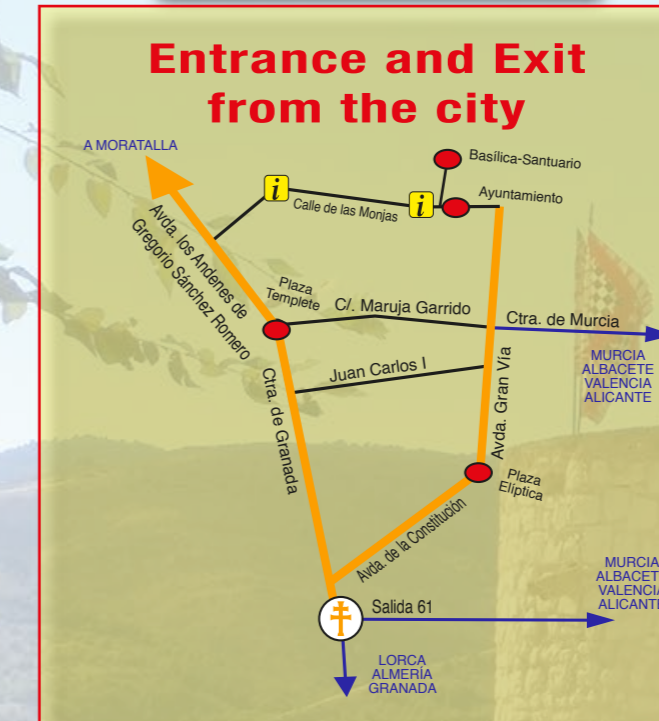


Caravaca, City of Monuments

“Place of pilgrimage”



Concejalía de Turismo



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THE XIX AND XX CENTURIES

During the XIX Century, all the Military Orders disappear - like the Order of Santiago that was settled in the town for so many centuries -, the Napoleonic Invasion, the expropriation of Church Lands that provoked the extension of the Franciscans' convent of Saint Anthony and the Geronimo's' monastery happened, and it occurred a stop in the construction field.

At the end of 19th C and the beginning of 20th C electric lighting, the telegraph and the train were introduced in the city. However, the 1st half of the 20th C was marked by a hostile climate that led to the Spanish Civil War and to a very difficult post-war time that, joint to the crisis of the rope-soled sandal industry provoked a very high emigration to the North (Cataluña, Madrid y France). During the 70s of 20th C, there was an economic and social increase thanks to the democracy, which lasts until today. Along this time, many religious orders are born: Sisters of the Retirement Home, Sisters of Holy Consolation and Brothers of Clarise's.

At the end of the 20th C and the beginning of 21st C, three important events mark the history of the city: the concession of Holy Year "In perpetuum" in 1998, the construction of Rio Mula- Northwest motorway in 2002 and the concession of International recognition for the festivities of the town in 2004.

- **Theatre Thuillier:** it was inaugurated in 1847. It is a building of Elizabethan style, which is built on the remains of an old house of comedies.
- **Bull Ring:** it belongs to the end of 19th Century, although the façade corresponds to new mudejar style of the 1st decade of 20th C. It was built on the old Franciscan Church of Holy Mary of Gracia.
- **La Glorieta:** it was totally remodeled in 1856. It is, together with "El Camino del Huerto", one of the most important places to walk in summer for the habitants of Caravaca.
- **La Gran Via:** this is the main road of the city, which was created in the 20s of 20th C. It is the first line of the modern layout of the town, besides the centre of its urbanity development.

- **Monastery and Church of Saint Clare:** The construction of this Church started in 1609. It is the church that was built close to Saint Bartolome Chapel. It has a Latin cross floor plan and its vaults are groined in the transept, barreling in the centre aisle.

- **Shrine (El Templete):** its construction was started in the XVIII Century over the ruins of another antique chapel. The current building, constructed by Jose Lopez has a hexagonal floor. The building is set in a circumference. You can distinguish four different bodies: podium, main body, dome and lantern. It is also called "El Bañadero" because of a ritual in which the Cross takes part since 1384.

- **Town Hall:** construction in whose design was involved the architect Jaime Bolt. It was finished in 1762. On the outside we can observe the shield of the town and the Almudi palace, finished in 1807, which is used for administrative offices today. Within the building, we can stand out: the continuous balcony along the façade, the marvelous stairs that give access to the top floor, which are flanked by columns and lions sculptures and the Council Chamber, where you can find enormous oil on linen which topic is the testament of the Queen Elisabeth The Catholic.

- **Monastery and Church of Saint Joseph:** It was founded by Saint Theresa de Jesus . It is relevant due to its austerity. It contrasts with the church which was built in the XVIII Century on the remains of an old chapel dedicated to Saint Joseph. The ornamentation of the temple are rococo and baroque styles. Needless to say it is one of the best examples of this style in the Region.

- **Chapel of Saint Elena:** it is a small church of a single nave which construction started in the XVII Century. We must remark in this building the sculpture of Father Jesus Nazaret, of a great popular devotion.

- **La Reja Chapel:** it has a rectangular plan and its name comes from the decorative grill in which we can see the shield and a tombstone of those who ordered its construction. This is the only chapel we conserved of the 14 that formed the Via Crucis.

BAROQUE CARAVACA

This is one of the richest periods in Caravaca's history. Nevertheless, the first decades of the XVII Century were marked by epidemics that provoked a decrease in the population. During the XVIII Century, Caravaca experience an increase in construction, an economical recovering, as well as a growth in the population. The town-planning expansion started in the XVI Century. Along the century, there is an increase in the settlement of religious orders: Order of Saint Paul, Clarisse's or Brothers of Saint John of God.

- **Sanctuary of the Holy Cross:** It was built within the area of the Castle, where some parts were demolished and others were respected. The work started in 1617 and finished in 1703. From the whole building we can remark the façade, a magnificent example of symbolism and decoration. It was finished in the 40s of the XVII C. The whole work belongs to the style imposed by Juan de la Herrera in El Escorial. The Church has a Latin cross plan with a balcony at the central nave, over the lateral naves and a dome in the transept. Those naves come to the centre by splayed arches. The Castle-Sanctuary has been declared as a National Historic-Artistic Monument since 1944. In 1998 the Pope granted the Holy Year every seven years, becoming one of the fifth cities in the world enjoying this privilege. In December 2007 it was named Minor Basilica.



with decorated spandrels. This building was founded originally as a school and was formed by a church, cloister and several dependences for teachers and students. The building was given a different use after Jesuits expulsion. This church is today a place where temporary displays and cultural performances are shown, depending on Town Hall cultural events.

- **Convent and Church Nuestra Señora del Carmen:** Saint John of the Cross was the founder of this convent. The church is of Latin cross floor plan with a dome in the transept and plain vault over the nave. We can observe as well the cloister, Saint Teresa Chapel and today's hospice-hotel.

- **Church of La Soledad:** it was the first parish church of the city and it was constructed around the XVI Century. It was renovated in the XVII Century giving it a fortress appearance. Today it is the home for the archeological museum.

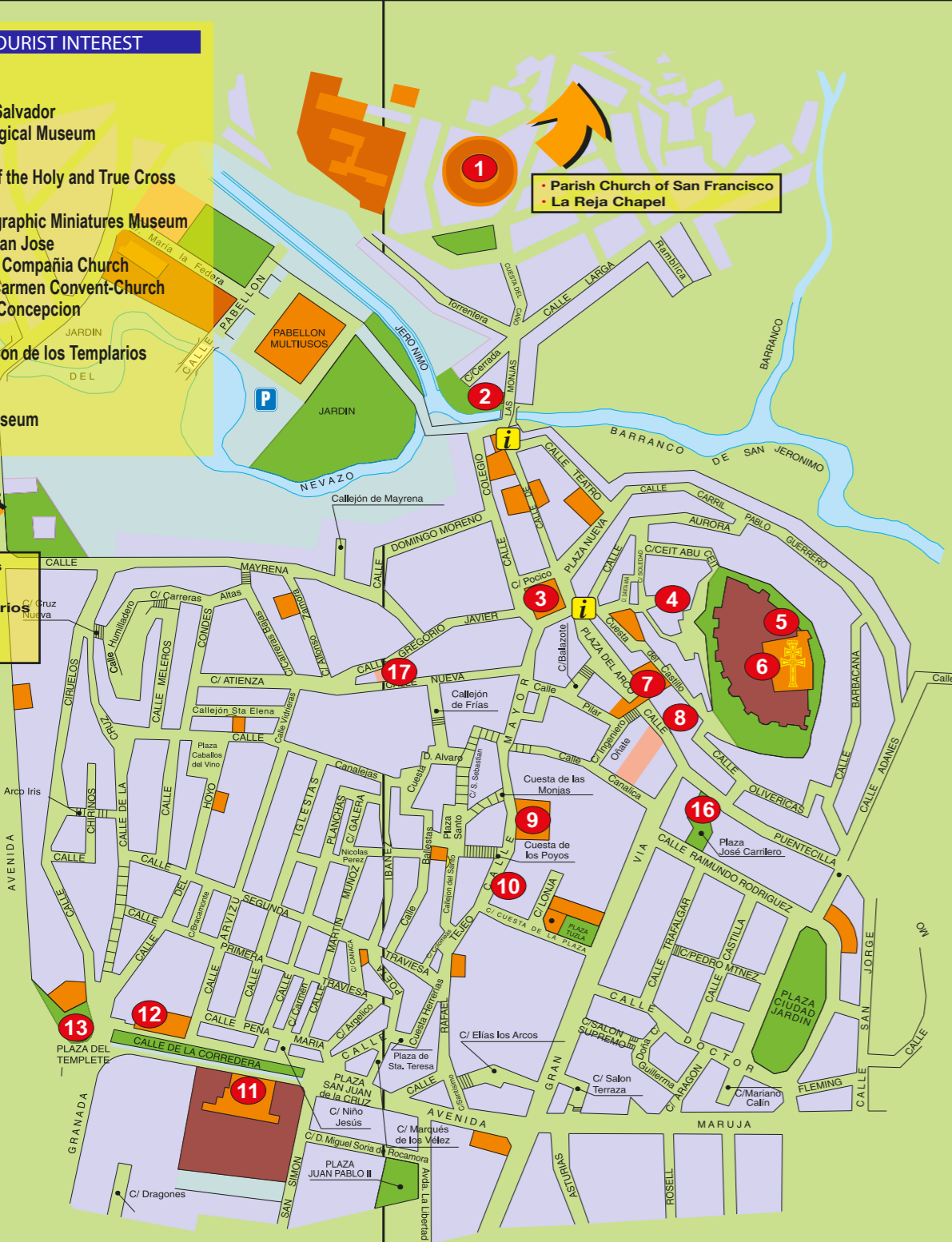
- **San Sebastian Chapel:** it has a rectangular plan and its wood ceiling covers the whole nave. Three pointed arches complete the nave. It has a presbytery, high choir and late Gothic mural paintings in the form of an altarpiece.



PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

- 1 Bull Ring
- 2 Fiestas Museum
- 3 Parish Church of El Salvador
- 4 La Soledad Archeological Museum
- 5 Vera Cruz Museum
- 6 Basilica-Sanctuary of the Holy and True Cross
- 7 Town Hall
- 8 Angel Reinon Ethnographic Miniatures Museum
- 9 Convent-Church of San José
- 10 Cultural Centre of La Compañía Church
- 11 Nuestra Señora del Carmen Convent-Church
- 12 Parish Church of La Concepcion
- 13 Temple
- 14 Templar Tower- Torreón de los Templarios
- 15 Fuentes del Marqués
- 16 Carrilero Museum
- 17 Caballos del Vino Museum
- Tourist Office

- Fuentes del Marqués
- C.I.N. Templar Tower Torreón de los Templarios
- Youth Hostel



ROUTES FOR CARAVACA

Caravaca de la Cruz, district of 859,51 km², situated 627m above sea level, Quipar and Argos rivers run through the city that is the head of the north-west of the Region of Murcia extensive area and a reference point for many municipalities of neighbour provinces such as Granada, Jaen and Albacete.

Since very early times, there have been many human settlements in this area as we can see in many existing archaeological remains. Nevertheless, it is not until the Middle Ages that we can talk about Caravaca as an urban centre, i.e., until the Muslim domain. In the middle of the XIII Century, Christian attacks to the south of the Muslim Reign of Murcia force to sign with Fernando III the Treatment of Alcazar. Through this agreement, this land becomes the domain of Castile, respecting the belongings and religion its inhabitants. This situation lasted until the Mudejar sublimation, in which Muslims lost their privileges and the town was handed to the Order of the Temple.

They hold the town until they disappear -except for a short period when the villa belonged to Sancho IV -, then it passed to the Order of Santiago. The XV Century is also marked by this frontier situation with the Nazari Reign of Granada.



MEDIEVAL CARAVACA

It is in the controversial medieval period when the original layout of the town is formed, with the boundaries marked at the Castle's hill. From this age we can mention:

- **Caravaca Castle:** It is situated on a hill of the old town dominating the whole town. It is Muslim in origin. However, the influence of the order of the Temple, and afterward the Order of Santiago, marked its development. Today, the castle is formed by a wall with 14 towers, three of them have semicircular plan and the rest are square. The door of access to the castle is protected by two big towers, one of them is called "Torre de las Toscas", which is directly related to the primitive church of "Santa Maria la Real". On the right of this tower, there is a palladium constructed in the early 19th C due to the Spanish Independence War. Within the Walled Area there was another palladium that used to be located where the temple, the cloister and priest's house are now. It has rectangular plan and is formed of six towers. The most important of them is the well known tower "Torre Chacona" (which is the only battlemented the castle has today).

- **Remains of the original Wall and Saint Ana's door:** the primitive wall that protected the medieval village was built in mud wall, formed with battlemented towers and had two main entrances: Saint Ana's Door and the Door of the Sun. The Wall used to surround the streets Puentecilla, Adanes, Carril and the Plaza Nueva and Plaza del Arco. Today we can see part of Saint Ana's Door in one of the extremes of Plaza del Arco. It is located just in the place where the new tourism information point.

- **Towers:** there are nowadays still several medieval towers around the city, differently preserve in time. Some of them are Tower of Jorquera, Malta Tower, Giron Tower, Tower of los Alcores and the Tower of the Temple. This last one does not really belong to medieval times, however it is believed that it was built upon a Templar tower.

- **Poyos de Celda Castle:** this castle of Muslim influence is located between the town of Los Royos and the town of El Moralejo. It has a trapezoidal floor and in this area there are six towers. In the north side, the castle is attached to an "albacara". The building is well known by its strategic location as a communicative centre and the head of agricultural work. There exist several springs around these remains, like the fountain of La Campellana. In the XVI Century the castle was demolished to avoid being vandalised or stolen. We can still observe different wells and remains of towers.

- **The Cave Rey Moro:** it is a Muslim fortification, located next to the town of La Encarnacion. It was built in the surroundings of a natural rock shelter at the west of the Villaricos hill. Its strategic location allowed control over every passage.



RENAISSANCE CARAVACA

At this time, with the conquest of Granada by the Catholic Kings and the end of the Muslim domain, the town experienced a population and infrastructure increase. They started to build important walls for the fortified villa, taking the main entrance as start point. Thus, Puentecilla, Mayor or Las Monjas streets were created forming today's old town.

Many different religious orders came to settle in Caravaca drawn by the Cross and peaceful atmosphere: Jesuits, Franciscans, Santa Teresa Carmelites, Geronimo's and San John Carmelites.

The main buildings of this period are:

- **Parish Church of El Salvador:** This Church, which is unfinished, is an important example of religious architecture. It was built between the XVI - XVIII Centuries. It has hall-floor plan and three naves that rest on wide walls, showing four Ionic-style ribbed columns that support beautiful cross-ribbed domes. Along the naves there are seven different chapels. We should remark its magnificent High-altar, proceeding from the old Church of Jesuits; its beautiful grills and its rich display of paintings, craftsmanship in precious metals and Salzillo Sculptures. There is a tower annexed to the Church, where you can find the sacristy, the old ecclesiastic prison and the bells-tower.

- **Parish Church of La Concepcion:** this Church has a plan of Latin Cross. On the inside, the most important element is the Mudejar coffered ceiling of polychromatic wood which covers the sole nave of the Church. Its structure rests on six Doric columns which are inserted in the wall of the sole nave that the church has, over which we can observe beautiful cross-ribbed domes. It has four different bodies: three of them are made of masonry and the forth is made of thick brick. Inside, we can find beautiful baroque reredos and a magnificent sculpture.

- **Church of Compañía de Jesus:** it has a floor plan of a single nave and connecting side chapels, covered by a dome and a magnificent vault over a transept. Its dome has a lantern with vanes of lighting and finished