

The Legacy of al-Andalus
The Art of Living

A large, ancient stone fortress or castle built into a steep, rocky cliff. The structure features multiple towers and battlements. The foreground shows a landscaped area with palm trees, green shrubs, and large rocks under a clear blue sky.

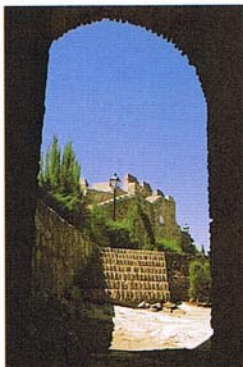
Almost eight centuries of Muslim presence in Salobreña have left their mark, as seen in the town's urban area, as well as its Arab castle.

Salobreña was conquered by Muslim troops in the year 713. Exactly two hundred years later, Abd al-Rahman carried out various military raids along Granada's coastline in order to suppress the rebellion of the Mozarabs. Salobreña was one of the populations to fall under Muslim rule, and had its first governor, Sa'ib Abdalawarit, in 942. This small city had become the head of a vast territory.

A historical reference dating from the 12th century makes note of the area's ecological wealth, as there was an abundance of banana trees, sugar cane, and groves of holm oaks. A well-known grammarian of the time and founder of the school of philology in Seville, Muhammad al-Salawbini, was born in Salobreña in 1166.

During the times of the Kingdom of Granada, which was founded by Ibn al-Ahmar, Salobreña became one of the region's most important coastal towns. There are significant historical references to its fortress, its magnificent mosque, as well as its other constructions.

Salobreña possessed a great fortress before which lay the enclosed urban area. It also governed a large district including the surrounding *vega*, or "fertile fields" (with its sugar cane, rice, and banana tree cultivations), the mountainous region (for stockbreeding and terrace cultivation) and the sea (the main trade route upon which the important fishing industry was based).



The Castle

Data from the 10th century indicates that Salobreña was a major defense area, although references to the fortress itself are not made until the 13th century. The 14th and 15th centuries constituted its epoch of splendor.

The town's strategic castle-fortress became a summer residence for Granadan monarchs, and was used on various occasions as a prison where dethroned sultans were held. Several Nasrid kings, among others, are said to have been imprisoned here: Yusuf III, Muhammad VIII, Muhammad IX ("the Left-handed King") Abu Nasad, and, according to various sources, Muley Hacen, the father of Boabdil.

According to the legend narrated by Washington Irving in his "Tales of the Alhambra", the sultan Muhammad IX ordered his three daughters Zaida, Zoraida and Zorahaida to be held captive in the fortress for several years.

During Christian times, the castle was used as a military defense structure for guarding the coast.

Visiting the Castle

The layout of the castle has been transformed over the years, and is the result of Muslim and Christian military palatine architecture.

The construction consists of two large areas: the outer area for defense purposes, and the inner area containing the *alcazaba* or fortress-castle. The castle conserves its original Nasrid structure, although modifications made by the Castilians in the 16th century in order to defend the coastline, as well as those carried out during the 1950's, have altered its original appearance.

Itinerary

Access Tower. The castle is entered through a rectangular tower-gate with a winding passageway, which is





characteristic of Nasrid defense systems. The entranceway is covered by sail vaults.

Outer Defense Area

From the entrance tower protrudes an outer wall that joins the "Batería" (Artillery Zone). Also attached to the wall was the **Cube Tower** (16th c.), built by the Christians. Its name was due to its circular form.

Artillery Zone. In the artillery zone there was a tower denominated "Tower of the *Alijbe*, or Cistern", due to the reservoir tank located within.

The second area was built to safeguard the entrance to the Alcazaba (fortress) which is reached through a gate that originally had a horseshoe arch.

The Alcazaba (Fortress)

The Alcazaba is an enclosed military zone and social area built within the fortified construction and surrounded by a parapet walk. Here, two silos or wells are conserved that were used to store grain and food provisions. The fortress was later used as a Ward by the Christians. Today, cultural events are held at this site.

Access Tower to the Alcazaba. This rectangular-shaped tower is located at the construction's western side and presents the characteristic winding passageway. It is adorned with domical vaults.

Telephone Directory

Alsina Graells

Bus Station:	60 00 64
Town Hall:	61 00 11
Cultural Center (Casa de la Cultura):	61 06 30
Health Center:	82 93 32
Civil Protection:	82 87 74
Civil Guard:	61 04 23
Local Police:	61 10 59
Taxi:	61 09 26
Tourist Office:	61 03 14
Radio Salobreña:	82 86 49
Fire Department:	82 59 83



The Keep. This was the tower's most important fortress and was most likely used as a place of residence by the king and royal guests. Its rooms were distributed between two floors, with windows facing west. The exterior façade conserves a frieze of interlacing arches and is crowned by embrasures.

New Tower. Also known as the "arsenal", it is where the arms and ammunition were stored. It is, therefore, a Christian construction which dates back to the 16th century.

Old Tower. The Old Tower was constructed with large stone blocks and has been well-preserved in its upper half. It also contained several rooms which were used by the monarchs.

The false gate opens to the north side from the Ward and leads to the "**Coracha**" Zone. Here we find two towers which are especially noteworthy:

Water Tower. This tower was constructed by the Nasrids to protect the well that was located in its interior. It was of great importance as it was the only structure that supplied water to the fortress.

Coracha Tower. Built after the above-mentioned construction, this structure had a stretch of wall that led towards the New Tower. Its sole function was to defend the Water Tower.

From this area, a parapet walk located between two gardens leads us to the tower at the exit.

Accommodation Hotels:

Salobreña ***

Ctra. N-340 highway Km. 326

Phone: (9) 58- 61 02 61-86

Salambina *

Ctra. N-340 Km. 328

Phone: (9) 58- 61 00 37

Pensions:

Arnedo *

C. Nueva, 15

Phone: (9) 58- 61 02 27

López *

Camino de la Playa, 18

Phone: (9) 58- 61 00 53

Mari Carmen *

C. Nueva, 32

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 09 06

Mari Tere *

Ctra. de la Playa, 7

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 01 26

Miramar *

Arrabal Villa, 113

Phone: (9) 58 - 82 85 34

Palomares *

C. Fábrica Nueva, 28

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 01 81

Pérez *

C. del Cristo, 28

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 02 31

San José *

C. del Cristo, 96

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 03 54

Fernández *

C. Fábrica Nueva, 77

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 07 33

Camping:

El Peñon (2nd category)

Paseo Marítimo, s/n

Phone: (9) 58 - 61 02 07



