

VRA

Open Air Museum
Roman Villa of l'Albir, l'Alfàs del Pi



Water stands for purity, health and well-being in every culture. Romans worked that concept into the *thermae*, buildings designed for bathing purposes which were also used as a place for citizens to relax and get together. The Open Air Museum of the Roman Villa of l'Albir, located in the exceptional setting of Playa de l'Albir, affords a first-hand introduction to those bathing rituals thanks to the Roman baths (*thermae*) that were built here 1,500 years ago. The thermal areas have been recreated and are presented alongside didactic and accessible information to create an unmissable experience. *Bene lava!* Enjoy your bath!

Location and contact

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Opening hours

From 16th June until 14th September
Tuesday-Saturday: 10 – 12 h / 18 – 21 h
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10 – 12 h
Closed Monday

From 15th September until 15th June
Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays:
10 – 14 h
Tuesday to Friday only organized
groups by appointment
Closed Monday





In Roman times, bathing was an important daily event which was usually enjoyed in the afternoon, before supper. More than a luxury, baths were considered a necessity, since bathing provided gratifying physical and mental relaxation after a hard day at work. Populations that did not bathe or that were unaware of the existence of baths were branded "Barbarians," and considered uncivilised. Therefore, *thermae* symbolized the lifestyle of Ancient Rome.



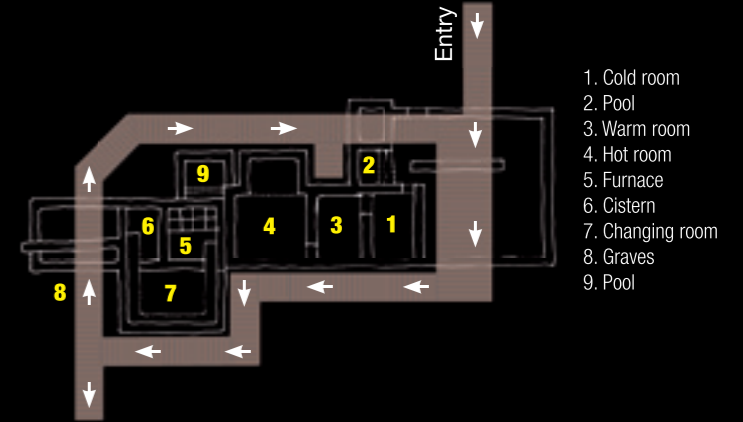
Protection and dissemination of the heritage are two essential concepts that underpin the tasks undertaken at the Roman Villa of l'Albir.



A grave from the Roman era containing human remains was found during construction works near Playa de l'Albir in 1979. During the 1980s and 1990s, the archaeological excavations unearthed a site of patrimonial and scientific relevance consisting of a large necropolis, a mausoleum and a villa. The ensemble dates back to the 4th and 6th centuries AD.

In 2008, the Council of Alfàs del Pi, in cooperation with the University of Alicante, resumed the archaeological excavations with a view to recovering one of the most important sites in the province of Alicante. This commitment to the municipality's archaeological heritage has borne its fruits: the first Open Air Museum in the Region of Valencia was inaugurated in March 2011.

Inside the Museum, the Roman baths (*thermae*) can be visited thanks to an accessible and educational itinerary. The baths are a small part of a larger site which is yet to be excavated, and archaeologists can often be seen hard at work.



The visit continues in the mausoleum, a funerary building which contained the graves of an important family, possibly the owners of the villa.

