

ENVIROMENT

NATURAL SITE : FUENTES DEL MARQUES

A nice spot of nature situated a few kilometers from the town center where the most abundant springs in the Region of Murcia can be found, as well as a very diversified forrestal area.

In this place, you can find out, also, the Marques' Caves which are located on a hill and serves as a viewer for the whole site, offering too some beautiful views of Caravaca city.

NATURAL SITE : LAS TOSQUILLAS (BARRANDA)

It is settled around one kilometer from the small town of Barranda, located between two mountains. You can find plenty of vegetation as well as a water-spring that gives name to the place. Among its big walnut tree valley there is a comfortable place for lunch. In its mountains, many archeological remains from Romans were found. The name of the area where these remains are located is "La Cabezueta"; there, old vigilance towers are jealously kept away.

NATURAL SITE : LA MURALLA (ARCHIVEL)

It is a natural water-spring located in the area of Archivel. This is well known because, in one of its sides, there is an old wall that helps with the formation of a small lake. After some work on its renovation, this natural environment is nowadays a play-ground for children with a barbecue and a marvelous view point.

It is located along the old Murcia-Caravaca railway. It spans from Caravaca until Los Baños de Mula. Along the path you can observe a lot of different landscapes, from arid lands to green mountains.

NORTHWEST GREENWAY

Taking advantage of an old rail-way, you can run this green-way that goes from Mula to Caravaca de la Cruz. Along this way, you will see different varieties of landscapes, both arid areas and mountains with pines and almond trees.



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PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE



MUSEUMS

MUSEUM OF THE HOLY CROSS

Located within the Alcazar-Sanctuary, there are remarkable paintings, works of precious metals, ornaments and historical documentation regarding the Cross. Furthermore, archeological remains of the walls, towers and dungeons of the ancient Middle Age Castle can be seen, as well as a ditch from the War of Independence and one cistern.

MUSEUM FOR THE FESTIVAL ITEMS

This museum is located in the old House of the Uribe Family. In this museum you can learn about the origin and development of the local festivity, about the rituals and cultural events that form part of it. Among other things, you can take a look at the cloths of Moors and Christians and, above all, about the magnificently embroidered cloaks that used to harness the horse of wine (caballo del vino).

ARQUEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LA SOLEDAD

It is situated in the ancient Church La Soledad. Through it you can see how your ancestors lived. Various pieces are being shown from the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, the Chalkolithic period, the Agrar, the Iberic and the Roman cultures. Finally it also shows a display of our ample history in the Middle Ages.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM BY ANGEL REINON

It displays a wide walk around a group of different offices and traditional jobs, the majority of which have been forgotten nowadays. The collection shows about 400 exclusive miniature pieces in iron or wood.

NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

It is located in the well-known "Tower of the Temples" which is situated within the natural environment of Las Fuentes del Marques. Through this centre we can understand and know different cultural aspects of the northwest area of Murcia.

ETHNICAL MUSICAL MUSEUM IN BARRANDA BY CARLOS BLANCO FADOL

It homes one of the most important musical instruments collection in the world. Those instruments are made, mostly part of the time, by the players themselves.

There are musical instruments about slavery, rituals (these made of human bones)among others which form part of the ethno-music Carlos Blanco Fadol. You can also appreciate information about the "Festivity of Las Cuadrillas", celebrated in the town of Barranda the last Sunday of January.

ARQUEOLOGICAL REMAINS

This place is significant site of archeological remains in the vicinity of La Encarnacion. In this archeological complex there can be found remains from different eras iberics and Romans), which are very close to the town which shares the same name. In this area, also called as " Estrecho de las cuevas" we can find the Black Cave (middle Paleolithic), Arms Tiny Square (Middle Bronze Age), Los Villares (Iber old town), Los Villaricos (iberic-romans old town) and Moor King Cave (Muslim).



caravaca
de la cruz
ciudad santa



THE CITY OF THE CROSS

CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ is the head of the wide Northwest Region of Murcia, having more than 26,000 habitants.

The city praises to the HOLY CROSS ("SANTISIMA Y VERA CRUZ"), which according to the tradition, it appears in Caravaca in the 13th C.

This cross is a "Lignun Crucis", meaning a piece of Wood that came from that upon which Christ was crucified. It is conserved in a reliquary in the form of a crossbeam.

Due to the deep devotion that Christians have around this Cross, in 1998 the Pope granted one Year Perpetual Jubilee around our Patron Saint Cross every seven years. The first Jubilee was celebrated in 2003.

Caravaca has become one of the five holly cities in the world, owning this privilege together with Rome, Jerusalem, Santiago de Compostela y Santo Toribio de Liebana.



PARISH CHURCH OF SANTISIMA CONCEPCION

The inside of this church is remarkable, with its Mudejar coffered ceiling that covers the single nave of the church and its high tower that was finished in a 18th C. forth. It is contemporaneous to El Salvador Church but it was made with inferior materials.

TEMPLETE (SHRINE)

This building belongs to Baroco Style and has a hexagonal platform inserted in a circle. It is also known as the Bathhouse (El bañadero), making reference with this name to the traditional and holly event which every 3rd of May occurs in this place and has given origin to the festivities which every first week of May happens in Caravaca, in the honour of Santisima y Vera Cruz (Holy Cross).

THE TOWN HALL

This baroque building is the main construction of the Arch Square (plaza del Arco). It was designed by Jaime Bolt. The main façade is formed by three relevant parts: the one in the middle includes the arch that gives name to the square. In the centre of this Square you can find the monument for the Moor and the Christian, made by the sculptor Rafael Pi Belda.

MONUMENTS

CASTLE-SANCTUARY OF THE SAINT AND TRUE CROSS

It is built on a hill that dominates the entire city. It has two significant parts: The Wall-border and the Church-Sanctuary. The Wall is formed of 14 towers. The church, belonging to the 17th C., shows a clear influence by blacksmith Art; you can notice its magnificent baroque facade of 18th C., made of marble of the area.

PARISH CURCH OF EL SALVADOR

A gem of Murcian Renaissance that, regrettably, was not finished. It consists of a hall with magnificent Ionics pillars that in some height support beautiful cross vaults.

CHURCH-CONVENT NUESTRA SRA DEL CARMEN

This convent of Carmelite brothers was founded by San Juan de la Cruz in 1586. For this purpose he visited the city of Caravaca in seven occasions. This convent offers today a hospice-hotel. The building was built in the 17th C. and was designed by Fray Alberto de la Madre de Dios.

CHURCH -CULTURAL CENTRE LA COMPAÑIA DE JESUS

It was built in the 16th C. Jesuits abandoned this place in the 18th C., after the decree of expulsion by Carlos III. The building was rebuilt and today it is a centre for cultural exhibitions.

BULLFIGHTING RING

It was built on the site of the old Franciscanos Convent. It was opened in 1880. It was remodeled in 1926, adding then its magnificent Mudejar façade.

