



THE NATURE VISITORS INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The centre is housed in a stonework tower at the entrance to the Fuentes del Marqués beauty spot just 2 km west of the city of Caravaca. Along with the remains of a small church which stands alongside, this is one of the main elements of an old agricultural estate and family home dating from the early years of the 17th century and was built by the Mora and Godínez families. It is commonly known as the “Torre de los Templarios” (The Tower of the Templars”).

The interpretation centre was created principally with the educational community in mind and is equipped with interactive resources and modules which deal with the natural landscapes of the north-west of the Region of Murcia. The focus is especially on the characteristics of the Fuentes del Marqués area itself, with its diversity of animal and plant species, and on the effects which human activity has had in modifying the landscape since the Middle Ages. In addition, it is here that the main spring which supplies water to the land around Caravaca de la Cruz and Cehegín can be found.



THE MUSEUM OF ETHNIC MUSIC AND THE BLANCO FADOL COLLECTION

12 kilometres from Caravaca de la Cruz, in the village of Barranda, this museum was created to house the unique collection of musical instruments acquired over a period of over 40 years by Carlos Blanco Fadol, a researcher who devoted a large part of his activity to compiling different devices used for making traditional music in all five continents and spreading information about them.

This themed museum has an ongoing program of activities aimed at schoolchildren and in its exhibition rooms are a carefully looked-after range of instruments from varied cultures and all of the main religions. There are music-making devices related to slavery, to magic and to witchcraft, to ancestral beliefs and to the whole range of human activity, as well as an exhibition of spectacular Asiatic musical ensembles such as the Gamelan of Indonesia and traditional Chinese orchestras.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

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| 1. AYUNTAMIENTO | 13. MUSEO CARRILERO |
| 2. IGLESIA DE LA COMPAÑÍA | 14. MUSEO DE LA FIESTA |
| 3. CONVENTO SAN JOSÉ | 15. MUSEO DE LA VERA CRUZ |
| 4. CONVENTO SANTA CLARA | 16. MUSEO CABALLOS DEL VINO |
| 5. NTRA. SRA. DEL CARMEN | 17. PALACIO DE LA ENCOMIENDA |
| 6. ERMITA DE LA REJA | 18. PLAZA DE TOROS |
| 7. ERMITA DE SAN SEBASTIÁN | 19. BASÍLICA SANTUARIO DE LA STMA CRUZ |
| 8. ERMITA DE SANTA ELENA | 20. TEMPLETE |
| 9. FUENTES DEL MARQUÉS | 21. TORREÓN DE LOS TEMPLARIOS |
| 10. PARROQUIA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN | |
| 11. PARROQUIA DE EL SALVADOR | |
| 12. MUSEO ARQUEOLÓGICO LA SOLEDAD | |



Región de Murcia



The cultural and natural heritage of Caravaca de la Cruz is represented by the range of museums in the municipality, offering insights into a range of topics: from the well-known annual fiestas at the beginning of May to the traditions and artistic treasures of the True Holy Cross, from ancient archaeological remains to modern sculpture, and from traditional ethnic musical instruments to the natural beauty spot of Las Fuentes del Marqués.

Thank you for visiting Caravaca de la Cruz. We invite you to park your motor vehicles and get to know the beauty of our city on foot or by bicycle, helping to make this a sustainable tourism destination.

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

Telephone: 968 705620
 Email: reservas@caravacadelacruz.es
 Website: <https://www.turismocaravaca.com/es/museos>

CARRILERO

WINE HORSES

NATURE VISITOR INTERPRETATION CENTRE

ETHNIC MUSIC AND BLANCO FADOL COLLECTION

FIESTA

TRUE CROSS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

MUSEUMS OF CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

THE MUSEUM OF THE TRUE CROSS

Housed in the old “Casa del Capellán” (Chaplain’s House), inside the Basílica de la Vera Cruz, the Museo de la Vera Cruz contains a collection of pieces representing the historical and artistic heritage and the liturgical treasure of the Holy Relic. Included are a walk along the early 19th-century moat and the large medieval water storage cistern, as well as visits to the towers and the dungeon which belonged to the castle of the Order of Santiago in the late Middle Ages.

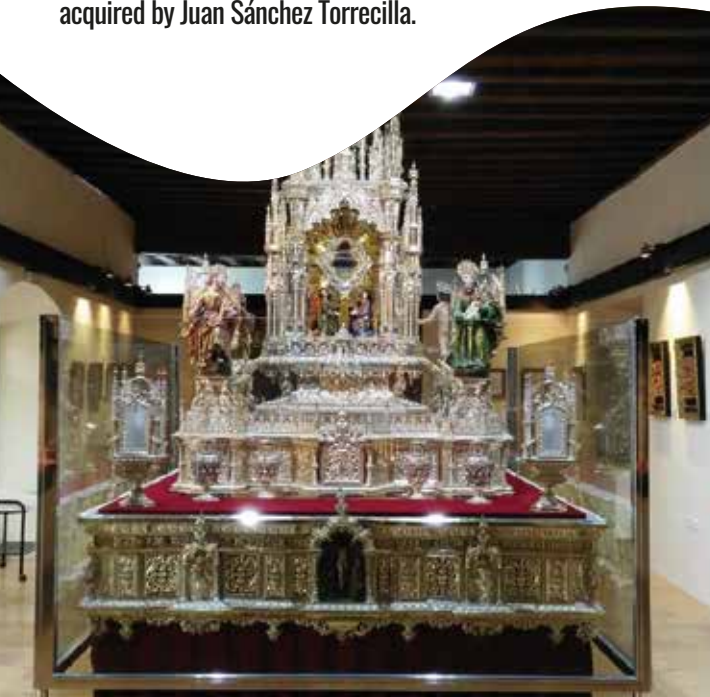
Among the most outstanding items on display are the 14th-century Granada silk drape which was used to adorn the chasuble of the Miracle, the images of the Miraculous Apparition of the Cross of the Caravaca which are attributed to the Renaissance painter Hernando de Llanos, a reliquary chest dated 1390 which was created by the master Lorenzo Suárez, the monstrance (or “ostensorium”) and its base used for the Bathing of the Cross (dating from 1536 and donated by Comendador Pedro Fajardo Chacón), the Triumphal Carriage of the Holy Cross and the collection of crosses and objects related to Caravaca’s famed Holy Relic which were acquired by Juan Sánchez Torrecilla.



THE MUNICIPAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The home of the archaeological museum is the former church of La Soledad, on the lower part of the slope which leads up to the Basílica de la Vera Cruz, and its exhibits include many of the archaeological remains which have been found in the municipality of Caravaca and the surrounding area, some of them the fruit of chance discoveries but most of them the result of thorough archaeological investigations.

The items on display come from sites of great importance, such as the prehistoric settlements of Casa Noguera in Archivel and Bagil in Moratalla and the Copper Age burial grounds of Camino de los Molinos, Cueva de los Alcores and Cueva de la Represa (all of them in Caravaca). The culture of the Iberians is represented by funeral goods found in the burial grounds of El Villar, Casa Nieves and Los Villaricos, which include weapons, ceramic cups and personal belongings, while the age of Roman rule is reflected most notably by architectural elements related to the temples of Cierro de la Ermita de la Encarnación and the villa of Singla.

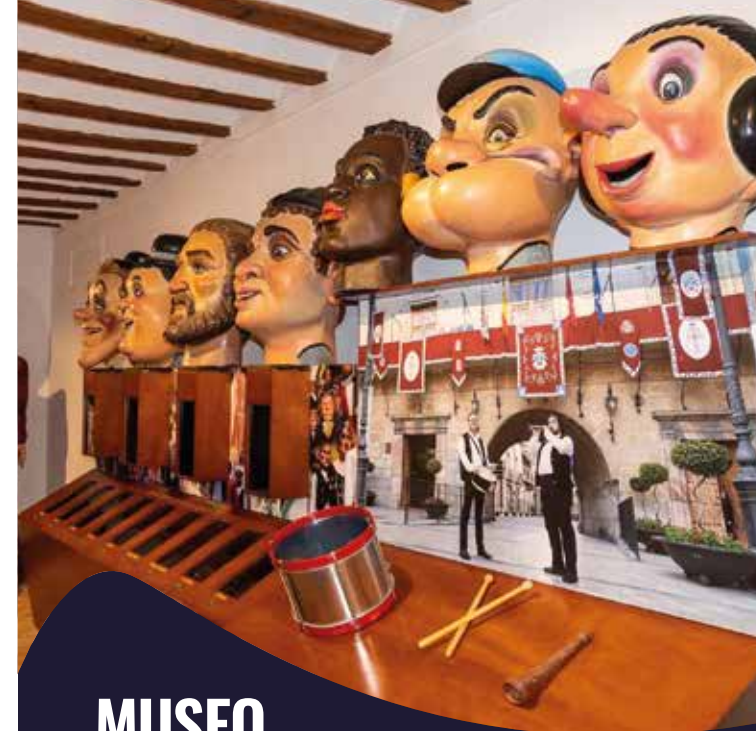


THE WINE HORSES MUSEUM (CASA MUSEO DE LOS CABALLOS DEL VINO)

This museum, which occupies a palatial 18th-century home in Calle Gregorio Javier, close to the church of El Salvador, is devoted to the festival of the Wine Horses and illustrates the history, anthropology, art, festivities and spectacular races associated with the annual celebration, which takes place on 1st and 2nd May as part of the fiestas in honour of the True Cross.

Inside are a carefully selected collection of items from the traditional decorative accoutrements with which the horses are bedecked, dating from the early 20th century to the present day, showing how styles have evolved over time. The highlights are the stunning silk, gold and shawls with precious stones which have been worn by the winning horses in recent years: these are a perfect illustration of the current importance of this unique celebration, as are the costumes worn by the “Amazon women” who represent the Bando de los Caballos del Vino (the organizing body behind the fiestas).

The fiesta of the Caballos del Vino has been awarded World Intangible Cultural Heritage status by UNESCO.



MUSEO DE LA FIESTA

The museum is devoted to the annual Fiestas Patronales of Caravaca de la Cruz, which have been awarded International Tourist Interest status and are held every year between 1st and 5th May, and is located in the old palatial home of the Mora y Uribe family very close to the Convento de Santa Clara. At the same time, it commemorates the religious origin of the fiestas in honour of the Vera Cruz (the True Cross): the exhibits include a wide selection of the uniforms, accessories and weapons used by the Moorish and Christian groups which take part in the festivities, as well as the beautifully embroidered shawls which are worn by the famed Wine Horses.

Among the highlights are a complete tableau of one of the Wine Horses accompanied by its four runners, a recreation of the Historic Horse, the spectacular uniforms and capes worn by the sultans and kings, various examples of the costumes worn by Moors and Christians and the Giants and Bigheads, represented by the lovable characters of Nano and Nana.

MUSEO CARRILERO

Sculptor José Carrilero Gil was born in 1928 in an old house dating from the first quarter of the 17th century which belonged to Luis de Gadea Sahajosa and was later converted into a Guardia Civil headquarters, and the basement and ground floor of the building have now been converted by the Town Hall into a museum containing various pieces of his work.

The works of José Carrilero are typified by his representation of the human form as voluminous, with smooth modulations and delicate textures: cuts, cracks and designs which, when applied to the main body of the work, result in highly original bronze sculptures. Among the works on display here the most important are female torsos, large seated figures and those caught in motion, such as on a balcony or a footpath, sketches and anatomical studies of heads and faces and a magnificent trio of instrumentalists installed outside the museum itself.

Prior booking is required.

