

# The Muslim West | Defence

The establishment of a defensive system.

Fortifications in the Muslim West were erected for two reasons: to defend borders and to consolidate power over conquered lands that were continually threatened by internal conflicts. Construction of defensive structures was initially sporadic and designed to suppress rebellious local populations. More complex defensive systems were subsequently developed throughout the West under Almohad rule, and were later adapted to counter new attacking strategies that employed catapults, battering rams and assault towers.



**Name:**  
Merida Citadel

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 220 / AD 835 Umayyad of al-Andalus, Emirate period

**Details:**  
Merida, Badajoz, Spain

**Justification:**  
Unlike isolated fortifications, the defence system at Merida was based on complementary constructions such as multiple enclosures and strong towers and walls.



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**Name:**  
Islamic wall

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira second half of 6th / AD second half of 12th century Almohad

**Details:**  
Silves, Faro, Portugal

**Justification:**

Unlike isolated fortifications, the defence system at Silves was based on complementary constructions such as multiple enclosures, and strong towers and walls.



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**Name:**  
Fragment of a commemorative plaque

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 437 / AD 1046 Fatimid-Zirid

**Details:**  
Museum of Islamic Art  
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

**Justification:**  
Some fortifications were financed by sovereigns or rulers, whose names would be mentioned on the foundation plaque.



**Name:**  
Commemorative plaque

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 624 / AD 1227 Almohad

**Details:**  
Infante D. Henrique Archaeological and Lapidary Museum  
Faro, Portugal

**Justification:**  
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**Name:**

Foundation plaque

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 357 / AD 968 Umayyads of al-Andalus, Caliphate period

**Details:**

National Archaeological Museum

Madrid, Spain

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