HAMLETS OF IZNÁJAR

The "villa" of Iznájar is formed by numerous hamlets and rural houses that constitute the most characteristic aspect of its landscape and one of the most representative exponents of its population that, away from concentrating on the built-up area, it disperses throughout the 137,6 km2 of the municipal area.



Some archaeological evidences indicate that a lot of these places were already inhabited in antiquity, with a broad population in the Iberian and Roman time. But the strengthening of these hamlets arrived in the Middle Age, around the first conquered territories, almost always near watering place or river channels, where small rustic buildings were growing, and they served as shelter for workers in the agricultural holdings.

In the Modern Age (18th and 19th centuries), other hamlets and rural houses germinated and its appearance answers to the need to locate the home in the place where the means of subsistence are (agriculture and stockbreeding), and specially due to the socio-economical determinant related to the ownership of land (smallholdings).

Nowadays, one of the great wealth of the municipal area of Iznájar is formed by its hamlets, which not only provide landscape values but they are an expression of traditional practices and customs, popular handicraft and architecture

Iznájar is located in the southern end of the province, in the range of mountains of the region of the "Subbética Cordobesa", bordering with the provinces of Málaga and Granada.

At the end of the 60s, in consequence of the erection of the reservoir, which has the name of this village and constitutes the largest mass of inside water in Andalusia, a big part of the municipal area of Iznájar was submerged under its water.

The reservoir crosses in parallel, by its central part, the broad municipal area distributing the hamlets in two areas In the northern part, El Higueral, Cierzos y Cabreras, Arroyo de Priego, Solerche, Jaramillo, Los Juncares, La Celada, Lorite and La Hoz And the southern part, Fuente del Conde, Ventorros de Balerma, El Adelantado, Las Chozas,

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Valenzuela and Llanadas, Corona-Algaida and Gata, Los Concejos, Alarconas and Antorchas, Montes Claros and Arroyo del Cerezo.

The intensive cultivation of the olive grove is the main economic activity, elbowing into the possibilities of tourism development by the special cultural and patrimonial wealth that each one of the hamlets has got with its own traditions, customs and history.

In Iznájar, water is a constant. The origin of the most of its hamlets is located next to the rivers or next to the many existing sources in the municipal area.



The presence of water allows the existence of a rich ecosystem, in which an abundant flora is found. There is a wide variety of plants and forest native species that are typical of the woods. We can found too crops such as "pamplina", "el llantén", "la zaragatora", lilies, rosemary, saffron, orchids, daisies and madonna lilies of water, oaks, "quejigos", gorses, almonds trees, pomegranate trees, fig trees, poplars, reeds and others...

In the hamlets, the existence of numerous fountains and public laundries evoke times, were not very distant, in which these places were a booked point and a meeting place for women who came to collect water and to wash clothes. Besides these places, the watering

places and ditches represent the recollection of human activities that are lost in the memory of our time because of they have fallen into disuse leaving constancy of the development of agriculture, farming and social activities that are very relevant from the ethnographic point of view.

EL HIGUERAL

El Higueral is located in the north-east of the village, lying down on the slopes of the "Lomas Del Monte" and the "Sierrezuela"; it is limiting with Priego de Córdoba and Algarinejo (Granada).

The toponym comes from "the tree of the fig tree". The first time that a known text alludes to the hamlet of El Higueral is referred in Latin language as "aldeam quae divitur Fivulnea" (the hamlet that is called El Higueral). Although, there are vestiges of Roman times, the population of this hamlet is already noted in the Prehistory with the emergence of tools of flint in the stream of El Higueral.

The environment presents a landscape of hills that is more or less elevated, which is planted with olives trees with areas of oaks and Mediterranean scrubland, "quejigos", rosemary, bush and juniper. The abundance of streams



("Cañuela", "Estanco", "Salina" or "Higueral") gives rise to the existence of a rich ecosystem. Two places of a great forest wealth highlight in the hamlet: "La Sierrezuela" and "El Monte".

The most prominent architectonic elements are the "Iglesia Del Carmen", the Public Laundry and some small fountains such as "el Pilarillo, "el Camarín"...

The Church is located in the "Plaza Del Camen". It was built in 1965 by the architect Carlos Sáez De Santa Mª y De Los Ríos, and we can find between its covers the Image that gives its name to the Church (Virgin Carmen).

El Higueral celebrated its "Feria Real" the third weekend of

September, in honor to its Patron La Virgen Del Carmen. The hamlet celebrates too, the "The Festivity of Santiago" in July, 25th.

LOS JUNCARES

The hamlet of Los Juncares is formed by groups of houses and other numerous scattered ones. This hamlet is lying on the slope of the "Sierra de las Ventanas" in the north-east of Iznájar.



The toponym of the hamlet comes from the name of the plant of the rush; this name is derived from "Juncales" to "Juncares" as a place where these plants are abundant.

Along the extensive hamlet there are spaces with an abundant grove which is representative of the Mediterranean forest, scrubland and holm-oack woods.

Besides the plenty of water, which is collected from the adjacent mountain ranges, promotes the existence of a rich ecosystem in which emphasizes a rich flora.

Roman and Iberian archaeological ruins have been found in this territory so, we can see deposits in ashlars or in groves that are dug in rocks as the villagers did in those times.

This hamlet was inhabited by the Arabs too and an evidence of this is the configuration of the narrow and steeps streets around the laundry and the irrigation ditch as well as the layout and structure of houses.

The most prominent elements of the traditional architecture are the fountains such as "Fuente de Los Juncares", "Fuente Del Chabanco" and "Lavadero Público y Acequia". These elements are still exploited nowadays as apart of social habits that are not discarded by those who live in the hamlet. A pergola covers the "Fuente de Los Juncares" and it seems to want to show the honour that its inhabitants pay tribute it. No doubt, water is intimately connected with the origin of this hamlet, the abundance of water made that its first settlers settle in the territory.

A deep rooted custom in the hamlets of Iznájar (which form part of the popular and traditional culture) is the so-called "matanza" of pig that is a familiar and neighbourhood party which takes place during the last month of the year. The result of this "party" is a wide and rich cuisine derived from the products of pork. Los Juncares celebrates the festivity of "La Candel ari a" lightering the typical bonfires each February, 3rd.

JARAMILLO Y LORITE

The hamlet of El Jaramillo is a vast territory that is located in the north of Iznájar where houses and farmhouse are dispersed among olive groves. In a very hilly field and with a concentration of houses, in the foothills of the "sierras Subbéticas", we can find Lorite that is dominating the streams of "Solerche" and "Hurtado".



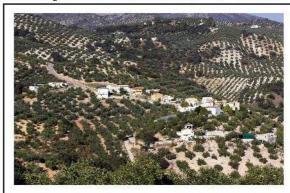
The origin of the toponym "Jaramillo" seems to come from the name of the plants "jara" or "jaramago".

The channel of the stream "Sderche" passes by the hamlet, what makes that there is a rich ecosystem, in which a wealthy flora is distinguished, as it occurs in the other hamlets next to the channels of the streams.

Among the most relevant elements of the popular architecture in the hamlet, we can find different public fountains such as the "Fuente"

de los Peñones" and the "Fuente de

los Simones". They are located in the lowest part of the hamlet where is exploited the confluence of water of the streams "Salerche" and "Hurtado". The Fountain and the Public Laundry of Lorite are in a place of singular beauty; they were used by women who came to wash clothes and to fill water in "botijos" and vessels in order to supply the domestic consumption showing us how its inhabitants' everyday existence was. The main cultural and traditional aspect that endures in this hamlet is the "matanza" of pig.



LA HOZ

La Hoz is located in the north-west of Iznájar, at the foot of the "Sierras Subbéticas". The course of a river, which gives its name to the hamlet, indicates the limit of the villages of Iznájar and Rute.

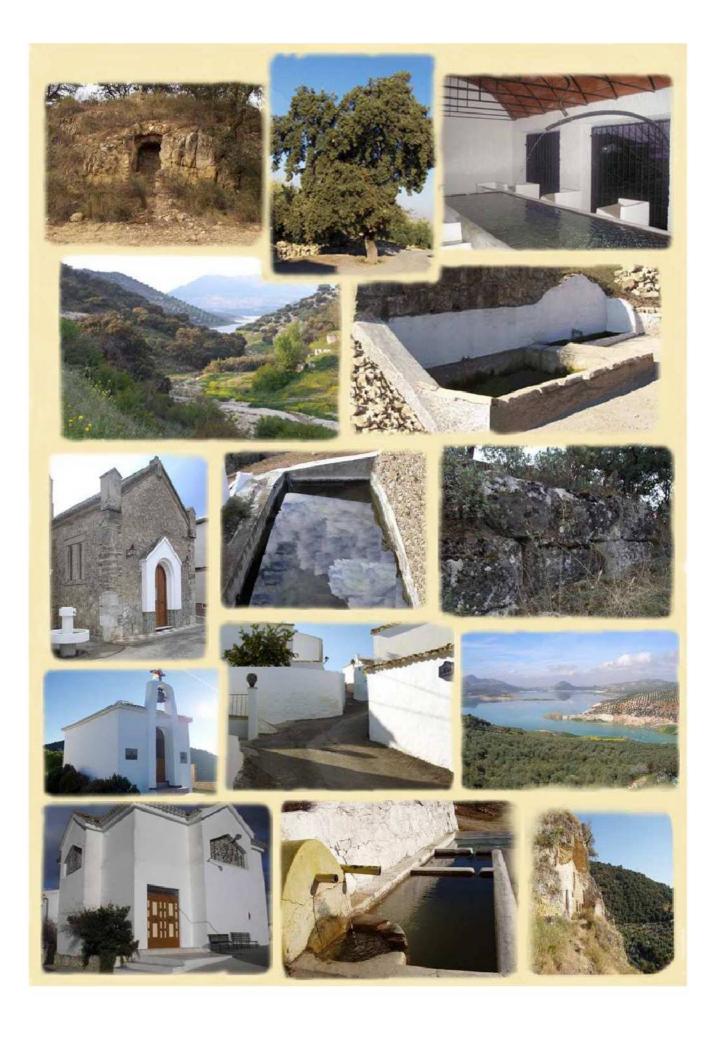
Probably, the toponym of this place was taken of the remains of the emergent structures of the own Iberian fortification existing in the hamlet.



With the presence of the river, it is appreciated the existence of a rich ecosystem, the field of orchard, olive groves, the wide poplar groves and the limestone ground which constitutes the "throat" where the river "La Hoz" is born. All of this is constituted as landscape elements of singular beauty.

The archaeological vestiges that were found in the hamlet such as ceramics with geometric decoration and pieces of amphora of similar chronology betray the Iberian presence. It is of a relevant importance the Iberian fortified enclosure that is located in a place that is known as "Cerro Del Castillejo" which is a deposit that presents a good and strategic situation with strong escarps in all its flanks which

control the river, the roads and the footpath that border it. Among the elements of the civil architecture highlight "The Bridge over the river La Hoz" that joins the villages of Rute and Iznájar.



SOLERCHE

The hamlet of Solerche, which is traversed by a stream that is called with the same name, is located in the north of Iznájar. It is formed by numerous groups of houses and scattered houses which are settled in an abrupt land

between dive groves and Mediterranean vegetation.

The origin of the name of the hamlet might be due to the derivation of the words "sderid" or "sderte", with reference to astute, sagacious, cunning or trickly.

The most elevated part of the hamlet of Solerche is an extraordinary balcony over the reservoir, having the dam at the bottom; in this part, the water of the river Genil is retained in the lowest part where there is a stream with a rich ecosystem.

The archaeological vestiges that were found in the hamlet betray the human presence in the Iberian times distinguishing the Iberian fortified endosure which is located in a place that is known as "La Torre". This place is located in a strategic point,

although it is not very high, it presents big escarpments in the stream which traverses near to the place. There are not preserved too much emergent structures of what was this tower; probably, the name of the place was taken of the own Iberian fortification. As the highlight traditional elements, we find some small fountains such as the "Fuente Del Charcón".

LA CELADA

The hamlet of **La Celada** is located in the north of Iznájar; It is between the "Cerro del Azucarón" and the "Lorna de las Ventanas". The name of the hamlet comes from Latin (Celada is a hidden villa), and there is no doubt that La Celada is hidden, because it is sheltered among mountain ranges and hillocks. However, if we specify more, it seems that the true origin of the name is related to the place of an ancient ambuscade or ambush in a hidden location.



The first vestiges that were found in the hamlet betray the Iberian and Roman presence although, Arabian people inhabited the hamlet too, seeing that, some Almoravids coins and some medieval texts were found and they show the existence of a farmhouse that is called "La Ari za".

Rising in a majestic way over the hamlet, we can find the "Sierra de las Ventanas" whose name is associated to the image that it presents (it seems to be broken through by windows on rocks). Its origin dates from the Tertiary Age to which belongs numerous fossil shells. The high part of the hamlet is a wonderful natural viewpoint over the reservoir and over the municipal area of Iznájar. The Mediterranean flora and the fauna that presents this

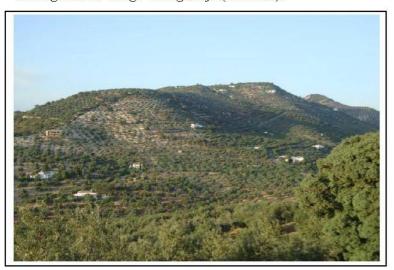
hamlet is the typical of the slopes of strong insolation such as "espartales", "retamales", gooses, rockroses, and badgers, reptiles as ocellated lizards or ladder snakes.

The highlight architectonic elements are the **Church of San José** and the **Public Laundry**. The church was designed by the architect Fernando Angulo and was inaugurated in March, 19th 1979 when is the festivity of the main image of the church.

La Celada celebrates its festivities around March, 19th in honour of San José, who is the patron of the hamlet.

CIERZOS Y CABRERAS

The hamlet of Cierzos y Cabreras is placed in the north-east of Iznájar, in a continuous succession of hillocks and hills where the "Loma Del Santísimo" predominates. This hamlet limits with Fuentes de Cesna, a hamlet that belongs to the village of Algarinejo (Granada).



The origin of the toponym, which is known this hamlet with, seems to allude to the winds of the north (cierza), and to a place where is difficult to access for grazing (cabreras)

The location of these hillocks, allows enjoying of extraordinary sights of a natural landscape along its twisting roads. In one side of the hamlet, we can observe how the stream of "La Saucedilla" and the river Genil made one's way along the centuries among the steep sides of these hillocks, transforming its courses in a reservoir nowadays; at the same time, we can distinguish hamlets and scattered houses in the south of Iznájar.

In the other side of the hamlet, the old Hins Ashar (Iznájar) appears on a high hill, of

sandstone dominating the stream of Priego and showing, behind it, other hamlets and disseminated houses of the north part of Iznájar.

The first vestiges that were found in the place (ceramics with geometric decoration and pieces of anforas) betray the Iberian presence. It is relevant the "Cerro Del Hachuelo" which occupies a strategic place in the area. It appears with an Iberian fortified premise where have been found numerous archaeological remains. Among the popular architecture that still endures in the hamlet, there are different fountains such as the fountain of "La Godoya", which in another time, were used for filling of water "botijos", vessels and pitchers in order to supply the domestic consumption and as troughs too.

ARROYO DE PRIEGO

The hamlet of Arroyo de Priego is formed by a scattered population that is located in the north-east of Iznájar. It is placed between the "Lona del Santísimo" and the "Sierra de las Ventanas", where the stream, which gives its name, passes and in whose margins we can find houses and farmhouses that presents a dear symbol of the traditional homes of the rural means of Iznájar.



The stream of Priego, which is a tributary of the river Genil, shows a route of great landscape and natural wealth along its course, which has got a big variety of forest and indigenous species that are typical of the Mediterranean wood such as holm oak, "quejigos", almond trees, pomegranate trees, fig trees, lilies, rosemary, crocus orchids, daisies, "aulagas" and others.

As the most prominent elements of the traditional architecture we can find some "traditional country-houses" and some springs and small fountains" that were converted in wells in order to supply of water the homes of the place, as it happened till a little while ago.

The confluence of the water of the stream with the reservoir is an ideal place to practice fishing and a place where you can observe a wide variety of birds whose habitat is in a pool; some of these species are ducks, cormorants, royal herons, "somormujos", pied wagtails, gulls and others.

MONTES CLAROS

In the south of Iznájar it is found the **hamlet of Montes Claros**, which is lain down on the hillock of "Las Realas". It is formed by a small group of scattered houses and country houses that represent a clear symbol of the traditional home of the rural means of Iznájar.



The name of the hamlet is due to the whitish colour of the clay ground that covers the hillocks in which it is settled

In Montes Claros there are different elevated points that form glorious viewpoints over spots of a great landscape and natural wealth. The most characteristic viewing-point is called "Los Barrancos" that is placed in the slope of the road A-333, which becomes a strategic balcony over the reservoir and the village of Iznájar.

Some points that are located over the reservoir are true observatories of birds which have their habitat in it.

The setting has a predominance of olive groves and it also presents a big variety of forest,

indigenous and typical species of Mediterranean wood and crop such as "quejigos", holm-oaks, almond trees, pomegranate trees, fig trees, lilies, rosemary, orchids, daisies, "aulagas" and others.

It must be stressed the "Cañada de Pijirri" where there is an old spring of water which supplied to the built-up area of Iznájar.

LOS CONCEJOS

The **hamlet of Los Concejos** is located in the south-east of Iznájar between the "Sierra Del Membrillar" and the reservoir. It is placed in the left margin of the reservoir and it constitutes a route of a great landscape and natural wealth

The path of the left margin of the reservoir is ideal for practising tourism related to the enjoyment of Nature through the practice of rambling or touring by bicycle.



The setting where predominates the olive grove, presents a great variety of forest, indigenous and typical species of wood and Mediterranean crop along the "Arroyo Del Pergil". Several natural viewpoints, over the reservoir, allow the observation of the rich bird life of the place. On the left of the hamlet of Los Concejos, from these viewing points, we can observe "The Dam" that keeps the water of the river Genil. On the right, it can be observed the reservoir which has submerged hamlets and places of Iznájar under it and vergels in the margin of the river, as the orchards of the "remolino", "San José" or the orchards of "La Granja". Opposite to the hamlet and surrounded by the reservoir, it is located the "Cerro de la Mezquita", which is catalogued as a Good of Cultural Interest by the "Junta de Andalucía" because it is found in it a strengthened

Iberian enclosure which informs us about the presence of human being in these lands in that time.

ALARCONAS Y ANTORCHAS

The hamlet of Alarconas y Antorchas is settled in the south-east of Iznájar. It is lain down in the "Sierra Del Membrillar" and placed in the left margin of the reservoir. This hamlet constitutes a tour of a great landscape and natural wealth with wide view points on the reservoir and on the agrarian setting around



From the highest part of the hamlet we can see the "Sierras Subbéticas" in which stand out the beak of "La Tiñosa". The ways of the hamlet are ideal tours for the practice of tourism related to the enjoyment of the natural way, since they can be routes of rambling or turing by bicycle.

The setting, with predominance of clive grove, also presents a great variety of forest, indigenous and typical species of the wood and Mediterranean crops. In Alarconas y Antorchas there are several **natural viewing-points**, which are located strategically along the *left margin of the reservair*, and they allow the observation of a rich bird life of the area. The "Fuente de la Francesa" remains in this area as a vestige of the traditional architecture that

was used as watering place and public laundry in another not very distant time.

VALENZUELA Y LLANADAS

The hamlet of Valenzuela y Llanadas is formed by a group of scattered houses that are located in the south of Iznájar. The setting of this hamlet presents a great variety of forest and typical species of the Mediterranean wood, although it is a widely dominated by the cultivation of the clive grove: holm-oaks, "quejigos", almond trees, pomegranates trees, fig trees, lilies, rosemary, saffron, orchids, gorses and others.



As elements of the traditional and popular architecture, we can stand out the Fountain and the Laundry of "Las Pilas", which is located close to the access to the neighbouring hamlet of the "Arroyo Del Cerezo". These elements remember not very distant times in which places like this were frequented by ranchers who used them as watering places for far animals and also as reserved point and obliged meeting comer of women who were coming to wash clothes. Some remains of ceramics with a great archaeological value from the Iberian, Roman and Arabic times have appeared in the surroundings of the Fountain and Laundry. It is what demonstrates the importance of the settlement of the population that is related to the presence of water.

CORONA, ALGAIDA Y GATA

The **hamlet** of **Corona**, **Algaida y Gata** is formed by a set of small groups of houses or scattered houses that are settled in the south-east of the municipal area of Iznájar.



The origin of the name of this hamlet comes from its high situation (Corona), from the name of the stream that crosses it (Arroyo De Gata) and from having been a wood full of undergrowth (Algaida) in another time. Although the environment is widely dominated by the cultivation of the olive grove, it presents a great variety of forest and typical species of Mediterranean wood. In the surrounding of the Stream of Gata, it is relevant the existence of a rich ecosystem with a great variety of plants. Among the most out-standing architectural elements, it is found the Church "Del Buen Pastor" of Corona which was built with neighbours' contributions of the hamlet and of the nearby scattered houses. This church opened its doors to the worship on December 6th,

1972. It is relevant too, the **Fountain of "La Moyana"**, which evokes the ways of life and the socio-cultural history of Iznájar and its hamlets. The festivities of the hamlet are celebrated around May 3rd, the day of the "Santa Cruz". Besides, the days of Santiago and Santa Ana are celebrated too (July, 25th and 26th).

EL ADELANTADO

The **hamlet of El Adelantado** is settled in the south-west of the municipal area of Iznájar, at the foot of the *hillock of "Las Monjas"* and close to the stream which has the same name; the hamlet is bordering on the province of Málaga.



The name of "adelantado" reminds the warlike skirmishes that were an object of dispute between the "nazarita" kingdom of "Granada" and the kingdom of "Castilla" during a great part of the XV century.

From the "Sierra de la Loma" it is possible to contemplate a splendid landscape, in a mosaic of olive groves, mountain ranges and traditional housing.

Among the most out-standing architectural elements are found the **Fountain of "Las Albercas"**. It is used as laundry and public watering place for far animals, which is an example of the ways of life and the cultural history of the settlements of the population in the territory. Although it was restorated recently,

its origin goes back to the first houses that were built in the zone, which are characterized by its acdimated water (warm in winter and cold in summer).

ARROYO DEL CEREZO

The hamlet of "Arroyo Del Cerezo" (dose to the stream that gives it its name) is placed to the south Iznájar. It is formed by a small group of scattered houses and farmhouses which presents a dear symbol of the traditional housing.



Water is a constant in the settlements of the population in Iznájar. If the main core arises to the shore of the river Genil, in an elevated hill of sandstone that awards a strategic position, many hamlets are born equally, close to other minor fluvial riverbed; Tributaries of this one: River of "La Hoz" or the Streams of "Solenhe", "Priego", "Saucedilla", "Adelantado", "Gata", "Cerezo" and others.

In the stream of the "Cerezo", as the other hamlets that are close to the riverbeds of the streams, can be appreciated a rich ecosystem. Precisely, the abundance of cherry-trees in the margins of the stream gave the origin to the name of the hamlet.

Remains of ceramics and others with an archaeological value of the Iberian, Roman and Arabic times, have appeared in the path of a

high landscape and natural value along the riverbed of the stream. Undoubtedly, it indicates the importance for the settlement of the population of this place, which is related to the presence of water springs and stream of the "Cerezo".

LAS CHOZAS

The hamlet of Las Chozas, is leaned on the "Sierra De La Torre", to the "recacha" of the midday, and it constitutes a favoured viewing-point towards Iznájar and its surroundings.



The toponym of "Las Chozas de la Fraila" or "de los Frailes" alludes to the kind of predominant building in its origins, which little by little were turning into rustic housings and later into small farmhouses.

There are lots of historians and experts who do not reject the possibility of the Neolithic and "calcolitico" habitat within Iznájar, and more concretely in the caves that there are in the hill. The current hamlet of "Las Chozas" is located at the foot of this hill where have been found vestiges of settlements of "argáricos" villages with continuity during the Bronze Age and the Iberian and Roman times. At this time, the charectiristic "villae" arise and are dedicated to the agricultural exploitation of the zone.

The "Fuente de la Pililla" and the Public Laundry settled in the "realenga" were used as watering place in another time. They are constructive elements of the popular architecture that remain in the hamlet.

"Las Chozas" celebrates its festivities in honour of "San Marcos" in April, 24th and 25th.

FUENTE DEL CONDE

The hamlet of **Fuente Del Conde** is popularly known too as "**La Alcubilla**". This hamlet is located to the south of the municipal area of Iznájar, at the foot of the mountain range of "Campoagro".

The name of this hamlet is due to the Count of 'La Revilla' who lived in the hamlet and who was the owner of a fountain with four abundant tubes of water as well as of the majority of the southern lands of Iznájar.



Crowing the hamlet, we can find a wonderful viewing-point called "La Cruz De Magán". It has a small hermitage and its origin is related to an old Iberian Sanctuary that was settled in the same place.

Marking the Hill, there are numerous caves that were inhabited during the Neolithic and in later times. There is also record of settlements of "argáricos" Roman and Iberian villages.

Numerous archaeological remains have been found in the surroundings such as "falcatas", tops of arrows, lances, retailers, and fragments of Iberian ceramics.

Relevant architectural elements in Fuente Del Conde are: The Church, which is a modern building initiated in 1985 and

finished in May, 1994; Its public fountains and laundries as "Fuente De Magán", "Fuente De La Alameda" or "Fuente De La Alcubilla". We can stand out too some oaks that are considered singular trees of the hamlet due to its size, forms and age.

This hamlet celebrates its festivities in honor of "La Santa Cruz De Magán" in May, 1st to 3rd with a typical and ancient pilgrimage.

VENTORROS DE BALERMA

The hamlet of Ventorros de Balerma is located in the south-east of the municipal area of Iznájar bordering with the province of Granada. This hamlet has the peculiarity of one street (which is popularly known as the "street of the limit") marks the administrative separation between the provinces of Córdoba and Granada



Its name comes from "Fuente de Malerua", which turned into "Balerna" for transliteration. Its Arabic term "suq al-arbaa" means "The Wednesday souk", maybe because it was celebrated a market here during the years of Moslem domination. "La Venta" or "Ventorro" indicates that this place was used for these occupations due to its setting which is in the road that goes to "Loja". This road was very used during the wars of Reconquest.

The most relevant architectural element is the "Hermitage of San Isidro" that was finished in 1908. It was built on another previous hermitage in which the same image was venerated too. The neighbour Ángel Herrero García was who supported the

expenses as consequence of a promise realized for him.

Other important elements are: The "Fuente de Balerma", which gives the nickname to the hamlet, The "Fuente de Jato" that is a watering place settled in the "Cordel de Lojd" or "Cañada Real". We can stand out the viewing-point "Del Cerro" where you can contemplate, in one side the entry of the 'tail" of the reservoir in the municipal area of Loja (Granada) and, to the other side a picturesque sight of the village of Iznájar, seated in a high hill of sandstone.

Ventorios de Balerma celebrates a pilgrimage in honor of *San Isidro* the nearest Sunday to his festivity (May, 15th) and the "Feria Real" around August, 15th.

