

HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES HERMITAGE OF SAN ISIDRO AND SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS AND LA BARCA RECREATIONAL AREA - HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES (BADAJOZ)

DESCRIPTION

In the area known as “La Barca,” on the shores of the Cijara reservoir, stands the hermitage of San Isidro and San Francisco de Asís, integrated into a natural setting of great scenic value that constitutes one of the principal leisure spaces of Helechosa de los Montes.

The site combines religious and recreational uses, becoming a meeting point both for the local population and for visitors attracted by the landscape and outdoor activities.

HISTORY

The current hermitage was built upon an earlier structure dedicated to Santa Olaya, demonstrating the continuity of the site’s religious use. The location is historically linked to an old ferry crossing over the Guadiana River, which enabled communication at this point before the creation of the Cijara reservoir, giving the site significant historical and territorial value.

With the transformation of the surroundings following the construction of the reservoir, the place evolved into a recreational space without losing its symbolic significance.

HISTORICAL-ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION

The hermitage presents a singular configuration, standing out for its elevated structure on steps and for the presence of a column formed by drum sections topped with a pyramidal element, giving it a distinctive appearance within the landscape.

It is a simple construction of popular character, following the tradition of small rural hermitages linked to natural spaces and travel routes.

The ensemble is fully integrated into the reservoir environment, establishing a dialogue between architecture and landscape that reinforces its value as a tourist resource.

RELEVANT FIGURES RELATED TO THE POI

No specific figures are documented, as this site is linked to popular tradition and community use.

MOVABLE HERITAGE

The principal value of the ensemble lies in the hermitage itself and in the elements associated with the use of the space, rather than in specific movable objects.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The hermitage is linked to traditional celebrations, especially around the feast of San Isidro, patron saint of farmers, reinforcing its role as a gathering and communal space.

The area of La Barca also constitutes a place deeply rooted in collective memory, associated both with the old river crossing and with present-day recreational activities.

SURROUNDINGS AND CURRENT USES

The site includes a complete recreational area featuring picnic facilities, rest areas, fountains, children's play areas, and parking spaces.

Its location next to the Cíjara reservoir makes it an ideal place for activities such as fishing, swimming, hiking, and nature observation, while also serving as a starting point for routes in the surrounding area.

LOCATION MAP



GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



View of the hermitage in the picnic area. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



Detail of the bell at the upper part of the hermitage. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



Image of the Saint inside the hermitage. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



In the upper image, the interior of the hermitage. Below, the picnic area. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA

