

Directions

- From Murcia, take the (340-N) Murcia-Andalucía main road. Then, take in Alcantarilla the Northeast main road (C-415), exit 651.
- From Madrid- Albacete main road, N- 301 Albacete- Murcia, take the next exit in Venta del Olivo, (C-3314) towards Calasparra and Calasparra- Cehegín next.
- From Almería, N- 341 Murcia- Andalucía main road towards Lorca and from Lorca C- 3211 towards Caravaca de la Cruz until the Northwest entrance main road, Cehegín direction.
- From Alicante, (N- 340) Alicante- Murcia main road, you take in Alcantarilla the Northwest main road, 651 exit.

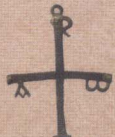
Craft Market «El Mesoncico»



This market is the last Sunday morning of each month in the Square Castle. Here, many craftsmen show and sell their products. The visitor can find not only food: sweets, bread, sausages, salted fish, honey, oil, liquors and cheese, but also second-hand old furniture, engraving, painting, mosaic, pottery, imitation jewellery or embroidery.

PHONES OF INTEREST

• TOURIST OFFICE	968 72 35 50
• THE TOWN HALL	968 74 04 00
• NORATUR, BOOKING CENTRE	902 10 66 00
• BUS STATION	968 74 34 08
• EMERGENCY	112

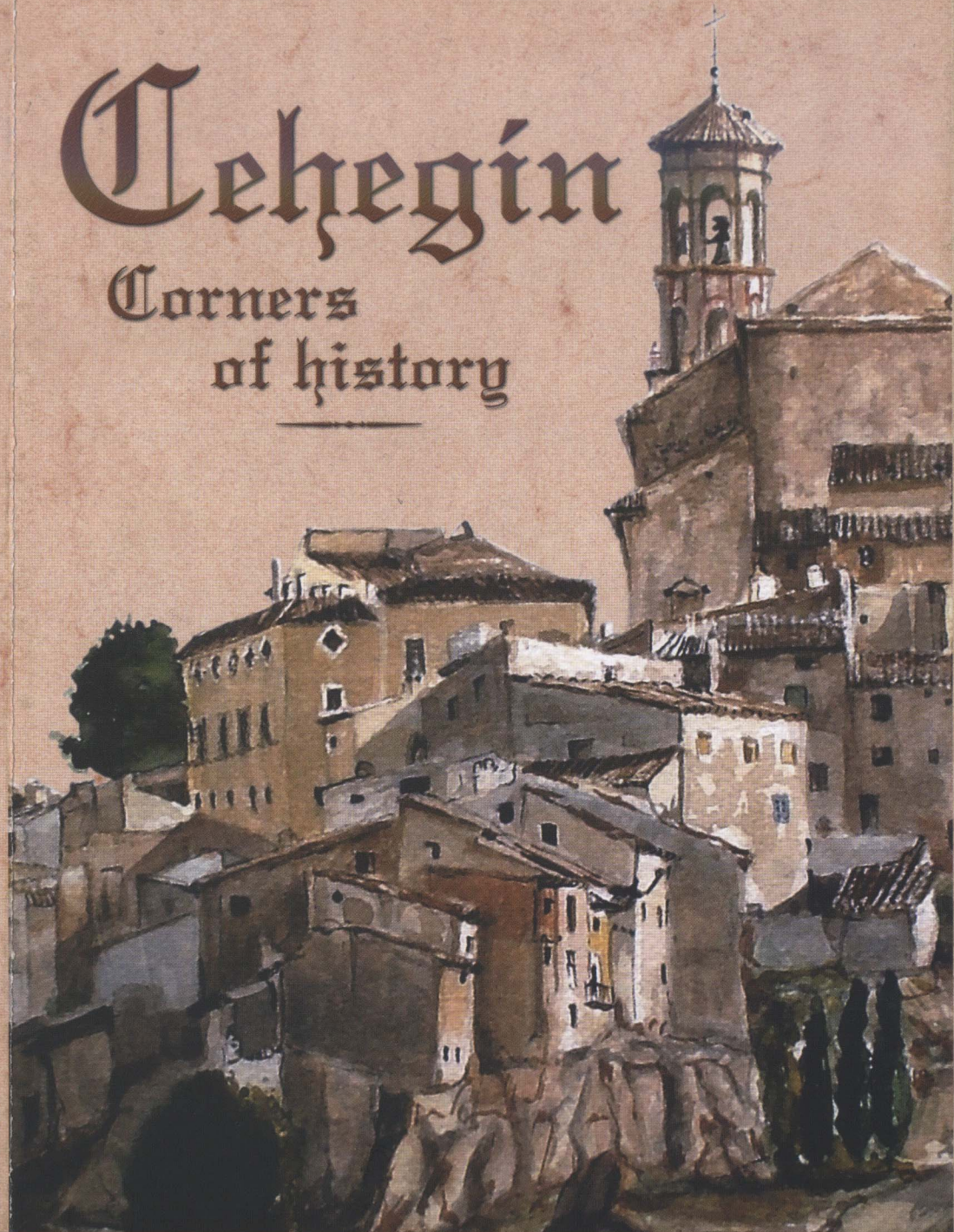


AYUNTAMIENTO DE CEHEGÍN
CONCEJALÍA DE TURISMO



Cehegín

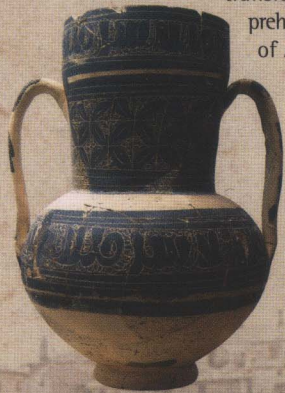
Corners of history



Origins

Although the current settlement of the city of Cehegín took place in the Middle Ages with regard to an Islamic settlement, we must get back to several centuries ago to deepen in its origins. It is a known fact that shelters and caves of Peña Rubia were used since the Neolithic as burial places, lasting as a sacred tradition for several centuries. There are many archaeological sites which give evidence of the transition of the main prehistoric cultures and of Antiquity in these lands such as the Argarian and Iberian cultures.

In the 4th century, the population was settled in a small Iberian village in The Cabezo Roenas, about 2,5 kilometres from the



Muslim engraved jar S. XII

current city centre. Later, this settlement changed from a small Iberian village to a Roman town. Finally, it became a Episcopal See with the passage of time and thanks to the Visigoths, from the end of 6th century till the end of the 7th, becoming known as city of Begastri.

The current city centre of Cehegín was created after the Muslim invasion, probably to control Christian settings. At the end of 9th century or beginning of 10th century, a tribe of Berbers were established, the Zinbagies. They came from Africa and founded a solid fortress, which eventually took the name of its founders leading to the present name of Cehegín. Little by little, people of Begastri were living around this fortress beginning a new era that meant the withdrawal of Begastri and the foundation of Cehegín.

Resources

The Culture Minister declared in 1982 as Artistic Historical Group those neighbourhood that took part in the urban setting before Contemporary Age period.

In Cehegín, we must highlight the irregular line of its streets and curves, medieval qualities that sometimes takes place fascinating sites.

In the old part of Cehegín, many samples of popular architecture are found between 12th to 19th c. Also, noble houses of different styles like the Renaissance, the Murcian Baroque, the Rococo & the Neoclassical Period. For example: Villar de Felices' Palace, Jaspe's Palace, House of the Earl of Campillos, Real Piedad's Hospital, Duke of Ahumada's Palace, the old Council House, among others. All of them are dated between 16th c. to 19th c. with heraldic signs. This has awoken the interest of researchers. It is worth to mention not only the Santa María Magdalena's Church but also The Soledad & The Concepción's churches.



Renaissance facade church of Concepcion S. XVI.

In the suburban development area, outside of the Old part of the town, it can be found the Sant Esteban's Convent which has the Patrona of Cehegín, the Virgen of "Las Maravillas" inside. This Neapolitan Rococo sculpture was made with fascinating beauty by Nicola Fumo sculptor in the 18th century.

There are many prehistoric remains left. To emphasise the Cave Paintings of Peña Rubia, which belong to the eastern art of Spain, in styling stage & with the special feature of being painted inside the caves. They were declared Mankind's heritage by the UNESCO in 1998.

The city of Begastri has been declared B.I.C, it represents the origins of important settlements in the ceheginera culture. This important archaeological site can be found 2'5 km from city centre and still keeps remains of Iberian, Roman and Visigoth culture. The top or apogee of Begastri is dated from the end of 6th till the beginning of the 8th century. In the 7th century, this city became The Episcopal See by the Visigoths and it took the control of the government in a wide area of peninsular south-east. It is found the presence of the bishops in the Councils of Toledo.

Caravaca
de la Cruz

Cehegín



Urban Route

Cehegín has a marked Urban Tourist Route located at one of the most important areas of the old part of the city. The traveller can explore part of our history wandering about the streets, by himself, without any guide and at the time he likes to. The route consists of following the pointed line design in a leaflet. Travellers can be helped by the signs found on the floor (some bronze plates and arrows that tell us the right direction). They also can read display panels on the fronts of the most important buildings where the style and a bit of history of each one of them is explained.

Thereby, we will find buildings such as:

- Villar de Felices' Palace (15th to 18th c)
- House of The Earl of Campillos (19th c)
- Jaspe's Palace (18th c)
- Concepción's Hermitage (16th c)
- Sir Octavio's House (18th c)
- Real Piedad Hospital. (18th c)
- Sir Amancio Marín's House (19th c)
- Chemists' House (17th c)
- Casino of Cehegín (17th c)
- Duke of Ahumada's Palace (19th c)
- Council House (17th c)
- The Fajardo's Palace (18th c)
- Arcade of The Castle Square (17th to 20th c)
- Santa M^a Magdalena's Church (15th to 16th c)
- Gate of Canara or Arch of The Old Square (12th c)
- Gate of Caravaca(12th c)
- House of The Columns (18th c)
- Jewish Synagogue (15th c)

La Copa

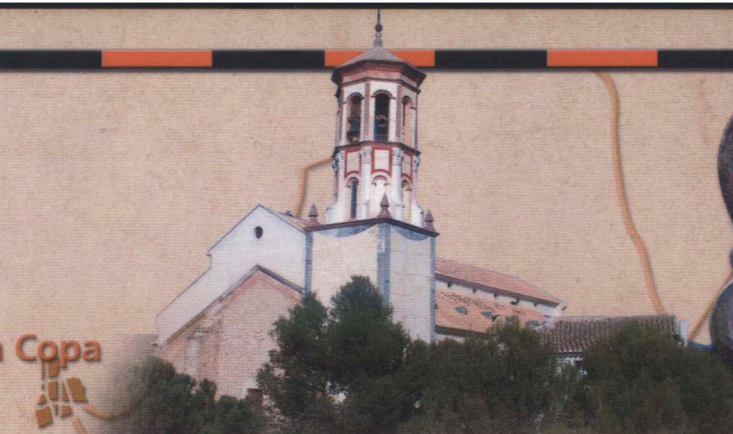
Bullas



Night Sight of the Old Part of the City



Stained glass window of the Archaeological Museum



Monographical cross of Begastrí, 6th century.

Yéchar

Council House and Fajardo's Palace.

Mula



Imperial staircase of The Town Hall in rococo style.

Pliego



Earl of Campillo's House and Jaspe House(The Town Hall nowadays)

Gate of Caravaca (12th c)

Archena

Environment/Nature

As far as nature is concerned, Cehegín is one of the richest environmental places in the Region of Murcia. It has almost thirty thousand hectares of land and more than twenty thousand of them are covered with trees. A big woodland of the Mediterranean wood, with heights from 400 meters up to 1300 meters. To talk about some of the most important ones such as: The Royal Reserve of The Marina, The Mountain of The Lavia, The Mountain of Burete, The Mountain of the Puerta and finally The Mountain of Gilico and Cambrones. They have been drawn three shortest way paths between Burete Mountains and The Lavia one. These are perfectly marked with information leaflets where the traveller can take a long walk through beautiful places without being lost. The flora is mainly mediterranean, some native species of low mountain. As far as fauna is concerned, there are a lot of rabbits, hares, partridges, wild boars, squirrels, golden eagles, deers, etc.



Green Way

The Route of the Northwest Green Way goes through the line of the old railway and it goes from Baños de Mula to Caravaca at 48 km length. In its path, we can find five tunnels and ten viaducts, all along plains and pinewoods countryside. This road goes along the old town of Begastrí. It is a very useful place to play some sports in the open air (trekking, cycling, riding a horse, etc...)



Murcia

