



Water pump at San Andrés shaft.



Baritel of San Andrés.



Hurtos exploitation.



Level 1° landing in the San Aquilino shaft.



**Mining Park
of Almadén**

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**Mining Park
of Almadén**



Properties inscribed on the WORLD HERITAGE LIST of UNESCO

Almadén Mining Park includes major Spanish properties inscribed on the World Heritage List under the name of HERITAGE OF MERCURY. ALMADÉN AND IDRIJA.

"The mining sites of Almadén and Idrija form a coherent whole with complementary components, satisfactorily illustrating all the technical, cultural and social aspects associated with mercury extraction. The elements are present in sufficient number to enable satisfactory interpretation. These are the two most significant sites for this activity to have been preserved, in terms of volumes produced, historical duration, and the completeness of the evidence provided.

At both sites, the presence of mining infrastructure elements both underground and on the surface, the presence of technical artefacts linked to mining extraction, its upstream needs (hydraulic energy, wood) and its conversion into quicksilver (furnaces), its transport and its storage are authentic".

(Decision of inscription on the World Heritage List of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO's June 30, 2012)

The Mining Park of Almadén

is the living legacy of two thousand years of the mining exploitation of Almadén. After the closure of mining activity in 2003, the oldest mines in the world, whose activity has remained until today, shows their secrets.

Mercury, the quicksilver of the Romans, is shown in the Park in all its aspects, the extraction of mineral, cinnabar, mercury sulphide, their transformation in metallurgical furnaces, their physical and chemical properties, their uses, and, of course, its eternal history.



Carlos IV Gate

Cultural and educational value Almadén Mining Park:

- Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012.
- Declared Property of Cultural Interest in 2008 by the Ministry of Culture of Castilla-La Mancha in the Mining Historic Ensemble of Almadén.
- It integrates many interactive educational resources: the virtual browser of the mine, the numerous videos about the history of the mine, its operating methods and transport of mercury to America, besides the curious experiments on the physical and chemical properties of mercury.

The project of Almadén Mining Park has received the following honors:

- 1st Regional Tourism Award of Castilla-La Mancha 2006 to the most Innovative Initiative of the Tourism Sector.
- FITUR 2009 Award for the Best Active Tourism Product in the category of Culture.
- VI Regional Sustainable Development Award of Castilla-La Mancha in 2009 for the Environmental Restoration of the “Cerro de San Teodoro” dump.
- Finalist in the 2010 Awards RegioStars EU in CityStars category, which rewards the best and most innovative projects financed by ERDF funds.

The mine visit

The tour starts with surface mining facilities in the Visitor Center and continues through the old workshops and “San Aquilino” and “San Teodoro” shafts. Before the tour along the underground passages the visitors will visit the Mining Interpretation Centre, which will bring prior essential knowledge on the historical performance to the mining.

The tour inside the mine is carried down the “San Teodoro” shaft to the 1st floor, 50 meters in depth, in a cage of mine. The walking tour is conducted by a real mine exploited in the XVI and XVII centuries, according to the real conditions of the mining practice: helmet, apparent lack of modern lighting, lighting support with individual lamps.

The exit to surface is carried out by a carriage train enabled for public transport, following the visit to outdoor facilities, furnaces “Aludeles”

from XVII century, “Carlos IV” gate, “Carros” gate with its paved road and “tejas” furnace, then moving on to the Mercury museum where the visitors will find halls dedicated to the local geology and paleontology, interactive experiments in physics and chemistry of mercury, the history of this metal metallurgy and shipping to America.

The visit will finish with the visitors coming back in electric passenger minibuses to the Visitor Centre, where they can get many souvenirs related to the visit and others catering facilities, toilets, information, etc.

- Group visits are agreed at least one day in advance at the booking phone of the Park.
- For individual tours, at least a visit to the mine in the early hours of the morning and afternoon will be guaranteed by the Park.



Additional Information

- Estimated duration of the visit: from 2:30 to 4 hours.
- Clothing: clothes and comfortable walking shoes inside the mine.
- Access and part of the tour inside the mine available for disabled visitors.

Visitor Centre

- Information and ticket office
- Gift shop (books, postcards, t-shirts, key chains)
- Luggage
- Cafeteria & Restaurant “El Malacate” (reservations tel 0034 926 71 09 51)
- Toilets

Opening hours

From TUESDAY to SUNDAY
(Closed Mondays, except holidays and long weekends)

Summer:

From May to September.

10:00 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 19:30

Winter:

From October to April

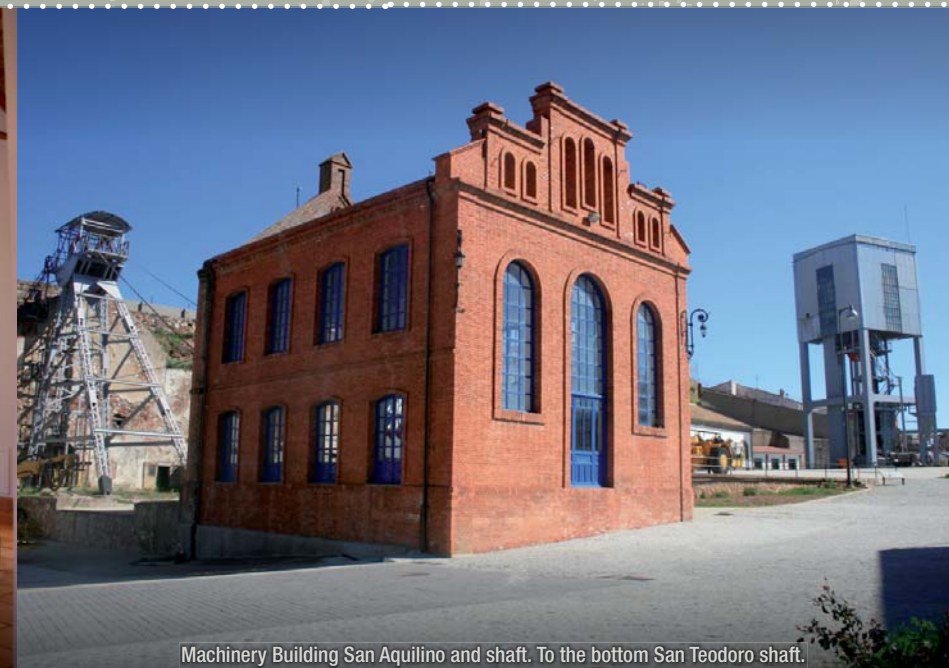
10:00 to 14:00 and 15:30 to 18:30



San Aquilino shaft.



Mercury Museum. Sciences hall.



Machinery Building San Aquilino and shaft. To the bottom San Teodoro shaft.



Bustamante furnace. Night view.



Mining Interpretation Centre.