



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

No. 112/2008

Date. 13th May 2008

The Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Leisure, the Hon Edwin Reyes, will officially inaugurate the new open-air exhibit at the Gibraltar Museum on Friday 16th May 2008, at 18.30 hours. The opening is aimed to coincide with International Museums Day on Sunday 18th May. The exhibit is the result of an archaeological excavation carried out by the Gibraltar Museum that has revealed evidence of occupation of the site from the twelfth century.

The structures that have been exposed include a well and part of a small building dating back to the 14th Century, a time when Gibraltar was under the rule of the Merinid Dynasty from North Africa. There is also a cistern and drinking trough for domestic animals, which dates to the Spanish period (16th - 17th Century). From the British period there is part of a covered aqueduct that may be an earlier structure that was repaired so as to continue the supply of water to Casemates. There are also water channels; an arch and the remains of cobbled paving that take the story to the 19th Century.

The new exhibit is an excellent example of conservation of archaeological structures in a manner that allows for access to the visitor without risk of destruction of the site. The Gibraltar Museum gains in a very novel way from this new exhibit, as visitors arriving will start the museum experience by viewing an archaeological excavation. The theme of water and archaeology then continues inside the building itself with the Moorish Baths that were restored two years ago.

The exhibit will be open to the public as from Saturday 17th May and will be a highlight of the 2008 Museum Open Day that will take place on Saturday 31st May.