### Cartagena Spain Port Guide



Cartagena Port (photo courtesy of Carol Mills)

Cartagena Spain Port Guide

Cartagena is on the southern coast of Spain, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. There are two docks used by cruise ships. The main (north) dock is 1000 feet from the tourist area. You'll ride a shuttle bus if your ship docks on the south side of the harbor.

Cartagena is pedestrian friendly. It's ideal for self-guided touring. Tourist sites are concentrated in a relatively small area. You can visit most sites by walking 7170 feet, 1.36 miles, round trip from the main (north) dock.



There are hills, but you'll be able to walk around them to avoid steep slopes and climbing stairs. Use the Panoramic Lift to ascend 150 feet to the top of Concepcion Hill, the highest hill in the city. People in wheelchairs can get around. There are ramps and lifts at most tourist sites.

Cartagena is an historic port city. Human habitation dates back to the Bronze Age, 3,000 years BC. Hannibal led his army and war-elephants from his home city of Cartagena across the Alps to fight the Romans. The Romans were victorious. Cartagena became an important, and prosperous Roman Colony in 54 BC.

### **GPS** Coordinates

This guide includes GPS Coordinates for tourist sites and key locations. Open this port guide in one window on your computer and open Google Maps in a second window. Copy and paste the GPS coordinates into Google maps to find sites and get directions and time for travel by car, bus, walking, or bicycle. The coordinates can be used with any Google map format such as "map", "satellite", "earth", and "terrain" views at any map scale.

These coordinates can also be used in hand-held or vehicle GPS devices. Note that these devices can accept different formats. It's important to set your device to accept data in this format:

Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds shown as N ddd° mm' ss.ss", E ddd° mm' ss.ss"

### **Table of Contents**

Subject	Pages
Cruise ship dock location	2
The official tourism website is excellent. Download the tourist map showing 46 tourist sites	3-4
Tourist map with suggested walking route	5-7
Roman Theatre Museum	8-10
Calle Mayor, Santo Domingo Church, walking route to Roman Forum & Crafts Centre	11-14
Crafts Centre	15-16
Walking Route back to ship, Tourist sites = Augusteum, House of Fortune, Punic Wall	17-19
Castillo de la Concepcion, Panoramic Lift	20-23
Shelter-Civil War Museum, street-level detail walking back to ship	24
Buses in Cartagena	25-26
Goal of port guides – Your feedback is important	27

### **CAVEAT**

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify information for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. You are free to use and share this guide for non-commercial purposes. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

### Tom Sheridan

Note: I would like to thank Carol Mills for her help on this guide. If you are wondering which photos are hers, it's simple. If you like the photo, Carol took it.

### **Cruise Ship Dock Location**

There are two docks used by cruise ships (map below)



### The main (north) dock is the preferred location $GPS = N 37^{\circ} 35' 43.79'', W 0^{\circ} 58' 56.78''$

The tourist area begins 1000 feet north of the dock. Cartagena is pedestrian friendly. There are a few hills, but you can minimize climbing if you walk the right route and use the elevators.

### The alternate (south) dock

 $GPS = N 37^{\circ} 35' 21.6'', W 00^{\circ} 58' 43.9''$ 

It's too far to walk from this dock to the tourist sites. You'll need the shuttle bus to/from your ship.

### Fort Christmas (Fuerte de Navidad)

GPS = N 37° 35' 8.23", W 0° 59' 8.22"

I have shown the fort on this map because it's the only tourist site south of the harbor. The fort has been a key part of the harbor defensive system since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It can be reached by car or the catamaran tour boat, "Barco Turistico." Admission is 3.50 euros. Hours are typically 11:00 to 14:00.

The Tourism Office recommends the boat tour with a stop at the Fort. Cost for the boat + fort = 8 euros.

### You'll see the lighthouse in front of Fort Christmas as your ship enters/leaves the harbor. (photo below)



### The Official Tourism Website Is Excellent see <a href="http://www.cartagenaturismo.es/">http://www.cartagenaturismo.es/</a>

Click on the flag for the language at the top of the page. I selected English. Then click on the city map.



This will download a high resolution, pdf map to your computer, in the language you selected. The map shows 46 tourist sites (listed below), a description of the sites, and locations for taxis, the tour bus, and the tour boat.

### List of Tourist Sites Shown on the Official Tourist Map

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGHTS

MODERNIST AND ECLECTIC BUILDINGS

- Municipal Archaeological Museum
- 2 Centre for the Interpretation of the Punic rampart
- The House of Fortune
- 4 Augusteum
- 6 Roman Forum District
- 6 Roman Colonnade
- Byzantine Rampart
- 8 Roman Theatre Museum
- 9 Centre for the Interpretation of the History of Cartagena. Castillo de la Concepción
- 10 Amphitheatre
- 11 National Museum of Underwater Archaeology
- 12 Torre Ciega
- Centre for the Interpretatation of the Defensive Architecture of Cartagena, Navidad Fort.
- 25 Railway Station
- 26 Aguirre House, MURAM
- 27 Caridad Church
- 28 Maestre House
- 29 Clares House
- 30 City Hall
- 31 Cervantes House
- 32 Casino
- 33 Casa Llagostera House
- 34 Gran Hotel
- 35 Pedreño House
- 36 Dorda House
- 37 Zapata House
- 38 Urban Expansion Company House

# BARROQUE AND NEOCLASSICAL BUILDINGS

- Campus Muralla del Mar
- Carles III Rampart
- Midshipman's Barracks
- 16 Arsenal Gate
- Naval Museum
- 18 Santo Domingo Church
- 19 Santa María de Gracia Church
- 20 Molina House
- 21 Naval Headquarter Palace
- 22 Carmen Church
- 23 Artillery Headquarters

## CONTEMPORARY ROUTE

- 39 Spanish Civil War shelter-museum
- 40 Lift-Gangway
- 41 Auditorium and Congress Center El Batel
- Monument to the Heroes of Santiago de Cuba and Cavite
- 43 Regional Assembly
- 44 Carmen Conde-Antonio Oliver Museum

### TOURIST TRANSPORT

- 45 Tourist Vessel
- 46 Tourist Bus

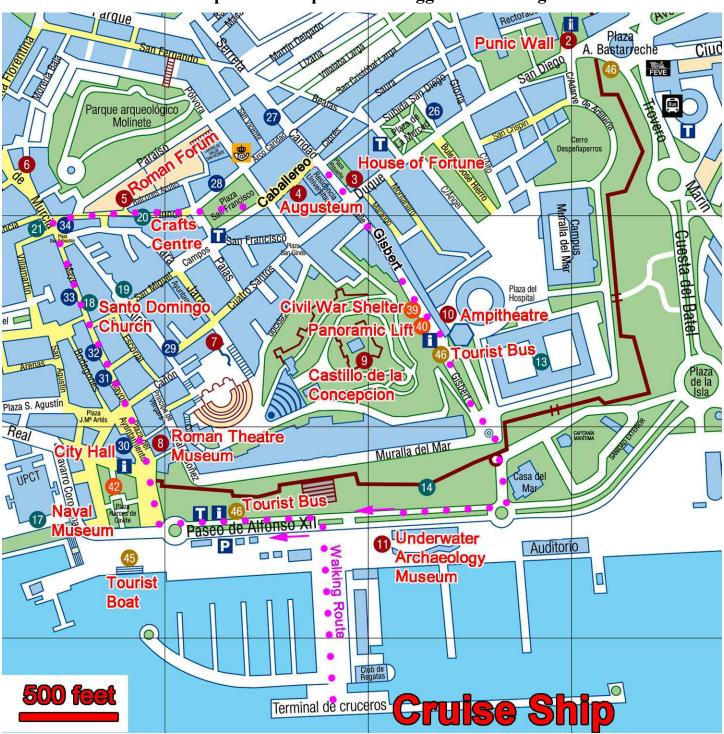
### Cartagena-Spain-08-20-2013

### Download the Tourist Map BEFORE you visit Cartagena.

It's an invaluable resource for planning your shore excursion. See <a href="http://www.cartagenaturismo.es/">http://www.cartagenaturismo.es/</a>
Since the Tourism Office link to download the map might change or be broken, I have placed the map on my website. You can always download it from this link <a href="http://www.cartagenaturismo.es/">www.TomsPortGuides.com/CartagenaMap.pdf</a>

The only thing missing from the map is a distance scale. I have added a distance scale, cropped the map to focus on the main tourist area, and added a walking route (map below).

### **Tourist Map Marked Up to Show Suggested Walking Route**



### NOTE: Cartagena is a pedestrian-friendly city. I show a suggested walking route on the previous page.

- My walking route goes left (west) from the cruise dock and turns right (north) on Calle Mayor, the main, marble-paved, pedestrian walkway through the tourist area.
- The walking route turns right (east) on Calle Honda to the Roman Forum, the Crafts Centre, Augusteum, and the House of Fortune.
- Then it turns right (south) on Gisbert to Castillo de la Concepcion where you take the Panoramic Lift to the top of the hill. When you return to the base of the lift, walk downhill (south) to the main street, Paseo de Alfonso XII, and turn right (west) to walk back to the dock.
- This walking route is 7170 feet (1.36 miles) round trip from/to the ship.



Walking Route from Dock to Calle Mayor (Google earth map below)

Walk 1000 feet north from the main (north) dock, cross Paseo de Alfonso XII at the traffic light, and turn left. You will pass a tourist information booth, taxi stands, a public bus stop, and the stop for the Tour Bus. Visit Tourist Information to get current tourist site open hours and travel tips. The schedules for open hours change! It's 860 feet to Calle Mayor. Calle Mayor is the main, marble-paved pedestrian street with gorgeous buildings and many shops, outside cafes, restaurants. banks, etc.

### Tour Bus (Bus Turistico) GPS = N 37° 35′ 52.83″, W 0° 59′ 3.20″

The tour bus is 7 euros and takes about 45 minutes. It makes stops at the Panoramic Lift and near the Punic Wall. The line for the bus was very long. We got there early and waited about 30 minutes.

A tour that will not fail to awaken your interest. A modern double-decker bus, equipped with audio guides in various languages, (Spanish, English, French And German) which enables you to visit the whole city and to enjoy every place of interest in complete comfort. We will take you from ancient Cartagena with its walls, buildings and archaeological remains to modernist Cartagena, in the heart of the historical and commercial centre of the city. You will also enjoy some marvelous views of the restored marine promenade.

Calle Mayor offers some interesting sights near the harbor. There's a small park next to City Hall with a monument to the Heros de Santiago de Cuba and Cavite. There are several bronze statues, and the marble head of a man buried in the ground (photo right).

To the south, you'll see the dock, between two columns, for the tour boat (Barco Turistico).

Tour Boat (Barco Turistico) GPS = N 37° 35′ 52.16″, W 0° 59′ 8.80″

Catamaran boats depart hourly beginning at 11:00. The ride is 60 minutes and costs 5.75 euros or 8 euros, including a walking tour of Fort

Christmas (Fuerte de Navidad). See page 2 of this guide for information on the Fort.

From the sea, you get a completely different vision of Cartagena. Discover every corner of the city's natural harbour. Learn about the system of defensive fortifications -its wall, monuments, castles, forts, coastal batteries- as well as the stories and legends in its past, and the commercial and military role Cartagena has played in 3000 years of history. Walk trough all the maritime accidents in the dock shelter to enjoy all the port setting. A tourist walk suitable for all ages showing them the importance of Cartagena as a strategic location.

**To the north,** you'll see City Hall, also called Palacio Consistorial de Cartagena, a gorgeous triangular-shaped building. The entrance to the Roman Theatre Museum is across the street. **(photo below)** 





The city we call Cartagena today, was called Carthago Nova when it became a Roman Colony in 54 BC. Two of the most important sites were the Roman Theatre and the Roman Forum. Ruins of these historic sites are along Calle Mayor. The Roman Theatre is across from City Hall. The Roman Forum is north of the City Hall on Calle Honda.

Roman Theatre Museum (Museo del Teatro Romano) N 37° 35′ 55.8″, W 00° 59′ 07.4″

See <a href="http://www.teatroromanocartagena.org/publicas/el\_museo/el\_edificio/\_OKV6vA7nw0qaCNPEL8nFLA">http://www.teatroromanocartagena.org/publicas/el\_museo/el\_edificio/\_OKV6vA7nw0qaCNPEL8nFLA</a>
For a video, see <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBViNQGeVmE&feature=youtu.be">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBViNQGeVmE&feature=youtu.be</a>

Admission is 6 euros.

Hours are 10:00 to 14:00 Sunday, 10:00 to 18:00 Tuesday-Saturday from May 1 to October 30th.

The Roman Theatre Museum is connected via an underground passage to the Santa Maria Cathedral and the Roman Theatre. The **photo (below left)** shows the locations of the Roman Theatre Museum entrance, the Santa Maria Cathedral, and the Roman Theatre.

There are escalators, elevators, and ramps, but you'll have to climb some steps if you wish to explore the Roman Theatre. It's possible to visit <u>most</u> of this site in a wheelchair using ramps and elevators.

There are many excellent statues, busts, columns, etc., on display in the museum (photo at right below)

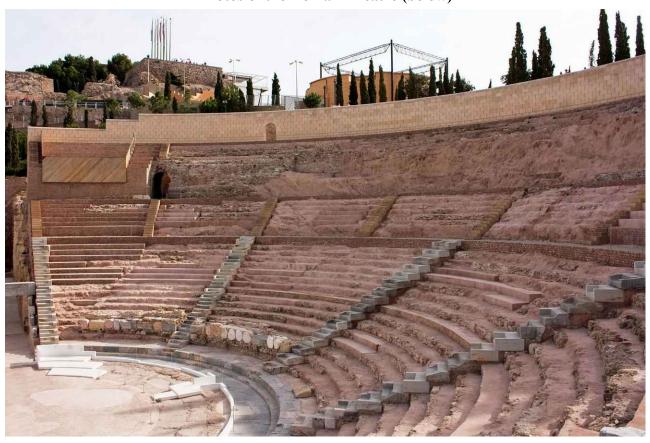


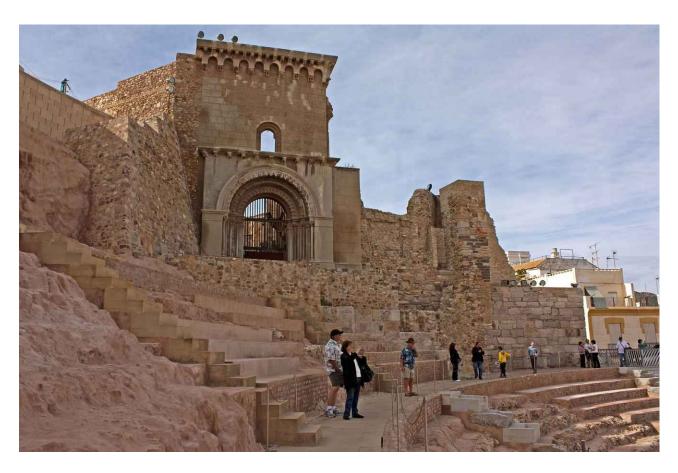


### TOGADO CAPITE VELATO Inicios siglo I d. C.

The statue is larger than life size and presided over the curia or meeting room in the local senate house situated in the Roman forum at Carthago Nova. It represents a male standing figure, clothed in a tunic with a toga draped over the head. The statue adopts an iconographic model very similar to that of the Via Labicana Augustus, which was principally used at the beginning of the Imperial period to represent the emperor as Pontifex Maximus. Early 1st c. AC.

**Photos of the Roman Theatre (below)** 

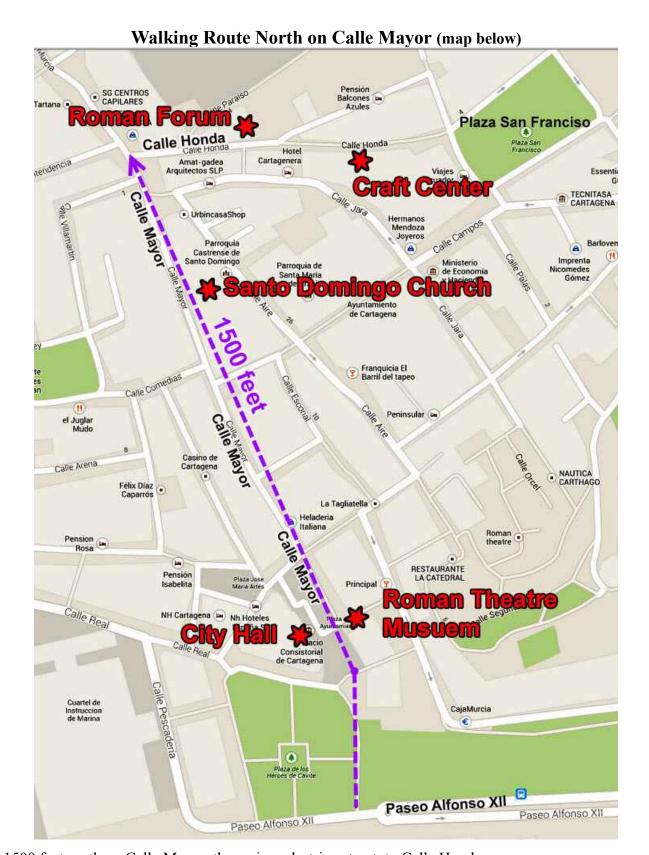






After visiting the Roman Theatre, walk north on Calle Mayor. You'll find many shops, bars, etc. (Photo below)





Walk 1500 feet north on Calle Mayor, the main pedestrian street, to Calle Honda.

NOTE: As you walk north, you'll pass many ATM machines. Most of them are NOT at banks. Look for the words "Banco" or "Banesto". On May 8, 2013, the non-bank ATM's were charging \$ 1.37 per euro. The banks were charging \$ 1.31 per euro.

Be sure to at least "window shop" at the stores. You have to stop at one of the cafes or restaurants for coffee, a chocolate drink, or some great Spanish food.

Santo Domingo Church (Iglesia de Santo Domingo) GPS = N 37° 36′ 02.5″, W 00° 59′ 11.6″

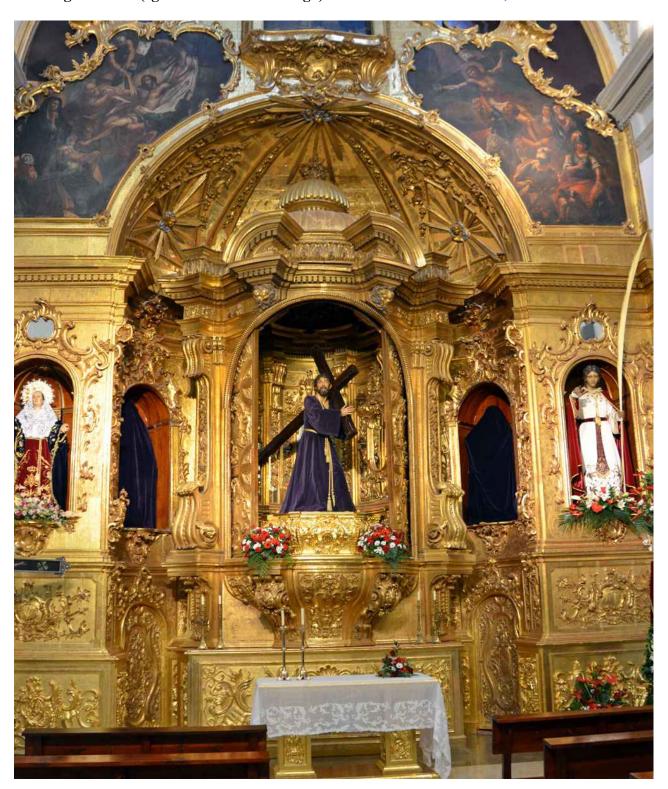


Photo of Side Altar (above)

### Turn Right from Calle Mayor onto Calle Honda (photo below)

The intersection is easy to spot. There is a bank, Banesto, on the right side of the corner.



Walk 350 feet east on Calle Honda. The road divides. The entrance to the Roman Forum is on the left. The Crafts Shop is about 100 feet ahead on the street bearing to the right (**photo below**).



### Neighborhood of the Roman Forum GPS = $N 37^{\circ} 36' 6.58''$ , $W 0^{\circ} 59' 9.44''$

It is also called Barrio del Foro Romano and Cerro del Molinete Roman Runis

Admission is 5 euros.

July 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, seven days a week 10:00 to 20:00 Sept 16<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 to 19:00

The site covers a fairly large area around Molinette hill. The two main Roman buildings were the **thermal baths** with a columned courtyard, and the **atrium building** used for religious banquets.

Spanish architecture firm Amann Cánovas Maruri (AMC) created a new structure that covers and protects the remains of a Roman assembly (thermal baths, forum and homes) in the archaeological site of Molinete Park in Cartagena, Spain (photo below).



The structure includes an elevated walkway parallel to the street, accessible for disabled visitors. It is a very light structure hanging from steel beams. Conceived as a glass box, with a faceted, partially visible geometry, it makes up the street facade and allows a view of the ruins from three meters high, allowing an overall vision of the Roman remains.

The **photo above** is taken from Molinette hill looking down to Calle Honda, which runs parallel to, and in front of, the buildings. The polycarbonate structure is impressive, but I don't like the fence around this site. Apparently, to prevent passers-by from seeing and photographing the ruins, there is a high, visual barrier fence. This is the type of fence used in the USA to hide ugly places. I believe the 2000-year old Roman ruins deserve a more attractive perimeter fence.

It's a 700 foot walk from Calle Mayor to Plaza San Francisco along Calle Honda (map below)



### Crafts Centre (Cartagena Centro Para La Artesania)

GPS = N 37° 36' 6.45", W 0° 59' 7.07"

The Crafts Centre offers unique masterpieces of hand made products produced in the region. There was a wide selection of products at reasonable prices. **I loved this store and highly recommend you visit it.** 

Hours: Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to 20:30 Sundays closed See <a href="http://www.murciaartesana.com/arca/arca.web.centro?idi=1&cod\_centro=2">http://www.murciaartesana.com/arca/arca.web.centro?idi=1&cod\_centro=2</a>

### **Photos of Craft Centre Products (below)**











Cartagena-Spain-08-20-2013

Page 15 of 27 For more guides, see <a href="https://www.TomsPortGuides.com">www.TomsPortGuides.com</a>





### Walking Route to Additional Tourist Sites and Back to the Ship

The first part of my walking route has been along the pedestrian streets of Calle Mayor and Calle Honda. Plaza San Francisco is at the eastern end of Calle Honda. Be sure to stop for photos of the huge banyan trees.

Pedestrian streets end at the plaza. You are now walking on sidewalks next to vehicular traffic. The map below shows the suggested walking route to other tourist sites and back to the ship. The route A-B-C-D-E-F is 3610 feet, about 7/10<sup>ths</sup> of a mile. Google estimates 13 minutes to walk this distance. If you include the Punic Wall, it will take a bit more time.

This walking route is on level ground until you reach the Panoramic Lift ("D" on the map below). You are walking slightly downhill from points "D" to "E" on the map below.

### La Mila: Punic Wall Calle San Fernando Эрап Farm Francisco Me Muldo Laga Salvador Sán Francisco Me Muldo Care Calle San Diego Calle San Esteban Cartagena Cerro del Molinete Roman Forum Alsa 💿 Fortune Compañía Española de Compensadores Sa Escuela Técnica Calle Honda Superior de Ingeniería de Telecomunicación Cartagenera (4) rafts Centre Cuesta del Batel Ayuntamiento mi de Cartagena Cuesta del Batel Santo Domingo mpitheatre Civil War Shelter Church Panoramic Lift Plaz? Castillo de la Calle Arena rontecnica de Cartagena Concepcion Subida San José Roman theatre ( Caixabank Roman Theatre Calle Real City Hall Vlusuem ... Calle Muralla del Mar Guiasmur, G e Facultad de Ciencias de Paseo Alfonso XII Tourist Bus Real Clu Paseo Alfonso XII Paseo Alfonso XII Paseo Alfonso XII y Palacio de Congresos Camara Uticial de Comercio, Industria Museo Nacional Evolution Divers de Arqueologia de Subacuatica y Navegación de Cartagena Cartagena 400 feet From Cruise Ship

"Suggested" Walking Route Map (below)

I used Google Maps "Get Directions" with GPS coordinates for A-B-C-D-E-F to plot the route back to the ship.

### Here are the GPS Coordinates to plot the route

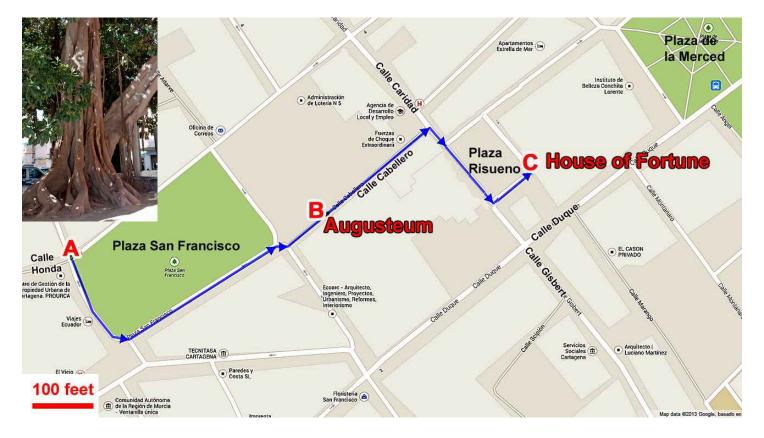
F) Paseo Alfonso XII crosswalk to cruise dock

A) Plaza San Francisco GPS = N 37° 36' 6.76", W 0° 59' 4.74" GPS = N 37° 36' 7.28", W 0° 58' 59.76" B) Augusteum GPS = N 37° 36' 8.23", W 0° 58' 55.78" C) House of Fortune (Casa de la Fortuna) If you are visiting the Punic Wall, the location is GPS = N 37° 36' 15.16", W 0° 58' 40.83" D) Panoramic Lift (Ascensor Panorámico) GPS = N 37° 36' 0.57", W 0° 58' 50.77" These sites are next to the Panoramic Lift Castillo de la Concepción Shelter-Civil War Museum (Refugio-Museo de la Guerra Civil) E) Intersection at Calle Pez & Paseo Alfonso XII

GPS = N 37° 36' 0.66", W 0° 58' 55.15" GPS = N 37° 36 '1 ", W 0° 58' 51" GPS = N37° 35' 53.39", W0° 58' 47.00" GPS = N 37° 35' 53.05", W 0° 58' 56.77"

### Walking Route From Plaza San Francisco to Augusteum and House of Fortune

Note the photo of the banyan tree at Plaza San Francisco (below left on map)



### **B)** Augusteum

### GPS = N 37° 36' 7.28", W 0° 58' 59.76"

Admission: 2.50 euros. There is no published schedule of open hours; check at the tourist office. Augusteum is the ruins of a temple for priests who worshiped Emperor Augustus. It's an important location

from an historical standpoint, but there is not much to see. The tourism bureau cites the most important feature as display boards describing the ancient city, but those boards are only in Spanish.

Even though you may not be visiting the Augusteum, look for architectural details, monuments, statues, attractive historic buildings, and ruins to photograph as you walk the streets in this area.

### Here's an interesting architectural detail (photo below)



### GPS = N 37° 36' 8.23", W 0° 58' 55.78" C) House of Fortune (Casa de la Fortuna)

The ruins are at Plaza de Risueno. Admission is 2.50 euros. Hours are typically 10:00 to 14:30 These are remains of a wealthy Roman merchant's home from the first-century BC. There are several rooms including a meeting room, dining room, food preparation area, and bedrooms. Exhibits include home and personal items such as pottery, coins, lamps, etc. The paintings and mosaics are impressive.

### Punic Wall (C.I. de la Muralla Púnica)

GPS = N 37° 36' 15.16", W 0° 58' 40.83"

If you are visiting the Punic Wall, walk northeast on Calle San Diego as shown on the map on page 17 of this guide.

Admission: 3.50 euros Hours: typically 10:00 to 19:00

These are remains of entrance wall to the city dating back to the third century BC. There are also remains of the funeral crypt with paintings of the "dance of death".

### Here are the coordinates to plot the walking route back to the ship (map below)

C) House of Fortune (Casa de la Fortuna)

D) Panoramic Lift (Ascensor Panorámico)

These sites are next to the Panoramic Lift Castillo de la Concepción

Shelter-Civil War Museum (Refugio-Museo de la Guerra Civil)

E) Intersection at Calle Pez & Paseo Alfonso XII

F) Paseo Alfonso XII crosswalk to cruise dock

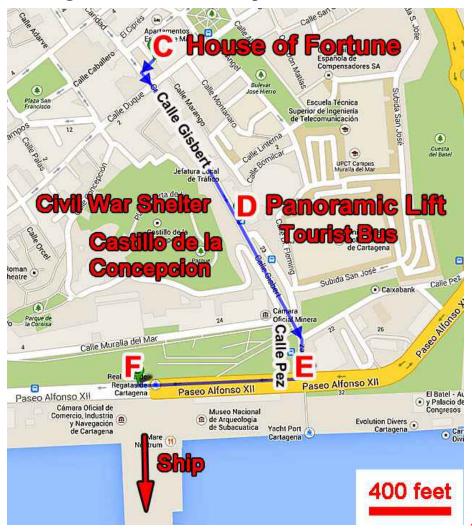
GPS = N 37° 36' 8.23", W 0° 58' 55.78" GPS = N 37° 36' 0.57", W 0° 58' 50.77"

GPS = N 37° 36' 0.66", W 0° 58' 55.15"

GPS = N 37° 36 '1 ", W 0° 58' 51" GPS = N37° 35' 53.39", W0° 58' 47.00"

GPS = N 37° 35' 53.05", W 0° 58' 56.77"

### Walking Route Back to the Ship



The 150-foot high **Panoramic Lift** is next to several important sites. The tourist bus stops here to drop off/pick up passengers. You can also board public bus #8 to ride to Paseo Alfonso XII near point "F" on the **map at left.** 

### Castillo de la Concepcion This is the most popular tourist site.

Typical hours are 10:00 to 19:00

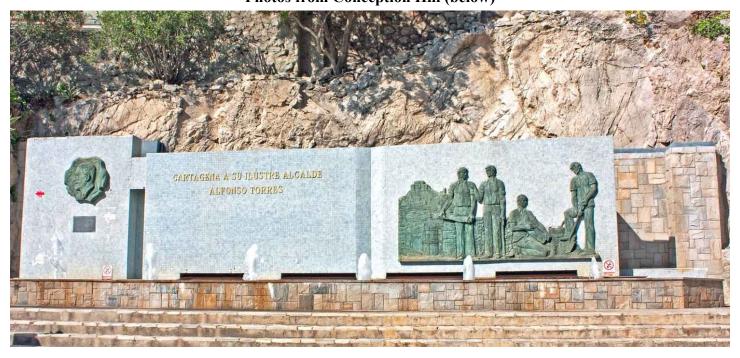
Admission:

Castillo + Panoramic lift = 4.25 euros Castillo only = 3.50 euros

Castillo de la Concepción is the best starting point to explore the city for an overview of 3,000 years of history.

The backdrop for the tour of history is the Spanish-Moorish fortress at Concepcion Hill, the highest hill to protect the city. This site was used for a Roman temple, a Muslim citadel, a medieval castle, and location of the siren warning of Civil War bombings. The top of the hill offers the best view of the city and the harbor. Using the panoramic lift avoids climbing 150 feet up to the hill.

**Photos from Conception Hill (below)** 







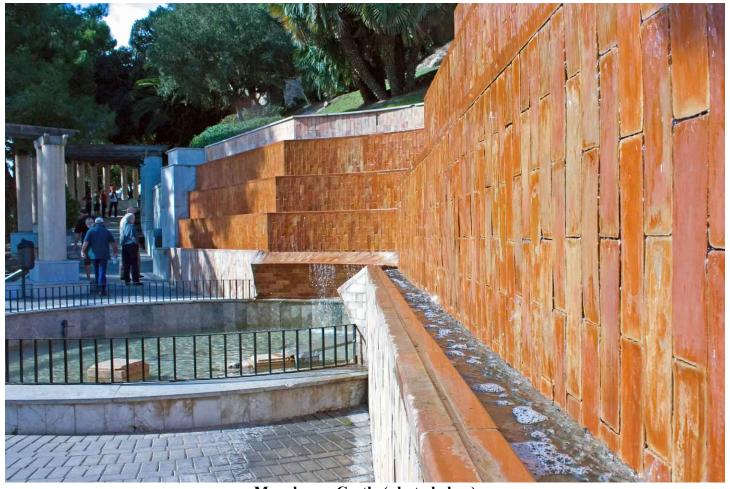
### Cannon at top of Castle Wall (photo below)



Auditorium (photo below)



### **Duck Pond (photo below)**



Mural near Castle (photo below)



Shelter-Civil War Museum (Refugio-Museo de la Guerra Civil) GPS = N 37° 36 '1 ", W 0° 58' 51" Typical hours are 10:00 to 19:00 Admission: 3.50 euros Access the museum via the Panoramic Lift.

Bomb shelters, with a capacity of 5500 people, were built in the hill during the civil war. Exhibits describe the problems during the war and emphasize peace as critical to coexistence.

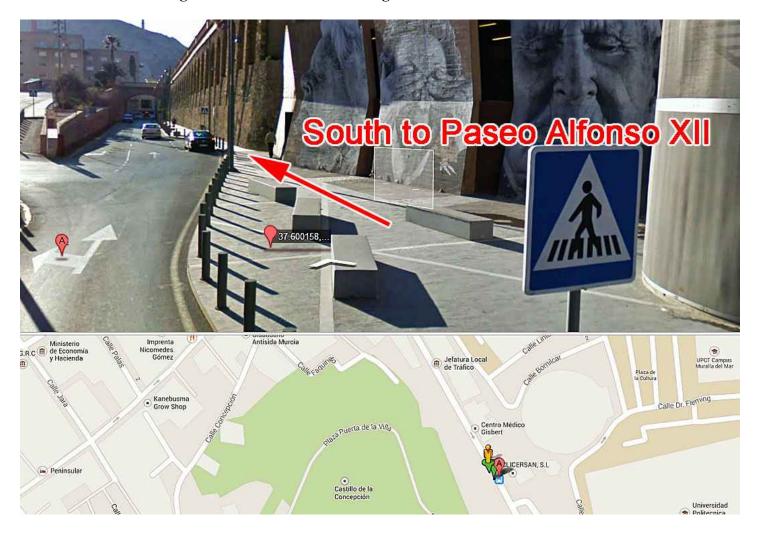
The shelter museum is on Concepcion Hill.

### **Street Level Detail on Walking Route**

You can preview your walk back to the ship from the Panoramic Lift on Google Maps.

- Enter the GPS coordinates for the Panoramic Lift N 37° 36' 0.57", W 0° 58' 50.77" in Google Maps.
- Drag the little yellow man icon onto the map at the point shown for these coordinates.
- The screen will split showing a street level photo on the top and the map below. Move the little yellow man icon around on the map to get the view you wish. This map below shows the Panoramic Lift on the right corner. The view is to the south on Calle Gisbert. You walk slightly downhill, under the bridge, and you will reach Paseo Alfonso XII where you turn right to walk back to the ship.

### Google Street Level Photo Looking South from the Panoramic Lift



### **Buses in Cartagena**

Cartagena buses are run by a private company called Alsa. Their website is <u>www.alsa.es</u>

NOTE: The buses do NOT run in the area of the tourist sites shown in this port guide.

If you are visiting the beaches or traveling outside the tourist areas commonly visited by passengers on cruise ships, you might have use for these buses. The only place I can envision that you might use a bus is between the Panoramic Lift and the cruise dock. Take Bus #8 at C/Gisbert next to the Panoramic Lift. The second stop is at Paseo Alfonso XII, across from the cruise ship dock. See the map on the next page.



**Bus #8 Schedule** 

You can download a high resolution pdf map showing the bus route and time schedule from this weblink http://www.cartagena.es/archivos/115-1502-DOC\_FICHERO/autobuses.pdf

I have marked up the bus **map below** to show Bus #8 from the Panoramic Lift at C/Gisbert to the Cruise Ship Dock at Paseo Alfonso XII.



### Goal of Port Guides - Your Feedback Is Important

### Goal

### Port guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation

by providing information, which I believe to be accurate, such as:

- Where the ship docks,
- Whether you can walk to the nearby town,
- Things to see and do,
- Options for self-guided or organized tours, and
- Travel issues unique to the port area.

Knowledge of ports is important because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship arrives in the port. You can use this port guide as a source of information, but you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information you use to plan your vacation.

### Why feedback is important

User feedback helps me make corrections and fine tune the subjects included, the length of guides, format, etc. I welcome offers to collaborate with me by providing information for inclusion in the guides.

The guides serve as an introduction to a port and are not intended to answer every question about the details of each port and tourist destination. There are other sources of information such as <a href="www.CruiseCritic.com">www.CruiseCritic.com</a> for your detailed questions. Knowledgeable CC members will share their information.

### Help "spread the word" about my website

The only negative feedback I get is, "I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation". My website was created in April 2011, and it is unknown to most cruisers. If you see value in my port guides, tell your friends, post a reference to my guides and my website on the blogs, etc. And if you wish to receive email notification when new port guides are available, send your email address to me at

TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

I wish you a great cruise vacation.

Regards, **Tom Sheridan** 

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