

Tower of the Sugar Factory

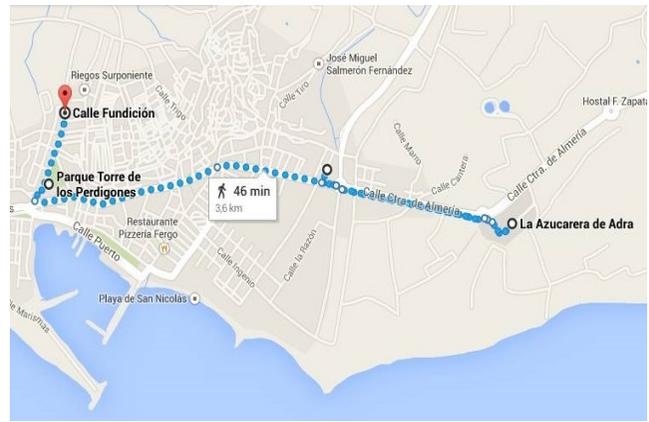
The sugar factory is the last vestige of cultivation and processing of sugarcane on the plain of Adra, as it has been rightly restored for its conservation and enhancement, not just to keep alive a past of economic splendor for the city and its inhabitants, but for the use and enjoyment of its historical facilities.

The sugar industry has involved a great boost to economy in Adra since the middle of the 16th century and especially in the 19th and 20th centuries. In 1909 the company "Azucarera de Adra" was created, which started operating in 1910; but the change that was taking place gradually in the agricultural sector and the fall in sugarcane prices caused a decline in sugar production.

In 1972, the last sugar factory in Adra closed its doors definitively. The machinery and equipment of this factory were transferred to a sugar factory in Badajoz.

The restoration and rehabilitation of the sugar factory and the distillery (alcoholera) is a good example of conservation and search for a new use for this type of architecture, as it currently houses the Municipal Business Incubator in which the Brandy winery and the garden of Mediterranean cultures are located.

Route of the Towers



Tourist Information Office

125, Natalio Rivas Street

Telephone: 950 560 826

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday

9.00am – 14.00pm

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Smoke Tower and Tower of the Pellets

This monument belongs to the lead smelter factory "San Andrés", founded in 1822. The factory was falling into decline as of 1840 due to the exhaustion of the lead mines of Sierra de Gádor, whose production fell gradually until its halting in the early 20th century.

This industrial complex was composed of the Tower of the Pellets, the Vinegar Factory and the Smoke Tower. The first one was intended to the manufacture of lead in four varieties: bars, sheets, tubes and pellets. The pellets were obtained from molten lead, which dropped to a small water basin placed at the base of the tower from a height of 44 meters. Under the tower there are air-raid shelters which were made taking advantage of the underground connections of the factory.

The remote location of the Smoke Tower sought to prevent the inhalation of fume with metal particles from the furnaces, which could cause the disease known as "emplomamiento".



Tower of the Canning Factory

The canning factory *Santa Isabel* is located in the Pago del Lugar, the former course of the river Adra; it had a quite checkered history until 1941 but it found stability for 56 years, except for the months of forced closure due to the flood of 1973.

This industry started out as a primitive sugar mill and became a vegetables canning industry in the early 30s with the entrepreneur of the agricultural sector Mr. Fernando Garcia Espin.

It played a key role during the Civil War and due to the assassination of its founder, the entrepreneur Joaquin Vazquez Vazquez put back into operation the company, by keeping the manufacturing of canned vegetables for several years and expanding its activity with the fish preserves.

The tandem Mr. Joaquin Vazquez and Mr. Pedro Navarro, the latter director of the factory, achieved to get a significant position in the canning industry with high-quality products recognized in Spain and Europe.

Nowadays, the Fishing Interpretation Centre houses a specific section dedicated to this company.

