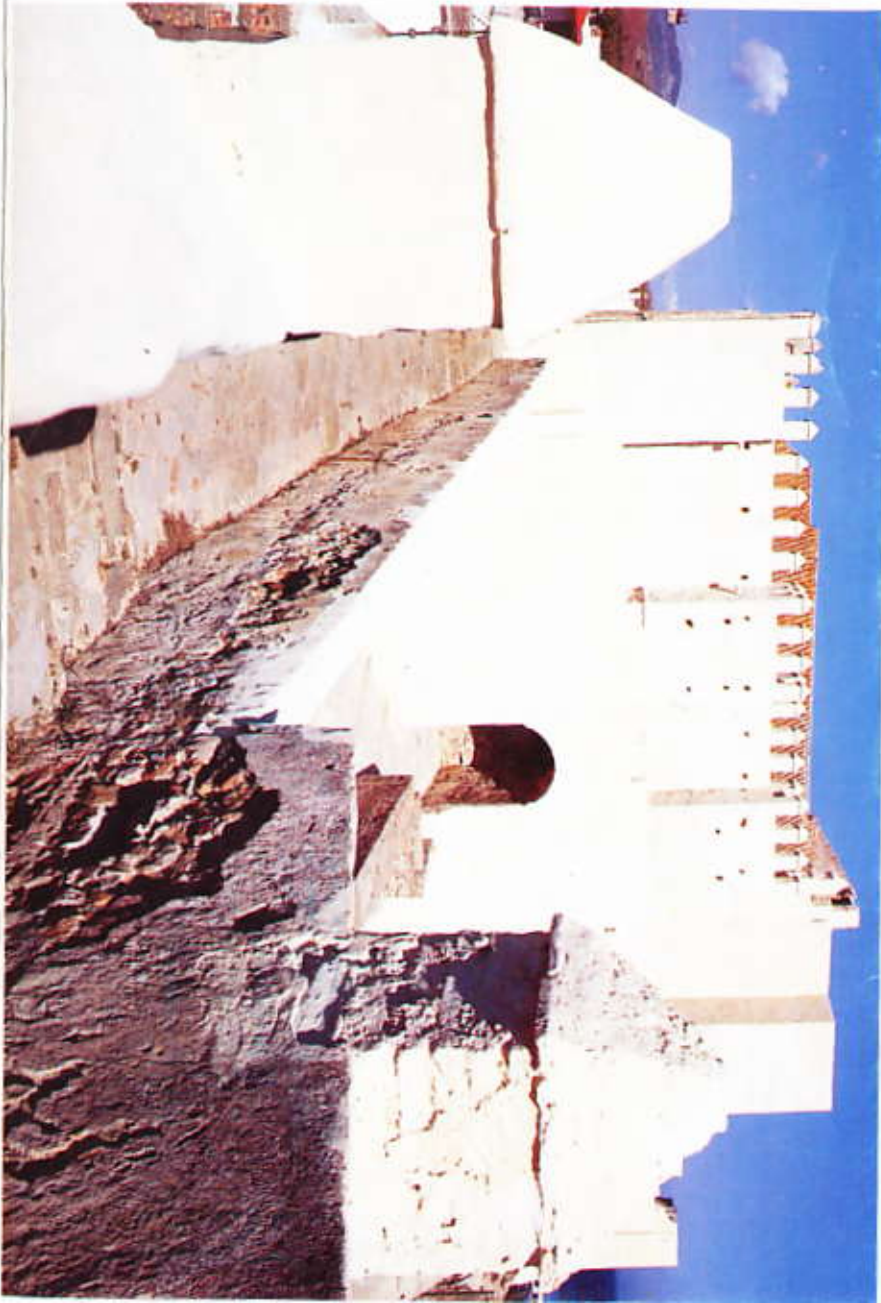


West
facade of
Castle. In
the middle,
angle
gateway.
Close-up,
Coracha
parapet
walk.



Castle of Guzmán el Bueno

Excmo. Ayuntamiento de Tarifa

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The Castle of Guzmán el Bueno

Tarifa lies upon a rocky spur marking the Southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It enjoys a privileged location guarding the Straits of Gibraltar.

Recent archaeological excavations prove evidence of the presence, where the castle is now located, of remains belonging to the Bronze Age, the Punic and Iberian periods as well as Roman vestiges from the initial Republican stage, Upper and Lower Empires.

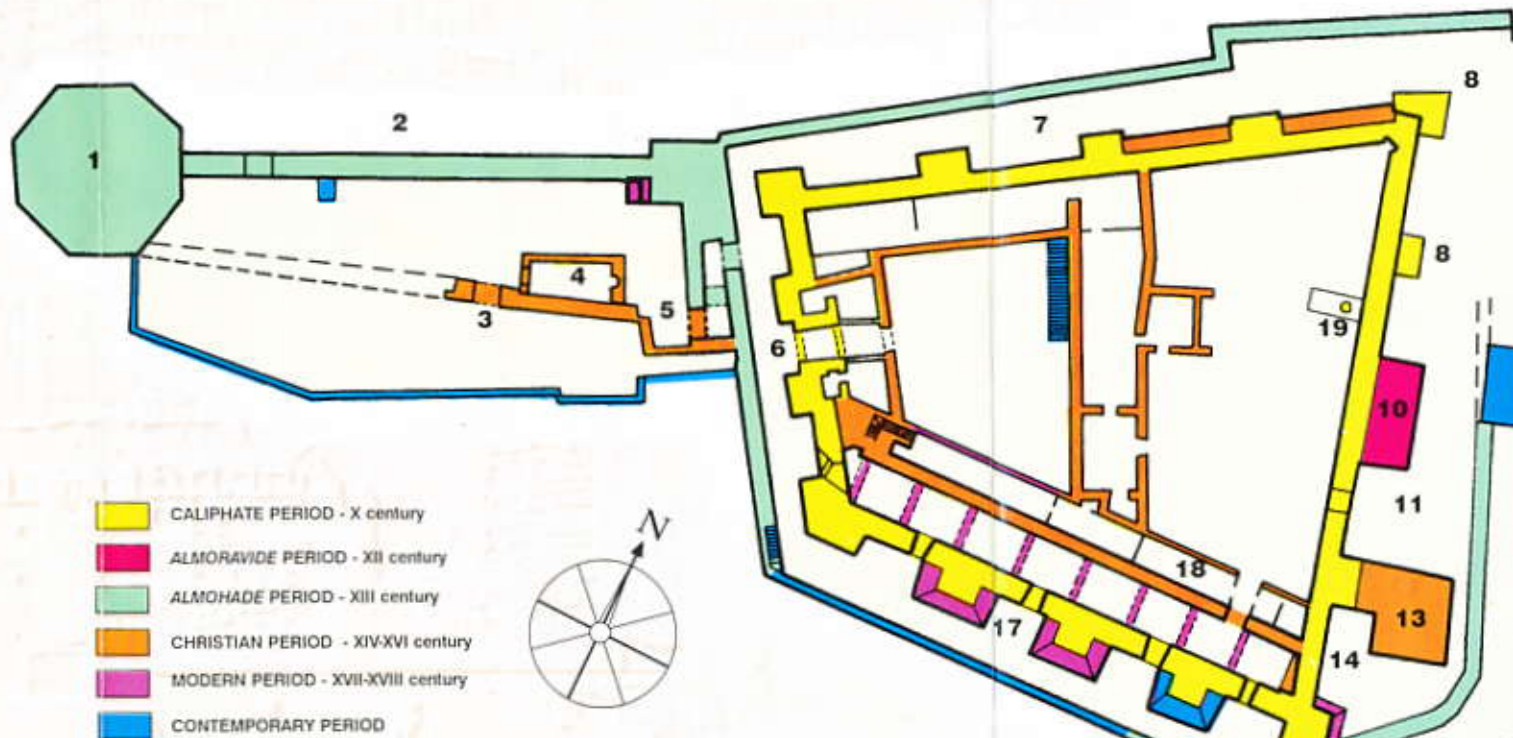
Muslim presence in the town has been evident from the very beginning, however the castle is constructed in the year 960 as ordered by Caliph *Abd el Rahman III*, which gives rise to one of the best preserved monuments from that time all over Spain.

The importance of Tarifa will be growing bigger thanks to Muslim Faith Volunteers passing through the town, who since the successive Empires taking place in Maghreb (*Almoravide, Almohade and Benimerin Dynasties*) marked what it would be Al-Andalus policy from the end of the 11th century.

After the Christian Conquest in 1292 by *Sancho IV el Bravo*, in 1294 the event which made Tarifa worldwide well-known occurs: the feat of *Guzmán el Bueno* who preferred his own son to be sacrificed to surrendering the Castle he had been entrusted with by his king.

Each and every of the above-mentioned historical stages has left its mark on the town history. As a result, today its castle shows the aspect of numerous defence constructions, such as Gates, Towers, Barbican Towers and *Corachas* (Parapet-walked wall joining the flanking tower together with the main fortified enclosure), as well as a Palatial character gradually acquired since the 14th century and while in possession of the Marquis of Tarifa in the 16th century.

The castle has preserved its military aspect for a millennium. In 1989 it was placed in civil hands restoring and fitting out works (to be continued in future) being undertaken to make it suitable for public visit.



- 1 Tower of Guzmán el Bueno, XIII century.
- 2 *Coracha*, XIII century.
- 3 Gateway to the sea and second *Coracha*, XIV century
- 4 Chapel, XIV century.
- 5 Angle gate, XIII century originally, restored in XIV century.
- 6 Foundational Inscription Gate, access to the Castle original enclosure.
- 7 Castle alley, made up by the alley itself and XIII century Barbican Tower. XVI century tiling can be observed.
- 8 Caliphate period Tower foundations in ruins.
- 9 Grained Communal granary, XVIII century.
- 10 Tower restored in the XIII century.
- 11 Gate on the East side of the Castle, X century.
- 12 East area of Barbican Tower.
- 13 Homege Tower, XIV century.
- 14 Arm-room balcony, XIV-XVII century.
- 15 *Santa Maria* gothic Church, XIV century.
- 16 Observation Tower, beginning of *Almedina Almoravide* period enclosure, XII century.
- 17 Sea front. Reinforcement on Caliphate period tower base can be observed. Reinforcement was carried out by the beginning of XVII century and in XX century. Part of the Barbican Tower has been restored.
- 18 *Mudejar* (Spanish-muslim Architectonic Style) geometrical interlacing arches in brick on upper wall, XIV century.
- 19 Well, X century originally.