

LOCAL CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

The capital city, also named **Jaén**, has a graceful beauty, with a tranquil old centre and monuments of rich historical interest. The city had Carthaginian origins, and was then developed by Romans, Christians and Moors. Finally, the Christians re-captured Jaen and used it as a base for their final conquest of Spain, liberating the country from the Moors. Work upon the massive Cathedral commenced in the 15th Century, and with its Gothic and Baroque feature, although principally Renaissance in style, was declared a Historic-Cultural Monument. The Arab baths are the largest in Europe, and the Castle of Santa Catalina perched on the mountain-top as guardian to the city and the surrounding plains (now a splendid Parador Hotel), the Jewish quarter, many splendid churches, convents, monasteries and palaces are also worth a visit.



Jaén, cathedral.

The cities of Úbeda and Baeza were declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO on 3 July 2003 due to the excellent state of conservation of the many Renaissance buildings, their singular urban environment, and their wonderful Christian and Moorish treasures. Situated in the heart of the province of Jaen, both cities were located close to the River Guadalquivir.



Úbeda, Parador.

Úbeda has no less than 48 notable monuments and over 100 buildings of interest. It was the second city in Spain to be declared a Historic-Artistic site in 1955. Founded by the Moors it still preserves many Moorish features whilst displaying its Renaissance splendour, for which it has earned the title of Exemplary Renaissance European city in 1975. The Parador in Úbeda (see photograph) is located in a magnificent palace.

Baeza - this city is of Roman origin and it rose to its important position due to its religious associations, followed later by its trading position between La Mancha and Andalucia. The city's treasures are clustered around the Plateresque cathedral, unique in Europe. The Palace of Jabalquinto, the Seminary of Saint Philip Neri, and the Fuente de los Leones are of particular cultural interest. The city boasts a 16th Century University associated with St John of the Cross.



Cathedral (Baeza) .



Palacio de Jabalquinto (Baeza)



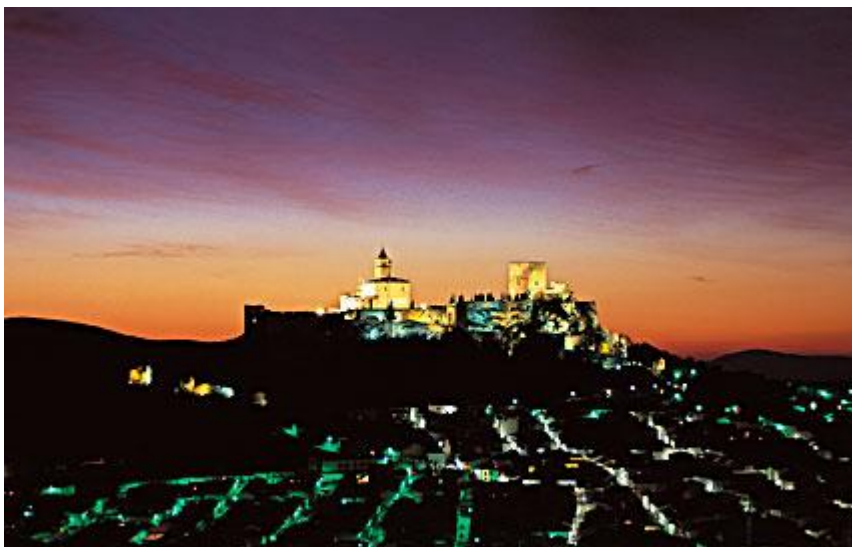
Palacio de Jabalquinto (Baeza)



Plaza de los Leones (Baeza)

Other towns of the province of Jaén are equally picturesque, offering further historical, artistic and culturally important sites. All of these cities and towns offer a wealth of restaurants and hotels which we can assist you to locate.

Alcalá la Real



Villacarrillo



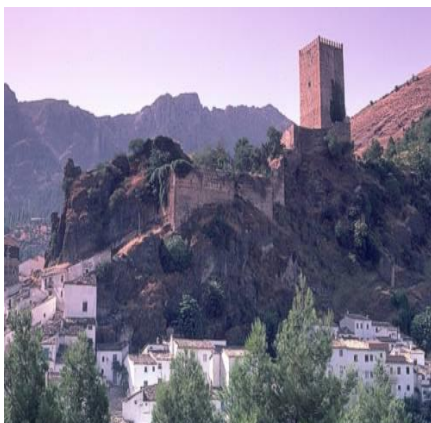
Villacarrillo, plaza del Ayuntamiento.

The nearest town to Las Herrerias is **Segura de la Sierra** - see photograph below - just 20 minutes drive. This fortified town was chosen as a mountain stronghold by both Christians and Moors, and boasts an Imperial Fountain and Arab baths, as well as wonderful views.



View of Segura de la Sierra.

Other nearby towns include **Orcera**, **Santiago de Pontones**, **Cazorla** and **Hornos de Segura**. Some have good local restaurants and they are also worth visiting for their historical past, as some date back to Phoenician times.



Cazorla, Castillo de la Yedra.



View of Hornos de Segura.

The hamlet of **Rio Madera** is about 10 minutes drive from the Estate and this has a traditional mountain restaurant with good food at modest prices, a bar and a village store.

Photo credits. We would like to thank the photographers Javier Milla of Esfera Diseño and Tomas Gallego for permission to use their photographs, as well as the companies named above.