

PROVINCE OF CIUDAD REAL

*You'll want to come back  
Castile-La Mancha*



Castilla  
La Mancha  
Turismo





## HISTORY

There are many remains in this province of prehistoric times, including Neolithic cave paintings in the Sierra Morena area, particularly those of Fuencaliente; the motilla (man-made mound of earth) at Azuer (Daimiel, which dates back to the Bronze Age; the village of Bienvenida (in the Alcudia Valley) or the newly-discovered Cerro (hill) de las Cabezas in Valdepeñas, which was already populated in 600 BC.



*Castle-Convent.. Calatrava La Nueva*

There are remains of other eras and pre-Roman cultures that lived in this area, including the Oretians, who must have lived in Oreto (now Granátula de Calatrava) and the Carpetians, whose capital must have been Toletum. Their main fief must have been Laminium, which some experts believe to be Alhambra and others believe to be Fuenllana. Both these places were villages populated by people who worked the land, kept cattle and waged battles, to judge from the ploughing instruments and weapons that have been found. These are exhibited in the provincial museum.

In the third century BC, the Carthaginians reached the Iberian Peninsula and in 228, Asdrubal, one of their chiefs, took Oreto.

Not long after this in the next century, the Romans began to make their way into this area (around 190 BC). Rome's superior military strength allowed them to defeat the Oretians and the Carpetians and start a long process of conquest and cultural control. We can find remains of this in La Bienvenida (Almodóvar), Alces (Alcázar), Sisapo (Almadén, which had important mercury mines which were already being worked in those days), Carcuvium (Caracuel) and Laminium.

The Germanic tribes we know as the Visigoths came to the Iberian Peninsula around the 5th century AD. The Visigothic kingdom of Toledo was consolidated the following century, but there are very few remains demonstrating this. One of the few indications we have is that Oreto was consecrated as an ecclesiastical diocese.

When the Moors invaded Spain in the 7th century, we know that the Berbers settled in this area, whereas the Arabs settled in the more fertile parts of the Guadalquivir Valley.

The first buildings they constructed were fortresses along the main routes, as we can see in Calatrava la Vieja (in Carrión).

Peace reigned in this area during the many centuries of rule of the Caliphs of Cordova, but in the 12th century the Christians started to advance towards the south from Toledo. In 1147, Alfonso VII took the Castle of Calatrava, repopulated the area and granted it a royal charter. Shortly after this, in 1158, Raimundo de Fítero and some of his companions founded the Military Order of Calatrava, taking as a model the French Cistercian Order. The Order of Calatrava immediately gained control of most of the province, from Villarrubia de los Ojos or Malagón in the north to Almurdiel in Sierra Morena, for the rest of this century and the following centuries.

The Order of Santiago (St James), founded in 1170, took control of the easternmost part of the province, from Campo de Criptana or Pedro Muñoz in the north to Montiel, Montizón (Torre de Juan Abad) or Infantes in the south.

Finally, the Order of San Juan (St John) controlled the north-eastern part of the province, from Alcázar to Ruidera.

These orders helped the Crown in its military expansion throughout Moorish territory and in exchange received privileges from the Crown to enable them to repopulate the areas they had occupied. This led to the type of territorial control which lasted in this province almost until the Expropriations of the nineteenth century.

At the end of the twelfth century, in 1195, Alfonso VIII's troops were defeated by the Moors in Alarcos, very close to what is now Ciudad Real, and this meant that the Christians moved back northwards again.



*Windmill.  
Campo de Criptana*



However, in 1212 a group of Christian kingdoms mounted a counteroffensive and took Malagón, Alarcos and Calatrava and later defeated the Moors at a decisive battle in Las Navas de Tolosa, in Sierra Morena. This opened up the way for them into Andalusia.

Between 1213 and 1220 the new castle-convent of Calatrava was built (in Aldea del Rey) as a reflection of the renewed power of the Order. In 1249, Ferdinand III granted the Order the rights to the mines in Almadén.

Shortly after this, in 1255, his son, Alfonso X, founded Ciudad Real as a town dependent on the Crown in order to balance the immense power of the Orders in this area, and granted it a charter (Carta Puebla) to encourage resettlement.

The centuries following are characterised by the resettlement of the area on the one hand and the conflicts between the military Orders, the nobility and the Crown on the other. With the political consolidation that was brought about by the unification of the kingdoms of Castile and Leon on the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabel, Ciudad Real's privileges of the Hermandad Vieja (Old Brotherhood) (1475) are confirmed, a tribunal of the Inquisition is set up here (1483), although it did

not last for very long, and a Court of assize was also established (1495) and remained here for eleven years before it was moved to Granada.

Halfway through the 16th century, the University of Almagro was founded and remained operative until the 18th century. The Palace of Álvaro de Bazán, Marquis of Santa Cruz and Admiral of the Emperor, was built in El Viso del Marqués, a feudal estate the Marquis had received from the King.

The 17th century was marked by plagues, droughts and bad harvests.

In the 18th century the ruling monarchs, the Bourbons, promoted the development of industry and in this province a Mining College

was founded and a hospital opened in Almadén.

At the beginning of the 19th century the uprisings against Napoleon's troops took place. The French troops were defeated at Valdepeñas, Santa Cruz de Mudela and Arenas de San Juan. Later there were important conflicts in the province between the supporters of Isabel (the liberals) and the supporters of Charles (the Carlists), the pretender to the throne. But the most important event of the 19th century was, without a doubt, the Expropriations of the communal and church lands, which cease to belong to the Church, Military Orders, Nobility and Town Councils and fall into the hands of business entrepreneurs, mainly from Madrid.

In 1863, the train from Madrid went as far as Ciudad Real and in 1877 the diocese of Military Orders was created, separating a large part of the territory of the province of Ciudad Real, which up until then had belonged to the sea of the archbishopric of Toledo.

The garrison at Ciudad Real played an important role in the restoration of the monarchy after the First Republic: under the command of the Count of Balmaseda, they joined the troops of General Martínez Campos and proclaimed Alfonso XII king.

The troops stationed at Ciudad Real, on this occasion the artillery of Ciudad Real, played another important role a few decades later, in a brief uprising against the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. This uprising was put down very quickly as there was no support in any of the other regions.

From an urban point of view, the town began to grow more steadily from the 1920s onwards and new housing districts were built for the working classes (mostly labourers, railway workers and workers on building sites) outside the town walls.

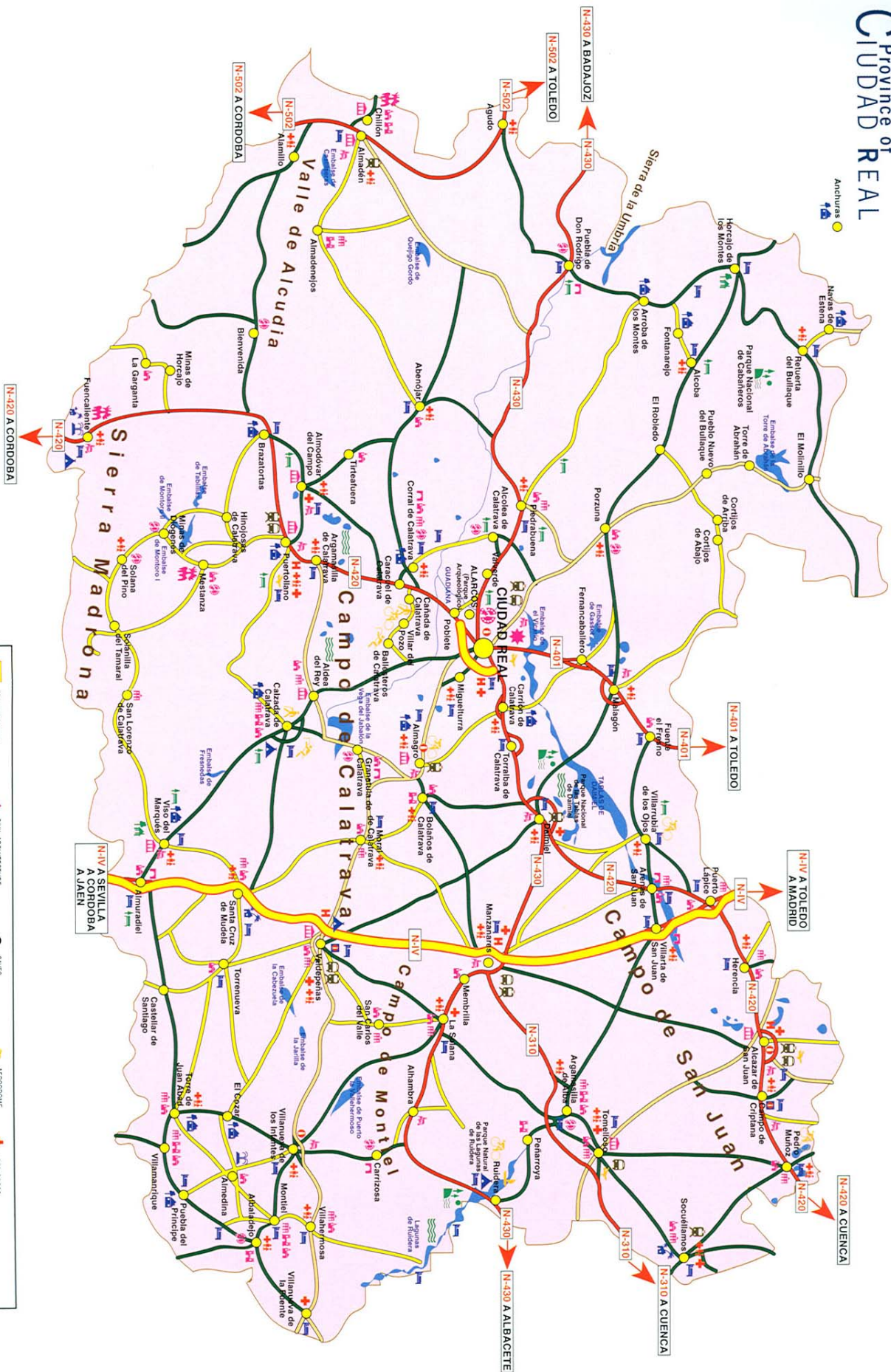


*Don Quixote's monument. Alcázar de San Juan*



*Viso del Marqués*



Province of  
CIUDAD REAL

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
|  | TOLL MOTORWAY                         |
|  | DUAL CARPARKWAY                       |
|  | MAIN NATIONAL ROAD                    |
|  | MAIN REGIONAL ROAD                    |
|  | REGIONAL ROAD                         |
|  | COUNTRY ROAD                          |
|  | LEISURE AREA                          |
|  | NATURE CLASSROOMS                     |
|  | MARSHLAND                             |
|  | PARKS                                 |
|  | CIVIL ARCHITECTURE                    |
|  | MILITARY ARCHITECTURE                 |
|  | RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE                |
|  | MONASTERY                             |
|  | WILDLIFE                              |
|  | EXCEPTIONAL MONUMENT OR HERITAGE SITE |
|  | CARE PAINTINGS                        |
|  | BRIDGE                                |
|  | ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE                   |
|  | CAMPS                                 |
|  | LODGING                               |
|  | BATHS                                 |
|  | CAMPING SITES                         |
|  | RURAL LODGINGS                        |
|  | CAMPING AREA                          |
|  | EQUESTRIAN                            |
|  | HORSE RIDING                          |
|  | GOLF                                  |
|  | SWIMMING                              |
|  | CANOES                                |
|  | WALKING                               |
|  | SALMON                                |
|  | FIRST AID                             |
|  | HOSPITALS                             |
|  | EMERGENCY TREATMENT                   |
|  | INFORMATION                           |
|  | TOURIST INFORMATION (INFO)RUM         |
|  | AIRPORT                               |
|  | BUS STATION                           |
|  | TRAIN STATION (RAIL)HEAD              |

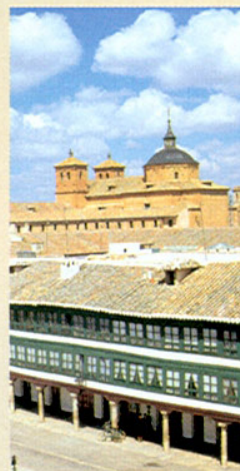


# Tourist Routes

## 19. ROUTE OF NOBLEMEN AND WINE

The interest of this route lies in the union of two very different elements like noblemen and wine. The most important events of the end of the Spanish Middle Ages took place along this route. Great battles were fought and many plots were hatched which would change the course of Spain's history. The Campo de Calatrava and the Campo de Montiel, fortresses, historic buildings and volcanic areas are just some of the attractions for the traveller to this part of the province, which was once under the control of the Military Orders. From Alarcos, where we start out from, we can follow a route, divided into two parts, through the places where the noblemen performed their feats.

La Mancha is one of the most famous wine-producing areas in the world; the many varieties of grapes grown here produce some of the best Spanish wines. Wine-tasting is offered at many of the cellars, and, do not forget, you are also in the region where the best Manchego cheese is made.



## 20. ALCUDIA VALLEY - SIERRA MADRONA

Some of the least familiar corners of the region will greet the visitor who travels along this route. Mines, beautiful open spaces that have not yet been altered by man, cave paintings, popular and industrial architecture and thermal springs. We can find the historical "greenhouse" of the Spanish central plateau; the Cañadas Reales (roads for driving cattle) from Segovia and Soria converge; and here we can find important archaeological remains.

This is a long route where the traveller can enjoy one of the most important symbioses of nature and architecture, geography and history.

## 21. FROM DAIMIEL TO RUIDERA. NATURE AND ART



This route takes in one of the most important marshlands in La Mancha: the National park of the Tablas de Daimiel and the National Park of the Lakes of Ruidera. These natural spaces have an important ecological value and constitute a surprising element in the flat lands of La Mancha.

The route followed here will take the traveller through a series of villages in the Ciudad Real area of La Mancha, which preserve their urban and historic heritage and many of them are faithful to their Cervantes tradition.

## 22. ROUTE OF DON QUIXOTE

This is one of the most typical routes of Castile-La Mancha, as it takes the visitor through several provinces and to some of the sights and villages which best define the landscape and architecture of La Mancha.

If we really do want to get into the spirit of Cervantes' Don Quixote, that Iberian and universal synthesis of the Renaissance, we have to make physical contact with the area. Rocinante, Don Quixote's horse, rode through this countryside and made it a universal territory, the ideal scene of the unforgettable physical and metaphysical adventures, full of chivalric honour and poetic emotion. Here we will not only walk the area, but we will also walk through the pages of literature's greatest myth: Don Quixote. Fiction will overtake reality to the point of annulling it altogether; the roads of La Mancha will become roads of the novel, winding paths through uncontrollable regions of the literary, those high regions where poets and Don Quixote change ordinary inns into castles with battlements of stone and glass.





## 23. CABAÑEROS AND THE NATURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN THE MONTES DE CIUDAD REAL

The area of Los Montes (the hills), situated in the western part of the province of Ciudad Real has always been an area that has never brought many visitors, is not cultivated and is sparsely populated. For this reason, it has been possible to preserve open spaces of great importance to wildlife and the landscape like Cabañeros, which is now a national park.

Here we can admire the best and biggest representation of the Iberian Mediterranean forest, with a huge variety of vegetable species and important fauna, both in terms of number and because of the high percentage of endangered species.

Here we will find the Spanish lynx, black vultures, golden eagles, black storks, thousands of deer, wild boar and roe deer.



### LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS



The variety and rich tradition of centuries, deeply rooted in this province, keeps the miracle emanating from expert craftsmen's hands alive. Throughout the province we can find a wide variety of crafts. In the capital, popular crafts are lace-making, wood-carving, leatherwork and pottery.

The most typical product made in the province is the well-known lace from Almagro. Although lace is mostly produced in Almagro, it is made in a large number of other places including Almodóvar del Campo, Pedro Muñoz, Bolaños, Hinojosas, Moral, Pozuelo, Valenzuela de Calatrava, Aldea del Rey and others.

Ceramics and pottery are also produced in places like La Solana, Alcázar, Tomelloso, Puertollano, Puerto Lápice, Villarrubia de los Ojos, Membrilla or Castellar de Santiago; rugs are woven in Valdepeñas; wrought iron can be found in Villarrubia de los Ojos, Campo de Criptana, Daimiel, La Solana, Almagro and Arenas de San Juan; knives are made in Santa Cruz de Mudela and Puertollano; leather goods and saddles and wineskin bottles are made in Alcázar, Piedrabuena, Tomelloso, Valdepeñas, Miguelturra and La Solana; La Solana is also famous all over the world for its sickles; vegetable fibres are produced in Socuéllamos, Puertollano and, above all, in Miguelturra.

Other crafts include the cloth-weaving and embroidery of Villahermosa and Pedro Muñoz, the jewellery of Alcázar, Puertollano and Valdepeñas; cloth painting in Los Cortijos and Valenzuela de Calatrava; stonework and marblework in Valdepeñas, Tomelloso, Villarrubia de los Ojos, Alcázar, Almadén, Puertollano and Socuéllamos.







## FIESTAS

A large number of festivities take place in Ciudad Real throughout the year, which starts with the San Antón Bonfires in Alhambra, Almuradiel and Castellar de Santiago, where they auction cockerels, or in Villarrubia de Santiago, where they raffle a pig. Between the January 23rd and 26th, in Villarta de San Juan the *Fiesta de las Paces* (Peace Festivities) take place.

In Membrilla, Corral and Moral de Calatrava, they celebrate the Feast of *La Purificación*, which is also celebrated in Fuencaliente with bonfires. To celebrate *San Blas* in many villages, people go to the country for a picnic and pilgrimages are held in some places like Almagro.

Now we come to **Carnival** time, which is the most important festivity in many villages in the province. In the capital, Ciudad Real, the carnival is celebrated with cavalcades of people in fancy dress and groups come from all over the province to take part. The most important part of the festival is *Domingo de Piñata* (the first Sunday of Lent). Other important places for carnival celebrations are *Herencia* (where the "Pele", a character who frightens children, roams the streets, and *Miguelturra* (where people wear masks and did so even when it was forbidden). In Alcázar de San Juan, the carnival celebrations are held in December. And in Solanilla they celebrate a fiesta called the *Jueves de Comadres*.

**Holy Week** celebrations are very special, particularly the processions in Ciudad Real, like the Silent Procession or the Good Friday Procession, where we can admire beautiful statues.

From Easter Sunday and throughout April and May, there are many pilgrimages to sanctuaries all over the province: Bolaños, Calzada, Argamasilla de Alba, Almuradiel, Alhambra, Piedrabuena, Membrilla, Campo de Criptana, Villarrubia (on Easter Monday), etc.

The Feasts of May are celebrated also in many places, including Alcázar, Campo de Criptana and Villarrubia and the celebrations in Pedro Muñoz are especially interesting.

Corpus Christi is celebrated too and is famous for the special dances that are performed in places like Porzuna, where twelve dancers, dance backwards, always facing the monstrance. On the eighth day in Puertollano they celebrate the *Santo Voto*. This celebration dates back to the 14th century.

In Albadejo, they celebrate the feast of Santiago (St James) with what is called the "*vaca ensogada*" (cow tied up with a rope) and on July 31st in Ciudad Real the famous "*Pandorga*", after the *Dulcineas* (young girls who offer floral tributes to the patron of the town) and the *Pandorgo* (the chief steward of the festivities) have been appointed by the mayor.

In August and September the festivities in honour of the patron saints of many villages are held: *Cristo de la Vega* in Socuéllamos, *Cristo de la Misericordia* in Pozuelo de Calatrava, the *Virgen del Espino* in Membrilla, etc., and from September 2nd to 8th in Valdepeñas, we have the famous *Wine Fiesta* and from September 15th to 19th, the oldest *encierros* (bull-corralling festivities) in Spain.

And so it goes on and on in this province, one fiesta after another, until *All Saints' Day* and *Christmas*.



## GASTRONOMY

Our food, which was immortalised by Cervantes in Don Quixote (he mentions no less than 150 ways to prepare food), is abundant and tasty.


Ciudad Real is the window of La Mancha, as far as food is concerned, and all the restaurants here serve food from all over the region. La Mancha is a game lover's paradise: venison, wild boar, rabbit and, above all, partridge, form the basis of many recipes: rabbit in garlic and tomato sauce, hare with rice, pickled partridge, partridge stew or partridge with butter beans, etc.

*Pistos* (a kind of ratatouille), roasts, aubergines, *migas* (fried bread with bacon, spicy chorizo sausage and paprika), *gachas* (a thick porridge made with lentil flour and flavoured with garlic pork and chorizo sausage) *galiano* or *gazpacho* (a thick soup made with partridge, rabbit, herbs and spices and a special unleavened bread called a *torta*) and *caldereta de cordero* (lamb stew) complete the menu. The most typical dish is *tiznao*, a stew made with ingredients that have been roasted beforehand: ingredients include flaked codfish, dried peppers, garlic, onion, olive oil and water.

And delicious wines to wash down all this food. This area has an abundance of wines with *Denominación de Origen* (similar to the *French Appellation d'origine contrôlée*) La Mancha and Valdepeñas. These wines have improved greatly over the last few years due to better production processes and will surprise even the most demanding wine-lover.

Manchego cheese is a magnificent hors d'oeuvre and is gradually being used in local recipes. It is also delicious served with honey as a dessert. Other desserts include the typical *bizcochá* (a sponge cake), *torrijas* (bread soaked in milk and fried in batter with honey or sugar and wine), *flores manchegas* and *pestiños* (pastries), *arrobe* (honey syrup) and *mostillo* (grape syrup).

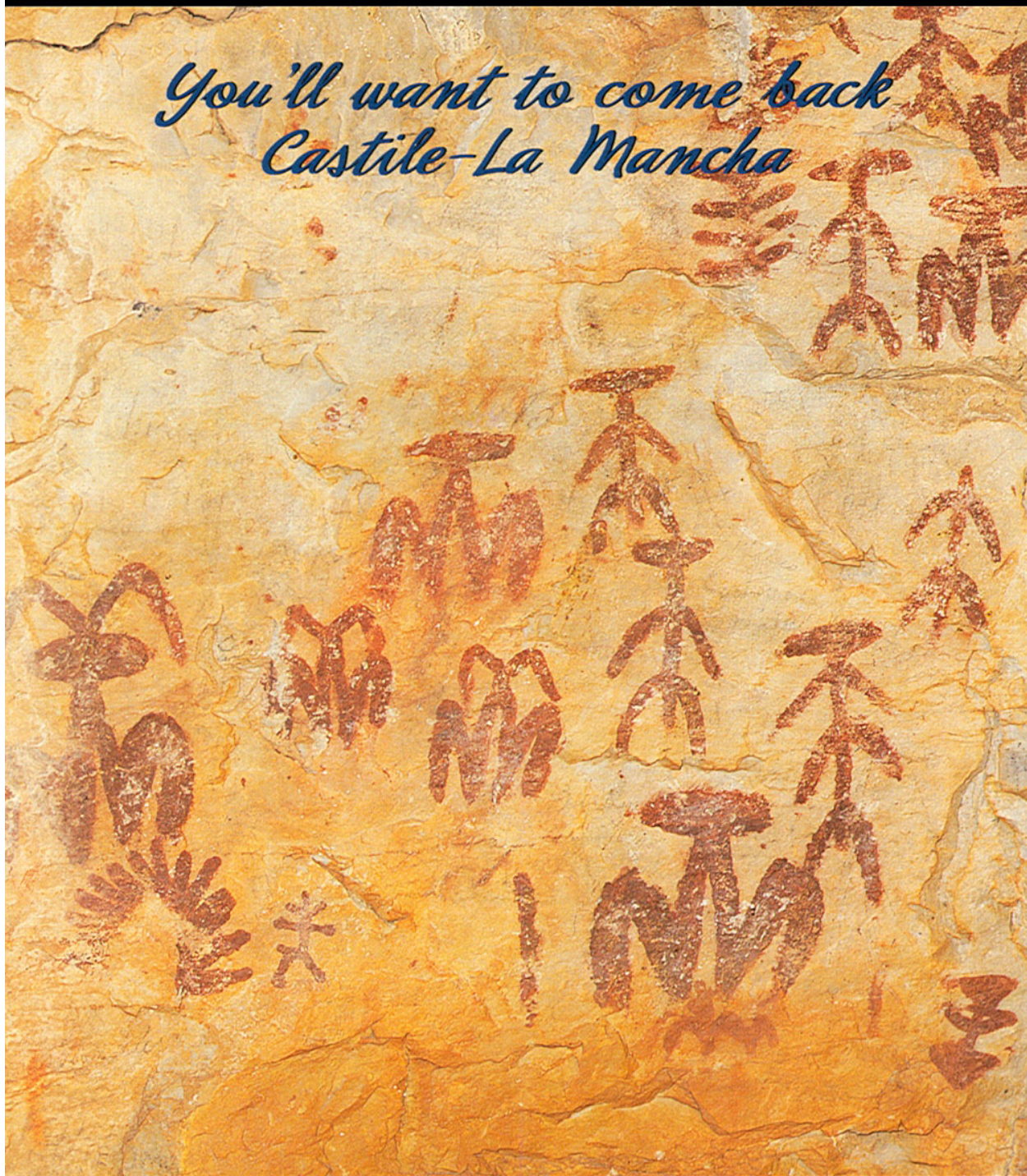


	LOCATION	ADDRESS	TEL. (926)	M	T	W	T	F	S	Sundays and Public Holidays
	CIUDAD REAL	Alarcos, 21, bajo	200037					8,00 - 15,00		CLOSED
	ALCÁZAR DE S. JUAN	Goya, 1	551008					10,00-14,00 • 17,00 - 20,00		
	ALMAGRO	Palacio del Conde de Valparaíso	860717					10,00-14,00 • 16,00 - 19,00		11 - 14
	CAMPO DE CRIPTANA	Barbero, 1 Cerro de los Molinos	562231	CLOSED				10 - 14 • 16 - 19		11 - 14
	DAIMIEL	Plaza de España, 1	260639					10,00-14,00 • 16,00-18,30		11 - 14
	PUERTOLLANO	Casa de Baños	420328					10 - 14 • 17 - 20		CLOSED
	SAN CARLOS DEL VALLE	Agapito Sánchez, 1	630011					10 - 13,30 • 18 - 20 Closed in winter	Winter 16-19 Summer 10-14 • 18-20	Winter 11-14
	TOMELLOSO	Posada de los Portales, 2.ª planta	515080	CLOSED				12 - 14 • 17,30 - 20,30	Summer 12 - 14 18 - 20	12 - 14
	VALDEPEÑAS	Plaza de España, s/n	312552					10,00-14,00 • 16,00 - 18,30		10 - 14
	VILLANUEVA DE LOS INFANTES	Plaza Mayor, 3	361321					11-13,30 • 16,30 - 18,30		11-13,30
	VILLARTA DE SAN JUAN	Plaza de la Constitución, 1	640601					Open 24 hours every day of the year		



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Castile-La Mancha*



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Dirección General de Turismo, Comercio y Artesanía

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Delegación Provincial  
CIUDAD REAL: Alarcos, 21, 1.ª planta  
CIUDAD REAL 13071 • Tel.: 926 279696 • Fax: 926 279674

