

## HOW TO VISIT THE FUERTE DE SAN CRISTÓBAL

Before starting the route of the Fuerte de San Cristóbal, we recommend to you to visit the **Casas Mudéjares Tourist Office**. There you can find out about the visiting hours of the same and find content to better understand the monument and its surroundings.

Inside the Fuerte de San Cristóbal, you will find informative boards, in which you can download more information to your phone using **QR codes**.



View of the Fuerte de San Cristóbal from the Alcazaba



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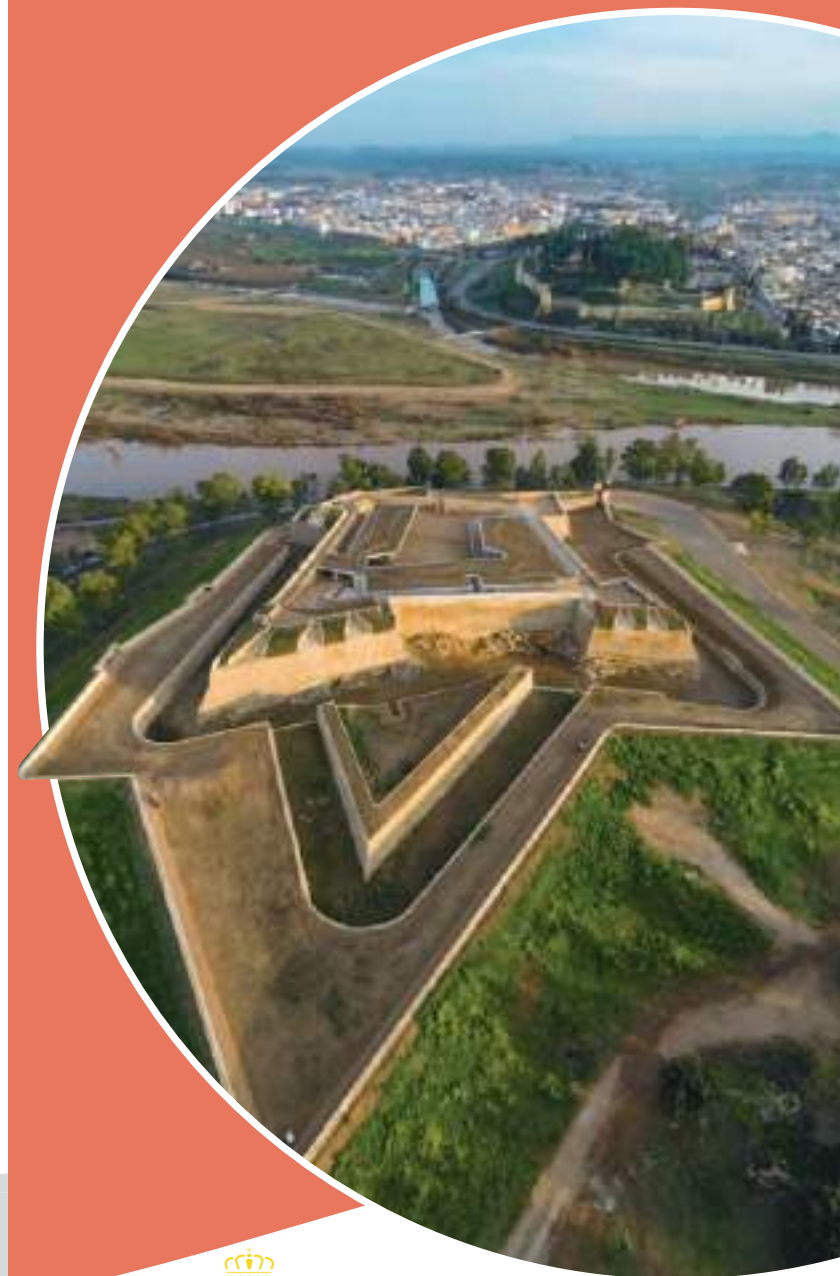
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## ROUTE THROUGH THE FUERTE DE SAN CRISTÓBAL of Badajoz



Ayuntamiento de Badajoz  
CONCEJALÍA DE TURISMO



# iB!

## FUERTE DE SAN CRISTÓBAL VISITOR CENTRE

**Fuerte de San Cristóbal** was the first building of the modern fortifications of Badajoz. The works began in 1641 on the Cerro de San Cristóbal, as main outpost of the city's defences on the right bank of the Guadiana river. The Portuguese (1658) and the French (1811) armies tried to attack it but they never got to conquer it.

After hundreds of years in use, the fort is no longer for military purposes. This is why it has been restored to house the Centro de Interpretación de las Fortificaciones de la Frontera (interpretation centre of the border fortifications), the museum core dedicated to Badajoz's bastioned fortifications. Moreover, its restoration allows other new social and cultural use.

The building of the old headquarters holds a museum facility intended to show the role of the Fuerte de San Cristóbal within Badajoz's bastioned fortifications. The roles of Badajoz and Elvas in the sophisticated fortification system, whereupon these two countries were defended for over 300 years, are also explained. These were capital towns of the border of Spain and Portugal.

**S**an Cristóbal is the inception and key element of Badajoz's bastioned fortification system in the 17th century. It was integrated into another even greater defence system that comprehended the entire border and in which Badajoz was an essential part of that defence of Spanish territory.



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### INTRODUCTION. ACCESS TO THE PREMISES

The fort was built in 1641, at the beginning of the Portuguese Restoration War. It was the first bastioned element to be built in the fortification of Badajoz. Its purpose was to defend the Cerro de San Cristóbal, from where the artillery could fire down on a large part of the city.

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### ELEMENTS OF THE BASTIONED FORTIFICATIONS

- |                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Bastion      | 4. Covered way  | 7. Glacis     |
| 2. Half-Bastion | 5. Ravelin      | 8. Guardhouse |
| 3. Moat         | 6. Counterscarp | 9. Curtain    |

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

From the Fuerte de San Cristóbal, it is possible to review a large part of the history of the city – it is surrounded by fields where the battles of Zalaca or Sagrajas (1086), Gudiña (1709), Santa Engracia (1811) took place and where the British sieges of 1811 and 1812. On the other river bank, stands the 12th century citadel.

**i** MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROUTE



## ROUTE OF THE BASTIONED FORTIFICATIONS OF BADAJOZ FUERTE DE SAN CRISTÓBAL

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>38</b> PRESENTATION                            | <b>44</b> 1st FRENCH SIEGE/'SANTA ENGRACIA' |
| <b>39</b> ELEMENTS OF THE BASTIONED FORTIFICATION | <b>45</b> 3rd SIEGE -1811 BREACHES          |
| <b>40</b> GLACIS AND COVERED WAY                  | <b>46</b> 1811 GORGET AND INSCRIPTION       |
| <b>41</b> MOAT AND RAVELIN                        | <b>47</b> GUARD CORPS                       |
| <b>42</b> WERLÉ'S SMALL BASTION                   | <b>48</b> PLACE OF ARMS AND RESERVOIR       |
| <b>43</b> WARS OF PORTUGAL (1657-58)              | <b>49</b> MODERN BUILDINGS                  |
|   | <b>50</b> EMBRASURES                        |
|   | <b>51</b> HISTORIC LANDSCAPE                |



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### MAIN SQUARE AND CISTERN

Within a fort, the 'plaza de armas' (the main square) was the clear inner central area where the troops gathered. At San Cristóbal, the 'plaza de armas' had that purpose until the end of the 19th century, when the area began to be occupied by new buildings, once it had lost its original purpose and began to be used as a military prison.

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### EMBRASURES

The artillery opened fire from the wall parapet through the embrasures. These consisted of wedge-shaped holes in the upper part, allowing greater field of fire width. With this embrasure shape, the parapet provided the artillery gunners and operators suitable protection from the enemy.



### INTERPRETATION CENTRE

