

AguaGranada Foundation is a non-for-profit organisation, established in 2007 by EMASAGRA, the Granada's water company. Environment preservation, rational use of natural resources – especially water – are the aims of this foundation, thereby promoting sustainable development policies.

The objectives of the general interest of the Foundation are preservation of the environment, the rational use of natural resources (especially the water) and the protection of the nature, encouraging sustainable development.

To attain these objectives indicated in the statutes, the Foundation will do the following activities:

- Seminars and celebration of courses, regular conferences, congresses and other activities for the purposes of the foundation.
- Seminars and celebration of activities, of social, cultural and technical character such as contests where the subject matter is about the suitable use of natural resources, fundamentally water.
- To promote and to develop technological investigations for the attainment of the purposes of the Foundation.

AguaGranada FOUNDATION
and the diffusion of the
WATER CULTURE

WATER INTERPRETATION CENTER

ALJIBE DEL REY

Plaza del Cristo de las Azucenas, s/n
Albaicín, 18010 Granada (España)

Telf.: 958 200 030

VISITING TIME

Individual visits, Monday to Friday, 12 p.m.
Group visits, please, contact by telephone
to book in advance



FUNDACIÓN AGUAGRANADA

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Ayuntamiento de Granada



Carmen del ALJIBE DEL REY
AguaGranada Foundation

An emblematic villa in the heart of Albaicín



The Carmen del Aljibe del Rey is in the heart of the historical city of Granada, the headquarters of the Ziry dynasty, that reached its prime with Badis Ibn Habbus in the eleventh century. At this place, the Carmen (a detached house surrounded by a garden) provides a window into the history and the landscape of the city of Granada. From there, it is possible to see the summits of Sierra Nevada, the towers of the Alhambra's Alcazaba (defensive walls), Barrichuelo and San Cristóbal (typical quarters in the Albaicín), San Miguel Alto, la Cuesta Alhacaba, the convent of Santa Isabel la Real, Palacio de Daralhora, the ancient walls of the city from Puerta de Monaita to Arco de las Pesas near Plaza Larga, la Cerca de Don Gonzalo, Sierra Elvira...

Carmen del Aljibe del Rey, which lies between the Ziri wall and the Cristo de las Azucenas square, consists of a main building supplemented by an orchard and minor buildings. These premises, of irregular shape due to successive extensions, are 1.710 m² with a built-up area of 428 m² in the main house. It adjoins the old defensive wall and one of its towers on the north, the Callejón de las Monjas on the south, the Cristo de las Azucenas square and Aljibe de la Gitana street on the East, and the Carmen de las Torres on the west.

New cultural uses for a historical place

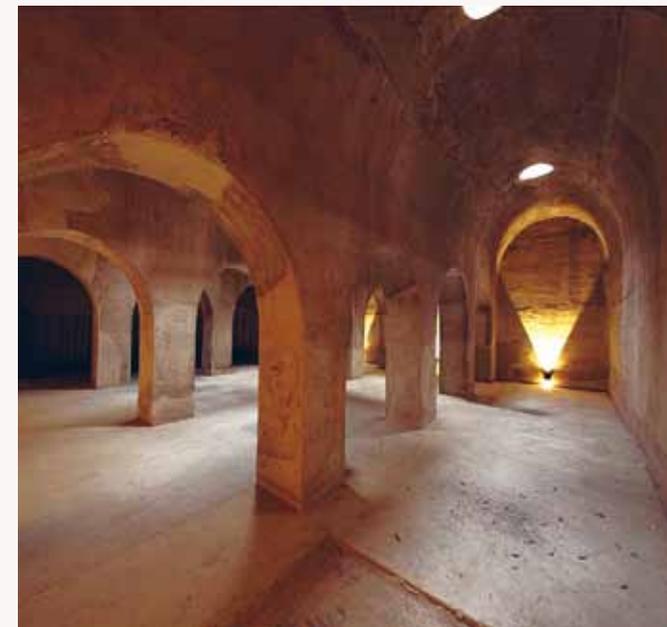


These premises were expropriated in 1998 and since then they have joined the Inventory of Real States of Local Patrimony. Due to the ruinous state of the building, the town hall proceeded to the total restoration, recovering a key element in the area of Albaicín.

The main house, a three-story building, consists of diverse pieces from different ages, but still preserves its uniqueness and constructive harmony. It is built around a square court adjoining the garden, with a staircase on the north. There is also a closed court on top of the cistern. On the east, there is a wide orchard, now turned into a garden.

The ground floor has two open passages resting on Tuscan-style columns made of Sierra Elvira stone. These columns have acanthus leaves support and pillars and capitals of bricks. Some supports are decorated in Arabic style and one with acanthus leaves. The staircase, with a wood-turned banister and exquisite finish, leads to the two upper floors which are currently designed for cultural and administrative use.

Aljibe del Rey a valuable of the water system in Albaicín



The biggest cistern of el Albaicín is under the patio adjoining the main building. This cistern gives its name to the Carmen. It has a capacity of 300 m³, and it was originally fed by a branch of the irrigation ditch of Aynadamar, which comes from the source of Alfaca, a nearby small town. The cistern probably supplied the premises and orchards of the king Badis in the eleventh century. That's why it was also called the 'Royal Cistern', 'Old Cistern' (al-Qadim), and the 'Big Cistern of Alcazaba'.

The mouth of the cistern is on the southeast of the building, in 'Cristo de las Azucenas square'. It has a facade with an arch in Spanish-Arabic style, made of brick and topped by a tiled roof with two wooden - girdered eaves. The inner part of the cistern is a subsoil plain construction, with an eleven-by-eleven-metre floor approximately. It consists of four vaults covered by parallel archways supported on the walls; nine detached pillars and six attached to the perimeter of the premises. The walls are white-painted and the pavement is made of white lime. There are traces of two skylights per vault, all of them square, but there is also a circular one which is topped by the mouth of the well. This one made of stone and lies in the centre of the courtyard.