



1. Metal on the Iberian Peninsula before the Advent of Islam
2. Mining and Metallurgy Techniques
3. The Value of an Object: Main Uses of Metal
4. Zoomorphic Bronze Figures
5. The Splendour of Gold and Silver

National Archaeological Museum

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Opening hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30 – 20:00 h

Sundays and holidays: 9:30 – 15:00 h

Closed Mondays



Free entrance

Free guided tours
(from December 18th)

Wednesday and Friday
At 17:30 h

Saturday at 11:00 h

Tickets available from
one hour before the activity

Places: 20



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TEMPORARY
EXHIBITION

FLOOR -1

Metal Arts in

AL-ÁNDALUS

EXTENDED

16/06/2020 - 06/09/2020



Metal Arts in Al-Andalus

Al-Andalus is a multifaceted prism that has inspired countless approaches and revisions, from its founding to the present day.

The material evidence that has survived offers insight into the principal aspects of metal in Al-Andalus, from the extraction of ore in the mines to subsequent metallurgical treatments and final manufacture, producing the most diverse objects which combine the reflection of a society, technical precision and aesthetic beauty.



Metal on the Iberian Peninsula before the advent of Islam

The entire peninsula is dotted with metal ore extraction deposits that have been exploited over long periods of time and are still active today, even though the intensity of mining activity has fluctuated over the centuries.

Mining and metallurgical techniques

Although little material evidence of mining and metallurgical activity has survived, we know a great deal thanks to treatises written by scholars, which discuss everything from mining operations and metallurgical transformation processes.

The value of an object: main uses of metal

The objects made of different metals and alloys are an accurate expression of the Hispano-Islamic society: even the simplest pieces tell us about their everyday life and personal habits, while the rarest and most luxurious ones illustrate the lifestyle of wealthier people.



Zoomorphic bronze figures

Despite the ostensible aniconism of Islam, sculpted representations of animals are quite common. Each animal was believed to have certain properties, which can be interpreted from a religious and ethical perspective or in a practical way.

The Splendour of Gold and Silver

Gold and silversmiths flourished in Al-Andalus, as we can tell from the pieces that have survived and the accounts of contemporary chroniclers. The richness and technical virtuosity is seen in the paucity of objects that have come down to us.

