

# WELCOME TO TOTANA



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## ÍNDICE

<b>1. Where is Totana?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. The Surroundings of Totana</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Monuments of Interest in Totana</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Handicraft of Totana</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. Gastronomy of Totana</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. ACTIVITIES ABOUT THE DOSSIER OF TOTANA</b>	<b>8</b>

THE TEXT IS AN ADAPTATION FOR PRIMARY LEVEL OF SOME CONTENTS OF THE WEB [www.totana.net](http://www.totana.net)

## 1. Where is Totana?

The town of Totana is situated in the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula. It is in the province of Murcia. It borders on Lorca, Mazarrón, Alhama de Murcia, Mula and Aledo.

Totana has a dry Mediterranean climate. The average year-round temperature is 17.8°C. The average annual rainfall is 321mm. This varies greatly from year to year. A period of dry years is followed by a period of dry years.

Totana has a population of 29.301 inhabitants. The inhabitants live in the town centre and the eight outlying areas of Paretón, Raiguero, Lébor, Ñorica, Mortí, Huerta, Viñas de Lébor and Sierra.



## 2. The Surroundings of Totana

Around Totana you can find different landscapes:

### a) **Los Huertos (Orchards, 19<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Orchards are beautiful houses in the way to La Santa. The houses are surrounded by orange and lemon orchards.

### b) **Via Crucis (Way of the Cross)**

This place is situated near La Santa Sanctuary. Along this way you can see great images that represent the suffering of Christ during his Passion, in the way to the mountain when He was crucified. At the end you can find "El Balcón", a place where you can see the whole territory of Totana, and the Holy Heart of Jesus' monument.

### b) **Santuario de la Santa (Sanctuary of the Saint, 13<sup>th</sup> Century)**

The Sanctuary of Santa Eulalia de Mérida is situated at the foot of Sierra Espuña. Santa Eulalia de Mérida is the saint patron of Totana.



The festival in honour of Santa Eulalia begins with a pilgrimage. The image of Santa Eulalia is taken from the sanctuary in the mountain to that of San Roque. Later, the image is taken to the church of Santiago. This pilgrimage dates back to the seventeenth century. People meet at the foot of the mountain to spend the night in good company and to enjoy migas and wine. They wait for daybreak to start the procession.

### 3. Monuments of Totana



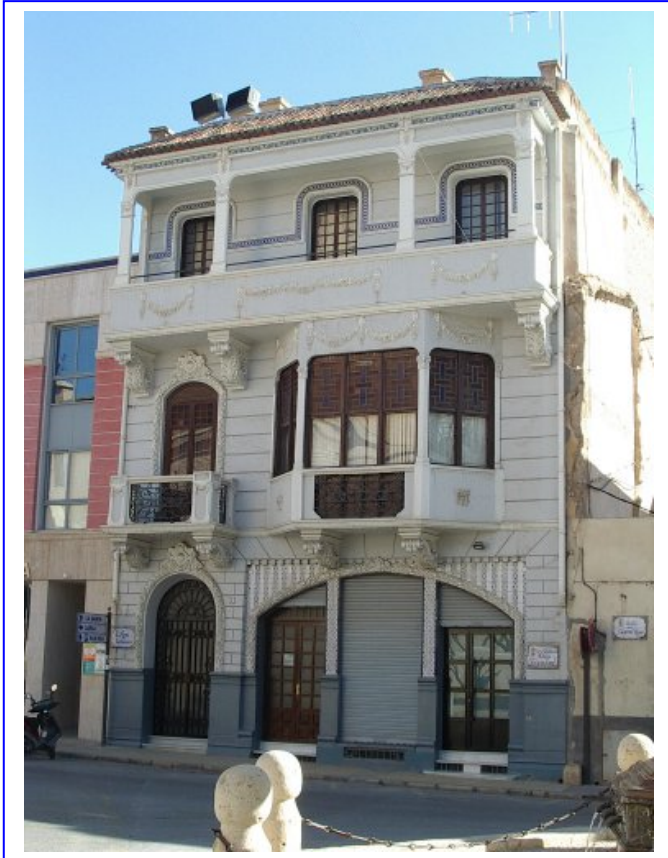
#### a) La Iglesia de Santiago Apóstol (St. James Apostle Church, 16<sup>th</sup> Century)

The Church of St. James was built during 1553 - 1567. The new church was built because the population of Totana started to increase. The little La Concepción Church was too much little and was not enough for the community in their religious ceremonies

The architecture of the church is Tuscan. The main altar has a big baroque altarpiece of Solomon columns adorned with typical vine leaves.

#### b) La Torre (The Tower, 17<sup>th</sup> Century)

This tower was built as an annexe to the church in 1606 - 1608. The body of the tower is made up of three levels and covered in brick. The bell tower's aims were to alert the town to the presence of Muslims, to announce the delivery of water, to signal the start and end of the working day and to call the faithful for the Mass and other celebrations.



**c) Casa de las Contribuciones (The Contribution House, 20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

This construction has an historical modernist style.

**d) Fuente de Juan de Uzeta (The Juan de Uzeta Fountain, 18th century)**

It is a fountain built in 1753 by the sculptor Juan de Uzeta. The style is baroque. This fountain was built to provide of water the population of Totana.

**e) Capilla de la Milagrosa (The Chapel of the Miraculous, 14th Century)**

This is the former church of 'Nuestra Señora de la Concepcion', the first town church. The current building is neogothic in style.



**f) Arco de las Ollerías (The Arch of the Potteries, 18th century)**

It is an aqueduct built in 1753. It was built with stones from the Sierra of Tirieza.



**4. Handicraft of Totana**

Totana has a big tradition of handicrafts. This tradition has passed from parents to children through generations. The workshops are family owned. Pottery production in Totana maintains the craft techniques. The pieces are made from clay.



## 5. Gastronomy of Totana

How to say in English the main typical plates of Totana? Here you have some translations:

-*"tortas de pimiento molido"* (typical ground pepper pancakes)

-*"chicharrones"* (fried pieces of pork).

-*"migas con tropezones"* (fried breadcrumbs with small pieces of meat)

-*"matanza del cerdo"* (the slaughter of the pig).

## ACTIVITIES ABOUT THE DOSSIER OF TOTANA FOR PRIMARY

1. After the reading of these short brochure of Totana, read and say, making a circle, if these sentences are true or false:

- The town of Totana is situated in the south- west of Murcia T    F
- Totana has a population of approximately 21,000 inhabitants T    F
- La Concepción's church was built before St. James's church T    F
- The Plaza Mayor fountain was built in order to provide water to the people T    F
- Totana is very famous due to the handicraft T    F

2. Word search. Find these words: church, chapel, sanctuary, saint, cross, handicraft, pottery, pork, pilgrimage.

P	O	T	T	E	R	Y	S	S	R	S
G	P	O	R	K	N	D	A	A	L	A
C	H	U	R	C	H	R	I	N	H	N
H	A	N	D	I	C	R	A	F	T	D
A	S	A	I	N	T	T	T	T	L	T
P	C	R	O	S	S	T	A	U	E	U
E	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	A	G	E
L	S	A	N	C	T	U	A	R	Y	R
I	S	S	I	F	G	H	A	Y	J	Y
R	R	A	E	O	W	T	R	G	O	L
P	A	R	K	C	R	O	H	E	R	K



3. Write your opinion about Totana. Complete the chart and say what things you like and you don't like about this city. Also, you can ask to your partner and write down notes.

Remember the questions:

- Do you like....? Yes, I do / No, I don't

-What do you like?

-What you don't like?

I like	I don't like	My partner likes	My partner doesn't like
I like the sanctuary of Santa Eulalia	I don't like the food	My partner likes the climate	My partner doesn't like the festivals

#### 4. Fill in the gaps

Come to the Santa Eulalia sanctuary!

The \_\_\_\_\_ in honour of Santa Eulalia begins with a \_\_\_\_\_.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of Santa Eulalia is taken from the \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
mountain to that of San Roque. Later, the image is taken to the \_\_\_\_\_  
of Santiago. This pilgrimage dates back to the \_\_\_\_\_ century.  
People meet at the foot of the \_\_\_\_\_ to spend the night in good  
\_\_\_\_\_ and to enjoy migas and wine. They wait for \_\_\_\_\_ to  
start the \_\_\_\_\_.