

## A HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC TOUR OF LA VILLA



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### CUESTA DEL CASTILLO / CASTLE'S SLOPE

On the main slope, it is the access road and gate to the old town and faces north, going toward Teruel.

### TORRE DEL HOMENAJE / HOMAGE TOWER

The Torre del Homenaje known locally as The Castle, was built by the Arabs, using their typical mortar, and later by the Christians in the fifteenth century. The tower is solemn and stately, in solid ashlar. It functioned as a watchtower or sentry, and, in times of conflict, bonfires were lit at the top to alert neighbouring castles, especially the one in Chinchilla. Until the first half of the twentieth century, the tower seemed to be lopped off until the actual crenellations crowned it in 1962 with a slightly different aspect and colour. Note the layout in cut stone cord or intertwined rope, joined at the corners, and completely surrounding the tower on the first floor level.

### FORTALEZA / FORTRESS

The Fortress or Alcazaba, located at the top of the town mainly for defensive purposes, was the residency of the head authority. Recently renovated, one can see the wall, the defensive towers, the sentry patrol's path on top of the wall, and its interior. Opposite the wall, visitors can see part of the "Cubillos", the two round towers that flanked the Castle's entrance.

### LOS CUBILLOS / THE CUBILLOS

The building at 22 - 24 Fortaleza Street includes the remains of part of "The Cubillos" - the two round towers that flanked the Castle's entrance, part of its protecting moat, and the bridge supports that linked the main entrance of the Castle with the Inner Ward. At the rear of the basement closer to the Castle, we find a cave belonging to the "Cellar", as the moat was named after it lost its defensive purpose. Numerous wine cellars were then carved in the stone beginning in 1527.

### PLAZA DE LA FORTALEZA / FORTRESS SQUARE

The Fortress Square features a slightly hidden, twisted, old tree, lending it a special charm.

### PLAZA DEL CASTILLO / CASTLE SQUARE

In the Castle Square with a century-old solitary, leafy tree and a central fountain, the most important archaeological excavations of 1999 show the origins of the Requena settlement, going back to the Iron Age, the Old-Iberian Age, and its later Romanisation.

### ACCESO A LA MEDINA / ACCESS TO THE MEDINA

The Medina or Arabic civil settlement, later Christianised and repopulated after the conquest of the square in 1239. It had a defensive perimeter formed by a wall and towers, and an interior lacking any planning where the houses were built along a peculiar, irregular road network layout.

### CASA DEL ARTE MAYOR DE LA SEDA / THE SILK GUILD HOUSE

In the Callejón del Pozo (Well Alley), we find the Casa del Arte Mayor de la Seda, with a small altarpiece in tiles depicting San Jerónimo, the Patron of Arte Mayor de la Seda, on the left. Engraved in the tile are the words "Casa del Arte Mayor de la Seda", the meeting place for the silk merchants and weavers guild. Their statutes were approved by King Philip V in 1725, when the silk industry was booming in Requena, becoming the fourth largest silk producer in Spain with up to 800 looms. Today, it houses the Silk Museum in which traditional silk-making processes have been recreated.

**CUESTA DE LAS CARNICERÍAS - SEDE FEREVIN (FERIA REQUENENSE DEL VINO) / BUTCHERIES SLOPE - FEREVIN CENTER**  
Originally called Puerta de Valencia because it faced in that direction, the Cuesta de las Carnicerías was an entrance to the fortified area of La Villa nucleus during antiquity. It was opened when the Fargalla entrance door was walled up to build and expand the Santa Maria Church over it during the mid-fifteenth century. The street, door, and entrance to medieval Requena is also called de las Carnicerías for the butcher stalls that existed at the top of the hill for a long time. The social seat of Ferevin - Feria Requense del Vino- (the Requena Wine Fair ) are now housed here in what were the old schools, where the excellent wines and cavas of most of the wineries of Requena and region can be tasted and purchased.

**SEDE ASOCIACIÓN RUTA DEL VINO DE LA DO UTIEL-REQUENA / ASSOCIATION ROUTE OF THE WINE OF THE D.O. UTIEL-REQUENA CENTER)**  
The Association Route of the Wine of the D.O. Utiel-Requena offers the possibility of designing a regional wine tourism route that includes wineries visits, tours highlighting landscapes and monuments, as well as enjoying the most select gastronomy and stays at charming rural hotels.

### CAPILLA DE SAN JULIÁN / SAN JULIÁN CHAPEL

The San Julián Chapel was built on the foundation of the Torre Redonda (Round tower) or Torre de Enmedio (Middle Tower) which was demolished because of its derelict condition and reconstructed and blessed in 2003. The façade features a Latin inscription explaining why the saint is venerated as the second Patron of Requena, as well as two shields of the town in the top corners of the commemorative headstone.

### CALLE DE SANTA MARÍA / SANTA MARÍA STREET

Alfonso X "the Wise", the great protector of Requena granted the town the "Carta Puebla" in 1257. The Thirty Knights of the Nómima del Rey foundation built their houses here on the city's main street. They mainly came from Cuenca, Soria, and La Rioja, bringing their surnames, homes and shields with them, passing them on to successive generations. The manorial houses are rich in history, art and tradition. Some of these shields have now disappeared, but the noble presence of various coats of arms can still be seen - the Nuévalos, Carcajona, Ferrer de Plegamans, Ibarra, De la Torre, De la Mota, etc..

### IGLESIA DE SANTA MARÍA / SANTA MARÍA CHURCH

Declared a National Monument on June 3, 1931, its famous façade is a magnificent example of the Isabelline Gothic (more important than that of Salvador Church), showing three archivolt filled with wonderful angels and elaborate decoration, and the Announcement appears on the tympanum. In 1936, the church suffered severe interior damages during the Civil War. The images, ornaments and a precious organ were lost. Later, the glazed tiling of the beautiful skirting board along the walls also disappeared due to neglect and abandonment.

### CASA DE SANTA TERESA / SANTA TERESA'S HOUSE

The Ibarra family owned this stately home with the shield of the Torre and La Mota families on its façade. Today, it houses the Municipal Archive among other services. Although no documentary evidence exists, legend has it that Santa Teresa de Jesus lodged here. The Saint came to Requena from her foundation in Villanueva de la Jara to attract the Carmen's monks to the order. Their convent enjoyed a high reputation for being the oldest in Castile. This tradition was endorsed by her confessor Fray Antonio de Hereria who came from Requena and accompanied the Saint during some of her journeys.

### RESTOS DE MURALLA / FRAGMENTS OF THE CITY WALL

The expansion was constructed after some walls collapsed and the Muralla del Rosario (Rosary's Wall) was partially demolished. Its Arabic rampart ran from la Puerta del Angel to the Calle del Rosario, and ending at the Puerta de Fargalla. Fiesta de la Vendimia Museum. This museum, through its divisions, takes us into the clothing, tradition and history of the Feast of the oldest vintage of Spain. Next to this place we can find the Museum of Photography Requena.

### CALLE SOMERA / SOMERA STREET

Along with Santa Maria Street, this street is considered to be one of the municipality's oldest, where part of the Order of the Thirty Knights were established.

### IGLESIA DE SAN NICOLÁS / SAN NICOLÁS CHURCH

The restoration of Saint Nicholas Church has allowed us to date the original temple in the XIII century, although it may have on this site some former religious space. From XIII century since the late XX century different interventions were carried out: the extension in the Gothic style with groin vaults of the middle XV century; the Renaissance extension in the XVI century in the choir and probably the façade; during the Baroque period the nave was encrusting with plasterwork; and the last important neoclassical extension in the XVII when the current façade, the dome and the apse of the presbytery were constructed. Finally, in the XX century decorations and paintings were carried out. During the visit we can see the different elements of these architectural styles and small fragments of Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque paintings, archaeological remains of anthropomorphic tombs, the illusions of the Communion's Chapel, the incredible dome and the crypts and ossuaries.

### CALLEJÓN DE PANIAGUA / PANIAGUA ALLEY

In this famous alley close to the San Nicolas Tower, two buttresses from the San Nicolas Church are mounted on bricks pointed arches. The alley gets its name from Bachelor Juan de "Pan y Agua" - Paniagua - who ceded the first house on the corner to his successor parish priests in 1535.

### PALACIO CID-MUSEO DEL VINO / THE CID'S PALACE-WINE MUSEUM

Despite its name, the Gothic-style fifteenth century building was rebuilt with stone ashlars, featuring its eaves, ledges, mullioned windows and the Pedrón family coat of arms. The Palace was originally a fortress housing the knights and squires of the Nómima del Rey. Many titles and banners were kept, as were spears and other arms to combat criminals. The Cid dwelled in the old building, where, according to legend, the Cid and King Alfonso VI met to arrange the weddings of his daughters Doña Elvira and Doña Sol with the Infantes de Carrión.

### MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO FLORENCIO DE LA FUENTE / CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

The Museum of Contemporary Art "Florencio de la Fuente" is located in the old mansion once owned by The Counts of Montenegro. Florencio de la Fuente's patronage enabled the building to be restored and refitted for the benefit of Requena. One of the Historical Architectonic Unit's most emblematic and familiar buildings, the manorial house's rows of balconies and location in the south-west part of the Old Town give it a peculiar character. The Museum exhibits a wide variety of themes, styles, and techniques, including those of internationally known artists such as Dalí, Tàpies, Rueda, Mompó, Torner or Miquel Navarro.

### CUESTA Y PUERTA DEL ÁNGEL / ANGEL'S SLOPE AND DOOR

It was also called The Door of the Fountain, in reference to that of the Basins. The doors of the Angel slope also gave access to the walled city, facing Todelo via Iniesta. Also dedicated to the Santo Ángel de la Guarda, this Door with its attractive steps contains two small tiled altarpieces representing the Guard's Angel and Our Lady of the Abandoned. Until very recently there were some devout features such as a vaulted niche with an olive-oil bottle and the lantern that the neighbourhood's women used to light during storms.

### ARCO DEL OVEJERO

The arch was constructed in the wall of the Moorish site to ease transit to the Four Corners of the Rosary where the first House of the Municipality was built. The Arabic wall was best viewed from the Ovejero Arch before its recent reinforcement. This area has always been called the Jewish Quarter. It was a trading centre where the guilds' blacksmiths, artisans, and goldsmiths gathered to trade, especially in what it is now called the Plaza de la Jorra and Calle del Poblete.

### PUERTA, CUESTA Y CALLE DEL CRISTO / CHRIST DOOR, SLOPE AND STREET

An old chapel lies in the opening of an ancient tower next to the gate of this picturesque, Castile-facing slope that accesses La Medina, where The Cristo del Amparo was worshipped. The chapel was rebuilt in 1781, while the door was restored in 1748. From this quaint street that ends in the Plaza del Alborno, Santa María Church's portal is visible.

### CALLE DE LA CÁRCEL / STREET OF THE PRISON

In the narrow street of la Cárcel, the ruins of the town's old prison still existed until recently, with The Corner and The house of the Hangman on the left. Opposite is the Casa del Corregidor (the Judge's House), featuring an ashlar double doors with jambs and keystones, where the legend of the Old Town's Phantom originates. These noblemen's mansions were built by the Requena-born architect Diego Martínez Ponce de Urrana, who also designed the façade of the Carmen Church in Requena and the Our lady of the Abandoned chapel in Valencia.

### CALLE LOS CASARES / LOS CASARES STREET

Named for the exceptionally ornamented manorial houses on both sides of the street where Hidalgo Don Gregorio Casares lived during the last half of the nineteenth century.

### CASA DE LOS PEDRÓN / NOBLE HOUSE

King Philip III, who spent a few nights here in 1599, 1603 and 1604, granted the house the "Right of Asylum". The Requena born hidalgo Don Juan Pedrón de la Cárcel owned and lived in the house. The right of asylum was given to any delinquent or criminal who could not be arrested by the Justice until the punishable actions were investigated.

### IGLESIA DE EL SALVADOR / SAN SALVADOR CHURCH

It was declared a National Monument on June 3, 1931. Its famous front, a magnificent example of Isabelline Gothic architecture, was built in the second half of the fifteenth century. The façade with a double archivolt, filled with angels and amazing filigree decorations, was carved by Valencian architects. Presently the old town's only functioning Catholic church, the construction started in 1380 and continued until 1533, resulting in a spacious church with three naves. In 1601, the Church was declared "the principal parish church" and in 1649, it obtained the title of archpriest church. Some reforms were necessary after the forty meter bell tower collapsed due to heavy snow fall in 1779.

### CALLEJÓN DEL SEGURA / SEGURA ALLEY

The alley has been commemorated, depicted and immortalised on numerous occasions by local painters. It is a typical Muslim street roofed with a garret (currently being renovated) where grain was kept, with the fifteenth century Segura House at the end of it.

### CAPILLA DE LA COMUNIÓN / COMMUNION CHAPEL

From here, the communion chapel's neoclassical style dome of El Salvador Church and its majestic 40 meter high bell tower next to the church can be seen.

### PLAZA DEL ALBORNOZ / ALBORNOZ SQUARE

The square is dedicated to Don José Ruiz de Alborno who was Requena's head of defence during the attack by Carlist troupes of Gómez and Cabrera in 1836. In the name of the young Isabel, the Queen Governor bestowed the Laureate Cross on him and the title of City on Requena. Originally a Renaissance design, its current form dates from the beginning of the seventeenth century. Kings Felipe III and Felipe IV attended celebrations and bullfights in this square. Birthdays, kings coronations and funeral rites, Constitutional declarations and similar historical and guild events also took place, along with their corresponding flags, dances, music, festivities, and parades.

### CENTRO DE VISITANTES COMARCAL / VISITORS CENTRE

On the first floor of the building accessing the Old Town's Caves a visitors centre can be found, with all available tourist information about the Requena-Utiel region.

### CUEVAS DE LA VILLA / LA VILLA'S CAVES

An impressive tour takes the visitor back to the period where the caves were built by our ancestors who used tuff sediments and clay from La Villa's subsoil. The caves have been used for different purposes: as refuge during different wars, for grain storage, and cellars for making and conserving wine. During the visit, one can see the ossuary from the El Salvador Church. The caves were discovered, cleaned of rubble and interconnected through tunnels during the 1970's.



