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MONTJUÏC CASTLE

BARCELONA

Ajuntament de
Barcelona





Barcelona besieged by Marshal Berwick's troops.
G. Landry, 1715.
Barcelona City History Archives

A BRIEF PAPER ON MONTJUÏC CASTLE

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Montjuïc Castle was built at the outbreak of the Catalan institutions' war of separation from the Monarchy of Philip IV, following the 1640 *Revolta dels Segadors* [Revolt of the Reapers]. Catalonia became a short-lived republic that soon fell under French sovereignty. The Spanish King's counter-offensive was not long in coming, and by January 1641 his troops were a mere 30 km from the city, on the Llobregat side. The need to defend the capital mobilised the population into building a square fortification around the watchtower at the top of Montjuïc mountain, to block the enemy's path. It was built very quickly, in 30 days, just in time to become the scene of the battle that led to the defeat of Philip IV's troops (21 January 1641), which was widely celebrated in the city. The war continued, the fort was rebuilt though it was unable to prevent the King from taking Barcelona (1652) and the castle from falling into the hands of the monarchy.

The castle had a permanent garrison, to ensure not just the security outside but also the population's obedience to the King. The attacks and maritime sieges suffered by the city towards the end of the 17th century led to the further alterations to the castle: a citadel was constructed around the old building, with three defensive bastions and a rectilinear facade consisting of a serrated line facing the sea.

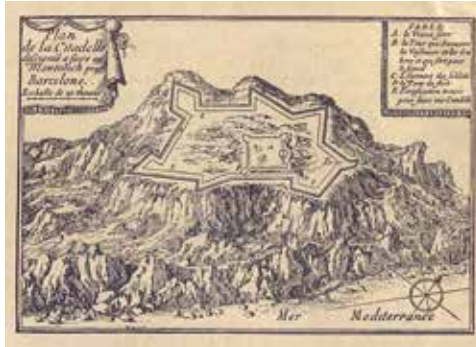
The War of The Spanish Succession

The war broke (1701) after Austria (with the support of Great Britain, Holland and Portugal) challenged the last will of Charles II of Spain, who had died without any direct descendants, designating Philip of Anjou, from the House of Bourbon, as the new King of Spain, crowned as Philip V. The right of succession in the Spanish Empire, was claimed for Archduke Charles of Austria, who was proclaimed as the new King of Spain, Charles III.

Catalonia's participation in this international conflict became official in 1705, when a significant part of society opted for the pro-Austrian side, as the war was a confrontation between two political models: the new absolute centralism of the Bourbons and the continuation of federal model for Catalan laws and constitutions and economic modernisation. The Treaty of Genoa was signed that year, under which the allies would intervene in Catalonia against the Bourbon authorities, to bring Catalonia under the sovereignty of Charles III. The Principality then found itself at war until 11 September 1714, when Philip V's troops finished off the last pro-Austrian resistance and entered Barcelona.

During those years, Montjuïc was of greatest importance in 1705-06, when the allied troops of Archduke Charles arrived at the city (September 1705). The castle, which had been strengthened, became the bastion of the pro-Philip defences. It was attacked by the allies and bombarded until the troops surrendered. Its conquest made the siege of the city possible, leading to the capitulation of the pro-Philip forces: on 22 October, the Archduke entered Barcelona. Charles III became the new sovereign of Catalonia.

Philip V reacted quickly. With the support of French king Louis XIV, he organised two armies and a squadron of warships, which arrived in Barcelona in April 1706. Their priority was to retake Montjuïc castle: there was fierce resistance which had the support of the local population, who blocked the Bourbon troops' climb up the mountain and later played a direct part in the defence of the castle itself, in spite of the systematic bombardments



Views from the Montjuïc castle and fort.
A. Malleon-Mallet (Beaulieu), c. 1696.
Barcelona City History Archives

Scene of the city being shelled from Montjuïc, 1842.
Biblioteca de Catalunya. Barcelona

they suffered. The castle was practically reduced to rubble and occupied by the Bourbons, who then concentrated on the siege of the city. However, the arrival of an allied squadron on 8 May, turned the situation around, and the Franco-Spanish army was forced to withdraw soon afterwards.

The castle's strategic importance had been unquestionable, and the actions of Barcelona's citizens in 1706 were linked to the "patriotic" resistance of 1641. Reconstruction of the castle began immediately, with the fortification of the Ponent and Llevant bastions and new communications with the city. The war continued, although at an international level, the Treaties of Utrecht and Rastadt (1712-13) had brought the conflict to a close, recognising Philip V as the King of Spain, while the allied troops had withdrawn from Catalonia. On 25 July 1713, Bourbon troops initiated a new siege of the city which continued until 11 September 1714: Montjuïc, the bastion of the besieged, was not attacked directly, as the Duke of Berwick, who led the Bourbon forces, considered that the cost would be too great. He opted for attacking the city's walls directly. There was a black standard on the castle which bore the legend "*Mort o els nostres privilegis*" (Death or our privileges). On 12 September at 6 pm, the Bourbon troops entered the castle, with the city already defeated. The "patriotic" memory was wiped away.

The Bourbon fortress

The "*Nova Planta*" regime outlined a city defence system based on two large fortresses (without removing the others: Drassanes, Fort Pius etc.): the new Ciutadella (Citadel) and Montjuïc. Above all, they had to guarantee order inside the city, as well as defend threats from outside. Once the citadel (Ciutadella) had been built, reconstruction work on Montjuïc began, under a project designed by military engineer Juan Martín Cermeño. Construction work began in 1751, and continued for nearly the whole of the second half of the 18th century. The castle assumed its current configuration, an irregular trapezoid adapted to the mountain. This involved remodelling the three existing bastions (the Velasco bastion in the

north-east, the Llengua de la Serp (snake's tongue) bastion in the south-west, that was protected by two lunettes, and the Santa Amàlia bastion) and the construction of the Sant Carles bastion (in the south-east) which joined onto the Santa Amàlia bastion, forming a 69-metre curtain wall, with the main gate, which was entered by means of a fixed bridge with a section over the moat. A sloping glacis in front of the entrance gate was completed in 1779. Two ramps covered with arches, organised in two platforms and separated by the Santa Elena moat, gave access to the castle's interior. At the top, a horn work and a ravelin served as protection for the upper building that had replaced the old fortress. It was in the shape of an irregular quadrilateral, with a parade ground, command and signalling tower, and a building all the way round that housed the magazines and the barracks. The troop dormitories allowed for a contingent of just over 2,000 men. There were 86 cannons which, with howitzers and mortars that could be taken up to the parapet for firing, made a total of 120 artillery pieces. There were two water cisterns.

The work was finished in August 1799; from then on, repair, maintenance and improvement work on the fortress would be continual. During this time, it played no repressive role to note, as it was the Ciutadella citadel that took the leading part. By the end of the 18th century, the French used it as a prison, during the War of the Convention (1793-95). It was later occupied, in 1808, by Napoleon's troops and without resistance.

The Castle of Bombardments

Montjuïc Castle made its presence felt and its deepest mark during the liberal, revolutionary Barcelona of 1833-43, owing to its violent and repressive actions, creating a relationship with the city shaped by brutality, such as the bombardments of 1842 and 1843. In both cases, popular insurrections against the governing authorities were suppressed. In November 1842, there was a spontaneous revolt in protest against the authoritarian and repressive actions of the Espartero government: the city was punished for this by a 12-hour bombardment from the castle,



General view of the sea-facing facade with Montjuïc in the background. Joan Martí Centellas, 1874. Biblioteca de Catalunya. Barcelona

View of Barcelona from the Creu dels Molers. Unknown author, c. 1850 (taken from *Atles de Barcelona*, published by Mediterrània)

starting on midday 3 December. At least 20 people were killed, and a number were injured. There was structural damage throughout the city, as the bombardment was indiscriminate, to spread terror. When the authorities entered the city, according to a witness at that time, ... *the city offered a sepulchral appearance: doors and shops were closed, the streets were practically deserted, in some cases the way was blocked by the rubble and ruins of demolished houses and covered in the smoke of the many buildings that were still burning...*

On 2 September 1843, a Supreme Provincial Assembly was formed to promote a programme of federalist democratic and social reforms that the government had failed to bring about. A revolt known as the "La Jamància" began, acquiring a radical, anti-aristocratic bent. It called for a better distribution of wealth (*The poor wish never again / To pay contributions / The rich must pay everything / They have stolen millions...*). Five days later, a systematic bombardment of the city by Montjuïc began. It lasted for two months, until 10 November: Officially, there were 335 people killed, 354 injured and there was an incalculable amount of material damage. Around 40,000 people fled the city. The revolt's defeat paved the way for moderate response.

Later, in July 1856, Montjuïc once again had a central role in political repression, when, by order of Captain General Juan Zapatero, "the tiger of Catalonia", the castle, together with the fortresses of Ciutadella and Les Drassanes, bombarded the popular movement against the coup d'état that had expelled the progressive elements from the government. The city was occupied by the military, and there was a high degree of repression, with more than 400 people killed.

The "wicked" castle

From 1893 on, when its military role of punishing the city with bombardments had become obsolete, the castle was turned into a detention and torture centre, playing host to courts-martial against civilians and to firing squads. The police, who were incapable of carrying out a successful and

professional investigation of anarchist attacks - especially in the case of the bomb explosion on Carrer de Canvis Nous during the 1896 Corpus procession that killed 12 people and injured more than 40 - carried out mass detentions. Montjuïc held hundreds of detainees, who had no legal protection, for an unspecified period of time, which could be as long as two years. This was done with complete impunity against the regime's ideological and political adversaries. It had two main objectives that included breaking up the anarchist movement and intimidating republicanism as well as finding some culprits for the bomb attack, through torture. And indeed, 28 detainees pleaded guilty to planting the bomb. The legal process was held at the castle and was full of irregularities. It sentenced five people to death, who were executed there and then.

As the reality of Montjuïc became known, the city reacted by denouncing the criminal practices and the horror. There were mobilisations and campaigns, also at an international level. The castle was identified with the lasting presence of a sinister, inquisitorial - as it was called at the time - and savage Spain that contrasted with modern Europe. Its fame grew as the "wicked" castle that created martyrs and was a place of impunity, injustice and violence. Feelings were so intense that the City Council asked the government to cede the castle to it (1902), so that it could be demolished, a request it would subsequently persist in, but to no avail. Its repressive role became notorious once more during the Tragic Week (Setmana Tràgica) in 1909, when there were more detentions, courts-martial and firing squads in the Santa Amàlia moat. One victim was the libertarian educator Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia. And from 1919-22 it was filled with hundreds of workers, trade unionists, anarchists etc., on the orders of Captain General Milans del Bosch, during the La Canadenca strike and the conflicts that followed.

The castle during the Republic and the Civil War, 1931-1939

It was no surprise that the new Republican City Council insisted on the government ceding the control of the castle to the city. The debate was



Prisoners in the Montjuïc Castle parade ground and in front of its sea-facing facade. Albert L. Deschamps, 1939. MECD Documentary Centre for Historical Memory (CDMH). Photographs-Deschamps, Photos, 764 and 761

Main castle entrance. Francesc Ribera, 1960-1962. Barcelona Photography Archives

Parade ground restoration process. Unknown author, 1962. Barcelona Photography Archives

what to do with it, since other proposals had been added to the original demolition plan, such as using it as the site for the new Catalan Parliament or as an antiwar museum. The insurrection of 6 October 1934, led by President Lluís Companys not only stopped the debate, but also gave the castle a major role once more. It was used as a political prison for detained military leaders, courts-martial and executions, but with the guarantees that came from a democratic system, a far cry from previous impunity. But the memory remained. The writer Joseph Kessel, who reported on the processes, wrote: *...This fortress is to Barcelona, what La Bastille was to Paris or what the Peter and Paul fortress was to St Petersburg. At once a citadel and a prison, behind its walls and moats it has kept a feudal profile...*

It was Lluís Companys himself, once again the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya (1936), who proceeded with the peaceful occupation of the castle, which came under the control of the Generalitat in a popular festival in August, after the Civil War had already started. It became a Catalan place, flying *La Senyera*, the Catalan flag, while the President laid flowers in memory of the castle's victims.

However, it soon became a place of war, where the ERC militias were recruited. It took on an inefficient role in anti-aircraft defence and it once again became a political and military prison, courts-martial were held and there were executions in the Santa Elena moat. The castle became a prison and a place of execution, beginning with the military leaders of the *Alzamiento*, who were sentenced by war council. These functions continued and involved carrying out sentences issued by military tribunals (for military rebellion) and by popular tribunals (for membership of the Falange, traditionalist parties, the CEDA, etc.). After May 1937 various tribunals prosecuted individuals, above all, for treason, espionage, defeatism, sabotage and anti-fascist dissidents (basically, members of the POUM and the CNT). In all, some 250 executions were carried out during the war on the orders of the various tribunals.

And in March 1938 there were 1,495 prisoners, living under harsh prison conditions owing to the war.

The castle under Franco

On 26 January 1939, the castle was occupied by Franco's troops and it once again came under the control of central government. It immediately became a holding centre for thousands of imprisoned soldiers, most of whom were transferred to the Horta concentration camp when it became operational soon afterwards. From then on, it was a memorial for the Franco regime (with the monument "*To those who fell for God and Spain!*") and it regained its function as a military prison for the leaders and officers of the Republican army. There were courts-martial and, on occasion, executions. There were 7 up to 1945.

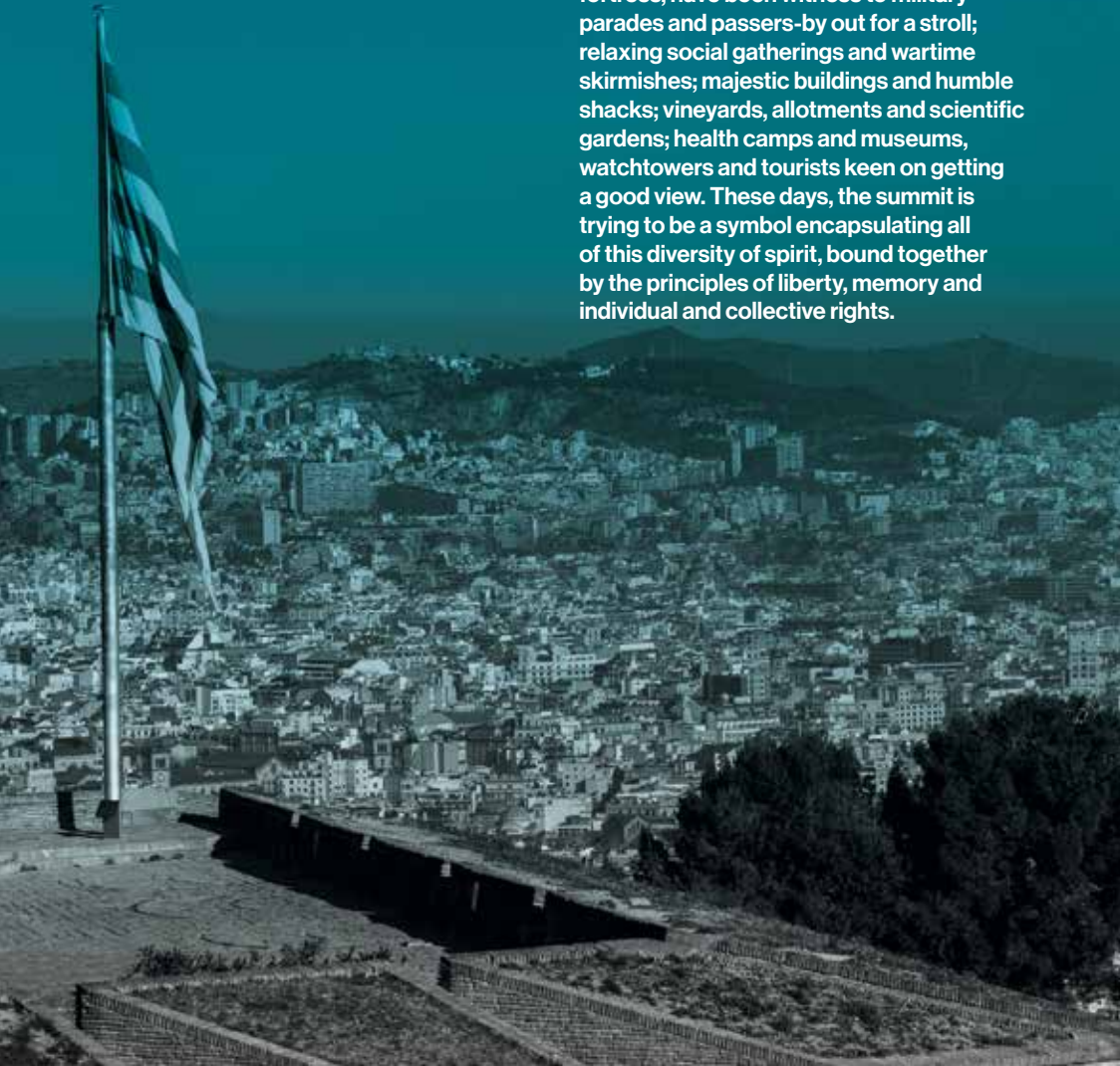
The execution that had the deepest political and symbolic importance was that of President Lluís Companys, having been arrested in the French town of La Baule on 13 August 1940 by the German police. He was transferred to Madrid, where he was tortured, and then to Montjuïc. He was tried by summary court-martial and executed in the Santa Eulàlia moat on 15 October 1940, for having been the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the top representative of "*red-separatism*" that the regime wanted to crush. The castle was deeply marked by this crime. From that time until 1960, when control was partially ceded to the city, it remained a military prison and retained its political side, although it fell increasingly into decline.

In 1960, it was ceded to the city, but only in part, as the central government, through the figure of the Captain General, kept control of the new trust. It was necessary to build a military museum "*which exalts the Fatherland's military glory*" financed by the City Council. It was opened in 1963 just when an equestrian statue of Franco was unveiled on the parade ground. It stayed open until 2009. Two years earlier, the statue had been transferred to a municipal storage facility.

Full control of the castle was not ceded to the city until 2007.

THE CASTLE: A VIEW OF BARCELONA FROM MONTJUÏC

For many centuries, Montjuïc mountain and its castle have played a decisive role in the city's life. From the first settlers of Barkeno to the dismantling of the military museum, the mountain, and to a certain extent its fortress, have been witness to military parades and passers-by out for a stroll; relaxing social gatherings and wartime skirmishes; majestic buildings and humble shacks; vineyards, allotments and scientific gardens; health camps and museums, watchtowers and tourists keen on getting a good view. These days, the summit is trying to be a symbol encapsulating all of this diversity of spirit, bound together by the principles of liberty, memory and individual and collective rights.



THE PROMONTORY WITHOUT THE CASTLE

Geologists place Montjuïc's formation in the Miocene period. Under the protection of this height, that was an island in the sea hundreds of thousands of years ago, a series of beaches and sands formed between the mouths of the Llobregat and Besòs rivers.

The nucleus of a primitive seaport was probably built to the west of one of the beaches under the cliff. Its existence is supported by the later names of Port Castle, the parish of Santa Maria de Port and the old Port estuary (lagoon), in the modern Marina neighbourhoods of Santis. Its origin comes from the place name *porto*, cited in a document from the year 984, which located it near the Jewish Mountain (*prope Monte Iudaico*).

The predominant type of rock in Montjuïc is *gres* sandstone, a detrital sedimentary rock quarried for nearly two millennia to construct the city that was growing below. The mountain's highest point



Barcelona from Montjuïc. The lighthouse and the watchman's house are in the foreground. A. Van Wyngaerde, 1563

Hortes de Sant Bertran factories, with the mountain in the background. Unknown author, 1880-1889. Barcelona Photography Archives

is at about 192 metres. This drops down to the sea forming a cliff of great biological value on the Morrot, or Miramar Point, side. Various species of birds find shelter here, including kestrels, owls, crows and Peregrine Falcons.



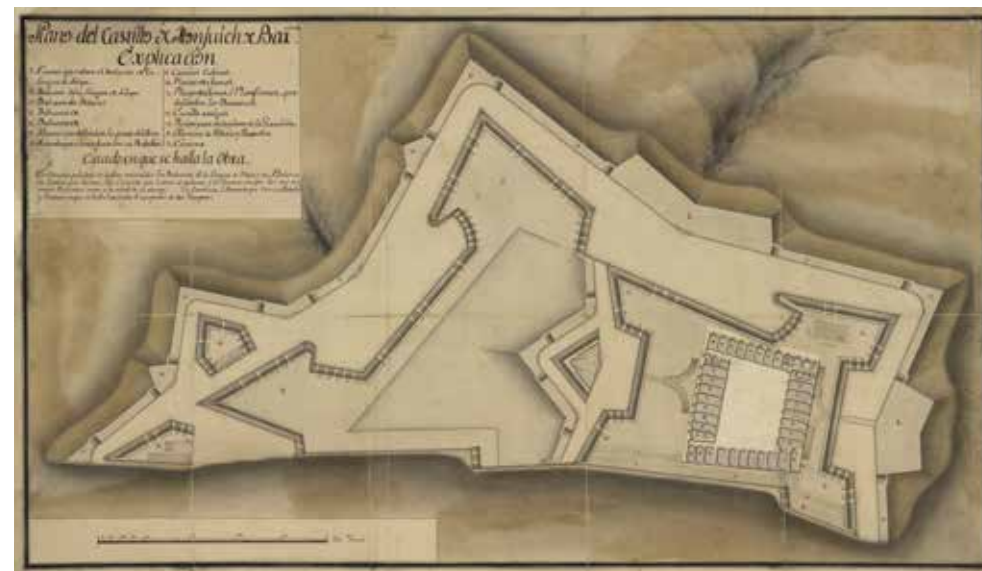
A FORTIFIED SUMMIT

The castle we see today on Montjuïc is the product of the development of various buildings that have been constructed, demolished, remodelled and perfected over at least the last ten centuries. The summit of Montjuïc has been home to lighthouses, watchtowers, forts and castles which have performed various functions according to the social, economic, technological and political development of the time. Although the castle's direct precedents date from the 17th century, the basic structure of the present castle comes from the last great remodelling project, designed by royal engineer Juan Martín Cermeño in 1751. This remodelling work began in 1753 and was not completed until 1779.

The entrance bridge and facade (1)

In a stretch of wall nearly 70 metres long, flanked by the new bastions of Sant Carles and Santa Amàlia, Cermeño designed a Neoclassical, monumental portal, with two columns, an architrave and a frieze, a cornice and a tympanum. Dominating the entrance, in a highly visible place, the Bourbon king Charles III's royal coat of arms was installed some years later.

The main gate was reached by crossing a four-arch fixed bridge, with a raiseable last section, which has also survived to modern times. Nowadays, the castle entrance, with its moat garden, is the most widely known image of the fortress, forming part of the new features introduced in the mid-18th century by the engineer Cermeño. When it came to constructive engineering, such remodelling work proved to be the culmination of Montjuïc castle's construction. The technical high point for this kind of work had been reached in the early part of the 18th century. Cermeño was himself a symbol of what it meant to be an engineer, a relatively new profession at the time, whose appearance is dated between the 16th and 17th centuries.



Map identifying different parts of the castle.
Unknown author, 1892-1893?
Barcelona City History Archives

Engineers were responsible for designing the fortifications, but the building work was carried out by master builders, a group of craftsmen specialising in construction. As the fortification work required the collaboration of other tradesmen, such as carpenters, blacksmiths and stonemasons, the master builder who won the contract used to form an association with other craftsmen in order to form a company, which then controlled the building work. In the case of Juan Martín Cermeño's remodelling work, it was Pere Bertran who won the contract. His company became the first stable construction company ever known in Catalonia.

The bastions of Sant Carles and Santa Amàlia (2)

A bastion is a kind of fort that projects outwards from the main fortress building at the wall's angles, generally in a pentagonal shape. The bastions, as advanced defence platforms with artillery, allowed defensive depth which forced the enemy to move their batteries back, and at the same time allowed the castle's flanks to be covered by cross fire. On the side overlooking the walled city, Juan Martín Cermeño had two new bastions built on either side of the present-day entrance. One is

called Sant Carles, which points towards the northern coastline. It was able to hold 12 artillery pieces, including cannons and howitzers, and 5 mortars. It has two sentry boxes that provided shelter for the sentries, one of which is still in its original condition.

The other bastion, Santa Amàlia, overlooks the extended city. In reality, it was just a right-flank extension of the old Santa Isabel bastion from the time of Viceroy Velasco. The Santa Amàlia bastion has a height of 14 metres, sufficiently high to prevent scaling the wall. It could hold 28 artillery pieces, including both cannons and howitzers, as well as 6 mortars. Nowadays, it conserves the water well that connects to a large cistern. At one point of this bastion a Catalan flag has been raised. It flies at the same point where the President of the Generalitat, Lluís Companys, raised a senyera in August 1936 to symbolise the conquest of the castle by the civil authorities and the demilitarisation of Montjuïc, during the time of the Second Republic.



The parade ground (3)

During the large-scale remodelling work undertaken by Juan Martín Cermeño that began in 1753, the old fort was demolished. In its place, he projected a large quadrangular building with bombproof roofs and a central parade ground, and a residency for the castle's governor.

The parade ground is the open-air area inside the walls. It is surrounded by the castle's outbuildings. The buildings looking onto the parade ground included the officers' quarters, the chaplain's rooms, the dispensary and the canteen.

Nowadays, in room 15 of the parade ground, there is a well-conserved section of one of the four half bastions that reinforced the first fort's corner defences, built more than a hundred years earlier. This fort circa 1640 – the first known fortification on Montjuïc's summit – had been built in thirty days by soldiers and the civilian population. They raised a wall of earth and mortar around the old watchtower and a quadrangular enclosure or platform, defended by four half bastions on the corners and a shallow moat. This construction was due to the imminence of the war against Philip IV, or the War of the Reapers, in 1640.

Since then, once the military had definitively understood the strategic importance of the fortress, Barcelona's institutions would lose control of the top of Montjuïc to military authorities. They would not regain definitive control until 2007.

The terraces - a 360° view of Barcelona (4)

The upper floor of the parade-ground perimeter is the highest point of the castle that visitors have access to. These terraces offer an unbeatable view of the city, Montjuïc mountain, the structure of the fortress itself and their common history.

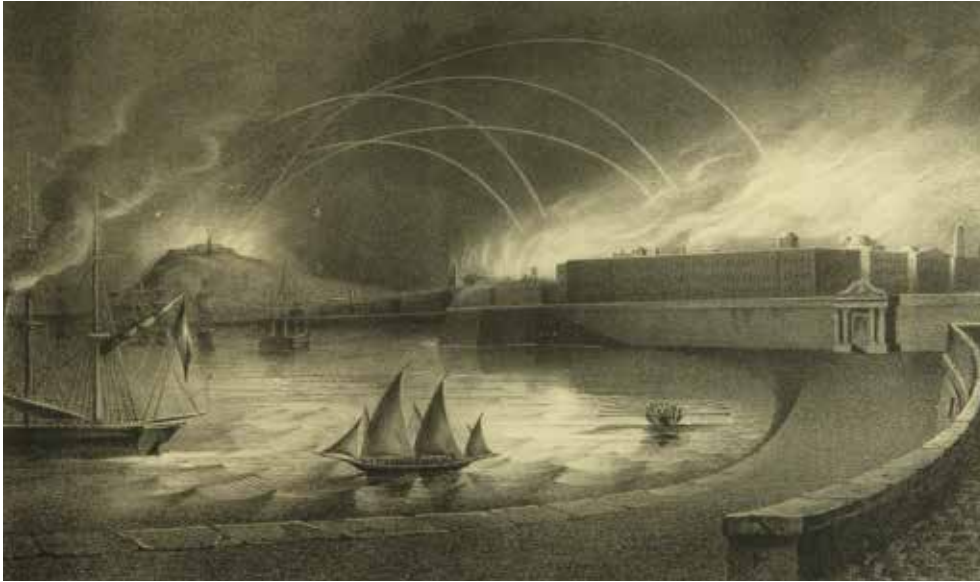
Towards the cliffs, which drop away to the port's container terminal below, the oldest prehistoric site in the city was found. This was an area where jasper and opals were worked to produce objects such as tools, weapons and craft work. It dates from the Epipalaeolithic period (10,000-5,500 BC).

It is very likely that some centuries later the Iberians founded a settlement at this point, as they preferred to settle on the highest orographic places because of the visibility these provided

over their commercial routes and to watch out for possible attacks. Noteworthy remains of Iberian settlements have been found at the highest points of Putxet and the hills of La Rovira and Puig Castellar (Santa Coloma de Gramenet), to mention only a few nearby examples.

From the castle's terraces, you can see Port Vell and the district of Ciutat Vella, in the centre of which the Romans founded the Barcelona of today. At that time there was an increase in human presence in the Montjuïc area thanks to two factors: the exploitation of the mountain's quarries – situated on the Marina de Port side –, and the existence of Roman villas dedicated to agriculture. The name Montjuïc refers us to the original meaning of the mountain's name. The oldest known text containing the mountain's present name dates back to the year 879. The hill is referred to as *Mons Judeicus*, in the unequivocal sense of 'Jewish mountain'. Since the name *Mons Iovis* or 'mountain of Jupiter' has been discarded by philologists, the hill's Jewish nature has traditionally been justified by it having been the place where Barcelona's Jewish community buried their dead.

This was not the only link between the people of Barcelona and the hill. Instead of the green parks and gardens that can now be seen from the castle's terraces, imagine throughout the Middle Ages a Montjuïc coloured by the green of considerable agricultural and livestock activity. Quarrying stone also continued to be a major factor in the mountain's day-to-day life. Sant Pau del Camp, Santa Maria del Pi, la Seu, Ca l'Ardiaca, el Saló del Tinell, la Llotja de Mar, Santa Maria del Mar and Hospital de la Santa Creu are some examples of buildings constructed with Montjuïc sandstone during the quarrying heyday in Medieval times. But one thing that periodically linked the people of Barcelona to the mountain in a tangible way were the pilgrimages to the hermitages scattered around Montjuïc, a good example of religious devotion, which was accompanied by a degree of relaxation. Five chapels were built on the mountain's slopes, only one of which survives today. Sant Julià was the oldest (11th century). There was Sant Fruitós. In the 16th century, the chapel of Santa Madrona, the city's second patron saint, next to the present National Art Museum of Catalonia, where it remains today. The chapel of Sant Bertran gave its name to the vegetable



Barcelona shelled under Espartero's orders. A. Launay, 1842 (taken from *Atlas de Barcelona*, published by Mediterrània)

gardens that were outside the city walls between the shipyards, Montjuïc and the sea. And lastly, there was the chapel of Sant Ferriol, situated approximately near the old quarries under the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium.

The watchtower and its origins (5)

The excellent lookout and defensive properties of a coastal hill were put to good use when a lighthouse or watchtower was built there. This was the oldest predecessor of the present castle.

The oldest reference to the lighthouse goes back to the year 1073. During the day, the lookout signalled the presence of any ships using flags and at night, by signalling with fire.

In architectural terms, between the 14th and 17th centuries, the lighthouse was subjected to a number of restoration and improvement projects. Completely redesigned, the square tower is conserved within the central quadrilateral enclosure. It can be reached from the parade ground's upper floor. There is a sign at its base bearing witness to the fact that between 1792 and 1793, the French astronomer Pierre Méchain

used the tower to obtain Barcelona's co-ordinates and the triangulation for the meridian-arc measurements used as the basis for the decimal metric system. Significantly, the building regained its function as a watchtower, which it had had since the 11th century, when a military semaphore telegraph system was installed in 1848. Using the vertical masts and transverse bars, which are still on top of the tower today, signals were sent to the other military forts in the city, including Drassanes, Ciutadella and the Capitanía General.

The sea wall (6)

Barcelona was not always attacked on land. When naval artillery achieved the necessary range, the castle was also attacked by sea, as it was with Philip V's fleet.

In an attempt to reconquer Barcelona, then in the hands of Archduke Charles of Austria, the Bourbon King Philip V's troops attacked Montjuïc in 1706, bombarding the castle from the sea and attacking it by land until its defenders abandoned it.



Now in Bourbon hands, it was used as a platform for bombarding the city gates in the Raval wall and the nearby populated areas. Finally, Charles III's fleet arrived in Barcelona in May and forced Philip V's army to withdraw. In 1708, the Archduke began new building work on Montjuïc, with the agreement of Barcelona's Council. Prósper de Verboom, the Bourbon military engineer who planned the final siege of Barcelona in 1714 and who designed the Ciutadella citadel, witnessed the work between 1710 and 1712 while he was held captive in pro-Austrian Barcelona. He wrote in 1713 that the people of Barcelona "never stop their manoeuvres to place themselves in the best defensive situation [...] [...] they have equipped all the heights of Montjuïc, where they work with great passion on new constructions, particularly on the highest crest, corresponding to the Ponent Bastion above the sea and the beach of the Llobregat tower, and the Llevant Bastion that looks onto the sea and the city".

However, Montjuïc was never attacked again during the war, not even in 1714, when Philip V's troops forced the city to surrender.

The artillery batteries (7)

The artillery pieces, mostly kept on the castle's access platforms, and also near the Sant Carles Bastion, remind us that for a very long time, the castle was used to repress the city and its inhabitants.

For Barcelona and its citizens, the 18th century marked the beginning of a period of mistrust towards the mountain and the castle, which lasted until very recently. As for Barcelona's physical features, one of the results of its defeat by Philip V in 1714 was the construction of a military citadel on the opposite side of the city to Montjuïc. The Ciutadella citadel was responsible for the domination and control of the city from the north, while the castle fulfilled the same function from the south.

But it was in the middle of the 19th century when the castle's function was revealed in the most tragic and bloody way, after the 1842 Republican revolt in Barcelona. The revolutionaries took control of the Ciutadella citadel and the Drassanes barracks, while Montjuïc remained under the control of the Madrid government.



The Republican revolt was silenced three weeks later, when by order of the regent, Espartero, the Captain General of Catalonia, Antonio van Halen bombarded Barcelona from Montjuïc, causing around 340 deaths, thousands of wounded and nearly 500 damaged buildings. The bombardment of 1842 – and the subsequent one in 1843 – represent a turning point in terms of what Montjuïc and the castle signified in the consciousness of Barcelona citizens. Effectively, Barcelona no longer saw Montjuïc in a good light; the city was subjugated by the mountain, yielding under the threat of its cannons.

However, Montjuïc's cannons did not always aim at the city. During the Civil War, the fascist Italian air force punished the city by bombarding it indiscriminately. Some artillery pieces, converted to function as anti-aircraft guns, were used to no effect during the air raids. In 1938, a new coastal battery was installed with four Vickers 152.4/50 model 1923 guns, which can be seen today in their original emplacements, although they are no longer operational.

The hornwork, the ravelin and the lunettes (8)

Cermeño retained Velasco's 1696-97 bastion and slightly modified the L'engua de Serp bastion, introducing a new structure – the lunette – which strengthened the protection of the bastion itself.

In effect, both the seaward and landward lunettes are a sort of small bastion isolated from the wall, situated in a more advanced position. As regards the interior enclosure, one of the most interesting new features was the construction of a hornwork and a ravelin. Opposite the main gate to the central area, there is a hornwork, a type of defensive fortification formed by two half bastions, or two half pentagons joined by a curtain wall or section of wall. The seaward half bastion has a statue of the Drummer of Bruc. In front, there is a ravelin, lower than the hornwork so as not to impede its fire power, an advanced triangular fortification separated from the main fortifications by a ditch.

The cells (9)

The first witnesses of Montjuïc castle's use as a prison were French prisoners of war during the War of the Convention (1793-1795).

Years later, during the Peninsula War (*Guerra del Francès*) from 1808 to 1814, the Napoleonic troops that occupied Barcelona – the French troops took the castle without a fight, calling its defensive role into question – imprisoned all those who refused to swear loyalty to Joseph Bonaparte in the fortress.

However, Montjuïc castle's new identity as a prison did not become established until the Ciutadella citadel, Barcelona's main prison, was demolished in 1868.

During a series of minor alterations, the cells were moved to the chambers next to the seaward curtain wall. Their inmates included federal Republicans like Gonçal Serraclara, the federal member of parliament arrested and transferred to Montjuïc in September 1869, and the hero of Philippine independence José Rizal, in 1896; the anarchist workers executed in 1897 after mass arrests, irregular trials and arbitrary sentencing, in a notorious case that became known as the Montjuïc Trials; educator Ferrer i Guàrdia, also executed, along with four other accused, on suspicion of instigating the Tragic Week riots in 1909, and more than 3,000 workers arrested in 1919 because of the 'La Canadenca' strike.

The moats (10)

During 1696 and 1697 the bastions and curtain walls, the sections of wall between the bastions, were surrounded by a moat and its corresponding open road, nowadays frequented by joggers, cyclists and people out for a walk.

The engineer Cermeño redesigned the perimeter moat and the open road with glacis. The best-known moats are those of Santa Eulàlia and Santa Elena. The former's curtain wall, between the Santa Amàlia and Velasco bastions, was the wall used for the execution of President Lluís Companys in 1940, in the same place where a monument to his memory stands today.

The Santa Elena moat, transversally orientated with respect to the other, between the hornwork



Lluís Companys in the Montjuïc Castle parade ground, just before his execution by firing squad (Unknown author, 15-10-1940)

and the ravelin, is where some of the leaders of the 1936 military coup were shot, which is why the Franco regime paid tribute to their fallen in a monument which still stands there.

With Franco's victory, the castle once again fell under military jurisdiction, and that meant a return to the castle's repressive past. A large number of the dictatorship's political prisoners were imprisoned in the castle, many of whom, like President Lluís Companys, were shot by firing squad in the moats.



View of Barcelona Port with Montjuïc mountain and castle in the background. Unknown author, 1930. Barcelona City History Archives

THE CITIZENS' CASTLE

Symbolically, we can place the beginnings of the castle's recuperation for civil use in 1854. In that year, a royal order at last allowed the demolition of the walls surrounding the city, and since that time the city has never stopped growing.

The construction boom was of course also felt on Montjuïc, but it came up against military regulations that stated that any exploitation, edification or urbanisation of the mountain and its perimeter was reserved for the military establishment. While civil institutions were unable to reclaim it officially — the first request presented to the Spanish government was in 1902 and the second in 1935 — public and private citizen initiatives promoted its use for civil purposes.

First of all we find the expansion of the quarries, an activity that had not stopped since Iberian times. At the end of the 19th century, the demolition of the city's walls and the expansion of the new Barcelona gave rise to an unprecedented construction boom.

Secondly, we have the entirely secular version of the medieval pilgrimages: the *fontades*. These were festive gatherings at the natural springs on the outskirts of the city, which were very popular among Barcelona's working classes. On Montjuïc, the famous fountains included the font Trobada, the font del Gat, the font de la Guatlla, the font de Satalia, the font d'en Pessetes, the font dels Tres Pins, the font de la Mina, and the font de Vista Alegre. The *fontades* became famous in the 19th century in a city that was overpopulated and often unhealthy, and they remained popular as a leisure activity until well into the 20th century.

At the end of the 19th century, a new residential and leisure area appeared among the water springs on one side of the mountain. It was an area of shacks and allotments that eventually became Poble Sec.

Another event worth mentioning is the opening of the South-west Cemetery in 1883.

In 1902, the City Council not only officially requested the return of Montjuïc to the city, but also the demolition of the castle. The request was ignored, but it represents the first gesture aimed at taking back the mountain made by that public institution.

In the first decades of the 20th century, Barcelona's citizens witnessed the transformation of Montjuïc into a green area for communal use.

From the 1920s, Montjuïc was linked to the 1929 International Exposition, whose gardens would be designed by Forestier and his protégé Rubió i Tudurí. The present-day Plaça d'Espanya, the Olympic Stadium, the Pavillion area, the Palau Nacional, Poble Espanyol, as well as the Magic Fountain and the other fountains around it by Carles Buïgas are also the result of the Exposition's urban planning boom.

The last attempt at definitively recovering the mountain arose with the post-Franco democratic municipalities and the construction of the Olympic Ring for the 1992 Olympic Games. The flagship of this remodelling project was the Olympic Stadium and the multi-sport area surrounding it, including Palau Sant Jordi, the Olympic swimming pool and the National Institute of Physical Education, which left an indelible mark on the city.

As for the castle and the military museum it housed, it was questioned during the 1990s by social movements and some political parties until, with a favourable political climate and after long controversies, the castle was definitively ceded to the city in 2007. The military museum was closed in 2009, and from that moment a new era began for the castle.

One of the specific objectives is for the castle to become a place of remembrance, for teaching the history of its conflicts and for dignifying all the people who suffered any kind of repression. It is also perceived as a place to vindicate freedom and individual and collective human rights.

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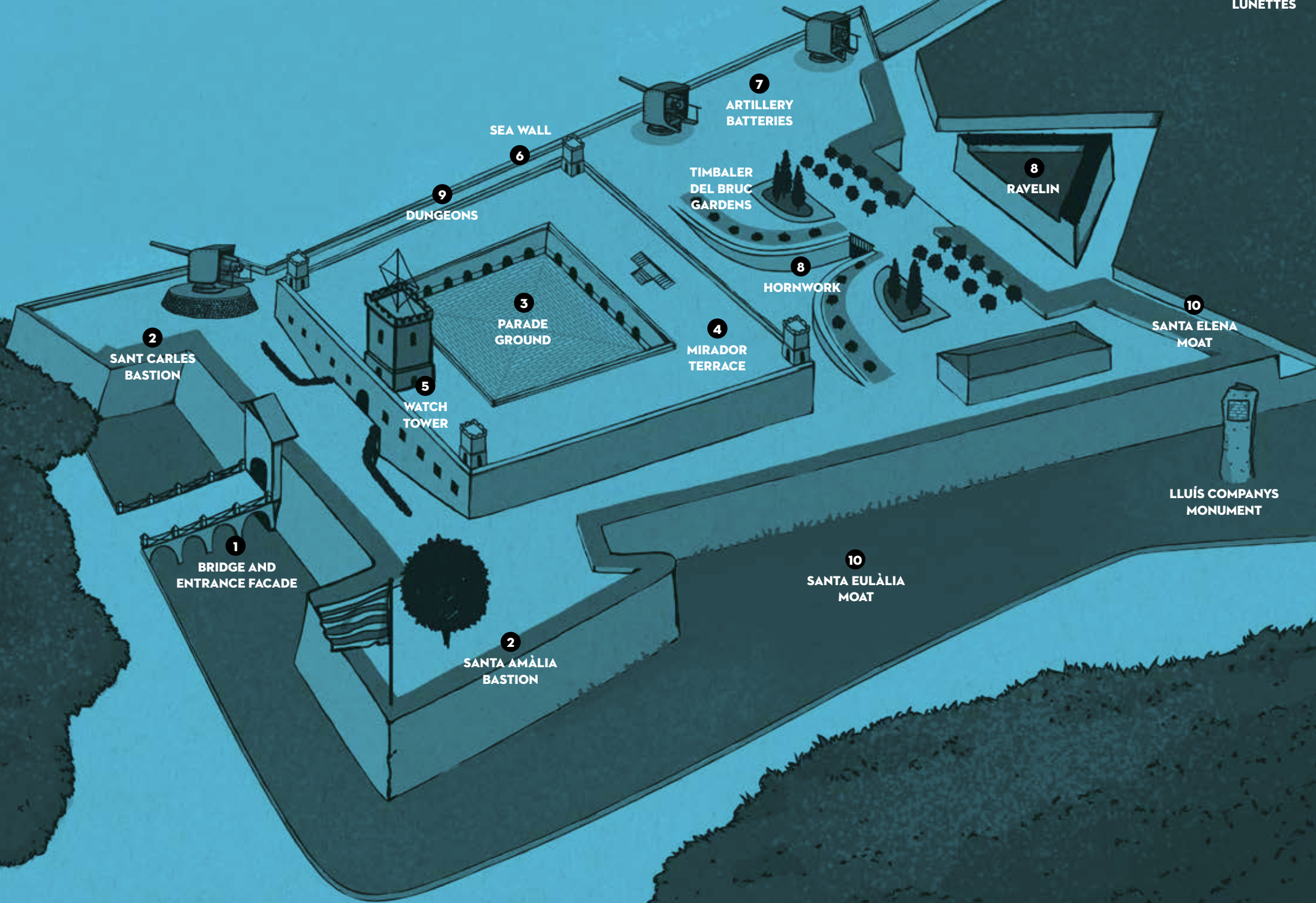
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