



During your visit to the settlement of Sant Josep, you can observe the excavated ruins and take a tour through numerous information points. These contain detailed explanations about the different periods of inhabitation, the distribution of the spaces and daily life, construction techniques, the defensive system, funeral rites, etc. All in diverse languages and with samples of items found in archaeological excavations, which allow us to reconstruct the history of the settlement.

Due to the historical and archaeological importance of the settlement of Sant Josep, it should be noted that it was declared as Cultural Interest Asset in 1999.

You can see this piece and other archaeological items found in the settlement and in other places in the Vall d'Uixó in 3D using your mobile device.



Test it out by checking this code.



Ceramic jar on lathe. Municipal Archaeological Museum.



More information and guided tours:



While visiting the settlement of Sant Josep, please respect the ruins and its surroundings. They are part of our History.



SETTLEMENT OF SANT JOSEP

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The settlement of Sant Josep is an archaeological site located in the Plana Baixa region, in the town of La Vall d'Uixó, and more specifically on a small natural elevation of the land next to the Belcaire river from which the coastal plain is seen from above. This river area has an extraordinary archaeological wealth proved in places such as the Can Ballester caves, the Cova dels Orgues or the Cova de Sant Josep, where cave paintings declared World Heritage by UNESCO were found. Some of them date back more than 16,000 years.

The discovery of the site is credited to the painter Juan Bautista Porcar, who visited it in 1928, though it took 46 years for the Castellón Regional Council to take charge of the first excavations, carried out between 1974 and 1976. After several decades, several intervention campaigns have been carried out periodically since 2014, which has given new momentum to their research and knowledge.

Various stages of occupation have been documented in the settlement, though the most important ones are those that took place during the Iberian period (between the 6th and 2nd centuries BCE) and the Late Roman stage, between the 4th and 5th centuries.



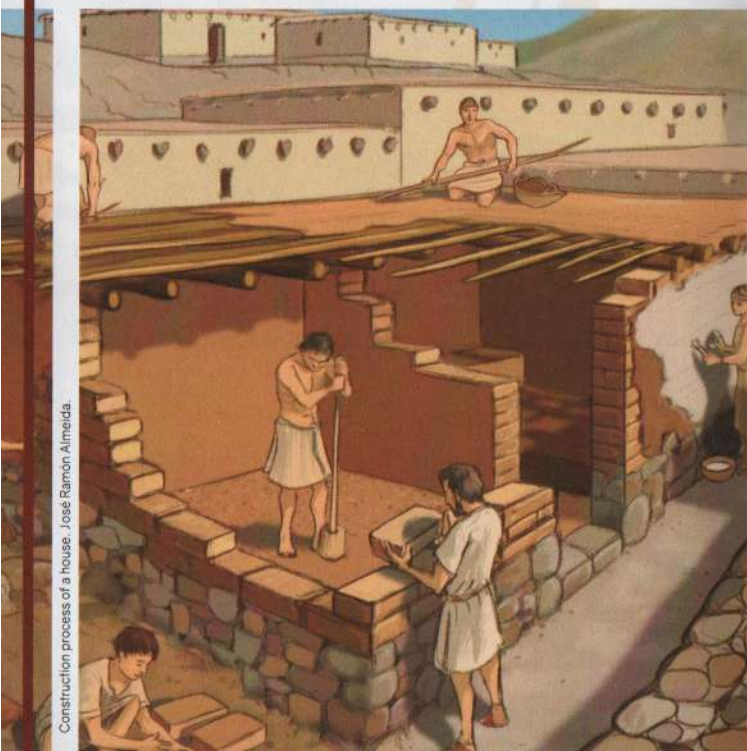
General view of the wall and towers B and A. Picture: José Solà



Recreation of a domestic space. José Ramón Almeida.



The settlement in Late Roman times. Jose Ramon Almeida.



Construction process of a house. José Ramón Almeida.

Ceramic urn with painted decoration. MBA Castelló.

THE IBERIAN SETTLEMENT

In Iberian times, the settlement of Sant Josep was protected by a wall reinforced with towers. From this perimeter wall, sections of up to 75 feet long and 6 feet tall are still preserved. Inside the enclosure, there were several streets adapted to the uneven terrain, and blocks of houses were distributed around them.

The excavation of the site made possible the recovering of a large number of archaeological items related to daily life: mills to grind cereals, kitchen ceramics (such as pots), containers for storing food (amphorae or jars) and table service (dishes, jars, cups, etc.), or animal bones.

Other items that stand out are personal care pieces (lacrymatories) or human-shaped terracottas that represent women.

THE LATE ROMAN STAGE

During the 3rd century BCE, a great fire devastated much of the northern sector of the village, leading to at least this part to be abandoned. The archaeological excavations show that during Roman times, between the 4th and 5th centuries, the village was inhabited again, carrying out a restructuring of the area with changes in the orientation of the structures; among the documented spaces, there is a rectangular-plan room (section 18) where a combustion structure appears next to it, understood as a metallurgical furnace.

Taking into account the large number of storage items such as jars and amphorae that have been found inside, section 18 could have been a warehouse. Metal parts related to the aforementioned exterior structure were also found.

Pendant of horse harness with monogram of Christ. MBA Castelló.

