

ANTEQUERA

Antequera's rich history has made it an increasingly popular place to visit in the province of Málaga. With its beautiful views and proximity to the mountains, Antequera offers a change of pace from the crowded beaches of the Costa del Sol.

Location: Antequera is located in the province of Málaga, 50 km north of Málaga city.

Population: 41,000

History: Antequera's known history dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. The town formed part of the Roman and Byzantine Empires and was later controlled by the Visigoths and the Moors. From the 12th to 14th centuries AD, Antequera was repeatedly attacked by Christian kings during the *Reconquista*, and on September 16, 1410 an army led by Ferdinand I of Aragon conquered the city. This gave Ferdinand, who was crowned King of Aragon in 1412, the title "Ferdinand of Antequera," and the main street still carries his name: *Calle Infante Don Fernando*.



Climate: The average temperature in Antequera is 15°C (59°F). The weather is generally mild, with average summer highs around 30°C (86°F) and winter lows of 7°C (45°F). Antequera is known for its humidity, although it rarely rains in the summer. In the winter months, precipitation averages can reach 4 cm.

Geography: Antequera is located at the base of the *El Torcal* mountain range. The mountains in the distance and the valleys that surround the town make for amazing views, particularly at sunset.

Local Industries: In the past, the region's economy was based on the production and processing of agricultural products such as wool, grain and olives, as well as furniture manufacturing. Today, tourism is the main industry.



Famous Monuments: The *Dólmenes*, some of Europe's largest megalithic tombs, are located about 20 minutes from the town center. Built between 2500 and 2000 BC, these tombs are a must-see. For a breathtaking view at sunset, head to the *Alcazaba*, the old Moorish fortress. The *Museo Municipal* houses avant-garde paintings from the 1970s, as well as a rare bronze statue of Efebo, a young man.

Local Highlights: The *Laguna de Fuente de Piedra*, 20 km (12 miles) northwest of Antequera, is one of Europe's

largest breeding sights for the flamingo.

Cultural Insight: The local delicacy is *porra antequerana*, a cold soup similar to *gazpacho* and *salmorejo*. Thicker than gazpacho, porra antequerana is made with tomatoes, peppers, garlic, bread, egg, cured ham, olive oil, and vinegar.

More Information:

- www.antequera.es (Spanish)
- <http://www.andalucia.com/antequera/home.htm>