



Prehistory in Extremadura

Period of the history of humanity that includes from the origin of man until the appearance of the first written testimonies, at which time the historical period begins.

Paleolithic

It is the oldest of the prehistoric periods, is earlier than the Mesolithic period, and is characterized by the manufacture and use of carved stone tools, the practice of predation (hunting, fishing and gathering), nomadism and the appearance of the first manifestations artistic, such as cave paintings and stone or bone sculptures.



SANTA ANA CAVE

- It's an ancient cave between 600,000 and 800,000 years old.
- Location: Cáceres, Extremadura.
- Their findings can be traced back to 700,000 years ago. Apparently, the findings, retain the traces of use, equivalent to the traces left by the hominids in their manipulation, which allows to determine the use of each piece. This is precisely what makes them unique, since, according to the excavation director, "this feature is impossible to determine in 99% of cases due to erosion," he said.

Did you know?

- It is located within the CEFOT-1 military field, 12 kilometers from Cáceres, and belongs to the karst system called Caceizo de Cáceres, as well as the Maltravieso and El Conejar caves.
- Seven levels or stratigraphic units are recognized.



Cueva de Maltravieso

- Ancient cave between 15,000 and 25,000 years old.
- Location: Cáceres, Extremadura.
- The cave of Maltravieso is a cave located in the city of Cáceres, Spain, specifically in the avenue of Cervantes, and curiously integrated today in the urban area of this town of Cáceres. It was occupied by man at different times of Prehistory. It is located in the southern limestone area of the capital of Cáceres, popularly known as El Calerizo.



In 2003 a skeleton of a bison was shown - between 250,000 and 300,000 years old in good condition in the caves of Santa Ana and Maltravieso* - also in the capital of Cáceres -, "which gives us great hope for the future" as to the possible presence of hominid remains inside.

Did you know?

A study published in Science shows that a cave painting from Cáceres is the oldest known to date. And the most shocking: it was the work of a Neanderthal.

The findings in the cave of Maltravieso have caused a turnaround in regard to the evolution of the symbolic capabilities of the human being. The paintings analyzed in this study are a negative hand embodied in this cavity in Cáceres, a staircase painted in the cave of La Pasiega (Cantabria) and stalagmites with pigment remains in the cave of the Ardales (Málaga). The work has shown that these are the oldest artistic representations known to date. The longest one is the cacereña, with about 66,700 years old.



The cave of Maltravieso



Neolithic

It's a prehistoric period that follows the Mesolithic and precedes the Metal Age, and is characterized by the development of the productive economy (agriculture and livestock), the sedentary lifestyle and appearance of the first settlements, the use of polished stone and the ceramics, and the construction of megalithic monuments.



The natural area of Los Barruecos is located in the town of Malpartida de Cáceres. This site has found the oldest evidence of agricultural production in Extremadura dated about 7,000 years ago, in the Neolithic.



El Conejar cave is located south of the city of Cáceres, in an area known as the calerizo. Human and animal bone remains were recovered; low-cooking ceramic fragments, some with engobe; some fragments of worked bone, flint sheets and some fragments of slate plates decorated with incisions.



Did you know?

In the barruecos one of the most important scenes of the Game of Thrones series was recorded.



Cave "El Conejar"

Metal age



Metal Age Prehistoric period, after the Stone Age and before the Ancient Age, which comprises three major periods: the Copper Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, and is characterized by the use of metal in utensils and weapons.



The dolmen of Guadalperal, also known as the treasure of Guadalperal and as the Spanish Stonehenge for its resemblance to the Crélech of Stonehenge, is a megalithic monument dating from between III and II millennium BC, which is located in the town of El Gordo in Cáceres.



The dolmen of the Lácara meadow is a megalithic monument (3000-4000 years ago) of the corridor's sepulcher type. It is located northwest of the Spanish city of Mérida, in the province of Badajoz. The one in Lácara is a dolmen of the most common type in the Extremaduran community, since it is a long and well-developed corridor grave, the largest one that has been documented in the region.



Rock paintings of Las Villuercas Schematic paintings (3500 years ago) made with oxides and hydroxides of iron and manganese, on the rocky surfaces of the quartzitic coasts of the Sierra de las Villuercas, in the valley of the Ruedas river. Bronze-Chalcolithic Age. The photos show animals (dogs and deer) with stylized human figures representing a possible hunting scene.



Ancient History of Extremadura



Coria

Coria is a city and Spanish municipality of the province of Cáceres, located in the northwest of the autonomous community of Extremadura. It has 12 729 inhabitants. Founded before the Romans occupied the Iberian Peninsula, and known as Caura, the Romans gave it its current name in Latin, Caurium, and later this city was granted Roman citizenship.



Caceres

The Roman origins in Cáceres are two military camps. Castra Caecilia was founded on the outskirts of the current city, in the place now known as 'Cáceres el Viejo'. However, the location of the other camp, known as Castra Servilia, cannot be determined exactly, although it could be located within the current walled enclosure or in the immediate vicinity. Different archaeological discoveries prove that Cáceres was not only a place for the settlement of the troops but also a colony. Norba Caesarina was founded in the last third of the 1st century BC. C. and occupied until the 5th century A.D. being one of the five colonies created by the Roman Empire in the Lusitania.



MÉRIDA 25 A.C.

Mérida is the typical city when you say something about Rome in Extremadura, all people knows about Mérida and how beautiful it is, here are some curiosities and places to visit.

- Founded by Emperor Octavio Augusto in 25 A.C.
- Trajan's arch.
- Diana's Temple.
- Mérida circus theater and amphitheater.
- Roman bridge of Mérida.
- Aqueduct of miracles.
- House of Mitreo.



Punics wars

3rd century BC. Rome vs. Carthage. A fratricidal struggle to see what power was done with the dominance and hegemony of the Mediterranean Sea. Finally, the glory went to the first. The Punic Wars faced the two greatest military powers of their time, with experienced experienced generals at the head such as Hannibal or Scipio the African, who starred in some of the most memorable battles in history. And one of the main scenarios of the entire conflict was Hispania, with memorable battlefields such as Sagunto or Carthago Nova (the current Cartagena)



Cáparra.

The city of Cáparra became the municipium of Rome at the time of Vespasian: Municipium Flavium Caparense. Of the remains that are preserved highlights its impressive and famous arch, tetrapylum, the only one of its characteristics in Spain, which has become the most representative symbol of the city. 1st century foundation a. C. Municipium civium latinorum from 74.



Medellin

Medellín was founded as a military camp in 79-78 BC. (about 54 years before Mérida)



Augustobriga.

The town of Augustobriga was located on the Roman road linking Emerita Augusta with Caesarobriga (Talavera de la Reina). Over time the population was lost in Talavera la Vieja, which was evicted in 1963 due to the construction of the Valdecañas reservoir. Talavera la Vieja is located under the waters of the reservoir and you can only see its remains in times of drought. The remains of the Pórtico de Curia (during the imperial period, a curia became any building where a local government performed its functions), known in Talavera la Vieja as Los Mármoles, moved to a nearby point, a save from the waters of the reservoir.



Middle Ages in Extremadura

THE MUSULMS AND THE CONQUIST



In 711 the troops of Tarik, lieutenant of Muza, (governor of Ifriquiya) cross the strait and taking advantage of the absence of D. Rodrigo who was in the north in a campaign against the vascones, begins the penetration without resistance of the population of Andalusia.

In 712 the systematic conquest begins: Muza passes to Hispania with more contingents and takes the main cities Sevilla, Carmona, Mérida, Toledo, Zaragoza, Pamplona, where they arrived in 714.

His successors arrived in Barcelona in 718 and Toulouse in 721.

The Visigoth domains of Gaul were not occupied until 720: Al Samh entered Narbonne and ended the dominion of the noble Ardon in those lands. Attempts to penetrate Aquitaine failed through the divisions of Islam, despite the help provided by noble Frankish enemies with Carlos Martel, who defeated the Arabs in Poitiers. This meant in a short time the withdrawal of the Arabs to the Pyrenees, after the frank advance in the south of France by Pipino el Breve (Charlemagne's father) in Septimania and Provence.

From the triumph of Covadonga, in the year 722, an advance towards the south will begin. The kingdoms of Asturias, León, Navarra, Portugal, Castilla and Aragón emerged. Taking advantage of the Muslim weakness after the end of the Caliphate and the disintegration of the Taifa Kingdoms, León and Castilla exceed the Central Mountain Range and occupy the Tagus basin.



Toledo was reconquered in 1085. The occupation of the kingdom of Toledo meant the incorporation into its kingdom of the territory located between the Central System and the Tagus River.



IBN MARWAN

Abderrahman Ibn Marwan was born in Mérida at the beginning of the ninth century of a family of Muladis, of the many families converted to Islam.



After the rebellion of 835 he was taken prisoner to Córdoba, where the general admiration and confidence of the caliph who appointed him head of the Royal Guard was won by the courage, intelligence and sympathy demonstrated in his long captivity. As a condition to end the war, Ibn Marwan asked the caliph to settle on the banks of the Guadiana, on the hill of San Cristóbal. But knowing that such an enclave was impregnable in case of new rebellions, it was only authorized to occupy the Cerro de Muela, located opposite on the left bank of the river, on which there was a Visigoth village half-abandoned was called Batallius. It was the year 875.

Ibn Marwan repopulated the nucleus, fortified it with a defensive fence, raised mosques, and equipped it with facilities, making capital of a thriving kingdom that in a short time became the most powerful in the entire territory, and even throughout Muslim Spain. Badajoz was born. Ibn Marwan died around 912. He was succeeded as king of Batallius (Badajoz) by his son Zaid Marwan; to be his grandson Abdallah ben Mohamed; and finally Abderrahman Mohamed who took power in 930 Caliph Abderrahman III. But Badajoz, I remained one of the most thriving kingdoms of El-Andalus.

THE RECOQUIST

The period of the history of the Iberian Peninsula of approximately 780 years between the Umayyad conquest of Hispania in 711 and the fall of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada to the expanding Christian kingdoms in 1492 is called Reconquest. The complete conquest of Granada marks the end of the period. After 1491, the entire peninsula was controlled by Christian rulers. The Reconquest was followed by the Edict of Granada (1492) that expelled the Jews who would not convert to Christianity from Castile and Aragon, and a series of edicts (1499-1526) that forced the conversions of Muslims in Spain, and in 1609-1610, his exile. Since the mid-nineteenth century, the idea of a "reconquest" took root in Spain associated with its growing nationalism and colonialism.



Reconquest of Cáceres

We all know that on April 23, 1229 Alfonso IX of León, with the troops of Castile and the Military Orders, reconquered the city of Cáceres to the Muslims after a siege lasting more than two weeks. It was the fourth campaign initiated by the King to expel the Almohads from the Villa. King Alfonso IX began his reign at the death of his father Ferdinand II on January 22, 1188 and since 1213 he began the reconquest of Cáceres. The reconquest of the population of Alcántara can be seen as a more positive aspect of this first failed campaign.



Extremadura: Modern Ages

Vasco Núñez of Balboa

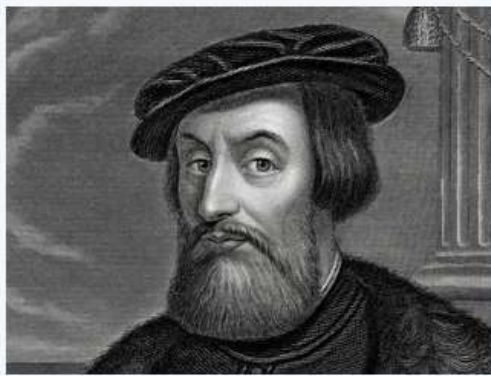


In 1475 he was born in Jerez de los Caballeros. Vasco Núñez de Balboa was a Spanish explorer, discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. He is one of the first to tour the isthmus of Panama and in 1513 he discovered the Pacific Ocean. His father was a gentleman of Galician origin Nuño Arias de Balboa, his mother was a lady from Jerez de los Caballeros, Badajoz, where Vasco Núñez de Balboa was born. On September 1, 1513, he led a large expedition of 190 Spaniards and 800 natives, in order to cross the mountains. After more than three weeks of laborious march, on the 25th he sees the immense ocean, which he calls "the South Sea" because that is the direction in which he moves. Given the unquestionable importance of his discovery, in 1514 the king appoints him in advance of the South Sea and governor of Panama and Cohiba. Vasco discovers the Pacific Ocean, also founded Santa María de la Antigua, in the Darién.

Did you know?

The expedition of Bastidas explored along the coast of present-day Colombia gathering riches till their decaying ships forced them to sail to the island of *Hispaniola*, the home base for all Spanish expeditions. Balboa gained valuable knowledge through the expedition regarding the natives, routes etc.

Hernán Cortés



He was born in Medellín, Badajoz, in 1485 under a family of noblemen of Extremadura. He studied the law at the University of Salamanca, but after two years he went to India, in 1504, which were newly discovered by Christopher Columbus. He established himself as a scribe for later as a landowner in La Española, now Santo Domingo.

He participated in the expedition to Cuba, as secretary of the governor Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar. He married the sister-in-law of this and was appointed mayor of the new city of Santiago. Velázquez put Hernán Cortés in charge of an expedition to Yucatán; nevertheless, the governor felt a distrust for Cortés, whom he had imprisoned on an occasion accused of treason, had him revealed before his departure.

In 1519, Cortés started his travel with eleven ships, six hundred men, some horses and artillery pieces. Upon reaching the continent, he defeated different indigenous peoples in Cozumel and Tabasco, from whom he received as an offering to: A slave girl, Malinche. He founded the city of Veracruz and proclaimed himself captain general. On his way to the capital, Cortés, along with his army, caused a massacre against the Mexican royal empire, the losses 5,000 lives.

Did you know?

When he arrived in Mexico with 500 other men, some of the citizens mistook him for Quetzalcoatl, a god-king of the peoples of the land. It was prophesied that he would be reincarnated in 1519, freeing the Aztecs from having to perform human sacrifices to guarantee that the Sun would continue to rise.





Francisco of Pizarro

It was with the Spanish conqueror that he would begin the conquest of Peru, he also discovered the southern sea could impose himself on the Inca empire and establish a Spanish dependency

He was born in the city of Extremadura in Trujillo on March 16, 1476 or 1478 or 1473. Exactly the year is unknown Pizarro is a distant relative of Hernán Cortés With 20 years he enlisted in the Spanish thirds The conquest of Peru:

With the Capitulation of Toledo of 1529, signed by Isabel of Portugal with the authority of King Carlos I, the domain rights over the area of Peru explored until then were granted. The territory that corresponded to Pizarro went from the Santiago river.



Did you know?

He was invited by Atahualpa to meet in the Inca fortress of Cajamarca, through an emissary very close to him. In this way, it was possible to communicate with the Inca king, who informed him of places where there was gold. Atahualpa offered Pizarro to his favorite sister in marriage, and had two children with her.



Ines Suarez



Her Expedition

Between 1527 and 1528, Juan, her husband, embarked for Panama and Ines remained in Spain waiting for him many year, only hearing news of him, not letters or anything else.

In 1537 got a royal license to embark to Venezuela (In that time, womans weren't aloud to embark alone, so she went with one of her nieces), when she arrived looking for his husband, she knew about his death in the battle, "*Batalla de las Salinas*"

Because of the death of her husband she received a compensation a small plot of land in Cuzco, and some years later happens the event of the decapitation of the 7 chiefs.

Ines Suarez was born in 1507 (Plasencia), she grew up with her father, a cabinetmaker craftsman, and her mother, a seamstress. There isn't any information about her childhood except for learning her mother's job.

The principal occupation/job of Ines during the battle against the chief was to assist the wounded/hurt ones and the troops. But Ines was very far away to stay in rear guard when the situation was desperate.

She proposed to the Spanish conquerors to decapitate 7 chiefs that they captured and throw their heads to their enemies, to dishearten their mood. The Spanish conquerors refused to do that because they wanted to use them as a currency, she did not hesitate and executed her plan with her own hands. The terrible decision had the desired effect.

Inés and Pedro de Valdivia maintained a relationship that lasted more than ten years. Even so, neither the church nor the viceroy accepted that situation and forced Peter to bring his wife and marry his lover with a man he trusted.

She married Rodrigo de Quiroga, a famous conqueror who became governor, extending to his wife the title of Governor. They were united 30 years.

Inés de Suárez died at 74.



Francisco of Orellana and the travesy in Amazonas



At 26 of 1541, the captain Francisco of Orellana, from Trujillo, starts a travel in the most largest river in the world, the now called "Amazonas", with 57 braves spanish in the "San Pedro". Francisco has created some cities in the Perú after the expedition, like Santiago de Guayaquil, "La Perla del Pacifico", and because this, the emperor elected he to travel the riverside of this unknown rute. Moved by the dificult and the option of go back was descarted. When the expedition in float starts, the people thought that the river is very long because in the other size is one of the 7 gold cities.

Some navies crushed in the travel and there weren't some resources, because this, the marines needed to go down the ships and get food from the coasts, there, some natives starts to atack they and part of the tripulation deads.

With a little tripulation and without resources, the San Pedro arrived in the atlantic ocean, and from there, to Seville, Spain.

When the ships arrived in San Luca, the people were excited and the tripulants goes their homes in Seville, except Francisco, that the emperor says ho like to see in the royal court, where the capitulations will be written, the capitulation says: To will enjoy the honor, the grace and the freedoms of the vast territory of Amazonas.



Did you know?

They were the first s europeans that ear about the "Amazonian Wömens", an hostile tribe formed by women



The contemporary age in Extremadura

1.

THE XVIII CENTURY IN EXTREMADURA:

The improvements were less notable than in the rest of the country. In general, the situation continued to be extremely precarious for the great peasantry of Extremadura.

-SLOW GROWTH OF THE XVIII IN EXTREMADURA:

There was a significant increase in the population.



-THE EXTREMADURA SUCCESSION WAR Extremadura:

had not yet recovered from the war with Portugal when, between 1702 and 1713, the War of Succession between Felipe de Anjou and the Archduke Charles of Austria broke out in Spain. In this war the Portuguese (allied with the English) wanted to go to France to take away the supremacy of Europe, for that they passed through Extremadura but Spain prevented it, causing great damage.

-Royal Court of Extremadura:

At the end of the 18th century the Royal Court of Extremadura (1790) was created, his intention was that all the cities of Extremadura had a vote in courts. The General Intendencia was also created in this century of Extremadura, with capital in Badajoz. Created by Manuel Godoy.



Manuel Godoy

The workers struggle

The struggle of the workers is a movement initiated in Extremadura at the beginning of the 19th century. However, it was only really initiated in the restoration. The so-called agrarian Catholic unions joined the Marxist associations (formed mostly by peasants). In 1900, the Germinal Obrera emerged, which developed a great protest activity, between spring and summer 1902, thousands of peasants mobilized to defend labor improvements.

The movement reached the Miguel Sesmero Tower, where an agricultural congress was held (redeemed by the civil war. (Everything ended up being banned and its participants, imprisoned) But that did not prevent that throughout the first third of the twentieth century, workers' associations and classes will proliferate throughout Extremadura's geography (Proliferate = Reproduce or Multiply)

2.

THE LIBERALISM OF THE XIX CENTURY:

In this period Extremadura again suffered innumerable calamities, like wars, bad harvests and epidemics.

-THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:

The invasion of Spain by Napoleon's troops in 1808 resulted in popular uprisings in Extremadura. The Provincial Board of Defense was created in this year. In this year the French arrived in Extremadura.

-The battle of Medellín:

In 1809 the bloody battle of Medellín died more than 10,000 Spaniards, so it is one of the most famous.

-The take of Badajoz:

The second most famous battle of Extremadura was the take of Badajoz, which was the city that most aggressively harvested the war, but the French used the technique of sealing all the exits of the city and letting them die to death, so we surrendered.

-Conclusion:

Extremadura, in general, was in a state of significant decay after the war of independence, and after the arrival of Fernando VII who made some reforms that increased the quality of life of society.



THE RESTORATION.

With the return of the Bourbons to power, the situation in the region did not change substantially. The old socio-economic structures of the past survived as a strong burden on the possible development of the region.

The survival of the old regime in Extremadura

The Restoration is a historical period between 1875 and 1930. The old regime had already ended 1 century, but in Extremadura they remained almost unchanged until the twentieth century. Extremadura society was distributed dually, there were "landowner oligarchies" and "landless laborers"

The upper class: it was formed by aristocrats or bankers, who invested in the capital.

The middle class: it was very limited, reduced to a few cores.

The lower class: It comprised most of the population, these were disinherited rates of peasants, who lived in low living conditions and oppressed by the upper class



THE SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURES

During the Restoration, the infrastructure of the region improved slightly, the precarious railway network with line was somewhat completed

Madrid - Cáceres - Lisbon
 Seville - Zafra - Mérida - Cáceres
 Huelva - Zafra
 Plasencia - Salamanca

There were also improvements in the big cities with the construction of sewers, the paving of the streets between the running water and the electric light to the vivinedas.

But, the rural environment was left out of progress. The dictatorship of Miguel Primo de Rivera (1923-1930) passed almost unnoticed by Extremadura, among the few projects of relevance that were conceived was the railroad Villanueva de la Serena - Guadalupe - Talavera de la Reina, remained unfinished



5.- THE SECOND REPUBLIC AND THE CIVIL WAR This era is characterized mainly by being a time of changes, revolts, progress and conflicts. The second republic began on April 14, 1931, consisted of a democratic government which was characterized by its absence of king, as the name implies, and its reforms. poor planning made the period busy, with several governments (left and right) and serious problems of violence and corruption, but also progress in freedoms and human rights and education.



AGRARIAN REFORM:

In the year 32, the government of the republic proposed an ambitious reform in which much of the land would be expropriated from its owners in exchange for nothing. This measure was not very well received by the beneficiaries, and even worse by the lost. This caused many riots on the part of the yunteros. A clear example was that of Castilblanco, which resulted in 7 deaths and 22 detainees of which 8 were sentenced to death.



The civil War.

After the partial failure of the national uprising, there was a war between the national and republican sides. In Extremadura, a series of events stand out, such as the capture of Badajoz. Badajoz was occupied by the Republicans for a short period of time, one month, because he was on his way to Madrid. After the capture, an event was committed, the massacre of Badajoz in which between 1400 and 4000 people were killed, this caused by the National side. In summary, during the war, atrocities were committed from both sides.

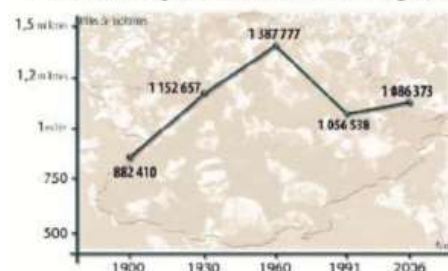
Francoism

The decade of the 40 was known as the years of hunger, caused by the structure of the property, bad harvests and international isolation. Agriculture continued to be the basis of the economy. Although land was broken, productivity remained very low due to poor mechanization.

The Badajoz Plan, approved in April 1952. Its objective was basically to develop irrigated agriculture, using Guadiana water. Thus, it was intended to introduce industries of transformation of these primary products, that is, seedbeds, slaughterhouses, fertilizer factories, to settle a population that lived in precarious conditions and maintained a purely subsistence economy.

Cáceres Plan, but it had less investment and more modest objectives. In short, it hardly involved the construction of some reservoirs and the putting of some irrigated land.

Evolución de la población extremeña en el siglo XX



THE TRANSITION AND DEMOCRACY

Now Extremadura enjoys broad political autonomy, a middle class society, sustainable economic development and balanced urban growth.

In 1977 a Preautonomic Board was created with the fundamental objective of preparing the Statute of Autonomy that was approved by the Organic Law of February 26, 1983.

POPULATION AND ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2006, the Extremadura population amounted to 1,086,373, which represented only 2.74% of the Spanish population. The province of Badajoz is more populated than that of Cáceres and there is an equitable distribution of the population. There have been many advances in recent decades: a general improvement in the quality of life and infrastructure, population literacy and the extension of a quality health system. Also, its economy is predominantly tertiary. Extremadura is committed to sustainable development, based on alternative energies and quality that guarantee their designations of origin. The infrastructure plan is also ambitious: the La Plata highway, the arrival of the High Speed Train to Cáceres and Badajoz and Talavera la Real airport.

