

Castillo de los Mendoza. Manzanares el Real



IES MANUEL DE FALLA. MÓSTOLES

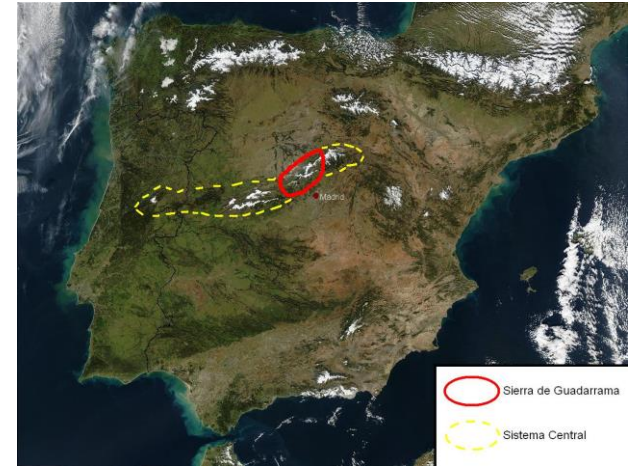
MANZANARES EL REAL

GUADARRAMA SIERRA

The Sierra of Guadarrama is a mountainous alignment belonging to the eastern half of the central system, a mountain range in the interior of the Iberian Peninsula.

It is located between the mountains of Gredos and Ayllón, extending in a southwest-northeast direction in the Spanish province of Madrid, to the southeast, and Segovia and Ávila, to the northwest.

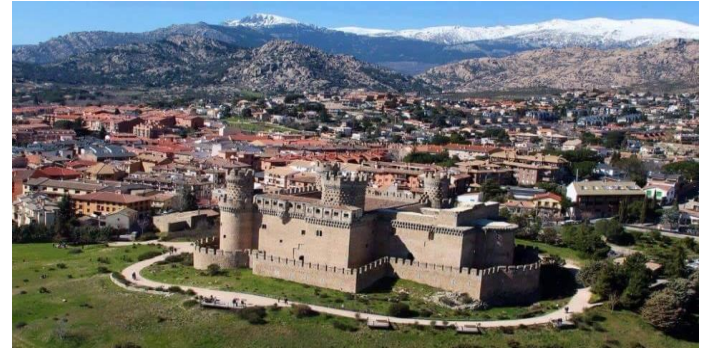
It is approximately 80 km in length and its highest peak is Peñalara with 2,428 m. It is a division between the Duero basin and Tagus river.



MANZANARES EL REAL

Landscape

The landscape is beautiful with breathtaking views. The town is lying at the bottom of the mountains and next to it there is a large green meadow. Nearby there is a river and many streams. There are many mountains with rocky tops, some of them are covered with snow. The town is small with low houses and the castle stands out.



MANZANARES EL REAL

HISTORY OF THE TOWN: A conflict sparkled between the Segovians and the people of Madrid due to the settlement of these lands and expansion towards the South. This situation was solved after many years, when Alfonso X took these places for the Crown, then becoming known as "The Real de Manzanares".

The Real de Manzanares lived its maximum splendor, during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when Juan I granted the territory to Pedro González de Mendoza at the end of the fourteenth century, starting precisely with the Mendoza saga. However, through marriage it was handed to other nobles until the eighteenth century when it was returned to the Mendoza, to whom Felipe V granted perpetual possession.

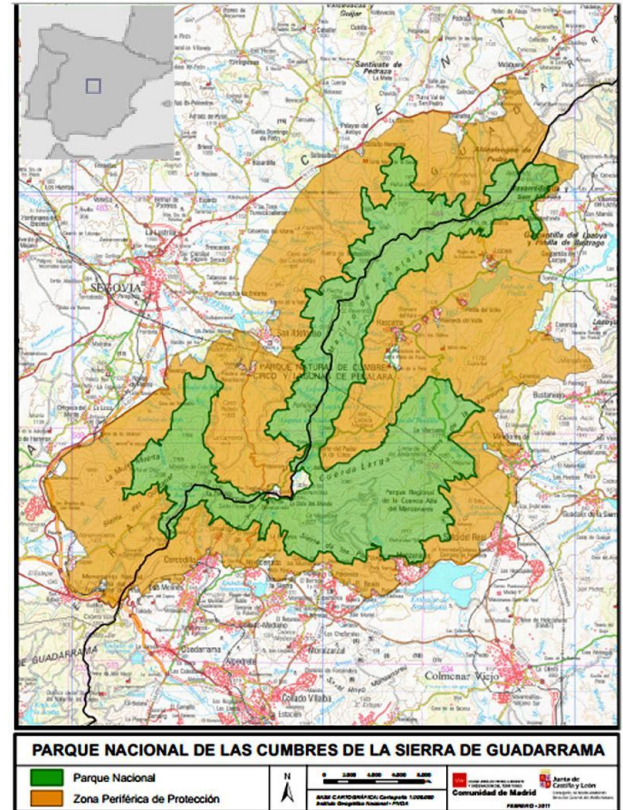
MANZANARES EL REAL

AREA:

It is the fifth largest town in the Madrid region, with a total area of 128.4 km². It is an area with a great ecological interest. It is 46 km away from Madrid.

Of its total area, 6,928 hectares are integrated into the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, while the rest belongs to the Regional Park of the Upper Manzanares Basin. There are several significant natural areas such as:

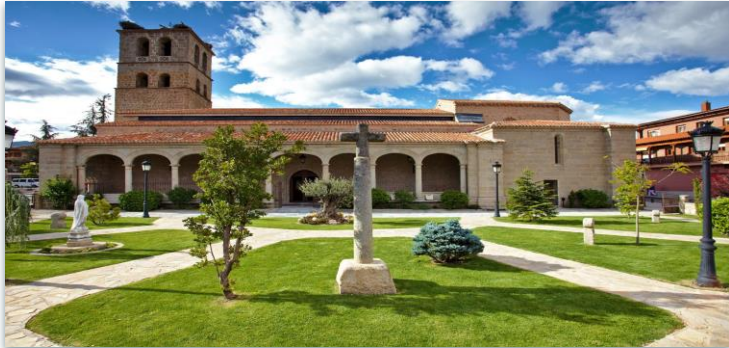
- ★ La Pedriza,
- ★ the Santillana reservoir,
- ★ the Ventisquero de la Condesa, where the Manzanares river springs,
- ★ the Cabezas de Hierro
- ★ Rascafría, the second highest mountain in the Sierra de Guadarrama, which is 2,383 m high.



MANZANARES EL REAL

Other monuments in the town

Apart from the ruins left of the Old Castle and the New Castle it is worth visiting the **Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves** and the **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Peña Sacra**. They were both founded at the beginning of the sixteenth century. They are a great example of the sixteenth century architecture in Spain.



THE OLD CASTLE

History

The date this castle was built is unknown. It was built by the Muslims in order to defend the territory especially from the Catholic Monarchs. It was abandoned in the fifteenth century when the Mendoza family decided to build a new one. Only the ruins remain in these days.



THE OLD CASTLE

Main features

It has a quadrangular plan with three cylindrical towers and the Tower of Homage.

It belongs to the Mudejar style, a particular style in Spain inherited from the Muslims. It was made of brick and stone.



The Mendoza

Origins

A powerful family line of Spanish nobility, the family originated from the village of Mendoza in the province of Álava, in the Basque country. They played an important role in the history of Castille, from the fourteenth century to the seventeenth century.



Diego Hurtado de Mendoza

Who was Diego?

Diego Hurtado de Mendoza (1417-1479) was awarded the Title of Duke of Infantado by the Catholic Monarchs on July 1475.

In the last third of the 15th century, the House of Mendoza decided to build a new palatial castle, larger and more luxurious, more fitting for the economic and political influence achieved by this family. Diego started the works on the New Castle of Manzanares el Real in 1475, but it was his elder son who finished the works after his death. The castle is used now as a fancy place near Madrid for glamorous weddings, social events, banquets and so on.

New Castle of Manzanares el Real

CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the castle began in 1475 on a Romanesque-Mudéjar hermitage and it is one of the best castles in the Community of Madrid. It was raised on the river Manzanares, as a residential palace of the House of Mendoza.

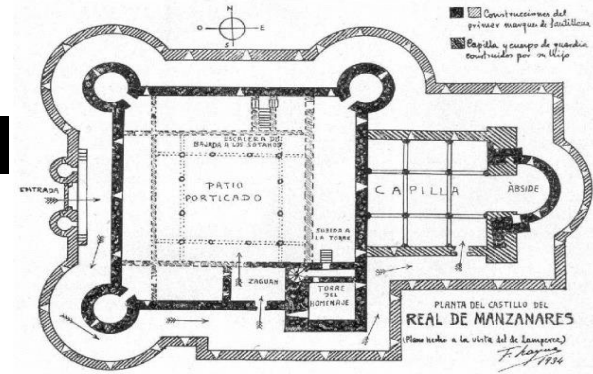


New Castle of Manzanares el Real

Military parts: Cylindrical towers rise in three of its corners, while the remaining one, located in the southeast corner, is chaired by a higher tower.

Around the main body extends a barbican formed by a barrier of about five meters high, in which different embrasures are opened, equipped to deploy the artillery. They carry the cross of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Other defensive resources, are the moat (now dismantled), the defensive corridor, which is protected and a shooting gallery; the adarve made in saledizo (which made difficult the escalation of possible assailants); the knights raised on the towers or the outer door, arranged in the western part.



New Castle of Manzanares el Real

A palace

On the outside, this castle looks like a fortress, but in reality what the Mendoza family did was create a palace inside a castle. Now it is called a fortified palace.

Inside it, we find different rooms, where the family used to lead a normal life: a dining room, where they used to sleep, the hall... In them, you can see that the decoration is mainly with large tapestries.



New Castle of Manzanares el Real

A church

It is the work of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries where very modest forms of Elizabethan Gothic are combined with others radically Renaissance features. It is built in Serrano granite and it has a not too tall church body.

This church has three similar doorways to each other, from the last Gothic with ogee arch and columns.



New Castle of Manzanares el Real



Features

The castle has medieval features such as the barbican and the tower of tribute; it also has modern elements like the rooms and dressers or the oratory.

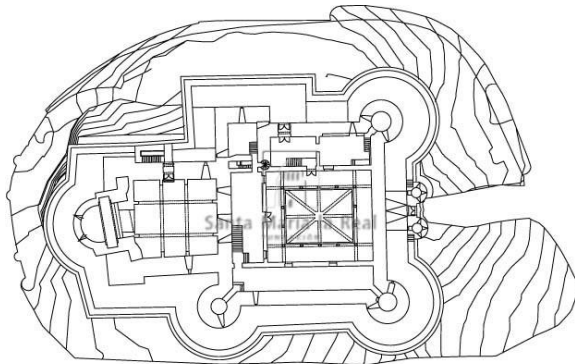
Its mainly Muslim features are mocharaves, rhomboid plates and a lot of muslim influences in other parts of the castle.

Materials: the castle is made of granite, cut in ashlar and masonry.

New Castle of Manzanares el Real

Structure

The building has a quadrangular floor. It has three round towers on the corners and an octagonal *homenaje* tower. The castle consists of six floors, a basement, a rectangular porticated patio and two galleries. It is surrounded by a barbican.



Castle floor



Homenaje Tower

New Castle of Manzanares el Real



A museum: Ethnological and Archaeological Museum of Manzanares El Real. .

The ethnological and archaeological Museum of Manzanares el Real is located in the Hall of Culture. The first part of the museum stands out, which represents a house, the distribution of a dwelling of yesteryear with a kitchen, a bedroom and other rooms.

It also has a patio with chicken coop, sparrow, etc. All the rooms of the house are decorated with interesting objects made of ceramics, wood, and metal that allow us to know the way people lived in those years.

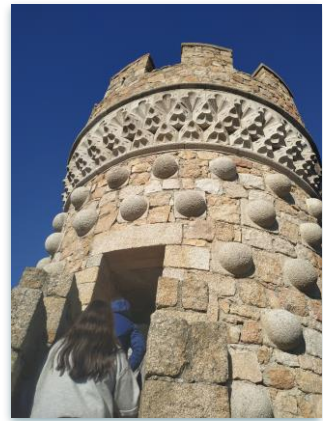
New Castle of Manzanares el Real

The castle in the cinema

This castle was the setting for many films like "El Cid Campeador", "Jeromín", "Alejandro Magno" and in a lot of films in western. The first film engraved here was "La Hija del Penal" in 1935, in this film the castle was a prison.



New Castle of Manzanares el Real



Today

Today, it is one of the most popular places to visit in the Madrid sierra.

It is one of the best preserved castles you can find in Spain after the last restorations made in it.

In it you can see the ground floor, the basements and an exposition area, where you can learn about the history of this castle. On the following floors you can see the living rooms, a collection of tapestries, paintings, armor and furniture. Finally, you can also enjoy the amazing views from the towers.