



# La Línea



## Geography and history

## Monuments and museums

## Festivals and traditions

## Gastronomy and crafts



Despite being one of the most modern towns in Spain with regards to its origins, the strategic enclave that the town of La Línea de la Concepción occupies, between the Sierra Carbon and the Mediterranean, have made this area a sought-after place since ancient times. The town gets its name from

the ancient “Línea de Contravalación de la Plaza de Gibraltar”, the name of the stronghold that Felipe V had built in 1730, to make the Spanish presence apparent on the isthmus that joins this stretch of land with the Rock of Gibraltar, occupied by Sir George Rooke in August 1704 and ceded by the Utrecht Treaty–in 1713.

The **strongholds of Santa Bárbara (1)** and San Felipe, that stretched from West to East, watched over this frontier for decades until 1810 they were demolished by the English during the War of Independence, under the pretext that the Napoleonic troops could not take them. Under the protection of these ruins a modest village came into being, first it depended on San Roque, from which it was segregated in 1870; in 1913 Alfonso 13th granted Línea de la Concepción the title of township.

La Línea benefits from warm temperatures and many hours of sunshine a year and this gives the beaches a leading role, sands like Santa Bárbara, Levante, **Torre Nueva (21)** or Alcaidesa with its neighboring golf course, the Levante and also on the Poniente beaches, the latter a charming urban beach inside the Bay.

The popular “Paseito Chacón” or the Saccone gardens which is its proper name, used to be a luxury residence of a well-off family from Gibraltar Mr and Mrs Saccone, until 1922 when the Town Hall bought the estate to install their corporation offices and provide the town with some lovely public gardens.

The plaza de Fariñas because of its central situation is one of the most charming squares. Always full of couples, pensioners and children, it is the habitual stage for cultural and festive events. The **church of the Inmaculada Concepción (10)**, built in 1879 in colonial style. The church holds a beautiful reredos from the seventeenth century in Spanish Baroque style, donated by the Duchess of Parcent. Presiding the square and opposite the church is the monument of the “Three Graces”, inspired by the painting of the same name by the painter José Cruz Herrera. The Calle Real and the neighboring streets make up the centre of the town. In the

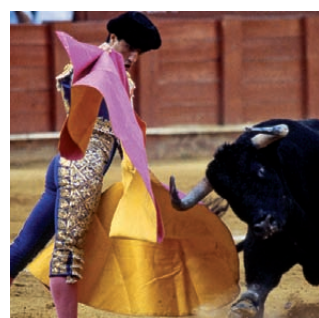


Clavel street you come across the interesting façade of the ancient Hotel Universal, the modern “La Velada” Municipal Theatre and the final part of the streets has some buildings that are examples of domestic architecture.

The **chalé D’Amato (18)**, a rationalist building of cubic volumes, with expressionist details on its fence, restored in 2002 to house the Menéndez Pelayo International University. The **Istmo Museum (15)** housed in the ancient Military Headquarters exhibits valuable archaeological and documental museum pieces, as well as a curious section of Natural Science. The Museum offer is completed with the **Cruz Herrera Museum (13)**, dedicated to this local painter, and finally the “**Pepe Cabrera**” **Bullfighting Museum (19)**.



The Carnival “of the giant clam” is among the most important festivals in La Línea de la Concepción and very popular in all the province of Cadiz. Holy Week has been declared to be of Tourist Interest of Andalucía, the Easter story is depicted through numerous religious images carried through the streets in procession, the works of the illustrious sculptures like Ortega Bru or Castillo Lastrucci. Midsummer’s night or the night of San Juan is a night of magic in the fishing suburb of La Atunara that will not leave any visitor indifferent. This suburb also celebrates the festival in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



The July fair—called La Velada or the “Salvaora”— is the most important festival on the calendar of La Línea. The fair includes activities like the crowning of the fair queen and her maids of honour and “Rociero Sunday”, a day dedicated to this special kind of flamenco tradition where the hospitable spirit of the town is



brought out. Fighting bulls have a special place in the whole of the countryside surrounding Gibraltar. The bullring in La Línea is one of the oldest in Andalucía. It was opened on the 29th May 1883 with a bullfight with the bullfighters “El Gordito”, “Frasculo” and “Marinero”, it is in the shape of a regular polygon with 49 sides.

The Línea de la Concepción would not exist without the sea and consequently its cuisine is based on fish and shellfish. Do not miss the chance to have a few tapas in its bars and taverns, where they cook succulent dishes like the Atunara stew or the fish zarzuela casserole. Sardines roast on skewers and shrimp omelette are typical dishes in the restaurants in La Línea, where they also serve fried fish. For dessert you can try the japonicas, a sweet prepared with sponge cake and honey. With regard to crafts, we can find lots of souvenirs carved out of



wood, ceramics in red clay and all kinds of articles related to bullfighting.



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# La Línea



- 1 Ruinas Fuerte de Santa Bárbara
- 2 Parque Princesa Sofía
- 3 Zona neutral y Frontera de Gibraltar. Monumento al Trabajador Fronterizo
- 4 Palacio de Congresos
- 5 Paseo Andrés Viñas. Monumento a Camarón
- 6 Complejo Cultural Ballesteros
- 7 Jardines Municipales y Ayuntamiento – Museo Cruz Herrera
- 8 Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción. Plaza de la Iglesia
- 9 Plaza de Fariñas
- 10 Calle Real
- 11 Galería de Arte Manuel Alés
- 12 Plaza Cruz Herrera
- 13 Museo del Istmo
- 14 Calle del Clavel
- 15 Teatro Municipal “La Velada”
- 16 Chalé D’Amato
- 17 Museo Taurino “Pepe Cabrera”
- 18 Plaza de Toros
- 19 Torre Nueva
- 20 Iglesia Parroquial de Nuestra Señora del Carmen