

Artesanía sostenible con telares centenarios de la Alpujarra de Granada



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1. Geographic area

The geographical area of the craft of the Alpujarra is Granada, Andalusia, Spain.

At present, throughout the Alpujarra we can find textile looms such as those of Válor, Pampaneira, Mecina Bombarón, Ugíjar or Sorvilán, in which colorful Alpujarreño fabrics are worked by hand and where carpets, blankets and cushions of very different shades are made.



2. Data sheet

- Title: Sustainable handicrafts with centenary looms of the Alpujarra of Granada
- Category: Textile
- Country: Spain / Andalusia / Granada
- Source: <http://www.andalusianstories.com>



3. History

The origin of the “jarapa” dates back to the 16th century with the expulsion of the Moorish population of the Alpujarra.

The looms used by the Arabs to weave silks were adapted and reused by the population that stayed in the area. Years before the revolts, the Alpujarra had one of the most important silk markets in Spain and 4,000 looms were registered.

The entire Arab artisan industry declined with the expulsion of the Moors.



A waste economy emerged, taking advantage of everything that was useless for other uses. It highlighted the realization of tissues based on “rags”, which, interwoven, would become “jarapas”.

The manufacture of jarapas was a task reserved for women, and was a complement to the domestic economy. Usually, it was the weaver who went to the houses of the neighbors, who gave them a good amount of clews, made up of used clothes and cloth. The result was unique fabrics of bright colors.

Jarapa has had different uses such as blankets, cloths to cover food, to pick olives, and today it is used as carpets and decorative elements.



4. Materials

There are multiple plant and animal textile materials before spinning them such as cotton, linen, wool, jute, etc. also materials used directly from nature.



5. Process

In the process of elaboration the remains of textile factories are used to make the "strips", with which the balls are prepared to later make the "churros" (special kind of skein that is introduced into the loom shuttle for the strip is weaving). Once the churros are on the shuttles, they move along the loom, between the threads, making the fabric. After finishing it is removed from the loom and the jarapas are cut, some are sewn the sides and others are finished with knots, being ready for commercialization. Although new designs and techniques have been introduced progressively in the manufacture of jarapas, the traditional wide list is one of the most requested.



6. Masmedia

They make alpujarreñas bedspreads and curtains as before and also, in a hundred-year-old loom, they make the typical and colorful alpujarreñas jarapas with recycled cotton from the textile industries of Levante.

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El pueblo de las jarapas



En Pampaneira se siguen fabricando en los telares las típicas jarapas alpujarreñas con tejidos reciclados

The jarapa has been the sign of identity in the craftsmanship of La Alpujarra. The jarapa woven in hand looms, is the typical craftsmanship for centuries and in the Hilacar jara loom for 32 years that continue to weave them, being a must when you travel to La Alpujarra.

<https://youtu.be/SP2ZK3w5EMq>

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La artesana de las jarapas alpujarreñas



Ana Martínez lleva 29 años confeccionando jarapas y tapices en la Alpujarra en sus telares de madera con más de dos siglos de vida situados últimamente en su taller textil de Bubión