



Mining Park of La Unión. *A landscape with history.*



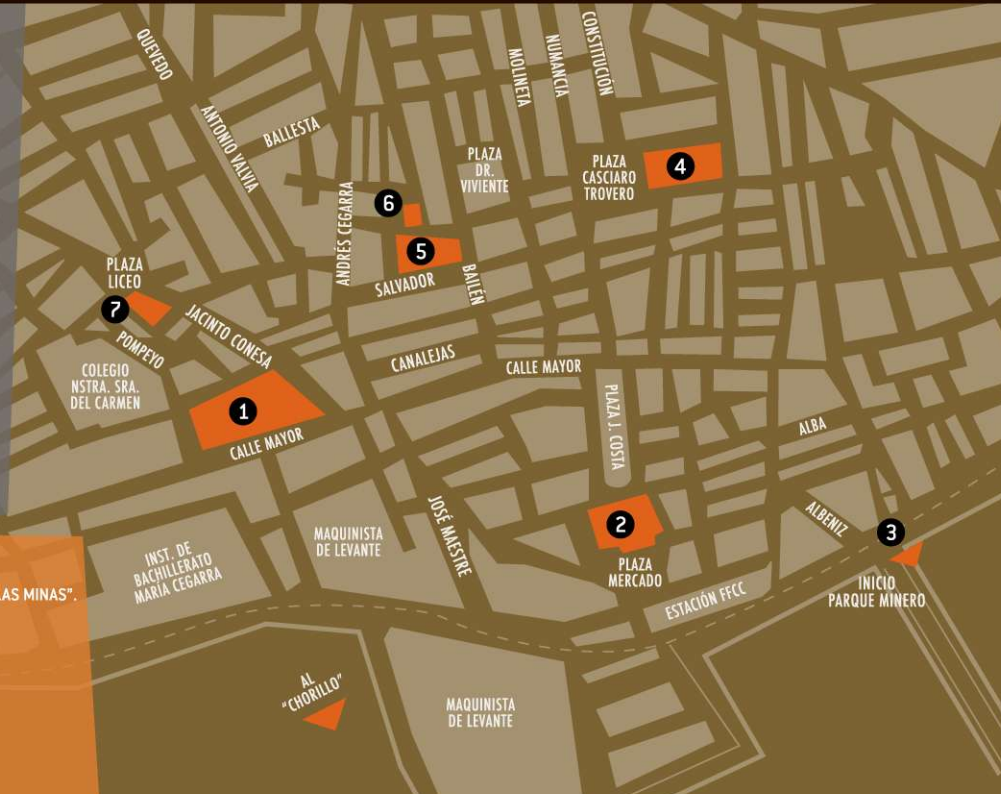
The traces of past

The Mining Mountain Range (Sierra Minera of La Unión) was characterized by a strong mining activity since the times of Carthaginians and Romans. Its deposits were again exploited during the last period of the mining peak, between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, giving birth to a very peculiar and unique landscape, which is full of remains from that period. Its importance and singularity have made all the remains to be declared listed buildings with the category of Historical Site. The great industrial heritage that you can visit today was originated thanks to the work and the effort of the miners,

as well as the intangible cultural heritage: the mining songs that emerged from the bad working conditions and they are annually commemorated during the celebration of the International Flamenco Festival "Cante de las Minas". Come to discover a legacy representing the living memory of this town's history and those miners who worked in the entrails of these mountains.



The buildings in La Unión are a faithful feature of what the town experimented during that period, in which it was known as the "New European California". In the town centre you can admire the Old Market Hall [known as the cathedral of flamenco singing], the Piñón House (which houses the Town Hall) both declared as listed buildings with the category of Historical Monument or the monumental church Our Lady of Rosary. There are other outstanding buildings such as "El Progreso" or the house belonging to the family "Zapata Maestre" or the Old Workers High School, currently housing the Mining Museum.



- 1 MUSEUM "CANTE DE LAS MINAS". PIÑÓN HOUSE (1905)
- 2 VENUE FOR THE INTERNACIONAL FLAMENCO FESTIVAL "CANTE DE LAS MINAS". OLD MARKET HALL (1907)
- 3 MINING PARK
- 4 CHURCH OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (1902)
- 5 BUILDING "EL PROGRESO" OR "LA COOPERATIVA" (1880)
- 6 HOUSE ZAPATA MAESTRE (1899)
- 7 MINING MUSEUM. OLD WORKERS HIGH SCHOOL (1901)




CONSORCIO
Sierra Minera
de la Unión y Cartagena




AYUNTAMIENTO DE CARTAGENA



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What can you see in the Mining Park?

The Sierra Minera constitutes today an authentic Thematik Park of Mining, in which you will be able to visit the whole process of the old underground mining industry since the 19th century, from the extraction of mineral until its transformation into metal. The Mining Park is situated on the hillside of the Sierra Minera. The access is just behind the emblematic building of the **Old Market Hall**, after crossing the **railway line**. Once there, you will be able to leave your car in the **parking area** and follow the tour on foot, by bicycle or on the mining train, which will take you around the whole site. The **Camino del 33**, is the leading road that was used by the miners to transport the extracted mineral of the mining mountain range. It is catalogued as a Short Distance Track (PR-MU 88), that goes through an area of very rich ores and today has been turned into an authentic open air museum. The first element that you will see at the beginning of the road is the **Calcination Furnace**. Going along with the ascent, after having covered some 1.300 metres, you will find on the left hand side a mine, the **vein of mine Remunerada**. If you look at the lower area immediately beside it, you will be able to observe the mineral washery of this mine, known as **Remunerada mine Washery**. It was used to concentrate the tin ores extracted from Remunerada mine and from other mines of the area. It was built in 1920 and was working until 1957. Next, you will see the access to the mine **Agrupa Vicenta**. It is the main attraction of all the park, as it is the first and unique underground mine of the Region of Murcia, restored and fitted out for public visits.

Its spectacular interior space of extraordinary dimensions is outstanding. A few meters forward, there is one of the other important mines of the area. It is the **mine Pablo y Virginia**. At the same level of the road is situated the hopper where the mineral was charged, whereas the access tunnel to the mine, is situated on a higher level, next to other installations formerly dedicated to offices, smithies and barracks. Then, in the area of the old **gunpowder storerooms**, which have also been restored, you will find the **Visitor's Centre**. From the **viewpoint**, and after enjoying a panoramic view of all the town and surroundings, you will be able to descent through the slope "Cuesta de las Lajas" to contemplate the foreground of the **Remunerada Washery**, previously mentioned, and the **tailing disposal**, destined to collect the wastes of the whaseries of the area.

This is a tin mine operated partly underground and also opencast, which gives it its curious appearance of a crater full of orifices.



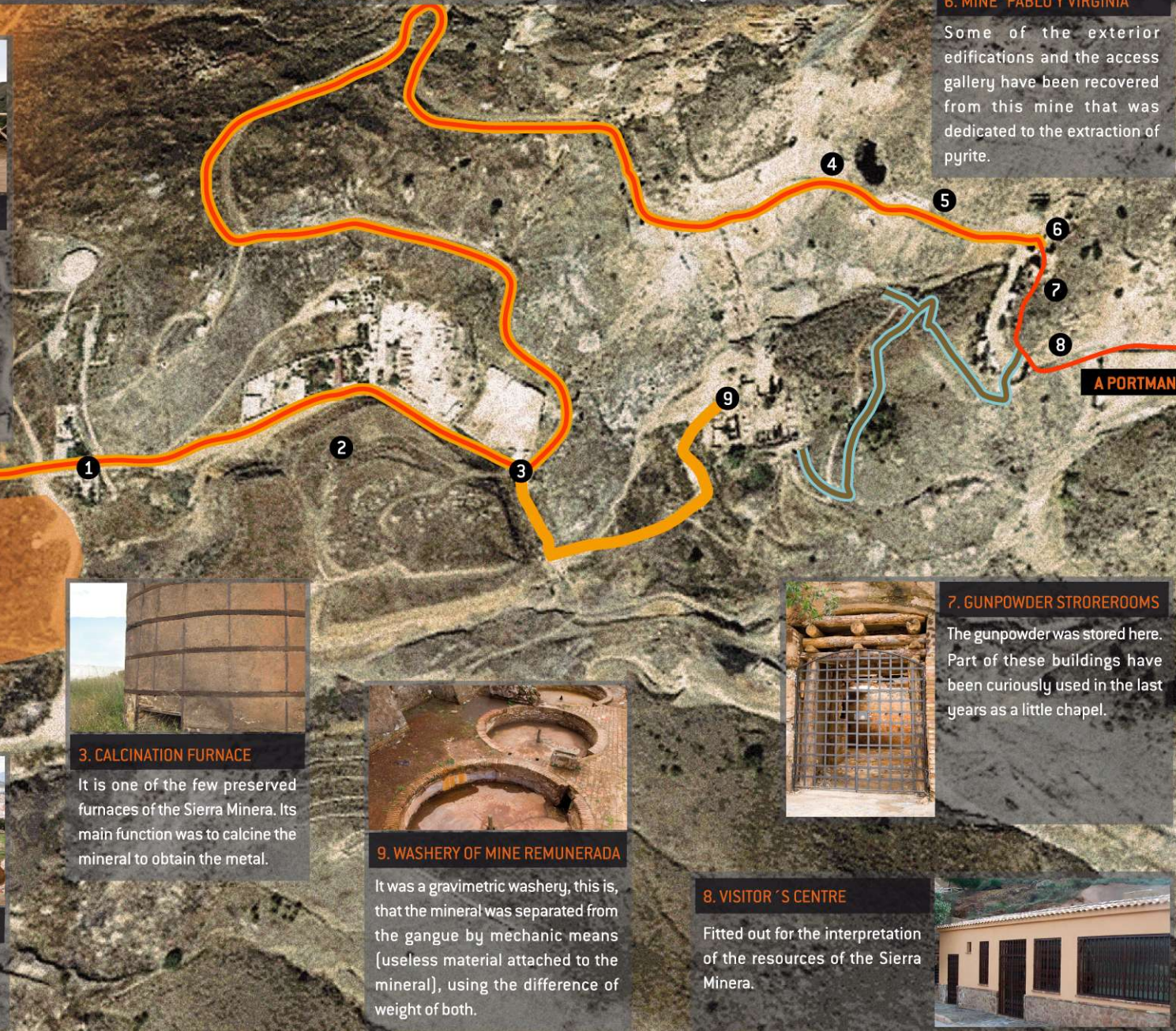
It was dedicated to the extraction of pyrite since 1869 until the middle of the 20th century. More than 4.000 sq. metres, open to the public, at a depth of 80 metres, is one of the largest and spectacular visitor's mine in Europe. It has a lake of red waters due to the effects of pyrite.



Some of the exterior edifications and the access gallery have been recovered from this mine that was dedicated to the extraction of pyrite.



1. ROAD 33
It is a legendary route of the mining in the area. This road goes through the Sierra Minera and links La Unión and Portmán and the Mediterranean Sea. It was used as the main communication route between the mining exploitations of the mining mountain range.



MINING TRAIN DEPARTURE

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OLD MARKET HALL



2. TAILING DISPOSAL
It was destined to collect the wastes of the mineral washeries of the area.



3. CALCINATION FURNACE
It is one of the few preserved furnaces of the Sierra Minera. Its main function was to calcine the mineral to obtain the metal.



9. WASHERY OF MINE REMUNERADA
It was a gravimetric washery, this is, that the mineral was separated from the gangue by mechanic means (useless material attached to the mineral), using the difference of weight of both.



7. GUNPOWDER STOREROOMS
The gunpowder was stored here. Part of these buildings have been curiously used in the last years as a little chapel.



8. VISITOR'S CENTRE
Fitted out for the interpretation of the resources of the Sierra Minera.

- MINING TRAIN
- ROAD 33 (ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE)
- WALKING PATH