

# RELIGIOUS

**REGION  
OF MURCIA**  
RELIGIOUS  
AND CULTURAL  
TOURISM



The background image shows a panoramic view of a city at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there's a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs. Beyond them, a range of mountains is visible under a sky filled with dramatic, layered clouds. The overall atmosphere is warm and scenic.

1

CITY OF THE  
TRUE CROSS

1

PERPETUAL  
JUBILEE YEAR

4

RELIGIOUS  
FESTIVALS OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
TOURIST INTEREST

300

DAYS OF  
SUNSHINE PER  
YEAR

19

DEGREES  
(OUR AVERAGE  
TEMPERATURE)



MAKE YOU  
HAPPY





# REGION OF MURCIA

## PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE

To explore the Region of Murcia, keep your feet on the ground. With each step, you'll experience emotions that elevate your spirit beyond the earthly.

The Region of Murcia is a focal point of Christianity, evidenced by **Pope John Paul II** granting the privilege to celebrate the Jubilee Year In Perpetuum in **Caravaca de la Cruz** every 7 years since 2003. Thus, Caravaca became the fifth city in the world to celebrate the Perpetual Jubilee, together with Santiago de Compostela, Santo Toribio de Liebana, Rome and Jerusalem, the next taking place in 2017.

The religious tradition of the Region of Murcia not only dwells in every church and basilica: worship and fervour are rooted in every corner, town and city. Discover beautiful worship sites, places of pilgrimage, legends, religious festivals and heritage of incalculable value.



# CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

## + Info

[www.turismocaravaca.org](http://www.turismocaravaca.org)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

Caravaca de la Cruz is a city located in a border enclave, a crossroads between the Region of Murcia and Granada. Iberians, Romans and Muslims passed through a community settled around its castle, which, although of Arab origin, was guarded by the Knights Templar and subsequently by the Order of Santiago. Caravaca is essentially the **City of the Cross**.

According to legend, in 1232 the Moorish king Abu Zeid converted to Christianity when he witnessed two angels descending from heaven carrying a cross so that a priest imprisoned in the castle could say mass. This story led to the construction of the Shrine of the True Cross beginning in 1617 on the grounds of the fortress. Decidedly, the main landmark of this area in the northeast of Murcia is highlighted by its monumental Cehegín red marble door.

The Holy See granted papal privileges and indulgences to the Sanctuary and Brotherhood of the True Cross in 1998 in order to celebrate its **Jubilee Year every 7 years**. Caravaca de la Cruz is looking forward to the arrival of thousands of pilgrims during the next **Jubilee Year in 2017**.

Mysticism, legend and tradition have shaped a story that has endured throughout the ages and is a truly singular experience.



# GRANTING OF JUBILEE YEAR "IN PERPETUUM" BY SAINT JOHN PAUL II



PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Prot. N. 2/98/I

BEATISSIMUS PATER,

Xaverius Azagra Labiano, Episcopus Cartagenensis in Hispania, uno corde cum suo clero, cum sodalibus Confraternitatis Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis, ceterique fidelibus suis pastorali cura dominica, filialis devotione sanguis erga Sanctitatem Tuam ex animo pandit, et reverenter exponit. Instantibus Moderationibus prefectorum Confraternitatis, collatisque consilii cura Episcopis Hispanis, statutum est pro diocesi Cartagenensi in Hispania octavum quoque annum, incipiendo ab anno 2003, in Sanctuario Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis de Caravaca, si cui sacre functionis devoe admitterint vel auctem Orationem Dominicam ac Fidel Symbolum recitaverint: 1. die 3 maii, quae ibi sollemniter celebratur, et die 14 septembris, in Exaltatione SS. mae Crucis; 2. quod illuc devotionis causa turritum peregrinali finit; 3. semel in anno, die a singulis fidelibus liberè eligendo. Conceditur iesuper plenaria Indulgentia, sub iudeo condicione christifidelibus oblinenda, diebus quibus septemannis celebratio, de qua supra dictum est, sollemniter aperietur et claudetur, aliisque eiusdem diebus in quibus Episcopus loci in dicto Sanctuario aliqui sollemni ritu praesidebit.

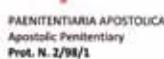
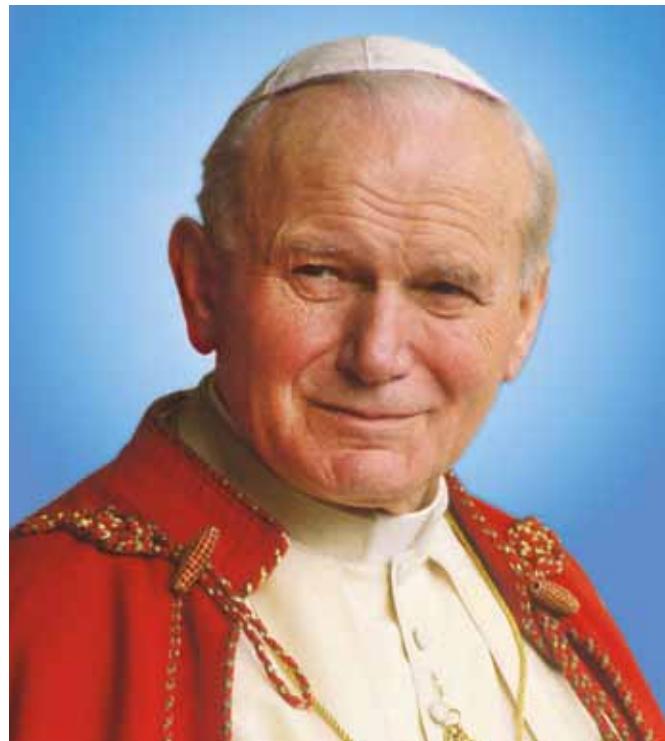
Et Deus, etc.

Die 9 Ianuarii 1998

PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA, de Summi Pontificis mandato, libenter concedit plenariam Indulgentiam, ex quo sicut erga quodcumque peccatum et sub sanctis conditionibus (sacramentali confessio, eucharistica communione et oratione ad mentem credentis Summi Pontificis) assecurandam christifidelibus in Sanctuario Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis de Caravaca, si cui sacre functionis devoe admitterint vel auctem Orationem Dominicam ac Fidel Symbolum recitaverint: 1. die 3 maii, quae ibi sollemniter celebratur, et die 14 septembris, in Exaltatione SS. mae Crucis; 2. quod illuc devotionis causa turritum peregrinali finit; 3. semel in anno, die a singulis fidelibus liberè eligendo. Conceditur iesuper plenaria Indulgentia, sub iudeo condicione christifidelibus oblinenda, diebus quibus septemannis celebratio, de qua supra dictum est, sollemniter aperietur et claudetur, aliisque eiusdem diebus in quibus Episcopus loci in dicto Sanctuario aliqui sollemni ritu praesidebit.

Præsentis in perpetuum validus. Contraria quibuscumque non ostentibus.

+Alairio De Magistris  
Regent  
H.M. Tedeschini  
ff.



PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA  
Apostolic Penitentiary  
Prot. N. 2/98/I

MOST BLESSED FATHER,

Javier Azagra Labiano, Bishop of Cartagena in Spain, together with his clergy, the Brothers of the Hermandad de la Santísima y Vera Cruz –Brotherhood of the Blessed and True Cross–, and the rest of believers entrusted to his pastoral care, expresses ardent devotion to Your Holiness and respectfully sets forth:

With the plea and perseverance of the Heads of the aforementioned Brotherhood, and once the opinion of the Spanish Episcopal Conference has been sought, it has been determined for the Diocese of Cartagena in Spain to celebrate a Jubilee Year every seven years, starting in the Year 2003, in the Sanctuary of the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca, including special services and different religious initiatives.

The highly renowned and old Sanctuary is most dearly beloved for the hearts of the believers. Ardent devotion to the Blessed Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ was spread from there around the world by preachers of the Gospel. In order that the Christian people may preserve this devotion and strengthen it day by day, the Honourable Speaker respectfully inspires to Your Holiness the gift of a Plenary Indulgence for the devout believers who visit the aforementioned Sanctuary.

And may God...

January 9, 1998

THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, by mandate of the Pope, gladly grants a Plenary Indulgence, with perfect contrition and under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), to be gained by the Christian faithful who devoutly participate in any celebration in the Sanctuary of the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca or at least recite the Lord's Prayer or the Creed:

1. On May 3rd, solemnly celebrated there, and September 14th, Festivity of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
2. Every time they devoutly make a group pilgrimage to the Sanctuary.
3. Once a year, on a day which can be freely chosen by the Christian faithful.

A Plenary Indulgence is also granted, in the usual manner, on the days when every seven years the solemn Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Jubilee Year are celebrated and also on those days of the same year when the Bishop presides over some solemn rite.

This granting is valid in perpetuity. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

+ Luis De Magistris Regent

H.M. Tedeschini Officer



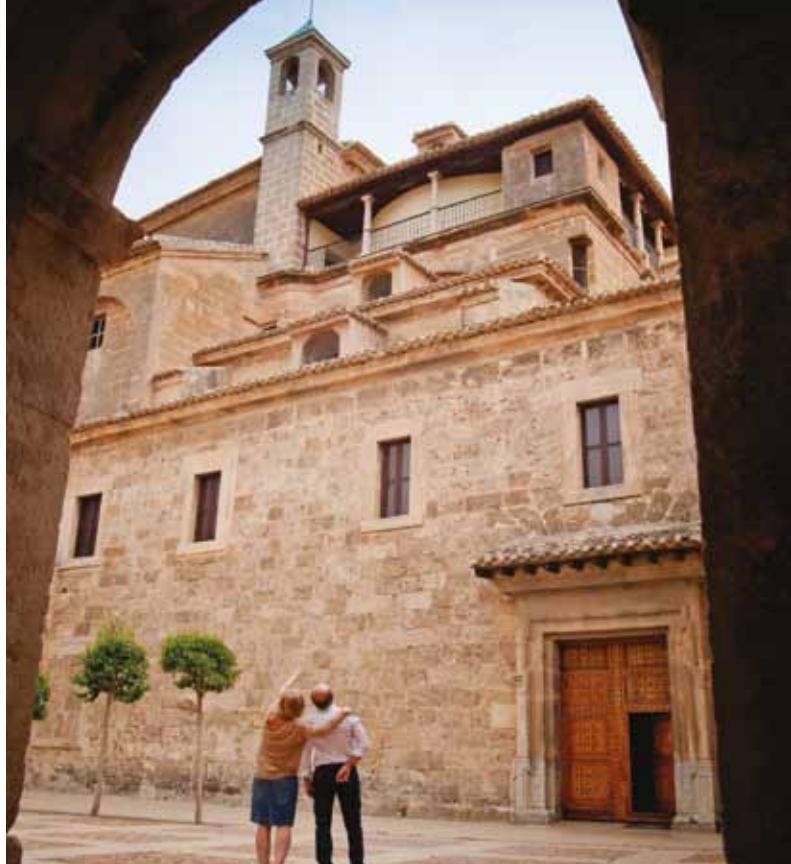
# CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

## CARAVACA TERESIAN CITY

Caravaca features one of the best religious architecture complexes in the Region of Murcia for pilgrims, devotees and visitors. A magnificent network of churches, convents and other places of worship fill a labyrinthine layout of streets, small squares and blind alleys, where getting lost can lead to finding oneself.

Additionally, since it has a Convent founded by **Saint Teresa de Jesús** in 1576, Caravaca is integrated into the "**Teresian Cities**" tourist route. The building has two distinct parts: the church and the monastery of the Carmelite nuns. The church, with a single nave, was rebuilt in the eighteenth century and its decorative style belongs to the Rococo period.

The Church of Solitude, the Church of the Saviour and the Society of Jesus, The Temple, the Monastery of Santa Clara, the hermitage of Santa Elena, San Sebastián and La Reja, and the glorious Basilica of the Blessed and True Cross are mandatory stops on a path that leaves its mark on each and every visitor.



## BASILICA OF THE TRUE CROSS

The **True Cross** is kept in the Basilica of the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca. Travellers from all over the world flock to experience the spirituality in an atmosphere of profound recollection.

The Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca is a cross of Eastern origin and patriarchal aspect, with a double crossbar, or four arms, which has been venerated since the thirteenth century. The relic appeared on 3 May 1231.

According to tradition:

"The Caravaca lands were conquered by the Almohad Sayyid of Valencia, Abu-Zeid, who was deployed here during this period. It is said that amongst the Christian prisoners was a Cuenca priest named Ginés Pérez Chirinos. The Sayyid interrogated the prisoner about his occupation, to which he replied, "I say Mass". The priest's response piqued the curiosity of the Sayyid, who ordered everything necessary for Chirinos to be brought to the main hall of the Alcazar in order to perform a demonstration of this liturgical act. Shortly after starting the celebration, Chirinos stopped and lamented the impossibility of continuing the ceremony because of the lack of a crucifix at the altar. It was precisely at that moment two angels appeared carrying a cross and placed it on the altar so that the priest could continue the Mass. Upon seeing this miracle, as the story goes, the Sayyid and his men converted to Christianity".

Numerous religious orders who have settled in Caravaca contributed to spreading knowledge of the Cross through Latin America and Europe, especially the Jesuits and Franciscans lead, by their missionary zeal.



# CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

## AND ITS MUSEUMS

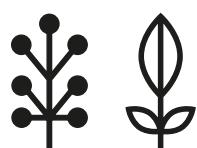
Other cultural attractions in Caravaca de la Cruz include its museums. One is the **Museum of the True Cross**, located in the Castle Fortress, which exhibits jewellery and painting collections. Within the gallery there are 6 oil on wood paintings from the sixteenth century, Hernando de los Llanos originals, a painter who was a disciple of Leonardo da Vinci. A highlight of the gold and silverware is the custodial monstrance of the Cross, from the early sixteenth century, and the Portacruz of the Baths, a gift from Luis Fajardo, the second Marquis of the Vélez. Another standout piece in the museum is Chirinos' chasuble, a Muslim tiraz adapted into the shape of a liturgical adornment that is believed to have been carried by Chirinos at the moment of the miraculous appearance of the cross.

Another museum that stands out for its originality is the **Ethnic Music Museum of Barranda**, where around 1,000 musical instruments from every era and continent are exhibited. Other recommended stops include the **Archaeological Museum**, the **Festival Museum** and **Ángel Reinón Museum of Miniatures**.



## A CHARMING PLACE

Located just over two kilometres from the town centre of Caravaca, one of the most beautiful sites in the region awaits you: the **Marquis Fountains**. Pure water springs, abundant nature and an undeniable charm are all there for you to discover at your leisure. It is here that an ancient **Templar Tower** stands, enveloped in legend, which served as an outpost for the defence against the Muslims and now houses the **Centre for the Interpretation of Nature**.





## FEASTS OF THE BLESSED AND TRUE CROSS

The Feasts of the Blessed and True Cross were declared of **International Tourist Interest** in 2004, and are held every year from the 1st to the 5th of May. On the second day, the castle hosts the popular and spectacular Wine Horse race. On 3 May, do not miss one of the most beautiful and treasured occasions, the procession passing through the streets of the old town, from the Church of the Saviour to the Templete. We also suggest seeing the Parliament of the Moorish and Christian kings along with the Bath of the Cross in the Templete, a major and highly-devotional event.

On 5 May, the Procession of the Holy Relic to the Sanctuary Basilica is the best possible finish to the festivities.

## CROSS OF CARAVACA ROUTE

Explore the different paths of the **Cross of Caravaca Route**, which will lead you to the Holy City where you can rekindle the pilgrimage tradition on foot or by bicycle. We present a complex of routes that combine the religious with **the cultural, nature, gastronomy and heritage**, from different regions of Spain all with the same destination: Caravaca de la Cruz.

Caravaca de la Cruz  
Año Jubilar 2017



Camino de la Cruz  
de Caravaca



# CALASPARRA

+ Info  
[www.turismocalasparra.es](http://www.turismocalasparra.es)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

This Murcia town is famous, in addition to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Hope**, because of its important rice plain where rice is produced with the Calasparra Designation of Origin.

Along with the other area attractions that are sure to nourish mind, body and soul, its privileged location and history make Calasparra a special attraction. With four rivers and two reservoirs, Calasparra's waters attract visitors, not only because of their rich landscape, but also because of the variety of activities to be enjoyed, including caving in the **Cave of the Port** and canyoning. The descending River Segura through the **Almadenes Canyon** runs through the Protected Natural Reserve of the Cañaverosa Riverside Forest, where some of the last otters in the Region live, along with a large variety of waterfowl. This is truly a paradise for the senses.

In addition, Calasparra is known for its **cave paintings**, named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and for archaeological sites from the Palaeolithic era and Hispanic-Muslim art.



## SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF HOPE

The Shrine of **Our Lady of Hope**, patron saint of Calasparra, is located in the area known as "Lomad de la Virgen", a place of great beauty on the banks of the River Segura. Today, the Shrine is a renowned place of pilgrimage, celebrating a Jubilee Holy Year in 2008.

The first written reference to the Shrine dates from the early seventeenth century, when Alonso Benítez de Munera founded the Fuentecilla hermitage, which is now known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Hope (although there is evidence that the Virgin was venerated long before).

Inside, the main altarpiece is featured, decorated in green and gold with Marian symbols. At its centre, the image of the Virgin is situated, which is composed of two figures. The image of Our Lady of Hope, known as La Grande, is a classic carving from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whose head is the only original element, which was donated in 1617 by Juana Sánchez. The image of "La Pequeñica" is a mystery, since its origins and date of completion are still unknown.

After passing the hermitage, in the annexed building are the rooms of the Camarín and Museum. The Camarín is where several images of the Virgin are saved. In the Museum, the trappings of the Virgin are kept, including garments, jewellery and clothing.

Other religious monuments in this town are the **Church of San Pedro**, **Church of Los Santos**, **Church of la Merced**, **Hermitage of Ecce-Homo** and **Hermitage of San Miguel**.



# CARTAGENA

## + Info

[www.cartagenaturismo.es](http://www.cartagenaturismo.es)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)



Cartagena is a city with over 3,000 years of history, offering monumental testimonies of its magnificent historical past in each and every corner, street and square. A prime example of this is the **Roman Theatre** built by Emperor Augustus in the first century BC, although it was not discovered until 1990. A not-to-be-missed highlight is the Museum of the Roman Theatre, a fascinating architectural complex designed by Rafael Moneo, where each room is more spectacular than the last. The palace of Pascual de Riquelme and cathedral of Santa María la Vieja are integrated into the museum, and, in the last corridor, the most impressive stop: the Roman Theatre.

**Cartagena, a Port of Cultures**, will allow you to enjoy the heritage and rich culture of the city by understanding its background.

Learn about its origins through the remains of the **Punic Wall**, a witness to the founding of the city by the Carthaginian general Hasdrubal in the year 227 BC. Moreover, its Interpretation Centre will explain, in detail and most entertaining manner, this fundamental part of local history and archaeology. In the recently restored **Roman Forum neighbourhood**, you can walk a whole block of Roman Cartagena, including a thermal resort from the first century AD and atrium building from the end of the first century BC.

Strolling through the city you will also discover that Cartagena preserves its military footprint dating back to medieval times. The Interpretation Centre is located in the **Castle of la Concepción**, a site with spectacular views, where the many secrets of this Mediterranean city will be revealed alongside its greatest tales.

## CARTAGENA HOLY WEEK

Holy Week in Cartagena is the quintessential feast of this city. Declared as a place of International Tourist Interest, the solemnity, military nature and order characterise these deeply-rooted processions of the Cartageneros. From Good Friday until Easter Sunday, ten days are filled with light, flowers, stunning thrones and wonderful costumes. The largest events carry great passion and fervour, such as the end procession of San Pedro del Arsenal or the Meeting in the Plaza de la Merced. The Holy Week processions in Cartagena are the first in all of Spain and are the perfect excuse to start your holidays here.



RELIGIOUS AND  
CULTURAL

# MURCIA

## + Info

[www.turismodemurcia.es/en](http://www.turismodemurcia.es/en)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

Murcia is a melting pot of artistic styles with examples of incalculable value. It was founded in 831 by the Emir of Cordoba, Abderramán II, in a privileged enclave in the middle of the River Segura valley. The importance of the **Arab period** features in the surrounding walls, 15 metres in height and with 95 towers. Some of the remains are still visible in different parts within the city and can be viewed in the **Visitors Centre of the Wall** in Santa Eulalia Plaza. An important place that highlights the numerous archaeological palatial-type remains of the **Monastery of Santa Clara la Real** is the **Museum of Santa Clara**.

Step into the old town full of narrow streets with guild names like the shopping area of **Platería** (Silver-maker), **Trapería** (Rag-seller) and **Jabonería** (Soap-maker), witnesses to the daily commotion in the Region's capital. From the seventeenth century, and especially in the eighteenth, Murcia achieved a splendour that expanded beyond its walls. At this time, numerous churches were built, mostly Baroque. **Temples including la Merced, San Miguel, Santa Ana, the Monastery of Santa Clara el Real, Santo Domingo, Santa Eulalia and San Juan de Dios** unite an important pictorial and sculptural heritage with architectural art, the carved works of Francisco Salzillo being a particular highlight.

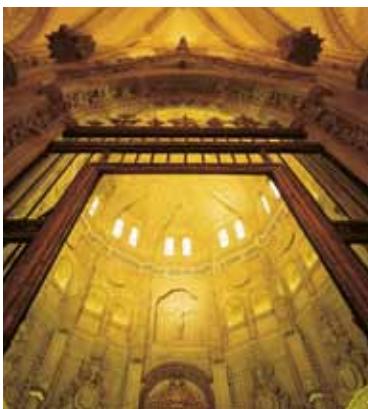


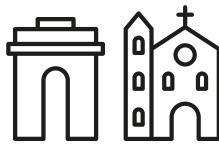
## CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA

The main monument of Murcia is its **Cathedral**, whose construction began in the late fourteenth century. It features an eclectic collection of various artistic styles that are not overshadowed by its great majesty. Gothic elements, such as the **Gate of the Apostles** and the **Chapel of Los Vélez**, coexist with both Renaissance features, including the **Junterón Chapel**, and Baroque details that are **featured in its spectacular "imafronte"**, conceived as a gigantic

altarpiece by Jaime Bort, combining wisdom with sculpture and architecture. The **tower stands 92 metres tall**, built in various stages between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Next to the Cathedral, the eighteenth century Episcopal Palace stirs wonderment in both tourists and pilgrims.

Amongst the city's sacred art, do not miss the **Salzillo Museum**. Be moved by the realism of the figures and steps of the great





## HOLY WEEK AND SALZILLO: BAROQUE IMAGERY

The Murcia Holy Week has been declared of International Tourist Interest. The carvings of Salzillo, orchard essence and Nazarenes who hand out candy, cakes and other presents make this Holy Week especially unique in our country.

The most striking procession is the one on **Good Friday** also known as "Los Salzillos", in which more than 4,000 Nazarenes wearing purple depart at dawn and carry original works of art from the eighteenth century by the great Murciano sculptor **Francisco Salzillo y Alcaraz**.

Undoubtedly, the most scenic and popular parade is that of Los Coloraos on **Holy Wednesday**. With more than 3,000 Nazarenes, this procession is peculiar because of the great number of children that lead the procession. Candy and gifts are handed out, as well as tender beans and other products linking the orchards to the Arch Confraternity of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Murciano sculptor Francisco Salzillo, which are paraded upon in the Good Friday morning procession. Behold his famous Bethlehem, from which one of the most deeply rooted craft traditions in the Region of Murcia was born.

There are other magnificent examples of Baroque architecture in the **Sanctuary of la Fuensanta** and in the **Monastery of los Jerónimos**, also known as "El Escorial Murciano".



RELIGIOUS AND  
CULTURAL

# LORCA

## + Info

[www.lorcaturismo.es](http://www.lorcaturismo.es)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

Lorca, known as the "Baroque City" because of the important legacy of its historic centre, is where the "**Biblical-Passion Processions**" are staged every year during Holy Week, declared of International Tourist Interest in 2007. Chariot riders, carriages, horses, floats, fine gold and silk robes and the famous rivalry between the **Paso Blanco** and **Azul** make this one of the most spectacular events of Holy Week in all of Spain.

The brilliant artistic heritage of the so-called "Sun City" shines on its many monuments from different eras. The Miliaria Column from the Roman period, its castle with the Tower of the Espolón and Alfonsina Tower and Christian contributions after the Reconquista join the Porche de San Antonio, the door of the old walled enclosure that surrounded the city in the tenth century. Adding to this treasured legacy are the numerous churches and convents that range from the thirteenth to the fourteenth centuries, the Baroque palaces and stately homes, such as the Guevara Palace, los Condes de San Julián Palace and the House of los Mula. A highlight is the military fortress, heir to the medieval citadel, which made it an impregnable enclosure. In addition to the cobbled streets around the Plaza de España, there are buildings featuring popular architecture with a strong traditional character, such as la Zapatería and la Cava.

Other monuments to help you discover the religious dimension of Lorca include the **Shrine of the Virgin de las Huertas**, the **Collegiate Church of San Patricio**, the **Monumental Complex of the Calvary**, declared of Cultural Interest, and the **Museum of Bethlehem**.



## HOLY WEEK EMBROIDERY MUSEUMS

The **Holy Week Embroidery Museum** reminds us that it is Easter throughout the year in Lorca. Through its numerous exhibits, you'll discover the rich heritage of the brotherhoods and the original and surprising experience of the Biblical-Passion processions. Various audio-visuals demonstrate the most impressive and moving

moments of this original and popular demonstration of faith. These museums feature the cloths and banners of the religious images for each brotherhood, as well as the remnants of the robes worn by historical figures who partook in the life, passion and death of Jesus Christ. Also exhibited are religious images and thrones that are used in the processions

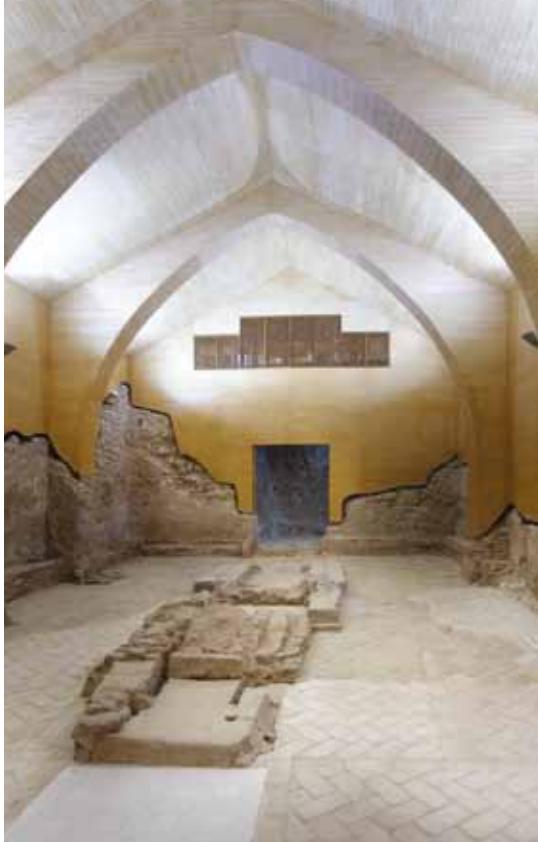
during Holy Week, created by renowned sculptors. Another attraction is access to the embroidery workshops to witness the creation of Lorca embroidery, crafted with the care and patience that makes this artisan technique an important part of our Cultural Heritage.



## SYNAGOGUE AND JEWISH QUARTER

Lorca features non-ecclesiastical monuments, such as the **Synagogue and the Jewish Quarter** Archaeological Park. The medieval Jewish neighbourhood of Lorca was inside the citadel, separated by walls from the rest of the city. With an area of about 5,700 square metres, so far 12 homes and a fourteenth century synagogue have been excavated, the only one found in the Region of Murcia.

Delve into the Jewish culture and religion by stepping inside the Synagogue accessed via patio. Inside the prayer hall is where the Torah scrolls are held and a niche (Hechal decorated with Gothic plasterwork. You can also see the remains of the plinth where the Bimah stood from which the Torah was read.



## CHANUKAH

In mid-December, on the occasion of the Moorish, Christian and Jewish festivities, the lighting of the Chanukah menorah takes place. This is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the defeat of the Greeks and the recovery of Jewish independence under the Maccabees in the second century BC.

The custom is to progressively light the nine-branched candelabra, known as the Menorah. In Lorca, this is a cultural event that takes place between late November and the first half of December. In recent years, the holiday has taken place at the Lorca Castle Synagogue.



RELIGIOUS AND  
CULTURAL

# TOTANA

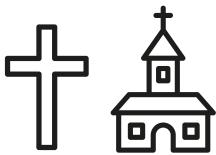
## + Info

[www.turismo.totana.es](http://www.turismo.totana.es)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

Totana encompasses tourist sights of extraordinary beauty and myriad landscapes. This historic, attractive and monumental town has preserved stately homes from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and must-see monuments, like the **Church of Santiago**. Totana's considerable architectural heritage is best understood through a visit to the site of **La Bastida**, the most powerful city in continental Europe during the Bronze Age, some 4,200 years ago, and a fortified square comparable to the second city of Troy.

It also features the enviable **Orchards**, composed of nineteenth century houses surrounded by almond, orange and lemon trees that accompany you in your ascent to the **La Santa** area, located in the natural enclave of the Regional Park of Sierra Espuña. Here is where the Shrine of Santa Eulalia de Mérida lies, the most important landmark of Totana. In the Tuscan style, it converges art, history and religion, hosting one of the best Mudejar-coffered ceilings in Spain.





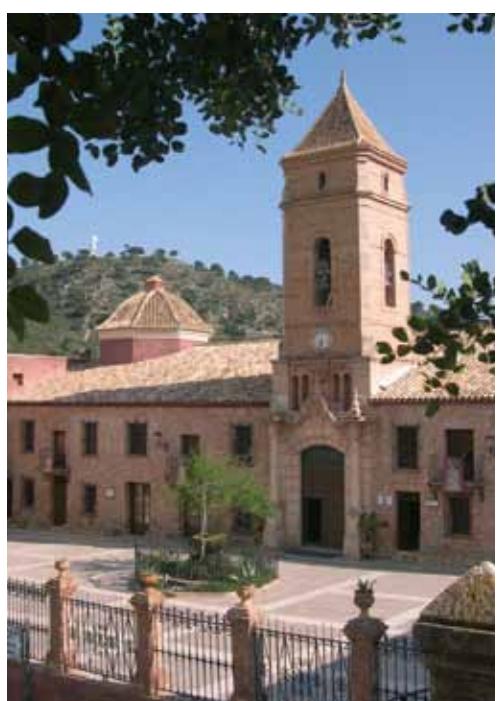
### SHRINE OF SANTA EULALIA OF MÉRIDA, “LA SANTA (THE SAINT)”

The Shrine celebrated its Jubilee in honour of Santa Eulalia in 2004, and is located seven kilometres from the town of Totana, where the image of **Santa Eulalia of Mérida** is venerated, patron saint of the city since 1644. This devotion goes beyond the municipality limits and extends to other parts of the Region of Murcia and other areas where pilgrims and devotees come together in faith. The Knights of Santiago were responsible for bringing the devotion to Santa Eulalia up to Totana. Many Murciano lands were donated by Alfonso X The Wise in 1257 to the Military Order of Santiago and to its master, Pelay Pérez Correa, a character linked to the city of Mérida.

The architectural composition and ochre colours of the facades of this

religious monument are typical of this area of Espuña, affording it a declaration of Cultural Interest. The hermitage of a single nave was built in 1595 and boasts an impressive **Mudejar-coffered** ceiling. The walls are completely covered with tempering technique dating from the seventeenth century and relate, in a very didactic way, the life of Christ and miracles of the Saint. This building has some of the most significant exponents of folk art in the entire Levant peninsula.

At this site you can enjoy an exceptionally rich environment: the Aleppo pine forest and a large variety of native plants have created a charming area where you can easily relax and enjoy your natural surroundings.



RELIGIOUS AND  
CULTURAL

# JUMILLA

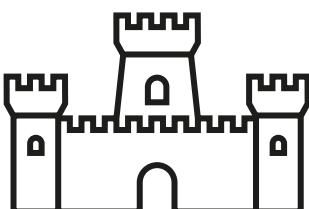
## + Info

[www.rutadelvinojumilla.com](http://www.rutadelvinojumilla.com)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)  
[www.jumilla.org](http://www.jumilla.org)

Most famous for its wines with **Designation of Origin**, Jumilla lies in the Altiplano of the Region of Murcia, where the coastal lands give way to the plains of La Mancha.

Rich in history and cultural heritage, many memories attest to its evolution over time. The Iberian settlement of Coimbra, in the Barranco Ancho, is one of the most important in the region, like the "Villas" in Roman times, whose remains can be visited in the **Archaeological Museum of the Palace of the Council**. The Arab world marked its legacy through archaeology and toponymy. The Reconquista recovered this region for Christianity, under the protection of the Lordship of Villena, at which time the city was acquiring its current urban configuration.

Many of the buildings constructed during these centuries recall the splendour of the city and will pique your curiosity. A highlight is the **fifteenth century Castle** at the top of the hill. Built on the Roman settlement and Arab fortress, the donjon and parade ground have been well-preserved. Another monument not to be missed is the Church of Santiago from the fifteenth-nineteenth centuries, declared a National Monument and symbol of Jumilla. Lastly, the Old Council and Market, from the sixteenth century, are the only examples of non-military civil architecture from Murcia's Renaissance.



In 2006, the Holy See granted Jumilla the honour of celebrating the Jubilee Year to mark the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Holy **Christ Tied to the Column** to Santa Ana.

Jumilla's religious monuments afford you the opportunity to appreciate a variety of sacred art. The **Convent of Santa Ana del Monte**, belonging to the Franciscan order, is in the middle of a pine forest in the Sierra de Santa Ana and was founded on 4 August 1573. The first community of friars began their works with the help of the Council and the residents of the village. In the seventeenth century, a crucified Christ known as "La Reja" was hung in its vault, which, according to tradition, pulled his hand from the cross and gave his blessing three times to the monks as they prayed.





Other major attractions to visit include the **Main Church of Santiago**. This magnificent temple has been a National Monument since 1931 and has become one of the great symbols of the city. Don't miss the **Church of the Saviour**, in the Neoclassic and Murcia Baroque, or flat Baroque, style; the **Hermitage of San Antón-Holy Week Museum**, whose vault and windows are decorated in a Baroque-Rococo style, including the Ansada Cross and that of San Antón, along with the Golden Fleece, a symbol attributed to the Spanish kings.

The **Hermitage of San Agustín** was the last hermitage of the Granada Route. It was built in 1570 and was renovated in the eighteenth century to adapt to the cult of the patron saint of Jumilla, Our Lady of the Assumption. It has two baroque domes, one that illuminates the transept and main altar, and the other intended for the chapel of the Virgin. In the **Municipal Holy Week Museum**, you can appreciate other art that is a part Holy Week in Jumilla, one of the oldest in the Region of Murcia and declared of **National Tourist Interest**.



#### JUMILLA HOLY WEEK

Jumilla's **Holy Week** is a festivity with its roots in tradition, artistic wealth, colours, devotion, passion and more than four centuries of parades. The highlight is the Sacramental Rite of "The Arrest", a play in which the temptations of Christ, the betrayal of Judas and the arrest of the Messiah are staged.

RELIGIOUS AND  
CULTURAL

# YECLA

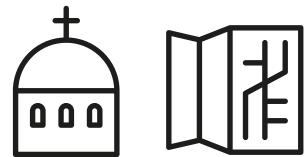


+ Info

[www.yecla.es](http://www.yecla.es)  
[www.murciaturistica.es/en](http://www.murciaturistica.es/en)

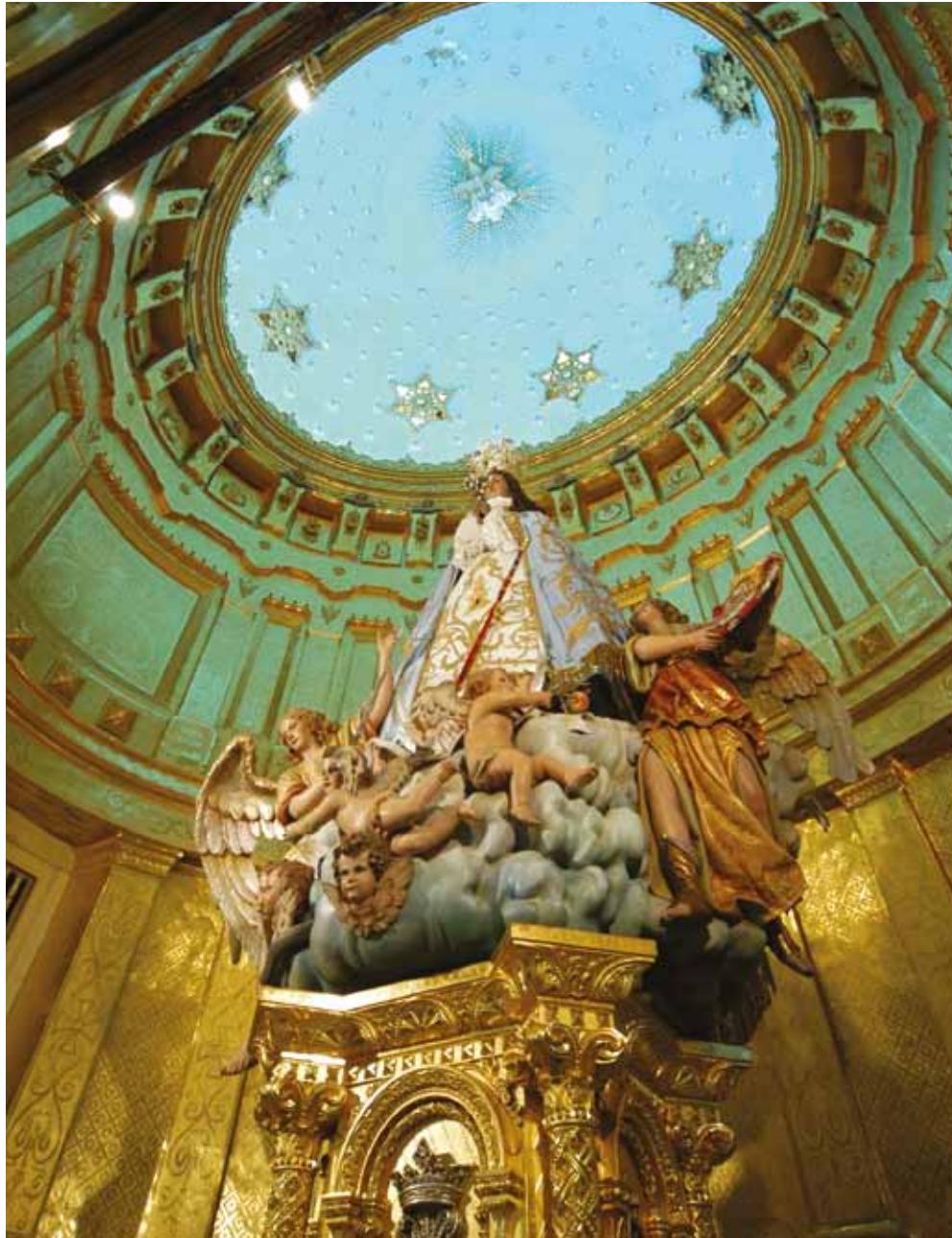
Yecla is a melting pot of cultures and city of singular spirit mainly due to its geographical location. It is the postcard picture of plateau Murcia. Preceded by the fame of its inhabitants, its strong personality has influenced writers such as Azorín and Pío Baroja.

This region offers many options for hiking, cycling and caving. Pedalling the road that takes you to the Monte Arabí, a mountain ripe with fable and legend, you'll reach the **Neolithic cave paintings** that decorate the coverings of the Canto de la Visera y Mediodía. A long distance route, the GR7, runs the Levant from the north of Spain through the Altiplano.



In Yecla you can visit the **Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**. In the Neoclassical style, it was built between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. The hemispherical dome stands out, which was built with blue and white glazed tile decorated in a spiral formation. In one of the side chapels, the sculpture of the Virgin of Sorrows carved by Francisco Salzillo in 1764 can be found. Also interesting are the vault paintings created by the Lorca painter Muñoz Barberán.

The Shrine of the Castle hosts the image of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of Yecla, throughout the year.



## LOCAL FESTIVITIES FOR THE VIRGIN OF THE CASTLE

Declared of National Tourist Interest, the holiday rituals have remained unchanged for the last 350 years, with loyal continuity in the events and ceremonies. The clothing of the period is highly respected, composed of a coat and cocked hat dressing more than 700 "tiraores" who accompany the Virgin while firing their muskets. The cloud of gunpowder transports the spectator back to the times of municipal militia processions.

In December, the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** is celebrated. In 1954 the Canónica Coronation for the Virgin of the Castle was made by decision of Pope Pius XI. Thereafter, the roots of this celebration have steadily grown amongst Yecla residents, producing new events such as the Flower Offering, various team activities, the Proclamation and other cultural festivities.



The House of Culture hosts a collection of replicas of El Greco, made by local painter Juan Albert Roses. There are 73 works of arts divided into four sections: Mariology, Nativity and life of Christ, life of saints and apostles and Portraiture.



# RELIGIOUS TRADITION AND EVENTS. FERVOUR AND POPULAR CELEBRATION

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Amongst the traditions and religious events, Holy Week is a must-see festivity in the Region of Murcia. While sometimes hidden behind hoods and other times out in the open, religious sentiments emerge with the sounding of the trumpet and bang of the drum. Silence and devotion permeate the streets and sacred art can be found in every city and town in Murcia. Though you may witness different rights and customs, a singular spirit remains throughout. This is an event that basks in the richness of its own identity, and is proud of the recognition it has achieved.

## Declared of International Tourist Interest:

Cartagena Holy Week  
Murcia Holy Week  
Lorca Holy Week  
Festivities for the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca

## Declared of National Tourist Interest:

Jumilla Holy Week  
Cieza Holy Week  
Mula Night of the Drums





## WHERE TO STAY

Find a wide range of coastal, urban and rural accommodation and hotels that best suit your needs. Recently-built modern facilities or buildings that retain their classicism are equipped with all of the amenities to make your stay comfortable. Some also feature spas and thalassotherapy treatments to give you the care that you deserve. The best reward is to take a break from your routine and enjoy a good night's rest.

Check out the variety of accommodations in the Region of Murcia at:  
[www.murciaturistica.es](http://www.murciaturistica.es)





**Costa Cálida**  
Region of Murcia - Spain

Caravaca de la Cruz  
Año Jubilar 2017



Camino de la Cruz  
de Caravaca

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