

Roman Town

Ammaia



MUSEUM

In this building, which was restored between 1999 and 2001, there is an exhibition of part of the immense assets recovered during the archaeological excavations that took place in the area of the city of Ammaia. For the creation of this project, excavations were carried out in all rooms of the building. The first excavations took place in 1995, following the lifting of the existing floors of flagstone, shale or traditional pavement. Some housing structures have been identified, built between the first and fourth centuries AD. Some had fireplaces and channels for water. A large diversity of material was also collected such as: coins, epigraphs, terrae sigillatae, common pottery, glass plates, bowls and vases, fragmented bracelets, and lucernas (lanterns) among other items. In the museum area there is a permanent exposition which contains many elements of the material Roman culture. The collection is divided into several themes: Epigraphy, the everyday life of Ammaia, economic activities and Architecture. Also, there is a current temporary exposition which is the result of the friendship between António Benito Maçãs, a local landowner, and José Leite Vasconcelos, founder of the National Museum of Archaeology in Lisbon. The materials were collected or bought by Maçãs and after would be sent to the National Museum of Archaeology. Now they are currently on display at the museum in Ammaia.

SOUTH GATE

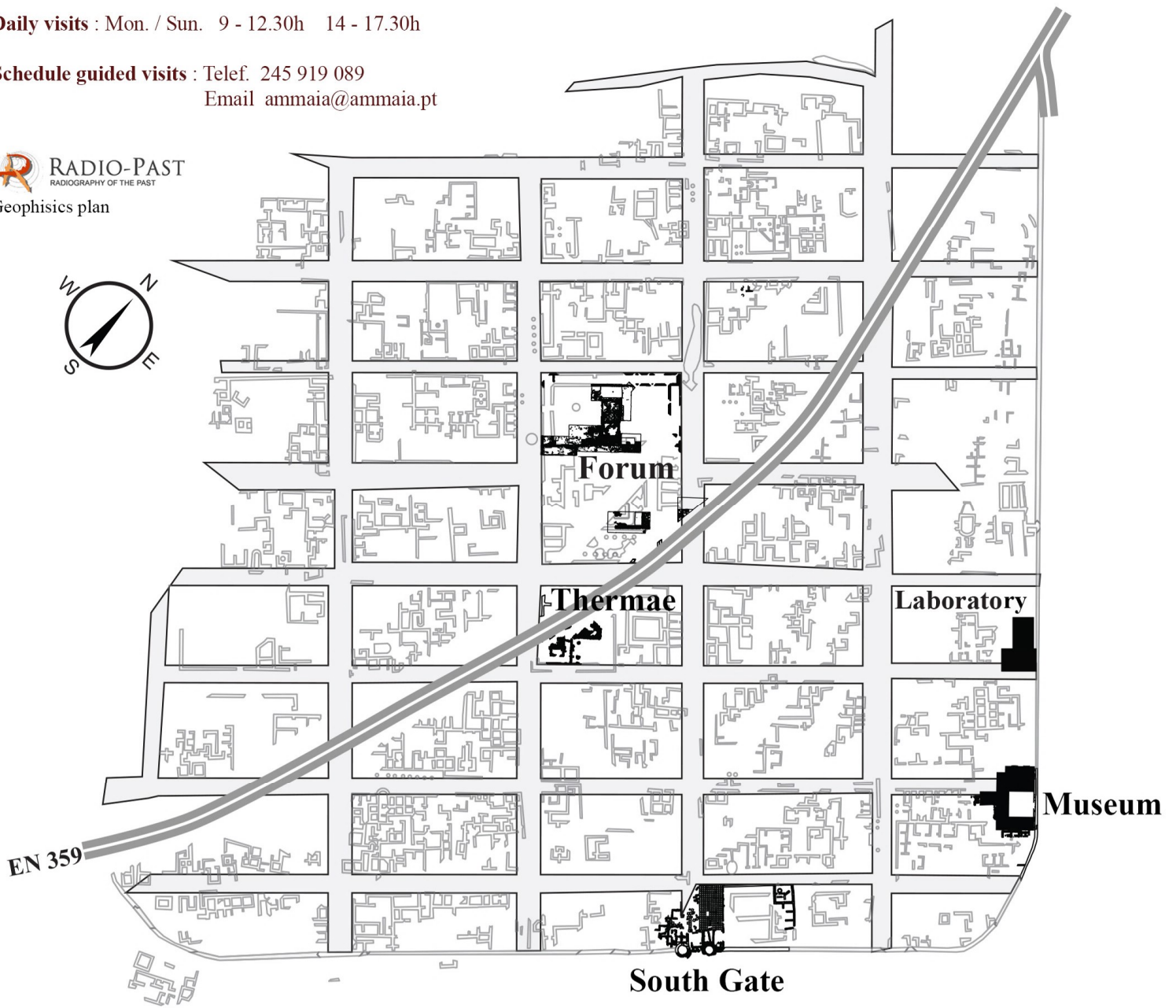
The works on this site were initiated in 1994 with the cleaning of the area involved. Two circular structures were identified and revealed to be the two towers of one of the entries to the town attached to the Roman wall. The towers' diameter is 6,30 meters and they were connected by an arch – Arco da Aramenha, which was transported to Castelo de Vide in 1710 and later destroyed. The excavation was widened to the interior of the city where a public square was discovered, paved with very regular blocks of granite. The right side has a length of 21,30 meters and a width of 10,75 meters and on the left side, only a few flagstones remain in their original place. The two slabs formed a passage to one of the main streets (the Kardus Maximus), that goes toward the Forum. It is around four meters wide; however, the traces of the original pavement are now gone and the only remaining pieces make up the threshold of the door. This threshold is formed by five pieces of granite, of which two were found in their original position.

Daily visits : Mon. / Sun. 9 - 12.30h 14 - 17.30h

Schedule guided visits : Telef. 245 919 089
Email ammaia@ammaia.pt



Geophysics plan



Museum



South Gate



Thermae



Forum and Temple



Laboratory

The building of this monumental entry during the second half of the first century AD implied the partial demolishing of some of the oldest houses from the beginning of the empire.

FORUM THERMAE

In 1996 the cleaning of this area started. A small tank that was hidden underneath marble slabs was identified which was a part of the bathhouse in the Forum. It would have probably been a tepidarium (a tank of tepid water), or a frigidarium (a tank of cold water). Surrounding this tank some structures appear. Recently, part of a natatio (the building's biggest pool) was discovered, which could have been indoors or outdoors. On the west side, the EN359 road destroyed a significant part of the Forum Thermae.

FORUM AND TEMPLE

In the Tapada da Aramenha, a rectangular (18m x 9m) structure is elevated above ground with a maximum height of 2,50 meters, corresponding to the podium of a temple. It had a clay-based filling and was probably covered with granite blocks and divided into two sections (the cella and the porch of the atrium) by a transversal Wall that is still visible. The excavations in the area of the podium showed a link to the building with the biggest monumentality of the city, the Forum. It was here that all the administrative, religious and judicial powers were centered and where the people of the city and the region came to worship the deities of the Roman and the indigenous Gods.

LABORATORY OF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

The laboratory is installed in a building adjacent to the monographic museum. It represents one of the main objectives of the development of the archaeological project for the city of Ammaia. Its main goal is the conservation and restoration of archaeological goods that have been found and are continuously being found during the excavations accomplished in the city since 1994. It is fully equipped to face the enormous amount of materials found, and also to serve as a conservationist and restorer for other identities.

The city of Ammaia is undoubtedly the most important remnant of its time in the northern region of the Alentejo. It is located in the Parque Natural da Serra de S. Mamede, in S. Salvador de Aramenha, Marvão. The main areas consist of Quinta do Deão and Tapada da Aramenha. It covers approximately 25 hectares in area. Even though the ruins were classified as a National Monument in 1949, they had been abandoned until the end of 1994. From this date on, and with the emergence of the Foundation of the City of Ammaia, there has been progress with every effort made to study and preserve what is left of this important city. Ammaia was raised to a Civitas around the year 44/45 AD. It then achieved Municipium status in the second half of the first century AD, however, we only have data about the city's status during the reign of Lucius Verus in the year 166 AD.

