

SECTION 1

CITY HEIR TO THE PHOENICIANS

Rome began its Mediterranean expansion by conquering Iberia, a long process that lasted from the Second Punic War until 19 BC (Pax Augusta). The Carthaginian city of Gadir signed an early pact with the Romans (the so-called *foedus*, 206 BC), which allowed it to maintain many of its customs and independence, leading to a slow integration into Italic ways of life. In 49 BC, under Caesar, it was granted the status of *municipium civium romanorum*.

The 2nd and 1st centuries BC were very important for Cádiz, as it reaffirmed its privileged role as a military base and main port for Rome's war and trade operations, and as a geostrategic point for supplying the troops, through the provision of the famous *garum* and salted tuna (*salsamenta*).

Did you know...?

Alongside Greco-Roman literary sources, material culture helps archaeologists understand the ways of life of ancient societies. Gades was bilingual during the Roman Republican period: the local language and script, known as Neo-Punic, survived practically until the beginning of the Imperial era, as we can see in coin inscriptions or amphora stamps—an example of the cosmopolitanism of the time.

Transport and trade in Antiquity were carried out mostly by sea, on ships of various types and tonnage, since land routes were far more costly. Large merchant ships (*naves onerariae*) bore diverse decorations on their anchors to attract good fortune and divine benevolence. Even in the Roman Republican era, important figures



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linked to seafaring (*navicularii, mercatores*) continued to write in Neo-Punic, showing the coexistence of Latin and Punic traditions in the international Atlantic-Mediterranean trade.

