

# SPAIN

## Old Town of Cáceres

### Brief description

The city's history of battles between Moors and Christians is reflected in its architecture, which is a blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance styles. Of the 30 or so towers from the Muslim period, the Torre del Bujaco is the most famous.

### 1. Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1986

#### Agency responsible for site management

City of Cáceres, Office of the Old Town Centre of Cáceres  
Plaza Mayor No1 -10001 Cáceres  
Website: [www.ayto-caceres.es](http://www.ayto-caceres.es)

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iii), (iv)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

Le rempart monumental de Cáceres agglutine les traces de trois civilisations différentes qui ont déterminé son caractère.

Le passage du monde ancien aux Temps Modernes est décrit à travers ces traces.

D'abord, le Cáceres romain, la Norba Cesarina, nous parle du caractère pratique d'une civilisation qu'imprégnait ses établissements de régularité et d'ordre, choisissant soigneusement les endroits appropriés. Mais il parle aussi du magique et du sacré, des rites et des fondations et de la relation de l'individu avec la divinité à travers la délimitation de l'infini.

En deuxième lieu, le Quazrix musulman, belliqueux et élégant, qui montre dans ses tours et ses chemins de ronde, dans ses rues étroites et tortueuses, dans ses patios intérieurs, dans l'eau, dans la végétation et dans les ornements subtiles, son double caractère,

Troisièmement, le Cáceres chrétien, religieux et guerrier, qui se traduit en des maisons-fortereses, des couvents, des palais et des églises aux formes catégoriques et massives dans les premiers

moments qui, avec le retour des conquistadores commencent à s'alléger et à s'animer.

La superposition culturelle se produit sans ruptures graves ni triomphalismes agressifs. Ceci explique l'inexistence de grands monuments puisque les édifices se soumettent aux mêmes règles, se singularisant grâce à leur homogénéité et leur harmonie.

La protection par des organismes officiels dont l'ensemble a joui, ainsi que le soin manifesté par les habitants dans la conservation de leur patrimoine ont permis que l'image de la cité de Cáceres se maintienne sans altérations ni détériorations, répondant pleinement aux critères d'authenticité.

La pureté de l'enceinte a été reconnue en 1969 par le Conseil International des villes Monumentales de l'Europe dans une réunion qui eut lieu à Venise.

En tant qu'ensemble, il représente un chef-d'œuvre de l'esprit créateur de l'homme et il constitue un témoignage exceptionnel de la rencontre de cultures distinctes (I et III). La structure urbaine de l'ensemble représente de façon exemplaire le monde médiéval, ses modes de vie et ses croyances qui ont eu une signification historique universelle (critères (iv) et (vi)).

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Having noted that the meeting of experts on historic cities retained Cáceres on the list of properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List, ICOMOS supports the nomination of the Government of Spain on the basis of criteria III and IV.

Criterion (iii). The walls of Cáceres bear exceptional testimony to the fortifications built in Spain by the Almohades. Frequently compared to Torre de Espantaperros in Badajoz and to Torre del Oro in Seville, Torre Mochada in Cáceres is part of an ensemble of walls and towers which is representative of a civilisation and which has been largely conserved.

Criterion (iv). Like several cities in Italy, Cáceres is an outstanding example of a city which was ruled from the 14th to 16th century by powerful rival factions: fortified houses, palaces and towers dominate its spatial configuration. The example is unique because of the historic features of this city in Estremadura which from the Middle Ages to the classical period bears the traces of highly diverse and contradictory influences, such as Islamic arts, Northern Gothic, Italian Renaissance, arts of the New World, etc.

**Committee Decision**

The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

**Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate, possible extension proposed by State Party

**Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

**3. Protection****Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- State, regional and local heritage legislation; Law 16/1985 on Spanish Historical Heritage, Law 2/1999 on the Historic and Cultural Heritage of Extremadura; Special Scheme for the Protection and Revitalization of the Architectural Heritage of the Old Town of Cáceres (1987-1990); Cáceres General Urban Planning Scheme (1998), currently under revision
- The Comprehensive Restoration Zone (ARI de Cáceres), regulated by Decrees 47/97 and 48/97, which apply to historical sites declared to be of Cultural Interest, under the terms of the agreement signed between the Cáceres City Council and the Government of Extremadura
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

**Actions taken/proposed:**

- Cáceres City Council is examining a possible revision of the Special Scheme for the Protection and Revitalization of the Architectural Heritage of the Old Town of Cáceres

**4. Management****Use of site/property**

- Urban centre, museum, administrative offices, council offices, archives, university buildings, free visitor attraction

**Management /Administrative Body**

- Steering group considered (Board of Trustees and a manager for the Old Town)

- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional, local
- The current management system is highly effective

**Actions taken:**

- Cáceres City Council has recently set up a Strategic Funds department. The Office for the Restoration of the Old Town of Cáceres has its own technical team, comprising an architect, a technical architect, an archaeologist, a historian from the Culture Council and an administrator, and it supervises any work carried out in the Old Town of Cáceres and manages public grants approved for various different residential works. The Urban Programme approved by Cáceres City Council carries out various projects involving the Old Town. It has created a Project for Activating the Real Estate Market of the City of Cáceres, for which there is a technical team comprising a lawyer and two technical architects.

**5. Management Plan**

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 03/1990
- Title :The Special Scheme for the Protection and Revitalization of the Architectural Heritage of the Old Town of Cáceres ( PEPRPAC)
- Adequately effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: The City of Cáceres, The Government of Extremadura Heritage Council, the Special Protection Scheme Supervisory Committee, the Provincial Committee for Real Estate

**6. Financial Resources****Financial situation**

- Cáceres City Council
- European funds: FEDER, Interreg II-III
- Sufficient

**7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 10

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, promotion, visitor management
- Average: management, interpretation

- The City Council has a restoration expert from the Popular University; The Project for Activating the Real Estate Market has two technical architects, Strategic Funds has one technical architect specialising in fund-raising and management for heritage purposes, the Old Town Restoration office (OTR), has an architect and an architectural technician specialising in the Restoration and Repair of Heritage Sites

### **8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques**

- Scientific institutions; Municipal improvement and specialisation courses by the Cáceres Official College of Technical Architects, Seminars on heritage restoration are held in Avila and Toledo, courses at the Trade Schools and Workshop Schools, etc., and Congresses on the Restoration of Architectural Heritage

### **9. Visitor Management**

- Visitor statistics: 292,930 (The method established by the Government of Extremadura Tourist Office counts 2.5 visitors as the average family unit for each tourist entering the office.)
- Visitor facilities: Visitor reception, information and historical interpretation, panoramic viewpoints over the Old Town, cafeteria, shop, toilets, toilets for the handicapped, first aid, etc.
- Visitor management plan: the Tourism Excellence Scheme, (2001-2005)

### **10. Scientific Studies**

- Risk assessment, monitoring exercises, archaeological surveys
- An extensive list of specific studies
- The Integral Protection scheme for the Town of Cáceres contains safety measures for fire, natural disasters, terrorism and the deterioration of heritage, traffic regulation projects. studies on visitor management

### **11. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications

- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Annual festivals of arts and theatre, exchanges of school children, Spanish city organisations such as the Network of Jewish Quarters, the Network for Cooperation between Cities on the Silver Route, the World Heritage Sites network.
- Web site available: [www.ayto-caceres.es](http://www.ayto-caceres.es)
- Local participation
- Restoration of buildings for visit and museums, agreements on opening churches and towers to the public, urban revitalization projects etc

### **12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)**

#### **Reactive monitoring reports**

- N/A

#### **Conservation interventions**

- An extensive list of conservation and restoration works of buildings and monuments, restoration of fortifications, urban revitalization programmes
- Present state of conservation: N/A

#### **Threats and Risks to site**

- Development pressures
- Specific issues: infrastructure improvement, traffic regulation, Old Town management scheme revision
- Emergency measures: Revision of the Special Scheme for the Protection and Revitalisation of the Old Town of Cáceres, macro events have been moved outside Old Town, Regional Law on Coexistence and Leisure regulates public events

### **13. Monitoring**

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures planned: Revision of the Special Scheme for the Protection and Revitalisation of the Architectural Heritage of the Old Town of Cáceres

### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, management
- Strengths of management: recognition, improvement of residential and tourist future of the Old Town, major increase in tourism

- Weaknesses of management: need to increase parking facilities, comprehensive renovation of facades, lighting and other infrastructure improvements, set up of the Municipal Office for the Management, revision of the Management Scheme

**Future actions:**

- Identifying potential funding from EU, feasibility studies in accordance with the Special Protection Scheme