

City Cultural and Civic Centre (CIUDAD DE LA CULTURA)

Inaugurated in 2011, the City Cultural and Civic Centre (CIUDAD DE LA CULTURA) is located inside a modern building, formerly an old wine cellar, which was acquired by the City of Almonte to be part of the public heritage of the town.

Located on Calle Antonio Machado, 17, this area covers an area of 6,550m² and connects with four streets in downtown Almonte. We highlight the following landmarks:

- Municipal Theater "Salvador Távora"
- Municipal Public Library "Ana María Matute"
- Municipal School of the Arts "Manolo Sanlúcar"
- Replica "Church of Baler"

MUNICIPAL THEATER "SALVADOR TÁVORA"

The scenic space has a capacity of 512 seats, a stage that is 17m high, 11.20m deep and 12m wide, two quick-changing rooms, three individual and one collective changing room, a rehearsal room, box office, office, warehouse and service areas.

The theatre has an Exhibition Hall in its lobby and another Hall, on the top floor, with a capacity of 60 people primarily used for small-scale cultural activities (book presentations, etc.), conferences, congresses and meetings.

The constructed area is 3,265m².

Since its inauguration in 2011, the theatre maintains a permanent program that includes all the performing arts and covers all age groups. To guarantee this stability and also the quality in the programming, the City Council has adhered to the program "Enrédate", Andalusian Network of Public Theaters of the Ministry of Culture of the Junta de Andalucía and the program "Platea" of the INAEM (Instituto Nacional de las Artes Escénicas del Ministerio de Cultura). Programming at the Municipal Theatre is exclusively promoted by the City Council and in collaboration with local associations or promoters in general.

All this has become a fundamental cultural reference point in our municipality and outside, as the thousands of spectators who annually attend the scheduled shows can attest.

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY "ANA MARÍA MATUTE"

The library is located in the old storage warehouse for the wine barrels of the winery, where the first floor was rehabilitated from its original structure to increase space. The library consists of almost 1,000 square meters of useful space and its bibliographic collection contains about 15,000 cataloged books.

It has a local library system composed of the main branch in Almonte and two other branches, one in El Rocío (in the House of Culture) and another in Matalascañas (in the Multipurpose City Hall building on the north road).

The main library in Almonte is part of the Andalusian Public Reading Network, which most of the Andalusian libraries are part of, and allows for the exchange of information, loans and bibliographic catalogs.

As established by current law, the library is free to access and the books and library materials are available to the public inside the library without prior requests from the librarian.

On the Ground Floor:

- Main desk and Administration

- Reading area in the main hall; books can be picked up under the new mezzanine and, next to the reading area, is the shelving area and public Internet access service.
- In the back, there is the children's / youth room with a small area and a secondary staircase.

On the Upper Level:

- Study room
- Audiovisual room - a multipurpose room used as a study room and also as a space for activities

SCHEDULE: Monday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m and from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are special schedules for the summer, Christmas and Rocío pilgrimage

MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS "MANOLO SANLÚCAR"

The Municipal School of the Arts hosts the following teaching activities:

- ELEMENTARY MUSIC SCHOOL: Musical training (music theory) and instrumental training (woodwind, metal wind, percussion, piano) are taught in agreement with the Musical Association "Almonte Siglo XXI"
- CULTURAL WORKSHOPS: Piano, Spanish dance and flamenco dance, theater, painting (through the "Arteando" Association), singing and guitar (in agreement with the Peña Flamenca de Almonte) are taught.

The building has 4 classrooms on the ground floor (plastic arts, theater and musical instruments) and another 4 classrooms (rehearsal room, dance, musical language, musical instruments) on the upper floor along with teacher and meetings room, costumes and services.

The constructed area is 849.58 m²

REPLICA "BALER CHURCH"

The Baler Church in Almonte is a replica of the original in the Philippines and was inaugurated in 2007 by the then President of the Philippines. It has been created in collaboration with the municipality of Almonte and Baler (Philippines). The church contains the permanent exhibition "Los Rostros del Mito" displaying the Spanish presence in the Philippines and, particularly, about the historical episode of the Baler site and the so-called "Last of the Philippines" which refers to the 33 survivors of the Siege of Baler (1898 / 1889).

The building is also the headquarters of the management offices of the City Cultural and Civic Centre (Ciudad de la Cultura).

The constructed area is 162.27 m²

Our Last Men in the Philippines. A brief historical overview

The last Spanish overseas territories started to become independent by the end of the 19th century. One of these lands was the Philippines. At that point, Spain was sending some soldiers to fight in the existing wars. Those men were mostly farmers, artisans or shepherds who were illiterate and had never left their towns before. One of the soldiers on the Spanish troops was a man from Almonte named José Jiménez Berro, who ended up in Baler, a Philippine town.

When the war finished, the remaining soldiers who were in that town stayed isolated and locked themselves in Baler's church so that they didn't realize that the war had become to an end. Their enemies told them that the war was over but they didn't believe them.

They resisted in that way for 337 days, almost a year, until they surrendered when they realized that the war was finally over. In the end, the Philippine Army allowed them to return to Spain, where they were welcomed as heroes.