

## URBAN ROUTE

A walk through Lora becomes an exciting experience which make us travel back to a past full of glory.

Its beautiful houses, with exquisite examples of popular architecture of the XVIII century, maintain its ancestral tradition, as we can see along Miguel de Cervantes Street (formerly known as Cabra Street), as well as, along the streets Barrio Sevilla, Colón (Roda Abajo) and Roda Arriba, characterizing our urban framework.

We can find fine examples of the architecture of the XIX century along Cardenal Cervantes Street (Barrio del Pozo), José Montoto y González de la Hoyuela (La Roda de Enmedio), Blas Infante or San Juan, where post-baroque elements can be appreciated in their facades (for example house number 19 of Colón Street), elegant large windows (house number 31 of José Montoto Street) and romantic balconies (house number 14 of Juan Quintanilla Street) in addition to architectural modernist decorations.

We, therefore, propose a route departing from La Alameda del Río (where it is still celebrated one of the most ancient fairs of Andalusia at the end of May). From here we can see the remains of the former arabic fortress which lies on a tell with traces of the Bronze Age and of the Roman and Visigoth period.

As we head up Rafael Gasset Street, leaving the old town within the city on the left, (we can find remains of the ancient wall in this street on the corner with Juan Quintanilla Street), we enter its narrow streets and quarters in order to walk through the past and the present of a town which, without losing its legacy, looks ahead knowing there are still many pages of history to write.

## COMPLEMENTARY ROUTE

A second route departs from one of the natural entrances of the town, a crossroads where the roads of the nearby towns (Alcolea del Río, Constantina, Peñaflor and La Puebla de los Infantes) meet together. Here, we can find one of the most emblematic buildings of the town, a jewel of the Sevillian Baroque period: the hermitage of Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno.

From there, driving along La Puebla de los Infantes road, two leagues away, we discover a magnificent natural spot where we can visit both the hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Setefilla, Patron Saint of the town, and the remains of the arabic castle, located in an area with historic Tartessian-turdetani settlements and prehistoric dolmens.

MONUMENTAL HERITAGE

# LORA *del Río*



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MONUMENTAL HERITAGE



Castle of Lora del Río

## CROSSROADS OF CULTURES

Countless civilisations have passed through our land making their marks in a significant way, turning Lora into a veritable melting pot whose manifestations can be clearly seen along these routes.

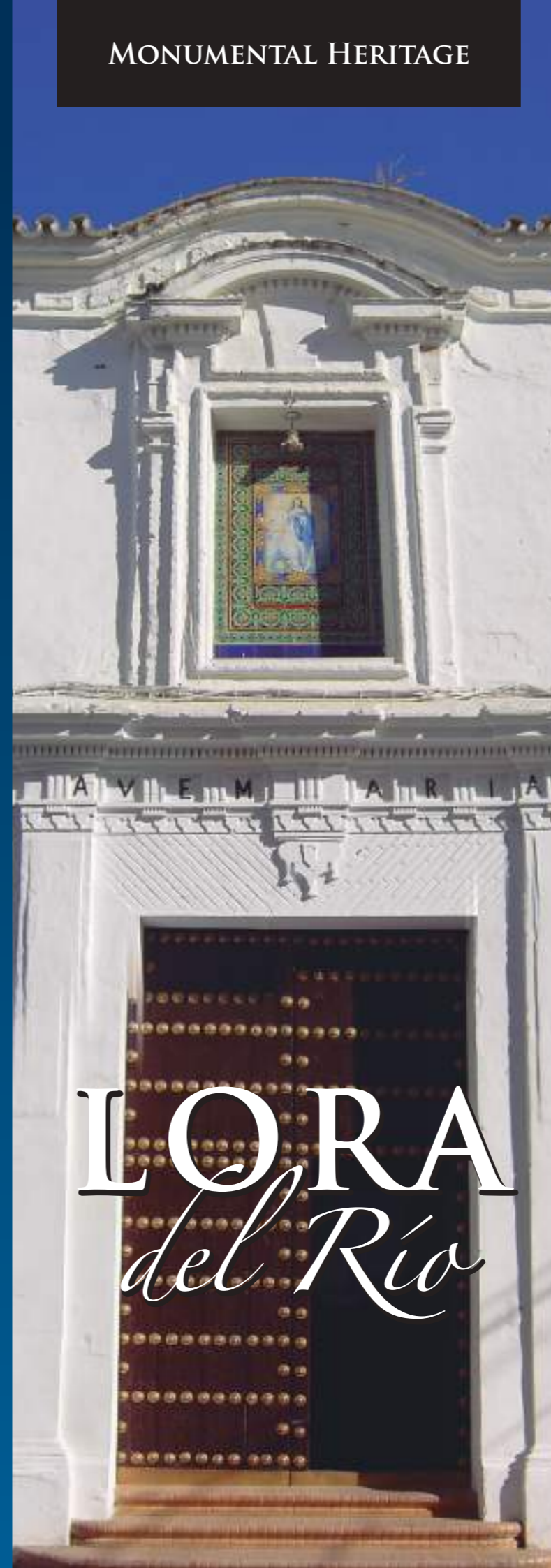
From the prehistoric age, its strategic location has captivated hundreds of generations, giving it a very relevant role in the Guadalquivir Valley.

The town dates back originally to the Bronze Age, it has been called Axati by the Romans, Laurus by the Visigoths and Al-Lawra in the Muslim age. It was conquered by the King Fernando III and ceded together with others strongholds, such as Setefilla, the Order of Malta or the Order of Saint John, facts which will create its own idiosyncrasies for over six centuries.

Lora del Río will experience epochs of splendour throughout the XVII, XVIII and XIX centuries, as it is reflected in its beautiful houses and buildings which should be protected and conserved for future generations.



Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Setefilla





## 1A ALAMEDA DEL RÍO

It is an elegant promenade which connects the town with its river. Here, it is celebrated the traditional fair, with its typical "casetas" and its pleasing horse parade. The liturgical patronage and the coronation of the Sacred Image of Nuestra Señora de Setefilla was proclaimed on 8 September 1987 in The Plaza de la Coronación.

## 1B CASTLE OF LORA DEL RIO

It is set on a tell, it is the most primitive settlement of Lora del Río; its most ancient remains date from 1500 and 1000 BC. The castle was an important defensive bastion during the Roman Period as well as during the Arabic Time to take control of the River Betis (later called Guadalquivir).

## 2 RAMÓN Y CAJAL BUILDING

It was built as a school in 1927 by the architect Aurelio Gómez Millán. With a symmetrical design, a central pavilion and pointed arches on the two floors, its simplicity responds to its pedagogical functionality. A beautiful tile with the image of the Virgen de Setefilla stands out from the main facade. Nowadays it holds the School of Music and Dance and the Municipal Auditorium.

## 3 HERMITAGE OF SANTA ANA

This building in the mudejar style, dates from XVII century. It was remodelled in the XVIII century, from which maintains its facade with a heavy cornice and a curved end where the bell glabe is established. The building as well as the ringing of its bells are strongly linked to the Setefilla traditions. Nowadays it holds the Public Library and the Municipal Archive.

## 4 CONVENT OF "LA LIMPIA CONCEPCIÓN"

It was founded at the beginning of the XVII century. Its main front is designed in the way of a lintel opening with pilasters and tuscan capitals on both sides. We have to point out the wooden coffering and the original altarpiece with fluted columns and arches. In its facade, of baroque style, we can only find as a decorative element a tile with the image of La Inmaculada Concepción.

## 5 HOUSE OF COLUMNS. VIRGIN HOUSE-MUSEUM

This superb building constructed in 1755, is a transition between Baroque and Neoclassical periods. The building is articulated by pilasters and its entrance is framed by coupled columns which sustain the coat of arms of the Quintanilla family. Inside the building we find a squared hallway topped off with a groin vault ornamented with octogonal panels which gives access to a courtyard formed by four arcaded galleries with marble columns. Nowadays it is the site of the Virgen de Setefilla brotherhood, where we can find a sacred art museum dedicated to the holy image and its traditions.

## 6 PLAZA DE ANDALUCÍA AND WHOLESALE MARKET

This large square was built in the 1950s. It is highlighted by its multi-lobed fountain with an iron cross on the top of it. There are also some remarkable lampposts with tile bases representing the coats of arms of the eight Andalusian provinces. The wholesal market building, close to the square, was built by Aníbal González in 1910. It consists of a rectangular nave, the most notable are the finishes on its facades, with gentle curved lines. It is a building whose outstanding elements are large windows and lots of openings as required for its activity.

## 7 BAILIO PALACE

The place of the ancient palace is now occupied by three separate buildings:

- Teachers' centre: it was the core of the ancient palace; it was renovated in the XIX and XX centuries. Its facade is characterised by a beautiful romantic balcony. Inside the building we can find an arcaded courtyard with brick arches.



- Bailio Exhibition Hall: it was part of the old barn of the palace. Its two-floors structure, with a vaulted basement and arches over pilasters on the first floor, preserved the grain. Nowadays it is a cultural reference point for local inhabitants.
- House of Culture: it is a marvellous example of XIX century stately home, it was reformed in the XX century. From the outside highlights its elegant facade crowned by pinnacles. Inside, we can find a beautiful tiled courtyard. In both of its rooms we can see panels illustrating the history of the town, as well as archaeological remains from different periods.

## 8 PLAZA DE ESPAÑA AND CITY HALL

Also known as Clock Square, it acts as a kind of anteroom to the magnificent baroque building of the City Hall. It was built in 1761. Architecturally speaking, it follows the standards of the XVIII century Baroque style. As a whole we can see an harmonious building with one outstanding element, the clock tower. Its main front shows Tuscan columns and mixtilinear ornamentation at the lower body, and spiral columns crowned with scrolls on the higher one. These columns sustain the lintel where Lora's coat of arms can be seen in relief. A renovation project was accomplished in the inside of the building in the XIX century in order to cope with the needs required in a modern city hall.

## 9 CASA DE LOS LEONES (LIONS' HOUSE)

This Baroque house was built in the XVI century and it follows the standards of the sevilian stately homes with an entrance for carriages and an angled courtyard. It is made of brick and it maintains a cushioned ornamentation. In the top of its main front, made of stone, you can see the Montalvo Family's coat of arms which is exposed in the tympanum and held by rampant lions framed with mixtilinear moulding in the shape of volutes. There is a viewpoint in the northeastern corner of the house.

## 10 PLAZA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE SETEFILLA AND PARISH CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ASUNCIÓN

This is one of the most beautiful places in town, where we can find the church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, the square has benches and a fountain made of ceramic and one of the most recognizable symbols of the town, the tower known as "El espárrago" (the asparagus). The church was built in the XV century and it was the old site of the Priory of Lora del Río. The building, which is Gothic-Mudejar in style, was renovated several times, however the most significant was in the XIX century, as a result, some new chapels were added and the tower, the square and the atrium were completely built up. Highlights its main entrance made of brick with pointed and convex arches. Inside, a beautiful Baroque altarpiece from the XVIII century dominates the high altar. The parish possesses a very relevant collection of paintings, sculptures and items of precious metalwork. The sacred image of the Patron Saint of the town, San Sebastián, can be found here.

## 11 HERMITAGE OF NUESTRO PADRE JESÚS NAZARENO

This building was constructed in 1764, following the standards of the Sevillian Baroque style, which is characterised by the use of plasterwork. In its main front we can observe some decorative elements as pinnacles or volutes. There is a simple belfry decorated with tiles above the cornice. Inside, the high altar is covered with a magnificent hemispheric dome up on pedentives.

## 12 HERMITAGE OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE SETEFILLA

This building from the XIII century and rebuilt in the XVIII century was constructed to worship a gothic image with the name of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación. Over the centuries the building was renovated repeatedly and even the patronage which took the name of the place: Setefilla. The place where the hermitage is situated is, clearly, one of the most beautiful settings in the Sierra Morena and it has been a strategic enclave throughout history. The arabic fortress, called Shant-Fila, was subsequently bastion of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. In the surroundings, it has been discovered dolmens and tartessian-turdetani tombs from VIII and VII centuries BC.