



Parque Minero  
de Almadén

Cerco San Teodoro, s/n  
13400 Almadén (Ciudad Real)  
Spain

Telephone Booking  
**0034 926 265 002**

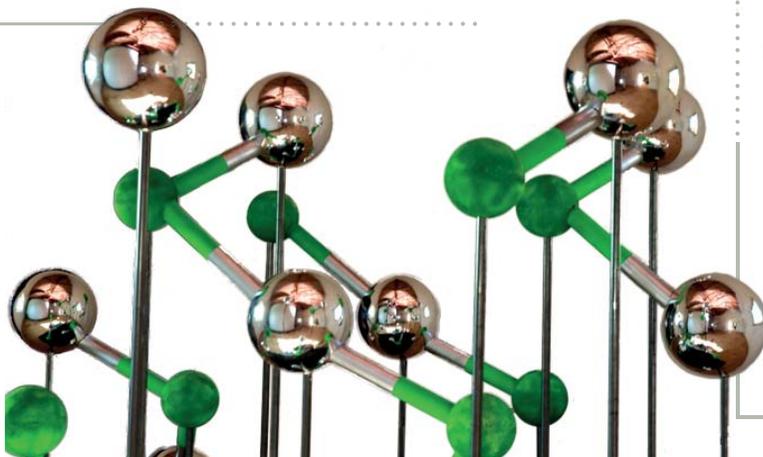


reservas@mayasa.es  
www.parqueminerodealmaden.es



## Cultural and educational value Almadén Mining Park:

- Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012.
- Declared Property of Cultural Interest in 2008 by the Ministry of Culture of Castilla La Mancha in the Historic Mining Conservation Area of Almadén.
- Integrates many interactive educational resources: the virtual browser of the mine, the numerous videos about the history of the mine, its mining methods and mercury transport to America, in addition to the curious experiments on the physical and chemical properties of mercury.
- Didactic Guides available on the Mining Park website ([www.parqueminerodealmaden.es](http://www.parqueminerodealmaden.es)) for educators to be able to make better use of the visit.



## Additional Information

**Visiting hours:** from TUESDAY to SUNDAY  
(Monday closed, except bank holidays and long weekends)

### Mine visit

- Estimated duration: from two hours and 30 minutes to four hours.
- Clothing: clothes and comfortable walking shoes inside the mine.
- Access and part of the tour inside the mine available for disabled visitors.
- Group visits must be arranged at least one day beforehand by ringing the **reservation line:**

**0034 926 265 002**

- For individual tours, at least one visit to the mine in the early hours of the morning and afternoon will be guaranteed.

### Opening hours

Summer: from May to September.

10:00 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 19:30

Winter: from October to April.

10:00 to 14:00 and 15:30 to 18:30

### The Royal Hospital of Miners of Saint Rafael visit

Doctor Lope de Haro square, 1

- Estimated duration: one hour and 15 minutes.
- The entry is allowed until half an hour before closing time.

### Opening hours

Summer: from May to September.

10:30 to 14:00 and 16:30 to 20:00

Winter: from October to April.

10:30 to 14:00 and 15:30 to 19:00



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# The Almadén Mining Park

Is located within the old Almadén mercury mine premises.

After the closure of mining activity in 2003, **the oldest mines in the world**, whose activity has remained until today, were renovated to show the public two thousand years of mining heritage.

Mercury, "the quicksilver of the Romans", is shown in all its aspects in the Mining Park, the extraction of its mineral, cinnabar, mercury sulphide, their transformation in metallurgical furnaces, their physical and chemical properties, their uses, and its history.

The **Almadén Mining Park** includes major Spanish properties inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** under the name of **HERITAGE OF MERCURY. ALMADÉN AND IDRIJA**, on 30th June, 2012. The mining sites of Almadén and Idrija are the most significant sites to have been preserved, in terms of volumes produced, historical duration, and the completeness of the evidence provided.



## The mine visit

The tour starts with surface mining facilities in the **Visitor Centre** and continues through the **old workshops and "San Aquilino" and "San Teodoro" shafts**.

Before the tour along the underground passages, visitors will visit the **Mining Interpretation Centre**, which will provide essential prior knowledge of the historical performance of the mining activities.

The tour **inside the mine** starts by going down the **San Teodoro shaft**, 50 metres in depth, in a mine cage. The walking tour is conducted in a real mine exploited in the XVI and XVII centuries, according to the real conditions of the mining practice: helmet, apparent lack of modern lighting, support lighting using individual lamps.

The exit to surface takes place on a minercart train adapted for public transport, the visit continues to the **outdoor facilities**, **"Aludeles" furnaces from XVII century**, **"Carlos IV" gate**, **"Carros" gate with its paved road and "tejas" furnace**.

Then moving on to the **Mercury museum** where the visitors will find halls dedicated to the local geology and palaeontology, interactive experiments in the physics and chemistry of mercury, the history of this metal metallurgy and its shipping to America.

The visit will finish with the visitors coming back in electric passenger minibuses to the **Visitor Centre**, where they can purchase many souvenirs related to the visit, as well as others catering facilities, toilets, information, etc.

Outside the Mining Park is the **Royal Hospital of Miners of Saint Rafael**, its museum contains the human aspects of Almadén mining, curiosities about the daily life of miners, their customs, work-related diseases and the history of the building as a Hospital.

## The Mining Interpretation Centre

is located inside the **old compressor building**. The different mining exploitation systems that followed one another over different periods, with all of the other tasks related to mineral extraction (draining, lighting and cinnabar transport to the surface), are shown using detailed audio-visual systems.

## The underground mine

with a depth of more than 700 metres, has been restored for public visits with maximum safety guarantees. The accessible area is **the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Almadén mine**, which has the greatest historical value. After visiting the exploitation areas from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (branch drifts, overhead stopes, open pits and bench exploitations) and the work from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, visitors reach the visit's jewel: the **baritel of Saint Andrés**, with its majestic hoist, the Sistine Chapel of mining heritage, and the **prisoner gallery** where the criminals were led from the prison to work in the mine.

## The Mercury Museum

is in the old mercury warehouse in the Buitrones enclosure. The building, which was constructed in 1941, has a square floor with an open inside patio, a ground floor and a basement. It is made up of load-bearing walls made from stone and lime mortar. The main façade shows an entryway with an entry arch, with two medallions and a pediment over a cornice.

## The Royal Hospital of Miners of Saint Rafael

is a splendid building constructed in the year 1755. It entered into service as a hospital in 1774 and has operated to this end until the year 1975. The building, renovated in 2003, houses the **Historical Almadén Mines Archive**, with documentation collections dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.