

SIRUELA

HERMITAGE OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ALTAGRACIA (SIRUELA, BADAJOZ)

DESCRIPTION

The Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Altagracia is located about two kilometres from the urban centre of Siruela, on the foothills of the mountain range, within a natural environment of great scenic beauty. This enclave, surrounded by vegetation and small orchards, constitutes a place of reflection and devotion visited both by worshippers and visitors attracted by the tranquillity of the setting.

HISTORY

The origin of the sanctuary dates back to medieval times, although the current building is the result of successive transformations and renovations carried out over time.

The Main Chapel dates from the early 16th century, while the interior painted decorations correspond to later interventions, especially from the 18th century. Popular tradition places the origin of the devotion in a Marian apparition linked to the site, a circumstance that would have motivated the construction of the temple in this specific enclave.

Throughout the 20th century, different conservation and reconstruction works were carried out on the building. A commemorative plaque preserved in the hermitage documents an important intervention completed on 31 December 1974, during the parish ministry of Don Julián Asperilla Gómez. It records that the works were financed by “the beloved sons and daughters of Siruela”, highlighting the direct involvement of the population in preserving the sanctuary and the continuity of the devotion inherited from previous generations.

HISTORICAL-ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION

The building presents a heterogeneous structure resulting from different construction phases, which prevents its attribution to a single artistic style. Romanesque elements are preserved, such as the robust buttresses that suggest a defensive or fortified origin. These are complemented by Gothic components in the temple’s configuration and a 16th-century main chapel. Inside, the vault frescoes stand out, created during the 18th century, with Latin inscriptions visible on the ribs and on the decorative bands featuring angelic figures. The ensemble is completed by several altars reflecting the historical evolution of the liturgical space.

MOVABLE HERITAGE

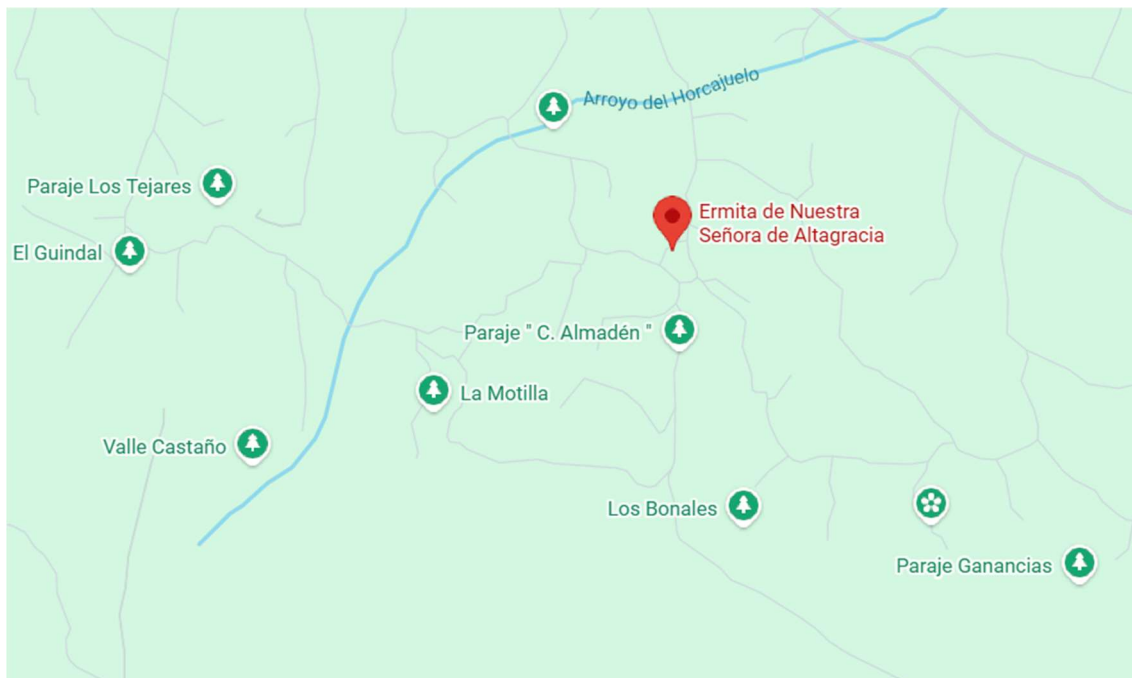
The interior of the temple houses elements of artistic interest, especially the mural paintings on the vault and the altars, which reflect different historical stages of the building.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The hermitage is deeply linked to the popular devotion surrounding the Virgen de Altagracia, patron saint of the locality. According to tradition, the image appeared on a tree before several labourers, giving rise to a story shared between Siruela and Almadén. The legend states that the image expressed its wish to remain in the place where the hermitage now stands, which is why both towns agreed to build the sanctuary there.

The strong emotional and religious connection of the population with the hermitage is also reflected in the various conservation campaigns promoted by residents and natives of the municipality. The commemorative inscription from 1974 constitutes direct testimony of this collective involvement and of the historical continuity of popular devotion to the Virgen de Altagracia.

LOCATION MAP



GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



Exterior of the hermitage, located in an area of great beauty. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



Tile detail on one of the hermitage walls featuring the image of Nuestra Señora de Altagracia. ©
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The Main Chapel dates from the early 16th century. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



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