of different widths, which together were symmetrically distributed from a semicircular located in the center of the *orchestra*. The penultimate of these *exedrae* also landed stairs of access to the *pulpitum*, which, in turn, consisted of five steps. Unfortunately, shortly after Fabri's studies, a significant part of the ruins of the Theater were destroyed, or simply reused for other buildings, including some erected on the ruins themselves. In 1967, it would be Fernando de Almeida's turn to conduct a survey, which allowed him to pinpoint the ruins, and Irisalva Moita excavated an area from *hyposcaenium* to the first steps of *imacavea*. In fact, this set of excavations allowed scholars to perceive the building structurally, seeing that the semicircular *orchestra* still preserved traces of the old mosaic floor, made with small rectangular and square lithic plates of various colors and shades. The entire infrastructure of the stage was preserved by observing the floor, the *opus signinum* of its *hyposcaenium*, as well as the parallelepiped pillars upon which the wooden beams supporting the *pulpitum* rested. The columns, stems and capitals would belong to the Ionian order. In 1989, and after a break of more than two decades, it would be the turn of the Lisbon City Council to establish the Technical Office of the Roman Theater. As a result of the work that has been done since then, it has been possible to determine the Theater's occupancy area of about 34.60 m, while verifying that only the lower area was in better condition as it was excavated on the site itself. constituent outcrops of the hill and taking advantage of its natural slope. In the meantime, the excavations were interrupted in 1990, and a whole project for the enhancement of space was conceived, promoted by the Culture Department of the Lisbon City Council, which culminated in the inauguration in November 2001 of the long-awaited musealization. [AMartins, 2003].

Transport

Metro: [Blue Line \(Stop Terreiro do Paço\)](#)

Bus: [737 \(Several Stops – closest is Limoeiro\)](#)

Tram: [12 \(Stop – Sé\)](#) & [28 \(Stop – Sé & Limoeiro\)](#)

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