

The parks and gardens of Badajoz are a faithful reflection of the time at which they were created. In the 19th century the first works were performed to landscape some public areas of the city, like the San Francisco or San Juan "walking salons". In the middle of the last century other areas were set aside for the creation of new parks: the moats of the old bastioned fortifications and the area of the old Citadel. The old parks from that period (the Children's and Legion Parks) are now being adapted in order to reconcile their enjoyment with the conservation of the fortified enclosure.

The new century has turned its attention to other areas of the city for the creation of new parks, on the banks of the Rivillas stream and the Guadiana, the latter park being one of the favourites for walking and playing sports among the people of Badajoz.

HOW TO VISIT THE PARKS AND GARDENS OF BADAJOZ

The locations of the different parks and gardens in the city allow you to perform a tour which joins them together in a long but comfortable walk. The layout of many of these gardens within the moats of the city's fortifications will allow you, in turn, to learn more about this rich historical heritage of Badajoz.

Before starting the tour of our parks and gardens we advise you to visit either of the **Tourist Information Offices**.



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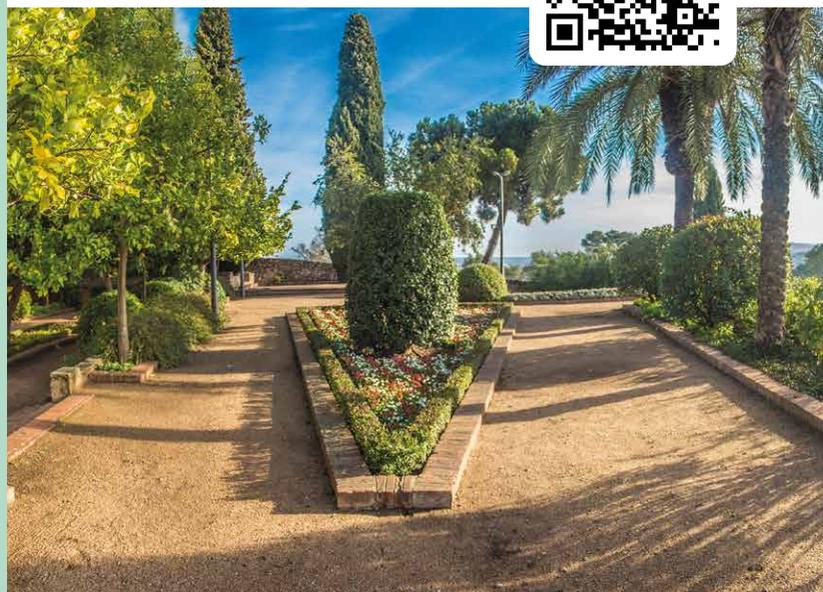
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ROUTE OF THE PARKS AND GARDENS OF BADAJOZ



Ayuntamiento de Badajoz
Concejalía de Turismo



elijoBadajoz

The gardens of Badajoz cannot be understood without knowing more about the history of the city, as the remnants of the past share the limelight with the trees and plants within them. We can thus find in our parks the remains of the walls, former chapels and sculptures by illustrious artists, elements of a highly valuable cultural heritage, as are many unique plant species growing in them.

The wall of the Arab Citadel, with its Espantaperros tower, serves as a backdrop for the La Galera gardens. The hornworks of the Palmas Bridge, with San Vicente's gate, serve as the entrance to the Guadiana's Park. Similarly, the gates of El Pilar and La Trinidad, including the postern in the Parque Infantil (children's park), have been transformed from the control points for access to the city into emblematic entrances to the gardens.

In the **gardens of La Trinidad**, near the large plane trees which provide shade and flank the exterior of the Saint Peter Bastion, stands a specimen of sequoia, a tree of great longevity of American origin. We should also mention the **tree of paradise** (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) from central Asia. Then there is the **ombú** (*Phytolacca dioica*), native to Argentina, with large visible roots, and a specimen of **Jerusalem thorn** (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), from the south of North America.



Trinity Gardens.

Inside the **Parque Infantil** we can find the *Koelreuteria paniculata*, native to eastern Asia, with beautiful yellow flowers, the **Norway maple** (*Acer platanoides*), from northern and central Europe, and the **tipu** (*Tipuana tipu*) from Argentina and Bolivia, with yellowish flowers.

Next to the entrance to the old building of **La Galera**, competing in height with one of the towers of the citadel wall, stands a specimen of the **silk floss tree** (*Chorisia speciosa*). Its trunk covered with thick spines reaches 10 metres high and its spectacular autumn blossom is also highly attractive.

Among the lemon and palm trees we can find a **camphor laurel** (*Cinnamomum camphora*), native to areas of tropical Asia, from which camphor is extracted, formerly prized for its medicinal applications.



Children's Park.



La Galera Gardens.

1 CITADEL GARDENS

The Park of La Alcazaba lies within the walls of the old Moorish Citadel of Badajoz. It was created upon the basis of the project of the architect and archaeologist Leopoldo Torres Balbás in 1938 and completed in 1946 in keeping with a project by Pedro Benito Watteler, the moments which gave it the great palm and pine trees which characterize it. Its present-day appearance is the result of the renovation carried out in 2007 which kept the original layout but supplemented it with lawns, slopes with aromatic plants and irrigation and lighting facilities.



For centuries the land it occupies has experienced the same political and military upheavals which have marked the history of the city. Therefore, scattered around the park, there stand buildings and archaeological remains from all ages, such as the Figueroa Palace (the current-day Provincial Archaeological Museum), the former Military Hospital (now the Library of Extremadura) and the remains of the chapels of La Consolación and El Rosario.



2 LA GALERA GARDENS

The La Galera Gardens occupy the space adjoining the wall of the Arab citadel situated between the Espantaperros Tower and the San Antonio half-bastion, the latter belonging to the bastion wall built in the 17th century. Its name comes from the building of La Galera, constructed in the 16th century and attached to the citadel, which has had several functions since then: prison, hospice, grain store, school and home to the Archaeological Museum. Another unique building in this are the remains of the so-called Torre Vieja, which houses a gateway into the citadel.



The creation of the gardens went in tandem with the transfer of the Archaeological Museum to La Galera in 1938. The first landscape projects were conducted by the architect Francisco Vaca Morales with the collaboration of the archaeologist Jesus Canovas Pesini. In 2007 the gardens were restored and definitively opened to the public.

We should highlight the walk with lemon and orange trees and the specimen of silk floss tree (*Chorisia speciosa*) next to the entrance to La Galera.

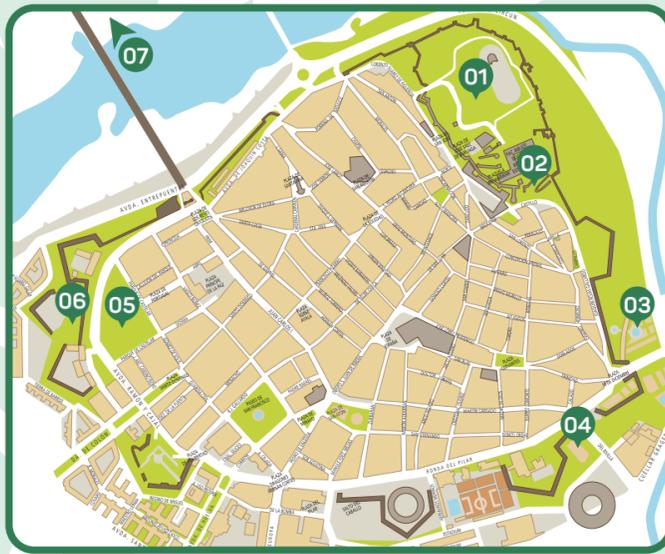


3 TRINITY GARDENS

The project for the gardens located within the moats of the bastioned fortification in the vicinity of the bastions of La Trinidad and San Pedro was drawn up in 1946 by Pedro Benito Watteler, the municipal architect. The old outer elements of the fortification were used, such as the bridges over the moat and the tenazón to make walks, avenues and squares with fountains. A few years later, the multi-talented artist Antonio Juez, responsible for the parks from 1948 onwards, added a river with an artificial waterfall from the moat of San Pedro, which runs through the remains of the moat and the counterscarp of the wall's covered path.



The inside of the Trinity bastion was emptied in 1956 to create a new garden presided over by the statue of the Héroe Muerto (Dead Hero), Juan de Avalos from Mérida, flanked by the designs of the Evangelists made for the base of the Cross of the Valle de los Caídos. The recovery of the bastion and the remains of the mediaeval wall has resulted in the removal of this part of the garden, preserving the sculptures of the Evangelists.



4 PARK OF LOS SITIOS

The gardens occupying the moat of the wall in the vicinity of the Bastion of Santa Maria extend the Park of La Trinidad to the west. This sector was recently renovated, removing some of the vegetation hiding the wall, making its enjoyment compatible with the conservation of the historical remains. In 2012 an obelisk was erected to commemorate the bicentennial of the siege of the city by the allied troops fighting the French occupiers, a siege which ended with the assault and capture of the city by the troops of Lord Wellington.



The park is divided by the former sports facilities located in the moat between the bastions of Santa Maria and San Roque, although its renovation is expected to give the park continuity by linking it with the gardens located around the Pilar gate. Thus, together with the Parque Infantil, it will form a green belt around the old town of Badajoz.



5 CASTELAR PARK

Castelar Park occupies the garden of the former Monastery of Santo Domingo. Its creation was approved in 1902 by the City Council, although the transfer of the land was delayed until 1904. The great palm trees and the general layout date back to this period. Its neglect during the Civil War and the devastation caused by a storm in 1941 led to its renovation.



The larger trees were preserved and some elements with the characteristic imprint of Antonio Juez were added: benches and kerbs covered with river pebbles, the pond with the sculpture of Carolina Coronado and that of José Sánchez Silva, built in 1953. A few years later busts of the painter Adelardo Covarsí and the poet Luis Chamizo were erected.



6 CHILDREN'S PARK

The Parque Infantil is located in the fortification moat, between the San Vicente and San José bastions. The person in charge of its construction in 1950 was once again Antonio Juez, who also took an active part in the renovation of other parks in the city. It owes its name to the fact that, from its creation, its purpose was to give "children a suitable place to play safely". It was therefore one of the first places in the city where awnings and swings and other children's games were set up, as well as a small pond. There is no shortage of benches and fountains decorated with river pebbles, with a particularly fine entrance through the old San Vicente Gate.



Inside stands the Monument to the Lady of La Soledad adjoining the wall, built in 1954, for which the facade of the former 18th century chapel was reused. In the park you can find the Ricardo Carapeto Burgos Auditorium, which reuses the Saint Vincent ravelin of the bastioned fortification. Since it was opened in 1960 it has borne witness to cultural events in the summer.

7 GUADIANA PARK

The Guadiana Park was created in 2015 on the right bank of the river as it passes through the city. Due to its location and size it is the park most used by the people of Badajoz of all ages, who enjoy its unique landscape assets and its modern sports and leisure facilities. The park stretches between the four bridges spanning the Guadiana, with large open grasslands stretching towards its banks and a new jetty. In the upper part there are different sports courts, children's playgrounds, stalls and cafés on wide esplanades. It also has a caravan park.

The creation of the park has allowed the recovery of the hornworks at the head of the Palmas Bridge, one of the oldest and most prominent elements of the bastioned fortification of the city.



The new park has been completed with the renovation of the park on the left bank, which also opens out towards the river with a new layout of its walks and woodland, and its connection to the Rivillas stream park.