



# ALTO TURIA

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T U R I S M O

PATRIMONIO  
HISTÓRICO



# Benagéber

## Embalse de Benagéber

The Benagéber Reservoir, located on the Turia River and in the Benagéber municipal area, began its history in 1931, the date on which its construction was carried out by the General Directorate of Hydraulic Works, on the 5th of April 1932, the President of the Republic, Niceto Alcalá-Zamora, inaugurated the works under the name of Pantano de Blasco Ibáñez. Its construction would last until 1955, being renamed Embalse del Generalísimo.

The Benagéber reservoir is located about 7 km from the town center and has the capacity to store 228 million m<sup>3</sup>. The height of the dam is 110 m above the foundations and 90 above the riverbed. The width at its crown is 10.50 m. The length of the diversion tunnel is 492 m, and the surface area of the basin adds up to a total of 4,200 km<sup>2</sup>. Since it was inaugurated in 1955, it has been shown to be important when it comes to guaranteeing the water supply to Valencia and its enormous metropolitan area, as well as making it possible to irrigate extensive areas of Camp de Túria and L'Horta.

## IOur Lady of the Pillar Church

Next to the reservoir is the Church of Nuestra Señora del Pilar, a brick and cement temple built in 1950 that contains a plaque with the names of the twenty-one workers who died in the construction of the reservoir, in addition to the schools, the buildings of Administration, workers' residences, etc.

## San Isidro Hermitage

The old hermitage of San Isidro was next to the current promenade, separated from "La casa de en medio" by a path or path 3 meters wide. On August 29, 1972, the city council agreed to the construction of the current one.

The current building was built in 1975. It is located in a landscaped environment, among riverside trees and shrubs, with picnic tables for the enjoyment of visitors and passers-by, surrounded by some vine fields. It has a fountain, of similar architecture to the hermitage, which is located on one side of the large stamped concrete esplanade, which precedes the entrance to the building.



## Cement Factory

One of the key pieces of Benagéber's heritage is the cement factory, which at the time was a pioneer plant in the Valencian context. Taking advantage of the limestone bedrock in the area, a cement manufacturing plant was built around 1950, made up of a group of buildings next to the dam itself. The plant was innovative for the time because, in addition, the rock extraction quarry itself was integrated into the cement factory.

Once the works were completed, the plant continued to be operated by the Portolés y Cía company, which sold it to Cementos Turia de Burjassot, which kept it in operation for some time until it closed in the mid-1970s. The closure of the plant meant the abandonment of a large part of the town on the reservoir.

## El Sequer

The buildings correspond to an old ICO-NA forestry factory. The climatic characteristics of the area made the white and black pine forests become the best adapted plant formation, in addition to lowering the pines to Valencia by the Turia River (before the construction of reservoirs), replacing junipers, junipers, oaks and holm oaks that previously characterized the landscape. However, the predominance of pine forests is due to the organization of space carried out by humans, especially since the beginning of the 20th century, in addition to the extraction of pine nuts, for the use of wood, through planned planting. A forester lived in the house and the land around the hostel was also used as a nursery.

From those times we still have a machine with a manual crank (sheller) that separated the pine nuts from their original shell to prepare them for sale. This machine (its shape is reminiscent of a small concrete mixer) is in a sorry state after decades in the open air, now in the process of being restored so that it can be seen as a testimony of the hard times in the interior lands, and from a not too distant time.



# Aras de los Omos

## Ecomuseo

The Aras de los Olmos Ecomuseum is a space dedicated to spreading the traditional culture of Aras and the Serranía, with the aim of purpose of enhancing the cultural and natural heritage of the area in order to contribute to its conservation.

The conception of this Ecomuseum goes beyond that of a mu-traditional seo. In its different parts – be it the exhibition or the visit of the buildings, of the agrarian structures, in the music, in the stories, in festivals, customs and beliefs... – we can observe the testimony of the different cultures that have left their footprints in Aras and Losilla. Through all these samples, the Ecomuseum aims to interpret the relationship of human groups with the territory and make them known to the visitor, teach the traditional way of life of the region, show different aspects of the local culture, as well as a multitude of contents with archaeological, ethnological and artistic value.



## Sky Aras

The Commonwealth of Alto Turia, declared a Starlight Reserve by UNESCO, enjoys one of the most spectacular views of the night sky that exists and the municipality of Aras de los Olmos is an ideal place to contemplate it.

Due to light pollution, in big cities it is not possible to see the firmament in all its splendor. In Aras de los Olmos, thanks to its non-existent air pollution, you can see the moon and a blanket of bright stars under the dark sky. A unique experience.

The municipality has astronomical observatories located at more than 1,300 meters above sea level from which thousands of stars can be seen. In addition, various activities related to astronomy are organized throughout the year, an attraction for both children and adults.

This protected natural space is committed to defending the quality of the night sky and access to starlight.

## Our Lady of the Angels Church

Building from the 16th century built on another building of an earlier date, so it presents parts belonging to different styles. It is a temple with a single nave, built with a Gothic structure and with attached chapels between the buttresses.

On the outside, the building has two portals, one in the Renaissance style, with Ionic semi-columns and a tripartite temple top, and a Romanesque one, belonging to the oldest part of the building, with a more sober decoration. In addition, the bell tower stands out, approximately 30 meters high, which is made up of two bodies, one of masonry work and the other of carved masonry at the top, which houses eight semicircular openings that contain the bells that they call to prayer, give the time, and in the past they were also used to give notice in case of fire or war.

## Iberian Settlement

In Castellar de la Muela are the remains of the wall of a fortified Iberian settlement located on the Muela de Sta. Catalina spur, at 1,250 m. The exceptional views of the entire territory that are obtained from the spur and the protection provided by the precipices that surround it make this enclave a strategic place. Accessible on foot (Iberian Route) and by car (CV-355). More information: 602 415 575 (Ecomuseum)

## Walled orchards

The walled orchards are a group of plots that are crowded together in front of the center of the population, from which they are separated by a ravine. These orchards show the traditional way of farming in Aras de los Olmos and constitute an exceptional testimony with great patrimonial, archaeological, ethnological and historical value, as well as environmental and landscape value.

Its typology, parcels of land separated by walls and irrigated by a system of rafts and ditches, evidence its Arab typology. When this culture was settled in the term of Aras, it brought with it several of its traditions and beliefs, such as appreciation for water and vegetation, since they were people who came from the desert.



# Chelva

## Archpriestal Church of Our Lady of the Angels

Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2006, the Archpriestal Church of Our Lady of the Angels, is the most emblematic monument of Chelva and is considered one of the best works of the Valencian Baroque.

The temple, of cathedral dimensions, began in 1626, extending its construction for eighty years.

The altarpiece façade, in Mannerist style, is a monumental work of masonry that alternates on its floors the four classical orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite).

Juan Bautista Pérez Castiel is credited with the exuberant interior baroque decoration, the large semicircular dome and the bell tower considered the first of the Valencian Baroque. With almost 60m. high, this tower culminates with an original clock, municipally owned, that indicates the hours, days of the week and the month.

## Historic Neighborhoods

The Villa de Chelva has great historical and cultural interest, as it preserves the traces of all the peoples that inhabited it. Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, with the category of Historic Site, it is made up of a series of highly complex neighbourhoods, with a sinuous and enigmatic layout.

### Andalusian neighborhood "Benacacira"

The Andalusian neighborhood of Benacacira is the old Muslim medina from the 11th - 12th centuries, preserving today the intact layout of its urban fabric: blind alleys, whitewashed houses, arcades that darken its narrow and winding streets... The medina was settled on a promontory from which the orchards near the Chelva river were controlled, surrounded by a perimeter wall that linked it to the fortress; At present, remains of hidden canvases are preserved by the houses that have been attached to it.

### Jewish Quarter "Azoque"

The Jewish quarter of Azoque preserves the structure of the medieval al-jama intact: the secluded and mysterious air of its alleys, with their entrance portals, which made it an island between the Christian and Mudejar quarters.

### Mudéjar-Moorish neighborhood "Arrabal"

Mudejar - Moorish neighborhood created from the s. XIV in the "arraba-les" of the walled city. With a winding layout, it currently preserves the original layout and historical elements that make it a unique tourist attraction.

### Christian neighborhood "Ollerías"

The Christian neighborhood of Las Ollerías was taking shape throughout the s. XIV and gets its name from the ceramic production kilns that were installed in its streets.

Its urban configuration is much broader and more orderly, compared to the pre-existing neighborhoods of Benacacira and the Jewish quarter of Azoque.

## Archaeological Site of "La Torrecilla"

La Torrecilla or old "Castillo de Chércol", is located on a hill to the north of Chelva, with a privileged position that allows it to control the northern territory of the valley, thus favoring the settlement of various cultures.

In the Torrecilla there was an Iberian settlement between the s. IV and II a.C. At the end of the s. In the 12th century the Almohads built a rural castle with a wall, cistern, tower and various rooms. During the Carlist Wars (mid-19th century) a new tower was built on the medieval ruins.

## Mosque of Benaëça / Mosque of Santa Cruz.

In the heart of the Mudejar - Moorish neighborhood of Arrabal, is the Hermitage of Santa Cruz, the old Benaëça Mosque, from the 14th century, which preserves its original structure intact and is the oldest of the two that exist in the Valencian Community. It was transformed into a hermitage in the 16th century, adding a small altar and a belfry with a bell, and it was consecrated to the Holy Cross. In 2007 the building was restored to recover it as a center of culture.



## Viscount Palace

Palace from the end of the s. XIV, where the Viscount of Chelva stayed, has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest since 2006, along with the remains of medieval walls that are part of the Historic Center of Chelva. It contains the Almohad fortress of the s. XII, from which the building evolved architecturally, coming to preside over the Plaza Mayor. An occupation from the Iberian period of the s has recently been discovered. IV B.C., and the location in the s. XIII of the first Christian Church of Chelva within the walls of the castle.



# Titaguas

## The Hermitage of the Virgen del Remedio.

This hermitage was built in the 14th century and enlarged twice, in the 17th century the presbytery and in the 19th century the sacristy and choir. It was partially destroyed in 1833 during the Carlist wars in which it served as a front. The current building is the result of the re-construction in 1839 and the renovation in 1942. The complex still keeps many vestiges from when it was fortified in the 19th century, highlighting the loopholes for the musketry and the bastion on which it stands. The environment is very pleasant and well preserved, with benches, tables and a recreation area. The white chapels of a Via Crucis are distributed in the surroundings.

## The El Salvador Parish Temple

This church is a work from the 16th century and is dedicated to the Transfiguration of the Lord. It is a Renaissance-style building that is characterized by the influence of nature and for not having a

decoration too abundant or ornate. It was erected as a vicarage dependent on the parish of Alpuente in 1520. It has undergone various restorations and inside is the Chapel of the Nazarene, from the beginning of the s. XVIII, built in baroque style with a beautiful lantern. It depended on the diocese of Segorbe until 1960, when it became dependent on that of Valencia.

## The cave paintings

Known as the Shelter of the Corral del Tío Escribano, these cave representations can be placed within the "levantine art" that developed in the east of the Iberian Peninsula during the Neolithic. Among these paintings we can distinguish the figures of a cervid or caprid, hunting and dance scenes, that is, scenes of the daily life of those who inhabited these lands more than 9,000 years ago. These figures are painted in red with a schematic line in all of them, since there was no realistic intention at this time because what was interesting was to capture movement by creating diagonal compositions.

## The House of Lights

Formerly this house was known as Uncle Florencio's house, a large old house dating from 1799 and which is characterized mainly for being one of the most emblematic and representative of the municipality of Titaguas. Throughout its history it has been a bar, theatre, shop and headquarters. Currently it has become a museum project called "La Casa de las Luces", a cultural dissemination center associated with the MuVIM of Valencia with which it is intended to preserve the heritage of both Titaguas and the entire region in general and recover illustrious people such as Simón of Rojas Clemente and Rubio.

## The Mojiganga

This ancestral dance was declared an Asset of Local Relevance in 2012. It is only danced in Titaguas in honor of the Virgen del Remedio and in Algemesí in honor of the Virgen de la Salud called Muixe-ranga. Currently this dance is only danced in the Fat Festivals, every seven years. The setting is the Plaza de la Iglesia where they are staged twice, in front of the Town Hall and in front of the Parish. This dance is divided into two parts, a religious one where the High Altar, the Movable Altar, the Andas, the Eme and the Pilón are interpreted and another profane one in which agricultural activities of the area are represented. Each couple acquires a trade among which it is necessary to highlight the beekeepers, the blacksmiths or the carpenters.



# Tuejar

## Parish Church "Our Lady of the Angels"

The Parish Church was built during the second half of the 17th century and declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2005. It is accessed by going up some stone steps until you reach the façade next to a beautiful neoclassical tower 35 meters high. . The interior of the temple is made up of a large nave with a transept measuring 35 meters by 16 meters and 15 meters high. The ornamentation and the details that they have remind us of the Valencian Baroque style.

## Hermitage of the Immaculate Conception

The Hermitage of the Immaculate Conception is dedicated to the patron saint of the municipality, the Immaculate Conception. Located at the entrance of the town, welcoming it, it does not have a defined construction style nor does it have an exact construction date, the first manifestations being in the year 1595. It is a 253-meter surface temple attached to the former home of the hermit. In front of it lived the hundred-year-old elm but when it fell ill it was restored and transferred to the side of the Hermitage as a souvenir.

## Hermitage of San Cristobal

A small temple without cult from the 15th century and of Gothic art located on top of a hill that dominates the town and dedicated to the saint that gives it its name. Declared an Asset of Local Relevance, it is a windowless stone building that forms a corner with the hermit's house. Fortified by the Carlists in the frequent wars due to their dominant position over the town, it became a hospital-lazaretto after the war due to the frequent epidemics that plagued the population. Currently, after its restoration in the year 2000, it gives life to multiple exhibitions and cultural events.



## Portal of the Saints

It was the main door through which medieval Tuexa was accessed in the walled era. It is an arch of very old construction with a tiled altarpiece on each side with images of San José (listed as an Asset of Local Relevance) and San Roque. It is located in what is the old town with a marked medieval flavor both for the characteristics of its buildings and for the name of the streets that make it up.

## Muslim Tower

Muslim watchtower located within the walled enclosure popularly known as "El Cubo". Inside it houses an old cistern used to store water. Next to it we find a press to make wine. From the top of the tower, due to its privileged position, we can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of the town and its fertile orchards.





## TOURISM WEBSITE

[visitaltoturia.es](http://visitaltoturia.es)

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