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Modernization from Ancient Cartagena by [James Purefoy](#)

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Cartagena has such a rich history and natural beauty throughout the land. The city can offer a host of attractions as well as the tranquility a holidaymaker would want in a holiday.

The history of Cartagena is interesting with lots of space to enjoy a leisurely stroll to refresh oneself during the holiday.

## Rich history

This town of Cartagena has a rich history; it was the Carthaginians who came and built this town in 223 BC giving it the name "Quart Hadas" meaning "new city". Then, Cartagena became the Carthaginian capital as it offered a strategic harbor which was naturally surrounded by big rocks to keep strong winds and waves at bay.

The Romans came at 209 BC and conquered Cartagena renaming it "Carthago Nova" which carries the meaning "new carthage". The Byzantines came with the Arabs later on. Each of these conquerors impacted Cartagena with their distinct cultures even up to this day.

## Cartagena today

Today, Cartagena is an established commercial port blooming since its ancient past. It has deep waters with a strategic position to enjoy great and productive marine activities. It is now one of Spain's major ports for commercial activities.

A naval base has been established in Cartagena with the first submarine surfacing in 1884. Cartagena has plenty of metallic ores and minerals in its surrounding mountains which make a lucrative industry today with its active mining activities.

Cartagena today is established as a vibrant commercial centre that offers great shopping opportunities for the shopaholics. There are the latest fashion opportunities with the numerous huge shopping malls such as El Corte Ingles.

## Ancient Attractions

There are many interesting ancient attractions in Cartagena to offer tourists. One of them is the Roman theatre from 1st century. This theatre performed many fine arts for the Romans in the past. Another ancient ruin is Litema, which is the local ancient lighthouse built by the Arabs.

Augusteum proves to be Cartagena's best archaeological sites for a great appreciation of the past architecture and culture. It was here that Emperor Augustus performed his priesthood cultic activities.

The best way to enjoy Cartagena is via the local double-decker bus with an open top for a great viewing of the city offerings. The city can be covered in a half day excursion to cover the best of attractions in the city. Tourists could walk about the city to enjoy more interesting discoveries at leisure. There is so much of old and new in Cartagena that blends so well.

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