

CARTAGENA

SPAIN



THE CONQUEST OF CARTAGENA

Cartagena hides beautiful secrets in its insides. It is a unique city, perhaps the greatest unknown in south-eastern Spain, and it has always been difficult to conquer: throughout its 3.000 years of history great battles were fought in Cartagena leaving in its inhabitants an imprint of pride and love for their city which can be easily remarkable in everyday life. But they are right to be proud! Did you know that Cartagena was the main base of the Carthaginian Empire in the Iberian Peninsula, later the Roman Empire? And that it self-proclaimed an independent canton in 1873 and asked to be annexed to the United States? Or that the inventor of the first electric propulsion submarine was Isaac Peral, from Cartagena? Do you know that it currently has one of the largest literary jury in the world, made up of 5.000 young readers? And that every year during the Night of the Museums the city counts as many visits to museums as in some great European cities?

Cartagena is history, culture, gastronomy and it is “fiesta”: a Mediterranean city that loves music and organizes outstanding festivals with great international artists; a city proud of its memory, that loves celebrating its past and that has a network of museums which is unusual for its area.



With a still young university and after the suffering of a severe crisis at the end of the last century, Cartagena has the charm of those cities living a recent modernity: a changing city, with a growing studying population, whose center is crowded with newly opened bars and business and where everything seems possible. Like a new outbreak in an ancient trunk: an old city with a very young heartbeat.

This little guide, created by a passionate European volunteer who lived here during a few months, does not presume to be a detailed tourist guide but rather a gateway to the best secrets of the center of Cartagena for young audiences.

It's just a door. Come and see... and live it! Cartagena always conquers.

Alberto Soler
Youth Technical
@albertosoler



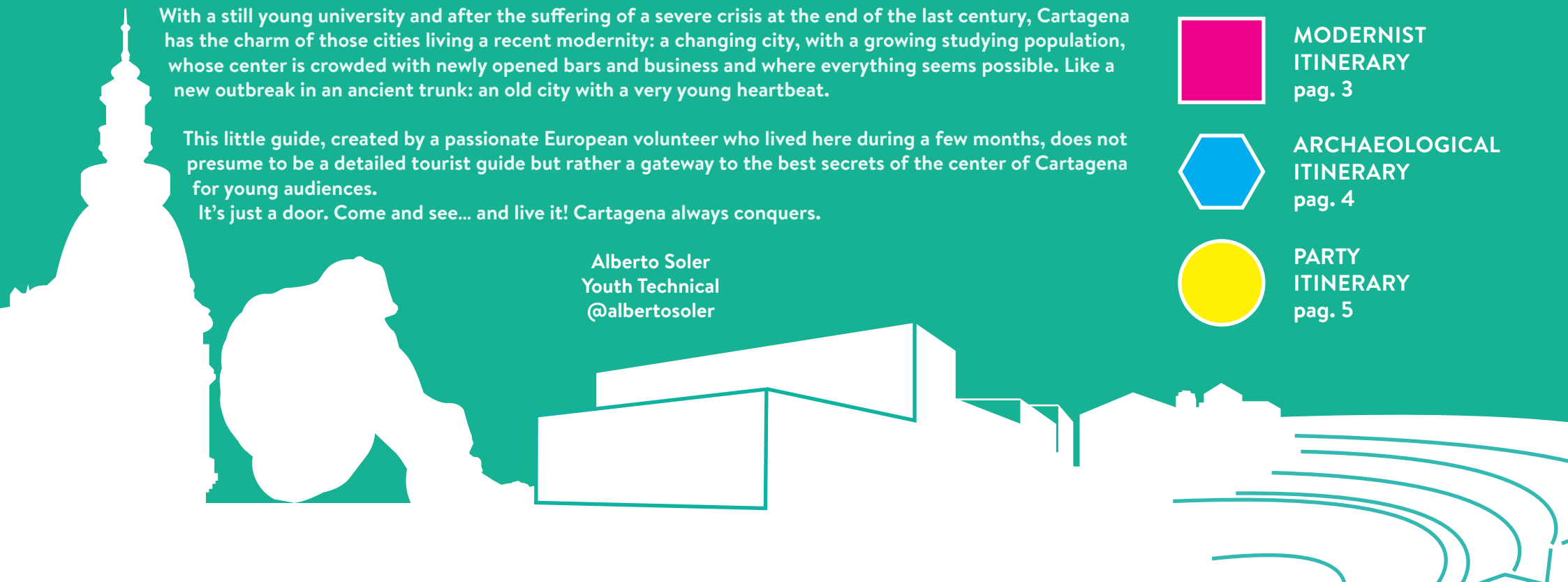
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MODERNIST ITINERARY

Following the footsteps of architect Víctor Beltrí (Tortosa 15.04.1862 - Cartagena 4.02.1935). He was the greatest representative of modernism in Cartagena. Cartagena presents an impressive architectural wealth that makes it a very elegant and precious city. It is worth taking a walk around the center and strolling around looking at the buildings.



CASA ZAPATA (1910)
Plaza de España nº 9

The railing is spectacular, the iron decoration majestically contrasts with the yellow stone. The only area that can be visited (since nowadays it is a school) is its square-plan neozarí interior patio decorated with mudéjar plasterwork and polychrome tiles, covered with a dome made of iron and decorated crystal.

CASA DORDA (1908)
Calle Carmen nº 57

It can be seen only from the outside. The magic is in the inside, though! A totally white neo-Roman interior courtyard, with arches of Arabic imprint. Some concerts may be held here during "M + M" festival.



GRAN HOTEL (1912)
C/ Jara nº 31

It can be seen only from the outside. It is one of the most famous buildings in the city. The most representative example of modernism in Cartagena and the Beltrí's masterpiece. The façade is bicolor, white and red and is characterized by a great verticality. It has a rich decoration with floral motifs and garlands in stone, really baroque style.



CASA CERVANTES (1897)
C/ Mayor nº 11

It can be seen only from the outside. It was Beltrí's first assignment in Cartagena. The façade is marble, stone and brick. Very typical are the white bay windows. At the entrance you can see two bronze plates with the heads of the Roman deities Mercury and Minerva.



CASINO (PALACIO CASA TILLY - 1897)
C/ Mayor nº 15

Guided tours every Saturday at 12:00 / 3 €

The building was the old house of the Marquis of Casatilly, definitively renewed by architect Víctor Beltrí in 1897. Very interesting the system of its zenithal illumination.



CASA MAESTRE (1906)
Plaza de San Francisco nº 5

It can be seen only from the outside. It is inspired by the Casa Calvet de Gaudí (in Barcelona). The similarity can be noticed in the curvilinear lines of its balconies and windows.



PALACIO AGUIRRE (1898) - MURAM
Plaza de la Merced nº 16
Tues/Fr 10-14 / 17-19
Sat 11-14 / 17-20
Sun y fest 11-14 Mon closed

The Regional Museum of Modern art (MURAM) is next door.



*The indications of the hours and prices may depending on the season

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ITINERARY

The city of Cartagena was founded, with the name of "Qart Hadasht", around 227 BC by the Carthaginian general Hasdrubal. Since its founding, it has been a strategic enclave of the Mediterranean Sea, really coveted by the many civilizations that settled in the city, from the Carthaginians, passing through the Romans, the Byzantines, the Visigoths, to the Muslims. Cartagena is history.

COLUMNATA ROMANA DE LA MORERÍA BAJA
Calle Morería Baja nº 4
Free entrance

It was one of the old entrances to the city. Eight massifs with four bases of columns that would belong to the portico of a great Roman building. The basements supported a pedestrian transit portico.



BARRIO DEL FORO ROMANO
Calle Honda nº 11
Tuesday and Sunday: 10-19
Entry: 4€/5€

A set of buildings where the thermal baths and their porched access are preserved together with a building dedicated to the celebration of religious banquets and whose mural paintings, high columns and great rooms take the visitor back to that time.



MUSEO DEL TEATRO ROMANO
Plaza del Ayuntamiento nº 9
Tuesday a Saturday: 10-19
Sunday: 10-14
Entry: 3€/5€/6€

The Museum of the Roman Theatre in the brilliant conception of architect Rafael Moneo, leads the visitors to the interior of the Roman Theatre, turning the monument itself into its last great room.



TEATRO ROMANO
Calle Cuesta de la Baronesa

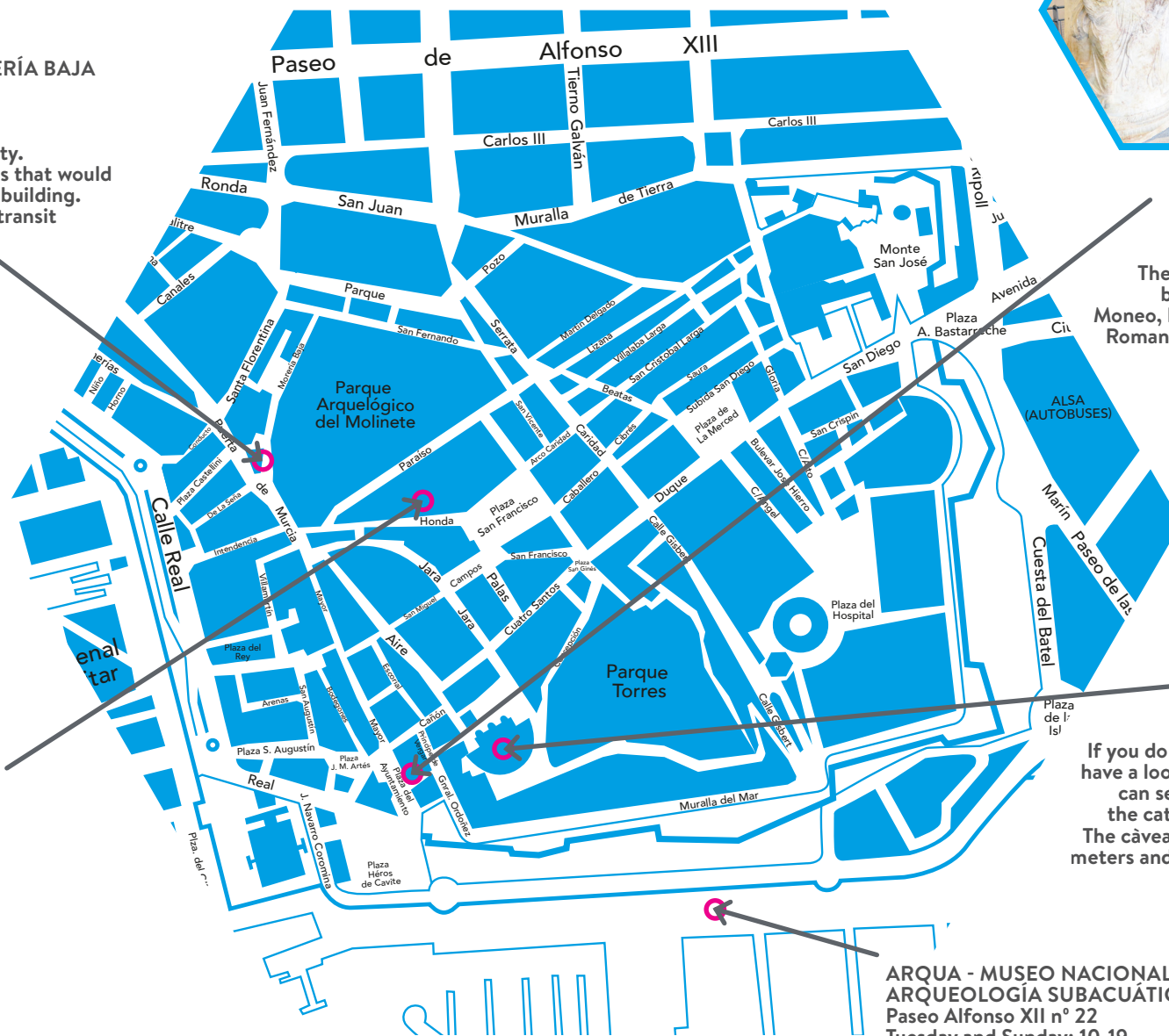
If you do not want to visit the museum, at least have a look at the theatre from the outside. You can see the stratification of the theatre and the cathedral belonging to different periods. The cava is impressive, with a diameter of 87.6 meters and a capacity of about 7000 spectators.



ARQUA - MUSEO NACIONAL DE ARQUEOLOGÍA SUBACUÁTICA
Paseo Alfonso XII nº 22
Tuesday and Sunday: 10-19
Entry: 3€

This museum is the institution responsible for making citizens aware of the Spanish Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Museum has extensive collections starting from the Phoenician era. At the weekend, guides offer free guided tours to visitors: Saturday at 5.30pm/ Sunday at 12pm

*The indications of the hours and prices may depending on the season



PARTY ITINERARY

MOSTACHO CAFÉ BAR

Licenciado Cascales n° 10

Very cool bar to enjoy eating and drinking in a cozy and very private way. If you are hipster, you like striped shirts and burgers this is your place.

OFF THE MAP

MISTER WITT

Calle San Roque S/N

Magic place, jazz music and the typical '20s atmosphere. Its owners, Celia and Esteban, will make you feel at home. Moreover you must not miss the concerts and all the cultural activities held here. OFF THE MAP



LA UVA JUMILLANA

C/ Jara n° 26

A typical place where to have tapas. A modern winery with that kind of old-fashioned touch, good quality-price ratio. The patatas bravas (fried potatoes) and fried cheese are very good.



EL SOLDADITO DE PLOMO

Calle Príncipe de Vergara

A very nice place to have a tea, a coffee, a beer or whatever you may prefer. The best "Asiatico" in the city. The owner, Tania, transforms all of your evenings in fairytales.

Cartagena also means food, beer, partying and hanging out with friends. You must try its nightlife, that at the weekend is delayed until 7am. And if you just want to have a coffee, the center is super active after "siesta time", that is, after 5 pm.



TÁNTALO

Calle Cuatro Santos n° 22

The only disco in Cartagena. Raggaeton, pop, disco and so on...there is music for anybody. Entrance (Friday and Saturday) 3€/6€/8€.



CASABLASA

Calle Aire n° 9

High quality chupitos and drinks in a young and enjoyable surrounding. Also very good music. You cannot miss it!



AUDITORIO EL BATEL

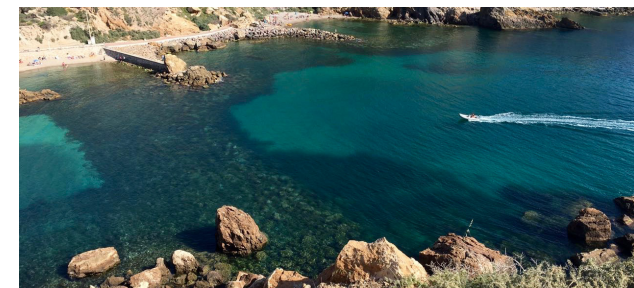
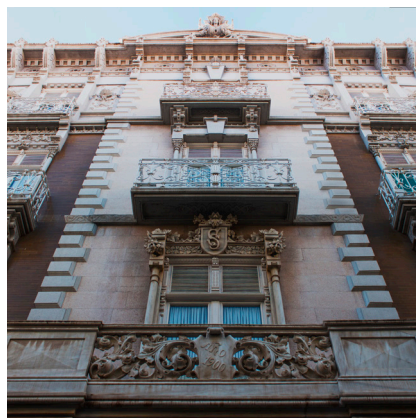
Paseo Alfonso XII S/N

It is the terrace of the Esencia Restaurant, located in the Auditorio El Batel. Elegant and sophisticated place, with a view on the harbor. A terrace that will make you fall in love with modern architecture and design.



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What is an "ASIATICO"? It is a coffee made with condensed milk, cognac, Licor 43, some coffee grains, lemon rind and cinnamon. Licor 43 is a particular kind of spirit made in Cartagena which according to myth is made using 43 ingredients.



Photographs from this page and
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 [j.bonaplata](#)

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 [carolarivetti](#)

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Please consider the environment before printing.
Cartagena, June 2017



EL PROYECTO

The project is an initiative organized by Carola Rivetti - European Volunteer from Italy in the Young Space of the Council of Youth of Cartagena.

Why did you decide to create a mini city guide?

Because when I received the email informing me that I had been selected for a European Volunteer Service (EVS) in Cartagena, I searched for information on the Internet, but I only found news from Cartagena de Indias (Colombia!).

Which is the target of this guide?

One of the two projects I developed in Cartagena was with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). Erasmus are young people who come here to study at UPCT for a few months, and often receive visits from friends from other places in the world. This guide is designed for these people: young foreigners who spend a few days in Cartagena with their friends.

What do you think of Cartagena?

Cartagena is a lively, exciting and entertaining city. Much more than I expected before arriving, really. It has been very difficult for me telling you about the city in these few pages.

This wants to be simply an input to discover it and fall in love with Cartagena little by little. I have left part of my heart here. If you are reading this, it is because either you are in Cartagena, or have heard of it or are planning a trip there... a tip: take all the time you need to talk to people, ask if you have any curiosities. Spanish people will make you feel at home.

CAROLA RIVETTI GRAPHIC DESIGNER

#Graphics #Visual #Communication
#Designer

Carola Rivetti, 29 years old.

Creative, ambitious, curious.

I love traveling and reading. I have a true passion for symmetry and geometric shapes.

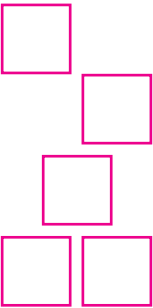


 CAROLARIVETTI

www.carolarivetti.com



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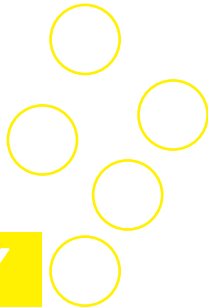
MODERNIST
ITINERARY

Handwriting practice area for the Modernist Itinerary, featuring 12 horizontal pink lines within a pink rounded rectangular border.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ITINERARY

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PARTY
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