

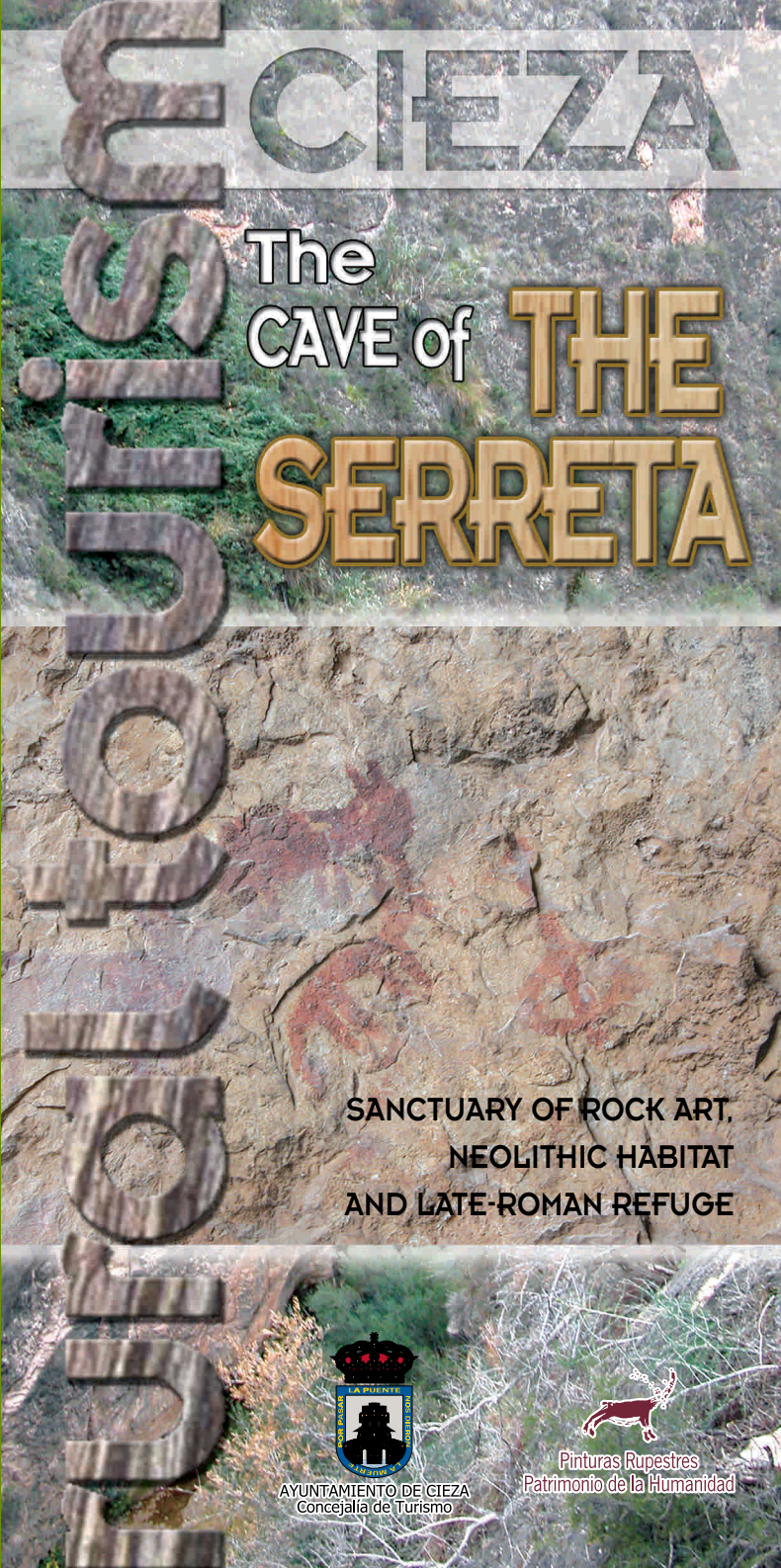


Under Islamic medieval occupation of the s. X-XIII, the remains of two constructions of roman time appeared, used successively within the second half of s. III d.C. At this time the cave was occupied by a small Hispanic roman group, who, fleeing from the civil war that bestruck the empire, looked for refuge in this place, carrying out the only roman construction within a cave documented in Spain to this day.

The City Council of Cieza has invested in the cave for the tourist advantage. The rating for tourist visits has been carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture (1% cultural) and the city council of Cieza in 2005, with clear desire to bring tourist to one of the most attractive places to be found in the city: The Cave of the Serreta, **Patrimony of the Humanity**.



Tourism Office
Camino de Murcia, 1
Telf. y Fax 968 45 35 00
E-mail: oficina.turismo@cieza.es
www.cieza.es



The CAVE of THE SERRETA

SANCTUARY OF ROCK ART,
NEOLITHIC HABITAT
AND LATE-ROMAN REFUGE



AYUNTAMIENTO DE CIEZA
Concejalía de Turismo



Pinturas Rupestres
Patrimonio de la Humanidad

THE CAVE OF THE SERRETA CIEZA (Murcia)

**SANCTUARY OF ROCK ART
NEOLITHIC HABITAT AND
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The Almadenes' canyon can be found between Cieza and Calasparra, taking advantage of a tectonic fault that has layers of dolomias and limestones. The Segura River flows through the canyon at an average depth of 70 mts, although the walls reach 120 mts of height in some points.

There are many caves in the surroundings. Inside several of these caves manifestations of Palaeolithic, Levantine and Schematic Rock Art have been found, all of them declared Patrimony of the Humanity by UNESCO in 1998.

The cave of The Serreta is in the left-hand side, in a wonderful landscape of great visual impact, and hardly accessible from the outside. The Serreta has witnessed the passing of time from prehistory to recent times and has seen various occupants from Neolithic, Romanization and the Islamic Average Age, turning it into a Sanctuary of Rock Art, Neolithic habitat and Late-roman refuge. These three elements, taken with the spectacular location, turn this cave into one of the most significant of the region, and with equal importance at regional and national level.



In the cave more than fifty rock art figures appear, distributed in two panels, pertaining to the Schematic Art, that includes in this case some figures of semi-naturalist style. The good state of conservation of the paintings, recovered in 2002 and 2003 (with the collaboration of the Council of Education and Culture), the extensive number of figures and the exceptional character of some of them, turned the Serreta into one of the most important stations of Rock in the whole of Murcia.



In the cave, interesting findings have been made of wheat seeds and barley that demonstrate the oldest origins of agriculture hitherto documented in Murcia.