



Ayuntamiento
de TABERNAS

TABERNAS
land 

TABERNAS

Situated between the mountain ranges of Filabres and Alhamilla, the village of Tabernas is the fifth largest town in the Province of Almería, with a municipal area of 282 square kilometers. Located 30 kilometers away from the capital, at an altitude of 404 meters, it currently has a population of 3,703 inhabitants. Tabernas is tucked behind a mountain where a castle is situated, which is the most well-recognized façade of the village. The built-up area is the most extensive in the region Filabres-Alhamilla.

Human occupation of the piece of land where Tabernas is situated dates back to the 3rd millennium BC, in the settlement of Terrera Ventura. An explanation about this settlement's society, as well its origin and development in the desert of Tabernas can be discovered by visiting the "Centro de Interpretación" of the Tabernas desert and Terrera Ventura."

In Roman Times, the village was a crossing point between the road that passed through the Mediterranean corridor, around which some settlements considered as little towns were built up. This strategic location made it a bastion during the Moorish domination of the Iberian Peninsula. The Moors built a fortress in this privileged place which was placed in the passage of the natural communication route between the south-east and the Peninsular east. After the Christian conquest of Almería in 1489, Tabernas progressively lost the Moorish population and became repopulated in 1574 by the Castilian population. This is where we can find the foundations and origins of the current population of Tabernas. Throughout the following centuries, the consolidation of the village took place with a constant increase of its population, and a greater autonomy for the town, obtained thanks to the use and enjoyment of the current municipal area.

Beyond its history of human occupation, Tabernas has a unique natural landscape of its own due to its two natural parks: Sierra Alhamilla and the Desert. This last one, the only desert in Europe, is a good example of the thousand-year-old interaction of the geological and biotic processes. The area offers us a wide and rich variety of environmental resources of interest and it is a true living and natural museum of land formation and geological processes.

The special features and beauty of the area caught the attention of the film industry that, from the sixties to the present, have converted Tabernas into site for many films. The Western settlements of the Spaguetti Western- the origin of the film culture in the village- have survived and are theme parks at present.

As we will read in this brochure, Tabernas is a place of history, culture, nature, cinematic past, amusement, gastronomy, and most of all, a cozy place that looks forward to welcoming its visitors and showing them its treasures.



Typical Constructions



San Sebastián Chapel



Angustias Chapel



Interpretation Center of Terrera Ventura and Tabernas Desert

CASTLE



At the top of a hill, crowning the village of Tabernas, one of the town's treasures, its medieval castle, is located.

The castle stands majestically over the village, reminding visitors and locals alike of the city's rich past, full of history and splendor. The property was named a "Monument of Cultural Interest" and came under municipal ownership.

From its extraordinary location, positioned atop a mountain in the village, this historic site provides a glimpse into the town's history and dominates the village of Tabernas and the surrounding desert and mountains. It can be accessed through a cobblestone path that starts near the Municipal Sports Pavilion.

The location of the castle is not trivial. In fact, its position enabled the Tabernesese to control the town and surrounding areas as well as to provide a route of communication between Almeria and the peninsular Levant.

This medieval fortress, although we must not ignore previous occupations of the mountain where the castle is placed, has had throughout its history several phases of occupation that have given it a unique personality. Its origin dates from approximately the last quarter of the ninth century or the beginning of the tenth century, initially being a place of refuge for the population.

The next structural changes took place during the period of the Caliphate of Cordoba and were part of the defense policy of the Cora de Bayyana; the mud walls were constructed at this time as well as rectangular turrets and solid protrusions, that, at present, are very eroded.

These structures were fortified during the kingdoms of the Taifas and the northwest tower was built. However, some of the masonry reinforcements visible on the mud wall belong to the Nasrid period. After the Christian conquest in 1489, the fortress was divided into two parts and, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, a circular artillery tower was built, which is still partially conserved.

The monument's state of preservation is largely due to the end of its use as a fortress in mid-sixteenth century. The impossibility to maintain the castle in good condition as a result of tensions between Castilians and Muslims led the Crown of Castile to make the decision to knock it down. Although it was occasionally used during the war of Las Alpujarras (1568-1570), it was officially abandoned after this event.

After ceasing to be used as a fortress, the passing of the centuries, abandonment, severe erosion, deterioration of structures and restoration interventions, among other factors, have caused many of its rooms to be left in a less-than-desirable state. Even so, in the distance the silhouette of the castle continues to be a commanding symbol of power and authority.

Once inside its walls, the vision of the disappeared structure appears as the shadow of something greater, more impressive, richer, a reflection of a society full of mysteries and secrets, that invites you to enter.

Go to the Castle of Tabernas, imagine that you are a sentry of the territory, watch a sunset from its walls and observe how the number one inhabitant of this desert, the sun, keeps out of sight while you watch from a unique viewpoint, full of magic and history.

CHURCH



Parish Church Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación (XVI-XVII Centuries)

The church's construction was commissioned between 1558-1570 by the bishop of Almeria, Antonio Carriero, whose coat of arms is set on the facade of the temple. The building features a Mudejar style and has a rectangular floor plan of 48 meters long by 22.30 meters wide, with three naves separated by semicircular arches that are raised off the ground by rectangular brick columns.

The roof is decorated with an exquisite wood carving, an authentic treasure of Mudejar carpentry in Almeria. The church's eight-pointed stars are remarkable. The lateral naves are covered with simple wood roofing. Inside, the main altarpiece consists of three bodies, including the statue of the Virgen de las Angustias, the patron saint of the village, which stands out in the central vaulted niche. In the nave of the Epistle, the funeral chapel of the Virgen del Carmen, a work made of marble from Carrara (Italy) in 1865, catches the eye. The church's two carved stone doors show the two stages of construction of the church.

The door 'La Puerta de Los Perdones' belongs to the first construction. It features a Renaissance design with a semicircular arch framed by pilasters supported on a Doric entablature with corners topped by tassels. The lateral door proves to be the reconstruction which took place after a fire and was carried out with the support of the bishop Friar Juan de Portocarrero (1603-1631). It was built from blocks of stone, and features a semicircular arch framed by pilasters and crowned by a pointed pediment which contains the coat of arms of the aforesaid bishop. The bishop's coat of arms, "The Sun of Portocarrero," is a symbol of Almeria and appears with the inscription "1610." The bell tower of this facade is placed next to the chevet of the church.



DESERT



Tabernas Desert Natural Park.

Located to the north of Almeria capital, the Tabernas Desert is a striking and impressive landscape. Made up of 280 square kilometers, this sprawling landscape is the only real desert in Europe.

Set deep among the mountains of Filabres, Alhamilla, Gador and Sierra Nevada, it is an ancient sedimentary basin that after a long-term geologic process emerged from the seabed and remained at the mercy of the elements. Although the torrential rains are sporadic (-250 mm/year)- there are more than 3,000 hours of sunshine per year- they have shaped over time a landscape of gullies and ravines that hide a life-size natural museum.

Its rich vegetative community, its fauna and its great geologic value earned it the distinction of “Protected Natural Area” in 1989. It is also an area ZEPA (special area for the protection of birds) and LIC (place of community importance) included in the Red Natura 2000 for the whole of Europe.

It is also well known for its audiovisual facet that gives it the description “A desert like in the movies”. The area is controlled by the environmental ministry and SEPRONA (Nature Protection Service of the Spanish Civil Guard). The entrance of unauthorized motor vehicles is forbidden. There are delimited paths to stroll through the desert and also authorized companies that offer guided activities.





The Almeria Western Film Festival began in 2011 with the purpose of enhancing the more than 60-year-old cinematographic legacy of the province and to become a reference model for new trends in the Western genre at an international level. From the beginning, the town council supported this festival, which is the only one especially dedicated to the genre.

The AWFF has offered to Western-lovers international film screenings and has become the perfect platform to meet professionals, beginners and spectators in general.

Since its origins, the main headquarters of the Almeria Western Film Festival has been the village of Tabernas, where lots of activities are developed.

Likewise, in the settlements Oasys-Mini Hollywood and Fort Bravo, film screenings, meetings and forums are carried out to enhance the Western genre.

The festival focuses on the value of a more than 60-year-old film legacy which has inspired masterpieces of all genres and also on the present and future impact that the audiovisual industry has on the local economy. At present, Tabernas maintains a large cultural interest thanks to the quality of its landscapes, its light and its constant promotion as “Land of Cinema”.

LAND OF CINEMA

Filmmakers believed that Almería was a land of cinema... and history has agreed with them: Sun, light, friendly people, outstanding landscapes and great professionals. After seeing the desert landscapes of Tabernas on the big screen, audiences were transported to faraway places like Egypt, Jordan, Arizona, California... and the unknown.

“An Eye for an Eye” (André Cayatte - 1957) was the first film that made a name for Tabernas in the world of filmmaking. From that day on, directors, actors and staff have visited the area frequently. All genres including drama, science fiction, comedy, and adventure films have all been carried out in Tabernas.

With over six decades of cinematic history, nowadays the same attraction to the landscape which motivated filmmakers to choose Tabernas keep the audiovisual industry more alive than ever: Millennium, Exodus, Risen, Assassin's Creed, Mar de plástico, Living is Easy with Eyes Closed, Game of Thrones, Zona hostil, Bullyparade... are just some of the titles showing “Tabernas” in their credits. Besides the films, there are several and different shootings in other formats, as for example, short films, commercials, video clips, fashion reports and documentaries.



FILM SETS



In the early sixties, the Spaghetti Western joined the “Film Boom”. The term Spaghetti Western denotes the new genre created by Sergio Leone in his Dollars Trilogy starring Clint Eastwood.

“For a Few Dollars More” was set in the first Western settlement built in Tabernas for the occasion, called “Poblado del fraile”. Then, throughout three decades several sets of different sizes have been created for the filming of tens of titles in this genre.

At present, Mini-Hollywood-Oasys Park, Fort Bravo-Texas Hollywood and Western Leone are open to visitors despite their continued use in films, video clips, commercials, and other audiovisual formats.

A visit to the sets transports the visitor to the dusty American villages of the nineteenth century, small Mexican towns and Indian camps where Lee Van Cleef, Eli Wallach, Charles Bronson, Claudia Cardinale, Sancho Gracia and many others film stars played characters in amazing films like “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”, “Once Upon a Time in the West”, “Doc” or more recently “800 Bullets”, “Blueberry”, “Lucky Luke and the Daltons” and many more. For more information you can consult the following web pages:

<https://www.oasysparquetematico.com/>

<http://fortbravooficial.com/>

<http://www.western-leone.es/>



SUN



The weather conditions in Tabernas, which boasts over 3,000 hours of sunshine per year, have made possible the installation of the biggest solar power research and testing center in Europe, as well as its different applications:

- Generate electricity
- Astrophysical tests
- Solar desalination and solar treatments to disinfect and detoxify water
- Materials testing
- Bioclimatic architecture

The Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA, Almeria Solar Platform), which belongs to CIEMAT (Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology) and relies on the permanent presence of a researchers team from the DLR (German Aerospace Centre), has earned a reputation as a global leader in the evaluation, demonstration and development of this type of technology.

The PSA has a visitor centre that is open to the public and has a team of professionals tasked with the spread of information about science projects throughout the public.



OLIVE GROVE

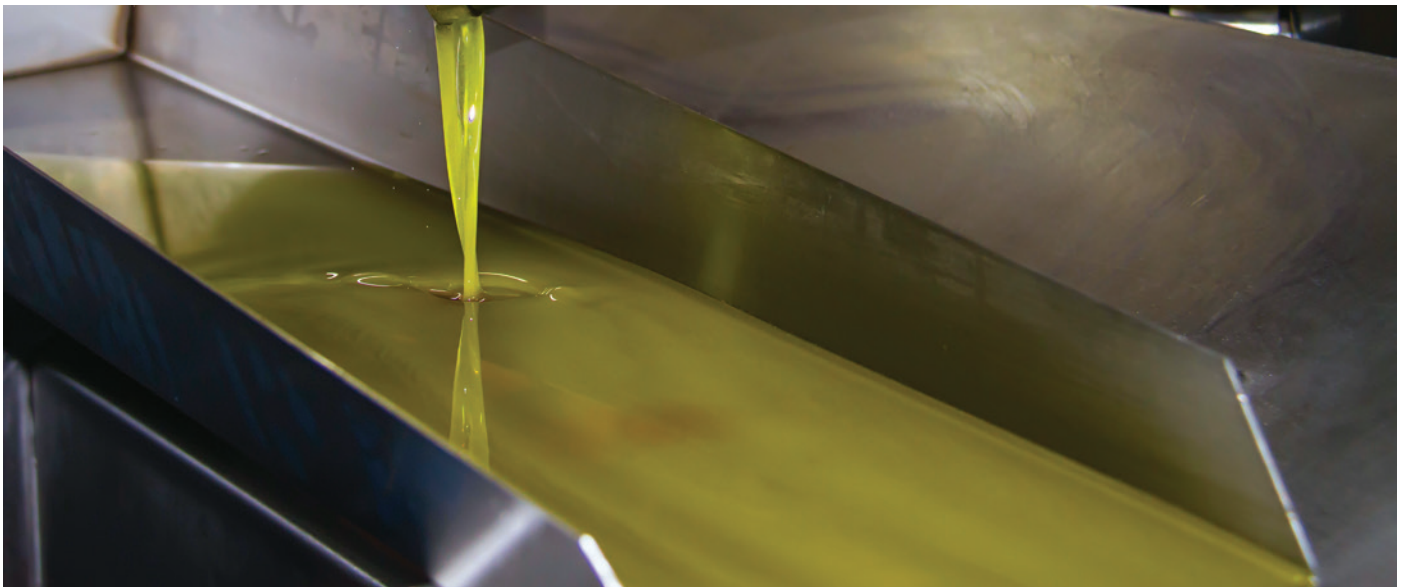


The olive tree was introduced to Spain by Phoenicians, but Romans extended the cultivation significantly, and then, with the arrival of Arabs, this tree rose to the importance it currently has.

Their influence in the cultivation was so important that the Spanish words “aceituna” and “aceite” come from Arabic. Farming of this tree has been present in Tabernas for centuries, but it was during the last twenty years that the expansion of this type of farming has been exponentially developed, turning dry land areas into authentic orchards full of olive trees and producing one of the best olive oils in the world.

The desert of Tabernas has become a worldwide benchmark for the production of high quality olive oil. This is largely due to the big efforts of some native entrepreneurs, who have turned the olive tree farming into a lifestyle, and also due to the special weather conditions in this area.

The combination of human effort and unique weather conditions have resulted in olives whose oil has a minimal acidity and a taste more intense than in other areas of the country. This olive oil has won many awards at a national and international level and is available in the biggest international markets as a top-quality gourmet product.



GASTRONOMY

Tabernas has a varied gastronomy and its most typical dishes are traditional and home-made since in the past, in areas like this, people could only cook what they grew from the land. Traditional dishes include: “olla de trigo”, “sopa de ajo”, “gazpacho”, “cocido de morcilla”, “gachas”, “remojes”, “ajillo de papas”, or “caldo colorao”. The “migas de pan”, which are also called “gurullos”, can be dunked, strained or fried in lard. This dish can also be cooked in different ways; one of them is with fennel, a plant that grows in spring in the fields of Almeria. The main ingredient of the dish is the wheat seed (which explains its name), which in the past was grown by almost all of the families and was carried to the windmills, which were scattered throughout the area.



Another dish with history is the “tabernero”, which can be made with or without meat, sweet or spicy. In the past, the spicy dish was fried in olive oil, all the ingredients cut into small pieces, and then people added ripe tomatoes, small pieces of “morcilla” and sacrificial meat from the “matanza”, which means slaughtering a farm animal at home. At present, it is cooked without onions or morcilla; maybe this is the reason that in other places it is called “pisto”, “fritada” or “chafaina”.

The authentic taste of the dishes and the traditional stews of this land have been preserved. Delicious dishes highlight its extensive cultural legacy and are very appreciated by our visitors. Added to these authentic and traditional flavors are the new culinary trends of Almeria which are also present in the restaurants of Tabernas, making it into a perfect gastronomic setting.





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