



Discovering

The Town's History

Abanilla still preserves its narrow, Medieval streets and noblemen's mansions and, in this respect, there is no better way to discover its historic past than enjoying a stroll around the old town. La Casa Pintada ("The Painted House") is a sixteenth century mansion that is so called because of its coloured façade, which boasts a remarkable portal featuring a rectangular frieze, replete with rounded pinnacles and the family coat-of-arms.

Very nearby stands the Casa de la Encomienda ("Commandant's Building"), which is where the Knight Commander of the Order of Calatrava would claim the local taxes. Of particular note are the mansion's spacious rooms crowned with groined vaulted ceilings. This mansion is currently used as a public building housing the Library, a local council offices and rooms for other local departments.



Located on the Plaza de la Constitución ("Constitution Square") is the Town Hall (1762), which features an extensive stone arcade replete with restored windows, ironwork details and mouldings dating from the period. The next stop on our tour is the Parish Church of San José (1709), which has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest and whose sober Murcian Baroque style contrasts with the marvellous original altarpiece dating from the eighteenth century. Opposite we see La Casa Cabrera, an eighteenth century mansion that features an artistic Rococo-inspired frontispiece featuring the family coat-of-arms.

Setting out from the Plaza de la Purísima, we will come across the Public Wash House, which is exceptional for both its beauty and for being one of the last working "lavaderos" in the Region of Murcia. This wash-house is fed by the underground waters of the picturesque Fountain in Calle Mayor. In the same square, opposite the main façade of the Church, we can see the Monument to the Moors and Christians, a homage to the local fiestas. From here we can lose ourselves in the series of charming Medieval alleyways that make up the Old Quarter, until we reach El Lugar Alto ("The High Point"), where, apart from the Image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the remains of the Moorish Citadel, we can enjoy some marvellous views across the whole area.

Abanilla Street Plan

- 1 Town Hall
- 2 The Church of San José
- 3 Wash House
- 4 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 5 San Pascual Hermitage
- 6 Remains of the arabic strength
- 7 Casa Pintada
- 8 Casa Cabrera
- 9 Monument to the Moors and Christians
- 10 Casa de la Encomienda
- 11 Auditorium
- 12 Tax office and Municipal court
- 13 Protección Civil
- 14 Guardia Civil station
- 15 Medical Center
- 16 Sta.Cruz - School
- 17 Musical school
- 18 Petrol station
- 19 IES Abanilla-Secondary School
- 20 Futbol Pitch
- 21 Dionisio Bueno- School
- 22 Municipal sports area
- 23 Sports centre
- 24 Old people home
- 25 Funeral home
- 26 Municipal building
- 27 Centre of recycling
- 28 Cemetery
- 29 Police station
- 30 Post office
- 31 Aquagest

i Tourist Information Office



Abanilla

The Surroundings

Take a trip out into the countryside around Abanilla and you will discover all the charms of the North-East of the Region of Murcia. You will find a tapestry of different aromas, textures and colours in which the craggy mountains of the area's four ranges combine harmoniously with a series of desert-like landscapes of almost moon-like appearance, giving rise to a number of startling shapes and formations carved out of the soft rock and creating a series of landscapes of genuine beauty. The arid nature of this dry setting, which is reminiscent of Palestine, contrasts with the lushness of the irrigated lands around Abanilla. It is a veritable pleasure to stroll among the reeds and rushes, palm trees, water channels and water-mills (in disuse today) that dot the banks of the backwaters of the River Chicamo.



The Town's Traditions

The Cross that greets us at the entrance to Abanilla along the Murcia road gives us an idea of the size and importance of the fiestas in honour of the town's Patron, the True and Holy Cross of Abanilla, which take place at the end of April and the beginning of May. Two dates stand out on the calendar: 1st May, when the Grand Moors and Christians Parade takes place and the town's streets are packed with more than one thousand locals dressed in luxurious costumes, marching to the rhythms of Moors and Christians as part of a grandiose spectacle that combines both tradition and beauty; and 3rd May, when the town's Patron is accompanied on a fervent pilgrimage procession full of dust, wine, firecrackers and music to the Hermitage of Mahoya, following the rituals set down in tradition. The "auroros" or "early-risers" of Abanilla begin the "Despierta" or "Wake-Up Call" in the early hours of Easter Sunday and continue every other Saturday right up until the month of September. In October, they celebrate their annual meeting, based on the participation of various regional groups. "The International Folklore Festival of the Town of Abanilla" takes place on the first weekend in August and attracts a number of international groups. This event has revived Abanilla's traditional folklore traditions and helps to keep it alive. Throughout the summer, various districts around the town celebrate their own saint's days with open-air celebrations, concerts, processions and so on.

Abanilla's main handicrafts consist of items made of esparto grass and handmade lace. The esparto-work, which is known locally as "cofin", was of considerable importance to Abanilla's economy up until the nineteen-sixties, when it practically disappeared. Products include presses for olive oil mills, basketwork, matting, sieves, cord and rope-work, hats, "marguales" (esparto instruments for pressing oil) and so on.

A-30 Murcia-Albacete Salida Jumilla A-33

A-7 Murcia-Alicante Salida Abanilla MU 414

A-7 Murcia-Alicante Salida Fortuna C-3223

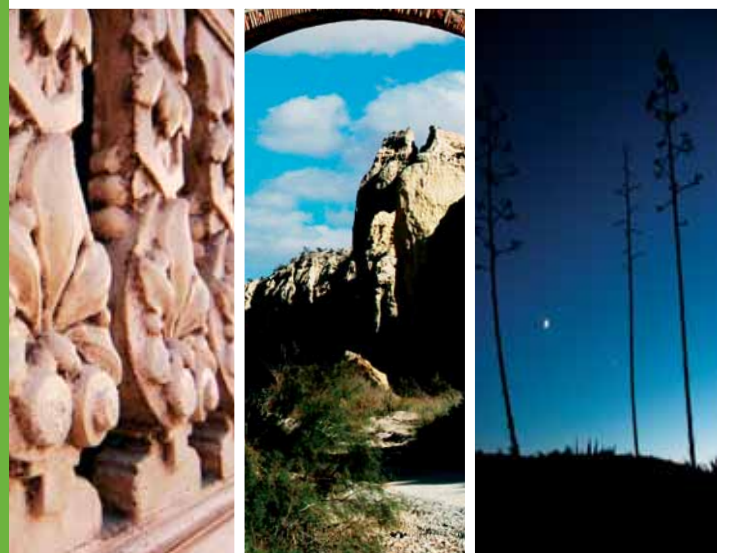
Ayuntamiento de Abanilla

Abanilla TURISMO

Región de Murcia no-typical

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Abanilla
full of surprises!

Ayuntamiento de Abanilla

Abanilla TURISMO

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Routes in Abanilla

The River Chícamo

The source of the River Chícamo is located to the north-east of Abanilla in the area around Macisvenda. This can be reached via the A-9 road that leaves the Town of Abanilla in the direction of the District of El Cantón. It is precisely these upper reaches of the River Chícamo that offer the most picturesque landscapes.



This route enables us to discover the area's beautiful eroded formations created by wind and water, not to mention the spectacular gorge known as the Cañón del Cajer. As we move further away from the source of the river, this unique landscape begins to be dotted with old water-mills and hamlets.



Cuisine

Local specialties include char-grilled meats, especially kid, as well as rice with rabbit and snails, homemade sausage meats, "gachasmigas" and "tortilleras", both typical rainy day dishes. We might also mention fresh vegetables such as broad beans and artichokes, which are known locally as "alcaciles". As far as the desserts are concerned, we come across local orchard fruits such as the famous Damascus apricots and "peretas" (which are exclusive to this area), not to mention dates, pomegranates ("granás"), figs, etc., and traditional cakes such as "buñuelos" (fritters), "almojábanas", "monas", fairy cakes, orange and anis rolls, and typical Christmas fare such as "almendrados" (almond biscuits) and "mantecados" (lard biscuits). Neither must we forget to mention cold-pressed olive oil prepared in the traditional way in the olive mills that are dotted throughout the area.

BARS, CAFETERIAS AND RESTAURANTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Bar "El Caliche"
C/ Emigrante, 6
Telf. 968 68 12 73 | Cafetería "Lennon"
C/ Historiador Juan Torres Fontes, 2
Telf. 968 68 06 59 |
| Restaurante La Posada
"Casa Pepe y Paca"
Avda. Francisco Salzillo, 22
Telf. 968 68 00 06 | Pizzería - Bar "Calypso"
C/ Juan Carlos I, 11
Telf. 619 02 88 08 |
| Bar "El Cruce Kino"
Crta. Orihueña, 1
Telf. 696 21 03 10 | Pizzería "Riquelme"
Pizzas para llevar
C/ Historiador Juan Torres Fontes, 4
Telf. 968 68 06 33 |
| Bar "Los Cerezos"
Avda. Libertad, 11
Telf. 968 68 04 83 | Bar - Restaurante
"Los Camioneros y Ana"
Avda. 1º de Mayo
Telf. 626 13 51 42 |
| Bar Kiosko "La Ermita"
Paseo de la Ermita
Telf. 647 45 62 37 | Restaurante "Los Capachos"
C/ 6 de diciembre, 6
Telf. 968 68 12 19 / 605 806 187 |
| Café - Bar "El Chambilero"
Avda. Francisco Salzillo, 9
Tif. 968 68 00 72 | Rancho "El Chambilero"
Paraje "El Añejo"
Crta. Abanilla - Macisvenda, km. 1
Telfs. 968 68 10 59 / 609 57 33 51 |
| Cervecería "La Plaza"
Plaza de la Constitución, 10
Telf. 636 70 80 86 | Hotel - Restaurante "Santa Ana"
Crta. Abanilla a Pinoso, 13
Paraje de Santa Ana
Telf. 968 68 12 01 • Fax 968 68 08 57 |
| Cervecería "Quinticos"
Avda. La Libertad, 15
Telf. 616 90 28 90 | Restaurante "El Niño del Tío Pepe"
Crta. Abanilla, km. 14
Polígono Industrial "El Semolilla"
Telf. 968 68 07 17 |
| Cervecería "Rosita"
C/ Victor Jara, 2
Telf. 675 84 74 00 | Mesón Restaurante "Los Carrillos"
Los Carrillos s/n
Telf. 639 15 46 30 |
| Cafetería-Confitaría "Caprixo"
Crta. Orihueña, 7
Telf. 691 09 88 03 | |

The Ravines

The eroded and rocky landscapes of Abanilla are spectacular in themselves due to the complete lack of vegetation. The best way to visit what are known as Abanilla's "lunar landscapes" is to set off near Los Baños, located in the Watercourse of La Parra. The absence of plant-life in this area highlights the beauty of the setting.



Sierra de El Cantón

The Sierra de El Cantón, one of the four mountain ranges located to the north-east of Abanilla, is another must for all keen walkers. It can be reached along a road that runs close to the Cañada de la Leña. This route includes both asphalted sections of road and well-maintained country tracks, enabling visitors to enjoy a series of beautiful landscapes, such as those of the Valley of La Boquera.



The Watercourses of La Parra and Balonga

The road that leads from Los Baños de Fortuna ("Fortuna Baths") to Barinas is the ideal starting-point for a trip along the Gullies of La Parra and Balonga. In winter, a small stream runs through these watercourses, but when they dry up in summer they provide the perfect trail for walkers to follow the riverbed and discover some of the magnificent scenery that captures the very essence of this inland area.



FOSSIL REMAINS OF QUIBAS

This site, which is located in the Sierra de Quibas, has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest due to its palaeontological remains and its abundant and varied wildlife (more than 60 species of reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds, etc.), not to mention the age of the site itself (the Late Lower Pleistocene Period, between 1.3 and 1 million years ago) and the likelihood of finding human remains.



Accommodation

- | | |
|---|---|
| H Hotel Santa Ana (**)
Crta. Abanilla-Pinoso
Paraje de Santa Ana, 13
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 968 681 201 | Cr° Casa Cueva del Agudo
La Rufa - Río Chícamo
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 968 641 912 / 639 651 311 |
| H Hotel El Niño del Tío Pepe (*)
Polígono Industrial, s/n
30640 Abanilla
Telf. y Fax 968 680 717 | Cr° Casa Cueva El Chicamo
La Rufa - Río Chícamo
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 968 641 912 / 639 651 311 |
| P Pensión La Posada Casa Pepe (*)
C/ Salzillo, 22
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 968 680 006 | Cr° Casa Gutiérrez I, II y III
C/ Gutiérrez
30649 Mahoya (Abanilla)
Telf. 968 790 990
Móvil 639 433 715 |
| AT El Saladar
Avda. de La Libertad
30649 Baños (Abanilla)
Telf. 968 686 221
Móvil 676 248 463 | Cr° Casa Cueva La Arboleda
Paraje el Partidor (Abanilla)
Telf. 618 29 91 25 |
| AT Apartamento Maruja
C/ Libertad, 6
30640 Baños (Abanilla)
Telf. 968 685 373 | Cr° Casa Cueva Río Chícamo
Macisvenda - Río Chícamo
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 968 687 276 / 629 279 497 |
| | Bed & Breakfast
Paraje El Salado, 16
30640 Abanilla
Telf. 645 467 099 |



Map of the Town

