



Routes Huelva

Huelva



Geography and history

Monuments and museums

Festivals and traditions

Gastronomy and crafts



The Roman Onuba emerged from between the sand dunes and alluvium where the rivers Tinto and Odiel flow into the Atlantic Ocean on the most south-westerly tip of Spain. The Romans looked for the metals they needed for their war artefacts in these lands and this is how present-day

Huelva lived through periods when its history was linked to metals and later to the sea, when the three caravels of Christopher Columbus sailed from the neighbouring port of Palos to discover the New World.

Back in the Bronze Age its open cast mines were much in demand and later the Phoenicians came and settled on the land situated between the "rivers that spring from the silver mountain". The remains found at Los Cabezos show us relics of the past from these small hills that run from north to south giving the place a peculiar appearance. Here Romans, Visigoths and Moors added to the historic legacy that the Tartessians and Phoenicians left, it enjoyed its greatest splendour with the Romans when it minted its own coins, later in the Visigothic period it became an Episcopal seat. The presence of the Moors was sparse here and it was with the Christians when Huelva became a passport for one of the greatest discoveries of Mankind: the Discovery of America. In the nearby Monastery of La Rábida Columbus planned his voyage, the three caravels captained by men from Huelva set sail from Palos. In the nineteenth century its mining activity increased thanks to the English interest, they worked the Riotinto mines and began to make it one of the most important industrial centres in the south of Spain. This can be seen in the buildings and especially in the mineral loading platform in the port.

It is an area of special natural interest because of the rich landscape that surrounds it, its excellent beaches and climate have opened the doors to tourism, at present it is undergoing a deep agricultural transformation mainly with strawberry crops and citrus fruit trees.

Huelva benefits from the Atlantic winds and has an average temperature of 18° C, with some very hot days in summer.

Huelva was almost completely destroyed by the earthquake that hit Lisbon in 1755, almost all its historic buildings were ruined and the city had to be rebuilt. The **Cathedral (4)** of the city of Huelva, dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Merced, dates from 1783 and was designed by Pedro de Silva. It has been declared to be a National Monument of Cultural Interest, this temple has an impressive façade with two bell gable towers crowning its two unfinished towers. The interior of the Cathedral is worth a visit with its outstanding altarpiece of "Nuestra Señora de los Dolores" and paintings by Herrera el Viejo and especially the painting of "la Virgen de la Cinta" by Martínez Montañés.



The presence of the English brought colonial architecture to the mining villages and to the "barrio obrero" working class suburb of Huelva and work on the **Loading Quay (29)** for minerals from Río Tinto began, making it one of the most important metal structures in Andalucía at that time. Huelva is the Andalusian city with the greatest Latin American vocation, in the old part of the town you can see buildings that remind you of these links and at Sebo Point there is a statue that is a **monument to Christopher**

Columbus (30), the work of Whitney the sculptress. The **Huelva Museum (12)**, declared to be of Cultural Interest, has rare exhibits, especially those in the archaeology section like the "La Zarzita" and "El Pozuelo" collections, the materials from the "La Joya" necropolis, pieces from the Tartessian culture and mining materials from Roman times. Another place of interest is the Centre of Recovery and Documentation of the Port of Huelva, which combines tradition with the history of the port and new technologies.

The celebration of the festival in honour of San Sebastián on the 20th January, when it is traditional to eat "palmito", opens the festival calendar of Huelva. In February the Carnival follows on with the popular burial of the "Choco" or cuttlefish that attracts a lot of "widows". During Holy Week don't miss the baroque floats or "thrones" as they are called here, depicting the Passion of Christ. May is a colourful month with the May Crosses and when the religious guilds are getting ready to start on the pilgrim way to the tiny village of El Rocío to show their love and affection for the Virgen del Rocío, the White Dove or Blanca Paloma. The festival in honour of Christopher Columbus, commemorating the historic voyage of the three caravels that set sail from here on their journey of discovery to the New World, is at the beginning of August. This marks the beginning of the bullfighting season and the celebration of the Colombine Football Trophy. In September the city celebrates its fair in honour of Our Lady of the Cinta, the Patroness of the city, the image of the Virgin Mary is carried in procession from her Sanctuary to the Cathedral, where she will stay for a time no longer than a month, before she is carried in procession back to her Sanctuary. This devotion, especially with seafarers, goes back to the times of Christopher Columbus, when he was in difficulties on his return journey he made a promise to make a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary and this is what he did. The Latin American Film Festival at the beginning of November, is one of the most important cultural events in city of Huelva.



The cuisine in coastal Huelva has its main ingredients in its fresh fish and shellfish that are brought to the fish auction and popular Carmen Market. It is a show in itself to see the cuttlefish, the white prawns, cockles, tiger prawns or clams on the fish market stalls, together with sole they are the base of the coastal cuisine of Huelva. Tasty rock fish casseroles, angler fish cooked in white wine from the Condado district, shark mariner style or ray in paprika, cuttlefish with broad beans, porgy cooked with onions or baked tuna are some of the dishes that have made the Huelva cuisine famous. We have to add the "jamón de Jabugo" or ham from Jabugo in the mountains, it is the only ham of its kind in the world, delicious cooked pork products, fresh meat from Andévalo and the Sierra de Aracena and wine with designation of origin Condado de Huelva. The crafts in Huelva include saddlers who make excellent quality boots that are sold all over the world. Pottery and bell making are two other important crafts, as well as the ever increasing barrel industry. Saddlers can be easily found in the villages around El Rocío. Saddles, reins, saddlebags and other articles for the horse are made in craft workshops in Almonte, La Palma del Condado, La Puebla de Guzmán and Zalamea la Real. In Cortegana there are workshops that make bits, breaks and spurs for horses. The El Condado district is a wine growing area and a barrel making industry has grown up from this like the ones in Bollullos del Condado. Scotland and Ireland buy the barrels for their whiskeys here.



went on dangerous voyages of discovery and colonisation. Noblemen, merchants, monks and nuns, sailors and soldiers participated in these adventures. Today the castles, convents and houses reflect this brilliant past in Huelva. In Palos de la Frontera, the Rábida Monastery (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries) is the emblem of the buildings in Andalucía linked with America, above all others because the Discovery of America was planned here. The Monastery was the ancient Moorish fortress, it became the Franciscan convent and an active scientific, cosmography and marine centre, it welcomed pilgrims that knocked on its door like Christopher Columbus. This is where he found his first sponsors in Spain after failing to find backers at the Portuguese Court. In the town of Palos you can reconstruct the scene of the American expedition. The fifteenth century church of San Jorge, built by local gentry in Gothic and Mudejar styles, was where Columbus and his crew heard mass before setting sail from the harbour. The House of the Pinzón brothers stands out on the urban landscape, a legendary place for marine experts who seconded Columbus on his first voyage. The Santa Clara Monastery (fourteenth to sixteenth centuries) in Moguer, was a special place of prayer for Christopher Columbus, he

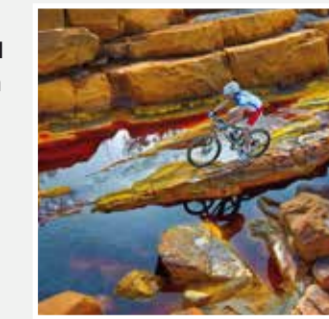
of the admirals Yáñez Pinzón (eighteenth century), complete the visit to this town that is closely linked to the first journeys from Europe to the New World. In the city of Huelva, you can visit the **Sanctuary dedicated to the Cinta** (fifteenth century) (1), commemorating the most difficult times of Columbus' voyage that are recorded for perpetuity in tiles, he prayed to the Virgin Mary of this Hermitage when he was shipwrecked.

The metal cultures

Around 800 BC, a culture with its own personality started in Western Andalucía that was commercially linked with the Phoenician World. The kingdom of Tartessos developed here, headed by the mythical figure of King Argantonio, king of silver. There were many towns and villages in Andalucía devoted to metal mining, commerce and farming, Huelva stood out



because of the quality of its seams of metal. The silver and copper mining left a deep mark of social and economic reform and it has transformed the landscape with its constant activity since the Bronze Age extracted by the Tartessos, Imperial Rome, Medieval Moors



and the English colonisation in the nineteenth century. Riotinto is the mining centre that has been actively mined since prehistoric times to date. The Victorian architecture and the gigantic open cast mines are side by side with the ancient wells and slag heaps left by the Tartessos and Romans. Its mining museum exhibits this singular destination with great success.

Further on, past Zalamea la Real, the dolmen burial chambers at El Pozuelo are part of a series of collective tombs from the first miners from the Bronze Age (fourth to third centuries BC), the spectacular dolmen burial chamber of Soto in Trigueros deserves a special mention. The **museum of Huelva (12)** displays excellent objects from the Tartessian Kings, bronze artefacts of Oriental inspiration as well as Phoenician and Greek pieces, these contrast with the English designed Loading Quay for loading minerals from the



port. A Moorish city has been excavated on the Isla de Saltés (eleventh and twelfth centuries) which worked the metal that had been mined and then prepared it for loading.

Route through the Port area of the city

The Centre of Restoration and Documentation of the Port of Huelva, housed in the ancient locomotive house, is a starting point for a route that follows the banks of the river Odiel. In the **Muelle Gardens (24)** there is a monument to Alonso Sánchez (15), considered to be the pre-discoverer of the New World because he

informed Columbus of the existence of the route he had taken in his first voyage to the West Indies. Next to the **ancient station of Zafrá (23)**, you come to the **Plaza Doce de Octubre (24)** built for the Latin American Exposition of 1929, with a set of street lamps and obelisks from that period, and the **Canoas Quay (31)**, from where you can take a boat trip to Punta Umbría, through the protected nature area of the Odiel salt marshes. After taking a slight detour for us to admire the beautiful Neo-Mudejar building of the **Sevilla Station (28)**, we return



to the Port area so we can see the **Riotinto Wharf (29)**, 1165 metres long, with its **Loading Quay (29)**, it is the end-of-the-line for the railway that ran from the mines transporting the copper to the city. >From there we go on to the stone **monument of Christopher Columbus (30)** at Sebo Point, it is a colossal statue 20 metres tall that was erected in 1929.

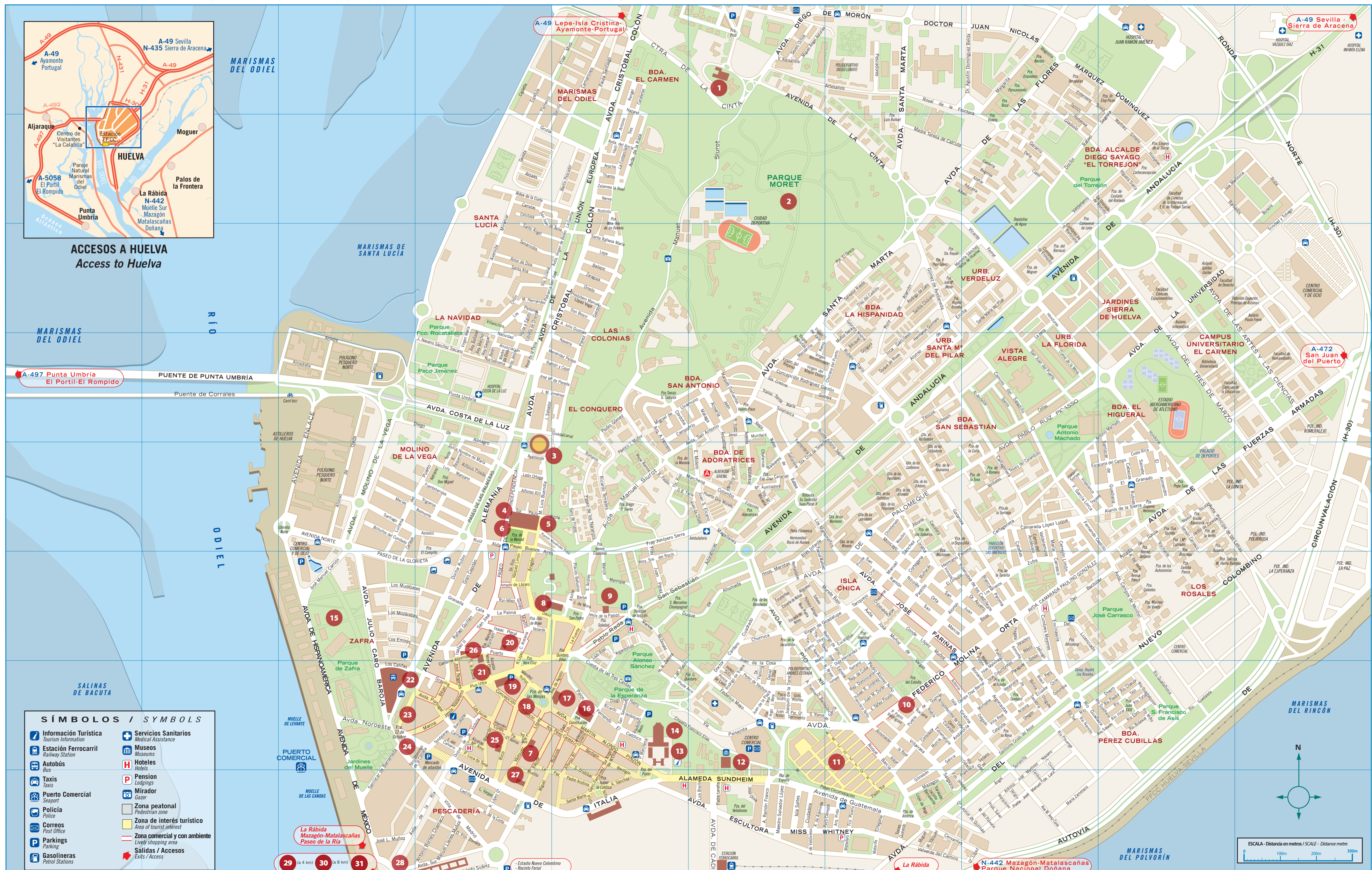
A walk through El Conquero

El Conquero is one of the emblematic areas in Huelva, several mounds give it its peculiar physical shape and they form part of the green belt of the city of Huelva, also good places to take in the beautiful views. Under these mounds are the remains of a subterranean Roman aqueduct from the first century AD, nearby in the Moret Park there are four Tartessian burial mounds. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Cinta is perched on one of these mounds. It dates back to the fourteenth century and is a popular place of prayer for local people, its cloisters are outstanding and it has tiles commemorating Christopher Columbus' visit here on his return from America.

Huelva



ACCESOS A HUELVA
Access to Huelva



- 1 Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Cinta
- 2 Parque Moret
- 3 Plaza de Toros de La Merced
- 4 Catedral
- 5 Universidad (Antiguo Convento de La Merced)
- 6 Plaza de la Merced
- 7 Gran Teatro
- 8 Iglesia de San Pedro
- 9 Ermita de la Soledad
- 10 Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
- 11 Barrio Reina Victoria
- 12 Museo de Huelva
- 13 Casa Colón
- 14 Palacio de Congresos
- 15 Centro de Recepción y Documentación del Puerto de Huelva
- 16 Ayuntamiento
- 17 Convento de las Agustinas de Santa María de Gracia
- 18 Plaza de las Monjas
- 19 Iglesia Parroquial de la Concepción
- 20 Edificio de UGT
- 21 Palacio Mora Claros
- 22 Estación de Autobuses
- 23 Antigua Estación de Zafra
- 24 Plaza 12 de Octubre. Jardines del Muelle
- 25 Antiguo Conservatorio de Música
- 26 Colegio de Arquitectos
- 27 Iglesia de la Milagrosa
- 28 Muelle de Riotinto. Cargadero de Mineral
- 29 Monumento a la Fe Descubridora (Monumento a Colón)
- 30 Muelle de las Carabelas
- 31 Paseo de la Ría

SÍMBOLOS / SYMBOLS

Información Turística Tourism Information	Servicios Sanitarios Medical Assistance
Estación Ferrocarril Railway Station	Museos Museums
Autobús Bus	Hoteles Hotels
Taxis	Pension Lodgings
Puerto Comercial Seaport	Mirador Gazer
Policía Police	Zona peatonal Pedestrian zone
Correos Post Office	Zona de interés turístico Area of tourist interest
Parkings Parking	Zona comercial y con ambiente Lively shopping area
Gasolineras Petrol Stations	Salidas / Accesos Exits / Access

