



Ayuntamiento  
de TABERNAS



**TABERNAS CASTLE**  
(S. XII-XVI)

**TABERNAS**  
*land* 







Tabernas Castle, owned by municipality and declared to be as an Asset of Cultural Interest with the status of Monument, holds the remains of an alcazaba of Moorish origin which dominates the town of Tabernas, the desert and the surrounding mountains. It does not have a trivial position, since it exercised a determined control over the surrounding territory and the natural communication routes among Almeria, Granada and the east of the peninsula, which have played an incomparable and fundamental role in the communications from the capital of Almeria to inland areas and vice versa.

This fortress of medieval origin, even if we should not dismiss previous occupations of the mountain where it is, is the witness of an alcazaba which crowned a Moorish medina spread out all over the mountain and which was delimited by a first line of walls where the population of Tabernas inhabited during the medieval centuries. Despite the emerging structures are usually associated to a Castle, hence the name, it is apparent that these structures refer to an alcazaba, whose function was the defence of a small medina, which was apparently made around the halftime of the 12th century, what is to say, between the Almoravid and the Almohad periods, according to the most ancient ceramic materials found. The rammed earth walls belonged to the aforesaid period, and they were provided with flight-angled turrets and outgoing stretches which are currently quite eroded.

The alcazaba continued being occupied during the Nasrid period (XIII-XV centuries), when a series of repairs were carried out, which mainly consisted in reinforcement and maintenance works, made with varied masonry techniques –fitted stonework, and coursed stonework.

The significant modification of the fortress, which stopped being an alcazaba to become a purely military castle, took place during the Castilian period (at the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century).

An important transformation occurred in this phase, which meant the reduction of the defensive space, marked in the western limit by the diaphragm wall and its tower. The different repairs of the east half of this enclosure are also associated to the same phase. The masonry technique employed was





fitted stonework, used in both ex novo constructions and in the different repair patches.

The end of its use like a fortress took place in the middle of the 16th century, when the impossibility of keeping the castle in good condition, with serious damages after the earthquake of 1522 in Almeria, drove the Crown of Castile to make the decision of abandon the castle.

This situation happened in a context of strong tensions between the Castilian power and the Moorish population which preceded the Alpujarras war (1568-1570).

After this final chapter like military fortress, the pass of time, the abandonment, the strong erosion, the damage of the structures and the questionable renovation interventions, among other factors, have made that many of the rooms are only kept in their start-up state. However, the shape of this fortress keeps imposing from the distance, as a symbol of power and authority. Once within its walls, the view of the missing structure appears like the shadow of something bigger, more impressive, more prosperous, and like the reflection of a society full of mysteries and secrets, which invites you to go into it.

Between 2020 and 2021, in the first phase of execution and between September 2022 and September 2023 in a second phase of intervention, the City Council of Tabernas, with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, by means of the Spanish Historical Heritage Conservation Project (renowned as "1.5% cultural"), has carried out the Phase I of a project to restore and consolidate the castle. This project, designed for several execution phases, has entailed the beginning of studies based on the archaeological methodology, as well as the consolidation of different walls and turrets which were at the peril of disappearing.

Thus, besides stopping the destruction and extinction processes, which are harmful to the castle, we are getting a restoration respectful with the original elements and conditions, without modify or change the aesthetics of the walled enclosure ensemble.



**TABERNAS**  
*land*



Ayuntamiento de Tabernas C/Mirlo nº1. Cp. 04200  
Tabernas , Almería. Telf: 950365002. Fax: 950916829.  
Mail: [registro@tabernas.es](mailto:registro@tabernas.es)  
[www.tabernas.es](http://www.tabernas.es)

*Oasis del Desierto*  
[www.tabernasturismo.com](http://www.tabernasturismo.com)