

Montjuïc Castle, as it stands today, is the result of the renovations planned by the military engineer Juan Martín Cermeño in 1751 and carried out between 1753 and 1779. These improvements were aimed at completing the defensive structure of the 17th century fortress, which involved the demolition of part of the old castle, while preserving enhancements made during the viceroyalty of Velasco at the end of that century. The new structures were constructed on an irregular trapezoidal plan adapted to the mountain's topography, featuring four bastions at the corners, a moat, and a covertway around the perimeter.



These two elements are part of the defensive improvements designed by Cermeño in 1751. On the main facade, he planned a sloped wall or curtain measuring approximately 70 metres, which connected the bastions of Santa Amalia and San Carlos. A monumental Neoclassical entrance was designed, featuring two columns, an architrave, frieze, cornice, and tympanum, on which the royal coat of arms of Charles III of Bourbon was later placed.

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GUARD ROOMS

Upon crossing the entrance, there is a tunnel covered with a stone vault, flanked by two doors that provide access to two large halls. Originally, the hall on the right was used by the guard, while the one on the left housed a store of gunpowder and artillery materials.

3 4 5 6 THE BASTIONS



The bastions are defensive structures that protrude from the corners of the walled body of the fortress, typically in triangular or pentagonal shapes. They serve as advanced artillery defence platforms, providing depth that forces the enemy to retreat and position themselves further away from the fortress.

Montjuïc Castle consists of four bastions: two located at the corners of the main facade curtain, those of Santa Amàlia (**3**) and Sant Carles (**4**), and two more situated in the second enclosure, those of Velasco (**5**) and Llengua de Serp (**6**). The latter two are visible from the castle's outer circuit.



PARADE GROUND OR PARADE SQUARE

Around this space, the most protected area of the fortress, are a series of rectangular rooms serving various purposes, covered by bomb-proof vaults. These rooms housed the most important facilities of the fortress: officers' pavilions, residences for the governor and officers, quarters for the chaplain and the tower guard, dispensaries, a canteen, a bakery, a pantry, and a latrine.

8 WATCHTOWER AND COURTYARD ROOF

The defensive architecture of the modern era is characterised by low-profile buildings, making the construction of towers uncommon. However, Montjuïc Castle is notable for the presence of this tower, a remnant of the earliest defensive structure at the summit of the mountain, documented as early as 1073.

MARINE WALL



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The marine wall, measuring 155 metres in length, is the longest uninterrupted stretch of the castle's wall. In the original 17th-century fortress, which focused on defending against land attacks, this flank of the castle was poorly protected. The later renovations by military engineer Cermeño established the final shape of the castle's maritime front.

10 HORNWORK



The hornwork is the defensive system that separates the first and second enclosures of the castle. It consists of the glacis, a covered pathway, the ravelin, the Santa Elena moat, and the semi-bastions. The purpose of this defensive structure was to prevent enemy troops from accessing the first enclosure if they breached the second.

11 RAVELIN



The ravelin stands on the opposite side of the Santa Elena moat. It is a large triangular structure used for advanced defence, designed to protect the wall of the hornwork.

OUTER CIRCUIT

12 THE MOATS



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The construction of the moats as they are seen today is the result of Cermeño's renovations. The purpose and origin of the dry moat are to enhance the defence of the enclosure, as it increases the relative height of the surrounding structures, creating a confined and sheltered space within the fortification. Traditionally, the various sections have been named after the bastion to which they correspond, with the exception of the segment between the bastions of Velasco and Santa Amalia, known as the Santa Eulalia moat.

THE COVERED PATHWAY O CORVERTWAY

The covered pathway is a corridor that follows the outer perimeter surrounding the castle's moats, situated between the top of the glacis and the sloped terrain within the fortification that descends from the covered pathway to the field, hindering attackers' approach to the wall and the edge of the counter-scarp.

12 SEA AND LAND LUNETTES



Cermeño's renovations, aimed at reinforcing the castle's defences, incorporated the sea and land lunettes in the area behind the Llengua de Serp bastion. The lunettes are freestanding bastions designed to strengthen the defences of the second enclosure. These two elements are visible from the castle's outer circuit.

CASTELL DE MONTJUÏC Carretera de Montjuïc, 66 08038 Barcelona Tel. 932 564 440 castell@bcn.cat

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