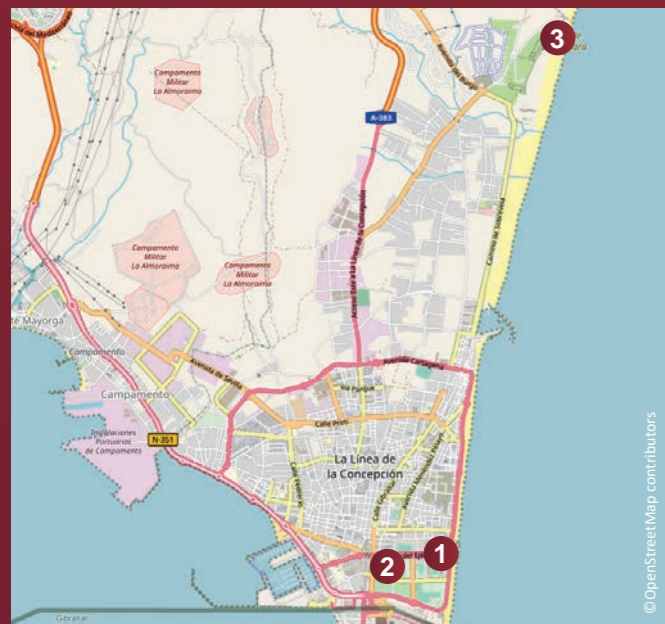


# The fortified heritage of La Línea de la Concepción



defense  
lines

in the fortress landscape of Province Cádiz



## Events

Discover the diverse world of experience at the event highlights in La Línea de la Concepción

### Easter

*sacred art goes out to the street in the most traditional way*

### La Línea Festival

*10 days of pure party, music, dance, colorful dresses all involved in Spanish tradition and fairground attractions for all tastes*

### La Línea de Gibraltar

*theme party based on the XVIII century: vintage market, fashion shows, concerts, historical reenactments, conferences and many more*

### Flamenco Christmas

*colourful activities with concerts, christmas market, flamenco concerts, parades and culinary events.*

## Discover La Línea de la Concepción

- Tourist-Center
- Isthmus Museum, Flamenco Museum
- Park „Reina Sofia“ („Queen Sofia“)
- Santuario de la Inmaculada Concepción
- Bullring and bullfighting museum
- Art museums „José Cruz Herrera“ and „Manuel Alés“
- 14 km beach

## FORTE CULTURA® contact in La Línea de la Concepción



Ayuntamiento  
de La Línea

Delegación Municipal de Turismo  
Avda. Príncipe der Asturias, s/nº  
11300 La Línea de la Concepción

Tel.: +34 670 330 434  
turismo@lalineas.es  
www.turismocampodegibraltar.com

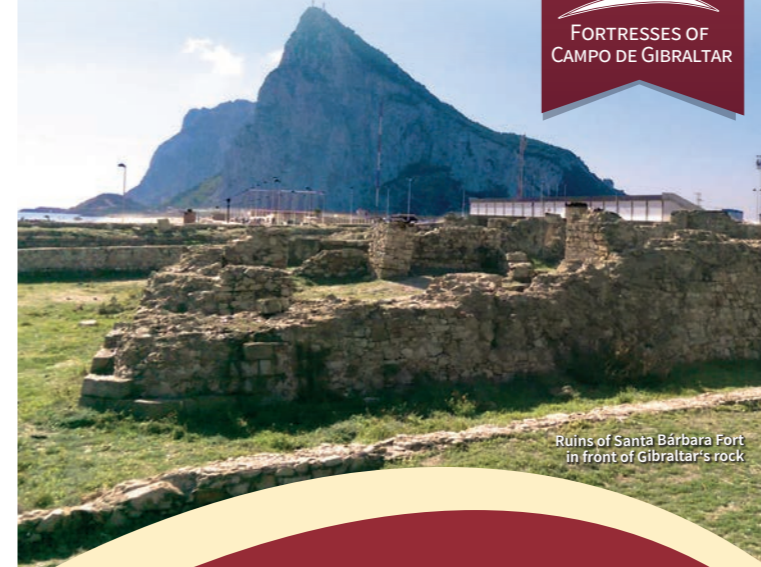
### Editing and layout:

European Fortress Tourism and Fortress Marketing Network e.V.  
office@forts-2-market.net www.forts-2-market.net

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## EUROPEAN CULTURE ROUTE FORTIFIED MONUMENTS



Ruins of Santa Bárbara Fort  
in front of Gibraltar's rock



Ayuntamiento  
de La Línea

# La Línea de la Concepción

Fortified Heritage from 3 Centuries



Station  
on the European Culture Route  
Fortified Monuments

- FORTE CULTURA -

www.forte-cultura.eu



## European Culture Route Fortified Monuments



Europe has a rich and diverse fortification architecture. This fascinating „architectura militaris“ represents European history of different epochs.

Fortified cities and citadels, fortified castles and palaces, fortified sacral buildings, major fortification systems and defense lines tell of European history, from empires and dynasties.

Today these monuments are full of life which are conquered peacefully by tourists. Fortresses are culture and tourism centres and open delightful scenes for a wide range of experience offers.

The European Culture Route **FORTE CULTURA®** takes you to cultural events as classic concerts on the Salzburg (AT), Rock-Pop-Jazz festivals in the citadel Mainz (DE), fairy tale days or cannons thunder above the Elbe river in the fortress Königstein (Saxony, DE). Visit modern museums with interactive exhibitions and multimedia shows in the fortresses of North Italy and experience historic battles in Poland. Be carried away by challenging sports competitions in fortresses with mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, skaters, rowers or climbers in France.

Learn about the history of First and Second World War at authentic locations or discover hidden secrets in the bunker of the Cold War.

**FORTE CULTURA®** travel recommendations for the culture tourism includes sightseeing, study tours, excursions or event trips. Routes for active tourism lead with biking tours, motorcycle tours, hiking tours or boat tours to European fortified monuments.

Enjoy great experiences along the cultural route **FORTE CULTURA®**.

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## Fortified heritage from 3 centuries in the shadow of Gibraltar's rock

### First came the fortress, then the city

From 1730 Spain fortified itself on the Northern border of the peninsular Gibraltar, after it tried unsuccessfully to reclaim the rock of Gibraltar which was occupied by England in 1704. A defence line from coast to coast with 2 forts, 5 batteries and bulwarks was developed under enormous effort – the **Línea de Contravalación de Gibraltar**.

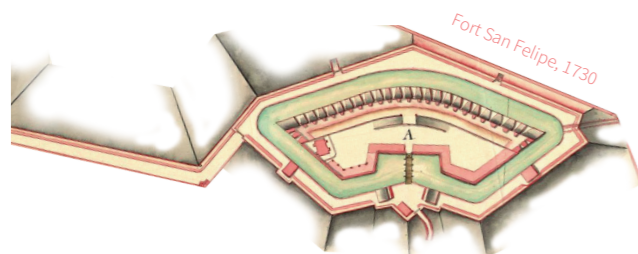


The city La Línea itself was not founded officially until 1870 in this location. The town privilege was given by King Alfonso XIII. In 1913.

Between 1940 and 1944 the isthmus was fortified again against the British crown colony Gibraltar. This with bunker artillery emplacement, machine gun nests, watchtowers, switching centres and command posts which were partly built on the constructions of the defence line of the 18th century.

This bunker was part of a much bigger defence wall with together 498 buildings, which reached along the coasts of Conil de la Frontera at the Atlantic until the mouth of the river Guadiaro into the Mediterranean Sea.

The extraordinary history of the region can today be seen in the modern border and coastal city. In the light of current events it again becomes very important.



## La Línea de la Concepción - defence bulwarks against Gibraltar



### Anti-Invasion Line / Línea de Contravalación



In the eighteenth century in order to defend the Isthmus of Gibraltar from the incursions of the British forces, Isidro, son of Jorge Prospero de Verboon designed the Anti-Invasion Line, following the model used by his father in almost all of the forts that he had projected along the Bay of Algeciras.

The construction of this defensive line was made up of two forts that flanked a wall in which five guard equidistant corps and bastions, San Carlos, San Fernando, San Jose, Santa Mariana and San Benito. Each of them had the ability to mount cannons and give shelter to 25 men.

Fort San Felipe at the western end, had 18 cannons and 6 howitzers, moreover it was able to house Artillery Corps and Grenadier Corps and up to 40 cavalry troops as well as send a group of men to clean the earth pits.

Santa Bárbara Fort, at the eastern end had 24 artillery emplacements and had the capacity to house Artillery Corps, Grenadier Corps and Cavalry Corps of up to 40 men. Both forts had 4 barracks capable of holding 80 troops between men and officers.

The two of them had a pit but unlike Fort Santa Bárbara, which had a sand pit, the San Felipe was surrounded by a pit that was filled with sea water.

This work accomplished in 1730 and active until 1779, was the germ of the future population of La Línea, to which gives its name.

The entire complex was destroyed in 1810, following the Anglo-Spanish alliance, in order to prevent them from being used by the Napoleonic troops to use them against Spain or to take the Fortress of Gibraltar.

Today you can visit its remains in which are clearly differentiable almost all the elements of its structure.



### The Bunkers of the Isthmus



During the years of the II World War, the construction of a bunker system was carried out, aiming at the defense of the southern border. A defensive system that consisted of a total of **498 bunker** distributed on a wide strip between Conil at the Atlantic and the mouth of Guadiaro River into the Mediterranean Sea. Around a hundred and a half were located in the municipality of La Línea.

The defensive system was divided into three distinct areas: The first zone is a pre-defense zone, divided into two anti-tank lines, which ran parallel and only interrupted by the street to the colony. Unfortunately, this does not exist today.

The second zone, composed of machine-gun nests with three vaults, repelled infantry attacks and protected nearby artillery emplacements.



The third consisted of armoured sites for field artillery, with some antitank sites in the centre.

Although the primary purpose of this series of buildings was defensive, the possibility of using them against Great Britain, during Operation Felix, was considered in order to seize the strategic position assumed by Gibraltar for the control of the Mediterranean. Finally, the defeat of the allied forces in the front of France decompose this entitlement.

The originality of these bunkers lies in the fact that some of them camouflaged themselves with the city disguised as civil buildings. Such is the case of bunker No. 154 that with "civil" roof and simulated doors remained undiscovered for 50 years.



### Watch Tower

La Línea de la Concepción has a well-preserved example of Watch Tower. It is one of the 44 towers that formed the defensive system of the Mediterranean and Atlantic coast, built in the sixteenth century during the reign of Philip II. Its main mission was, through fires or smoke signals, to warn the neighboring towers of the presence of Berber pirates.

With a capacity to house 5 men, 4 soldiers and a Corporal, it had an attached Guard Corps capable of accommodating 12 units, 1 corporal and 6 Infantry soldiers and a corporal and 4 Cavalry soldiers.

The building has a circular floor with a diameter of 7.25 meters and a height of 12 meters, built by masonry with mortar with an interior room of 4.40 meters in diameter and 7.50 meters in height with a brick dome that has its door placed at 3.70 meters high. Inside, a chimney for the guards of the tower was placed, a secondary door located in an interior room allowed the ascent to the roof and a window.

From the inner room the roof was accessed by a spiral staircase integrated into the walls. The roof is completed with a parapet of just over one meter in height.