

RELIGIOUS

**REGIÓN
DE MURCIA**
RELIGIOUS
AND CULTURAL
TOURISM



CARAVACA 2017
Holy Jubilee Year

1

JUBILEE
CITY

1

PERPETUAL
JUBILEE YEAR

4

RELIGIOUS
FESTIVALS
OF INTERNATIONAL
TOURIST
INTEREST

3000

DAYS OF SUNSHINE
PER YEAR

19

DEGREES
(OUR AVERAGE
TEMPERATURE)



MAKES YOU
HAPPY





REGIÓN DE MURCIA **PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE**



To explore the Region of Murcia, keep your feet on the ground. With each step, you'll experience emotions that elevate your spirit beyond the earthly.

The Region of Murcia is a focal point of Christianity, evidenced by **Pope John Paul II** granting the privilege to celebrate the **Jubilee Year In Perpetuum** in **Caravaca de la Cruz** every 7 years since 2003. Thus, Caravaca became the fifth city in the world to celebrate the Perpetual Jubilee, together with Santiago de Compostela, Santo Toribio de Liebana, Rome and Jerusalem, the next taking place in 2017.

The religious tradition of the Region of Murcia not only dwells in every church and basilica: worship and fervour are rooted in every corner, town and city. Discover beautiful worship sites, places of pilgrimage, legends, religious festivals and heritage of incalculable value.

CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ



CARAVACA
2017
Holy Jubilee Year

+ Info

www.turismocaravaca.org
www.caminodelacruz.es

Caravaca de la Cruz is a city located in a border enclave, a crossroads between the Region of Murcia and Granada. Iberians, Romans and Muslims passed through a community settled around its castle, which, although of Arab origin, was guarded by the **Knights Templar** and subsequently by the **Order of Santiago**. Caravaca is essentially the **City of the Cross**.

According to legend, in 1232 the Moorish king Abu Zeid converted to Christianity when he witnessed two angels descending from heaven carrying a cross so that a priest imprisoned in the castle could say mass. This story led to the construction of the Shrine of the **Vera Cruz** beginning in 1617 on the grounds of the fortress. Decidedly, the main landmark of this area in the northeast of Murcia is highlighted by its monumental Cehegin red marble door.

In 1998 the Holy See granted to the **Sanctuary** and **Brotherhood of Vera Cruz** the papal indulgences and privileges to celebrate its **Jubilee Year in Perpetuum every 7 years**. Caravaca de la Cruz is anxiously awaiting the arrival of thousands of pilgrims during the **Jubilee Year of 2017**.



CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ, AÑO JUBILAR IN PERPETUUM

Caravaca de la Cruz has the exceptional privilege, shared only with Jerusalem, of being able to achieve the desired **“plenary indulgence”** at any time and not only coinciding with the celebration of the Jubilee Year which, in the case of Caravaca, takes place every 7 years. the only requirement is to go as a group, with a minimum of 3 people, and comply with the same conditions as in the Holy Year.



CONCESSION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR "IN PERPETUUM" BY SAINT JOHN PAUL II



PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Prot. N. 2/98/1

BEATISSIME PATER,

Xaverius Azagra Labiano, Episcopus Cartaginensis in Hispania, uno corde cum suo clero, cum sodalibus Confraternitatis Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis, oeseciae fideiibus suae pastorali curae commissa, filialis devotionis sensus erga Sanctitatem Tuam ex animo patet, et reverenter exponit. Instantibus Moderatoribus praefatae Confraternitatis, collatisque consiliis cum Episcopis Hispaniae, statutum est pro dioecesi Cartaginensi in Hispania octavum quoque annum, incipiendo ab anno 2003, in Sanctuario Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis de Caravaca specialibus sacris functionibus et varis religionis inceptis celebrandum fore. Hoc enim Sanctuarium, peregre et antiquum, cordibus fidelium est carissimum, et inde per totum orbem ab Evangelii nuntio diffusa est ardore erga SS. matrem Crucem Domini Nostri Iesu Christi devotio. Quae quidem ut in populo christiano asservetur et in diem usque suggestatur, Haec una Oratione reverenter petit a Sanctitate Tua donum plenariae Indulgentiae pro pia christifidelibus praedictum sanctuarium visitantibus.

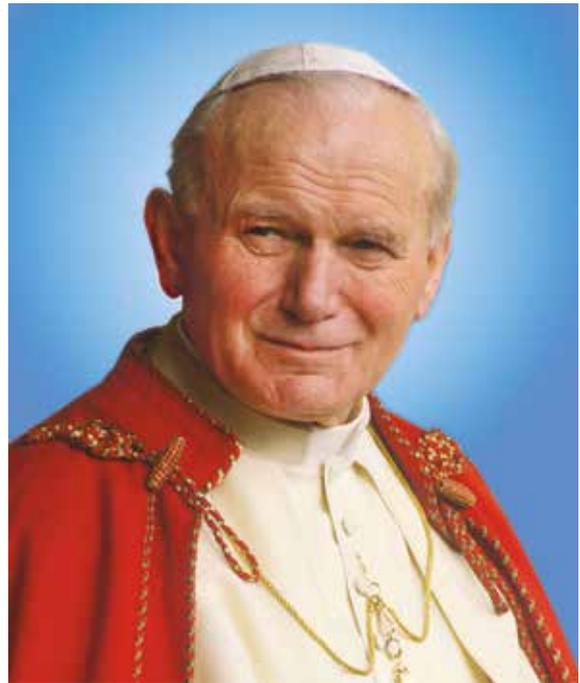
In Deo, etc.

Die 9 Januarii 1998

PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA, de Summi Pontificis mandato, libenter concedit plenariam Indulgentiam, excluso effectu erga quodcumque peccatum et sub aetia conditionibus (sacramentali confessione, eucharistica communione et oratione ad mentem eiusdem Summi Pontificis) assequens iam christifidelibus in Sanctuario Sanctissimae et Verae Crucis de Caravaca, si cui ser-vae functioni devoto adhererint vel saltem Orationem Dominicam ac Fidelium Symbolum recitaverint: 1. die 3 maii, quae ibi solemniter celebratur, et die 14 septembris, in Exaltatione SS. mae Crucis; 2. quoties illae devotionis causa turmatim peregrinati fuerint; 3. semel in anno, die a singulis fidelibus libere eligendo. Conceditur insuper plenaria Indulgentia, sub eadem conditionibus christifidelibus obtinenda, diebus quibus septennalis celebratio, de qua supra dictum est, solemniter aperitur et clauditur, aliisque eiusdem diebus in quibus Episcopus loci in dicto Sanctuario alicui solenni ritui praesidebit.

Præsentem in perpetuum validum. Contrariis quibuscumque non obstantibus.

+Alonso De Magistris
Regens
N. M. Tedeschini
off.



PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA
Apostolic Penitentiary
Prot. N. 2/98/1

MOST BLESSED FATHER,

Javier Azagra Labiano, Bishop of Cartagena in Spain, together with his clergy, the Brothers of the *Hermanidad de la Santísima y Vera Cruz* –Brotherhood of the Blessed and True Cross–, and the rest of believers entrusted to his pastoral care, expresses ardent devotion to Your Holiness and respectfully sets forth:
With the plea and perseverance of the Heads of the aforementioned Brotherhood, and once the opinion of the Spanish Episcopal Conference has been sought, it has been determined for the Diocese of Cartagena in Spain to celebrate a Jubilee Year every seven years, starting in the Year 2003, in the Sanctuary of the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca, including special services and different religious initiatives.

The highly renowned and old Sanctuary is most dearly beloved for the hearts of the believers. Ardent devotion to the Blessed Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ was spread from there around the world by preachers of the Gospel. In order that the Christian people may preserve this devotion and strengthen it day by day, the Honourable Speaker respectfully implores to Your Holiness the gift of a Plenary Indulgence for the devout believers who visit the aforementioned Sanctuary.

And may God...

January 9, 1998

THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, by mandate of the Pope, gladly grants a Plenary Indulgence, with perfect contrition and under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), to be gained by the Christian faithful who devoutly participate in any celebration in the Sanctuary of the Blessed and True Cross of Caravaca or at least recite the Lord's Prayer or the Creed:

1. On May 3rd, solemnly celebrated there, and September 14th, Festivity of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
2. Every time they devoutly make a group pilgrimage to the Sanctuary.
3. Once a year, on a day which can be freely chosen by the Christian faithful.

A Plenary Indulgence is also granted, in the usual manner, on the days when every seven years the solemn Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Jubilee Year are celebrated and also on those days of the same year when the Bishop presides over some solemn rite.

This granting is valid in perpetuity. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

+ Luis De Magistris Regent

N.M. Tedeschini Officer



CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ

CARAVACA TERESIAN CITY

Part of the "Teresian Cities" tourist route, Caravaca has a convent founded by **St. Teresa of Jesus** in 1576. The building has two separate parts: the **Church of St. Joseph** and the **Carmelite Nuns Monastery**. The church, endowed with just one nave, was reconstructed in the 18th century and its decoration belongs to the Rococo style. The monastery, currently uninhabited, still retains areas which invite us to live the experience of the life at the time of St. Teresa. **St. John of the Cross** passed through there on up to seven occasions, in 1587 founding the **Convent of Our Lady of Carmen of the Discalced Carmelites of Caravaca**, very close to which was that of St. Teresa. The Saint dispatched him specifically to look after the congregation first and foremost in view of the fact that, at the end of her days, she was unable to attend in person owing to illness, with the **City of the Cross** becoming one of the few examples which, in turn, have the Teresian and St. John's foundation. St. Teresa used to wear a Cross of Caravaca until the end of her days which is safeguarded at the Convent of the Discalced Carmelite Mother Superiors of Brussels. This demonstrates her close relationship with Caravaca and with Vera Cruz, but also the desire with which the pilgrims acquired the Cross of Caravaca as a symbol of faith.

Caravaca has one of the best sets of religious architecture of the Murcia Region: the **Church of Solitude, the Church of the Saviour and the Company of Jesus, the Shrine, the St. Claire's Monastery, the Hermits of St. Helen, St. Sebastián and the Reja** and the magnificent **Basilica of the Holy Saint and Vera Cruz**, are must visits on a route which will leave a deep mark on the pilgrim.

A fabulous network of spaces which floods a labyrinthine system of alleys and small squares in which it is easy to lose oneself in order to find oneself again.

Caravaca is proud of its **people, its gastronomy and its spirituality** and not for nothing is it one of the places with the most tourist attractions in the Northwest of the Murcia Region which will look after the traveller right from his arrival and will not leave him unmoved.





BASÍLICA OF THE VERA CRUZ

The **Vera Cruz** is kept in the Basilica of the Blessed and Vera Cruz of Caravaca. Travellers from all over the world flock to experience the spirituality in an atmosphere of profound recollection.

The Blessed and Vera Cruz of Caravaca is a cross of Eastern origin and patriarchal aspect, with a double crossbar, or four arms, which has been venerated since the thirteenth century. The relic appeared on **3 May 1231**.

According to tradition: "The Caravaca lands were conquered by the **Almohad Sayyid of Valencia, Abu-Zeid**, who was deployed here during this period.



It is said that amongst the Christian prisoners was a Cuenca **priest** named **Ginés Pérez Chirinos**. The Sayyid interrogated the prisoner about his occupation, to which he replied, "I say Mass". The priest's response piqued the curiosity of the Sayyid, who ordered everything necessary for Chirinos to be brought to the main hall of the Alcazar in order to perform a demonstration of this liturgical act. Shortly after starting the celebration, Chirinos stopped and lamented the impossibility of continuing the ceremony because of the lack of a crucifix at the altar. It was precisely at that moment two angels appeared carrying a cross and placed it on the altar so that the priest could continue the Mass. Upon seeing this miracle, as the story goes, the Sayyid and his men converted to Christianity".

Numerous religious orders who have settled in Caravaca contributed to spreading knowledge of the Cross through Latin America and Europe, especially the **Jesuits** and **Franciscans** lead, by their missionary zeal.



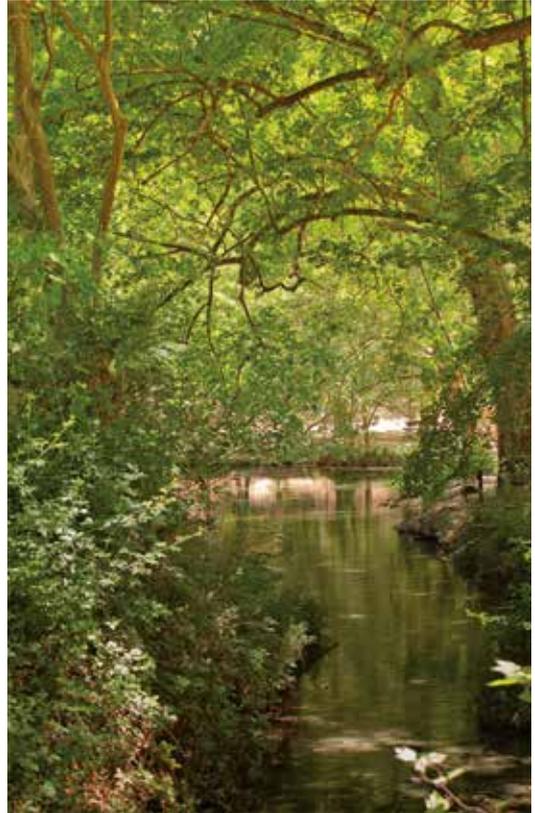
CARAVACA DE LA CRUZ



FROM MUSEUM TO MUSEUM

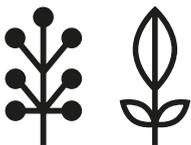
Another of the cultural attractions of Caravaca de la Cruz are its museums. One of the main ones is situated at the Castle-Fortress: **the Vera Cruz Museum** which houses goldsmithery and painting collections. In the **picture gallery** worthy of note are 6 oils on panels from the 16th century, originals by Hernando de los Llanos, a painter who was as disciple of Leonardo da Vinci. As regards **goldsmithery** worthy of note, inter alia, are the Custodia-Ostensorio de la Cruz, from the early 16th century and the Portacruz de los Baños, a gift from Luis Fajardo, the second Marquess of los Vélez. Another important piece which stands out at the museum is the **Chirinos Chasuble**, a Moslem tiraz adapted to the shape of a liturgical ornament which it is believed was worn by the priest Chirinos at the time of the miraculous appearance of the Cross.

In view of its special originality, it is worth visiting the **Barranda Ethnic Music Museum** where around 1,000 musical instruments are on display from all ages and continents. Other recommended visits are the **Archaeological Museum**, the **"Caballos del Vino" (wine horses) Museum**, the **Fiesta Museum** and the **Miniatures of Ángel Reinón Museum**.



A CHARMING PLACE

Located just over two kilometres from the town centre of Caravaca, one of the most beautiful sites in the region awaits you: the Marquis Fountains. Pure water springs, abundant nature and an undeniable charm are all there for you to discover at your leisure. It is here that an ancient Templar Tower stands, enveloped in legend, which served as an outpost for the defence against the Muslims and now houses the Centre for the Interpretation of Nature.





FESTIVALS OF THE HOLY SAINT AND VERA CRUZ

The Festivals of the Holy Saint and Vera Cruz, declared as being of **International Tourist Interest** in 2004, are celebrated every year from May 1st to 5th. What's more, on the 2nd, the castle houses the popular, spectacular **Wine horses Race**. Neither should you miss the procession which is held on May 3rd through the streets of the old town from the Saviour Church to the Shrine, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful, dearly loved moments of the festivals.

Worthy of special mention is the **Parliament** between the Moorish and Christian monarchs and the **Bath of the Cross at the Shrine**, a mass ceremony involving great devotion. And to round off the festivals, on May 5th there is the **Procession of the Ascent** of the Sacred Relic to the Basilica-Sanctuary.

If your visit does not coincide with these celebrations, you can find out all about them at the **Caballos del Vino** and **Festival Museums**.



WAY OF THE CROSS OF CARAVACA: THE EASTERN WAY

We invite the traveller to follow The Way of the Cross of Caravaca route which leads to the Holy City, resuming the tradition of going on a pilgrimage on foot and also by bike, combining the religious nature with the **culture, nature, gastronomy and heritage**. Further information at www.caminodelacruz.es

FIND YOUR WAY



MULA

+ Info

www.mula.es

www.caminodelacruz.es

In the heart of the Murcia Region there lies the town of Mula, a monumental enclave, whose old town, declared to be a **Site of National Artistic Interest** in 1981, will surprise more curious travellers.

We invite visitors to pass through its alleys and nook and crannies, as the surprises which await them here are a sight for sore eyes. The **Los Vélez Castle** stands out, an imposing fortress from the 16th century from which the lord dominated his subjects beyond these lands bathed by the River Mula.

However, if there's one thing this town is famous for it is undoubtedly it is the **Holy Thorn** and its **Easter Week**. Religious fervour and tradition are combined on the **Night of the Drums**, a festival deemed to be in the **National Tourist Interest** whose origin dates back to the mid-19th century. On the evening of Easter Tuesday hundreds of drums sound in unison on what is probably the most exciting night of the Mula dwellers.

The **Procession to the Hermitage of The Infant of Mula** is another must visit for Mula residents which they accompany every September 22nd with great devotion and in a festive atmosphere, the return of the image of the Infant Jesus from the **Convent of The Incarnation** to its hermitage, after spending several weeks at various churches in the area.

And if you wish to get the most out of your stay in Mula, you can also visit some of its most interesting buildings such as the **Church of St. Dominic's**, the Modern Art Museum "**Painted House Foundation**", where the career path of the worldwide renowned artist from Mula **Cristóbal Gabarrón**, the **Iberian Art Museum "El Cigarralejo"** which houses the best exhibition of Iberian art on the peninsula and the **Royal Monastery of the Incarnation** where the Poor Clare Sisters delight residents and outsiders with their delicious confectionery which they sell through the revolving counter window.





THE THORN

The Royal Monastery of the Incarnation undoubtedly houses one of the “jewels in the crown” for the Christian faithful: the **Shrine of the Holy Thorn** whose interior accommodates a shrine which belonged to the Crown of thorns that Jesus Christ wore in the Passion and a tuft of hair of the Virgin Mary.

Although the first mention of the **Crown of thorns** dates back to the 5th century, there is no further reference to it again until the 11th century when it turned up in Constantinople. In 1238 the emperor Baldwin II offered the holy shrine to Luis IX, the King of France, seeking his support. To safeguard it, the monarch built the Holy Chapel of Paris built where it was to remain until the French Revolution until it was finally moved to the Notre Dame cathedral. Over the centuries, the thorns were offered as a gift between monarchs and noblemen, spreading throughout Christendom. Today, some of them can be revered such as the one at Barcelona Cathedral or that houses by the Chapel of the Holy Thorn at the **Royal Monastery of the Incarnation** in Mula, attended by the **Poor Clare sisters**.

MURCIA

+ Info

www.turismodemurcia.es
www.caminodelacruz.es

Murcia is a melting pot of artistic styles with examples of incalculable value. It was founded in 831 by the Emir of Cordoba, Abderramán II, in a privileged enclave in the middle of the River Segura valley. The importance of the Arab period features in the surrounding walls, 15 metres in height and with 95 towers. Some of the remains are still visible in different parts within the city and can be viewed in the **Visitors Centre of the Wall** in Santa Eulalia Plaza. An important place that highlights the numerous archaeological palatial-type remains of the **Monastery of Santa Clara la Real** is the **Museum of Santa Clara**.

Step into the old town full of narrow streets with guild names like the shopping area of **Platería (Silver-maker)**, **Trapería (Rag-seller)** and **Jabonerías (Soap-maker)**, witnesses to the daily commotion in the Region's capital.

From the seventeenth century, and especially in the eighteenth, Murcia achieved a splendour that expanded beyond its walls. At this time, **numerous churches were built, mostly Baroque**. Temples including la Merced, San Miguel, Santa Ana, the Monastery of Santa Clara el Real, Santo Domingo, Santa Eulalia and San Juan de Dios unite an important pictorial and sculptural heritage with **architectural art**, the carved works of **Francisco Salzillo** being a particular highlight.

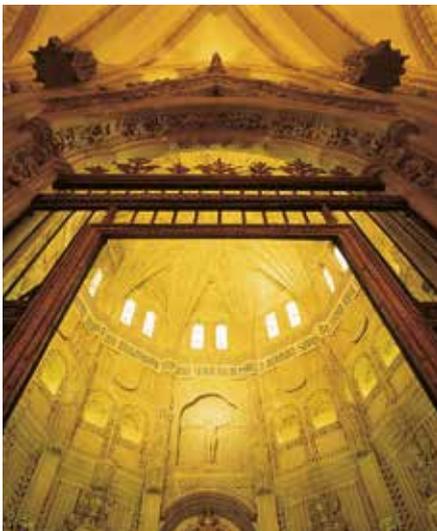


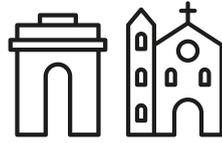
CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA

The main monument of Murcia is its **Cathedral**, whose construction began in the late fourteenth century. It features an eclectic collection of various artistic styles that are not overshadowed by its great majesty. **Gothic** elements, such as the Gate of the Apostles and the Chapel of Los Vélez, coexist with both **Renaissance** features, including the Junterón Chapel, and **Baroque** details that are featured in its spectacular "imafrente", conceived as a gigantic altarpiece by Jaime Bort, combining wisdom with sculpture and architecture. The **tower** stands 92 metres tall, built in various stages between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Next to the Cathedral, the eighteenth century **Episcopal Palace**

stirs wonderment in both tourists and pilgrims. Amongst the city's sacred art, do not miss the Salzillo Museum. Be moved by the realism of the figures and steps of the great Murciano sculptor Francisco Salzillo, which are paraded upon in the Good Friday morning procession. Behold his famous Bethlehem, from which one of the most deeply rooted craft traditions in the Region of Murcia was born.

There are other magnificent examples of Baroque architecture in the **Sanctuary of la Fuensanta** and in the **Monastery of los Jerónimos**, also known as "El Escorial Murciano".





EASTER WEEK AND SALZILLO: BAROQUE IMAGERY

As far as the holy art of the city is concerned, a visit to the **Salzillo Museum** is a must. The realism of the figures and the carvings of the great Murcian image sculptor **Francisco Salzillo** which are paraded during Easter Week, will undoubtedly move you, as will his renowned **Bethlehem**, giving rise to one of the most entrenched craft traditions of the Murcia Region.

The Murcia Holy Week has been declared of **International Tourist Interest**. The carvings of Salzillo, orchard essence and Nazarenes who hand out candy, cakes and other presents make this Holy Week especially unique in our country.

The most striking procession is the one on **Good Friday** also known as "Los Salzillos", in which more than 4,000 Nazarenes wearing purple depart at dawn and carry original works of art from the eighteenth century by the great Murciano sculptor Francisco Salzillo y Alcaraz.

Undoubtedly, the most scenic and popular parade is that of Los Coloraos on **Holy Wednesday**. With more than 3,000 Nazarenes, this procession is peculiar because of the great number of children that lead the procession. Candy and gifts are handed out, as well as tender beans and other products linking the orchards to the Arch Confraternity of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORCA

+ Info

www.lorcaturismo.es
www.caminodelacruz.es

Lorca, known as the "**Baroque City**" because of the important legacy of its historic centre, is where the "Biblical-Passion Processions" are staged every year during **Holy Week**, declared of **International Tourist Interest** in 2007. Chariot riders, carriages, horses, floats, fine gold and silk robes and the famous rivalry between the **Paso Blanco and Azul** make this one of the most spectacular events of Holy Week in all of Spain.

The brilliant artistic heritage of the so-called "Sun City" shines on its many monuments from different eras. The **Miliaria Column** from the Roman period, its **castle** with the Tower of the Espolón and Alfonsina Tower and Christian contributions after the Reconquista join the Porche de San Antonio, the door of the old walled enclosure that surrounded the city in the tenth century. Adding to this treasured legacy are the numerous churches and convents that range from the thirteenth to the fourteenth centuries, the Baroque palaces and stately homes, such as the **Guevara Palace**, los Condes de San Julián Palace and the House of los Mula.

A highlight is the **military fortress**, heir to the medieval citadel, which made it an impregnable enclosure. In addition to the cobbled streets around the Plaza de España, there are buildings featuring popular architecture with a strong traditional character, such as la Zapatería and la Cava.

Other monuments to help you discover the religious dimension of Lorca include the **Shrine of the Virgin de las Huertas**, the **Collegiate Church of San Patricio**, the **Monumental Complex of the Calvary**, declared of Cultural Interest, and the **Museum of Bethlehem**.



HOLY WEEK EMBROIDERY MUSEUMS

The **Holy Week Embroidery Museum** reminds us that it is Easter throughout the year in Lorca. Through its numerous exhibits, you'll discover the rich heritage of the brotherhoods and the original and surprising experience of the **Biblical-Passion processions**. Various audio-visuales demonstrate the most impressive and moving

moments of this original and popular demonstration of faith. These museums feature the cloths and banners of the religious images for each brotherhood, as well as the remnants of the robes worn by historical figures who partook in the life, passion and death of Jesus Christ. Also exhibited are religious

images and thrones that are used in the processions during Holy Week, created by renowned sculptors. Another attraction is access to the embroidery **workshops** to witness the creation of Lorca embroidery, crafted with the care and patience that makes this artisan technique an important part of our Cultural Heritage.





SYNAGOGUE AND JEWISH QUARTER

Lorca features non-ecclesiastical monuments, such as the **Synagogue** and the **Jewish Quarter Archaeological Park**. The medieval Jewish neighbourhood of Lorca was inside the citadel, separated by walls from the rest of the city. With an area of about 5,700 square metres, so far 12 homes and a fourteenth century synagogue have been excavated, the only one found in the Region of Murcia.

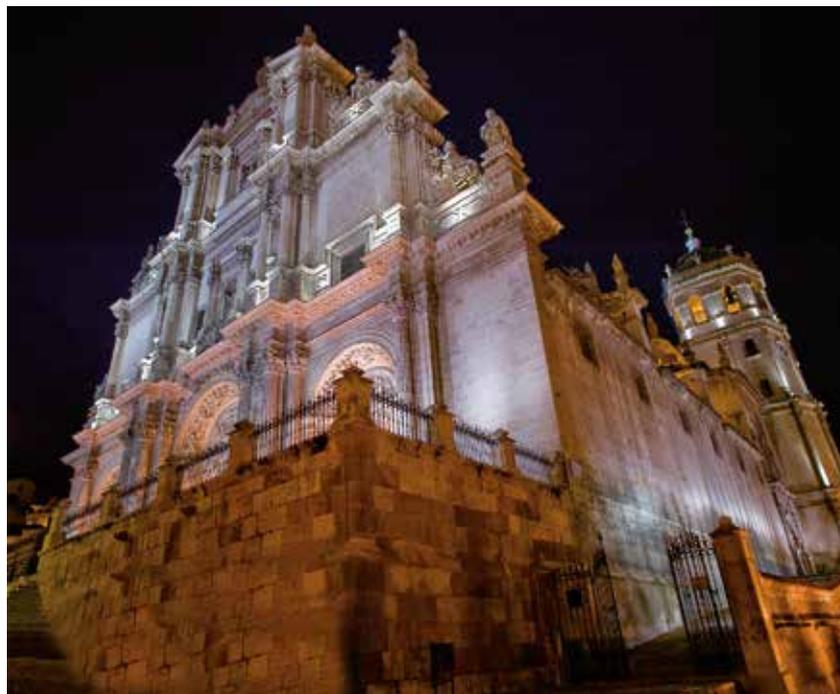
Delve into the Jewish culture and religion by stepping inside the Synagogue accessed via patio. Inside the prayer hall is where the Torah scrolls are held and a niche (Hechal decorated with Gothic plasterwork.

You can also see the remains of the plinth where the Bimah stood from which the Torah was read.

CHANUKAH

In mid-December, on the occasion of the Moorish, Christian and Jewish festivities, the lighting of the Chanukah menorah takes place. This is a **Jewish holiday** that commemorates the defeat of the Greeks and the recovery of Jewish independence under the Maccabees in the second century BC.

The custom is to progressively light the nine-branched candelabra, known as the Menorah. In Lorca, this is a cultural event that takes place between late November and the first half of December. In recent years, the holiday has taken place at the **Lorca Castle Synagogue**.



CALASPARRA



+ Info

www.turismocalasparra.es
www.murciaturistica.es

This Murcia town is famous, in addition to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Hope**, because of its important rice plain where **rice** is produced with the **Calasparra Designation of Origin**.

Along with the other area attractions that are sure to nourish mind, body and soul, its privileged location and history make Calasparra a special attraction.

With four rivers and two reservoirs, Calasparra's waters attract visitors, not only because of their rich landscape, but also because of the variety of activities to be enjoyed, including caving in the **Cave of the Port** and canyoning. The descending River Segura through the **Almadenes Canyon** runs through the **Protected Natural Reserve of the Cañaverosa Riverside Forest**, where some of the last otters in the Region live, along with a large variety of waterfowl. This is truly a paradise for the senses.

In addition, Calasparra is known for its **cave paintings**, named a **World Heritage Site** by UNESCO, and for archaeological sites from the Palaeolithic era and Hispanic-Muslim art.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF HOPE

The Shrine of Our Lady of Hope, patron saint of Calasparra, is located in the area known as "Lomad de la Virgen", a place of great beauty on the banks of the River Segura. Today, the Shrine is a renowned **place of pilgrimage**, celebrating a Jubilee Holy Year in 2008.

The first written reference to the Shrine dates from the **early seventeenth century**, when Alonso Benítez de Munera founded the Fuensanta hermitage, which is now known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Hope (although there is evidence that the Virgin was venerated long before).

Inside, the **main altarpiece** is featured, decorated in green and gold with Marian symbols. At its centre, the image of the Virgin is situated, which is composed of two figures. The image of **Our Lady of Hope**, known as La Grande, is a classic carving from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whose head is the only original element, which was donated in 1617 by Juana Sánchez. The image of "La Pequeña" is a mystery, since its origins and date of completion are still unknown.

After passing the hermitage, in the annexed building are the rooms of the

Camarín and Museum. The Camarín is where several images of the Virgin are saved. In the Museum, the trappings of the Virgin are kept, including garments, jewellery and clothing.

Other religious monuments in this town are the Church of San Pedro, Church of Los Santos, Church of la Merced, Hermitage of Ecce-Homo and Hermitage of San Miguel.

TOTANA

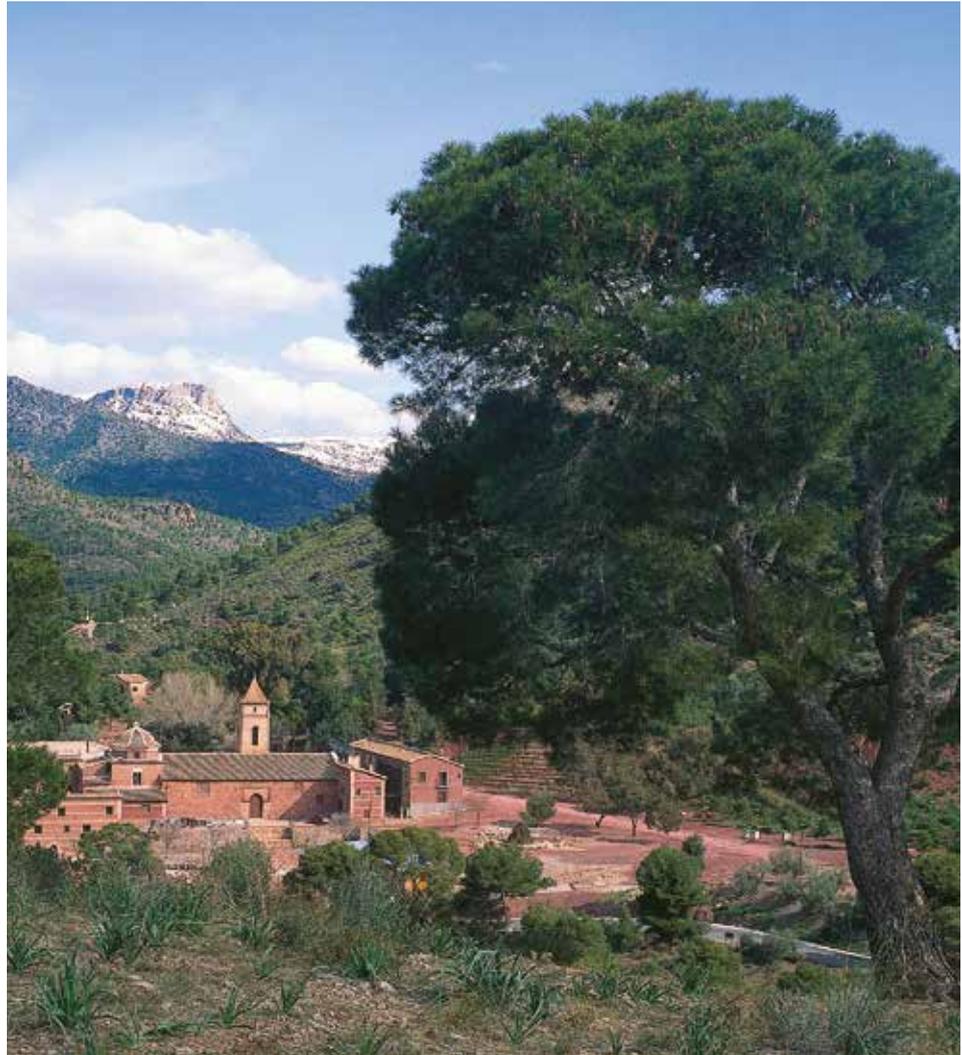


+ Info

www.turismo.totana.es
www.murciaturistica.es

Totana encompasses tourist sights of extraordinary beauty and myriad landscapes. This historic, attractive and monumental town has preserved stately homes from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and must-see monuments, like the **Church of Santiago**. Totana's considerable architectural heritage is best understood through a visit to the site of **La Bastida**, the most powerful city in continental Europe during the Bronze Age, some 4,200 years ago, and a fortified square comparable to the second city of Troy.

It also features the enviable **Orchards**, composed of nineteenth century houses surrounded by almond, orange and lemon trees that accompany you in your ascent to the **La Santa** area, located in the natural enclave of the Regional Park of Sierra Espuña.



SHRINE OF SANTA EULALIA OF MÉRIDA, "LA SANTA (THE SAINT)"

The Shrine celebrated its Jubilee in honour of Santa Eulalia in 2004, and is located seven kilometres from the town of Totana, where the image of **Santa Eulalia of Mérida** is venerated, patron saint of the city since 1644. This devotion goes beyond the municipality limits and extends to other parts of the Region of Murcia and other areas where pilgrims and devotees come together in faith. The **Knights of Santiago** were responsible for bring the devotion to Santa Eulalia up to Totana. Many

Murciano lands were donated by Alfonso X The Wise in 1257 to the Military Order of Santiago and to its master, Pelay Pérez Correa, a character linked to the city of Mérida. The architectural composition and ochre colours of the facades of this religious monument are typical of this area of Espuña, affording it a declaration of **Cultural Interest**. The hermitage of a single nave was built in 1595 and boasts an impressive Mudejar-coffered ceiling. The walls are completely covered with tempering

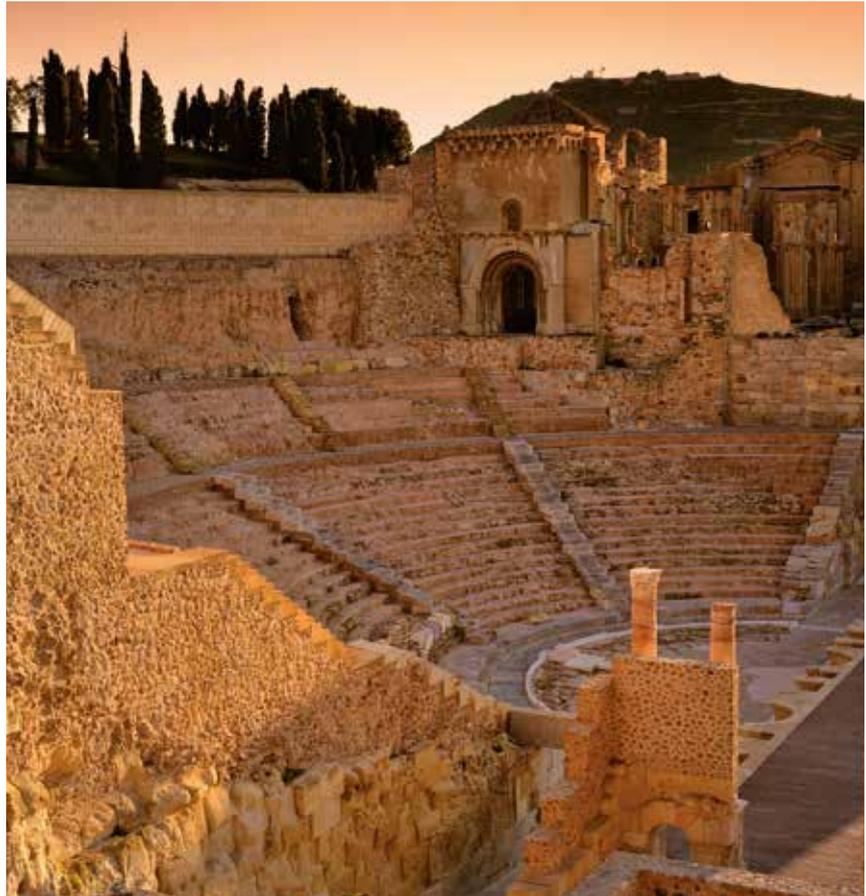
technique dating from the seventeenth century and relate, in a very didactic way, the life of Christ and miracles of the Saint. This building has some of the most significant exponents of folk art in the entire Levant peninsula. At this site you can enjoy an exceptionally rich environment: the Aleppo pine forest and a large variety of native plants have created a charming area where you can easily relax and enjoy your natural surroundings.

CARTAGENA



+ Info

www.cartagenaturismo.es
www.murciaturistica.es



CARTAGENA HOLY WEEK

Holy Week in Cartagena is the quintessential feast of this city. **Declared as a place of International Tourist Interest**, the solemnity, military nature and order characterise these deeply-rooted processions of the Cartageneros. From Good Friday until Easter Sunday, ten days are filled with light, flowers, stunning thrones and wonderful costumes.

The largest events carry great passion and fervour, such as the end **procession of San Pedro del Arsenal** or the **Meeting in the Plaza de la Merced**. The Holy Week processions in Cartagena are the first in all of Spain and are the perfect excuse to start your holidays here.

Cartagena is a city with **over 3,000 years of history**, offering monumental testimonies of its magnificent historical past in each and every corner, street and square. A prime example of this is the **Roman Theatre** built by Emperor Augustus in the first century BC, although it was not discovered until 1990. A not-to-be-missed highlight is the Museum of the Roman Theatre, a fascinating architectural complex designed by Rafael Moneo, where each room is more spectacular than the last. The palace of Pascual de Riquelme and cathedral of Santa María la Vieja are integrated into the museum, and, in the last corridor, the most impressive stop: the Roman Theatre. **Cartagena, a Port of Cultures**, will allow you to enjoy the heritage and rich culture of the city by understanding its background. Learn about its origins through the

remains of the **Punic Wall**, a witness to the founding of the city by the Carthaginian general Hasdrubal in the year 227 BC. Moreover, its **Interpretation Centre** will explain, in detail and most entertaining manner, this fundamental part of local history and archaeology. In the recently restored **Roman Forum neighbourhood**, you can walk a whole block of Roman Cartagena, including a thermal resort from the first century AD and atrium building from the end of the first century BC. Strolling through the city you will also discover that Cartagena preserves its military footprint dating back to medieval times. **The Interpretation Centre** is located in the **Castle of la Concepción**, a site with spectacular views, where the many secrets of this Mediterranean city will be revealed alongside its greatest tales.

ABANILLA

+ Info

www.abanilla.es
www.murciaturistica.es

Situated in the Eastern side of the Murcia Region, Abanilla is **like an oasis in the middle of the desert**. The dryness of its "lunar" landscape contrasts with the fertile crop lands bathed by the **River Chicamo**, which is what makes the municipality particularly unique.

Strolling around the old town of Abanilla is almost like going in time, particularly during the festivals of **Moors and Christians** when the battles of the time of the Reconquest are remembered.

The faith and devotion of its people mark the start of the traditional procession on May 3rd in honour of the **Holy Cross** to its Mahoya hermitage. The act culminates in a lively lunch during which typical dishes and confectionery are tasted such as "fried rabbit" and "Easter cake with egg".

We would urge the visitor to get to know the numerous hermitages to be found on the route and which recall the compassed attached, since that time, to this municipality. We would recommend a visit to **Church of St. Joseph**, the patron saint of Abanilla. In Baroque style, it was built in 1700 under the mandate of the Military and Religious Order of Calatrava. One of its chapels houses the shrine known as the Most **Holy Cross of Abanilla**. According to tradition, it is a "lignum crucis" which derives from the timber from which Christ was crucified.



ULEA

+ Info

www.turismovalledericote.es
www.murciaturistica.es

Ulea is, by definition, a **land of contrasts**, and it is here that the dry landscapes of the adjoining mountains converge with the greener of the Ricote Valley where the municipality is based, providing travellers with the perfect excuse to stop off on their journey.

Its narrow, staggered streets, hearing the constant trickling of water through the fountains, water tanks and wheels, bear testimony to its Moslem heritage which extends throughout the valley. Without a shadow of a doubt, an imprint which can be appreciated as one of the most important monuments in the municipality: the **Church of St. Bartholomew**, the oldest in the Ricote valley. Here we can see the evolution of the former Moslem mosque (pre-15th century) to the present church (as from the late 15th century). Throughout the year, this temple houses the "**lignum crucis**" of Ulea, a splinter from Christ's cross.

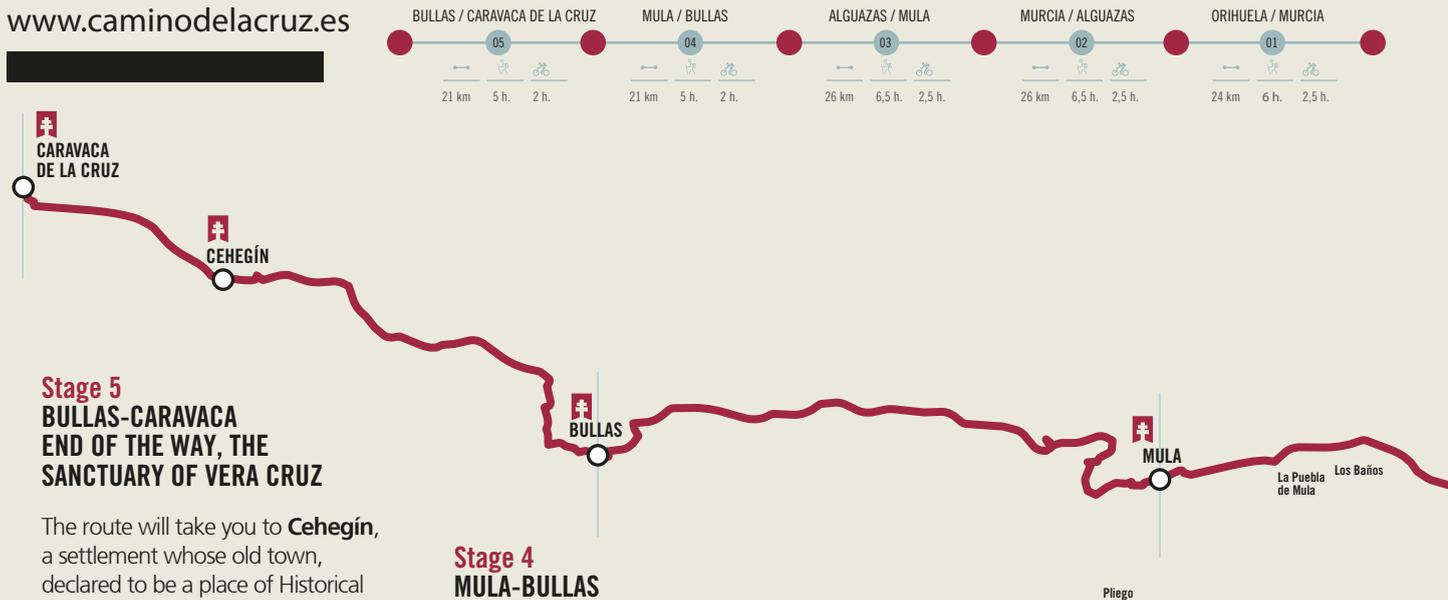
Other monuments worthy of a visit are the **Pile of the Moorish Queen** and the **Plaza del Henchidor**, where every May 3rd the Most Holy Vera Cruz is bathed.



WAY OF THE CROSS

EASTERN WAY

www.caminodelacruz.es



Stage 5 BULLAS-CARAVACA END OF THE WAY, THE SANCTUARY OF VERA CRUZ

The route will take you to **Cehegín**, a settlement whose old town, declared to be a place of Historical Interest, houses noteworthy lay and religious heritage. Finally, you will arrive at your destination, the Holy City of **Caravaca of the Cross**. A well-earned reward which you will undoubtedly recall with fondness after enjoying the entertaining stages of the pilgrimage.

Stage 4 MULA-BULLAS BETWEEN LANDSCAPES AND VINEYARDS

The way goes right into the heart of the **Northwest** district and so the landscape will become increasingly wooded and mountainous. When you come into the municipality of **Bullas**, you will be surprised by the vineyards as this region produces a high-quality wine which has its own Denomination of Origin.

Stage 3 ALGUAZAS-MULA: LAND OF CASTLES AND "BADLANDS"

You will find unique landscape where the dryness of the badlands (the product of erosion) contrasts with the lush vegetation of the streams of the river **Mula**. The route goes through the peaceful municipalities of **Campos del Río**, where we invite you to go along Calle del Rosario, to ascend to the Castle, the Clock Tower and the Baroque Church of St. John the Baptist and **Albudeite**, with the Church of Our Lady of the Remedies being a must visit. Finally, the stretch leads to **The Baths of Mula** where its thermal waters will provide you with a well-earned rest for body and soul.



The Eastern Way will guide you as far as Caravaca of the Cross on a route which combines ten municipalities of the Region from the neighbouring city of Orihuela. Divided into 5 stages or stretches, almost 120 km of spirituality, culture, heritage, landscape, gastronomy and festivals, will turn your pilgrimage into a fun adventure.

What's more the Eastern Way is the first pilgrimage route endowed with **QR coded signposts** on each stretch which will allow you to obtain instant, useful information every step of the way (plans, photos, points of interest...).

PILGRIM CARD

Don't forget your pilgrim card as it will allow you to achieve plenary indulgence when you reach the Sanctuary of Vera Cruz. There are very typical churches and monuments where you will have the chance to stamp your card. In addition to the **temples and places of worship**, you can also seal it at the **Tourist Offices of the Region**, at authorised sites and at any of the establishments which have signed up to the Eastern Way project. Don't forget your get your stamp!



Stage 2 MURCIA - ALGUAZAS A WALK AROUND THE MARKET GARDEN OF MURCIA

From Murcia you will move on via the left bank of the river, passing through boroughs that house secrets of the Murcian market garden, until you reach Azud Mayor or the "Contraparada" of Murcia, a place to stop and find out about the intense relationship that this city has had since antiquity with water and the River Segura.

And if, on the way, you feel like experiencing great cultural and leisure amenities, what could be better than stopping off at **Molina de Segura** where you can take a look at the City Wall Enclave Museum (MUDEM), amongst other things.

In **Alguazas** the Parish Church of Saint Onuphrius is of special note and the Tower of the Moors or of the Bishop, from the 12th century.

Stage 1 ORIHUELA - MURCIA THE RIVER SEGURA SHALL GUIDE YOUR WAY

This stretch begins a few metres from the Cathedral of the Saviour in **Orihuela**, then crossing the Tajo-Segura diversion and arriving at **Beniel**. An alternative route also allows you to arrive by crossing the river via the twin wheels. The city of **Murcia** awaits, where you can visit the imposing cathedral located right in the heart of the old town.



THE FLAVOUR OF THE WAY

And because walking stokes up hunger, we would invite you to taste some of the most typical dishes and products of the Way: **stews, breadcrumbs, Seguro lamb...** You will find a wide variety of **typical rice dishes, with vegetables, rabbit, chicken, chickpeas, snails, milk cap mushrooms...** not to mention the rich **sausages and cheeses**, the typical confectionery such as the "yolks" of Caravaca, the liqueurs and **wines of the area with the Denomination of Origin** of Bullas, Jumilla and Yecla.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION AND EVENTS. FERVOUR AND POPULAR CELEBRATION

+ Info

www.murciaturistica.es

Amongst the traditions and religious events, Holy Week is a must-see festivity in the Region of Murcia. While sometimes hidden behind hoods and other times out in the open, religious sentiments emerge with the sounding of the trumpet and bang of the drum. Silence and devotion permeate the streets and sacred art can be found in every city and town in Murcia. Though you may witness different rights and customs, a singular spirit remains throughout. This is an event that basks in the richness of its own identity, and is proud of the recognition it has achieved.

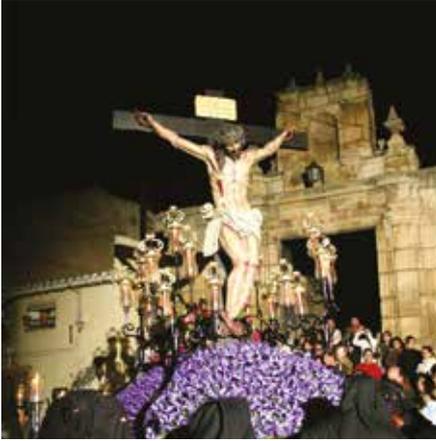
Declared of International Tourist Interest:

- Cartagena Holy Week
- Murcia Holy Week
- Lorca Holy Week
- Festivities for the Blessed and Vera Cruz of Caravaca

Declared of National Tourist Interest:

- Jumilla Holy Week
- Local Festivities in Honour of the Immaculate Conception of Yecla
- Cieza Holy Week
- Mula Night of the Drums





WHERE TO STAY

Find a wide range of coastal, urban and rural accommodation and hotels that best suit your needs. Recently-built modern facilities or buildings that retain their classicism are equipped with all of the amenities to make your stay comfortable. Some also feature spas and thalassotherapy treatments to give you the care that you deserve. The best reward is to take a break from your routine and enjoy a good night's rest.

Check out the variety of accommodations in the Region of Murcia at:
www.murciaturistica.es





Caravaca de la Cruz
Holy Jubilee year 2017



Camino de la Cruz
de Caravaca



Costa Cálida
Región de Murcia - Spain

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