

Antequera



Geography and history

Monuments and museums

Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



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like the dolmen burial chambers of La Menga, Romeral and Viera. However it was the Romans who first made Antequera a relevant settlement and discovered its extensive pastures that became the wheat fields of Rome and its Legions. The Moors called the town Medina Antaqira and they made it a fortified town in the heart of the Caliphate of Córdoba.

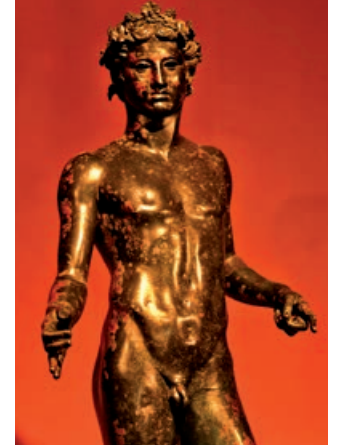
The citadel castle, walls, towers and other remains like the Málaga Gate still remain from this period. It was an important stronghold in the Moorish Kingdom until the Infante Fernando took the town in 1410. Near Antequera there are some geographical rock formations with their own personality, on one side the Karstic rock formations of El Torcal and on the other the Peña de los Enamorados (or lovers' leap) surrounded by olive groves, like nature's watchtower looking over the countryside. The Golden Age brought urban development to Antequera both architectural and cultural, with a population of over 17.000 inhabitants and factories for textiles, leather goods and products derived from cereals. In the twentieth century, after 1975, during the Transition and access to autonomous rule for Andalucía, the role of Antequera in the history of andalucismo is recognized in several ways because the pre-autonomous agreement was signed in the town. The climate is continental, with an average temperature of 18.1 °C, with fairly cold winters and hot summers.



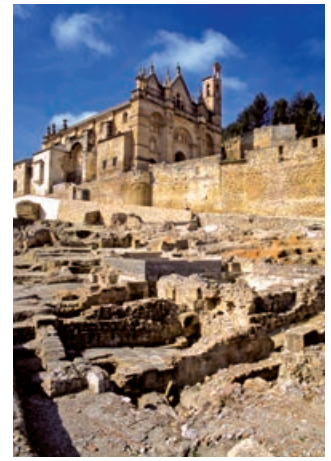
The millenary town of Antequera is situated right in the heart of Andalucía, dominating an extensive valley. Its municipal area is over 810 square kilometres, making it the largest in the province of Málaga. From Neolithic times important megalithic monuments have survived through to the present

The dolmen burial chambers of Menga, Vieira, Alcaide (26) and the megalithic burial mound of El Romeral (28) are the most ancient archaeological remains. Among the remains from the Roman splendour we have the Epebus, a magnificent hollow sculpture made of bronze, 1.43 metres tall representing a young servant.

The alcazaba castle (1), called Papabellotas, reminds us that Antequera was a Moorish stronghold. Right beside the castle,



the church of the Encarnación (17) - with a Mudejar panelled ceiling -, the church of San Agustín (12), the palace that houses the town hall (37) and the church of San Juan de Dios (40). Finally we have to mention the Municipal Museum (14), housed in the ancient Nájera Palace, where the Epebus is on display, there are also some paintings including several by the local painter Cristóbal Toral.



the Collegiate church of Santa María la Mayor (3) stands, it is Renaissance in style with a Mudejar panelled ceiling, and the Arco de los Gigantes (2), erected in honour of Felipe II in 1585 in stone inscribed in Latin. The Coso Viejo suburb leads to the Collegiate church of San Sebastián (13) whose Mudejar tower is visible from all over the town.

The town's monuments are completed with a Renaissance fountain, the arch of the Nazareno,



The people from Antequera wait anxiously for Christmas to come so they can enjoy the Verdiales folk festival when the different bands "clash" in competition, a festival celebrated during the romería type pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady of Jeva. This is when the verdiales folk groups begin to visit the farms and when the Hermitage bells start to peel, they set off for the hermitage to celebrate the "clash"; the cold of the early morning is kept at bay with anisette and the famous lard cakes or mantecados, wine doughnuts, honey buns and other delicacies typical at Christmas.

Maundy Thursday is especially intense during Holy Week, when some of the religious guilds prepare processions depicting the Easter story. It is known locally as "correr las vegas" or running up the hills, the procession has been declared to be of Tourist Interest, the bearers carry the floats up the steep



hills and the faithful followers run behind. In spring, there is an Agricultural and Stock fair that reminds us of the importance of the countryside around Antequera. In summer, in August, the main fair takes place with different activities including bullfights. Both these fairs have been declared to be of Tourist Interest.

The Antequera "mollete" or bread bun is a small flat soft bun that is sprinkled with flour. This famous bread bun has become a classical breakfast roll in most of Andalucía and Spain. The same with the porra antequerana, for some a kind of thick gapazcho and for others a variation of salmorejo, which ever way it is another typical dish from Antequera and famous all over Spain. Those who like to eat with a spoon should not miss the potaje or stew with cod and "pio" (cod with orange) and -as it had to be in this area rich in game reserves- pickled partridge, garlic rabbit, hare cabañil style or stewed hare. For those who want something more filling, the Antequera cuisine also includes fried breadcrumbs or migas or the mountain dish of sautéed potatoes, chorizo, fried egg and pork loin in lard.



The confectionery made in the convents is also famous, mostly with Moorish roots, the cakes include "bienmesabe" and almond cakes. Christmas cakes are also made in the convents, especially the lard cakes or mantecado, alfajor, honey cakes and wine doughnuts. The craft industry in Antequera is varied and includes articles made of palm, esparto grass, lanterns, wrought iron objects, lace and leather goods.



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|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 116.752 kg of waste | 17.261 kg of CO ₂ | 172.614 km of vehicle use |
| 3.158.272 litres of water | 193.575 kW/h of power | 189.686 kg of wood |

Antequera



- 1 Alcazaba
- 2 Arco de los Gigantes
- 3 Real Colegiata de Santa María
- 4 Termas Romanas de Santa María
- 5 Postigo de la Estrella
- 6 Iglesia del Carmen
- 7 Iglesia de San Juan
- 8 Capilla Tribuna de la Virgen del Socorro
- 9 Iglesia de Santa María de Jesús
- 10 Palacio del Marqués de las Escalónicas
- 11 Iglesia de Santo Domingo
- 12 Iglesia de San Agustín
- 13 Iglesia de San Sebastián
- 14 Palacio de Nájera. Museo Municipal
- 15 Antiguo Pósito (Archivo Municipal)
- 16 Iglesia Convento de Santa Catalina de Siena
- 17 Iglesia de la Encarnación
- 18 Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Loreto
- 19 Iglesia Convento de San José. Museo de las Descalzas
- 20 Palacio de los Marqueses de la Peña de los Enamorados
- 21 Iglesia de la Victoria
- 22 Iglesia de Belén
- 23 Convento de Santa Eufemia
- 24 Iglesia de Santiago
- 25 Puerta de Granada
- 26 Dólmene de Menga y Viera
- 27 Nifereo romano de la Carnicería de los Moros
- 28 Dolmen de El Romeral
- 29 Real Monasterio de San Zoilo
- 30 Iglesia de San Pedro
- 31 Iglesia de la Trinidad
- 32 Iglesia de Madre de Dios
- 33 Palacio del Marqués de Villadarias
- 34 Casa de los Serrallier
- 35 Casa del Conde de Colchado
- 36 Casa del Conde de Pinofiel
- 37 Palacio Municipal
- 38 Convento de los Remedios
- 39 Casa de los Pardo
- 40 Iglesia de San Juan de Dios
- 41 Plaza de Toros. Museo Taurino
- 42 MAD. Museo de Arte de la Diputación