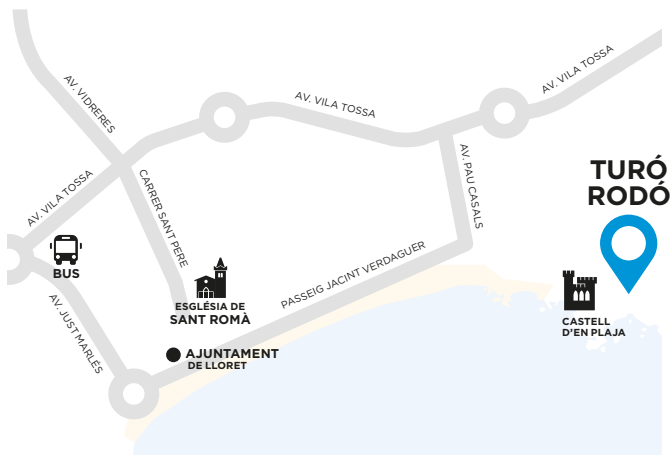




IBERIAN SETTLEMENT TURÓ RODÓ



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LLORET DE MAR

Camí de ronda de Lloret a Canyelles



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Ajuntament de
Lloret de Mar



MOLL
MUSEU OBERT DE LLORET

LLORET DE MAR



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Iberian settlement of Turó Rodó is situated on a 40-metre-high promontory located not far to the north-east of Lloret de Mar. Its eastern and southern sides are on a cliff edge directly overlooking the sea while its western side leads down to Sa Caleta beach and its northern side is joined to the land by 50-metre-wide isthmus. It was therefore an easy place to defend, with a wide field of vision over Lloret beach, the surrounding plain, a long stretch of coast and the elevations of the coastal mountain range that enclose this sector of the Costa Brava.

GENERAL FEATURES

The first references to this settlement date from 1925 but no archaeological activity took place until 2000-2003, when it was fully excavated with the support of Lloret de Mar Town Council. The excavation works made it possible to research the main features of the settlement and its historical evolution, which stretches from the end of the 3rd century BC to the early decades of the 1st century BC. It's a barrier-type coastal settlement situated on a projecting spur. A large part of its perimeter skirts along a cliff while the only accessible areas, the northern and eastern sides, are defended by a wall. The main dwellings of this settlement were attached to the interior of the wall and on their southern side opened onto a square, on the other side of which some more minor constructions could be found.

THE HOUSES

Eleven houses have been identified within the enclosure, arranged around a large square that served as a circulation area through which access could be gained to the various constructions and which was also used for community activities. A row of seven houses were attached to the wall in the north while the remaining four houses were located in the south and south-west sector on the cliff edge.

The seven houses in the north area had a rectangular floor plan and were composed of two rooms: a main room to the north and small vestibule to the south, leading onto the square. The interconnecting door was placed on the west side of the dividing wall. The walls were made out of stones bound with mud and the steep slope of the site meant that the houses had a terraced structure. The circulation level was composed of either rammed earth or was carved out of the rock itself. In the middle of the main room there was a fireplace and most of the houses contained storage silos. As regards the four houses on the south and south-west side, two were attached while the other two were free-standing. They were smaller in size and had no vestibule. Their characteristics indicate that they were storage spaces rather than dwellings.

THE DEFENCE SYSTEM

The entire north side of the settlement is defended by a 110-130 cm thick mud and stone wall, almost the entire length of which has survived (more than 40 metres). It was built using the double wall system with an interior shingle filling on two faces that form a wide angle. In the east, the wall turns southward at an angle of 90 degrees and, at 7.3 metres long, defends that side of the settlement, where the entrance was located. Later on, refurbishment works strengthened and improved the eastern sector of this wall and the entrance to the settlement through the construction of a fortified passageway protected on either side by wall sections.

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN TURÓ RODÓ?

Although the Romans had already conquered the country, both the construction technique of the houses and the archaeological material show that the inhabitants of Turó Rodó were Iberians without a shadow of a doubt. The existence of silos points to agricultural activity while the discovery of flat stones with a hole in one end indicates intensive fishing activity. Loom weights and spindles have also been found, showing that textile activity took place. The process of Romanisation can be observed in the presence of *tegulae* (tiles) and *dolla* (large clay containers used for storing liquids), along with a large amount of Italic pottery. The settlement was abandoned peacefully in about 60 BC. Its population moved to more suitable places, closer to roads, crop fields or sea ports.



RECONSTRUCTION OF AN IBERIAN HOUSE

One of the houses attached to the wall has been fully reconstructed at Turó Rodó. The reconstruction has been carried out using building techniques and materials typical of the period: local stone, lime, mud and plant materials (wood, reeds and straw). The archaeological evidence shows that these materials and techniques were widely used throughout the European Mediterranean region and in North Africa. The Iberian house is classified as mud architecture. Its basic structure consists of a stone base (to insulate against damp), walls made out of sun-dried bricks and a roof built out of mud and a mixture of plant materials placed over a reed frame. Various items which according to the archaeological evidence were typical of everyday life have been reproduced within the dwelling: a loom, stools, basketry, millstones, fireplace, etc.