

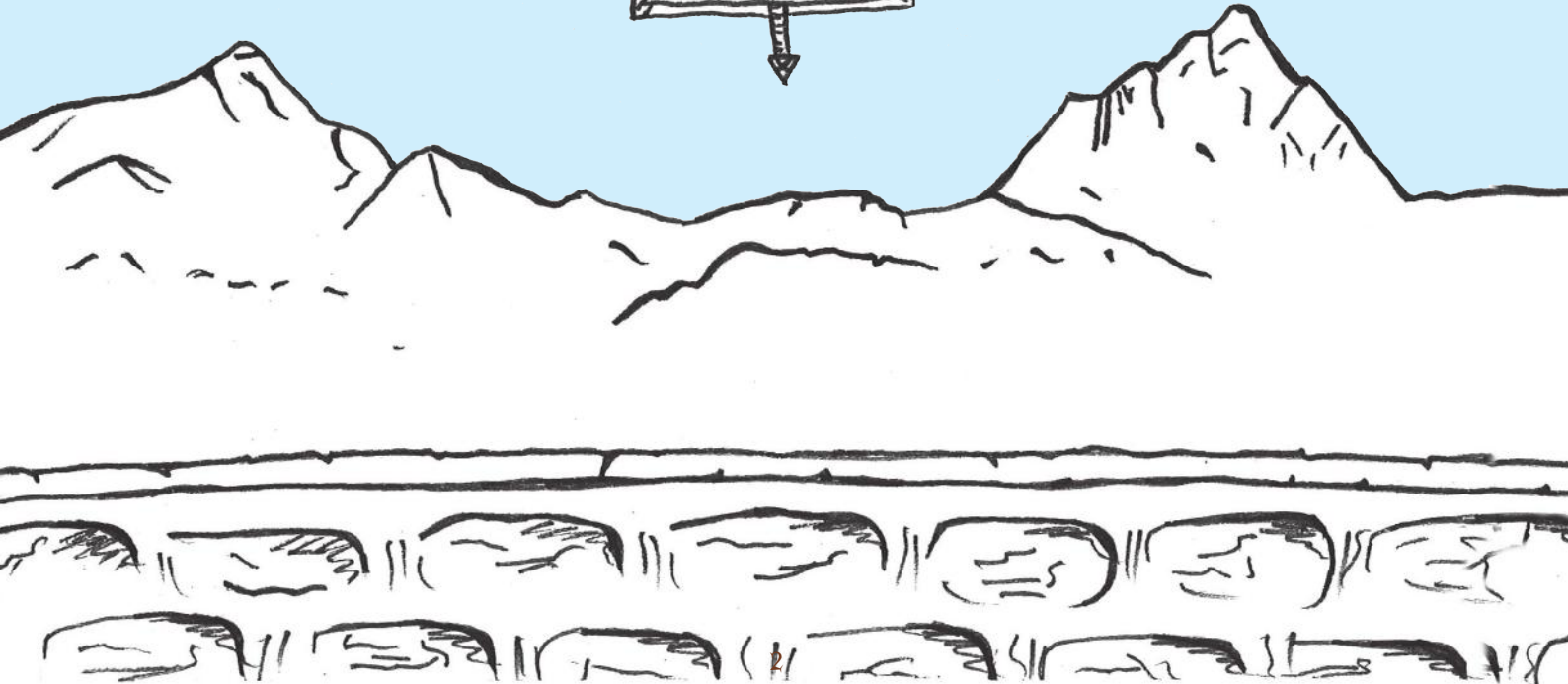
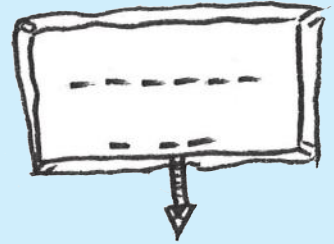
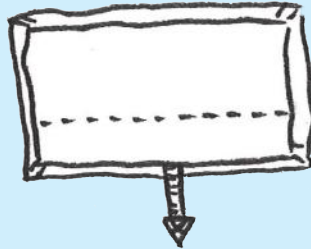
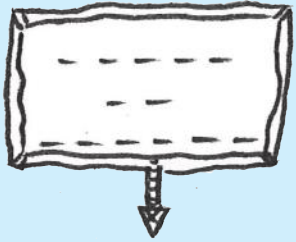


English

The Castle of Santa Barbara



Go on the top of the Castle...





Hello!



We are all characters coming from different times. Today we will take you to visit the Castle of Santa Barbara. Through the wars, reforms and legends, you will be able to imagine how life in the fortress was. The first constructions are over a thousand years old! You will discover that parts of the Castle have been destroyed and rebuilt several times.

If you look at the landscape from the highest part of the fortress, you can see that it does not seem so easy to attack: Mount Benacantil, on top of which the Castle stands, is of very difficult access even if it doesn't seem so high. Besides, from the top, the Lords could watch the whole horizon, including the sea!

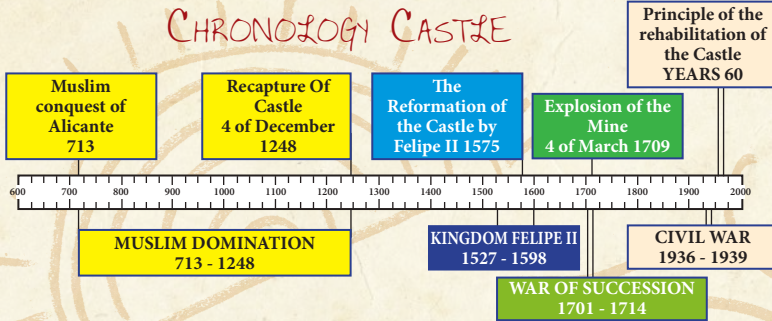
First we will take you to the times of the Muslim domination. You will then learn about the Christian re-conquest and the taking of the Castle by Jaime II of Aragon. We will also travel between the 16th and the 17th centuries to discover Felipe II's reign, and the Mine explosion in the Castle during the War of the Spanish Succession.

To help you, you have a map of the Castle at the beginning of this guide and a chronological chart. The most important points are indicated by the coloured dots on the map. Since the Castle is big, you do not have to follow the chronology.

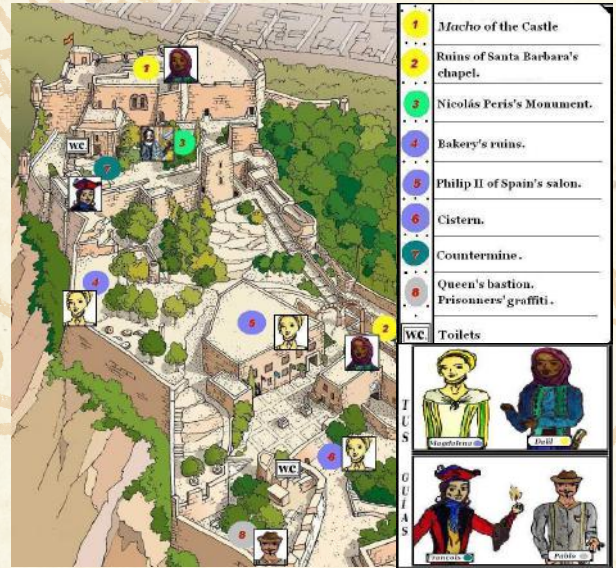
Enjoy the visit in our company, and have a good trip!



CHRONOLOGY CASTLE



Mediterranean Sea Map : Alicante has sea borders with several European countries, but also with North African countries.



The dots on this map show you the most important parts of the Castle.

You can see the strategic situation of the Castle. It dominates the sea, which facilitated watching over the ocean in war time, but also the commercial exchanges with all those countries.

Hello!

My name is Dalil and I am going to tell you what happened to the Castle during the Muslim rule.



Dalil

Spain is a country that lived under Muslim domination for a long time. In the year 713, Alicante was taken by Muslim troops.

With these new rulers, the name of the city changed: before called LUCENTUM by the Romans, the city will be called LAQANT from this moment. It was a century later when the first fortress appeared. There are no traces left of that building today, but it can be placed on the highest point of today's Castle called « Macho of the Castle ». !

The fourth of December 1248, Barbara's saint day in Spain, Christian armies led by Alfonso of Castile, future king Alfonso X el Sabio, recaptured the castle and managed to regain the control of Laqant. That is why the Castle took the name of Santa Barbara!



Ruins of Santa Barbara's chapel, built in honour of the Castle's saint.



SPAIN : THE THREE CULTURES.

Spain is a country where people from three different religions lived. In spite of the wars between those peoples, each one of them brought wealth to the Spanish culture. The Jews arrived in Spain before the Muslim conquest. In Alicante, they earned their living from trading, especially sea trading. As you already know, the Muslim domination started in the 8th century and lasted until the Christian troops re-conquered the castle four centuries later.

Here are the most well-known symbols of these three religions. To help you, you can find the meaning the religion gives them.



THE CRESCENT AND THE STAR

These two symbols are the most common representation of Islam, the religion of the Muslims.

The crescent can stand for the Ramadan, a Muslim tradition. The five branch star is for the five pillars of Islam: that is the five most important values for people practising this religion. During the Muslim rule, the Castle of Santa Barbara was an Alcazabar, an arab fortress.



THE STAR OF DAVID

The six branch star is the most famous symbol of Judaism, the religion of Jewish people. It represents King David in particular, founder of Israel, the Jewish kingdom. It was him who made Jerusalem a capital.

The star is also the symbol of the Messiah. In the Judeo-Christian religion, the Messiah is the person who will bring the good word and happiness to people by restoring justice.



THE HOLY CROSS

This Cross is the symbol of Christianity. For the Christians, this Cross stands for Jesus Christ's death, crucified. In the Bible, the holy book of Christianity, Jesus is the Messiah. His death redeems the sins of all his people. The most obvious part of this religion in the Castle is Santa Barbara's chapel.



And now,
let's see what you remember!
Link the sentences to the
related religion

The Messiah's name is Jesus

King David believed in that religion

Ramadan is one of its traditions

This religion was the one of the Kingdom of Israel

It lies on five pillars

The holy book is the Bible



1296: The taking of the Castle by King Jaime II de Aragón



Nicolas Peris at the door of the castle, defeated by Jaime II of Aragon.

In 1296 King Jaime II de Aragon assaulted the Castle of Santa Barbara, occupied then by the Castilian Nicolas Peris.

As he refused to surrender, Nicolas Peris claimed that in order to take the Castle, Jaime II would have to come and fight in person. That's how at the end of the battle between the two men, the Castilian was defeated. He died with the sword in one hand, and the keys of the Castle in the other.

He was holding them so tight that it resulted impossible to take them away. For having fought the King, his body wouldn't be buried.

They say that since that day, some nights of full moon, you can still hear the keys clicking when Nicolas Peris's ghost haunts the Castle.

Here is a little game about the story of Nicolas Peris.

You probably wonder how castles like Santa Barbara's could be built at a time when there were no cranes or trucks. Here is a little drawing that shows how the workers at that time could deal with heavy loads.

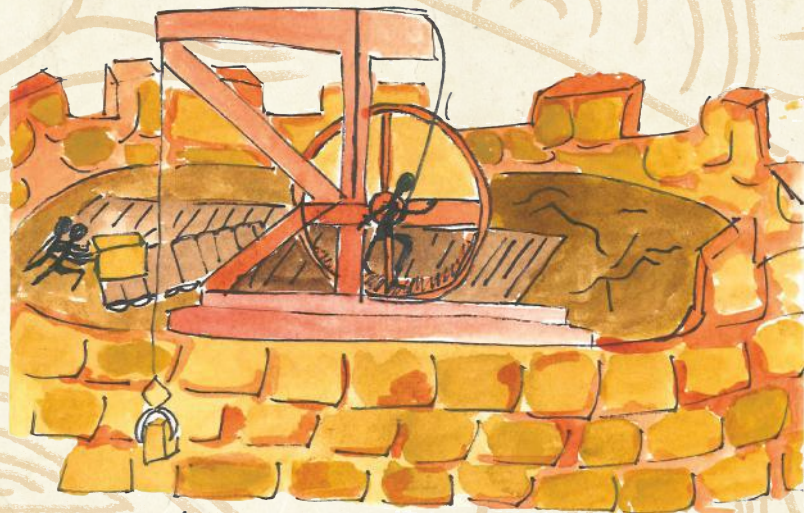


Fig. I: Rueda

This mechanism is a sort of ancestor of the crane. Since there was no electricity, people had to use animal or human strength to carry stones for example. You can also see that the logs were used to help the stone blocks roll like a kind of conveyor belt.



I am Magdalena,
and I will now tell you how Felipe II,
king of Spain, changed the castle
in the 16th century.



Felipe II was the king of the country during the second half of the 16th century. He brought Spain to be the most powerful country of Western Europe.

5 This century is the peak of the Spanish Kingdom: the 16th century was also the one of the Great Discoveries, and the Spanish people were renowned to be great explorers (the Conquistadors).

It is in that context that Felipe II ordered the transformation of the castle into a real military fortress. First, he enlarged the walls so that in the event of war, the people of Alicante could be protected from the enemy's attacks inside the Castle's walls. That is also why he transformed the fortress into a small village! You can observe what used to be the old bakery: we can still see the wheels for grain. 6

As you may have observed, Alicante's region is quite dry (about 20 days of rain every year). So people had to stock the water in case of war. For that matter, they built wells linked to huge cisterns. The biggest in the castle can contain up to 1 million litres of water.

The old Arabic castle was then transformed into a real fortified village with Felipe II, capable of protecting the population from wars assaults.





Here is a drawing showing how the flour was made under the reign of Felipe II. The stone wheels that you can see are the remains of the castle's bakery.

4

Fig. 111 Tahoma



In this diagram, you can see that it is animal strength what is used this time. Advancing, the cow turns the big stone wheel that crushes the grain to make flour.





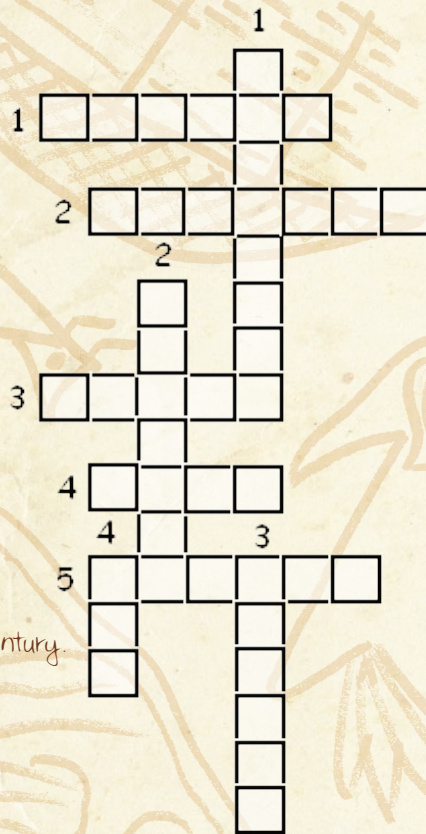
Now let's see what you remember! Let's fill the crosswords!

HORIZONTAL

- 1- They put bullets in it to aim at enemies ships.
- 2- The one in the castle can contain 1 million litres of water!
- 3- You can take water from it with a rope and a bucket.
- 4- It was built around the castle for protection.
- 5- Items you use to fight (for example, a sword is a...)

VERTICAL

- 1- Felipe II transformed the castle into a...
- 2- Small town which will be built inside the castle in the 11th century.
- 3- Population. They could find shelter in the castle.
- 4- When two people are fighting they say they are in...





I am François,
I am a French soldier. My story
is the one of the mine explosion that
took place in the castle in 1709.
Here is what happened.

Between 1701 and 1714, several European countries were involved in a war to know who will succeed the King of Spain. Amongst them, Holland and the United Kingdom, whose armies occupied the Castle of Santa Barbara.

The future Bourbon king Felipe V sent French troops to Alicante to take the fortress by assault. Led by General D'Asfeld, the soldiers built a subterranean passage under the wall of the castle. This subterranean passage called "mine", was then filled with cannon powder. The English troops found out what was going on, and tried to find where the French mine was, digging "counter-mine".



The mine explosion

They say that in the night of the 3rd of March 1709, the general Claude François d'Asfeld informed the English general that he would blow up the castle if the English troops did not surrender the battle.

As the English found no trace of the mine, they thought it was a lie made up to intimidate them. That is how, on the 4th of March, the French soldiers set the gunpowder on fire.





The explosion was terrible, destroying entire pieces of Mount Benacantil, which landed on houses in the city. Lots of defenders died in this attack, but the French army did not manage to destroy the whole castle.

Finally, the English soldiers were forced to abandon the castle, leaving it in the hands of the Bourbons, the French royal dynasty.

Fig. W : Cañón

Find the cannon bullet in the walls of Santa Catalina's tower !

You probably know the most famous weapon used to shoot at ships for example, from castles or other boats: the cannon. But do you know how it works ? Here is a diagram to help you understand.



The cannon is a weapon composed by a pipe, used to shoot balls made of big pieces of metal. Thanks to the explosion provoked by the inflamed gunpowder, the balls are projected. Sometimes, the cannon was equipped with wheels, for easier transportation.



Now that's a strange code ! Try to discover the message that could have prevented the 1709 castle's explosion.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
□	☆	0	□	⊞	○	∠	⊥	∩	>	⊖	△	‡
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
⊖	∩	⊞	↑	↓	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩

∩ ⊥ ⊞ 0 □ ⊖ ⊖ ∩ ⊖ ⊞ ∩ ∩ □ ⊞ ↓

∩ ∩ ∩ ⊖ □ ⊞ ↓ ∩ ⊥ ⊞

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The legend : The face of the Moor



Together we have seen the history of the castle.
But there's still a legend that people tell in the streets of Alicante. If you go down to the Postiguet's beach, take a look at the castle. Can you see that strange face engraved in the rock? They call it the Face of the Moor. I will tell you what happened.



In Alicante's skyline, a strange face seems to have been guarding the city for centuries.

It is said that more than a thousand years ago, an Arab King who lived in the castle wanted his daughter to get married. The princess, Cantara, was the most beautiful woman known in the country.

Two young Muslim men, Almanzor and Ali, were desperately in love with her.



The caliph thought that the two lovers had to earn his daughter's love. So, Almanzor went to India to bring back the most precious spices to his beloved. Ali decided to write her poems, and declare his love.

Days and months went by. Cantara and Ali, too busy with their common happiness, forgot that Ali had a mission to accomplish for them to get married.

So when the young captain Almanzor came back with a boat full of spices, the King had to give him the right to marry Cantara. In desperation, the young princess threw herself down from the top of mount Benacantil. Ali realized he couldn't live without her, and so he joined her in the afterlife.

It is said that as they were falling, their bodies changed the mountain's profile making it look like the melancholic face of the Arab lover.

This way, the stones of the mountain kept engraved this love story and time itself joined them forever, for from Ali and Cantara, the name of Alicante was born.





To finish your visit in our company, help us find the names related to the castle's history in this word soup.

LUCENTUM

BENACANTIL

LAQANT

BARBARA

ALICANTE



And to finish adding an artistic note, here are dots that you can join to form a face the story of which you now know!





I am Juan,
I was born in Alicante in
the 1960's. I will explain to
you the history of the castle
in the 20th century.

The Castle at present times

He transformed the castle into a military fortress in the 16th century. Well, in 1893 it lost that strategic position. After they dismantled the artillery, the fortress was abandoned. First, the beggars found shelter within its walls, and then it was used as a prison during the Civil War and up to the post-war period. You can see the prisoner's graffiti on the floors. You can read the date and the name of the persons who were imprisoned in the castle.

Finally, in the 1960's, the castle was restored and opened to the public thanks to the Mayor, D. Agatángelo Soler. Maybe you entered the castle by using the lift. As we explained at the beginning, Mount Benacantil is of very difficult access, so the opening of the elevator in 1963 made the fortress much more accessible for visitors! Thanks to this system, you can climb 143 meters of rock in 30 seconds!

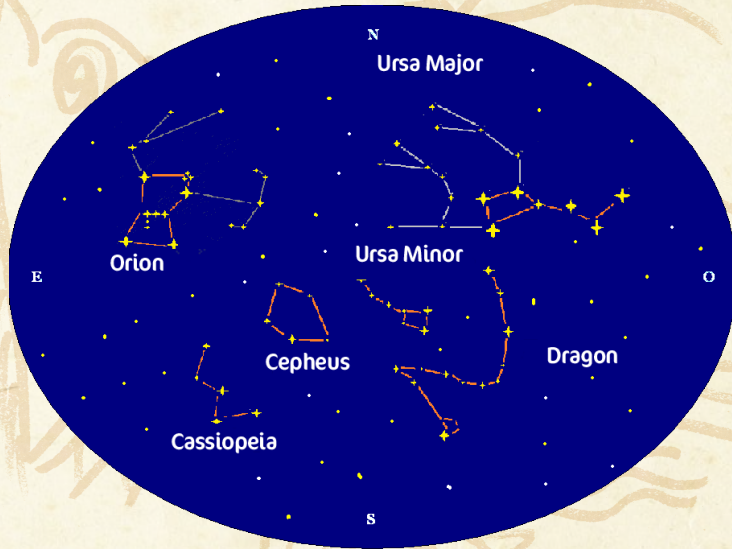
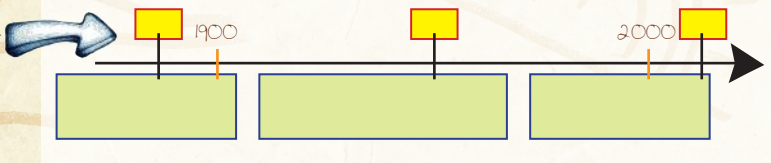


Since the 60's, the Castle is an officially protected monument, being an important Monument of Cultural Interest (BIC). In 2011 its last great restoration took place.

Let's see what you remember of the 20th century!

Link the events of the 20th century to the right date, and put those elements in the chronological charts: the date in yellow and the event in green.

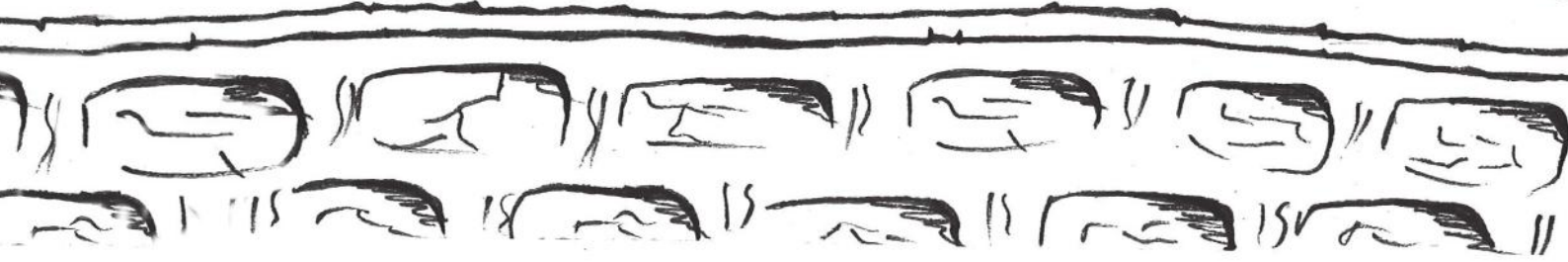
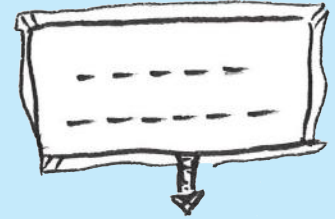
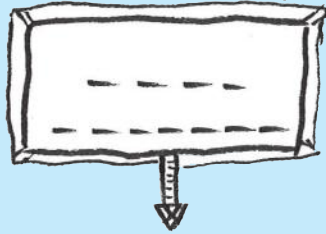
Elevator's opening	•	•	1893
The fortress is disarmed	•	•	2011
Inauguration of the last great rehabilitation	•	•	1964



THE STARS OF ALICANTE

As you may have noticed, the sky is very clear in Alicante. If you go up to the castle and with a little bit of training, you can observe several constellations. Here is a map of the constellations you can easily see with bare eyes. It's orientated to the north, but you can turn it round to imagine the shapes represented by the stars.

...and find out the name of the mountains
you can then complete and color





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