

# Var der søslag i Colosseum?

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## Abstract

### Did sea battles take place in the Colosseum?

*The Colosseum is the most famous Roman building. It is the icon of ancient Rome and the Roman emperors. Whenever I have been teaching Roman architecture or topography, or visited Rome with a group of family, friends, students or tourists, I have been met with the inevitable question: How did the Romans do the sea battles? The short answer has always been: They did not! The long answer calls for a detailed tour de force through logistics. A sea battle demands water. It may have been as much as 5.000 cubic meters in order to give the right impression. Also, there are severe issues with the size and number of ships involved plus the number of fighters. The final important issue is how did they get the water into the arena; how did they keep the water there and how did they drain it out again.*

