



Two masterpieces introduce *Lilybaeum*: the *Tessera hospitalis* (identifying tablet), two shaking hands confirming a pact between a Punic man and a Greek one and the beautiful statue of *Venus Pudica*, Roman copy of second Century A.D. of a Hellenistic original.



In the background, a rebuilding surmounted by merlons recalls the mighty fortification walls, built when the town was founded.

The visit continues in the small room dedicated to the worships, with statues of the worshipped gods, *Venus*, *Aesculapius* and *Salus/Igea*, and noteworthy sculptural fragments which might be referred to the worship of *Isis*, "goddess with countless names".

Finally, in the Lecture Room used as an exhibition area, you can visit the permanent exhibition *Living in Lilybaeum*, dedicated to the "living" town, with its amazing houses, epigraphic testimonies, objects of daily life, put in unitary contexts for the first time, introduced from the latest to the oldest to simulate the archaeological stratification.



The Cape Boeo Archaeological area is available throughout two entrances indicated by the arrows:

- 1) Lungomare Boeo, 30
- 2) Piazza della Vittoria

We recommend to visit the Western Fortifications and the Baths (3), the Roman Road *Plateia Aelia* (4), the *Insulae* with mosaics (5) and the Saint John Church with the "Grotta della Sibilla" (6), available from Tuesday to Friday morning, upon request.

Outside the archaeological area it's possible to visit the *Crispia Salvia Hypogeum* (via M. D'Azeglio, 41) available from Tuesday to Friday morning, by reservation only.

Info: ph./fax 0923 952535
 e-mail parco.archeo.lilibeo@regione.sicilia.it
 website www.parcollilibeo.it
 facebook page @parco.lilibeo

Opening times: Tuesday - Sunday 9 am-6.30 pm (summer-time 7.30)

Tickets: ordinary ticket € 4,00 - reduced ticket for EU citizens aged 18-25 € 2,00 - free ticket for EU citizens under 18

Archaeological Park of Lilybaeo - Marsala

Regional Archaeological Museum Lilibeo



THE HISTORY

The town of *Lilybaeum* was founded by the Carthaginians on the Sicilian promontory nearest to Africa, after the conquest of *Motya* by the tyrant *Dionysius* of Syracuse (397 B.C.). The site had to be known by the seafarers for its strategic position, so that the Carthaginian army that were going to conquer *Selinous* (409 B.C.) encamped here near a spring called *Lilybaion* as the promontory itself, that named also the town (*Diodorus Siculus*, XIII.54).



Lilibeo (*Lilybaion*, *Lilybaeum*), that the historian *Diodorus* calls “impregnable city”, guaranteed the Carthaginian supremacy in western Sicily in the 4th and 3rd Centuries B.C. and soon became a dynamic trade and handicraft centre. After a long siege, it was subdued by the Romans only after the Battle of the Egadi Islands which ended the first Punic War (241 B.C.). In the Hellenistic period it was a multiethnic town where Punic, Greek and Roman people lived together peacefully. Cicero, quaestor in *Lilybaeum* between 76 and 75 B.C., defined it “*splendidissima civitas*” (magnificent town). *Municipium* in the Augustan Age, it became a colony under Emperor *Septimius Severus* (193-211 A.D.). It was the seat of a flourishing Christian community and diocese at Pope Zosimo's times, at the beginning of the 5th Century A.D. It was devastated by Genseric's Vandals in 440, when its bishop Pascasinus was probably imprisoned.

THE MUSEUM

The *Museo Lilibeo*, created in 1986 inside Baglio Anselmi, a nineteenth-century factory for the production of *Marsala* wine, is located on Cape Boeo headland inside a wide area belonging to the Region, which represents the main core of the Archaeological Park of *Lilibeo-Marsala*. Completely restored thanks to a project concerning the whole exhibition (March 2017), it hosts the most outstanding archaeological evidences of the ancient *Lilybaeum*, from its origins in the Phoenician colony of *Motya*, to its evolution and transformation into the medieval town of *Marsala*. From the entrance two exhibition paths branch off: one on the left shows the **town of *Lilybaeum***, the other one, on the right, dedicated to the **underwater discoveries** such as the Punic Ship, the late-Roman Ship of Marausa, the Medieval Wrecks from the South coast of Marsala.

THE UNDERWATER DISCOVERIES

The path starts with outstanding discoveries from the harbour located North of *Lilybaeum* headland, proving the busy trades and prosperity of the old town. In the main hall, the path goes on with the wreck of the **Punic Ship**, enjoyable thanks to a catwalk which allows a close point of view of the hull and the rebuilt store room. Sunk during the First Punic War, it represents a unique example in the world of the building techniques used for Phoenician and Punic ships, already known through the study of sources (*Polybius*).



Besides, wide room is reserved to medieval wrecks coming from the south coast of *Marsala* with a shipload of wine amphorae (**Wreck A**), exhibited in a windowcase in the shape of a ship.



Going on with the visit, the next hall hosts the **Late Roman cargo ship** retrieved near the mouth of the Birgi river (shore of Marausa).

The right side of the wreck was entirely rebuilt, whereas the left one is exhibited on a horizontal plan, the way it was discovered (1999-2011).



THE TOWN OF LILYBAEUM

The path is introduced by a selection of findings from the Phoenician centres before its foundation, the colony of **Motya** and **Birgi** necropolis, and the prehistoric and protohistoric discoveries witnessing the peopling of the territory before the urban settlement. The story of the town is told through the objects accompanying the dead people in the Punic and Hellenistic- Roman necropolises, the materials from the Christian cemeteries and worship places.

