

THE WALL OF THE ISLAMIC CITADEL

The city of **Batalyaws**, the Badajoz of the Islamic era, was surrounded by a wall. Within it there was another wall, protecting the **Al-kasbah** or Citadel, an administrative area and the place of residence of the rulers. It had the capacity to house a military garrison and sufficient reserves to withstand a prolonged siege.

Today the mediaeval wall which surrounded the city has disappeared, while the Citadel retains the wall from the Islamic period, mostly built during the Almohad period in the 12th century.

Today the Citadel is largely landscaped, with scattered ruins of old buildings such as the hermitages of La Consolación and El Rosario, the old church of Calatrava and the remains of some mediaeval fortified houses. They all stand alongside those which have appeared in recent archaeological excavations.



The wall. The wall was constructed using the rammed earth technique, and it has been continuously repaired and modified throughout History.



The citadel and the city. The wall surrounding the Islamic citadel separated it from the rest of the city.

HOW TO VISIT THE ALCAZABA OF BADAJOZ

You can visit the citadel of Badajoz in a **free tour**, following the rampart of its wall, from which you can gain access to the different settings of its inside. Throughout the route you will find the main elements of the citadel explained through informative boards, from which further information can be downloaded to your telephone by means of **QR codes**.

Before starting the route by the citadel, we recommend you to visit the **Tourist Office of the Mudejar Houses**.



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ROUTE OF THE ALCAZABA OF BADAJOZ



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Concejalía de Turismo



THE CITADEL OF BADAJOZ

WITNESS OF ITS HISTORY

The 'Alcazaba' (citadel) is located in the highest part of the city of Badajoz. Therefore, it was the suitable place to build a walled enclosure to ensure its defence. Throughout History, its defensive function did not change, preserving the wall of Islamic origin throughout the centuries.

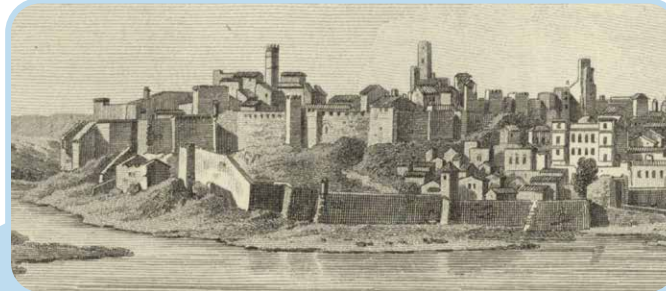
The buildings and constructions it holds in its inside show the different functions the enclosure had at the different periods: Islamic citadel, medieval castle, fortress of modern fortification, currently leisure area and cultural and educative equipment.



Detail of the 'Alcazaba' (citadel) on the view of Badajoz by Pier Maria Baldi, 1669.



Citadel detail on the view drawn by Lorenzo Possi, 1668.



The citadel at the beginning of the 19th century. Drawing of A. Laborde.



Aquarelle made during the British siege of 1811, with the citadel's wall and buildings partially reduced to ruins.



The photograph shows the old Military Hospital; the only army building used in 1935.



The Islamic 'Alcazaba' (citadel). 9th-13th centuries

From the moment Batalyawas (Badajoz) was founded by `Abd al-Rahman ibn Marwan in year 875, a wall was raised to protect the buildings of the new city. The citadel was the area where their rulers lived and it had its own walled enclosure. On its higher part was located a citadel, residence of the city's rulers, which had a palace mosque.

In year 1169 the Almohads extended the citadel's enclosure towards the river to ensure water supply.



The Christian Late Medieval Castle. 13th- 14th centuries

After the conquest of Badajoz by king Alfonso IX of Leon in 1230, the walled enclosure of the 'Alcazaba' (citadel) was known like "el Castillo" (the Castle). The Military Orders of Santiago and Alcántara were settled down here, and it was the residence place of main families, keeping its role of the city's power centre, within the kingdom of Castile.

The attacks undergone by Badajoz in the second half of the 14th century, caused by the wars with Portugal, motivated the noble families to raise fort houses in their enclosure, to ensure their protection.



The 'Alcazaba' (citadel) as fortress of the modern fortification. 17th-19th centuries

The 16th century lead to a long period of peace with Portugal, which made possible that the citadel stopped being the residence place of Badajoz's elite, who gradually moved to the lower part of the city.

The war for Portugal's independence (1640-1668) made the 'Castillo' (castle) become an enclosure used almost exclusively by soldiers. In its upper parts were installed three artillery batteries and the old medieval constructions were reused as artillery warehouses, headquarters and military hospital.

ROUTE OF THE
ALCAZABA OF BADAJOZ

RECOMMENDED ROUTE - - -

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OF THE MUDEJAR HOUSES

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THE CAPITAL DOOR
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(PROVINCIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM,
OLD HEADQUARTER OF SAN PEDRO)
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THE GIBBET TOWER
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THE BANNER TOWER

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RUINS OF THE SO CALLED ZAPATA'S HOUSE

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TORRE DE LOS CABALLEROS

SANTA MARIA TOWER.
The Santa Maria del Castillo church, the primitive cathedral of Badajoz, was built taking advantage of the citadel's palace mosque. Its tower and parts of the head were preserved as part of the building of the Military Hospital. 13th-15th centuries.



CAPITAL DOOR.
Main door of the citadel connected to the city centre. It takes its name from the capital that crowns the arch of the external door, coming from Mérida's Roman forum. 12th century.



THE FIGUEROA'S PALACE
Fort House of medieval origin, it was the palace residence of several families of the city's elite, and, later on, the artillery warehouse during the 17th century and the infantry's headquarter during the 18th century. Nowadays, it holds the Provincial Archaeological Museum.



RUINS OF THE 'CONSOLACIÓN' AND 'ROSARIO' CHAPELS
They are witnesses of the time the castle's inside was another inhabited part of the city. 14th-18th centuries.



'LA CORACHA' DOOR
It was built during the Almohads age to provide a direct and protected access to the river from the inside of the 'Alcazaba' (citadel). 12th century.



'EL ALPÉNDIZ' DOOR
It was one of the 'Alcazaba' (citadel) doors refurbished during the Almohads period. 12th century.



REMAINS OF HERNÁN GÓMEZ DE SOLÍS'S FORT HOUSE
Built between 1465 and 1470, it was the setting from which the city was ruled at that period. Afterwards, its ruins were used as munitions dump and, recently, as the Military Hospital's autopsy room.



THE OLD TOWER'S SIDE ENTRANCE
It was a fortified entrance connecting, at the Almohads period, the inside of the palace fortress with the outside of the 'Alcazaba' (citadel). 12th century.



REMAINS OF THE ACEVEDO'S TOWER
It was part of the ancestral house of the Acevedo's primogeniture, and it was also reused for the same purposes as for the Figueroa's Palace. 14th-19th centuries.



TORRE DE LOS CABALLEROS
It was built following the Christian conquest of the city. 13th century.