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[A quick stop in Cartagena, Spain](#)

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Cartagena, Spain, joins my list of places that I need to return to and spend more time. I only made a brief stop — a portion of one day — last month, and it just wasn't enough. There are architectural gems here, along with an amazing history and a bustling present. Here's a glimpse:



First, you have to love a tour that starts with a giant glass elevator and cantilevered walkway. That circular tower is just such an elevator that takes you from the lower street level, up to the top of a hill in the center of

town that overlooks the city and various Roman ruins like the amphitheatre (and former bullring) in the distance. A short walk along the top of this hill, leads to more spectacular views, and more Roman ruins.



In the lower part of the frame above is the recently “re-discovered” Roman theatre of Carthago Nova. The town had gradually grown over this structure for hundreds of years but it has now been excavated and museums are being built to house more of the artifacts that have been recovered.



There are open air sites where digs are still being undertaken that are open to the public as well:



But around all this history is a stunning, lively city with streets lined with restaurants and shops.



Should you find yourself in Cartagena (and are of age), be sure to pause long enough to order a [Café Asiático](#), a coffee-based drink with condensed milk, brandy and a locally produced liquor, Licor 43:



Then, of course, continue exploring.





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