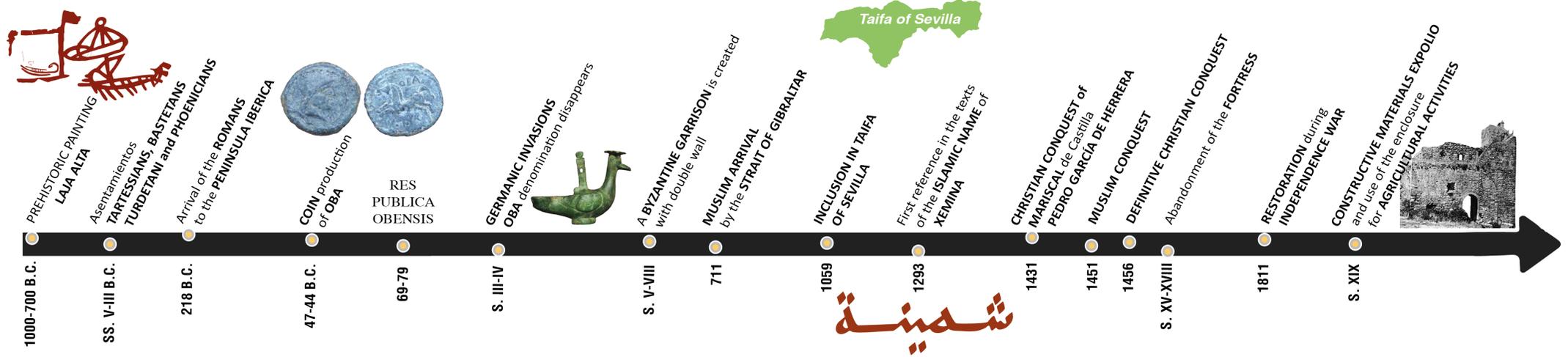




Accessing the Clock Arch Gate (see 1 on map), one can appreciate the importance of its location, allowing the control and defense of commercial routes, living its greatest heyday during the nazari kingdom of Granada. Inside we can find a series of provisioning constructions, such as the cisterns (2) that supplied of water to all the fortress. From the splendid and monumental Municipium Res Publica Obensis (OBA), from roman times, there are architectural vestiges such as the barrel vaults, the foundations of what was once a temple (3) located just next to the entry stronghold gate (4).



About 140 m from the complex we find the denominated “Tajo de la Reina Mora (5) believed to be a Mozarabic Church originally. It has a large pool carved in the rock in its exterior part and a series of hallows as mechinals and niches in its interior. The Alcazar stands imposing and majestic as the last citadel of the walled complex, with the peculiarity, unlike any other contemporary fortresses, of having a dry pit (6) inside the enclosure. The access, which originally has a retractable walkway safeguarding the pit, is now made by footbridge built at first by the christians and rebuilt centuries later by the French.



Today only its foundation can be appreciated (7). Proceeding through the runway we reach the interior of the Alcazar, the administrative and defensive center of the fortress. In the central part we can see the Homage Tower (8). Its circular floor plan makes it a unique construction, since this type of islamic tower has a poligonal or square floor plan in western countries.



Continuing with the visit, we can move toward the interior of the Alcazar from which we have breathtaking panoramas that give us the highest part of the promontory, from where we are able to see the rock of Gibraltar and the African coast on clear day. To finish the tour we can observe the walled area of the complex (9), which prevails through the centuries and through the iberian, roman and the following muslim and christian eras, taking advantage of its situation to have a beautiful view of the municipality.