

## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*

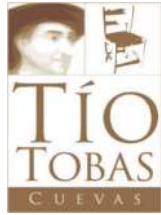


# *Information Dossier*

**Collaborator Company of the National Park and Natural Park of Sierra Nevada:**

- **Accredited as National Park Information Center.**
- **Supporter of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.**





## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



**Dear guest:**

**We are sure that with some good information of our region, you'll have the chance to enjoy such a unique environment.**

**For that reason, we enclose some interesting information for your leisure and fun, as well as some instructions about the use of the cave.**

**Before you leave our cave, please make sure you don't forget any personal belongings.**

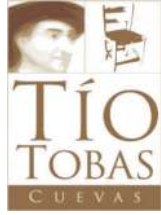
**We would be pleased if you could fill in the opinion poll you'll find in the cave.**

**Please let us know if there is anything you haven't liked, or if any of our services have failed to meet your expectations.**

**With this opinion poll we want to know your suggestions or complaints in order to give a better service to our guests.**

**We sincerely wish you a nice stay.**

**The Manager  
Manuel Aranda**



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



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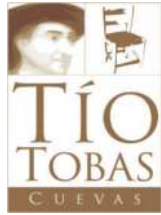
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**The National and Natural Park of Sierra Nevada**

**Do you want to help us with our compromise with the environment?**

**We’re committed with recycling**



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



## General information about the caves

### **Telephones to contact the owner:**

The contact telephones are:

- (+34) 958 69 83 50 Accommodation`s direct phone
- (+34) 607 62 22 26 Owner
- (+34) 958 69 85 37 Restaurant
- (+34) 622 940 913 Owner

### **GPS coordinates of the establishment:**

#### **If you need more blankets or towels.**

They are in the closet or chest you can find in the cave.

The cave has a bath towel and a hand towel per person and 2 blankets per bed. If you need more, please ask for them in the reception.

#### **If you need more firewood:**

Ask for it in the reception.

#### **Air circulation system in the caves:**

In the bedrooms of some caves you`ll find a trapdoor that opens and closes the ventilation. During the nights of autumn and winter we recommend you close it, to maintain the interior temperature.

#### **Vehicle parking:**

You can use the wooden parking spaces within the complex.

Please do not park your vehicles in front of the caves. This has adverse effects on the irrigation system of the complex. Unload your baggage and park the car in the parking spaces.

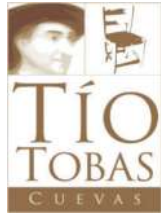
#### **Light of the Caves` doors:**

Each cave has a light in the door. Please, make sure, it is off during the day, since it is an unnecessary expense.

#### **Garbage:**

There are different types of containers for the collection of wastes. Please, classify the wastes according to the box type.

#### **Used Oil in the caves:**



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



In the cave's kitchen there is a recipient to pour the used oil. Please do not pour it in the kitchen sink or WC.

### **Swimming Pool:**

Due to the characteristics of the accommodations and the size of the swimming pool, lifeguards are not necessary, but please maximize precautions if you travel with kids.

### **In case it is "very windy":**

If the chimney causes smoke inside the cave, open a window to let some air in the apartment. If the problem persists, extinguish the fire.

### **In case of a power cut:**

This may be due to the circuit breaker tripping out due to exercise electrical load. In the first instance disconnect any unnecessary equipment and reset switch by pushing to "up" position (on). If this is not the problem, it may be due to a power cut within the area and the complex emergency generator will start work in 4 seconds. The emergency light will last one hour. You can also ask for candles in the reception desk.

### **The heating system will be connected during winter.**

We take care of activating and deactivating the heating.

### **If you brought a dog:**

Make sure it's under control not to bother other guests.

Make sure it does not cause any damage in the garden when loose.

### **Dogs and cats in the complex:**

This complex only has a black dog named Ramses and a Siamese cat named Kora.

The rest are abandoned dogs and cats, so we don't know their state of health. So we recommend you to be careful in this regard.

We periodically notify the public services for them to be collected.

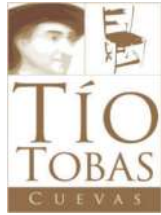
### **Vegetation you'll find in the caves: (Discover it)**

\* **Ornamental trees:** elm trees, catalpas, negundo maple, acacias, mimosa, willow, love tree, prunus, melias, bolaera, golden rain, laurel.

\* **Bushes:** yuccas, hollies, oleanders, box, rosemary, bamboo cane, ivy, Virginia creeper, rosebushes, echiums, jupiters.

\* **Conifers:** Atlantis, Spanish fir, stone pine, deodar, horizontalis, juniperus, picea abies, fir, cypress, arizonica, glauca.

\* **Fruit trees:** olive trees, almond trees, chestnut tree, walnut trees, cherry tree, pomegranate tree, plum tree, apple trees, pear trees, apricot tree, servas, pistachios, peach tree, wine trees, fig trees, white mulberry trees, loquat, tree strawberry.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



### **Map of the Region and of Sierra Nevada:**

In the reception desk you must have been given a map of the Region of Guadix and Sierra Nevada. If not, please ask for it.

### **Board games:**

Ask in reception for cards, games, chess set, etc. We ask for a deposit of 3 €, which you'll recover when you return the games.

### **Barbecues:**

All caves have a barbecue.

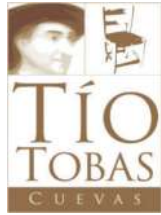
The caves within the square have their barbecues in the bar of the square.

Nevertheless we have a mobile barbecue you can ask for.

### **Take away food for the caves.**

In the cave you'll find a leaflet highlighting the food you can buy in the restaurant to enjoy it in your cave. This service will help you to save money whilst enjoying the cave.

Anything related to food and drink can be bought in our restaurant



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



## Other interesting information

### **Nearby Petrol stations:**

Guadix: 5 Km.

Road towards “la Calahorra”: 5 Km.

### **Nearby railroad stations:**

Guadix’s railroad station: 5 Km.

Granada’s railroad station: 65 Km.

### **Bus to Almeria and Granada:**

Stop in Bar Peña.

### **Nearby Shops:**

There is a supermarket in the village and at the entry of Guadix.

In the reception you can find some articles of information.

### **Doctor:**

In the Health Center of Guadix: 958 699 100

In the Health Center of Alquife: 958-67.30.51

### **Duty Chemists:**

Ask in the Pharmacy of Alcudia which ones are on duty.

## Craftsmanship of the region

**Occupational Center Acci** (Ceramics, chairs, tapestry, wood)

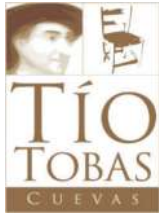
**Pottery Gabarron.**

**Arab ceramics Jesús Jiménez**

**Forge Cruz**

**In the village of Purullena, in the main street, you’ll find many specialized shops of craftsmanship.**

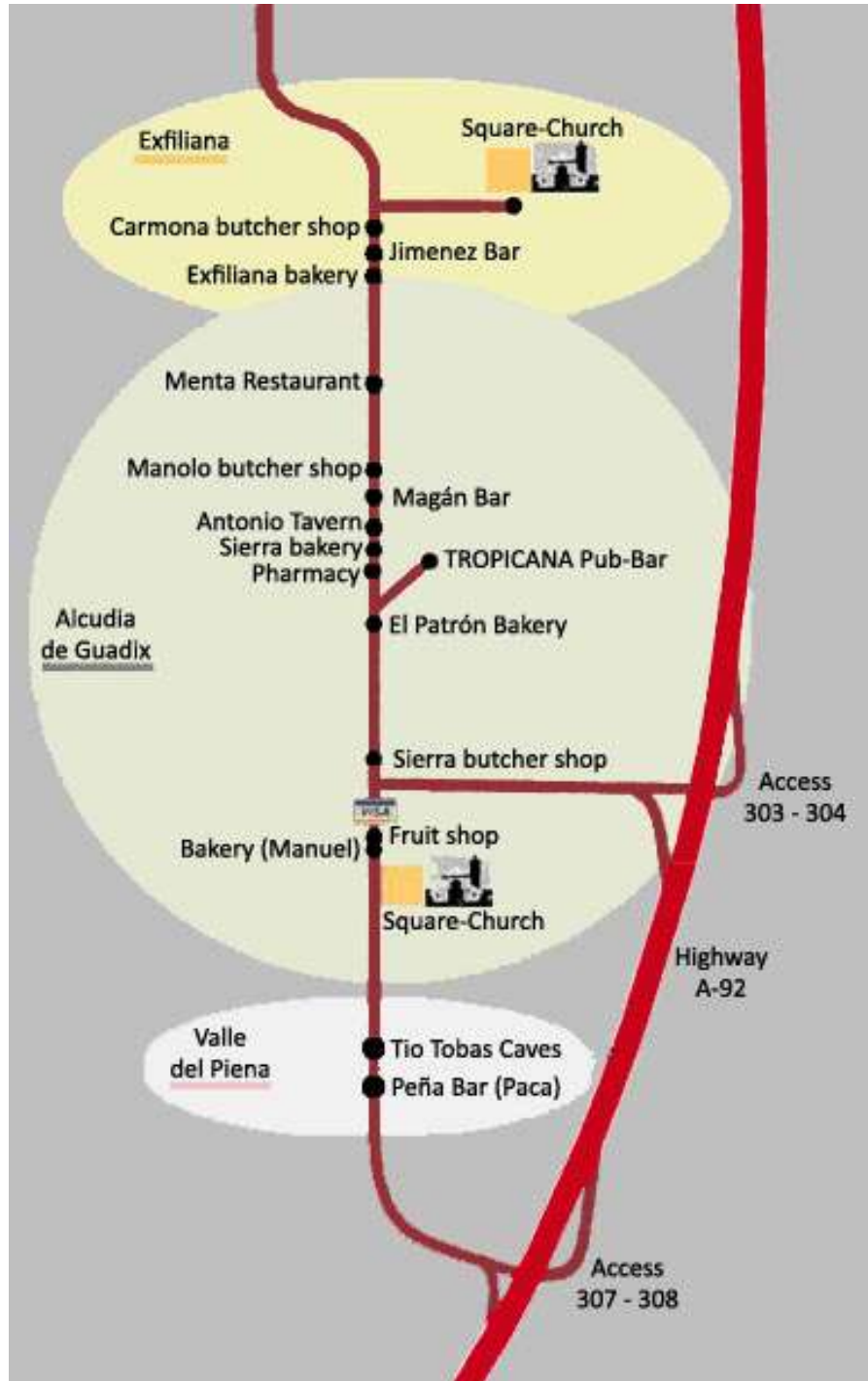
Ask in the reception desk



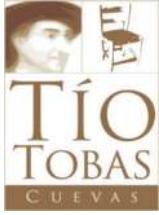
## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### Map of the establishments in the village



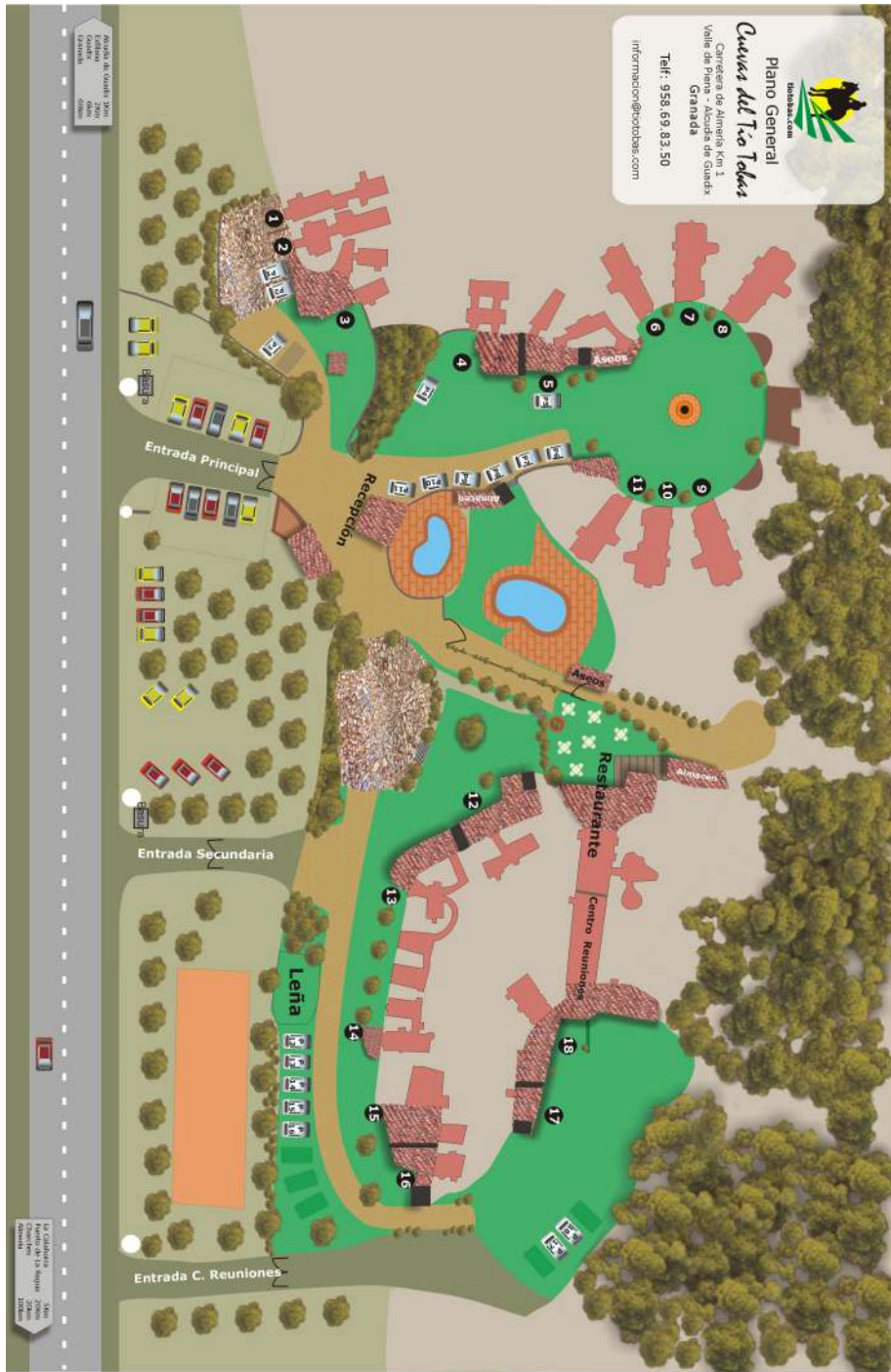


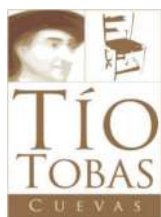


# Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Map of our Tourist Complex





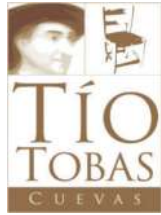
## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### Helpful telephone numbers...

Supplier	Village	Telephone No.
Butcher's shop Carmona	Exfiliana	(+34) 958 69 83 44
Butcher's shop Manolo & Puri	Alcudia	(+34) 958 69 84 62
Museum-Cave	Guadix	(+34) 958 66 90 32
Cathedral and Citadel	Guadix	(+34) 958 66 01 60
Pottery museum	Guadix	(+34) 958 66 47 67
La Ragua Refuge	Laroles	(+34) 958 34 55 28
Postero Alto Refuge	Jerez	
Consortium of the La Ragua Pass	Laroles	(+34) 950 52 40 20
Travel Agency (Delgado)	Guadix	(+34) 958 66 11 61
Tourist Office	Guadix	(+34) 958 66 26 65
Taxis in Alcudia		(+34) 958 68 81 30
Taxis in Guadix		(+34) 958 66 05 37
Guardia Civil (Police) in Guadix		(+34) 958 66 90 82
Guardia Civil (Police) in Jerez		(+34) 958 67 21 06
Emergencies		(+34) 112
Sanitary Emergencies		(+34) 061
Hospital of Guadix		(+34) 958 69 91 00
Emergencies		(+34) 902 50 50 61
Ambulance's Service		(+34) 958 66 02 28
Red Cross Emergencies		(+34) 958 66 05 66
Fire Station		(+34) 958 66 47 66
RENFE [Spanish Railroad Net]		(+34) 902 24 02 02
Bus Station in Guadix		(+34) 958 66 06 57
Zalabi Valley City Council		(+34) 958 69 82 01

*Please, ask for any other information in the reception desk.*



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



### **“Uncle Tobas”...**



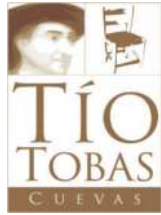
More than 100 years ago, Uncle Tobas began to build caves as he needed to put up his family of ten children and his two shepherds Curro and Tino. He did all the work during the winter, when the rain and the snow made impossible to do any agricultural works.

The main cave of Uncle Tobas had 17 rooms, so the hill where it was situated was drilled with many exterior windows, dug out by the Panderos.

Uncle Tobas, a prudent and calm man, as you can deduce from the photograph, was the Mayor of Alcudia de Guadix, and his main occupation was farming. When he made wine, he set up a bar which remained open to the public until the harvest was over. For that reason, his cave was known as “Uncle Tobas’ Country Inn”.

At that time, a horse-drawn carriage went round the cave region as if it were a modern bus route. The local people from the Marquesado used this carriage to go to Guadix to sell their eggs.

We can get an idea of Uncle Tobas’ character from the following anecdote: In the region there was a Gentleman named Don Hipólito who was so rich that the legend said he counted his money with instruments used to weigh the grain. Don Hipólito found himself in a difficult situation and he sold his houses to Uncle Tobas. Sometime later, when he was completely ruined, Uncle Tobas allowed him the use of one of his houses until the gentleman died.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### History of the caves

We don't exactly know the period when the caves began to be used as houses, but when the Catholic Kings arrived to Guadix in 1.489 there were cases of isolated caves.

They started building in the first half of the XVI Century. Until the XX Century there existed a situation of confrontations between this habitat and the houses, due to socio-economic factors.

The caves were dug out, taking advantage of the softness of the clay that made up the series of hills that surround the valleys of the Region of Guadix.

The hill is dug out vertically and then horizontally to create the caves gallery with interior rooms. The smoke exit of the kitchen is achieved by drilling vertically into the hill and chimneys are constructed with mortar and afterwards whitewashed, which gives a particular appearance to the landscape.

Access is made through a wooden door, sometimes divided in two parts (the top half is used as a window), which is a Moorish tradition.

The interior temperature is constant during the whole year (18°C) so heating equipment is not necessary, and bedclothes are the same throughout the whole year.

It is curious how men, in winter periods when agricultural work was not possible because of the rain and the snow, spent their time in the caves digging out more rooms and more when a new child was going to be born.

Situated in the hillsides, in the gullies and in the ravines, with anarchic distribution, with its curved lines, the lime, the vaulted ceiling and its chimneys, the caves sets a complex with an interesting singularity, being the differential construction of our region.

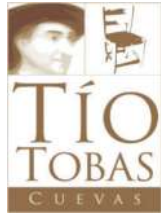
Its architectonic originality, its temperature and its friendly, intimate and rustic environment, have made them a much appreciated habitat.

#### Historic precedents:

##### **The Troglodytic habitat:**

When we talk about troglodytic habitat (from Greek troglodytes) we do it with reference to the peculiar organization of a human settlement in caverns. This etymology that is specifically used to describe human prehistoric groups is applicable nowadays to determine geographic zones of the Province of Granada.

The caves, as *natural shelter*, have been used by men since the Superior Paleolithic Age. This habitat has not disappeared and remains perpetuated in time and in the history without losing its essence: ***Mother Land shelters and protects men in its interior.***



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



We're not longer occupying the caverns or the natural shelters; men have modified the land to cover their necessities; they specialize in creating a whole subterranean world that nowadays arouses the astonishment of the visitors. The way the caves turn into neighborhoods is striking, how they develop into an *unusual urban geography*.

Visitors of these regions of Granada have the unique opportunity to see how an occupation system of the natural environment, *the troglodytic habitat*, has perpetuated during millenniums without losing its essence.

### **The Caves' curiosities**

The caves have become the ultimate distinctive element of the regions of Guadix and Baza in the Province of Granada. Built without the help of architects, the shapes and volumes depend to a large extent on the characteristics of the rock in which they have been dug out and on the originality and needs of those who built them.

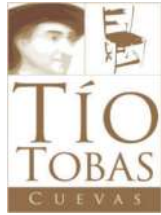
They keep a constant temperature during the whole year and the experience of living in a cave becomes something really special.

But besides being an excellent accommodation, they constitute a rich historical patrimony that is worth the visit. In the zone there are many caves from the Almohade period, most of them built in labyrinthine structures with even three stages.

The most ancient caves are from the end of the X century and beginnings of the XI Century. At the beginning they were used as fortresses, even though, in the Almohade period this use was combined with the use as permanent rooms. It was in the Nazari period when they began to be used as family residences, as it is nowadays. There is no precedent of such habits in Europe. A theory establishes that its origin comes from the occupation of the zone by bereber tribes.

In the Far East there are sacred caves named "Yoni", a word that means "*female sex*". The passing by of the pilgrims through them constitutes a rite of purification. Also the Roman gave to the under earth constructions a special character; it was under earth where they built "L'Eliseum", *place of happy stay for heroes and other semi gods*. Without a doubt, part of this mysticism, of the idea of finding yourself in the heart of Mother Nature, still remains in the inhabitants of these regions.

Finally, we must highlight the fact that the cave, dug out in the subterranean world, is omnipresent in the Christian religion: *the cave of the Annunciation of Nazareth, the one of the Nativity in Bethlehem or the Saint Sepulcher in Jerusalem* constitute the most evident examples. In reality, the Troglodytism does not only make us travel to the heart of the earth, but also to the abyss of our collective subconscious. There is a close relation between the sacred and the earth.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



The earth is the first medium in which man has expressed himself: it was in it where man expressed its humanity inventing art.

- **Interesting places related to this culture.**

*Cave museum of Guadix*

*Pottery museum in cave: Gabarrón,*

*Ethnological museum in cave: Purullena*

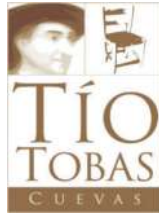
*Natural caves that were used as habitat: Cave of Piñar*

*The cemetery of Velerda,*

*Neighborhood caves of Guadix*

*Paleontology museum of Orce.*

*Troglodyte dolmens: in the megalithic park of Gorafe.*



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



# In Granada anything you want. Caves Dwellings

## Shelters from the past

For thousands of years, caves were the form of dwelling most widely used by mankind. The safety and protection which prehistoric peoples found in these primitive natural shelters would also be sought after later by other cultures. Such is the case with the Muslims, who excavated most of the caves and cave dwellings which are to be found in the province of Granada. These types of underground constructions, which faithfully reflect the historic, social, and economic changes of their surroundings, blend in with the landscape and its topographic features, giving the areas in which they are concentrated – the districts of Guadix and the Marquesado y Baza-Huescar: El Altiplano – a particularly evocative beauty. They form part of a valuable heritage which has become not only a sign of identity but also an important tourist resource.



Apart from the Argaric remains of La Balunca in Castillejar, other examples of troglodyte inhabitation include the caves of La Tía Micaela and Sin Salida (both in



Cortes y Graena) the Cueva Horá, the Abrigo de Luis Martínez shelter, and the Cuevas de Panoria (in Darro), as well as various natural shelters used by Paleolithic hunter gatherers who left numerous examples of primitive cave paintings on the walls. Likewise, to the east of the Granadan town of Pinar, are



### Caverns and prehistoric shelters

The Hoya de Guadix and the Altiplanicie de Baza y Huescar, to the north, are two extensive hollows lying between the Betic sierras. Riddled with corridors and natural shelters, these areas have been the site of numerous human settlements since the earliest of times. Indeed, the so-called troglodyte habitat, which refers to the unusual form of human existence in caverns, developed extensively in both areas, and this is reflected by the numerous archaeological remains which have been found.



### Mythology and religion

There has always been a close relationship between the earth and the sacred. The Romans used to build an underground construction known as "L. Eternum", which was the place for the happiness and well-being of the gods and demigods. Caves are also omnipresent in the history of Christianity: with those of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, being the most representative examples.

the Cueva de la Carigüela and the famous Cueva de las Ventanas, which was inhabited from the Middle Paleolithic period. This grotto, which has been beautifully refurbished for tourist use, owes its name to the three openings which provide the only access to the cave from the outside.

The fertile land and the huge mineral wealth attracted cultures who came from the Mediterranean and took full advantage of the ideal characteristics of the terrain (composed of soft, compact, and impermeable materials) to excavate new caves on the steep riverside hills. Although the Romans opted for their *villae exeritas* (autonomous villas), they were actually built near to the caves we see today, which in itself is evidence of their fine location, and the Goths followed the Roman Empire's example.





## Shelters from the past

### Medieval watchtowers



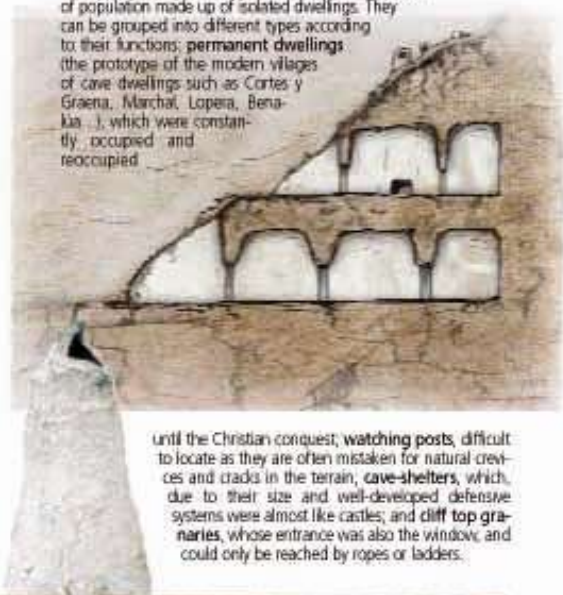
With the arrival of the Muslim civilisation, the cave dwelling started to be seen as a form of construction and their original role and function changed. They were initially used as a shelter by certain sectors of the population who had to live in hiding or exile, and then later became the

only type of housing that people with the lowest income could afford.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, with the arrival of the Almohads in Granada, the Mozarabes sought refuge in the caves, where they continued to worship. Dating from this period are the *Hafas de Arriba de Benamaurel*, a series of caves with pigeon lofts, located in a vertical cut in the terrain which is split into two different parts. The entrances are on the higher level and access is via a footpath.



The caves dating from the medieval period – which in Guadix are known as *Covarrones* or *Cuevas de Moros* (Moros' Caves), had a marked defensive character and formed small pockets of population made up of isolated dwellings. They can be grouped into different types according to their functions: **permanent dwellings** (the prototype of the modern villages of cave dwellings such as Cortes y Graena, Marchal, Lopera, Benalúa...), which were constantly occupied and reoccupied



until the Christian conquest, **watching posts**, difficult to locate as they are often mistaken for natural crevices and cracks in the terrain, **cave-shelters**, which, due to their size and well-developed defensive systems were almost like castles; and **cliff top granaries**, whose entrance was also the window, and could only be reached by ropes or ladders.



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## Shelters from the past



expelled after the revolt led by Abén-Humeya, returned to their place of origin. Unable to reclaim their old property, they occupied the existing caves or excavated new

*In Belerda, there is an unusual cemetery with niches excavated in caves*



## The Morisco neighbourhoods

Near to these medieval underground constructions, which were mostly abandoned and not reused later, the Moriscos carried out extensive excavations to build caves when they were forced to flee from major urban areas following the Christian conquest. Thus, for example, in Guadix, at the end of the 15th century, a large part of the Islamic population was forced to leave the medina and settle on the outskirts of the town by order of the Duke of Escalonia, who claimed that it was for security reasons.

This construction phenomenon was to gain a more urban dimension at the end of the 16th century when the Moriscos



ones. From the 17th century onwards, the Christian settlers from other Spanish regions who arrived to repopulate the area after the Moriscos were finally thrown out of the Peninsula by order of King Felipe II, also used the caves as a place to live.

This is the origin of the neighbourhoods with caves and the cave dwellings which evolved from them such as those found in Baza, and the neighbourhoods of El Pozo in Freila, the quarters of Abatel (which takes its name from an Arabic word meaning "punishment place" because until 1502 it was the site of the High Constable of Navarre's execution scaffold), Capallón in Zújar and nearby Carramaiza, La Cruz and La Morería quarters in Castelléjar. There are also those to be found in the town of Galera and in the semicircle of clayish hills which surround Guadix.





## Shelters from the past

### The modern caves

During the end of the 19th century and first half of the 20th, there was another major period of development in the use of cave dwellings (which were first used as family homes during the Nasrid period) in the province of Granada. This coincided with a growth in population and immigration, and the exploitation of new land for agricultural use. The important sugar and farming industries in the Hoya de Guadix and the Altiplán de Baza y Huéscar played a major role in attracting people from the poorer sectors of society who sought a cheap form of housing which could be adapted to their traditional way of living whilst having sufficient space for animal dens, stables, grain stores...



### The last major digging of caves in Guadix took place in the 1950s.

With this new population and other successive cave dwellers this ancient type of underground architecture evolved in terms of design as some of their most traditional aspects were transformed with a view to making them more comfortable and practical. During the 20th century the caves were provided with the conveniences and services which some years earlier had been introduced into normal forms of housing. This moderni-



### Troglodyte museums

In Guadix there are two museums which are uniquely set in refurbished Arab cave dwellings. The Cueva Museo de Alfarería La Alfaraba, restored by ceramist Juan Manuel Galván, contains a magnificent collection of pottery from various periods as well as numerous household implements. The Cueva Museo de Costumbres Populares de Guadix faithfully reflects the traditional way of life of the peoples who inhabited the area over the centuries. The various rooms of the museum (which include a cellar, a bedroom, animal stalls and a pig den, amongst others) exhibit a wide variety of hand-made objects and costumes. The La Inmaculada Cave Museum in Aurileña, which was hewn from the rock and inhabited following the Christian Reconquest, offers visitors the possibility to discover something of the day to day life of the people that lived here.

sation process has played a major role in promoting the use of this unique type of habitat as a valuable tourist resource, either for museums or restaurants, or tourist accommodation.



**GUADIX**  
MUSEO DE ALFARERÍA  
CUEVA LA ALFARABA  
C/ San Miguel, 61  
958 000 100  
www.cuevas.com/la-alfaraba.com

**CUEVA MUSEO DE COSTUMBRES POPULARES**  
C/ San Miguel, 61  
958 000 100

**PURULLANA**  
CUEVA MUSEO LA INMACULADA  
C/ San Miguel, 61  
958 000 100



## Underground architecture

Excavated from the slopes of steep hills and gorges, the caves and cave dwellings do not follow a pre-established layout. Their design is determined simply by the topographical characteristics of their location and their orientation to the sun. There are no streets as such, and the only urban delimitations are gullies and watercourses. More modern construc-



tions, with adjoining façades and outbuildings, can be found next to other older traditional ones, but all the caves boast slender whitewashed chimneys, placetas (small open spaces or squares around which the caves are built), and porches with vegetation. However, the only way to see what they are really like is to actually go inside, passing through their public exteriors to discover the more intimate and private areas.



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Underground architecture is basically the result of men's search for a type of habitat which was adapted to both their environment and activities. Thus, the characteristics of the terrain in which excavations were carried out were essential. Sometimes it was possible to take advantage of the action of natural forces whilst at other times it was necessary to resort to



human activity.



As is the case in the Guadix y Marquesado and Baza-Huésca: El Altiplano, districts, caves are located in arid or semi-arid areas, near to rivers or watercourses, but never in areas that are liable to flooding. Rather than occupying fertile land, they are commonly situated on slopes, on the edge of gorges or in small hillocks. The best type of terrain for excavation is that which is made up of soft materials

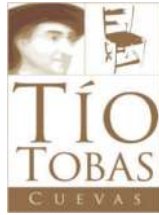
which can be easily hand-hewn with a pick, but at the same time is compact – to guarantee solidity – and impermeable so as to avoid water leakages and dampness. The most commonly used areas are those containing clays, marls, conglomerates, soft sandstones, limestone, sand, tufts, and loess.

### How they are excavated

The construction of a cave, an endeavour for which the prospective owner always counted on the invaluable help of an expert "pick master", began by making a vertical cut into the rock which forms the façade, leaving a horizontal flat area in front. Depending on the topography of the terrain, it was sometimes necessary to make two other vertical cuts at the ends which served as buttresses.

In the middle of the façade an arch shaped doorway was opened, penetrating a metre or metre and a half, the thickness given to the load bearing walls. From there, the first room is carved out with a square ground plan measuring some 2.5 to 3 metres-square and a barrel vaulted ceiling. Following that, the other the rooms are dug out

15



# Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Underground architecture



in the form of a gallery. The number and size of the rooms, and their internal layout would depend on both the size of the hill and the economic resources and needs of the dwellers.

The topographic features – bends, shapes, and slopes – of the terrain in which this construction process was carried out also determined the different types of cave settlements in Granada. Perhaps the most common type of location, particularly in the Hoya de Guadix, are steep slopes where caves are excavated in rows and arranged on superimposed levels.

Access to the caves is via narrow and winding paths which skirt round the slopes.

If situated in areas dotted with small hillocks, which are tunnelled through from one side to the other in the search for light and ventilation, cave dwellings tend to either be next to each other forming streets, or grouped around a common space – a plaza or small square (*placeta*). In Andalusia, the latter are

**The caves are usually excavated facing the south, southeast, and southwest so as to permit maximum exposure to the sun**

### Pick masters

*They were in charge of directing, controlling and, on occasions, giving advice about the construction of the caves whilst also carrying out the final touches with their picks. Small groups of them used to travel from village to village to offer their service to potential clients. A pick master, accompanied by two labourers could take approximately a month to excavate a four-roomed cave and the most widely used tool was a pointed pick.*



only to be found in a few cave villages, such as those of Benalúa, Gor, Purullena, Baza, Benamaurel and Huescar, in the province of Granada. In Baza there is a third type of settlement, deep ditches, which have fallen into disuse due to the risk of flooding.





## Underground architecture

### Caves and cave dwellings

The evolution of the external elements of caves in order to adapt them to modern needs gradually led to the transformation of the primitive constructions into **cave houses** with outbuildings and extensions which were either attached to the façades or built in the spaces in front of the dwelling.

The **most commonly used initial layout** involved the construction of various rooms, which were joined by small openings acting as transverse arches, and arranged in galleries excavated into the rock or parallel with the façade. Gradually the designs became more complex, the main innovations being the addition of other sections to the façade, either joined on or separate from it, and the development of enclosed spaces such as the *placeta* which ser-



ved as an entrance. These changes permitted the separation of the rooms or areas which were used to keep animals from those used as living quarters whilst allowing the damp facilities to be outside. Thus,

the original ensemble was gradually transformed to become a more self-sufficient construction in which the primitive cave was preserved as a symbolic remnant of the original dwelling.



### Chimneys and skylights

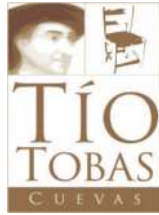
The **façade** and **chimneys** are undoubtedly the external elements which have the greatest visual impact whilst being essential parts of the characteristic design. The façade has hardly any openings so as to maintain the excellent temperature conditions inside. There are only the openings which serve as the main entrance to the cave and to the animal den although sometimes a small window is cut to provide ventilation. The main entrance is usually occupied by a **door with two horizontal sections** thus enabling the upper part to be opened as if it were a window.

The simplest type of façade is created by **whitewashing** the rock-face but the **most common type** uses bricks, concrete or stone to protect the surface from erosion. There are plant covered porches or concrete porches finished with roof tiles, as well as different forms of adjoining the living accommodation to the cave, which results in a great variety of façades, almost to suit the taste of each owner.

### The *placeta*

This empty space, gradually transformed by the extensions and constructions which over time have been added to the caves, has retained its original function: it was the place where domestic chores were carried out and also a space which acted as a bridge between the inner and outer world. It was a place to bask the sun, dry the peppers, and separate the grain from the maize, whilst also being a centre for social interaction between the neighbours.





# Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Underground architecture



The design of the chimneys, which are excavated from the interior, varies considerably from one place to the next, even if they are not far apart. Thus, in the towns of Guadix, Marquesado or El Altiplano it is possi-

**Inside the caves the atmosphere is dry and temperatures remain constant, at approximately 18° C all year round**



ble to find both conical chimneys and others in the shape of a prism or cylinder. They can be of mortar, brick, or stone, and whitewashed or finished with brick or stone to avoid water filtrations.

In the interior of the dwellings, the skylights which were opened at the end of the long narrow passages in order to let as much light in as possible, take on a whole range of different forms from balconies to large open courtyards which let the light in from outside. When the terrain permitted it, the cave was excavated through the whole hill so as to create a second entrance which created more light and a through flow of air.



**Whitewashing walls and ceilings is an ingenious way of taking full advantage of the natural light.**

### Around the fireplace

The layout of the rooms in many of the existing caves reflects the essentially rural way of life of the population. On entering, the first room is a living room or kitchen, with a fireplace, which plays an essential role in ventilating the dwelling.

The more internal rooms were used as bed rooms, which were separated either with curtains doors or glass panes. Entering into this more intimate part of the caves, one discovers numerous wardrobes, larders, and food storage areas which were either excavated or made out of clay.

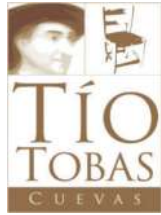


The most modifications to the natural habitat occurred when animals were hunted in derelict caves located close to the dwelling. Frequently there was a space which could be used as a living area and the problem of smells was so acute that the solution was to use the ventilation of pulleys and the distribution of supplies, the washing facilities, the placetas and the beds were moved to the new buildings.



The widespread current trend for increasing the number of cave dwellings by adding more storeys and passing them on to the modernisation of its basic conveniences, has not in any way diminished the significance of what can be considered one of the oldest types of





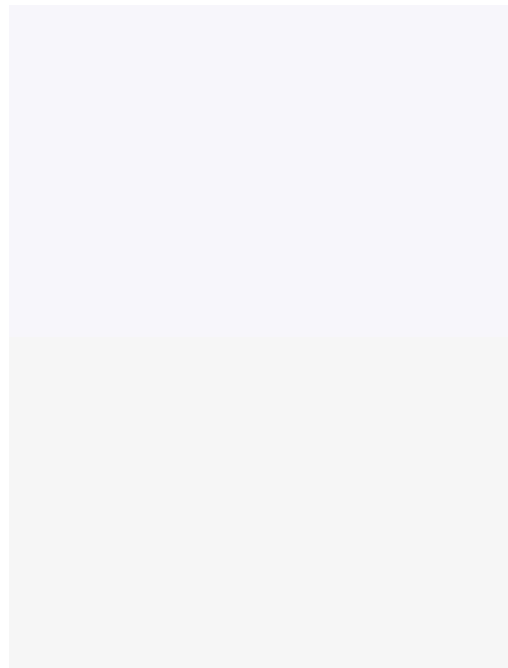
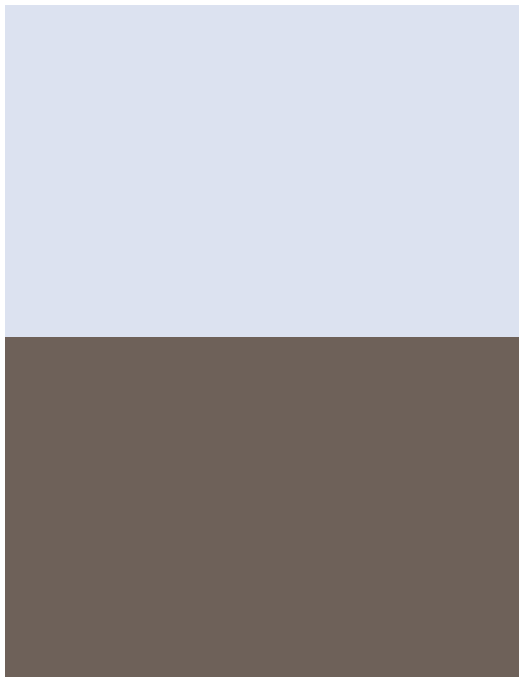
## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



## Restoration process of the “Uncle Tobas Caves”

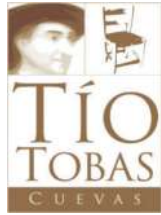
**There were abandoned caves with more than 30 years that were made up of:**

- The cave of Uncle Tobas
- The 2 caves of his shepherds
- The caves for the sheep flocks.
- The caves for the cows.
- The caves for horses and pigs.



**In all of these caves, the following works were done:**

- Dug out for cleaning up
- Construction of niches
- Ventilation perforations
- Filling with mortar
- Reinforcements
- Restoration and construction of chimneys.
- Whitewashing
- Attachments of traditional constructions of the region
- Installation of electricity, heating, telephone, television, plumbing, etc.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



- Adaptation of the actual comforts of a rural housing with all the stars of the nature.
- In all of them we took into consideration the orientation of chimneys and halls looking to the landscapes of Sierra Nevada and the Valley of Piena.
- Adaptation of the urbanization and integration to the surrounding pine trees in the tourist complex.
- Construction of swimming pools, barbecues, woodsheds and reception.
- Cleaning up and value setting of the two threshing floors that can be found in the urbanization.
- Trees plantation.
- Decoration with traditional elements of the period and customs of its inhabitants.

### **As common elements in almost all the caves, there are:**

An ear

An oil lamp

A yoke

A half “cuartilla” (to measure capacity)

A string of peppers

A chest

An old coat hanger

A wood of iron washbowl

The rest of the decoration elements are different, always in tune with the period of Uncle Tobas.

### ***¿Why are they different of the other caves?***

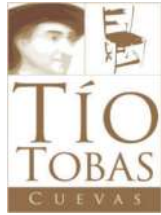
All caves are different, either in floor, ceilings, chimneys, bathrooms, kitchens, etc, always using local materials and giving the impression they've been built by different people with different tastes, and based in the traditional architecture of the region.

### ***Conference facilities for companies***

The objective of this center is to cover the necessities of companies for journeys, seminars, product presentations, planning, etc. The center has all the ultimate technology that any seminar or meeting may require: PC, internet connection, projector, etc.

The place is perfect for these seminars and meetings, because the companies prefer to be in quiet places but well connected and where the establishment facilitates maximum concentration.





## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### What's original and characteristic of the caves?

#### In the city



The rooms are usually **square** or **rectangular**

The roofs are usually **flat**

**Heating** and **air conditioning** are necessary

The **decoration** is usually **modern**

Flats usually don't have chimneys

Urban landscapes usually show other **buildings**.

Nowadays flats are usually **anti-seismic**

Urban **noises** define the daily life

#### In the caves



Shapes are rounded and anarchic modeled just like a sculpture

Roofs are circular and **dome-shaped**

**Temperature** is constant during the whole year (18° C) the **siestas in the caves are glorious**

The **decoration is rustic**, old fashioned farm utensils such as oil-lamps, sacking, pitchers, trough, etc.

They have **chimney** and plenty of **firewood**.

They have views to the **Valley of Piena** and the **Natural Park of Sierra Nevada**, as well as other important peaks as the **Picon de Jerez** (3.094 m. of altitude)

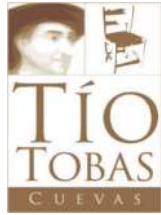
In the event of an earthquake there is **no risk at all**. The compression of land through millions of years make this type of construction much safer

The **peacefulness** and **soundproofing** are marvelous, making the rest totally effective

*To conclude...*

*Living in a cave is.....*

*An unforgettable experience!*



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### The best period to come to the caves

Any period is interesting, but if we had to highlight some aspects to help you choosing a period, here you have some ideas:

#### In Spring.-

1. In this season there is **snow** and you can practice **skiing** or simply have fun in the snow.
2. You'll be in a friendly environment sitting **in front of a chimney**.
3. The **landscape** has an amazing beauty.
4. You'll enjoy the **excursions** at any time of the day.

#### In Summer.-

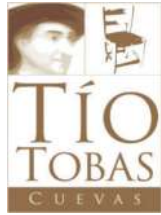
1. Until July there is **perpetual snow** on the mountain peaks.
2. Glorious afternoon **siestas**.
3. The temperature during the **night is cool**.
4. **Barbecues** are tempting and almost essential.
5. Sitting in the **terrace** at night is characteristic in the region.

#### In Autumn.-

1. There is a great variety of **vegetation**, so the scenery is breathtaking and unique.
2. **Chatting** around the chimney is very gratifying.
3. You'll enjoy the **excursions** at any time of the day.
4. You'll love to go up to the **snow** and practice different activities.

#### In Winter.-

1. Allow yourself the **privilege** to watch **snow** or **rain** in an incomparable environment.
2. The **view** of the mountain range will captivate you.
3. The **chimney** will become a permanent ally.
4. In this season, the **gastronomy** of the region is excellent
5. **You'll feel like enjoying the cave to its limits.**



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### How to light the chimney?

We think you have watched many Indian movies. If it is so, you'll see how easy it is.

- 1°.- Put the biggest log in the end of the chimney in horizontal position.
- 2°.- Over this log, put the paper and the little branches.
- 3°.- Put the medium-sized log, leaving always ventilation between the logs.
- 4°.- Put various bigger logs, which will keep the fire once lighted.

Without a doubt you'll be able to light the fire.

#### ***Important points:***

Fire needs to escape between the logs and the small branches, so it needs to have space in between.

If we don't let the fire out, it chokes and we may cause:

- Either not lighting the fire.
- Or too much smoke.

With a meticulous placing, carefully choosing the logs, it should provoke the lighting of fire in the first attempt for the satisfaction of the one that lights it.

#### ***Keeping the fire:***

Once the fire has been lighted we must place big logs to last longer.

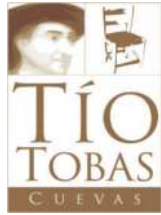
The small logs must be used to light and to get the fire going only. To have a good degree of warmth we need big logs since these ones are the ones that keep the temperature and last longer, so that we don't have to keep watching the chimney.

#### ***Watch the flame of the fire.***

It is interesting that you study what can be seen in the fire:

We're sure that many painters would paint a work of art from the thousands of scenes that the flames show us.

***Don't you forget that every cave has a special light to use when the chimney is lighted, in order to generate a more pleasant environment.***



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Gastronomy...

*In this region we eat well. Let us help you.*



### "Bread and sweets ":

In Alcudia they are recognized because of its delicious taste and composition. We recommend you to try them.

Don't you forget that our village is known as *The Bread village.*

### Typical dishes of the region:

- Corn porridge
- Paprika soup.
- The Rinran.
- Sustentos (sustenance).
- Rabbit in garlic sauce
- Calf in garlic sauce.
- Poor man's potatoes (with peppers and onion).
- Rice with rabbit.
- Puchero (stew).

*Ask for them in our Restaurant.*

### Bars:

In any of them you'll be given free "**tapas**" (snacks) and with reasonable prices. Visit the ones in Alcudia.

### Take away food for the caves:

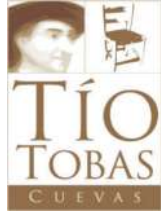
In our restaurant you can *order* food you want and bring it to the cave in order to eat it with in privacy and comfort.

*Ask our staff.*

Gastronomy in the Valley of Zalabí (Alcudia de Guadix, Exfiliana and Charches) is well-known for the variety of the dishes it offers, which is a natural consequence of the fusion of three very gastronomic villages. Among their dishes we highlight: soup with potatoes, soup with bread rolls, rabbit frying, the named tarbinas, noodles, rabbit with garlic, chitterlings with garlic, pork with garlic, rice with garlic, chicken in sauce with eggs and almonds, rinran, harvester pot and with onions.

Their sweet things are also very famous: fritters, flakes, fried bread rolls, the named borrachillos, flowers and white delicacy. The village is one of the fewer towns of Granada where bread is made in a firewood oven.





## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



## Valley of Zalabí...

The municipality of the Valle of Zalabí, formed by the centers of population of: Charches (57,9 Km<sup>2</sup>), Alcudia (36,4 Km<sup>2</sup>) and Esfiliana (13,9 Km<sup>2</sup>), which merge in 1.974 in the present Valle of Zalabi, whose administrative capital is Alcudia, being Charches the only center of population placed inside of the Natural Park of Sierra de Baza.

## History of the town of Alcudia de Guadix

The history of the village of Alcudia de Guadix goes back to the indigenous primitive population settled in the Zalabí, at least since the Argaric period, but its more recent origin goes back to the VIII Century, when in the immediate meadow the Syrian Yunds settled with the caliph Walid. From the X-XI Centuries a new population settled. Between the Muslims it was known as Alcudia Alhambra (Alcudia the Red), because of the reddish color of the hillsides on which it was settled.

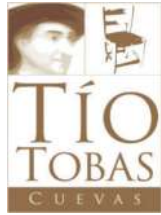
In 1489 it was conquered by the Catholic Kings and became part of the Crown of Castile. In the XVI Century, Alcudia was already an important village due to the agricultural richness and because all of its houses has water and many common properties. Its baths were also famous, in which were celebrated night ceremonies, especially during marriages.

Hernando el Havaqui, the “Great Bailiff” was from Alcudia, who participated in the uprising of the Moorish against Felipe II and was captain of the region of Guadix, Baza and Marquesado del Zenete, during the rebellion of the Alpujarras

## History of Exfiliana

Exfiliana is the Roman Ex-Julia ("out of Guadix"), founded by the first Christians arrived to Acci around the year 306 AC. It changes its name to Tustar or Xustar with the arrival of the Muslims, and in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century was again Yxfilyana. After the Moorish rebellion, in 1568, it turned uninhabited due to the expulsion of its 25 inhabitants, resettled after with some old Christians. In 1269, the mystic poet Al Xustari was born in Exfiliana and in 1708 the sculptor Torcuato Ruiz del Peral was born.

Yxfilyana, annex of the parish of Zigüení in 1554, was expelled as place the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October of 1571, by the expulsion of the Moorish. Its 25 inhabitants, also Moorish, were expelled from Exfiliana, resettled by 10 old Christians. The 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 1708, in the Smart Neighborhood of the town, the distinguished baroque sculptor Torcuato Ruiz del Peral was born.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



In 1750, in the land registry of Ensenada, it was described as town which has 80 houses and 5 flour mills. The inhabitants of the village lived from the cultivation vegetable gardens, vineyards, poplar groves, whitebeam trees, mulberries and other fruit trees, chestnut trees and some olive trees, as well as the from the production of silk. In the register of the land registry of 1842, there appears a census of 90 inhabitants and 408 souls, even though these data were corrected by Javier Gallego Roca in his “Urban morphology of the Kingdom of Granada”, page 178, indicating that the then inhabitants were 132, and 429 were the souls dwelled around there at that time. Madoz, in his dictionary (1845 - 1850) places the City in Southern Granada, in one left shore of the river Guadix, reporting on its mild climate with East and West winds. Describes the existence of 80 houses, including the town hall and the prison, the kids primary education school, a parochial church of the Annunciation served by a priest and a chaplain, and outside the town, in the Zalabí, a Chapel of Saint Mary of the Head.

### **Places of interest in Alcudia and Exfiliana:**

Church of Alcudia

Church of Exfiliana

Its chapels (Chapel of the Zalabi, Chapel of Sainy Buenaventura, Chapel of the Souls, Chapel of Saint Antón)

Tejea of Zalabi and Tejea of Majuelo

Caves of the Nazari period (the spectacles)

Ruiz del Peral (Sculptor) Exposition

### **Places of landscape interest:**

Viewpoint of Saint Gregorio

Viewpoint of S. Buenaventura

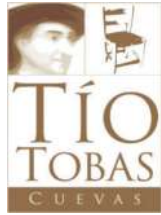
Viewpoint if the Souls

Viewpoint of the Pine forest

## **History of Charches**

Its origin is not very clear, being the most accepted opinion the one that establishes that is was formed around the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, as a shepherd’s settlement of the village of La Calahorra. People says in that respect that there were twelve families settled in Charches, which coming from La Calahorra, divided in twelve equal parts the land and its goods, forming the named twelve sorts that gave rise to the existing irrigation system of the land, by turns, corresponding to each sort a twenty four-hour water turn.

In the Madoz Dictionary (1846), it is said that together with El Raposo and Rambla del Agua, it formed its own town council.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



Among its monuments we must highlight the parochial church, open to the cult in honor of S. Marcos, the fountain of the Seven Spouts, with its traditional clothe washing place, remodeled in May 2004 and the popular threshing floors, with a very singular popular architecture and worth to preserve, in which paving were used autochthonous materials from the Sierra de Baza. Its streets preserve the appearance of its mountain origin and are beautifully narrow, being well preserved the group of buildings, which are worth an escape and a walk.

Charches is located in the South side of the Sierra de Baza, offering views to the Valley of Marquesado and Sierra Nevada and with an altitude of 1.426 m., being, therefore, one of the highest villages of the Iberian Peninsula.

### **Small village of La Rambla del Agua**

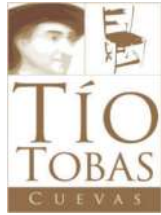
La Rambla del Agua is placed in the South side of the Natural Park of the Sierra de Baza, offering views to Sierra Nevada, of which it is separated by the depression of the Marquesado, with an altitude of 1.430 meters, it is a beautiful small village of the Sierra de Baza, which geologically is placed inside the geologic sector named Nevado-Filábride, formed by metamorphic rocks from the Paleozoic Age, basically mica schist, quartzite, marbles and some hard rocks, which make this place a very singular spot, with typical Alpujarra's constructions, from which we must highlight its Mozarabic-Rural style Church.

This small village belongs nowadays to the municipal area of the Valley of Zalabí, even if has not always been this way, since originally and around the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, date of its historic origin, there were country houses of shepherds that belong to the village of Aldeire, first, and Dólar afterwards and later, in 1853, becomes part of Charches and other country houses to become its own Town Council.

La Rambla del Agua that at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and beginnings of the 20<sup>th</sup>, period of highest zenith, counted with almost 500 inhabitants, started its depopulation in the fifties of the past Century, but it was in the 60's when it suffered a massive depopulation, being the village completely abandoned.

Nowadays, the small village of La Rambla del Agua has been comprehensively recovered by its inhabitants, with the progressive return of its emigrants, which has permitted the return of life and color to this mountain village, so now the small village is dwelled during the whole year and it's mainly populated by retired persons that depend on their retirement pension and who have come back to their place of origin from where they worked, while attending some rural tourism activities, they spend their time with traditional activities such as esparto craftsmanship, domestic pork slaughter or the cultivation and harvest of almonds, vegetable garden products and wine produces and elaborated for domestic use.





## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



The main interest center of the small village is the **Ethnologic Museum** of La Rambla del Agua, in which you can see all the ways of life of La Rambla de Agua and other centers of populations of the Sierra de Baza, in addition to utensils, clothes, different working implements, photos, etc., as singular samples of the mountain culture; the visit to this museum must be arranged by phone calling the number (+34) 958 66 12 17.

### **Places of interest of Charches and La Rambla del Agua:**

Church of Charches

Church of La Rambla del Agua

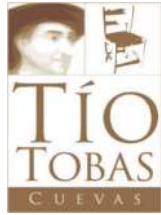
Ethnologic Museum of La Rambla del Agua

Threshing floor of Charches and La Rambla

Mines of Las Piletas

Mines of Los Cuellos

La Fraguara



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### REGION OF GUADIX

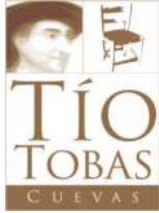
The patrimonial richness of the Region of Guadix constitutes one of the differential elements of this territory.

**NATURAL PATRIMONY:** The morphological variety, together with its topography and other factors such as the climate impact or the anthropic action, have contributed to constitute one of the features that best differentiates the Region of Guadix: its enormous environmental, landscape and natural richness, in which we find so different scenes such as the mountain tops of Sierra Nevada, the plains of Zenete, the shores of Fardes, or the genuine badlands of the surroundings of Guadix or the area of Bacor-Oliver.

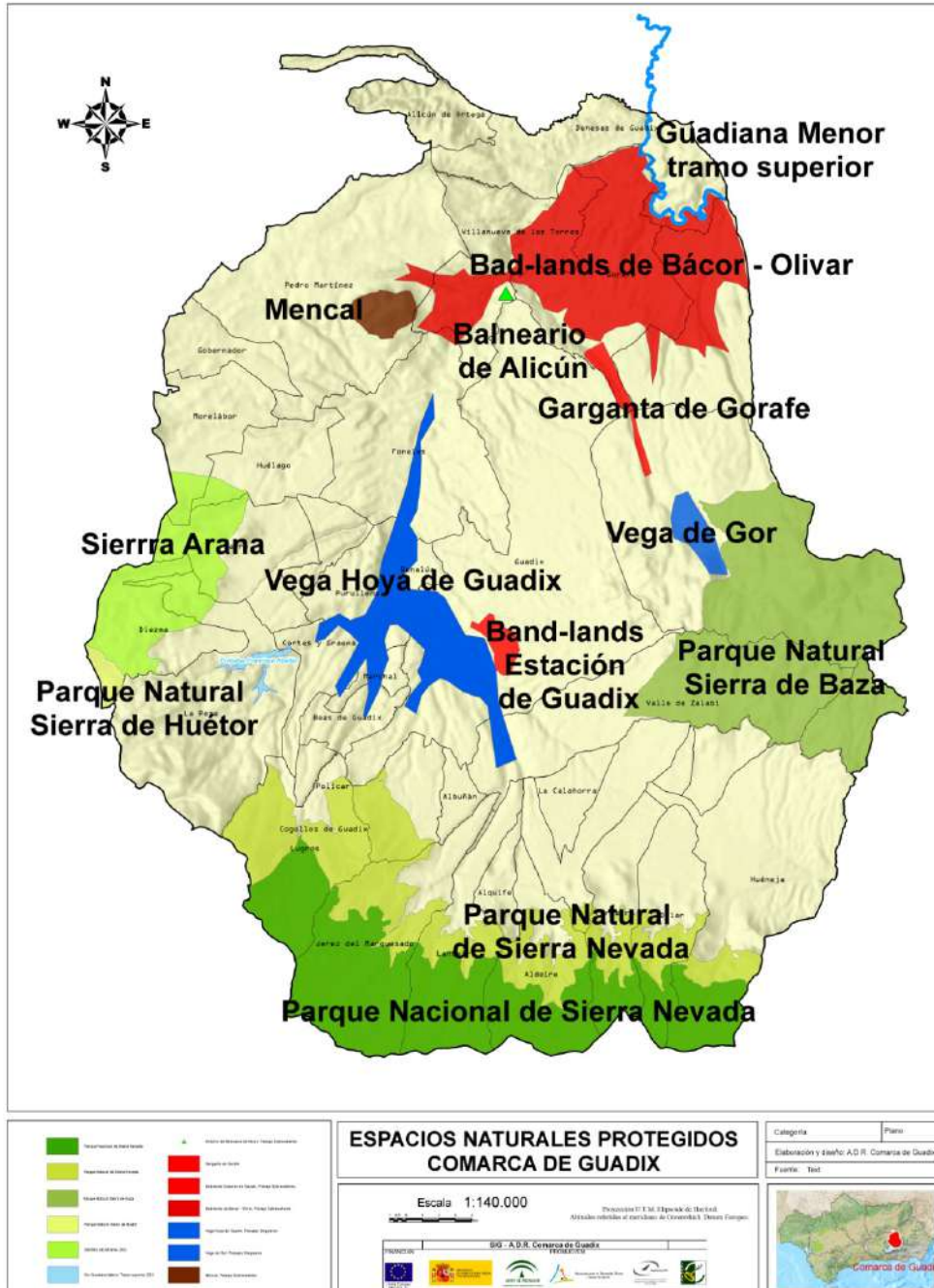
This richness causes that a large part of the region's surface is protected, participating in the four parks that surround it: the Natural Park of the Mountain range of Huetor, the Natural Park of the Mountain Range of Baza and the Natural and National Park of Sierra Nevada, being this last one declared biosphere reserve. These three areas occupy an important part of the region's surface. To these enclaves we must add other environments considered in the province's Protection Special Plan of the Physical Mean and preserved by figures of inferior category (special protection areas, compatible special protection, preventative protection, etc).

- **The Gorge of Gorafe** (Compatible Special Protection, Excellent landscape).
- **The Mencal** (Compatible Special Protection, Excellent landscape)
- **The surroundings of the Spa of Alicun de Ortega** (Compatible Special Protection, Excellent landscape).
- **The Badlands of Bacor-Oliver** (Compatible Special protection, Excellent landscape).
- **The Badlands of the Station of Guadix** (Compatible Special Protection, Excellent landscape).
- **The Meadow of the River Basin of Guadix** (Compatible Special Protection, Singular landscapes).
- **The Meadow of Gor** (Compatible Special Protection, Singular landscapes).
- **The Rills of Marchal** (Natural Monument)

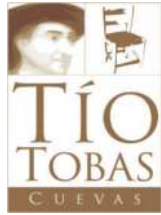
Within the natural patrimony we must highlight the important geological patrimony, part of which it is present in the Andalusia's Inventory of Cultural Georesources (21 elements of this inventory are to be found in this region), where it stands out the subbasin of Guadix which has developed one of the most spectacular erosive models of Andalusia. It stands out the existing strong contrast in its four landscape's units: the mountain ranges; the superior plains or silting glacis; the riled slopes or badlands ("bad lands") and the valleys. The badlands, to be found all along the region (to highlight the Badland's zone of Bacor Oliver, near the municipality of Alicun) constitutes one of the most spectacular erosive landscapes of the European continent. Geological landscape of African reminiscences which has attracted during various generations the attention of geologists, naturalists, landscape painters, photographers and film producers.



# Caves of the Uncle Tobas



Map of Natural Protected Spaces of the Region of Guadix. (2008). Source: Department of Natural Environment.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



**CULTURAL PATRIMONY:** The geostrategic situation of the Region has converted it in a place of settlements for various cultures from the Inferior Paleolithic to the present day (Romans, Iberians, Visigoths, Arabs, Christians), as proven by the numerous material remains found. Very important data to report on and which shall mark the historic becoming of the Region of Guadix, are the fact that Guadix was founded by Julius Caesar as a military colony in the year 45 AD under the name of Colony Gulia Gemella Acci and that Acci became one of the most important cities of eastern Andalusia at that time, as proven by the recent discovery of a Roman Theatre in the center of the city, which has become the tenth existing Roman theatre of Andalusia. The Muslims settle in the Region from the year 711, leaving important Arab remains through the entire region and, after a late Christian conquest (after 1490), an exceptional Mudejar patrimony, and result of the coexistence of both cultures. The Christianization of Guadix occurred thanks to the arrival of the Apostolic Varones and the preaching did in these lands by one of them, Torcuato, becoming the Patron Saint of the city of Guadix. The Bishopric of Guadix was created in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD, which shall origin one of the main monuments of Guadix, its cathedral, which includes elements of the three different artistic styles: Renaissance, Baroque and Gothic.

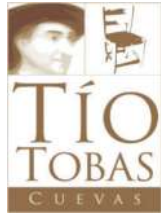
This way, we can find patrimonial elements from different periods that form a region gifted with an outstanding cultural patrimony. This circumstance has generated, principally, the starting of a series of actions focused in giving value to the patrimony and its exploitation as tourist and/or didactic resource. Among these projects we must highlight the creation of thematic routes, the design of itineraries and its signposting, edition of guides or creation of interpretation centers.

Therefore, we can establish a classification of the main typologies of historic and cultural patrimony in the region, much of which has already been the object of projects to give them value:



**Troglodyte Patrimony:** The geology of the region has permitted during centuries the utilization by men of the caves, either from natural or artificial origin, which has caused one of the most characteristic patrimonial resources and at the same time, one of the most suggestive resources of our region. This patrimony is compound by caves of different periods, typologies and uses (from the defensive caves of the Arab period to the present cave-houses). We must highlight the cave's neighbor of Guadix integrated in the Monumental Guadix Route. This is one of the largest and best preserved enclaves

of these characteristics in Europe; it is a fully active urban space, where all the housings are excavated in the rock, awarding an absolutely picturesque and particular character.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



**Mudejar Patrimony:** According to Jose Manuel Gomez Calero, author of the guide named “Mudejar Route” in the Region of Guadix, the Mudejar expressions were not only abundant but also reached a character of almost exclusivity as far as its use in monumental architecture, highlighting the milestones of architectural aristocracy of the named Plaza de los Corregidores of the old Guadix and the Castle-Palace of La Calahorra. We must also mention palaces, noble houses, housings, parish churches, chapels, warehouses and granaries, which talked us about medieval architecture, expressed in Mudejar language,

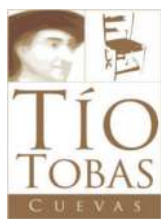
as far as construction systems, aesthetic shapes and professional organization. We can find examples of Mudejar distributed in municipalities all along the region, which has caused the creation of three routes: “The Mudejar Guadix”, “The Marquisate of Zenete and the Zalabi Valley” and “Valleys of the Rivers Alhama and Fardes and Zone of Mountains”. These routes appear in the abovementioned guide named “Mudejar routes”, which, promoted by the Center of Tourist Initiative of the Region of Guadix, constitutes the main product to put into value of this patrimony in the region.



**Industrial and Mining Patrimony:** Integrated by old mining installations and populations, among which we highlight the installations and village of Alquife, the Mine of Santa Constanza where the first Pesetas were minted, old sugar refineries and factories, etc.



**Arab Patrimony:** Its maximal expression finds itself in the Marquisate of Zenete and can be seen in mining elements, communication ways, Arab cisterns and other elements related to the agriculture of that period, from which we can find numerous remains and deposits in the zone. It has caused the creation of the “Route of the Arab Heritage” in the Marquisate, with the Center of Arab Architecture in Ferreira as its central element.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



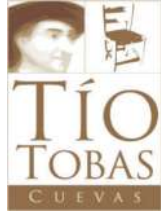
**Megalithic and Paleontological Patrimony:** We must highlight the Megalithic Park of Gorafe, which with more than 200 dolmens constitutes one of the largest dolmen collections of Spain. Furthermore, in 2010 we'll enjoy the Megalithic Interpretation Center in this municipality. Among other archeological and paleontological sites, we must specially mention the paleontological site of Fonelas because of the importance of its fossil remains found in it, where they have appeared remains of prehistoric animals unprecedented in the Iberian Peninsula.



**Monumental Patrimony:** settled in the historic and monumental city of Guadix which, after the passing of the different cultures, offers an interesting fusion of aristocratic and popular, civil and religious architecture. Put into value through the creation of the Monumental Guadix Route, which includes the Citadel, the Cathedral, the named Plaza de los Corregidores (present Square of the Constitution), Palace of Peñaflores and other important monuments, palaces and churches of the Historic Center of the City of Guadix.



**Ethnographic Patrimony:** gastronomy, (the traditional region's gastronomy, either domestic or ritual, is very varied) the oral tradition, folklore, traditional festivals. We highlight the famous bull enclosures such as the ones of the municipalities of Gor, La Calahorra, Jerez del Marquesado and La Peza (this last has been recently declared of Tourist Interest of Andalusia), or the famous Festival of Cascamorras in Guadix, in addition to the traditional trades and handicrafts (forge, pottery, cattail chair's making, embroidery, etc.). In this sector we must also highlight other resources such as the patrimony related to enology, which has already started with the opening of the Wine Interpretation Center in Policar; or the one related to the History of Guadix, as film shooting scenery, with more than hundred productions filmed in the region under famous titles and movies such as *Doctor Zhivago* or *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### The Marquisate of Zenete

Zenete or Cenete comes from the Arab word Sened, which means hillside and refers to the enormous natural wall of Sierra Nevada elevated over the high plateau. This image impresses when we arrive to this region from the river basin of Guadix with its clayey rills and suddenly it arises at the end of its immense plain the snowcapped tops of the mountain range.

This region had its importance in the past as a passing way between the coast and the peninsular interior, as proven by the Roman ways that plowed through them and the fortresses that mark its routes; but above all, its mining richness, its white mulberry trees plantations, its abundant water and the quality of its cattle pastures, converted the region in an attractive territory.

The most powerful family of Spain, the one of the Great Cardinal Mr. Pedro de Mendoza, received from the Catholic Kings this Domain for the services rendered to the Crown during the Reconquest. Inherited by his son Mr. Rodrigo de Mendoza, who was the first Marquis of Zenete, to which jurisdiction belonged the towns of Jeres, Lanteira, Alquife, La Calahorra, Aldeire, Ferreira, Dolar and Hueneja.

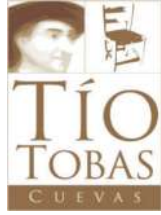
Mr. Rodrigo, an eccentric personage, ordered to build in only three years (from 1.509 to 1.512) the Castel of La Calahorra, an austere fortress which hold inside of it a Renaissance palace of Italian style, from where he brought marble of Carrara for his extraordinary patio. To carry out this building work he requisitioned all the load animals of the Marquisate and submitted the workers to hard working journeys, which caused the desertion of quarriers and processors, as proven by the documents of litigations of the period. But his difficult character is reflected above all in the inscription he put in the entry of the castle as a challenge for the Crown, which reads: *"Este Castillo se construyó para guarda de los caballeros que sus Reyes quisieron agraviar"* [this castle was built to guard the knights who their Kings wanted to offend].

In 1.570 he was siege during the rebellion by more than six thousand Moorish, who badly equipped, they could hardly do anything against his solid walls.

The last battle this fortress fought was of speculative nature, when it had to face a purchase attempt of its Renaissance patio by an American millionaire. Fortunately, it did not finished like the Castle of Velez-Blanco, and nowadays we can still enjoy this jewel, raised over a hill, facing the majestic peaks of Sierra Nevada.

### The Alpujarra

Just a few territories of our country are as attractive and have aroused so amazement and emotion as the Alpujarra. Among the enormous bibliography that this land has generated there is an impressive range of illustrious authors, fascinated by its savage relief, its legendary episodes and its ancient customs, which they have collected in their works, unforgettable snippets of this region: storytellers (Gautier, Alarcon, Brenan), poets (Garcia Lorca, Calderon de la Barca), painters (Gustavo Dore), travelers (Richard Ford), botanists (Boissier, Willkomm), engineers (Hertting), doctors (Oloriz), anthropologists (Caro Baroja, Spanhi), etc. In all of them we find the admiration for this land, isolated during centuries, which has preserved the authenticity of its peoples and its works, testimonies of incredible rusticity and purity in a precipitous geography.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



The Alpujarra covers from the south slope of Sierra Nevada to the Sea and from the region of the Valley of Lecrin to the confluence of the rivers Andarax and Nacimiento. From the highest peaks of the Iberian Peninsula to the Mediterranean we find landscapes with a great diversity and a very valuable scientific and human interest. The ethnographic patrimony this region holds comes from its isolation, but also from the influence of different cultures settled in its territory, being the Muslim period the one that influenced the most in the landscape (constructions, irrigation ditches, plots...), which so characterizes this region, since they remain in this region during eight centuries.

The contrasts found in this high mountain with different vegetation stripes from the snow to the sea, together with the integration of the landscape in its villages and its traditional elements, converts the Alpujarra into a paradise of diversity that seduces all its travelers.

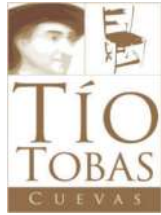
### **The region of the River Nacimiento**

We cross numerous crystalline streams that fall over the rough relief of the northern slope of Sierra Nevada, forming all of them the headwaters of the River Nacimiento, which gives its name to one of the richest regions in history and landscapes of Andalusia. From the snowcapped peaks of Almiraz and the named Peñones del Mediodía, to the tortuous rills of its low river beds, the River Nacimiento is pure contrast between the range cuts and the plains of the foothills, between the pine and holm oak forests and the desolate sandy dry riverbeds. From the desert to the orchard, different landscapes live together, as well as in its culture, perfectly illustrated in the tiny Chapel of Father Jesus, in Fiñana, where we find architectonic and decorative elements associated from different cultures serving the same religious purpose: over a Roman plan, Visigoth horseshoe arches, Nazareth plasterwork drapes and in the mihrab an image of the Holy Father, a whole mixture of cultures.

Demarcated its river bed between the Mountain Range of Filabres and the Almería's Sierra Nevada, the course of the river Nacimiento goes on through the corridor of Fiñana, a natural corridor of the quaternary, strategic pass between Almería and the region of Guadix. With remains of important settlements since the Metal Ages, it is during the Roman period when this region shone as an important communication junction (Fiñana, Abla, Las Tres Villas, etc.). Under Muslim domination, numerous fortresses are built all along its way, which shall subsequently change hands in the intermittent and bloody uprisings between Arab and Christian troops.

In its final course, the river Nacimiento surrounds the eastern extreme of Sierra Nevada, between a bare and subjugating mineral landscape, where water, orange and palm trees compose together with the white staggered hamlets an African picture as seductive as the names of its villages: Alboloduy, Alsodux, Alhabia...).





## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Customs...



### **Go up to the snow**

From November onwards, when the first snows begin, many families of the region get their food and drive to the Puerto de la Ragua (Ragua pass) on Sundays to play in the snow and to enjoy the snow-covered mountain. There are various outdoor bars to enjoy the magnificent hams, refuges of the Regional Andalusia Government and bars

### **A day in the river**

It is a custom in this region to “go to the river”. The tradition consists in getting a saucepan, two rabbits, a calf, lamb or rice and drive to the thick poplar grove of the valleys or near the sources and to spend a day in the country, without TV set nor civilization and to cook a good lunch. It is a very healthy custom which helps communication.

### **Mushrooms and snails**

The abundant vegetation of the valleys favor the growing of snails and mushrooms in the cut trunks of poplars next to the irrigation ditches, or even in the pine trees of the mountain range. Ask the locals and they’ll tell you when you can practice these activities.

### **To go “tapeo”**

All bars in the region are specialists in cooking good tapas (snacks). Among the ones you like the most you can choose dishes. The reasonable prices of the “tapeo”, turn it into a really cheap leisure activity.

### **The slaughters.**

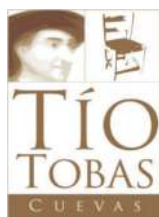
It is typical in Christmas that in these villages, all families slaughter the pigs they have raised during the year. It is easy to distinguish in which house it’s being done. We hope you decide to participate.

### **The bullfights in the Marquesado del Zenete**

Don’t miss seeing a bullfight in the villages of Jerez, La Calahorra, Lanteira or Cogollos. You’ll be impressed by the way they do them, as well as the particular construction of the bullrings and the participation of locals. Without a doubt, the running of bulls is not like the San Fermin, but it has a special taste you’ll enjoy.

### **Procession of the “Virgen de la Cabeza”**

On the last Sunday of April this famous procession is celebrated in which the whole region participates. It’s done in the valley and in the chapel of Zalabí. Don’t miss to go there... if you can fit it in your program.



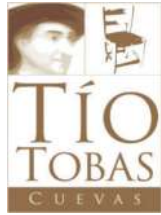
## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



## Festivals of the Region...

Festival calendar of the Region			
MONTH	TOWN	DATES	FESTIVITY
<b>January</b>	Alcudia	16 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Antón
	Guadix	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Antón
	La Calahorra	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Antón
	Lanteira	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Antón
<b>February</b>	Jerez	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Candelaria
<b>March</b>	La Calahorra	8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>	Patrón San Gregorio
<b>April</b>	Exfiliana	Last Sunday	Romería del Zalabí
	Alquife	27 <sup>th</sup>	Patrón San Hermenegildo
	Jerez	25 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Marcos
	La Calahorra	25 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Marcos
	Lanteira	25 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Marcos
<b>May</b>	Guadix	15 <sup>th</sup>	San Torcuato
	Aldeire	Last Sunday	Patrón Virgen del Rosario
	Dolar	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Día de la Cruz
	La Calahorra	9 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta de San Gregorio
<b>June</b>	Exfiliana	26 <sup>th</sup>	Santos Mártires
	Granada	26 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>	Festival de Música y Danza
<b>July</b>	Granada	1 <sup>st</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>	Festival Internacional Música/Danza
	Alcudia	14 <sup>th</sup>	San Buenaventura
<b>August</b>	La Calahorra	15 <sup>th</sup>	Fiesta Mayor-Toros
	Purullena	20 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fiesta Santo Cristo de los M.
	Alquife	First week	Fiesta del Emigrante
	Dolar	Last week	Feria
	Ferreira		Fiesta del Emigrante
	Aldeire		Moros y Cristianos
<b>September</b>	Guadix	1 - 5	Feria Mayor
	Guadix	9	Cascamorras
	Jerez	8 - 10	Patrona Ntra.Sra. de la P. - Toros
	Lanteira	13 - 17	Patrón Cristo de las Penas-Toros
	Alcudia	14	Patrón Santo Cristo-Toros
<b>October</b>	Ferreira	4	Patrón San Francisco de Asís
<b>November</b>	Purullena	11	Fiesta de San Martín
	Dolar	30	Patrón San Andrés
<b>December</b>	Alquife	4	Patrona Santa Bárbara

*Connect with our people and enjoy it!*



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



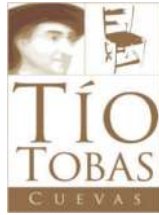
## Activities with other companies and recommended visits.

### Activities

- Trekking through Sierra Nevada
- Trekking in the surroundings of the accommodations
- Horse routes from the accommodations
- Cross-country skiing
- Archery
- Tyrolienne traverse
- Cycle-rail
- 4WD Routes
- Light aircraft or hot-air balloon flight over the region
- Arab and anti-stress circuit in Spa

### Recommended Visits

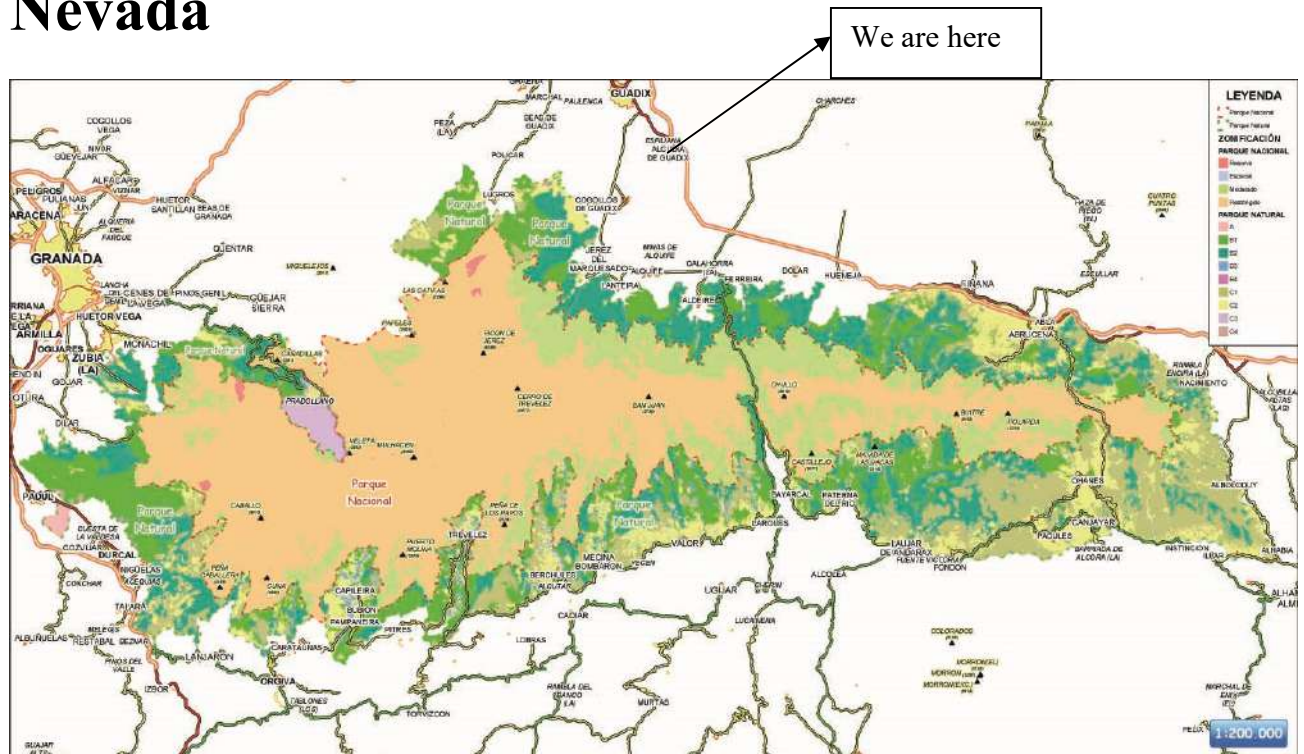
- Visit to the monumental Guadix
- Car route of Marquesado and Calahorra Castle
- Car route of Bad Lands and Megalithism
- Car route of Troglodytism
- Car route of the Arab heritage
- Visit to the region's wineries
- Route of the Museums of the region:
  - Pottery museum of Guadix*
  - Cathedral museum of Guadix*
  - Cave museum of Guadix*
  - Ethnographic museum in cave of Purullena*
  - Ethnographic museum of Albuñan*
  - Trópolis Museum of Alcudia de Guadix*
- Sun and Beach journey in Cabo de Gata and visit to Mini Hollywood
- Journey through the Alpujarra
- Guided Visit to the Alhambra and the City of Granada.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas

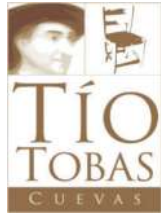


# The National and Natural Park of Sierra Nevada



The Natural Space of Sierra Nevada, formed by the national park and the natural park of the same name, impresses because it is an extensive mountain massif with a compact relief and holding the highest peak of the Iberian Peninsula, the Mulhacén with 3.482 meters. Integrated in the Penibetic mountain range, it goes from the Southeast of Granada to the western end of Almería. Due to its great landscape variety and its exclusive natural values, it has obtained different figures of protection. In addition of being Natural Park and National Park, it's recognized internationally as Reserve of the Biosphere.

The climatology and the difference of altitudes have made possible the growing inside of it of a great number of plants, specially adapted to difficult conditions. In High Mountain, such as in Veleta or in Tajo de los Machos, to the refuge of rocky places and among the natural crevices in the rocks, you can enjoy the identification of exclusive species such as the violet of Sierra Nevada or the star of the snows. At this altitude we can also find beautiful valleys of glacial origin such as the one named Siete Lagunas. At medium altitude we mostly find forest landscapes of deciduous leaf made by quercus pyrenaica wild, pales, wild cherry trees and chestnut trees. These forests change the physiognomy of the landscape through the seasons; during autumn they start to lose the leaf and other colors predominate, but with the arrival of



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



the spring and the resurgence of the new shoots, the intense greens arrive. Already in the down stages we find the oak groves such as the Montenegro and, finally, the riverside forests that come with the river beds.

This vegetal and climate variety determinates a great fauna richness. In the high mountain we can see the flight of the alpine accentor, the blue rock thrush or the red-billed chough. Keeping silence, between the shadows of the riverbed forest, it is possible to see the dipper, the golden oriole or the striking common kingfisher. The majestic golden eagle, anytime, can also fly through its skies.

Sheltered by the expanse of forest and the dense bushes, we find a large community of mammals such as wild boar, fox, badger or genet. Among them, without a doubt, the Spanish ibex, very widespread in these mountains, can be seen from the Valley of the River Dílar or the Poqueira ravine, climbing up the hillsides or in the top of the rocks. The community of invertebrates is also very representative; there are many species which are exclusive of this environment, among them, more than twenty species of butterflies and more than thirty species of beetles.

Tartessus, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans settled these environments but, without a doubt, the Arabs were the ones that left an important legacy which still survive in architecture and irrigation systems, such as the irrigations ditches. In respect to architecture, we must highlight the outstanding villages of the Alpujarra, characterized by their white houses, placed in the hillsides of the mountains, small windows, flat roofs, slender chimneys and the porches named “tinaos” which cover from side to side the roads.

It is very important the tourist industry developed around this zone. Enthusiast of skiing, mountaineering, fishing or trekking find here an adequate place of leisure where to enjoy their holydays.

### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PARK**

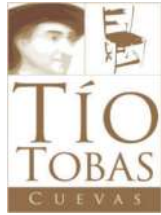
**Provinces:** Almeria, Granada

**Villages:** Abla, Abrucena, Alboloduy, Alsodux, Bayarcal, Beires, Canjayar, Fiñana, Fondon, Laujar de Andarax, Nacimiento, Ohanes, Paterna del Rio, Ragol, Tres Villas (las), Aldeire, Alpujarra de La Sierra, Berchules, Bubion, Busquistar, Cañar, Capileira, Dilar, Dolar, Durcal, Ferreira, Guejar-sierra, Hueneja, Jerez del Marquesado, Juviles, Lanjaron, Lanteira, Lecrin, Lugros, Monachil, Nevada, Niguelas, Pampaneira, Portugos, Soportujar, Taha (la), Trevezlez, Valor, Zubia (la)

**Extension:** 85.883 ha.

**Declaration date:** 14<sup>th</sup> of January of 1999

In the Reception Desk there is a great amount of information about. Ask for it.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### Three important issues of Sierra Nevada

**TREK THE SULAYR PATH (IN THE INFORMATION ENVELOPE OF THE CAVES YOU'VE BE HANDLED THE MAP)**



Sulayr, the mountain of the sun, is the name the Arabs gave to Sierra Nevada and it has been the one chosen to name the circular biggest path of Spain. Its 300 kilometers of route are divided in 19 stages, through which you'll discover the beauty and singularity of its landscape and villages. The paths, sidewalks and livestock roads where it takes place are connected with other equipments of public use such as the visitors center El Dornajo or the botanic garden La Cortijuela which shall permit you extend your knowledge about the space.

**VISIT THE REGION OF THE MARQUESADO**

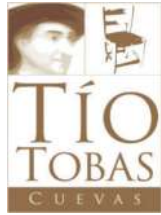


Sierra Nevada is one of the biggest natural spaces of the country, but it also hides an interesting cultural legacy which is worth a visit. The region of the Marquesado del Zenete is an example of this cultural richness. Headed by Jeres del Marquesado, the route through these villages shall bring you to castles such as the one of La Calahorra, or Dólar, Christian and Mozarabic chapels and churches and Arab Baths such as the one of Aldeire or Dólar. All in all, in these lands you'll find interesting historic-cultural itineraries to discover, with the background of the beautiful summits of Sierra Nevada.

**MEET THE ALMERIA'S ALPUJARRA**



Less known than the one of Granada, the Alpujarra of Almeria still keeps the Moorish smell in the houses of its villages, fountains, irrigation ditches and channels. The river Andarax, born in the surroundings of Laujar de Andarax and flowing into Almeria, vertebrates this entire region. Its valley is full of vegetable gardens in plots, also part of the Arab heritage. In winter, the snow and almond and cherry trees' flowers cover the horizon of this beautiful region chosen by the king Boabdil as his residence.



## *Caves of the Uncle Tobas*



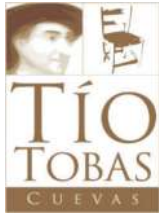
# **Do you want to help us with our compromise with the environment?**

We are in a protected natural space, and with a little effort you can help us with our compromise with the environment.

Hereinafter we detail some advices:

- **To save energy:**
  - Try not to open the windows when the heating is on. Do not leave the windows open, 15 minutes are enough to air the rooms
  - Turn off the light of the rooms you're not using
- **To save water:**
  - Try to turn off the faucets properly
  - Use the shower, the water consumption is smaller than if you use the bath.
  - Try to use the water properly when you brush your teeth, soap yourself or shave
  - Do not use the WC as wastepaper basket
  - Please, let us know any incident you detect (water loss in faucets, cisterns, etcetera)
- **To recycle as maximum as possible:**
  - Deposit the waste in the adequate container: glass (green container), paper and cardboard (blue container), bottles (yellow container), rest of garbage (grey container). These containers are in the entry of the accommodation.
- **Used oil in the caves:**
  - In the kitchen of the cave you have a receptacle to pour the used oil. Do not pour it in the kitchen sink or WC

Our company is involved in the respect to the environment in general and in the conservation of the National Park of Sierra Nevada through its accreditation as Information point of the Park and the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism through the practicing of environmental improvement techniques.



## Caves of the Uncle Tobas



### We're committed with recycling



What to deposit?	Not to deposit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bottles</li> <li>* Glass Jars</li> <li>* Other glass receptacle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Broken glasses of windows or mirrors</li> <li>* Light bulbs and fluorescens</li> <li>* Stoppers of bottles and jars</li> <li>* Ceramic receptables</li> </ul>

What to deposit?	Not to deposit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All kind of used paper (news-papers, magazines, office paper, forms, etc.)</li> <li>* Containers, boxes, paperl and cardboard packings</li> <li>* Rest of cardboards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dirty paper or cardboard (kitchen paper, napkins, etc.), specially if it contains oil or food or painting remains</li> <li>* Papel hanskerchiefs</li> <li>* Tinfoil, bricks, onionskin paper, thermal facsimile paper</li> <li>* Plasticized paper</li> </ul>



What to deposit?	Not to deposit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Cans</li> <li>* Bricks</li> <li>* Plastic containers and packings</li> <li>* Plastic bags</li> <li>* Tinfoil</li> <li>* Metalic and plastic tops and stoppers</li> <li>* Porexpan trays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bottles which have containned toxic products</li> <li>* Rubber and gums</li> <li>* Full bottles</li> <li>* Aerosol sprays</li> </ul>