



# Riego

de Córdoba



**TOURIST  
GUIDE**  
English

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Priego de Córdoba is in the south of Córdoba Province, close to the provinces of Jaén, Granada and Málaga. It is ideally situated in the heart of Andalusia, in the Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park “Parque Natural de las Sierras Subbéticas”.

It is also part of the tourist routes “Camino de Pasión” and “La Ruta del Califato”, (“Legado Andalusi”).



## [ How to find us ]

# What colour is Priego?

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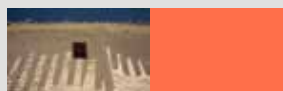
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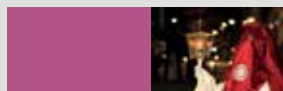
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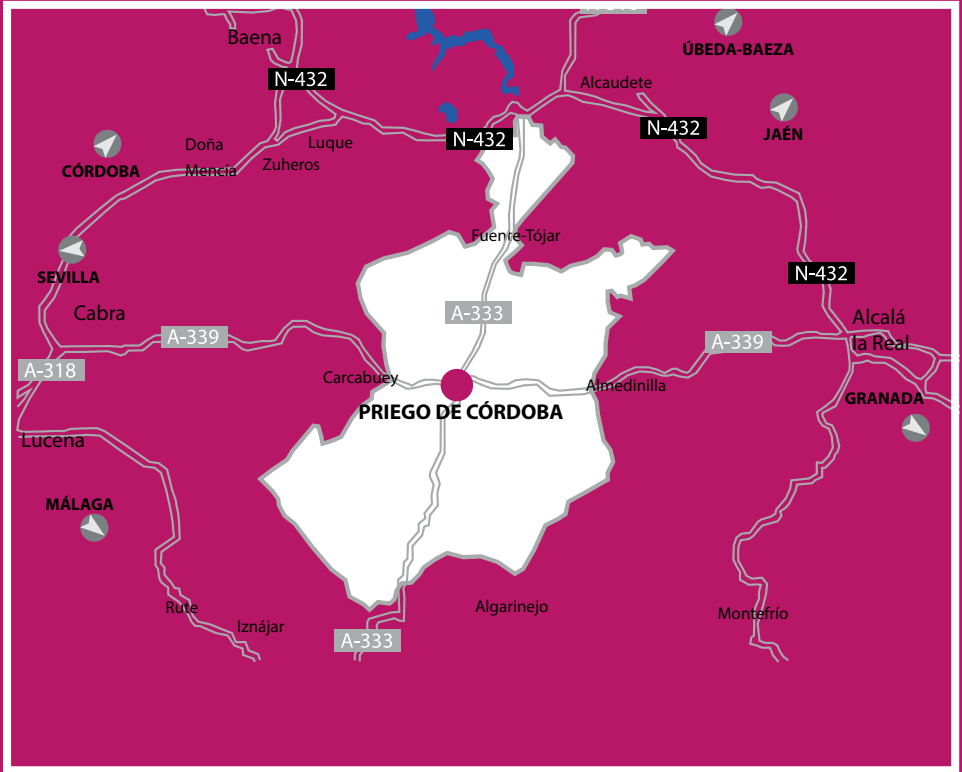
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Priego de Córdoba is located mid-way between Córdoba and Granada, around 100 km (just over an hour's drive) from both cities. It is well connected with the rest of Andalusia (see map) and is ideally situated as your base to visit the whole of the area's best known destinations, such as Seville, Córdoba, Granada, Úbeda, Baeza and the Costa del Sol.

Priego is 100 km away from Córdoba and has good connections with the other provinces in Andalusia.

Below, the main routes that connect with Priego de Córdoba, are:



# [ How to get here ]

## A region with all the vibrant colours of the rainbow

**T**he colours of the south, the colours of Priego de Córdoba. We invite you to enjoy this region, walk along its streets, visit its monuments, enjoy its verdant countryside and its landscape of ancient olive groves.

### You will be surprised!

Knowing Priego de Córdoba is to discover another Andalusia.

Investigate the range of colours, **green** highlights the fantastic landscapes with sheer sierras and ancient olive groves.

At the end of the afternoon, the sky is **orange** as the last sunbeams contrast with the whitewashed village houses.

Here **yellow** is the colour of the liquid gold that can be found in all our houses, the excellent extra virgin olive oil of our local gastronomy. Its mixture of tastes, aromas and shades transforms simple meals into a unique innovative gastronomic experience.

The intense **blue** of the late evenings will enchant all visitors to this corner of Andalusia. This Blue accentuates the diversity of the ancient cultures of our monuments and architecture.

As you walk, you will be surprised by the **purple** of the flowers which adorn the walls in the streets of the Barrio “La Villa”. This colour is also very important during Semana Santa (Holy Week). But it also colours our traditions throughout year because of the link to the centuries old traditions of the Easter week celebrations; in the Feria Real (Royal Fair), you will see people wearing traditional flamenco costumes or elaborate fancy dress during Carnival.

You will be surprised when you visit Priego de Córdoba. Discover the region, observe the rainbow of colours and experience the nuances of the tastes and aromas.

# it's blue

[Art and heritage]

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“Fuente del Rey”, detail of one of the Baroque water spouts

## Priego de Córdoba makes history

You will be surprised by the history in every corner

**W**hen you pack your suitcase, don't forget your camera. In Priego, you will find many examples of the strong cultural legacy left by the many different ancient cultures.

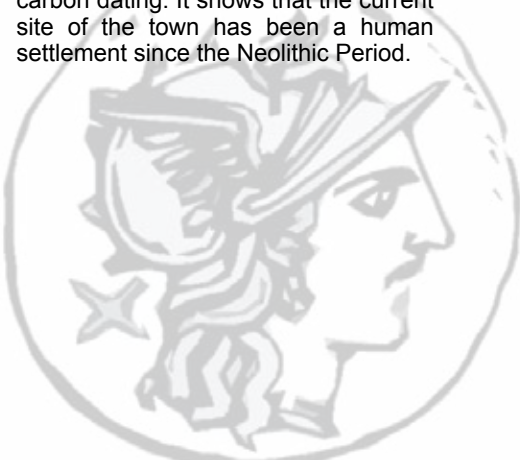
This town has an important place in the history of the "Sierras Subbéticas". There is evidence of constant human settlement for over 100,000 years.

Visit the local History Museum in Priego to see the important exhibits from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Copper and Bronze Ages, Iron Age and the Middle Ages.

In Priego, there are excellent examples of Palaeolithic cave art and sites of National importance like "El Pirulejo", close to the old quarter "La Villa". In addition, there are a great number of Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites in caves where there were examples of

ceramics, archaeology of the Stone Age and other representative objects. During the Protohistory (Bronze Age), fortified towns from the Iberian and Roman Period have been discovered .

As for the town of Priego, the oldest human settlement in "El Palenque" has been dated back to 4,000 BC, using carbon dating. It shows that the current site of the town has been a human settlement since the Neolithic Period.



## [ Roman legacy united by one language ]

One of the most important archaeological discoveries in recent years has been the location of various sites, representative of Roman Priego. Above all, the “villa” which was located on one of the sides of the square “Plaza de la Constitución”, in front of the town hall. It originates from between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and it had two independent buildings separated by less than 150 m. On one side, the urban residential area which had a dining-room paved with mosaics and bathrooms attached. On the other side, a rustic area related to agriculture. Between both areas, there was a necropolis with burial objects (the most important can be seen in the Local History Museum) a family burial ground of an important landowner from the municipality “municipium flavio” of “Ipolcubulcula”.

In addition to this central area, Roman Priego had a lime kiln, various ceramic kilns and another necropolis. More than 100 sites from the Roman Period have been discovered, which shows just how much activity there was during the Romanisation of the region.



Neolithic Ceramics, “Cueva de los Mármoles” ●



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## **[ Medina Baguh: an Islamic town ]**

When you walk through the narrow streets of the “La Villa” quarter you will be enchanted by the Arabian feel of the area.

You are taken back in time to an old town such as “Cora” or the Islamic province of “Medina Baguh”, examples of the splendour of the Al-Andalus period.

The origin of the current town is not Roman, but relates to the Moors, who probably came from Damascus (Siria). In the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, there would have been a military camp here, which soon developed into a “medina” (governor’s residence). In 889, the town became the headquarters to fight against Ibn Mastana, one of the greatest revolutionary leaders that fought against the power of the “Omeyas” of Córdoba.

After pacifying rebellious tribes, peace and prosperity reined within the “Califata cordobés” (Córdoban Caliphate), the “medina” of Priego became part of the Zirita kingdom of Granada and later part of the Nasrid kingdom.

During this time, it achieved its greatest importance and influence in the Almohad period, in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, when it reached its greatest extent, in the Middle Ages, and it minted its own coins. However this prosperity came to a violent end with the Christian conquest.

In 1225, Fernando III reached Priego; he conquered it and presented it to the Order of Calatrava.

After some years under Nasrid power, in 1341, it was re-conquered by Alfonso XI, who abolished taxes in order to facilitate its repopulation.

In 1370, control of Priego was transferred by Enrique II from the Crown to Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba, Lord of the House of Aguilar.



A decorative zoomorph applique  
(the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Between the 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Priego was subjected to the frontier struggles between Moorish and Christian Spain of the Middle Ages.

## **[ From Middle Ages to modern period: the era of great expansion ]**

At the end of 1501, the Catholic Monarchs bestowed the title of First Marquis of Priego on Pedro Fernández de Córdoba. In this way, the Marquisate of Priego was created and the town regained its lost prosperity.

In this period, there was a major programme of civic building, such as the “Carnicerías Reales” – the municipal meat market – the granary, the council chamber and the prison. The hermitage of “San Nicasio” was rebuilt and the Church of “San Esteban” – today, Church of “San Francisco” was built.

The Moriscos, who lived in the “Puerta Granada” quarter, were expelled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This only worsened the economic situation – already serious enough in the first half of the century – as the citizens were now told they

would have to pay the “alcabalas”, or sales tax, from which they had been hitherto exempt. Later, there was an agreement and the town bought off this tax with a single payment of 130,000 ducats. This agreement was signed by Felipe III and ratified by Felipe IV in 1617. This was a difficult period for Priego, with a number of outbreaks of the plague, in 1650 and 1680.

In 1705, the town became involved with the War of Spanish Succession and the Capture of Gibraltar. In 1711, it became part of the Duchy of Medinaceli. Priego began to enjoy a period of great prosperity, boasting one of the most important silk industries in Spain.

Priego’s taffeta and velvet were sold all over the Peninsula, France and the Americas, and this wealth was turned into the baroque decoration of the town’s churches and religious shrines, which we can still see today. At the end of the 18th century, however, the town entered a sharp recession, due in part to the deterioration of the mulberry trees necessary to feed the silk worms, high taxes and strong competition in the cotton industry.

For this reason, there is a contrast between the economic growth of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the recession of the 19<sup>th</sup> century caused by the disappearance of the trade guilds; the French invasion; constitutional unrest and political struggles which all led to profound instability; and then the state expropriation of church land.



In 1843, the villages of Fuente Tójar and Almedinilla became independent of the municipality.

In 1881, Priego was awarded the title of city by king Alfonso XII, in recognition of its increased population, its agricultural importance and its loyalty to the monarchy. But, probably, the most important facts of this century were the births of these distinguished people: Niceto Alcalá-Zamora y Torres (1877-1949), the first President of the Second Spanish Republic; Adolfo Lozano Sidro (1872-1935), a local painter, and José Álvarez Cubero (1768-1827) a renowned sculptor.

In the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the population reached 17,000 residents and the lethargy of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ended.

In the twenties, there was an important textile industry which produced heavyweight cloth, cotton drills and canvas, but it began to decline in the 1960s but was revitalised in the 1980s as a garment industry. At present, the most important economic pillars in Priego are the Textile industry, the Agriculture (the Extra Virgin Olive Oil which has Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba”) and Tourism with its important cultural heritage: monuments, gastronomy and countryside.





Detail of the Immaculate Virgin Mary  
in the Church of "San Pedro"

## [ Priego's Baroque style ]

If you are keen on art, you will enjoy the historic and artistic baroque heritage here in Priego de Córdoba. This style emerges in a time of rising wealth. During this period, the velvet and taffeta industry were very important in the area.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the economy alternated between times of great prosperity and great instability. At this time trade with France and South America increased and the Baroque Style arose. The art, associated with the Counter-Reformation, and the strength of popular spirituality meant that most of the important temples in the town were redecorated in the baroque style.

You can visit many of the different religious monuments which are built in this fashion: The sacristy of the Church of "La Asunción", the Chapel of "Jesús Nazareno" in the Church of "San Francisco" and the plaster carvings in the Church of "La Aurora".

If you want to discover who were the most distinguished citizens from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, you can get to know them in their own family homes. You can visit "The House – Museum of D. Niceto Alcalá Zamora, the first President of the Second Republic in Spain or "The House – Museum of the local painter Lozano Sidro.



Coat of arms of the Dukes of Medinaceli

# [A past full of stars]

## DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

So many distinguished people were born in Priego and helped to make its history. Thanks to these people, the history of Priego has been enriched, as they carried its name far and wide, both nationally and internationally.

Priego knows how to preserve its history and has many house-museums, where you can learn about the daily life of its illustrious citizens.

The most important distinguished people are:

### ● ALONSO DE CARMONA (1526-1591):

He was a member of the Florida expedition under the conquistador Hernando de Soto. He was one of the few survivors, and the tale of his experiences was used by the historian Garcilaso de la Vega to write "Florida of the Inca".

### ● JUAN DE DIOS SANTAELLA (1718-1802):

He worked with the master craftsman, Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda, rebuilding the church of "San Francisco" and its chapel of "Jesús Nazareno". He also took over the remodelling of the churches "La Aurora" and "Las Angustias". His trademark is the use of polychromatic or multicoloured mouldings, with abundant decorative plasterwork.

### ● ANTONIO CABALLERO Y GÓNGORA (1723-1796):

He became bishop of Chiapa in Mexico; later he moved to the diocese of Yucatán, and was made archbishop of Santa Fe in Bogotá, viceroy of Nueva Granada and archbishop of Córdoba. A man of wide cultural interests, he was a patron and an inspiration to many artists. He also founded a centre for the arts in Córdoba.

### ● FRANCISCO JAVIER PEDRAJAS (1736-1811):

Architect, sculptor and carver. He was part of the school of architecture established by Sánchez de Rueda, and was responsible for the Sacristy in the church of "La Asunción". His decorative technique was a mixture of white plasterwork and gilt, in a rococo style.

### ● JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ CUBERO (1768-1827):

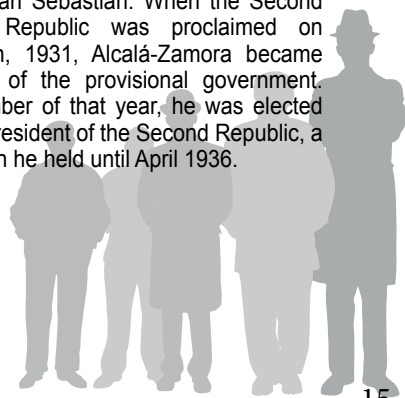
He was a neoclassical sculptor. He sculpted the statue of the lion in the "Fuente del Rey", the figure of Ganymede, and the group The Defence of Zaragoza. Álvarez Cubero is one of the best known of Priego's artists, both inside Spain and abroad.

### ● ADOLFO LOZANO SIDRO (1872 -1935):

This artist completed his studies under Joaquín Sorolla, and went on to achieve public recognition at the National Exhibition of Fine Art in 1897. He was the illustrator of the magazine "Blanco y Negro" in the newspaper ABC. He illustrated the novel "Pepita Jiménez" by Juan Valera. He was a living chronicler of contemporary society, portraying with a deft touch the superficiality of Madrid high society, as well as the rustic delights of his native land.

### ● D. NICETO ALCALÁ-ZAMORA Y TORRES (1877-1949):

Writer, jurist, and politician, Alcalá-Zamora was one of the most important figures in Spanish modern history. He graduated in Law from the University of Granada, and gained his Doctorate in Madrid with highest honours, becoming a senior lawyer for the Council of State. He was a Member of Parliament from 1906 until 1923, twice holding cabinet rank – Minister for Development in 1917, and Minister for War in 1922. His strongly-held democratic beliefs led him to oppose the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, and in 1930, he led the revolutionary committee formed after the pact of San Sebastian. When the Second Spanish Republic was proclaimed on April 14th, 1931, Alcalá-Zamora became president of the provisional government. In December of that year, he was elected the first president of the Second Republic, a post which he held until April 1936.



## ["Barrio de la Villa"]

### A place perfumed by flowers

*Let yourself be enchanted by the charm of this quarter, with its winding Andalusian streets, called the "Novia de Priego" (the bride of Priego) by the poet. Wander through these streets while you sense the murmur of its fountains, smell the perfume of its flowers and you will be enchanted by its whitewashed houses ]*

The "Barrio de la Villa", or Old Quarter, was given the official title of Historic and Artistic Heritage of Priego in 1972. Its roots go right back to mediaeval and Moorish times, and it is part of a family of the most typically Andalusian quarters - the "Albaicín" in Granada or the "Judería" of Córdoba.

Its high sheer rock face guaranteed Priego's safety in Muslim times and it is the oldest part of Priego.

You can wander through narrow winding streets and be charmed by the harmony and the beauty of these whitewashed houses.

We recommend that you follow the route that begins in the "Plaza de Santa Ana", then along "Calle Real" as far as the "Plaza de San Antonio" – a beautiful secret corner – to the street "Jazmines", coming out into the "Bajondillo" and then to the "Adarve", the window onto the Andalusian landscape, which encircles and embraces this quarter.

As you wander through this quarter, you will be captivated by the scent and colours of the flowers.



Detail of the "Barrio de la Villa"



Plaza of "San Antonio" in the "Barrio de La Villa" ●

*Discover the many colours of the streets and squares. There is an abundance of flower pots, tended with loving care. The highest hanging pots are watered using the traditional "palo de caña" system. A long stick with a can filled with water at the end, allowing the highest hanging pots to be watered easily]*





Street in the "Barrio de la Villa" ●

*"Balcón del Adarve",  
the balcony of "La Subbética"*

[ Here, you can  
contemplate the  
best sunrises in  
the "Subbética  
Cordobesa", so get  
your camera ready  
for your Priego de  
Córdoba postcard ]



"Balcón del Adarve" ●



Dusk on the "Balcón del Adarve" ●



## ["Balcón del Adarve"]

A natural gorge, the origin of this village

A natural balcony onto the "Sierras de la Subbética", the conclusion of the "Barrio de la Villa, with its many streetlights. Without a doubt, this is the place to take romantic photographs.

It is this natural gorge which has guaranteed Priego's safety. Priego de Córdoba was an ideal place for a human settlement thanks to the "Balcón del Adarve" and the natural spring "Fuente de la Salud".

In the Middle Ages, the gorge was reinforced with towers and walls in order to facilitate the defence of the village.

Here visitors can enjoy an incomparable image of Priego de Córdoba with the "La Villa" quarter and its white houses.

Visitors can drink water from three drinking fountains during their walk. The water comes from a natural spring "Fuente de la Salud". Here, you can

stop and enjoy the murmur of water and the songs of birds that nest in the allotments below.



A good idea

*A walk through the flowers*

You can't leave Priego without discovering the amazing "Barrio de la Villa" Quarter. A neighbourhood that becomes one big Andalusian patio. Its narrow winding streets, its whitewashed walls, the colours and the scent of its flowers, all evoke the atmosphere of a bygone era.

[turismodepriego.com](http://turismodepriego.com)



# [ The Castle ]

## The legacy of a rich history

**T**he “Medina Baguh” is one of the remains of the Islamic era in Priego that you can still visit. Adjacent is the natural gorge “el Adarve” made this an ideal place for human settlement because it was easy to defend.

The Islamic Alcazaba was located in the current Castle, totally remodelled in the periods following the Christian conquests (1225 and 1341).

It has been declared a National Monument since 1943. After the

Christian conquest, the castle was remodelled by the new lords of the village. But archaeological excavations have found and documented various artefacts and constructions of the original Andalusian Castle, It had a square floor plan with towers in the corners and buttress in the walls.

The Order of Calatrava built the keep between 1245 and 1327, also known as the Great Tower; and the Lords Fernández de Córdoba (ss. XIV-XV) gave the current look to the fortress.

**[** *During the excavations in the Castle, many cannon balls or “bolaños” were discovered. These projectiles were thrown at the enemy forces using catapults. You can find these objects in the Castle and in the Local History Museum* **]**

The Castle has flank walls with square towers with rooms and a terrace. The entrance door has two horseshoe arches, one with a portcullis.

The keep has three floors with barrel vaults; the first floor was used for water storage, the second floor as a warehouse and the top floor was the residence.

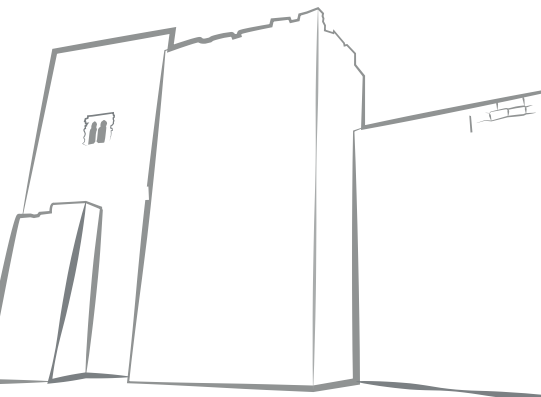
The windows of the first floor have nice horseshoe arches executed in the Mudejar style.

The water was provided thanks to three water tanks, two of which have been preserved.

On leaving the castle, be sure to check out the castle motte, the earth mound that protected the original entrance door.

Since the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the fortress has had other usages: residence, granary, summer cinema, exhibition hall, etc.

During the last century and this, the homes that were attached to the castle have been demolished and parts of the Castle walls restored.



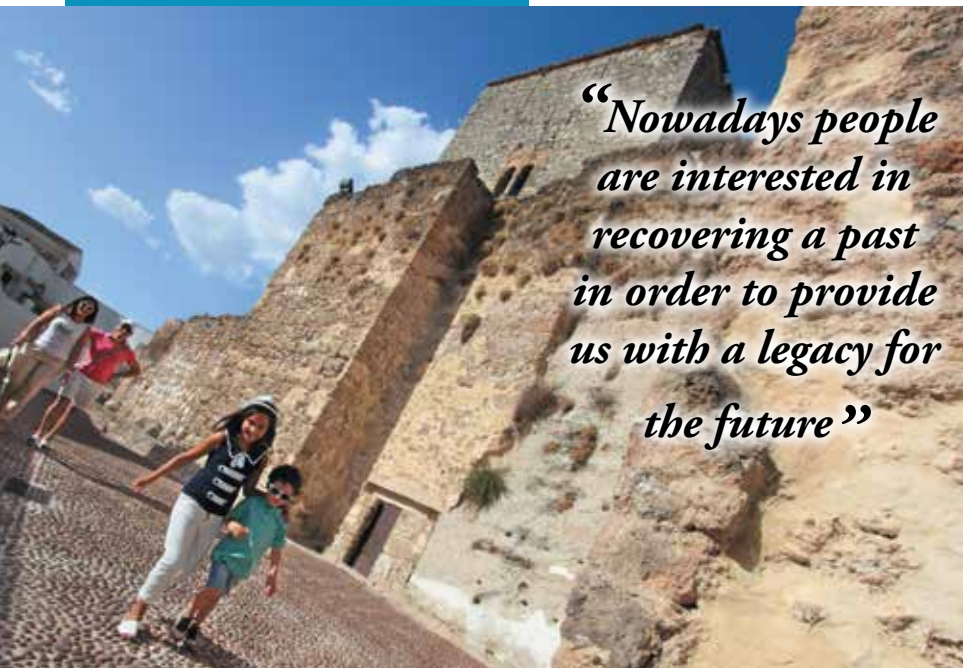
# [The paths around the Castle]

There is a recently renovated pedestrian footpath which roughly follows the old protected walkway between the castle walls and those of the mediaeval town, which have now almost totally disappeared. During the Middle Ages, This restored area was used to defend Priego de Córdoba against any attack. The flank walls and the towers of the westernmost part of the castle have been opened up, giving us a glimpse of the various stages of development in the fortifications, and the different eras in which they were built. The postern gate was another discovery; a small entrance built during the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and remodelled much later with a Latin inscription on the lintel.

'El Molino de La Puerta' or the flour mill, which lends its name to this street, was built here, alongside the castle wall, and was in use until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the far end of the street, at the bottom of some steps, can be seen the recently excavated chambers which housed the mechanism of the mill.

When you visit the Castle, you can walk through a pedestrian footpath which roughly follows the old protected walkway between the castle walls and those of the mediaeval town, which have now almost disappeared. During this walk, you can appreciate the different structural techniques used in the Middle Ages. You will be surprised by the small entrance built during the 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and remodelled much later with a Roman inscription added in the modern era. In addition, you will be able to experience the past (the colours and the daily noise of the neighbourhood where artisans, millers and carpenters lived) thanks to the mill "Molino de la Puerta", which is also the name of this street.

The mill, which was attached to the Castle, was in use until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An example of the flour mill construction are the "cárcavos". Large vaults that housed the spinning mill stones. Walking along the paths, you can see a few of the walls of 13th century Islamic alcazaba that still exist.



*“Nowadays people are interested in recovering a past in order to provide us with a legacy for the future”*

# ["Carnicerías reales"]

It is a beautiful building built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century which was used as a slaughterhouse and meat market.

This building is attributed to Francisco del Castillo, a renowned architect who trained in Italy. It has all the hallmarks of the simple geometric design very much favoured during the Renaissance, to which it belongs stylistically. Its main chamber is a rectangular colonnaded patio topped at the corners by four decorative towers - on two of them, just below the eaves, can be seen imaginatively carved gargoyles.

Each side of the patio has three round arches, supported by strong, rustic columns which form the corresponding colonnaded galleries that run along the perimeter.

The building has a lower floor with a barrel vaulted roof and brickwork detail, where animals used to be slaughtered and their meat prepared for sale. This chamber is reached by a magnificent spiral staircase without a central column – designed as such for the easy passage of slaughter men carrying the butchered carcasses on their shoulders. Here there is a permanent exhibition - "Entre Olivares", where you can find out about the history of olive groves in this area.



However, the greatest artistic merit of the "Carnicerías Reales" building, can be found in its façade. Access to the patio is via two square dressed, rusticated pilasters that form the portico, with a rusticated entablature, a founding inscription, and a triangular broken pediment finished with pinnacles and a coat of arms that is now illegible as it is chipped, but which belonged to the Marquises of Priego.



The spiral staircase in the "Carnicerías Reales"



## A small detail, "Carnicerías Reales"

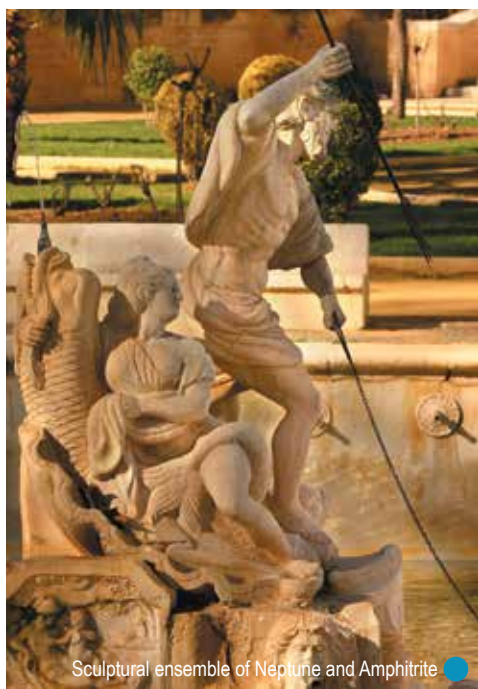
At present, it isn't a meat market, but it was a slaughterhouse and a meat market during the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was, therefore, a municipal project and had nothing to do with the monarchy, despite this it has been known, inappropriately, as "real" (royal) for many years.

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# [“Fuente del Rey”]

Stone and water



Sculptural ensemble of Neptune and Amphitrite

*“Cristal transparente y puro que brota de la fuente viva venida de pasajes oscuros con una misión definida...”*

FUENTE VIDA, MITZELA ÁNGEL.

**D**uring a walk through Priego, you can rest, take the waters and enjoy an exceptional place in the centre of Priego. Here, you find the “Fuente de la Salud” (Fountain of Health), that was formerly called the “Fuente del Rey”; and the “Fuente de Neptuno”, that is now called the “Fuente del Rey”. For the local residents, these fountains are the most important and emblematic monuments of the town: the “Fuente del Rey”.



Sit and enjoy the play of water over stone. There is a perfect blend of architecture and sculpture, with a mythological subject depicted in the baroque style, which was deep-rooted in this village during the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The water gushes into the three elongated and sinuously curved basins set at different levels: in the first is the figure of a lion battling a serpent, attributed to the neoclassical sculptor Álvarez Cubero; in the second - the centrepiece of the monument, created by Remigio del Mármol - King Neptune and his wife Amphitrite ride a chariot pulled by horses surging through the waves, and from here, the water pours into the third basin, where it disappears into the gaping mouth known as Clero – a humorous reference to the clergy who founded the monument.

This fountain has one hundred and thirty nine water spouts some with baroque representations of stone gargoyles.

Its Baroque style is an example of the survival and popularity of this fashion in the town, during a period that had seen an explosion of Neo Clacism in other areas.

Enjoy the magic of this beautiful place with its gardens and hundred-year-old trees.

Descend onto the fountain's balconies, to examine the intricate invention and details of the Baroque gargoyles.

## “FUENTE DE NEPTUNO”

END DATE: 1803

STYLE: Baroque/Neoclasic

SCULPTORS: Remigio del Mármol  
José Álvarez Cubero

# [ Fountain of Health ]



Detail of the "Fuente de la Salud" ●

A union between water, nature and sculpture, telling us about the famous legends of the creation of the spring and the blessing that it bestowed on Priego.

It was built in the sixteenth century by Francisco del Castillo, with the assistance of a local mason, Alonso González Bailén. It was built with the intention of controlling the flow and beatifying the Pagan origin of the spring.

The facade is a delightful example of chamfered (almost cushioned) rustication in polychromatic marble, and at its centre is a niche with the replica of the sculpture of the Virgin of "la Cabeza". The original sculpture of the Virgin was removed in the 1980's. At the sides of the fountain, you can see base reliefs of mythological figures that are related to the spring.

**START DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> century

**STYLE:** Mannerist

**ARTIST:** Francisco del Castillo





# [ Majestic Homes ]

Family heritage handed down from generation to generation

**Y**ou will experience art not only in the monuments and churches but in the very streets of our town.

Priego is perhaps the best example of a town that epitomizes the picturesque. Within its original town plan it built and developed numerous religious monuments, its “Fuente del Rey” and the exuberant baroque style of the ancestral homes of its most illustrious families.

Walking through the main streets in Priego, you will find many imposing residences which show the splendour of this town during different eras. Access to these buildings is difficult as many are in private hands but you can contemplate the facades and imagine the life of the residents through the ages.

Many of the streets are the product of the demographic and economic growth in the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Leading to a blend of narrow service streets and large straight processional streets.

This blend can be seen in the Andalusian “Barrio de la Villa”, a network of Muslim alley ways and in the grand streets, such as: “Carrera de las Monjas” and “Carrera de Álvarez”.

However the urban growth and building of the great family houses which took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with their luxurious and extravagantly decorated facades demonstrate not only a love of art but also of the great civic pride of the Priegenses.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries we can see the rise of a new middle-class determined to be identified with a new regionalist urbanism. All of these houses can be found in Calle Río (“River Street”), which was for a time the home of Priego’s crème de la crème.

As you walk, make sure to look up, so that you don't miss any of the beautiful details on the facades of these majestic residences.

**[** *Walk slowly, so you can carefully examine every detail of these stately homes, such as the intricate ironwork of the balconies and railings and the sculptures to some of the houses. Such as, the door to number 45 in Calle Río ("River Street")* **]**

The main streets where you can find these majestic homes are:

- Calle Río
- Carrera de Álvarez
- Carrera de las Monjas
- Paseo de Colombia
- Compás de San Francisco
- Fuente del Rey
- Calle Lozano Sidro



# [Town hall and “paseillo”]

Located at the very heart of the town, is the “Plaza de la Constitución”, also called “El Paseillo” by the Priegenses. It is a pleasant place to arrange to meet with your friends.

The town hall was built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century in the old convent of “Santa Clara”. Its facade has three floors; on the top floor, over which is the clock tower; and in the centre of the facade, there is the town shield.



# [The Bullring]

This was completed in 1892: it is unusual in that it was dug into the solid rock of the hillside. It is in two levels, with boxes on the upper level, and it contains all the facilities required by modern bullfighting regulations.

The opening ceremony was on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1892: six bulls from the stables of Eduardo Miura were fought by Rafael Molina, known as “Lagartijo”, and Rafael Bejarano, “Torerito”. Other significant dates were August 7, 1890 – with the bullring not yet completed – when the matador Rafael Guerra “Guerrita”, fought six mature bulls

from the stables of the Marquesa Viuda de Saltillo: on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932, a corrida (bullfight) was celebrated in honour of Niceto Alcalá-Zamora, the first president of the Second Spanish Republic, with matadors Marcial Lalanda, Manuel Bienvenida, and Domingo Ortega. The corrida marking the centenary of the bullring was held on August 8, 1992, with matadors Miguel Baez “Litri”, Julio Aparicio, and Finito de Córdoba. Bulls came from the stables of Luis Algarra Polera.



# ["Paseo Colombia"]

## Historical gardens full of charm

**T**he “Paseo de Colombia”, located on the edge of the “Balcón del Adarve”, is also called “Paseo del Adarve” and commonly known as “Paseo de las Rosas”. It is a beautiful garden decorated with statues of distinguished citizens.

Its current appearance owes much to the remodelling of the 19th century. When the original poplar trees were cut down and the open space was given over to bullfighting. The character of the garden changed again towards the end of the century, with the arrival of wealthy merchant families reaping the rewards of the textile boom. We can still see a number of buildings which give an idea of the architectural styles prevalent at the turn of the century. Among them, it is worth noting the olive mill belonging to the Madrid Alcalá-Zamora family.

The garden owes its layout to its location on the edge of the Adarve cliff: it is defined by two wide terraces lined with wrought-iron lanterns, from which you can enjoy the countryside. The central space is awash with plants, with a number of fountains of varying designs and age, which give an idea of the number of renovations that have been carried out. In the last of these, a pergola was erected in honour of important local citizens, and placed in front of it, a bronze reproduction of the statue of Ganymede by Álvarez Cubero.

**[** *It is also called “Paseo de las Rosas” due to its carefully tended gardens with enormous plane trees and rose bushes* **]**



In the centre of the garden, there is a bust of the archbishop Caballero y Góngora, who was the viceroy of Nueva Granada (in South America). It is attributed to the sculptor L. Coullaut Valera.

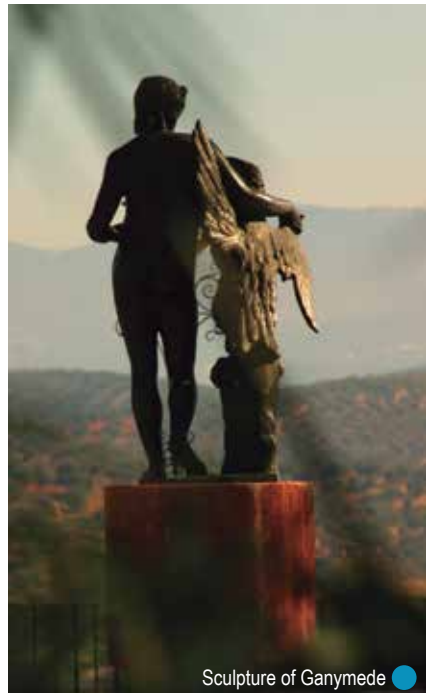
The garden has the most varied vegetation of all Priego's parks: on its edges, enormous plane trees lend the park cool shade, and there are splendid examples of horse chestnut, lime, acacia, cedar, and maple. The flowerbeds abound with mimosa, pyracanthus, lilac, euonymus – and above all, the rose bush which gives the park its popular name.

**GANYMEDE**

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

**STYLE:** Neoclassical

**ARTIST:** José Álvarez Cubero



Sculpture of Ganymede



## “LA DEFENSA DE ZARAGOZA”

The sculptural group “La Defensa de Zaragoza” (“The Defence of Saragossa”) was created by José Álvarez Cubero in Rome and is considered to be his greatest masterpiece.

There are two theories about its meaning. Some experts say Álvarez Cubero was inspired by the Iliad and the sculpture represents Nestor, King of Pylos, mortally wounded, and his son, Antilochus, who protects him. Other historians claim that this work represents an episode of the Spanish War of Independence (1808-1814) in the Aragon Autonomous Community. José Álvarez Cubero, who had received a prize from the hands of Napoleon in Paris in 1804, later opposed him, when the emperor usurped the throne of Spain and invaded the country.

You can see a copy of “La Defensa de Zaragoza” in this garden. The original statue has been located in different places in Madrid: the gardens of the National Library, the Casón del Buen Retiro during the 1900s. In 2005, the sculpture was brought to the “Museo del Prado” in order to be restored where you can now admire it.

“La Defensa de Zaragoza”

**DATE:** 1810

**STYLE:** Neoclassical

**ARTIST:** José Álvarez Cubero



# ["Huerta de las Infantas"]

## A walk through time

**Y**ou can walk among cypresses, poplars, cherry trees, bamboos, etc. while listening to the murmur of the water. You are in the “Huerto de las Infantas”, a recently restored Priego park where you can enjoy a pleasant stroll or attend one of the many events that are celebrated here.

This garden, also known as “Recreo de Castilla”, is perched at the foot of the “Adarve” wall, just below Priego’s castle and it demonstrates the splendours of days gone by.

The name “Huerto de las Infantas” dates back to the 16th century, but the gardens achieved their greatest splendour in 1857, with the construction of the house called “La Quinta”. The land was converted into romantic gardens filled with greenery and water features to delight the numerous members of the family.

During summer nights, private parties and events were organised in this garden and these were the origin of the current International Festival of Music, Theatre and Dance.

In this garden, you can stroll while listening to the permanent trickle of water from its many fountains and the large pool that collects the water from the spring at the “Fuente del Rey”.





## Priego de Córdoba, jewel of “cordobés” Baroque

If you are keen on art, you will enjoy the historic and artistic baroque heritage here in Priego de Córdoba, often known as the cradle of Córdoba Baroque, due to the number of monuments and religious buildings in this style. During the 18th century, Priego and its surroundings enjoyed a building boom due to the economic stability and prospering trade in silk textiles with Europe and America.

The squares, fountains, churches and public buildings were all remodelled due to this prosperity. All these buildings have a stylistic unity, but as the century progressed we can detect an evolution of the style in the buildings of Hurtado Izquierdo and the buildings of Juan de Dios Santaella, Francisco Javier Pedrajas and Remigio del Mármol.

We will help you to find the best places to see our greatest treasures, where beautiful churches and richly appointed houses alternate with humbler dwellings. A place where churches abound with devotion, worship and mystery.

### THE PRIEGO SCHOOL

The Priego school refers to the group of artists that worked in Priego from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

These craftsmen were responsible for the interior remodelling in the churches and hermitages as well as new buildings in the area.

During this period, we can clearly see a development in the concept of space and form in the architecture and decoration.



In the first period (at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century – 1729): the decoration is more restrained and the layouts are based on the form of the Latin-cross with baroque style plasterwork. The most representative artist is Francisco Hurtado Izquierdo.

In the second period (1729 – 1775): all of surfaces are decorated in the Baroque style, covering and hiding previous decoration. An example can be seen in the small chapels where the pendentives (triangular surfaces between the springing of the domes) are overflowing with the typical decoration of this period. The greatest exponent was the artist Juan de Dios Santaella. In the third period (1775 – to the end of the 18th century): the architecture has a curvilinear form with columns present in the retablos (altar screens). The interior architecture is decorated with elegant unpainted Rococo style plasterwork. The greatest exponent

of this style was the artist Francisco Javier Pedrajas.



### An excellent idea “Church of “La Asunción”

The Church of “La Asunción” has one of the most important treasures in Priego, the Sacristy of the Assumption. In addition, take the opportunity to enjoy the play of light and shade in its roof. “Santa Ana” square is an ideal place to rest during the walk through the “La Villa” neighbourhood.

[turismodepriego.com](http://turismodepriego.com)



## Church of “La Asunción”

### One of the masterpieces of Andalucian baroque

**T**he church was built at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century: its design was gothic and mudéjar – combining Christian and Moorish styles – with pointed arches on octagonal pillars, topped by a mudéjar coffered ceiling. The main chapel boasts a vaulted ceiling with ribbed vaults decorated with renaissance flourishes.

Also from this era is the door onto “Santa Ana” square, with its plateresque, or heavily ornamented style, attributed to Martín de Bolívar. The wrought ironwork of the main door dates from 1575, and the belltower from 1541.

#### THE GREAT ALTAR SCREEN

It is especially worth noting the main retablo (altar screen) that incorporates high quality carving and painted decoration. It comprises a base, supporting three rows of paintings and carvings, topped by a niche – with three vertical panels flanked by projecting pillastered niches. The retablo shows

scenes from the Passion of Christ and the life of Our Lady – the Annunciation and the birth in the manger. The image of the Annunciation is in the central panel surrounded by the Apostles and Evangelists. The whole is crowned by the Crucifixion at Calvary with an image of God the Father projecting from the tympanum of the pediment above. It was finished in 1567: the paintings are by Pedro de Raxis and Ginés López, although of the altar screen itself, nothing is known today about its authorship nor where it was made.

The church which we see now is the result of rebuilding carried out between 1743 and 1747, which concealed the old ceiling beams behind ribbed vaulting, and placed an oval cupola in front of the presbytery. The old Gothic arches were hidden behind arches, decorated with plasterwork and mouldings, a triumphant work by the craftsman Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda.

## THE SANCTUARY

One of the masterpieces of late Spanish Baroque, created between 1772 and 1784 with Rococo decoration by Francisco Javier Pedrajas. It was conceived as an addition to the original building, accessed through a small square antechamber into the chapel itself, which is bordered by an octagonal aisle: above us is a gallery, culminating in a superb segmented dome, with eight large windows showering light over the innumerable exuberant mouldings and carvings.

The architecture is formed of magnificently ornate mouldings and plasterwork with floral and figurative motifs, along with Rococo cornucopias.

## THE SACRISTY

It is located at the beginning of the nave on the left side and there is a painting of María Magdalene. It was built in 1766 and is attributed to Juan de Dios Santaella.

It is conceived as two different spaces; the first has a groin vault whilst the main area has a square floor plan with a semicircular dome decorated primarily in plasterwork. The room is dominated by the image of Christ Crucified which dates from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, attributed to Juan de Dios Santaella, and a large painting of Our Lady dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a rococo style frame.

On the walls, hangs an image of the apostles from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, attributed to Vela Cobo.



The roof of the Church of "La Asunción"

It is considered one of the greatest examples of the use of space, typical of the Andalucian Baroque style.

In the centre is a tabernacle by the sculptor Manuel Garnelo, dating from 1921.

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF "NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN"

**DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

**STYLE:** Gothic/ baroque

**ARTISTS:** Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda  
Juan de Dios Santaella  
Francisco Javier Pedrajas







## Church of “San Francisco”

### The “Compás de San Francisco”, a place of enchantment

**T**he church began as a monastery around 1510, under the auspices of Pedro Fernández de Córdoba, the first Marquis of Priego. The church square, “el compás de San Francisco”, is an ideal place to see the mixture of simple and grand houses built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The church is late gothic or mudéjar construction, rebuilt in the eighteenth century in the Baroque style by Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda, and later Juan de Dios Santaella.

Rebuilding began in 1712, with the idea of reproducing the same style as the church of “La Asunción” – cross-vaulted ceilings, decorated cupolas, and a profusion of Baroque plasterwork.

The church’s exterior has a mighty stucco-clad wall with the main doorway, which is carved from black and white marble and divided into two parts, one containing the entrance, the upper part a niche. Both sections are flanked by Corinthian columns.

The altar screen , by Juan de Dios Santaella, was finished in 1781: it is made up of a base, and a central part housing alcoves with Franciscan images: in the centre is a shrine to the Virgin, with a carving of Our Lady believed to be by the school of José de Mora. The altar screen is crowned by a niche with the figure of Saint Stephen, embellished by carving in a distinctive rococo style.

#### CHURCH OF “SAN FRANCISCO”

**DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

**STYLE:** Gothic/ baroque

**ARTISTS:** Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda  
Juan de Dios Santaella

## CHAPEL OF “JESÚS NAZARENO”

The chapel of “Jesús Nazareno” is one of the jewels of Priego’s baroque heritage, begun in 1731 by Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda and completed by Juan de Dios Santaella.

It is built on a hexagonal plan, with imposing alcoves rising to a balcony, with windows above which flood the gilded plasterwork with light.

The altar screen was developed from the original tabernacle in several phases by Juan de Dios Santaella around 1760; the second part was built in 1790 by Francisco Javier Pedrajas. Of particular interest is the central image representing the crown of thorns, thought to be the work of Remigio de Mármol.

The central niche, which is octagonal in form, with an ornate cupola and windows, was built by Pedrajas in 1788. The chapel was rebuilt once again in 1928 by the sculptor Manuel Garnelo, who used marble cladding, sculptures, and bas-reliefs, to such an extent, that only the decoration of the cupola remains from the original scheme. The chapel houses the figure of “Jesús Nazareno”, attributed to the Granada craftsman Pablo de Rojas in 1592.

On either side can be seen the alcoves of the Virgin “Virgen de los Dolores and San Juan Evangelista”, carvings by the school of Pablo de Rojas from around 1600. There are also two pieces by José Risueño, of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus as children.



## THE CHAPEL OF “JESÚS EN LA COLUMNA” (THE FLAGELLATION OF CHRIST)

The chapel which was finished in 1679, is rectangular in shape with a groin vault ceiling.

It once had an altar screen dating from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, attributed to Sánchez de Rueda. This was later replaced by a neoclassical design until 1942 when it was replaced by a baroque design. This was in part inspired by the altar screen San Francisco, where the chapel is located.

The centrepiece is the figure of the “Jesús en la Columna”, attributed to Alonso de Mena, from around 1640, and there are a number of other important works, such as San Francisco Solana attributed to José de Mora, and others thought to be by José Risueño

# [ Church of “la Aurora” ]

This church grew from the 15<sup>th</sup> century chapel of “San Nicasio”, the patron saint of Priego, which itself was built on the site of a mosque after the region returned to Christian rule.

It was completely rebuilt in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century by Juan de Dios Santaella: the former chapel was demolished, and a new, larger, church was built in the baroque style.

It has a single nave with a “semi-hemispherical” dome and exuberant baroque decoration spilling over the vaulting and around the windows. It is a mixture of geometric designs, plant and flower motifs, and any number of bas-reliefs of angels – all of it set off by a blue painted frieze.



The carving of the Virgin of “La Aurora” (our Lady of the Gate to Dawn) dates from 1706 and is attributed to Diego de Mora.

The portal and the tower are attributed to Juan de Dios Santaella. The facade is notable for the rich decoration in polychromatic marble: its two levels are supported first by Corinthian columns, then by twin spiral pillars which frame the niche housing a figure of the Virgin.

Every Saturday at midnight, the “Hermanos de La Aurora” stroll through the streets of the town, singing traditional songs of praise in honour of the Virgin.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience this four hundred year old tradition.



# [ Church of “San Pedro” ]

## A multicoloured chapel

**T**his church was built on the site of an Alcantarine (Franciscan) monastery during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The floor plan is in the form of a cross, with barrel vaulting and a “semicircular” cupola supported at the crossing with scalloped pendentives that spring from the corner pilasters, and are decorated with plasterwork moulding and considered the first examples of the baroque in Priego.

The main altar screen, whose layout was designed by Hurtado Izquierdo, has a central body divided into three vertical sections by four spiral pillars. The central part houses a figure of the Virgin by José de Mora – a beautiful richly coloured work. On either side are the figures of “Santa Rosa de Viterbo” and “Santa Rosalía”, and on high, a niche with the image of “San Pedro”, dating from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

But the altar screen underwent changes in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the creation of a large chapel, which was begun by Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda and completed in 1739 by Juan de Dios


Santaella. It has an octagonal form, with a hemispherical cupola topping a small decorative roof lantern. The decoration combines ornate plasterwork, featuring the heads of angels, with embedded mirrors and silvered spheres which set off the striking colours of the marbling.

In the chapel of the “Venerable Orden Tercero” is the carving of the Burial of Christ, attributed to Pablo de Rojas in 1594.

The chapel of the Virgin “Virgen de la Soledad” (the Virgin of Sorrows) was built in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century: it underwent two later transformations – one in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and another in the 19<sup>th</sup>, which gave it a neoclassical style. The altar screen, attributed to Francisco Javier Pedrajas, is particularly interesting for its fine rococo detail. The centrepiece is by the Álvarez brothers in 1784, with decoration by Pedrajas.

The stone doorway is attributed to Juan de Dios Santaella. In the upper niche is the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, carved in polychromatic stone.



The niche of the Virgin, Church of "San Pedro" 

# [ Church of “el Carmen” ]

The church of “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” was once a shrine dedicated to Saint Joseph, rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Remigio del Mármol, in a style which marks a movement away from baroque, towards neoclassical. It is conceived as a single nave with the impression of a crossing which divides the barrel vault into three sections. The “crossing” is, surmounted by a segmented cupola with four windows located above the supporting pendentives below.

The main altar screen is by Juan de Dios Santaella: the base is mounted on a plinth, and the main body is in a single piece, articulated by estipite columns



## CHURCH OF “EL CARMEN”

DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

STYLE: Baroque/Neoclassical

ARTISTS: Remigio del Mármol

framing the chapel of the Virgin of “el Carmen” – a work of the Granada school. It is flanked by Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, with the figure of Saint Joseph above. The chapel itself, a typically neoclassical design, is by the sculptor Remigio del Mármol.

The sacristy, which today is joined to the main body of the church, in the form of a chapel, was completed before the church itself. It is of baroque design and rectangular in shape, with a ribbed ceiling leading up to a skylight – all supported by fluted Corinthian columns.

The doorway by Remigio del Mármol is completely neoclassical: it is formed in two parts, the lower with Doric columns, and the upper with Corinthian columns framing a bas-relief of the Virgin of “el Carmen”. Above this, is a tower crowned by a cupola with the statue of the prophet Elijah, surrounded by four figures from the Old Testament.

# [ Church of “las Mercedes” ]

The Church of “las Mercedes” (Our Lady of Mercy) is located in the Calle Carrera de las Monjas (the street of the path of the nuns), one of the most important streets in Priego. You cannot pass without entering to see the incredible beauty that fills every corner.

It was rebuilt on the site of the shrine to Saint Antonio Abad, and reformed, due to poor condition, in 1784 by Francisco Javier Pedrajas.

Its design is based on a Latin cross, its transept dominated by a double-sectioned cross-vaulted roof and a large ribbed cupola, that rests on a curvilinear cornice, with imposing archangels at the pendentives. Individual displays of delicate rococo plasterwork spread throughout the building, are flooded by the natural light which streams in from the roof and dome. Without a doubt, this is one of the most beautiful places in Priego de Córdoba.



The altarpiece of the Church ●

sidepieces – housing the figures of Saint Ramón Nonato and Saint Thomas Aquinas - from the central niche with its figure of the Virgin of “las Mercedes”. In the second area, is the figure of Saint Catherine. Both the rococo plasterwork and mouldings are gilded.

**[ This square chapel, is watched over by the diminutive cloaked statuette of the Virgin “Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes”, the only remnant of the ancient shrine. Believed to be the work of Juan de Dios Santaella, dated 1753 ]**



A big archangel attributed to Francisco Javier Pedrajas ●

The altar screen and its supporting screens are the work of Pedrajas: it has a base, two superior levels, and a central ornamental capping, flanked by Corinthian columns, decorated with ribbons and bows, which separate the

The facade is unfinished, only the lower level of the neoclassical doorway was completed in 1799. It has twin marble pillars and is by the craftsman Nicolás Duroni. The facade is topped by two towers.



# [Church of “las Angustias”]

An example of a woman’s religious devotion

**T**he Church of “las Angustias” is next to the school of the same name, in one of the most important streets in Priego de Córdoba: Calle Río (“River Street”).

This church with its rococo design was founded in 1773 by Josefa de Mármol, to house the icon of the Virgin of “las Angustias” which had previously been worshipped in another chapel.

The single nave has an open cross-vaulted ceiling with lunette windows to provide light, the head of the nave is crowned by a segmented cupola resting on a flamboyant cornice. The church and the altar screen are by Juan de Dios Santaella.

In the principal niche is a sculptural ensemble of “Las Angustias”, a work of the Granada school dating from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the figure of Christ carved by the workshop of José de Mora. The magnificent figures of Saint Joseph and the Virgin and Christ Child, by the Granada artist José Risueño, are particularly charming. The doorway is in polychromatic marble, also the work of Santaella.



Saint Joseph with the Child by Risueño

# [ Church of “San Juan de Dios” ]

**T**he Church of “San Juan de Dios” is located in a pedestrian square.

Originally a hospital, founded in 1637 by Juan de Herrera, and dedicated to Saint Onufrius. In 1696, the former church was demolished, and a new one was commissioned from the architect Francisco Hurtado Izquierdo, which was completed in 1717.

A single nave building with a small crossing with a “semi-circular” shaped dome without drum or lantern but with incised decorative columns that pre-date the ribbed coffers of the Baroque. The ceiling is a cross-vaulted barrel vault with lunette windows that allow light to flood in.

The church as we see it today is the result of two phases of rebuilding in the eighteenth century. The first was carried out by Jerónimo Sánchez de Rueda, which retained the main structure of the church and its cupola. The second, which began in 1764 was the work of Francisco Javier Pedrajas; he introduced the cornice and the vaulted ceiling, and made changes to the windows, with plasterwork embellishment.

The facade dates from the same era: it is unfinished, but is believed to the work of Juan de Dios Santaella.

The altar screen, by Francisco José Guerrero in 1768, is of rococo design in the form of a single body articulated by four estipite columns. The central alcove houses a modern carving of “Nuestra Señora de Gracia”, and on either side, the baroque figures of Saint Joseph and Saint John of God, with a rectilinear canopy. On the topmost level, there are paintings of the Crucifixion, flanked by images of Saint Carlos Borromeo and Saint Nicholas. The whole is in rococo style.





### A simple religious architecture amongst the baroque splendour

#### THE SHRINE OF “THE NATIVITY”

The Shrine of “the Nativity” is an example of simple religious architecture: it occupies a corner site on the street, built originally in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but maintaining the existing facade intact.

Inside lacks decoration but contains the Virgin of the Nativity along with the Christ Child with Saint Joseph. The chapel has a number of interesting paintings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The facade has an arch with pilasters and it is decorated with volutes.

#### THE SHRINE OF “EL CALVARIO”

Located in the level plaza of Calvary at the highest point of Priego, it has an excellent panorama of mountains, villages and olive groves.

According to tradition there has been a Calvary shrine since ancient times, but there is hardly any documentary evidence. However, we know that by 1593 there was a place of worship, with a cross or an icon to which pilgrims would pray on their way in or out of the town. It was a site of great religious ceremonies, and it marked the end of the Good Friday procession by the followers of “Jesús Nazareno”, a fact which can be found out from the founding statutes of that

Brotherhood. It is documented that there were two early crosses on the site, and that others were placed here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1707, the Calvary shrine was completed with the aid of public donations and funds from the Third Order of Saint Francis: they undertook the maintenance of the crosses on their processional route through the street of the Crosses, popularly called “El Caminillo”.

In 1938, the Brotherhood cleared the way for the work which the shrine needed, and rebuilt the interior as we see it today. Nevertheless, it was restored by the workshop and its interior was decorated with baroque plasterwork and the current doorway was built.

The shrine is dedicated to “Nuestra Señora de los Dolores”, an image which is believed to have been the gift of Marina de Pareja to the shrine of “Santo Cristo del Humilladero”, and later moved to the Calvary shrine in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

It is a figure dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, elaborately decked with candles, although the artist is unknown: it forms part of a tradition of richly enrobed figures which embody the seven sorrows of the Virgin – represented here by the flaming heart in the centre of her breast, pierced by seven daggers.

## [ The Local History Museum ]

If you are keen on finding out about the culture, history and traditions of a place, you must visit the different museums in Priego de Córdoba.

Founded in 1983, the Museo Histórico Municipal de Priego, specialises in archaeology. Its initial exhibits were discovered in the local caves during the first caving expeditions, years before the creation of the museum.

In 1989, it became part of the Town Archaeology Service, thus becoming the

organisational centre for all aspects of local archaeological heritage, (research, preservation, dissemination and valuation) and falling within the responsibility of the town hall.

The Town Hall has undertaken a great number of archaeological investigations which have greatly advanced the archaeological knowledge of both the town and the surrounding area, whilst increasing the quantity and quality of artefacts in the museum. In addition, the museum has published a specialist magazine "Antiquitas"

# ANTIQUITAS



since 1990 and it is planned to create a section about ethnography called “Colección Marcos Ocampos”.

At present, the museum is temporarily housed in the Adolfo Lozano Sidro Cultural Centre, a 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion rebuilt in

1910, centred around a colonnaded patio, which is the heart of the museum.

The collection is divided into five areas, four rooms and a colonnaded patio, which should be viewed in chronological order, to follow the evolution of human settlement in the region from pre-historic times until the Middle Ages. In 2011, the first two stages of the Archaeology Route were opened to the public (a medieval Andalusian ceramic kiln and a Roman lime kiln). which should be viewed in chronological order, to follow the evolution of human settlement in the region during the Middle Ages. In 2001, two routes about an urban Archaeology were opened (a medieval Andalusian ceramic kiln and a roman lime kiln).





An old loom displayed in the Local History Museum

## *Museums in Priego* *a look back at the past*

[ Visit Priego's house-museums. Go back in time and discover what it was really like to live in the heyday of their famous owners ]

### *In the Local History Museum you will find:*

- Skeletal remains of fauna (Pleistocene)
- Artistic works (the Upper Palaeolithic)
- Stone and bone instruments and tools
- Decorated Neolithic ceramics
- Bronze Age weapons
- Iberian armaments
- Iberian and Roman ceramics
- Ancient Coins
- Latin Epigraphy
- Roman sculptures
- Late Antiquities
- Al-Andalus Archaeology
- Christian Middle Ages



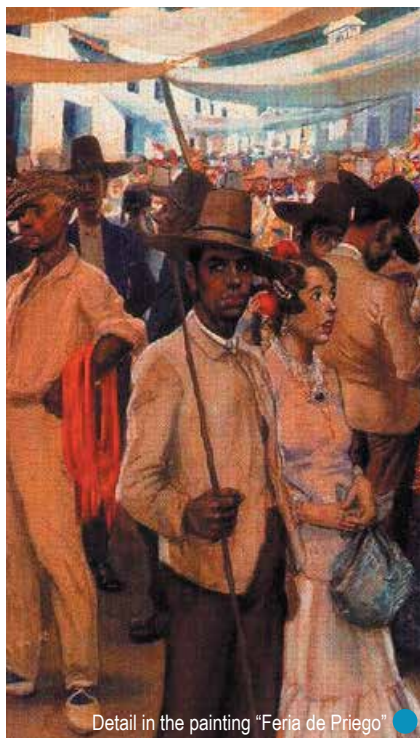


## [ Adolfo Lozano Sidro's Home and Museum ]

**T**his house in the Calle Carrera de las Monjas (“Path of the Nuns Street”) is an Andalusian style mansion, with a spacious patio with porticoes and modernist decoration. It displays the work of the painter – Adolfo Lozano Sidro, and houses the headquarters of the Town History Museum and the Antonio Povedano Contemporary Landscape Art Centre..

Adolfo Lozano Sidro was born in Priego in 1872, studied in Málaga with José Moreno Carbonero, and settled in Madrid towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was considered one of the greatest illustrators of his age, and published most of his work in the magazine “Blanco y Negro”.

The museum displays more than 70 original canvases by the painter, and a generous collection of drawings and sketches on the first floor, as well as a selection of portraits and paintings with oriental and religious themes. There is a series of illustrations on loan from the Museum “ABC” in Madrid, which form part of a special agreement.

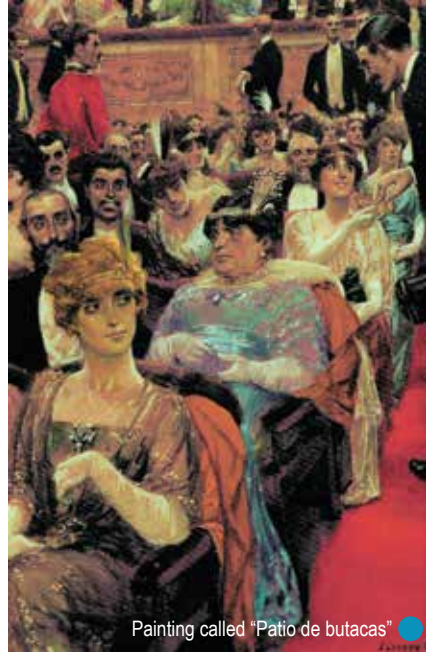


Detail in the painting “Feria de Priego”

There is also a series of illustrations of everyday scenes and characters typical of Andalusía in the early part of the 20th century - a sharp contrast to the portraits of high society in the salons and theatres of Madrid. His paintings conceal his opinion of the bourgeoisie whilst at the same time the care with which he paints ordinary peasants shows a deep respect for the nobility of their hard work.

Works to look out for are:- “Escena de Carnaval”, “En la Feria de Priego”, “Tertulia en el café”, “El Patio de butacas” and the painting called “Otey”.

On the second floor, go back in time and visit the rooms that Lozano Sidro used during his visits to Priego, all set up as they were at the time of his death in 1935.



Painting called "Patio de butacas"



## *Adolfo Lozano Sidro, an admired painter*

[ Some of the illustrations  
published in the magazine  
“Blanco y Negro” between  
1914 to 1930 ]



The Adolfo Lozano Sidro's bedroom

# [The Center of Modern Spanish Landscape Art “Antonio Povedano”]

This centre shares the building with two other very different museums: the Local History Museum and the Adolfo Lozano Sidro Museum. It is housed in two rooms, built in the patio of the mansion, and of a style that contrasts with the original building.

The Antonio Povedano Contemporary Landscape Art Centre was founded in 1996 by the town council, and dedicated to the artist Antonio Povedano in recognition of his support for the Priego de Córdoba School of Plastic Arts.

This gallery is devoted to a single genre, and illustrates different ways of seeing and interpreting landscapes, through the work of some of the finest Spanish artists that specialise in this genre.

Figurative art is represented by the realism of José Lapayese, by the sense of magic of José Hernández, or by the expressive and colourful interpretation of Agustín Redondela, Vaquero Palacios, Manuel Capdevila and Agustín Úbeda, amongst others.

The works of artists such as José Abad, Molina Montero, Antonio Suárez or José Vento are more abstract.

During the summer, the Centre provides courses as part of its School of Plastic Arts.



[The School of Plastic Arts is an exemplar in the world of art. It is one of the oldest Schools and attracts students from all over the world ]



## [Niceto Alcalá-Zamora's Home and Museum]

The museum in the family home of the President of the Second Spanish Republic, Niceto Alcalá-Zamora y Torres – it is a beautiful, town mansion house built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and can be found at 33 Calle Río (“River Street”) in Priego de Córdoba.

The proposal for the museum dates from December 1986, when Alcalá-Zamora's daughters donated the family home to the people of Priego de Córdoba.

The museum was first opened to the public in August 1987, with an exhibition of the life of Alcalá-Zamora. In honour of Alcalá-Zamora a bust by the sculptor Aurora Cañero was unveiled in the garden, and you can see it beneath the hundred year oak that was planted during his childhood.

Today the museum by is run by the Niceto Alcalá-Zamora Foundation

which was set up in 1993 in order to improve the knowledge of the life and works of the first President of the Second Spanish Republic.

After visiting this museum, you will be better informed about the life and times of Mr. Alcalá-Zamaora. The Foundation's prime objective is education and the museum is a wonderful balance between the house itself, the original fixtures and fittings that are on show and a summary of historical events.

For this reason, the museum has various levels of information which is organised by floor:

On the ground floor, you can see the typical distribution of rooms in a house of this period, with the original furniture and access to the garden. Other traditional rooms are the



entrance hall, the meeting room, the dining room, the pantry, the kitchen, the wine cellar and the patio.

**P1** On the first floor, you can see some original furniture along with glass display cabinets of family possessions and information boards with photographs, paintings and text. These are set out in parallel chronological order: One follows the life of Alcalá-Zamora whilst the other details the events of the time in which he lived. You can also see the sofa on which he died in 1949; the clock stopped at the time of his death; and a lamp remains permanently lit, as a reminder of Alcalá-Zamora's life.

**P2** On the second floor, are the offices of the Foundation where the research into his life and times continues.



Mr. Niceto Alcalá-Zamora y Torres ●

# Niceto Alcalá-Zamora,

*a conservative Priego politician*

[He was known for political oratory and was appointed the Head of State in recognition of this fact. He wrote extensively on political, historical and judicial topics]



Facade of the Niceto Alcalá-Zamora's Home and Museum

**A**lcalá-Zamora was born in Priego de Córdoba on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1877 and he died in Buenos Aires on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1949.

He completed his secondary school education in Cabra and studied law at the University of Granada, gaining his doctorate from Madrid University. He became a lawyer in the Spanish Attorney General's office at 21 years old.

He was keen on politics thanks to Moret and later, to Romanones, for whom he was political secretary in various ministries. He also represented La Carolina (Jaen) between 1906 and 1923.

He was the director of the Administration and under-secretary in the Government. In addition, he was a minister on two occasions in cabinets led by García Prieto: the Department for Development (1917) and the Defence Department (1922). He openly opposed the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera.

In 1930, Alcalá-Zamora and Miguel Maura formed the "Derecha Liberal Republicana" political party,

which joined the revolutionary committee which had arisen from the San Sebastián Pact, of which he was also president. After the failure of the military uprising (revolt of Jaca), he was imprisoned until March, 1931.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 1931, the Second Spanish Republic was proclaimed and Alcalá-Zamora was confirmed as Prime Minister of the provisional government. He held this position until October of the same year, when he resigned due to his opposition to some of the articles in the new Constitution.

In December, Alcalá-Zamora was elected the first President of the Republic until 7<sup>th</sup> April 1936 when he was removed from his position by the Cortes (Parliament).

In July, he embarked on a trip around Europe, but was prevented from returning to Spain due to the start of the Civil War. After some years in France, he travelled to Buenos Aires, where he lived in exile.

### THE HOUSE-MUSEUM OF CASTIL DE CAMPOS

If you want to continue learning more about the area, why not visit the House-Museum in Castil de Campos. Here you will glimpse the harmony between the countryside and urban life.

The museum can be found in Castil de Campos, one of Priego's outlying villages: the museum is a small house which has been restored with great care to its original state, and is laid out in the style of a traditional rural home between the 19th and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibits are the tools associated with the crafts and customs of the everyday life of that time.

This museum is a private initiative of the local inhabitants who sourced all of the exhibits from their neighbours and reformed the building themselves, in order to create the ethnographic exhibition. As you walk through its rooms, look at the displays of tools and local customs, linked to local traditions that have almost completely disappeared.



The inside of the Ethnographic Museum in Castil de Campos

### MUSEUM OF THE ALMOND

If you want to educate your palate, visit the Almond Museum, located in the Priego village of Zamoranos. On your way there gaze at a landscape full of almond trees and olive groves.

The main room of the museum has a fabulous collection of antique almond processing machinery, still in working order. You can also find out about the main varieties of Spanish almonds and their beneficial qualities and different applications.

# it's green

[nature and landscape]

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“Dehesa de Vichira”, a detail of a water tank close to a country house

## Natural Park of "Sierras Subbéticas"

# [ Natural Park of "Sierras Subbéticas" ]

### A Park in the heart of Andalusia

In the southeast of the province of Córdoba, is an area of great ecological and scenic importance, which comprises the mountain ranges of Cabra, Rute and the Horconera, near Priego. It has been declared the Natural Park of "Sierras Subbéticas" since 1988. It is bounded by the towns of Cabra, Carcabuey, Doña Mencía, Iznájar, Luque, Rute, Zuheros and Priego.

If you like hill walking, take the opportunity to hike through some of the most important geological areas in Spain, with its unique flora and fauna. We specifically draw your attention to the "Sierra Horconera" and the peaks of "Bermejo", (1,476 metres) which tower over it; we also have the highest mountain in Córdoba province, "La Tiñosa", (1,570 metres), which combine to form an impressive limestone massif from which you can see the "Sierra Nevada".

[ *Priego is a rainbow at the heart of Andalusia. You can see the range of colours in its wilderness and countryside: the blue of the sky, the grey and ochre of the rocks, which contrast with the green of the olive groves and holm oaks; the yellow of the gorse and heathers. All the colours of the rainbow are displayed in the region's indigenous species* ]



"Buitreras" in the Natural Park ●

Deep valleys, soaring peaks, and almost vertical rock faces make up a rocky terrain which can sometimes be covered with snow.

The grey and ochre of the rocks contrasts with the green of the vegetation. The protected vegetation of this area is typical of the Mediterranean and is rich in holm oaks, gall oaks, maple trees and hackberries.

One of the greatest attractions of the park is the great variety of regional species; Iberian, Andalusian, Iberian-North African, and others that flower during the year, such as iris, narcissus, peonies or orchids. Worth noting are the beautiful bushes such as the mastic tree



"Matagallos", a traditional plant in "S. Subbéticas" ●



Don't forget to pack your binoculars because if you're lucky you will see the unmistakable outline of the golden eagle. These birds of prey nest each year in the steepest of rocky outcrops and you will often find them accompanied by peregrine falcons and the griffon vultures that also mate in this area.

Lower down you will also find, the black wheatears, hoopoes, bee-eaters, cuckoos and red partridges. Among the mammals, there are wild cats, wild boars, foxes and the "musgaño de Cabrera", a strange species of animal. There is also a reptile called "culebra bastarda" (Montpellier Snake).



A griffon vulture ●





## Charming countryside

Rivers carve the rocks to create deep canyons. Local artists have transformed some of the springs which provide our town with water into monuments like the “Fuente del Rey,” with its 139 water spouts.

During your hike, from north to south, you will come across the market gardens on the banks of the Zagrilla and Salado rivers, until you come to the “Las Angousturas”, truly a natural gateway to the valley. If you follow the riverbeds of these streams, you will cross into the Natural Park of “Sierras Subbéticas” and reach the foothills of “Sierra Horconera”, where other streams like “Tijeras” or “Genilla” spring up. Truly an enchanted landscape.

**A  
place for  
each  
season**





## Dream-like nooks on the Banks of the river

### River “Genilla”

There are no fishes in the upper course of this stream due to natural and artificial barriers. However, beyond its beautiful waterfall known as “La Nevera”, we can find barbels, orfes, and “colmillejas” (*cobitis paludica*).

The stream joins the river Zagrilla in its final stretch and is bordered by verdant riverbanks. Its water is used for irrigating the market gardens and allotments as well as the quince tree orchards.

### River “Salado”

The Salado river, whose waters are initially fresh and sweet become saline before they reach Priego.

Near the town, the riverbanks have scarce vegetation. The hillsides have been used throughout for agriculture and have suffered much erosion.

One of the peculiarities of this river is the presence of a native beetle which can survive in salty water and is unique to this location.

There are many other species living in these waters: amphibians like the common frog, natterjack and Iberian spadefoot toads or painted and parsley frogs; reptiles like viperine snakes or Spanish pond turtles; and waterfowls like mallards, common moorhens, vanellus, little ringed plovers, dunlins, common and green sandpipers and black-winged stilts.

In addition, the groves around these water courses have an enormous wealth of flora mainly composed of white and black poplars, willows, elms, ashes, tamarisks and wild roses. From the air they resemble a multicoloured snake which reaches all its splendour in autumn, when the leaves, just before falling, show the full spectrum of colours from green to yellow.



The chasm "Sima Talillas" in the mountains "Sierra de Horconera" ●

## A world of ecosystems

Outside the area of the park is an interesting mountain range called "Sierra de Albayate" with peaks of more than 1,200 metres and interesting greenery such as holm oaks, gall oaks, olive trees, mastic trees ("Pistacia lentiscus"), "Phyllyrea angustifolia", honeysuckles and junipers. There are also insects, arachnids, millipedes and other invertebrates that live together with reptiles, birds and mammals in this oak copse.

Another opportunity that Priego puts within your grasp is the marvellous underground world of hidden caverns where you can discover the secrets of ancient civilisations that lived here in the past. In addition, you can experience the passing of time and the drip-drip of water that created the stalactites and stalagmites.

In Priego's surroundings, there are a lot of caves and chasms. We have an extensive tour through these underground caverns thanks

to the work of various speleology organisations (potholing), formed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Best known for their size or the remains that were found in them are:

- The cave called "Cueva de Cholones", in the mountain range "Sierra Alcaide".
- The cave called "Cueva de los Mármoles" in the mountain range "Sierra de los Judíos".
- The pothole "Sima de los Pelaos" in Tarajal, a small village of Priego.
- The pothole "Sima del Águila" in the mountain range "Sierra de Alcaide".
- The pothole "Sima de Talillas" in the mountain range "Sierra Horconera".
- The caves in Cubé, close to the urban area of Priego de Córdoba.

Some are included in the catalogue "Catálogo de Grandes Cavidades de Andalucía" as they have a depth of more than 100 metres.

Among the great number of enchanting landscapes in Priego, we find an endogenous formation or a karst (limestone) water spout called the "Duende de la Milana". It is type of bourn spring which appears only in times of rainy winters, when the local aquifer is fully replenished. For this reason, people know it as "a water sprite that appears and disappears whenever he wants".

There are also groups of fungi in the hillsides that live in two different ways: saprophyte and symbiotic. The saprophyte fungi descomposes the organic matter, which can then be used by other vegetation. Whereas the symbiotic fungi live side by side with their roots in different types of plants such as trees, bushes and grasses: boletus, poplar mushrooms ("Agrocybe cylindracea) and King Trumpet Mushroom (Pleurotus eryngii) , Lactarius and the delicious wood blewit mushroom.

Most notable are the hypogeous fungi (below ground) and in particular an inedible truffle found here in 1995 and named after the town – the PriegoTruffle: "Pachyphloeus



A spring called "Duende de la Milana" ●

[ Please contact the Tourist Office for more information about the caves ]

## MYCOLOGICAL GARDEN



# Mycological garden “La Trufa”

## Learn about the Fungus kingdom

**T**he Mycological Garden “La Trufa”, opened in 2011 and is located on the edge of Priego in a small village called Zagrilla.

It is part of the Andalusian Botanic Gardens Network (“Red Andaluza de Jardines Botánicos y Micológicos en Espacios Naturales”), which promote the understanding, conservation and exhibition of plants and fungi that are in the area covered by the Monte Mediterráneo de Andalucía. The mycology garden is a regional exhibition of fungi in Andalusia.

The Mycological Garden is divided into 8 areas, indicative of the most representative Andalusian ecosystems, such as: pine forest, scrubland, chestnut, cork oak and oak copses, pastureland, riverside forests and areas of Spanish fir. The intention is to show a great variety of regional fungi in their natural habitat.

Also housed here, the Andalusian Centre of Mycology, where you can learn about research undertaken on previously discovered species of fungi and mushrooms.

The building also has an educational exhibition room that teaches us about the most relevant fungus species in Andalusia, their life cycle and their integration in our ecosystem.



There is also an audiovisual area with study rooms dedicated to teaching about environmental issues including the practical use of microscopes and their involvement in studying fungi. In a microclimatic room you can see a great variety of mushrooms at first hand living in their own especially adapted microclimate.

As you pass through the Mycological Garden you will come across an interesting exhibition of giant mushrooms and fungi bronze sculptures created by the Seville artist Marcos Domínguez Alonso, the most stunning of which is situated at the entrance of the centre, a grouping of "Armillaria Mellea" Also summer truffles, the "Myriostoma Coliforme" ("seta salero"), situated at the entrance of the garden; or the striking "Anmanita Ponderosa" that can be seen in the pastureland ecosystem display.



A permanent exhibition in the Mycological Garden "La Trufa"



A good idea  
***Visit to the  
Mycological Garden***

If you are keen on the world of mushrooms and fungi, you can learn more about it here. Even better, at specific times of the year we hold mycology days when you can taste different recipes made with mushrooms and attend conferences and exhibitions.

[turismodepriego.com](http://turismodepriego.com)

# [Green Tourism]

Throughout the year, you can let yourself be carried along by the beauty of Priego's countryside. A carpet of fallen leaves in autumn, colourful hillsides in spring and in winter and summer the changes of the seasons will entice you to take thousands of pictures during your outings.

The great variety of Priego is that the surroundings provide such a natural resource for activities.

As part of our awareness of these natural resources, Priego has enabled a number of private initiatives and local associations, sport clubs, etc. to set up various activities throughout the countryside.

For adventurous types, there are a multitude of activities like canyoning, caving, rafting, etc.

However, if you really enjoy getting to know about things, why not try one of our themed excursions, where experts will teach you about all the special characteristics of the surroundings. You can also have a go at zip wire or participate in a gymkhana, etc.

But, if you prefer to go at your own pace, we offer you all the available information about hiking or bicycle routes.



Some of the hiking routes Priego can offer you are::

**R1** Ascent of the mountain peak of “Tiñosa”.

**R2** The mountain pass “Puerto del Cerezo” and the village Las Lagunillas.

**R3** Ascent of “Jardín del Moro” through the meadows of “Dehesa Vichira”.

**R4** “Dolmen La Lastra”, leaving from Zagrilla.

**R5** The cave of “Los Mármoles”.

**R6** The “GR-7” path.

**R7** Urban route: “Bajo Adarve” where you can see local vegetable allotments.

**R8** The hermitage of “San Miguel” in El Castellar.

**R9** The peak “Bermejo”.



## A FONDNESS FOR NATURE

As Priego has always kept an eye on its natural surroundings, we've become specialists in all types of open air sports. So if you are a born sports man or woman, you will find every activity that you could wish for. We have: mountain biking, both trail and racing, canicross, bikejoring, etc.



The Natural Park of “Sierras Subbéticas” offers you a lot of hiking routes. Below are noted some possible routes, starting both in Priego and its surrounding villages.

- The mountain pass of “La Higuera” (Las Lagunillas).
- The peak “Albayate”, from Priego and along the road to Algarinejo.
- The “GR7” path - Almedinilla - Priego.
- The hermitage of “San Miguel” (El Castellar).
- The mountain pass “Puerto del Cerezo” (Los Villares).
- “Las Lomas”, a circular route starting in Camino Alto, Priego.
- From Rute to Priego - “Sierra de Rute” and Peak “Tiñosa” (the highest peak of the province, 1570 m).
- From Rute to the Canyon of river “La Hoz”.
- The left hand side of the Iznájar reservoir.
- From the “Sierra de Cabra” to Zuheros, via “La Nava”.
- From Cabra to Hoyones de Gaena.
- From Priego to the peak of “Tiñosa” and “Sierra Horconera”.
- From Luque to Carcabuey via “Sierra Alcaide”.
- Climbing the mountain ranges of Cabra, Lucena or Zuheros from their respective villages.
- The peak “Bermejo”.
- From Carcabuey to Zuheros through El Navazuelo, Fuentefría and the river “Bailón”.
- From Almedinilla to Fuente Grande via the route of the waterfall “Salto del Caballo” and the river “Caicena”.
- The botanical trail of “Santa Rita”.
- The “Via Verde” (Green Route) of the “Subbética Cordobesa”.





# it's orange

[Small villages and country retreats]

Small villages of Priego 76  
Map of the small villages 80



The washing place in the small village of El Tarajal

## Small villages of Priego



### The harmony of rustic architecture

**S**mall villages and isolated rural settlements are typical of the countryside around Priego. The origin of some of them goes back to the Middle Ages although the majority are more recent, principally between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. All of these settlements were subject to the need to live and work in the same place. Nowadays, they are a stronghold of traditional customs; a refuge for handicrafts and traditional architectural styles along with the calming effect of a slower pace of life.

Priego has 21 villages. The most important and typical are:

#### ● Azores

It is located in the natural enclave of "Las Angosturas". High up you can visit its natural spring and see the remains of a medieval road, still with its original stone paving.

#### ● Castil de Campos

This village has its own Parish Council (known as an Entidad Local Autónoma or ELA). It is divided in two districts (Ejido Alto and Bajo). Its origin dates

[As you travel you will discover the charm of our villages, a love of simple things and the art of keeping traditions alive. You will be dazzled by the white lime washed walls and the blue skies and be astonished by how calmly time passes]



A traditional rustic house in the small village of Las Lagunillas

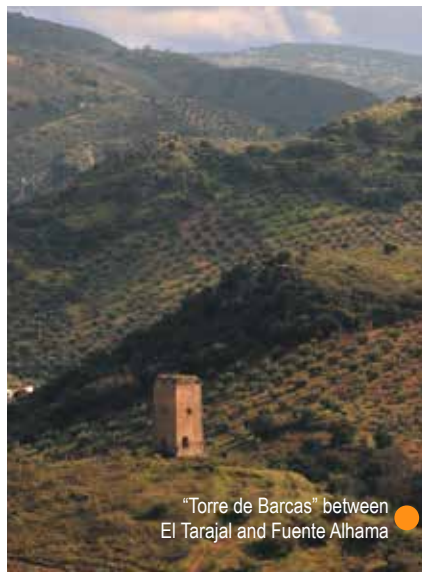
from the Islamic Middle Ages (10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries) when it started life as a farmstead or village, situated around the current position of the spring “Fuente de los Chirimeros”. Most notable are the Church (with a beautiful altar screen from the 18<sup>th</sup> century) and the Rural House-Museum. The feast of Saint Antón is celebrated in January, that of “La Cruz” in May and the Virgin of “el Carmen” in October.

### ● Camponubes

There is documentary proof of the existence of this village from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which alludes to the romantic name of “Campo de nubes” (field of clouds). It is located beside the Colada del Camino Real de Córdoba a Granada, an inviolable route for livestock between the two towns, sanctioned by royal decree. The village stands in the shadow of a nearby medieval watch tower “El Morchón” and in the surrounding area was a red ochre mine.

### ● El Cañuelo

The existence of this small village dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, although as late as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century it was still referred to as a group of labourers’ cottages dependent on Zamoranos, a neighbouring village, where its population would go to to attend Mass. Close by is the natural spring “Fuente de la Salud”, constructed with large stone blocks during the Roman era and which still has water to this day.



“Torre de Barcas” between El Tarajal and Fuente Alhama ●



A street in the small village of El Cañuelo ●

### ● El Castellar

Located at the foot of the “Sierra de Albayate”, one of the most environmentally interesting mountain ranges in the whole province, excellent for hiking. The hermitage and the cross of “el Castellar” is located amongst the spread out dwellings of El Castellar - Chirimeros, raised on a small hill. The feast of San Miguel (Saint Michael) is celebrated at the end of September.

### ● El Esparragal

This little village dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when it had only 36 residents (1777). Like many of the other Priego villages, it takes its name from a plant, in this case the abundant asparagus found in the vicinity. A great place to spend some time.

### ● El Poleo

This little village, whose name comes from the fragrant pennyroyal mint plant that grows around here, arose in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. You can enjoy excellent views from the “El Tajo” vantage point.



### ● El Solvito

Situated on the bank of the river Caicena. The hermitage dedicated to the Virgin of "las Mercedes" (Mercy), has its feast day in August.

### ● El Tarajal and Fuente Alhama

Between this little village and group of dwellings we find the fortress of "Torre de Barcas". El Tarajal has been an urban centre since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, spreading down the hillside on which it is situated. Its name relates to the great number of "tarajes" trees (African Tamarisk) that are characteristic of the area. It also has an impressive wash house. Its feast day is in August.

### ● Genilla

This village is spread out along the countryside in which you can do canyoning from the cliff "Cañón de Jaula" and visit the nature reserve of "La Tomasa".

### ● La Concepción

It is commonly known as "la Aldea", located at the foot of the "Sierra de los Judíos", where they hold the pilgrimage of the "Virgen de la Cabeza" the third weekend in June.

### ● Las Higueras

"La Cruz de las Higueras" was built as a promise by a local woman in thanksgiving for the end of the plague during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The feast day of the Brotherhood of "Santa Cruz" is celebrated in May. It is an ideal place to relax.

### ● Las Lagunillas

This small village is located on the slopes of the mountain "La Tiñosa" and is the departure point for those that wish to climb it. The place name first turns up in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as the boundary of the property that the Order of Calatrava had in Priego. In its surrounding area, you can enjoy crystal clear waters at the source of the river Salado. It is the area with the highest rainfall for the municipality. The Virgin of "el Carmen" is its patron saint and the feast day is in October.

### ● Las Navas y La Poyata

They are the most distant villages of Priego, located further away from the "Sierra de Albayate". The hermitage of Saint Joseph was built in 1923 in the small village of Las Navas.



The natural spring in Zagrilla Alta

### ● Los Villares

This village was set up around the hermitage of Saint Joseph, where the statue of “San Isidro” is kept. He is the patron saint of farmers and celebrates his feast day in May. It is the starting point for a great number of hiking routes such as “Puerto del Cerezo” and the “GR-7” Path.

### ● Zagrilla Alta

Its origin dates from the Middle Ages (the 10<sup>th</sup> century) when a farmstead or small Islamic village gathered around a water source. In 1935, Niceto Alcalá-Zamora paid for the construction of the wash house, which nowadays is the meeting place for the local residents. The patron saint is the Virgin of “el Carmen” with its feast day in July.

### ● Zagrilla Baja

This little village dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the labourers gathered their dwellings around the market gardens where they worked. The patron saint is the Virgin of “el Carmen” and the village celebrates its feast day in August. At the end of September and October, the quince harvest occurs, transfusing the landscape with the yellow colour of the fruit. Nearby you will find the Mycology Garden “La Trufa”.

### ● Zamoranos

Until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century this village had various red ochre mines. Nowadays, the biggest industry here is the commercial use of almonds and related products. The Almond Museum is situated at the entrance to the village. The patron saint is the Virgin of “el Carmen” and the feast day is in August. Virgin of “el Carmen” and its celebration is celebrated in August.



A good idea  
*Discover Priego's  
villages.*

Here you can find comfortable and cosy accommodation, where you can spend the night. There are hotels, villas, country houses and rural cottages (B&B), where you can relax. For more information, visit the Turismo de Priego website and the principal web portals on rural tourism.

[turismodepriego.com](http://turismodepriego.com)

# [ Map of the small villages ]

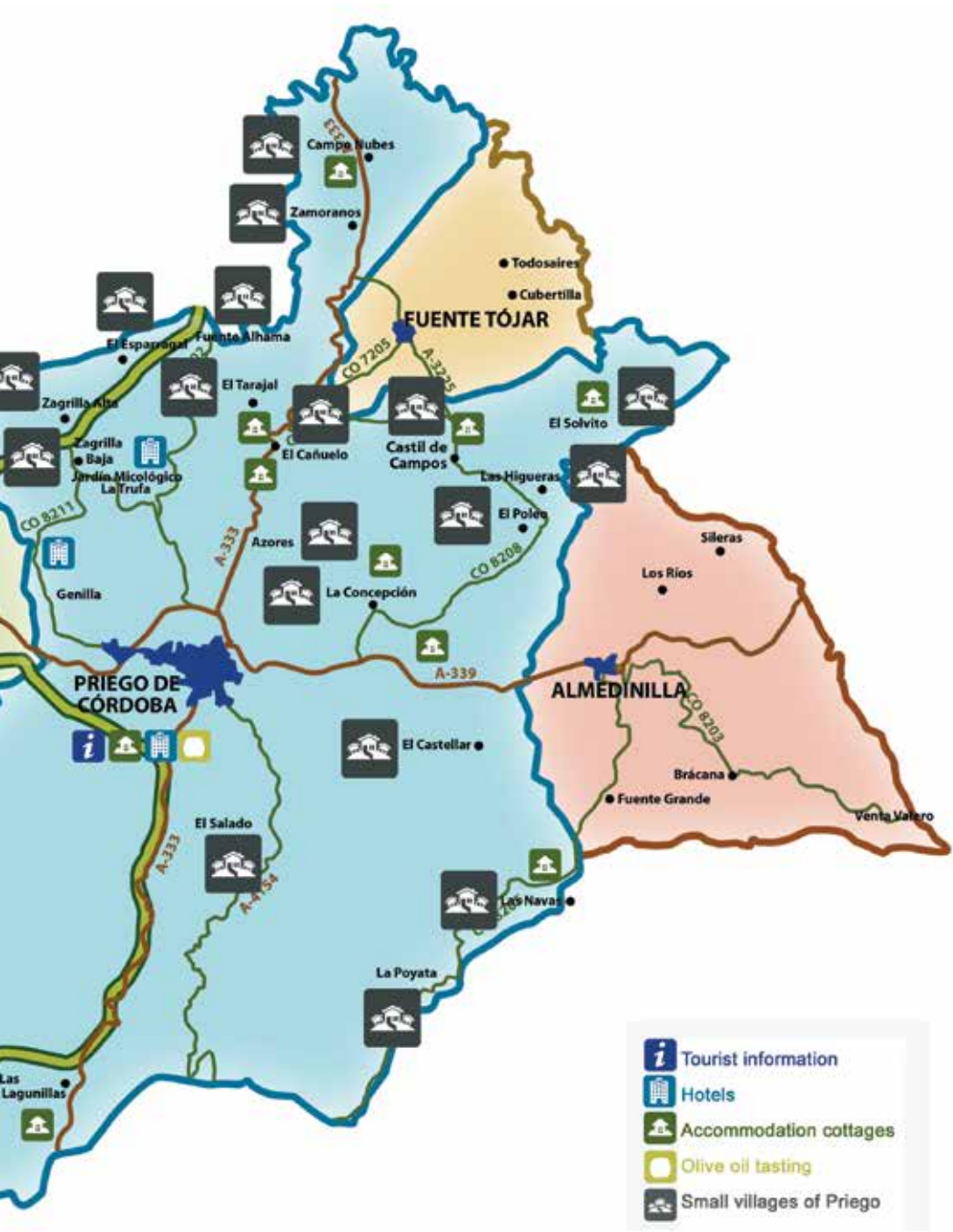
## The small villages and dispersed settlements:

- Azores
- Castil de Campos (ELA)
- Camponubes
- El Cañuelo
- El Castellar
- El Esparragal
- El Poleo
- El Salado
- El Solvito
- El Tarajal
- Fuente Alhama
- Genilla
- La Concepción
- Las Higueras
- Las Lagunillas
- Las Navas
- La Poyata
- Los Villares
- Zagrilla Alta
- Zagrilla Baja
- Zamoranos

In recent years, the amount of active tourism activities offered by rural accommodation centres has greatly increased.

There is a great variety of activities such as: hiking, mountain biking, canyoning, etc.





# it's purple

[Festival tradition and handicrafts]

## OUR CELEBRATIONS

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The Feast of Corpus Christi, in Priego de Córdoba



## [Holy week, an expression of faith]

Devotion of the people for “El Rey de Priego”

**T**he religious celebrations are the expression of people's feelings; a mixture of religious faith and emotion wrapped up in an explosion of colours and magic.

They are celebrations for reflection, of deep-rooted feelings and of the Holy Mysteries. Celebrations overflowing with religious passion.

The spirit of Priego and the folklore traditions of its people are demonstrated by these incredible celebrations. They are open and participatory celebrations which take place in the streets.

We have many different celebrations throughout the year. The year starts with the Parade of the Three Kings of Christmas, the Carnival, Holy Week, the Sundays in May (declared of special tourist Interest), Corpus Christi, the Pilgrimage and the Royal Fair, until we complete the cycle with the festivities of the Christmas season.



Detail of Holy week



So don't worry about which date to choose, if you want to experience a truly Spanish festival, in Priego we celebrate throughout the year, whether it is in the heat of summer or the chill of winter.

It is a tradition passed from generation to generation that is experienced and shared with great enthusiasm throughout the town. During the religious celebrations, you will see Priego at her finest. The pomp and circumstance of the processions mixed with simple deep-rooted piety towards the liturgy of the Mass.

If you want to experience the true nature of reflection and contemplation of these occasions, this is a great time to visit Priego when you will be affected by the aroma of incense and candle wax, and sense the deep devotion of the people.

[ *The solemnity of the various religious brotherhoods contrasts with the explosion of popular devotion on Good Friday, when an overwhelming number of people try to help carry a religious float with a statue of "Jesús Nazareno" up the Calvary hill, where the image then blesses the thousands of penitents holding up their "hornazos" (a boiled egg surrounded by pastry). An outpouring of emotion and faith* ]



The procession of "La Pollinica" ●

## *Priego de Córdoba, the sound of a drum*

[ Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday, when all the balconies are decorated with palm leaves and it finishes on Resurrection Sunday (Easter Sunday), after an intense week of passion ]



Children with palm leaves in the procession of "La Pollinica" ●



The icon of "María Santísima de la Paz" ●



The procession on Holy Monday, the icon of "Cristo de la Buena Muerte"

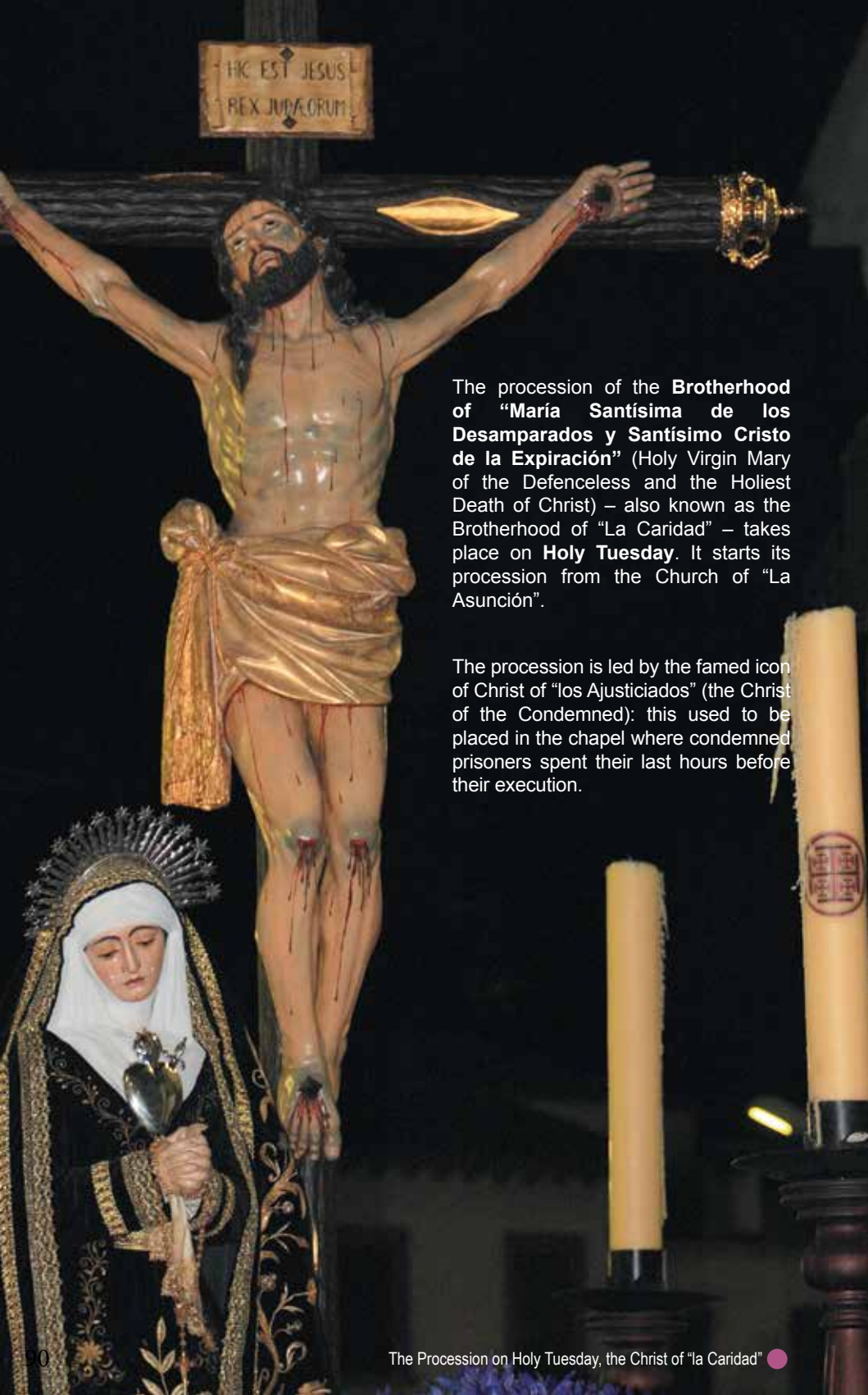
**H**oly Week in Priego is characterized by the solemnity and religious fervour of its celebrations. The different brotherhoods painstakingly prepare their processions to ensure that they comply with their own exacting requirements. Every last detail is attended to with diligence and care. The Priego penitents reveal their deepest, innermost feelings through their silence and devotion. A silence that is only broken by the collective outpouring of emotion when they finally see the image of "Jesús Nazareno".

After Lent, the plaintive sound of the "saetas" fills the streets, announcing the first day of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday – The most recently formed brotherhoods perform the Stations of the Cross. **The Brotherhood of "Nuestro Padre Jesús en su entrada triunfal en Jerusalén y María Santísima de la Encarnación Madre de los desamparados"** (Our Lord Jesus in

His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother Incarnate, Mother of the Helpless) – more popularly known as the "**La Pollinica**" – Leaves from the Church of "San Pedro". **The Brotherhood of "Nuestro Padre Jesús en el Huerto y María Santísima de la Paz"** (Our Father Jesus Praying in the Garden and Our Lady of Peace) begins its procession from the Church of "Las Mercedes".

On **Holy Monday**, the **Brotherhood of "María Santísima de los Dolores y Cristo de la Buena Muerte"** (Holy Virgin Mary of Suffering and Christ of the Blessed Death). The crucified figure of Christ is borne through the streets flanked by four enormous torches. The figure of Christ and the Virgin start the procession from the Shrine of Calvary and descend through the town to the parish church of "La Asunción". They will undertake the return journey during the late hours of Maundy Thursday and into the early hours of Good Friday.



The procession of the **Brotherhood of “María Santísima de los Desamparados y Santísimo Cristo de la Expiración”** (Holy Virgin Mary of the Defenceless and the Holliest Death of Christ) – also known as the Brotherhood of “La Caridad” – takes place on **Holy Tuesday**. It starts its procession from the Church of “La Asunción”.

The procession is led by the famed icon of Christ of “los Ajusticiados” (the Christ of the Condemned): this used to be placed in the chapel where condemned prisoners spent their last hours before their execution.



The Procession on Holy Wednesday, the icon of "Nuestro Padre Jesús Preso" ●

Perhaps for the visitor, one of the most striking events is the theatrical representation of "el Prendimiento" (the Arrest of Christ), that takes place on **Holy Wednesday**. It is performed by the Brotherhood of "La Columna". It is a religious dramatisation that depicts the events leading to the Crucifixion - the Last Supper and the Arrest of Jesus.

The oldest known script of The Arrest of Christ is in Latin with notes in Spanish and the original music was by an unknown composer. During the performance, the dramatic tension rises until the final scene, when the action reaches a breath-taking pace, with spectacular theatrical effects. When the executioners enter the play you will be unable to take your eyes away from their grotesque masks.

The first procession of the **Brotherhood of "Nuestro Padre Jesús Preso y María Santísima del Mayor Dolor"** (Jesus the Captive and Our Lady of Greatest Suffering) first took place at midnight on **Holy Wednesday** in 1989 and carries the paso (float) in a similar way to their counterparts in Seville.



The theatrical representation of "el Prendimiento" ● 91



The theatrical representation of "el Prendimiento"

*The different eras,  
Past and the present*

[The Renaissance, Baroque and classic statues coexist happily. Three historical periods when this celebration has had its crucial moments: the end of the Council of Trent, during the Baroque period and more recently when there has been a greater number of Brotherhoods]

[During Holy Week the various members of the brotherhoods undertake the "turnos de vela" or take turns to keep vigil. They watch over the holy images and statues in an atmosphere of respect and silence. This silence is only broken by the prayers or the sound of the ceremonial pole struck against the floor, announcing the change of turn. There are "turnos de vela" for the statues of the "Santo Entierro", the Virgin of "las Angustias" and the Christ "Santo Cristo de las Ánimas"]



An executioner in the procession of "la Columna"



Detail of "Nuestro Padre Jesús en la Columna" ●

On the evening of **Maundy Thursday**, the procession of the **Pontifical and Royal Arch-Brotherhood of the "Santa Vera Cruz, Nuestro Padre Jesús en la Columna y María Santísima de la Esperanza"** (True Cross, Our Lord Jesus Scourged, and the Holy Virgin Mary of Hope) sets out from the church of San Francisco. The beautiful statue representing "Nuestro Padre Jesús en la Columna" (the Scourging of Jesus) with his captors is thought to be the work of the Granada sculptor Alonso de Mena.

Once formed, the procession cortege is accompanied by the figures of two Romans and two executioners wearing their grotesque masks.

The oldest Brotherhood of Priego is the Brotherhood of the "**Santa Vera Cruz**" (the True Cross) founded in 1550. The religious float is carried by women.

At dawn on Good Friday, the **brotherhood of the "Buena Muerte"** (Christ of the Blessed Death), hold their return procession, retracing their steps of Holy Monday and returning to the hermitage on Calvary. This procession is commonly known as the "Procesión del Silencio" because of the intense silence as it passes.





## The blessing is the climax of Holy Week in Priego and the most anticipated momento of the year

The celebrations on **Good Friday** are in complete contrast to the processions that have taken place earlier in the week as the people erupt in an orgy of emotion. Clustered around the image of “Jesus Nazareno” (Jesus of Nazareth) as he stands high on Calvary, the passions of the towns people are finally unleashed as they hold aloft their “hornazos”, little Easter pastries containing a hard-boiled egg, to receive the blessing.

The statue of “Jesús Nazareno” is carved in the Mannerist style and is attributed to Pablo de Rojas. The statue’s face is its most outstanding aspect: it radiates peace, due to the serenity and beauty of its features.

If you want to experience Holy Week in Priego fully, don’t miss Good Friday, when the whole town comes together from the early hours, to crowd into the small square in front of the church of “San Francisco”. Eager to get the first glimpse of the image of “Jesús Nazareno” as it emerges from the entrance to the church.





The blessing of the “Hornazos” on Calvary, in the procession on Good Friday

During the night, the faithful have kept vigil. Then, early in the morning, before it leaves the church, they hold the religious float aloft and start to sway it from side to side.

The procession of “Jesús Nazareno” is carried throughout its journey by the people themselves. No doubt you will be astounded by the mass of would-be bearers as they struggle to be allowed to carry the image, leaving exhausted when their strength finally gives out.

At first the progress of the procession is slow and stately until it arrives at Palenque, where the procession suddenly takes off to the cry of “at the double!”, with rapid strides, keeping rhythm with the quick beats of the drums. The spot is marked by a stone plaque in the pavement. Once the crowds have arrived at Calvary, they wait expectantly for the blessing of “Jesús Nazareno”.

### THE BLESSING OF THE “HORNAZOS”

On Calvary, a great mass of people have congregated. Surrounded by the images of the Virgin of the “Dolores” and the images of “San Juan, María Magdalena and la Verónica”(St. John, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Veronica) they await the blessing of the “hornazos”. This is the climax of Holy Week in Priego.



The blessing of a “hornazo”







The Virgin of "Las Angustias" ●

**[** During the "Turnos de vela" (vigil), you can look at the details of the image of "Las Angustias", how her face shows the intense sorrow at the sight of the dead body of her son Jesus Christ ]

After the euphoria during the procession of "Jesús Nazareno" on Good Friday now begins the most solemn processions of Holy Week in Priego.

The Virgin of "Las Angustias" with the image of "Jesús en su Descendimiento" (Our Lord taken down from the Cross) show the pain caused to Our Lady by the sight of her son's dead body.



Procession of "el Descendimiento" ●

As the night time begins, one of the most solemn processions of Holy Week sets off: it is attended by representatives from all of Priego's Brotherhoods. Each with their own distinctively coloured robes and banners. They are accompanied by members of the clergy, police and town council.

The figure of the **entombed Christ** dates from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is attributed to Pablo de Rojas. The body is laid out in a beautiful glass sarcophagus which retains the patina of its original polychromatic ivory.

The image of the **Virgin of "María Santísima de la Soledad Coronada"** under a pallium in a silver throne.

The Holy Week finishes on **Resurrection Sunday** with the procession of the **Royal and Venerable Brotherhood of "Nuestro Padre Jesús Resucitado y María Santísima de la Cabeza"** (Christ Resurrected and the Virgin of "La Cabeza"), also known as the Procession of "El Resucitado". This procession includes members of all the Priego Brotherhoods and officials.



The Procession of the "Santo Entierro de Cristo"



The Procession of the Virgin of "la Soledad"



'El Pestíñez'

## *“El Pestíñez” and “El Bacalao”*

[ At dawn on Good Friday, the celebrations called “El Pestíñez” and “El Bacalao” go throughout the streets of Priego announcing the start of this great day. This tradition dates from 1602 ]



The Procession on Resurrection Sunday



A biblical figure in the procession on Resurrection Sunday

# [Children's Processions]

**I**t is a sensitive and charming version of the world of Holy Week in which small replica statues are carried in procession by the local children.

You cannot fail to appreciate the depth of love the people of Priego have for Holy Week, as shown by this tradition. From childhood the youngest get involved with the world of the Brotherhoods and the Religious faith and are keen to follow the example of their parents.

April and May are months of intensive activity for the Brotherhoods and once they are over, the children re-enact what they have seen, and offer us a child's perspective of the world of processions. And in this way, Priego de Córdoba passes on its ancient traditions from generation to generation.

**[** *From early childhood, our children learn to respect and appreciate the experience of Holy Week. A week of Passion, expressed through the religious beliefs of our people. The children's processions, that take place in June, show how these deep-rooted traditions are passed from generation to generation* **]**





## [Sundays in May]

**T**hese celebrations that are held on the Sundays throughout the month of May, are surely the most moving, and undoubtedly the truest reflection of the spirit of Priego. They are considered to be of special Tourist Interest.

In the calendar of local celebrations (fiestas), the processions of the Sundays in May ("Domingos de Mayo") are considered to be the most solemn, and only occur here, in Priego.

Legend has it that the May processions were instigated as a pledge by the townspeople to undertake an annual act of worship, in perpetual thanks for the divine intercession which liberated them from the plague. However, today we believe that these May ceremonies were in fact a plea to God for rain and a good harvest.

We believe that the May festival first took place in 1642, which would coincide with the foundation of the Brotherhood of "Jesús en la Columna" (Lord Jesus Scourged), together with the older Brotherhood of the "Santa Vera Cruz" (True Cross).



The altarpiece of "Jesús en la Columna"

Each week in May is the responsibility of a different Brotherhood and is dedicated to a different religious image. The five Brotherhoods are:

- Brotherhood of “La Caridad”
- Brotherhood of “El Buen Suceso”
- Brotherhood of “La Soledad”
- Brotherhood of “La Columna”
- Brotherhood of “Jesús Nazareno”

The climax of each Brotherhood’s festival is the colourful and spectacular procession that takes place on the Sunday evening.



The extraordinary embellishment of the altars during the last days of the festival – known as “retablos”, is inspired by the desire to out do the previous year’s altar decoration. These incredibly elaborate displays are achieved through floral arrangements, and the wide use of fabrics, lights, and tapestries, with a sumptuous array of candelabras and decorative vases.

The May festivals have contributed much to Priego’s musical and cultural heritage and raised it to a level that would not be expected in a town of this size. The finest choirs and orchestras of the region attend the religious ceremonies to perform the hymns and arias.



## Colour, beauty and solemnity

**[** *These May celebrations have taken on an extreme solemnity and as such certain aspects of the Brotherhoods actions have become almost rituals. Characterised by the decorated retablos (altars), the refined accompaniment of musical bands and choirs, and sermons by some of the most prestigious preachers* **]**

The climax of the religious celebration for each Brotherhood is the procession which takes place on the Sunday evening. These processions are clearly festive.

In contrast to Holy Week, the tone in May is not one of penitence, but of celebration: the penitents' robes and hoods make way for long lines of women dressed formally in black, wearing the mantilla – the traditional Spanish lace veil. The members of the Brotherhood walk alongside the icon, which is decked out in splendour on its intricately-decorated dais, and with its bearers wearing suits. To add to the sense of occasion, thousands of rockets are launched and there are firework displays, whilst military and civilian bands thrill onlookers with martial music.

Finally, we should mention the fundraising that supports these festivals and is another of the town's characteristic traditions – these festival auctions are commonly known as “rifas” and are held throughout the year by the Brotherhoods.







## [ Corpus Christ ]

The “seises” (ten children) dance in order to destroy the saw dust carpets

**T**he festival of Corpus Christi – the body of Christ – was first celebrated in Priego in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. It was adopted with such enormous enthusiasm that by the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Priego was described as “the most outstanding town in which to celebrate this great festival”.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were productions of biblically-inspired theatre or “divine comedies”; there were dances performed in a variety of styles – Portuguese, gypsy, pastoral, from the Americas, in the courtly French manner or with sleigh bells. There were also impressive firework displays.

At present, this celebration consists of a tour that passes through one of the oldest and the most important parts of Priego, the old town “La Villa”. At this time the neighbourhood takes on a new lease of life. All the walls are newly whitewashed by the residents and adorned with flowers in honour of

the passage of the spectacular silver monstrance which holds the Host of Christ. To complete the atmosphere multicoloured drapes and shawls are hung from every balcony and the streets are decorated with a carpet of flowers that perfumes the air as the procession passes.

The night before, the “La Villa” neighbourhood is the scene of the most traditional fiesta in Priego.

**[** *As a visitor, this is a great chance to experience the true warmth and hospitality of Priego* **]**

# [Pilgrimage]

If you are keen on open-air religious celebrations, in the middle of the countryside, you should join the pilgrimage for the Virgin of “la Cabeza” in June. This festival is a mixture of leisure, enjoyment and local religious rites and traditions.

Every year since 1976, the pilgrimage of the Virgen de la Cabeza has taken place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June. Nowadays, the pilgrimage heads for the shrine, built to honour the Virgin, in the Sierra Cristina.

The proclamation of the pilgrimage takes place on Friday. On Saturday the pilgrimage begins after the Catholic Mass finishes. The Virgin passes through the streets of Priego, carried on the shoulders of women and accompanied by many “romeros” or pilgrims. Finally the Virgin reaches her decorated carriage, pulled by oxen, and continues her journey to the “Sierra Cristina”. Here, those that have spent the night in the open sharing food and rejoicing, await her arrival.

On Sunday, there is the celebration of the Catholic Mass and many other activities, amongst which the race of ribbons on horseback is the most traditional.

In the evening, the Virgin returns to Priego accompanied by the “romeros” who sing as they go. When the Virgin arrives, she is greeted by crowds of people who escort her to the gates of the Church. Her and they go with her until the Church.





## [ The Royal Fair (Fería Real) ]

In the first days of September our streets are garlanded with brightly coloured lights to celebrate the annual fair. An event dating back to 1842, when local people used to meet to buy and sell livestock.

Originally located in the centre of the town, it used to attract its share of magicians, jugglers, market traders, circuses, and all sorts of other attractions.

Nowadays, the event is held in the Niceto Alcalá-Zamora Park on the edge of town, and it has become the main fair in the south of Córdoba province, attracting a large number of visitors from the surrounding area and beyond.

It always features a range of casetas (stands), offering music, food and drink, along with traditional fairground attractions to please children and parents alike. The citizens also dress up in their best flamenco outfits, many of them riding horses, which have been especially adorned for the occasion, with decorated bridles and plaited manes and tails.

The most important day of the fair is on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, when many people from the surrounding villages come in and spend the whole day at the Fair.

During the fair, the bullfight takes place in the town's century-old bullring called "Coso de las Canteras".



# [Candlemas]

On the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we celebrate the presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. During the night Priego maintains the custom of lighting “candelas” – or bonfires – a tradition kept alive and encouraged by the work of the various Brotherhoods and associations that ensure that neighbours and visitors can get together.

In the morning, the people of Priego make sure that they get some traditional “rosca”, a kind of bagel, which they take to church to be blessed. Then they either take them home, or to the Candlemas to eat, spread with local olive oil, crushed olives and salt cod.

On the previous night, in the local country houses and villages, bonfires are set up at the front doors.

Get your “rosca” and have it blessed. Then take the opportunity to enjoy a great local delicacy.



# [Carnival]

Carnival has perhaps become one of the most creative celebrations in Priego. It's a chance to see how inventive we are. Sit back and watch the artistic costumes people have designed as they parade through the streets.

It takes place between the months of February and March, before the start of Lent, and this diverting pageant will keep you entertained well into the night.

This is truly a colour themed celebration. People go to great lengths each year to design ever more elaborate and original costumes.

If you like having fun and dressing up, why not visit Priego during this celebration? You can participate in the costume competition and the traditional parade which takes place on the Saturday afternoon at the culmination of the celebrations.

# Our traditions



## [Flamenco]

**P**riego, in the south of Córdoba province, like the rest of Andalusia, has accumulated its own examples of folklore that come from the different cultures of the area.

These customs persist to this day, forming the deeply engrained identity of a town that has always valued its history.

A town that not only faithfully sticks to its history and traditions, but wisely reinterprets them, adapting them and making them relevant to the present day and to the next generation.

As you walk through the streets or linger in its squares, you will be unable to resist the temptation to find out more about Priego's folklore and customs that give it its identity.

The Flamenco is one of Priego's most bewitching and spirited traditions. A small association of local people put a lot of effort into instilling the emotion and feeling of this music into our young people.

### THE BEGINNING

The inaugural meeting to set up the society "Peña Flamenca Fuente del Rey" was held in 1979, and from then on, the "peña" became a reality. Flamenco music started to occupy what should always have been its rightful place in the town's artistic and cultural life.

In response to the overwhelming demand of the people of Priego, the association has put on a great variety of performances. Its annual festival has attracted all the major contemporary artists, who have brought in flamenco-lovers from all parts of Andalusia, and turned the festival into a not-to-be-missed date in the already star-studded regional calendar.

In May 1988, Priego town council gave the "peña" the use of part of the municipal arts centre, as its permanent home. After this space had been suitably fitted out, in August 1989, the association commenced its cultural programme of performances, in what remains its home to this day.

In January 2001, members unanimously agreed to include the designation “cultural association” in the club’s name – and so it became the “Asociación Cultural Peña Flamenca Fuente del Rey de Priego de Córdoba”.

## HISTORY

Flamenco, however, has followed its own course, running in parallel to the mainstream cultural life of Priego. Historically flamenco was often viewed as a second-class art form, and this discrimination marginalised it and led to its exclusion from the calendar of more conventional events.

But even though it did not enjoy the artistic acceptance that it deserved, Flamenco continued to grow in Priego, through high class one-off festivals, attracting some of the greatest artists of their time.

Despite these difficulties, Priego has produced a few nationally-recognised figures in the world of flamenco – such as José Roperó Miranda, known as the “Niño de Priego”, who starred in “Opera Flamenca” between 1926 and 1939; and more recently, Antonio José Mejías Portero, amongst others.

In 1979, the first flamenco festival in Priego was staged, as part of a charity event. It was so successful that the enthusiastic organisers decided that the moment had arrived to give flamenco music the place it deserved in Priego, and they mooted the possibility of founding of a “peña flamenca” – a flamenco enthusiasts’ society.

Priego celebrates its Flamenco Festival at the end of August, on the eve of the Royal Fair. It is a premier festival due to the many famous “cantaores” – flamenco singers – that perform.





# ["Trovos"]

## A dual of homespun ingenuity and improvised poetry

“Trovos” are spontaneous poems based on a traditional folk music rhythm. However, here in Priego, unlike elsewhere, the trovos are not accompanied by music and are just recited.

“Troveros” (people who recite trovos) must be resourceful and have the ability to improvise quickly. This traditional art form is fresh and spontaneous; a lyrical battle of wits, usually between two men, showing their knowledge about local culture and current affairs along with a prodigious verbal dexterity; they perform a poetic, unaccompanied musical dialogue, interlinking their phrases and trying to get the better of their opponent.

“Trovos” in Priego, although recited in a flamenco style, are never accompanied by music or dance. Their lyrics are called “coplillas” and they are usually five-line stanzas of eight syllables. The lyrics have to be quickly improvised and when a “trovero” cannot continue because of lack of inspiration, it is said that “esa letra

se socó”. Topics are also improvised and “troveros” must answer alternatively and immediately.

If you want to check out the verbal ability of the “troveros” for yourself, why not attend the trovos festival held each year on the last night of the Royal Fair.





"Hermanos de la Aurora", in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century

## ["Hermanos de la Aurora"]

The "Hermanos de la Aurora" (Brotherhood of "La Aurora") continue a four hundred year old tradition. They are a group of bell ringers that walk the streets of Priego, every Saturday night, singing coplas (a traditional style of folk song). These songs have a non-uniform metre, but always with the same melody, calling the faithful to pray the rosary and praise God, the Saints and their Mother, the Virgin of "La Aurora".

Throughout their longevity, some four hundred years, the sound of their instruments and lyrics have come to be considered one of the typical features of Priego.

This group is composed solely of men; some of whom play the instruments, some of them sing while others carry a cash box so that people can give donations.

Some of the lyrics of the "Hermanos de la Aurora" are:

*"A la Aurora venimos buscando,  
dicen que anda por este lugar,  
recogiendo rosas y jazmines  
para los hermanos que al rosario van."*

[On July 28<sup>th</sup> 1780, the Brotherhood of the rosary of "La Aurora" was going through the streets chanting prayers when they bumped into the rival Brotherhood of the rosary of "Las Mercedes". They started to insult each other which lead to a fight. This was the origin of the popular saying "vamos a acabar como en el Rosario de la Aurora" (end up badly) ]



A good idea  
*Going for a walk  
with the "Hermanos  
de la Aurora"*

Take the opportunity of strolling through the streets of Priego with them, listening to their sweet melodies. This is the oldest tradition that is open to visitors every Saturday night, from midnight.

[turismodepriego.com](http://turismodepriego.com)

# Festivals

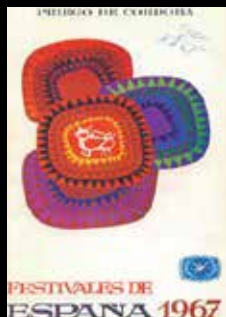
The Festivals in Priego de Córdoba are the third oldest in Spain, after those of Granada and Santander.

In 1948, a group of Prieguenses (natives of Priego), organised a series of concerts similar to those held in the gardens of the Alhambra, as part of the Granada Festival of Music. Álvaro Castilla Abril kindly lent his private gardens to the organisers, so that the celebrations could be held in surroundings worthy of the festival. The first concert was celebrated on the night of 1st September 1948 and this became the origin of the current International Festival of Music, Theatre and Dance.

The Festival was celebrated in the gardens "Recreo de Castilla" until 1957. In the posters and programmes of the time they are referred to by their former name, "Huerta de las Infantas".

Since then, many great orchestras, theatre and ballet groups, light opera and internationally famous artists have taken part in the International Festival of Music, Theatre and Dance, as it is now called.

Without a doubt, this is one of the most important cultural events in the region. It is held in August and there is a wide and varied programme that you can enjoy. Each year is notable for the exceptional performances.





**[ *Music, Theatre and Dance International  
Festival of Priego de Córdoba.***

Not only large companies but also local and regional artists get to perform in this festival. It is an event that is eagerly anticipated by the public all year long and that you will take to your heart ]

# Our handicrafts



## [ Imagery ]

### Creative hands

In Priego we still have many local artisans that keep alive the profession of handcrafted work which dates back many centuries. The traditional skill and ability needed to handcraft such works of art has been lost by most towns.

However, here in Priego we still have many people who work in the art of carving, statuary, gilding, cabinet-making and wrought ironwork.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the population enjoyed a booming economy thanks to the textile industry, the silk trade and the Franciscan monastery. This meant that the town was able to attract the greatest baroque artists to come and create the many fantastic works of art we see in Priego today. This ideal situation led to the creation of workshops to train new apprentices, a tradition that persists to the present day.

For this reason, the carvings you see throughout Priego in the houses and churches, closely follow the rules of Granada School baroque for the forms of objects, altars, furniture and cornucopias .

Wood carving and forging of wrought ironwork are the basic pillars of this craftsmanship. These artisan workshops which are engaged in restoring furniture, religious carvings and gilt work are famed throughout Andalusia and the rest of the Peninsula.



## [ Other handicrafts ]

You can admire the mastery of the wrought ironwork in the balconies and windows which decorate our streets.

There are other crafts that can still be seen, although they are becoming gradually scarcer, such as handmade fabrics woven on the wooden looms, known locally as “gobiernos”. All these crafts are the result of the important textile industry that existed during the 19th century in Priego de Córdoba.

These wooden looms use different coloured threads to make multicoloured fabrics of all shapes and sizes that can be used for bedspreads, blankets, curtains, etc.

The local women have also kept alive the skills of embroidery, crochet and lace making. Examples of which can be seen to this day.

In rural areas, the tradition of making your own agricultural and household goods still persists. Grasses, such as esparto, were plaited and weaved to make panniers for mules, baskets; and ropes can be made with horsehairs. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the strangest and most interesting activity is the weaving of straw.

The continuation of these traditions has helped in the organisation of ethnographic exhibitions, and will have a dedicated display in the new History and Archaeology Museum.



*[ If you are keen on the handicrafts in Priego, and want to visit its artisan workshops, just ask in the Tourist Office. Priego has a great variety of artisans specializing in statuary, forging wrought ironwork, cabinetmaking and many other crafts ]*

# it's yellow

[Gastronomy with taste]

The Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE) **118**  
Traditional cuisine **120**



"Remojón de naranja" with AOVE with Protected Designation of Origin "Priego de Córdoba".



## A place where flavour, scent and aroma combine

**P**riego is the flavour, scent and aroma that is at the heart of Andalusian gastronomy. Priego is famous for its excellent olive oil, its olive oil tourism and the amazing sweet and savoury dishes that take their origin from our traditional cuisine. Good common sense food, impeccably prepared. Check out our recipes in the cookery book “Entre Olivares”.

If you want to discover the secret of success in the kitchen, take a trip around our numerous local restaurants

and bars. They offer you a wide range of tapas and meals whose main ingredient is our wonderful extra virgin olive oil, Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba”.

In the afternoon and well into the night, Priego also offers you a wide range of places to enjoy a coffee or a drink, many with a terrace. Our nightlife is plentiful and varied.



[ Priego offers you a gourmet itinerary where you can experience the delights of traditional cuisine and the delicate flavour of our Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE) is central. Taste is the essence of Priego ]



## The best Olive Oil in the world



### Direct from the countryside to your table

**T**hanks to the climate that surrounds our ancient, traditional olive groves – known as “olive groves of the sierra” – in the heart of the Natural Park of “Sierras Subbéticas”, and the skill of our local farmers and producers, Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE) with Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba” has become one of the most famous and respected olive oils in the world.

The Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba” was created in 1998. The organisation carries out exhaustive quality control during the harvest, production and bottling of its Extra Virgin Olive Oils, in order to guarantee the source and best quality of the products.

The olive varieties used in the production of this amazing oil are “picuda”, “hojiblanca” and “picual”. The olives are harvested at the time of optimum maturity and careful use of physical and mechanical processes create a perfect balance and harmony in the olive oil.

The Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba” is known and appreciated worldwide. As can be seen by the large number of prizes received from Italy, Germany, France, the United States, China, Switzerland as well as Spain.

The Designation not only guarantees the quality of this excellent “liquid gold”, but also promotes tourism through the route “Turismo y Aceite” (Tourism and Olive Oil). We also support the oil mills and encourage them to offer visitors different activities and guided tours related to the olive groves and Extra Virgin Olive Oil.



There are many different activities: olive oil tastings to discover the nuances of its flavours and aromas and to learn the differences between olive types; walks through thousand-year-old olive groves; visits to mills to see the production process of olive oil. And of course, you can taste our delicious dishes and tapas whose main ingredient is our Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

The route “Turismo y Aceite” (Tourism and Olive Oil), involving most of the olive mills in our region and the Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba”, is dedicated to promoting knowledge of this excellent product; also to raising awareness both of the producers and the consumers through numerous interactive activities.

It is unforgivable to visit Priego without getting some bottles of Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE) with Protected Designation of Origin “Priego de Córdoba” to share with your loved ones.

Without doubt the most desirable present, the gift of health.



Extra Virgin Olive Oil



## A good idea “Turismo y Aceite” Route”

This itinerary offers you the chance of participating in different activities related to the world of Extra Virgin Olive Oil. You can enjoy olive oil tastings sessions, visit olive oil mills to see the production process in situ and try the amazing breakfasts called “molineros”.

[turismoyaceite.com](http://turismoyaceite.com)

## Traditional cuisine



### [ Home cooking ]

#### Eating is a heavenly delight

One of the reasons to keep coming back to Priego will undoubtedly be its traditional cuisine: olive oil, artisanal products for the sweet tooth like “turrolate” – a chocolate bar with almonds or hazelnuts – or sausages like “relleno de Carnaval”, an explosion of flavours on your tongue.

Here, wisdom is not only passed on by mouth, but also through taste. Our traditional cuisine is full of dishes you can cook at home thanks to our cookery book “Entre Olivares”, a wonderful selection of recipes that always feature our Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE).

In this book, you will find traditional dishes ranging from scrambled eggs to meat and fish recipes, notably “rabo de toro” – oxtail – cod with Extra Virgin Olive Oil, “flamenquín” – a roulade of pork and ham –, etc.

[ A colourful cuisine for all tastes. The red of “salmorejo” – a blend of fresh tomato, garlic and olive oil – and the orange of “remojoón” – oranges with cod and hard-boiled egg ]



When you do a culinary tour to try our most typical dishes, you will discover a world of not only taste and aroma, but also colour.

Red tomatoes, green Extra Virgin Olive Oil and the white and yellow garnish of egg merge together to create the “salmorejo”, a recipe that will leave you speechless.



Another mouth watering dish, “Remojón”, is a typical dish here, made of oranges, cod and, obviously, Extra Virgin Olive Oil. What colour do you think this dish is?



The “Relleno de Carnaval” is a kind of sausage that is made especially for that celebration and is unique to our region.

Another example of our native cuisine is the “revuelto de collejas” (scrambled eggs with the plant shoots of bladder campion), which can be found in many of our restaurants and tapas-bars.



In addition, Priego offers you a delicious selection of traditional sweets like “barquillos”, “isabelas”, “tocino de cielo”, millefeuilles... All these traditional sweets can be bought in local cake shops.

But one of the star products of Priego is undoubtedly “turrolate”, a chocolate bar with almonds or hazelnuts.

During Holy Week we also make traditional products such as “pestiños” and sweet pasties; at Christmas, you can try our delicious “mantecados” and the “arrosoli” or “rosoli”, a drink made of coffee, anisette, sugar, cinnamon and herbs.

A cuisine full of regional character. Try some and take it with you to share with friends.



# [Products straight from the countryside]

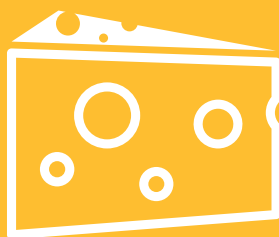
The best product in the vicinity is the Extra Virgin Olive Oil (AOVE), an essential ingredient for Priego cuisine and one of the best AOVE in the world. We should also note that olives are not just used to produce olive oil, but also conserved for eating, here called "aliñás", and used with all types of different recipes.

Throughout the year, we make different jams with quinces. This fruit is gathered at harvest time and has become another notable ingredient in the local cuisine. Priego has one of the biggest plantations of quince trees in the Peninsula,

Many different products are made from the fruit of the quince tree: quince jelly, compote, liqueurs, etc. An especially delicious combination is our quince jelly with the local goat cheese.

Indisputably, the mushroom is another typical product of Priego. When it is cold and rainy, you can find them everywhere up in the mountains. So, get a basket and collect as many different kinds as you can.

If you are in Priego when the mycological conference takes place, you are welcome to visit and to try tasting different dishes made with mushrooms. Even better, why not attend a conference and learn about the mycological world.





Flamenquin' ●



*[ Priego offers a wide range of culinary delights thanks to our highly qualified and enthusiastic chefs that continually enhance our cuisine, year on year.*

**Take our advice: The best option for a healthy diet is the Mediterranean diet ]**



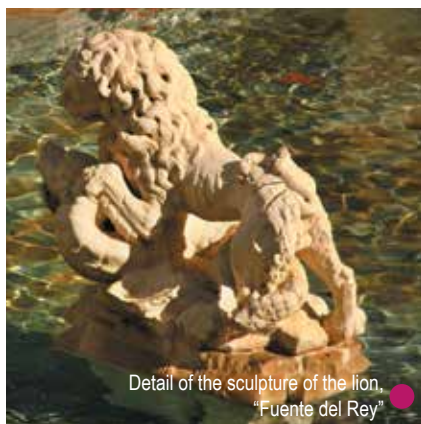
Scrambled eggs with bladder campion ●

# [Your have to visit these places]

## Must see places, if you are passing through



Place of "Santa Ana" ●



Detail of the sculpture of the lion,  
"Fuente del Rey" ●

If you are not staying in Priego de Córdoba, but merely passing through with only a few hours spend here. Here a few places you must visit:

- The Sacristy of "La Asunción": a masterpiece of the Spanish Baroque. Its rococo exuberance will amaze you.
- The "Fuente del Rey": a natural spring, a glorious meeting of stone, mythology and water. It has one hundred and thirty nine water spouts that pay homage to the sculpture of King Neptune.
- A walk through the Old Town "La Villa": with many narrow streets, an enchanting blend of the whitewashed houses and the colours of the flowers.
- "Balcón del Adarve": finish your walk here at this natural balcony with its lovely views of the "Subbética". The perfect harmony of nature and the townscape.



Sacristy of the Church of "La Asunción" ●



"Balcón del Adarve" ●

## .....If you can stay awhile

Even if you visit Priego de Córdoba for just one day, you will want come back and find out more. With only a few hours ahead of you, you can start with:

- A traditional “molinero” breakfast. A good way to taste the best Extra Virgin Olive Oil with bread, then add something sweet or savoury.
- Next, you can visit the medieval Castle, which was originally a Moorish fortress (the 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> centuries). From its tall battlements you can get a great view of the town.
- Near the Castle, there is the Church of “La Asunción”, which has a spectacular inter-play between its different roofs. Inside the sacristy is a masterpiece of the Spanish Baroque.
- After the Church of “La Asunción”, you should visit the “Carnicerías Reales”, a former slaughterhouse from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is a beautiful mannerist entrance and a magnificent spiral staircase.
- If you want to learn more about the town, try our museums: start with the Local History Museum and the House-Museum of Niceto Alcalá-Zamora (First President of the Second Spanish Republic) and then the House-Museum of Adolfo Lozano Sidro.



A “molinero” breakfast with AOVE



A central patio in “Carnicerías Reales”



The Local History Museum

- Now you are in the town centre, do not miss the chance to try and enjoy the Priego cuisine. There are many restaurants and tapas bars which offer you a great variety of tasty dishes.
- After eating, go for a walk to the “Fuente del Rey” and the “Fuente de la Salud”, where you can relax while you are listening to the sound of water.
- From here, it’s a short stroll to the Old Town “La Villa”. Its narrow winding streets will carry you back to Arabian times.
- To finish, amble around the gardens “Huerto de las Infantas” and then say goodbye to Priego as you enjoy the amazing sunset from the “Balcón del Adarve”. See how the shadows moving over the countryside mark the passage of time.



## If you are staying for a weekend break

Here is a guide to Priego for those who have a bit of time to spare. We are sure that if you follow this guide it will awaken in you a passion for this town and that you will have to come back. You can choose from these different options:

- Wake up in a charming hotel or in a rural cottage. Experience the charm of the town or the countryside.
- You can start the day in the countryside, visiting the small villages around Priego. Or for the more adventurous, there is active tourism: horse-riding, caving, hiking, mountain biking and rafting.
- But if you prefer cultural pursuits, you can visit the town with its baroque churches and civic monuments, or perhaps spend some time studying the details of one Priego's mansion houses.
- If you are keen on cultural tourism, you can visit our numerous museums, such as the house-museums of local dignitaries. If you wish you can hire a guided tour. But, if you prefer nature, you can go for a walk through the Natural Park of "Sierras Subbéticas", where you will find places of charm and great beauty.
- For those keen on culinary tourism, you can choose between a tapas tour through the different bars or to stay at a restaurant with its diverse menu. But you will be sure to find the main ingredient of all its dishes is the AOVE.
- In addition, you can enjoy olive oil tastings or visits to the olive mills, where this liquid gold is prepared.
- And if you have any time left over, you can go shopping in the commercial district, enjoy one of Priego's cultural events or relax in the Arab Baths.







## [ A region at your feet ]



**P**riego de Córdoba is in the south of Córdoba province, close to the provinces of Jaén and Granada. It is an hour and a half to the “Costa del Sol” in Málaga province. You can get to Granada or Córdoba in an hour and it is less than 2 hours from Seville.

It is part of the “Subbética” whose municipalities are in the heart of Andalusia.

Priego works in harmony with the other towns in the region to provide the tourist with a full complement of services. With its surrounding villages it can offer a wide variety of tourist destinations, above all, in the range of historical and artistic heritage. Through our conservation of the natural environment, our craftsmanship and folk traditions, we have not just preserved them, but maintained their vibrancy for the present and the future.

Priego is a good starting point for an adventure. Your visit can be as long as you like, because of the wide range of tourist experiences on offer.





Sailing club in the reservoir of Iznájar

Some of the complementary resources you can find here:

- Hiking routes around the “Sierras Subbéticas”, through the municipalities of Carcabuey, Rute, Cabra, Luque, Zuheros, etc.
- If you want to cycle, then follow the cycle routes along the “Via Verde” (Green route) in the “Subbética”, where you will find a route called “Tren del Aceite”. There is also a great variety of mountain routes in the “Sierra Subbética”.
- You can do Active Tourism: rafting in the river Genil, Via Ferrata, climbing, caving, sailing club in the reservoir of Iznájar, etc.
- There are visits to artistic and natural monuments in the region: the bat cave or “Los Murciélagos” in Zuheros, a conservation area; the Sanctuary of “San Mateo”, a well-known baroque cathedral, in Lucena; the medieval Castle of Iznájar, the best lookout in the “Subbética”.



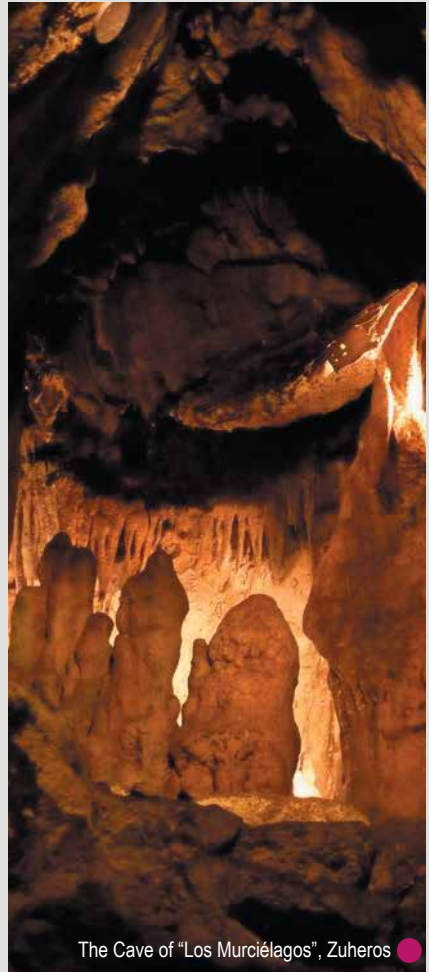
The Greenway in the “Subbética cordobesa”

Priego borders the province of Jaén and is close to Alcalá la Real, where you can visit the fortress “La Mota”, its the most symbolic monument of the town’s historical significance. It was the meeting place of many cultures. It has a walled enclosure, where you can find the Castle, the Church and different settlements.

If you are keen on the past, you must go to Almedinilla, where you can visit the Roman villa “El Ruedo”, here you can find out all about the secrets of a Roman house located in the countryside; or at “el Cerro de la Cruz”, an old Iberian settlement.

If you are interested in the cuisine, there is a gastronomy route based on the AOVE produced in this region. In addition we would like to highlight different culinary events that occur throughout the year, when you can enjoy various traditional dishes in a pleasant atmosphere. For instance: the Cheese Festival in Zuheros, amongst others. You can also buy other typical products from the region: Healthy olive oil fried crisps, quince jelly, etc.

Complete your trip with a visit to the village of Rute, known for its anisette, its “mantecados” (Christmas sweet made from flour, almonds and lard) and at Christmas time, its nativity



The Cave of “Los Murciélagos”, Zuheros



Rafting

scene made of chocolate; or taste the appetizing wines from the cellars of Doña Mencía, Lucena and Cabra.

- Find out about the habits of our ancestors through historical recreations, such as: “Festum”, an Iberian-Roman festival where you can learn about the old civilisations of Almedinilla; the re-enactment in the palace of “Santa Ana” in Lucena, where you will be greeted by the Count himself; or the “Perla de Sefarad”, where you will learn about the Sephardic past (Jewish Spain).

- Also you will find opportunities to take part in some of our local traditions, such as the carnivals celebrated throughout the “Subbética”, for instance: the Carnival in Rute; the “Pascua de los Moraos” in Carcabuey, which is celebrated on Resurrection Sunday, in which a “Las Murgas”, a humorous group of street musicians play satirical songs mocking politicians and local dignitaries alike; the “Danzantes” (folkloric dancing group) in Fuente Tójar, who thank “San Isidro” for their harvest; there are an endless supply of surprising adventures for you to discover.





CAMINOS DE PASIÓN

[www.caminosdepasion.com](http://www.caminosdepasion.com)

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Excmo. Ayuntamiento de  
priego de córdoba  
Delegación de Turismo

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**Diputación**  
de Córdoba