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AXARQUÍA

TALES AND LEGENDS

TOURIST GUIDE FOR THE AXARQUIA · COSTA DEL SOL

TALES

LOCAL PERSONALITIES

LEGENDS

NAME OF INHABITANTS



INDEX

Alcaucín	6	La Viñuela	42
Alfarnate	8	Macharaviaya	44
Alfarnatejo	10	Moclinejo	46
Algarrobo	12	Nerja	48
Almáchar	14	Periana	50
Árchez	16	Rincón de la Victoria	52
Arenas	18	Riogordo	54
Benamargosa	20	Salares	56
Benamocarra	22	Sayalonga	58
Canillas de Aceituno	24	Sedella	60
Canillas de Albaida	26	Torrox	62
Colmenar	28	Totalán	64
Comares	30	Vélez-Málaga	66
Cómpeta	32	Index of Personalities and home towns	68
Cútar	34	Plan for Developing the Axarquia Tourist Product	70
El Borge	36		
Frigiliana	38		
Iznate	40		

ALFARNATE

The name Alfarnate comes from the Arabic word “al-farnat” meaning flour mill.

NAME OF ITS INHABITANTS:

Alfarnatenos. Nickname: palancos.

INTERESTING STORIES

One of the interesting things in this town is the tradition that lovers followed during Midsummer Night. The idea was to pull off two fig leaves – one with stalk on as a symbol of the man and the other one without it as a symbol of the woman – and leave them out all night somewhere out in the fields. If, at daybreak, the leaves that had been left joined by the stalk appeared stiff this meant that the couple were in love; however, if they were not stiff, then they were not in love. Stemming from the nocturnal escapades linked to this rite related to love, there is a saying in the town that says that if a girl is out during Midsummer Night, in June, with her boyfriend then she will be having a child in March.

The most significant legends are related to banditry.

One of the many rumors or legends about the bandits that moved around the area and sought refuge around Alfarnate tells the story of José María El Tempranillo, one of the best known bandits of the time, who, during one of his visits to Venta Alfarnate, went up to a table where some people were quietly eating from the same pot and asked if he could join them. The locals said he could not under the pretext that they did not have a spoon to lend him.

El Tempranillo, who did not like that excuse, took out a piece of bread from his bag and made it into a spoon. Having overcome the only obstacle, he started to eat with them. Once the pot had been emptied, El Tempranillo said: as we have finished the food in the pot, let us now eat the spoons.

He quickly ate his spoon made of bread and forced the other men to bite theirs, which we presume were made of wood.

At the time when banditry was at its highest, the famous horseman El Rojo was arrested there; he was one of the seven boys of Écija and therefore a friend of El Tragabuches, the bullfighter-bandit from Ronda. The story goes that in the loneliness of the cell, while he was waiting to be taken to prison, el Rojo sang this fandango: A woman led to my first downfall, as all man's downfall is caused by a woman.

Venta Alfarnate, which dates from 1690, due to its strategic situation between the interior and the coast, was the place where horses were changed and this led to it being a place of refuge for bandits.

It is known that one of the rooms was set up as a cell and that the bandit Luis Candela spent a night there, as confirmed by an inscription there. Another well-known bandit called El Bizco de El Borge was a regular visitor when he went there to meet his lover, a married woman.



INDEX OF NAMES AND PLACES

NAME	TOWN	PAGE
Alí ibm Ahmd ibn Muhammad Al-Hasn�	Sayalonga	58
Almanzor Abo-Amir Muhammad Ben Abi Mer	Torrox	62
Antonio de Canillas	Canillas de Aceituno	24
Antonio Molina	Total�n	64
Antonio Ortega Escalona	V�lez-M�laga	66
Avelino Aurelio Ramos Acosta	C�mpeta	32
Baltasar de la Pe�a y Avil�s	Colmenar	28
Eduardo Oc�n y Rivas	Benamocarra	22
Enrique Castillo	Total�n	64
Enrique Ramos Ramos	Algarrobo	12
Evaristo Guerra Zamora	V�lez-M�laga	66
F�lix Lomas Mart�n	Canillas de Albaida	26
Gonzalo Fern�ndez de Coalla	Colmenar	28
Hernando el Darra	Frigiliana	38
Hisio Francisco Centuri�n	Nerja	48
Jos� A. Mu�oz S�nchez	Riogordo	54
Jos� Manuel Lucena Gordo	Benamocarra	22
Jos� Beltr�n Ortega	Benamargosa	20
Jos� G�lvez y Gallardo	Macharaviaya	44

José Marín Ortega	Canillas de Albaida	26
José Pinto y Palacios	Benamargosa	20
Juan José Villaluenga y Marfil	Iznate	40
Liborio Apolinar Acosta de la Torre	Frigiliana	38
Luis Muñoz García	El Borge	36
Manuel Cañizares Martín	Alcaucín	6
Manuel Vertedor	Totalán	64
María Zambrano Alarcón	Vélez-Málaga	66
Martín Vázquez Ciruela	El Borge	36
Mohamed den Ahmed ben Daud Abu Abdallah	Vélez-Málaga	66
Monseñor Francisco Núñez Aguilar	Riogordo	54
Salvador Rueda	Macharaviaya	44



PLAN TO REVITALIZE THE AXARQUIA TOURIST PRODUCT

A Plan to Revitalize a Tourist Product is a series of long-term measures for tourist destinations with the aim of accelerating economic growth and ensuring the sustainability of the area's natural resources.

The Plan to Revitalize the Axarquía Tourist Product (PDAX) has a total public budget of 4,155,000 euros, to be completed in four years. The project is being funded equally by the three government departments involved: State Secretariat of Tourism of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Department of Tourism, Trade and Sport of the Andalusian Regional Government and the Málaga Provincial government. These three departments, together with the Association for the Promotion of tourism in the Axarquía (APTA) and the Centre for Rural Development of the Axarquía signed the Cooperation Agreement in 2006 and make up the Monitoring Commission. The Plan started in September 2006 and it is managed by the Tourist Planning Department of the Tourism Section of Territorial Development and Promotion of the Málaga Provincial Government which is therefore the department responsible for carrying out and justifying the measures.

The geographical limits of the PDAX include the 27 towns in the interior of the district: **Alcaucín, Alfarnate, Alfarnatejo, Algarrobo, Almáchar, Árchez, Arenas, Benamargosa, Benamocarra, Canillas de Aceituno, Canillas de Albaída, Colmenar, Comares, Competa, Cútar, El Borge, Frigiliana, Iznate, Macharaviaya, Moclinejo, Periana, Riogordo, Salares, Sayalonga, Sedella, Totalán y La Viñuela.**

The following are the measures included in the Plan:

LINE 1: MUNICIPAL UNITS FOR TOURIST INFORMATION (UMIT)

- Creation and equipping of the UMITs.
- Provision of UMITs (Canillas de Aceituno).
- Provision of UMITs (Riogordo).
- Provision of UMITs (Totalán).
- Provision of the Visitors' Centre for the Axarquía- La Viñuela Reservoir.

LINE 2: ENHANCEMENT OF TOURIST RESOURCES

- Acquisition of racks for tourist brochures (Axarquía).
- Virtual reconstruction of the historical fortifications in the Axarquía (Zalía Castle in Alcaucín, Bentomiz Castle in Arenas and Comares Castle).
- Main Plan for the creation and improvement of accessible tourist itineraries in the Axarquía.
- Guide for the design, production and marketing of tourist souvenirs of the Axarquía.
- Recipe book of the Axarquía.
- Design and production of a digital information and map system about itineraries, resources and tourist services in the Axarquía.
- Information sessions of the PDAX-Axarquía.
- Climbing routes in the Upper Axarquía (Comares).
- Honey Museum of Málaga (Colmenar).
- Consulting and technical assistance study to adapt the Baths of Vilo as a tourist product (Periana).
- Refurbishment of the Baths of Vilo (Periana).
- Visitors' Centre for the Axarquía (La Vunuela).
- Museum of Gastronomic Festivities of the Axarquía (Sedella).
- Extension of contents in the Galvez Museum (Macharaviaya).
- Restyling of the El Alcazar Recreational Area (Alcaucín).
- Restyling of the El Río Recreational Area (Alcaucín).
- Museum of Monfi (Cútar).
- Fitting and improvements of the Church of Saint Jacinto (Macharaviaya).
- Fitting and improvement of the church in the Galvez Mausoleum (Macharaviaya).
- Fitting and improvement of the birthplace of Salvador Rueda (Macharaviaya).
- Fitting and improvement of the Church of Benaque (Macharaviaya).
- Covered wooden bins in the tourist routes of the Axarquía.
- Enhancement of the Mudejar Route.
- Enhancement of the Route of the Sun and Wine.
- Enhancement of the Route of Oil and the Mountains.
- Enhancement of the Route of the Sol and Avocado Pear.

- Enhancement of the Route of the Raisin.
- Extension of the Moorish Museum (Sayalonga).
- Museum of Art and Customs (Competa).
- Beautification of the Walk of Health.
- Refurbishment of the eastern entrance into Iznate.
- Fitting of the municipal ornithological-botanic park in El Borge.
- Extension of the Archeological Museum in Frigiliana.
- Adaptation of itineraries for improved access: Path of the Fountain (La Vinuela).
- Adaptating of itineraries for improved access: Route of the River and the Mills (Archez).
- Adaptation of itineraries for improved access: Route of the Mountain (Salares).
- Jacobean Route of the Axarquia.
- Adaptation of the El Ejido city park (Alfarnate).
- Landscaping of the La Erilla Park (Alfarnate).
- Guide-book of trees and green zones (Alfarnate).
- Refurbishment of the Southern entrance (Alfarnatejo).
- Fitting of the El Chorro Fountain (Moclinejo).
- Fitting of Avenida Almachar (Moclinejo).

- Beautification of "El Valdes" (Moclinejo).
- Touristic Mural on "The Crossing of Riogordo" (Riogordo).
- Exterior lighting of historical buildings of the Town Hall (Riogordo).
- Fitting of recreational area on the Mudejar Route (Arenas).
- Beautification of the square in Calle Arroyo, in Salares.
- Exterior lighting of the Shrine of Saint Anne, in Alfarnate.

LINE 3: SIGNPOSTING

- Complete signposting of the District of the Axarquia.
- Signposting of the Mudejar Route.
- Signposting of the Route of the Sun and Wine.
- Signposting of the Route of the Oil and Mountains.
- Signposting of the route of the Sun and Avocado Pear.
- Signposting of the Route of the Raisin.

LINE 4: QUALITY TRAINING AND COURSES

- Implementation of an Approximation Model for Tourist Quality in economic and public service subsectors in the

District of the Axarquía.

- Audit for the Evaluation of the Approximation Model for Tourist Quality.
- Technical workshop to present the "Guide for the design, production and marketing of tourist souvenirs of the Axarquía".

LINE 5: CONSULTANCIES

- Study for the recovery and viability of the Velez-Zafarraya Green Path.
- Study to promote the adaptation of the Sierra Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Nature Reserve to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, and a studio that will develop active and nature tourism in the Axarquía.
- Participative analysis of the tourist sector in the area of the Axarquía.
- Technical assistance to compile promotional material for the Axarquía.

LINE 6: MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION

- Production of tourist brochure-maps.
- Production of tourist Routes in the Axarquía.

- Guide book of tourist resources of the Axarquía.
- Management and promotion.

Details of measures can be consulted on:

www.axarquiadelsol.es

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Andalucía

