

HISTORY OF THE VILLA OF FINES

Although in the municipality of Fines we find sites that testify to a human presence since the Chalcolithic, 3100-2200 BC. (Llano de la Media Legua) until the Middle Ages (Cueva del Castillo and Lugar Viejo), passing through phases of Argaric occupation, years 2300-1500 BC, (Piedra del Horno) and Roman (Old Place), to this day still It is not possible to specify when it appears as a stable population nucleus. The toponym of Fines, although it has a clear Latin root, to this day we do not have enough information, both archaeological and documentary, to be able to interpret its foundation as produced in the Roman period.



Idols from the grave of the Llano de la Media Legua.

According to the National Archaeological Museum, they are idols of the cruciform type with arms spread out like a wing.



Castle Hill

The oldest known information regarding Fines is a cartulary preserved in the Cathedral of Toledo dated 1242 in which, under the reign of Fernando III of Castile, its fortress was seized by the advance of Murcia Diego Sánchez:

"Me, Diag Sanchez [-]. win Fines, el castiello, near Val de Porchena, in the service of God and Christianity "



This Fortress, located in Cerro del Castillo (Castle Hill), would be a fortification intended to protect the population of the nearby “El Lugar Viejo” site, where the antecedent of the current town would be located. Although we can assure the existence of both nuclei, we currently know little about them beyond their location and chronology.

At the end of the 15th century, the Catholic Monarchs undertook the conquest of the last territory controlled by a Muslim authority in the Iberian Peninsula, the Kingdom of Granada. The Catholic Monarchs undertake the conquest of the Almanzora valley in 1488. During this campaign the villas and fortresses of the town known in medieval times as *Val de Porchena*, among which is the Villa of Fines, will be surrendered without resistance in the capitulations of Purchena.

After the conquest in 1493, Don Alonso Fernández de Córdoba was given *"the villas of Somontiel e Fines that are in our Kingdom of Granada with their castles and fortresses with all their terms and lands, districts and terms"* as payment for their services the kings during the war. In this way, both Fines and Somontín would become part of the same manor, with Alonso Fernández de Córdoba becoming its first owner. In 1507 these manorial rights were transferred by Alonso de Córdoba to his daughter María Carrillo de Córdoba y de Velasco upon marrying Don Francisco de Benavides y Pacheco, III Count of Santisteban del Puerto.

In 1531 the manor was bought by the illustrious Italian Gaspar de Rótulo from the descendant of Francisco de Benavides, Diego de Benavides, remaining united to the Rotulo family until the dissolution of the manor in 1838. In order to prevent his possessions from being dissolved in the future by his descendants, in 1535 Gaspar de Rótulo and his wife María Carrillo Osorio created the Mayorazgo de los Rótulo Carrillo, which includes the towns of Fines and Somontín. On the death of Gaspar de Rótulo, his wife María Carrillo will take over the manor. During this period there will be another of the war episodes in which the population would be immersed, the Moorish Rebellion of 1568.

At the time of the uprising, Fines had fifty-five Moorish neighbors who, like the rest of the towns linked to the city of Purchena and the Sierra de Filabres, would rise up against the king being led by Aben Humeya. To put an end to those who had taken up arms, Juan de Austria sent Tello de González de Aguilar with a hundred lances and Jordan de Valdés, with two thousand infantrymen to reach his fortress. The royal troops would defeat them, causing a hundred casualties and capturing four hundred women from among those who tried to flee to the mountains.

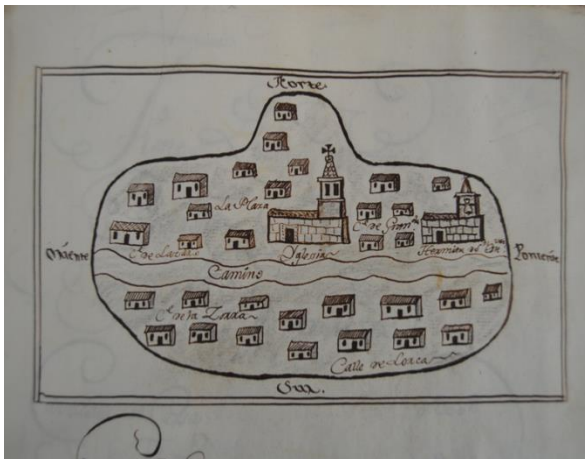
In this period the legend of the tragic history of El Tuzani, collected by Ginés Pérez de Hita in his book *Civil Wars of Granada*, will emerge. His beloved, known as Maleha, is killed during the siege of Galera by a Christian soldier. Aware of her death, he pretends to be a soldier of the royal troops, finds her murderer, killing her, and is arrested by the Christians. Upon being brought before Don Juan of Austria, Tuzani tells him of the loss of his love and his

search for revenge to which Don Juan, moved by his story, spares his life. This story inspired Pedro Calderón de la Barca in his play *"Love after death or El Tuzaní de las Alpujarras"*.

After the pacification of the Moorish revolt, Felipe II decreed the expulsion of the entire population of Muslim descent that still remained in the Kingdom of Granada after the rebellion. The Moors were displaced to other regions outside the Kingdom, assuming the deportations almost the total depopulation of large agricultural areas that will cause the fall and almost disappearance of traditional crops, such as silk. To avoid this loss of production and the depopulation of large rural areas, it was decided to repopulate these lands with settlers from other areas of the peninsula through the concession of small spaces for crops and homes.

Fines will be repopulated in 1574 with settlers coming mainly from the Marquesado of Villena and Albacete. Although this repopulation tried to fill the void caused by the deportation of the Moorish population, the number of deportees was greater than that of repopulation. The inspection visits carried out in the following years reported a progressive adaptation of the new settlers, noting in the one from 1576 that *"this town is populated by good people and they are good farmers."*

Traditionally, the economy has been almost exclusively agricultural, cultivating the



Map of Fines in 1748

different payments distributed throughout the municipality, with the fertile plain of the Almanzora river having a leading role. In the Cadastre of the Marqués de la Ensenada of 1752 it is stated that *"in the irrigated lands there are planted some fruit trees, mulberry trees, some olive trees, fig trees, vines and other carob trees and in the dry lands there are also olive trees and fig trees."*

The economic transformation began during the 19th century with the installation of the first marble sawing factory (Los Catalanes factory) in the region on the banks of the Almanzora River in 1837. From this moment on, small family workshops dedicated to the work of the marble that will cause an increase in this sector until in the mid-80s of the twentieth century, there is the definitive transfer from agriculture to the marble industry and its derivatives.



Catalans Factory. Current aerial view.



As for the town's urban planning, we see how its entire historic center is articulated from the royal road that crossed the town, the current Real Street, which was the main artery in the Almanzora valley. The main streets converge on this road with a regular layout that indicates a great order of planning. The configuration of the municipality, therefore, dictates much of that of other towns in which the streets follow a sinuous layout, inheritors of the old medieval streets of Muslim tradition.



View Lazaro Street Year 1966. Present C/ Alejandro Estrada

The difference in the urban fabric of Fines with respect to the latter is that most likely the location of the town in its current location occurred after this period and the layout was made from scratch due to the pacification of the Almanzora valley after the Christian conquest.



*Old Highway A-334 Year 1966.
Present Rey Juan Carlos I Avenue*



PLACES OF INTEREST

The Villa of Fines is located on the left bank of the Almanzora River, in the so-called Comarca del Mármol, with 2.500 inhabitants and 21 square kilometers of surface. It is thought that its etymology is "*Finis - Finis*", coming from Latin, whose meaning is End, or Limit. Undoubtedly, the town must have been the limit of some of the territorial divisions formed during Roman rule.

The [Patron Saint Festivities](#) are celebrated on August 2 in honor of Saint Esteban, Patron of the Villa, being one of the most popular and widely accepted in the Region.

Visitors to the Villa of Fines will be able to discover numerous places of interest such as:

- [The Castle Cave](#)

Formerly, the Villa de Fines, which was located on a rocky hill on the right bank of the Almanzora River, was handed over in 1492 by the Catholic Monarchs to Mr. Alonso Fernández de Córdoba, Lord of Alcaudete and Montemayor. In this area is located the Castle



Cave, where it is said that there was an Arab Castle in which an Arab called Almanzor lived, a small medieval fortress adapted to the orography of the land, which today is very run down. The few remains of the wall and towers are mainly concentrated in the two points where, due to the orography, access is easier. In those areas where the relief is inaccessible, the construction of defensive walls is hardly observed, taking advantage instead of the

great slopes that it offers in some points as a natural defense.

For a long time (and still today) ceramic remains were found and about 300 meters from the cave there were also skeletal remains and human skulls, which is why it is believed that there must have been a cemetery, called the Cemetery of the Moors.

HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°20'55.3"N 2°15'54.21"W

GD Coordinates: 37.348626, -2.265188

<https://goo.gl/maps/3dtytRqMwxPbfX968>

- Old marble Factory.

In 1837 the first modern marble sawing and roughing factory was installed in the Almanzora region, which was moved by hydraulic force, thanks to the waters of the Almanzora river, and mounted two large machines, one of serrated and another for polishing the marble.



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'13.7"N 2°15'47.2"W

GD Coordinates: 37.353798, -2.263116

<https://goo.gl/maps/SpmpRzNWwovMBXwbA>

- The Parish Church Our Lady of the Rosary.



The Parish Church, which is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, is listed as a Historical Monument and it is believed that its construction would begin in 1537, after the Papal bull authorizing the constitution of parishes dependent on the diocese of Almería, completing its construction at the end 16th century. Its Mudejar style is noteworthy.

The temple consists of a single nave with a chancel and choir at the foot. The nave, which originally had niches drilled into its walls, is covered by an armor of rectangular files with musk decorated at the ends. The almizate corresponding to the choir has ornamentation based on sticks tied with eight-pointed stars, in the center of which appears a rose window. The main chapel, differentiated from the nave by means of a pointed main arch, is covered with a limabordón armor. On the outside of the temple, the main portal and the tower stand out.



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'31.9"N 2°15'47.8"W

GD Coordinates: 37.358847, -2.263266

<https://goo.gl/maps/mc5ERHkJ6gdxNwX9>



- Outdoor museum.



The town of Fines has a spectacular "Outdoor Museum" located on the old train track, now in disuse and on which the walk of Green Way has been located as a boulevard. During the tour, we can appreciate numerous sculptures made in white marble during the celebration of the VIII and IX International Sculpture Symposium organized by the Andalusian Marble School (EMA), a national and international benchmark in professional training for the qualification of the human resources of the

stone sector.

The sculptures, measuring approximately 170x80x80cm, pay homage to different countries, different cultures and great geniuses, such as the poet Federico García Lorca.

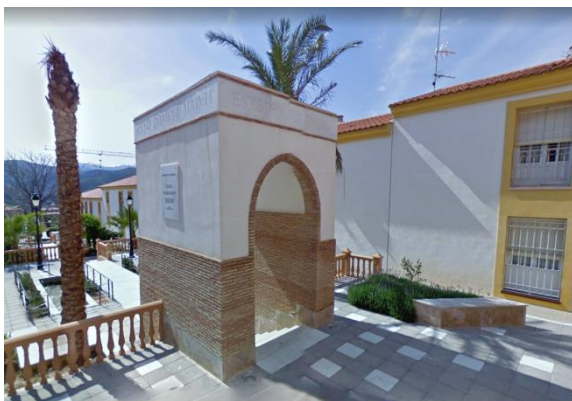
HOW TO GET THERE (GREEN WAY)

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'43.4"N 2°15'44.0"W

GD Coordinates: 37.357596, -2.263114

<https://goo.gl/maps/Cgg4SMzdWuWRRvj7A>

Other sculptures made in marble can be seen in the different squares of the town, mainly the Environment Square and the Marifé de Triana Square.



HOW TO GET THERE (MARIFÉ DE TRIANA SQUARE)

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'32.6"N 2°15'38.6"W

GD Coordinates: 37.359046, -2.260711

<https://qoo.q/maps/uGTmFMMV1tfCk62q8>



HOW TO GET THERE (ENVIRONMENT SQUARE)

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'43.4"N 2°15'44.0"W

GD Coordinates: 37.362067, -2.262217

<https://goo.gl/maps/r9NDKYPeBy9Hn4CB8>

- The Source of the Cane and the picnic área.



It dates from 1877, with a drinking fountain where animals used to drink, being restored in 2004. In April 2009 the public picnic area next to the fountain was inaugurated, where the old laundry used by the women of Fines is recovered. equipped with tables, barbecues and services.

This fountain is famous because on the night of San Juan it is a tradition for people to go there to wash their faces, because according to legend, with that they will remain young for life.



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'18.4"N 2°15'33.4"W

GD Coordinates: 37.355096, -2.259271

<https://goo.gl/maps/Cgg4SMzdWuWRRvi7A>

- “Liberty” Sculpture and “Rosa Galera” Viewpoint

The town of Fines has the largest marble sculpture in the world (almost 5 meters high) built in one piece, with which it pays tribute to women victims of gender violence and is called LIBERTY.



The perfection of this work leaves no one indifferent, with a symbolism that the sculptor, painter and designer of this sculpture, Andrés García Ibáñez, already imagined, who shared Roberto Manzano's talent in this carving as an executing arm. Andrés García Ibáñez defines this work as *“secular with much of the sacred”*, a figure who takes flight and conquers freedom. *“The design of a woman in her prime who looks at the sky and seems to start an ascent.”*

The sculpture is placed at the west entrance of the town, in the "Rosa Galera" viewpoint, in homage to the neighbor of the municipality who lost her life at the hands of her ex-partner.



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'36.4"N 2°16'14.5"W

GD Coordinates: 37.360107, -2.270704

<https://goo.gl/maps/RyvckUjqJQ7AiP1m7>

- **The Monteserin House**

In the mid-18th century, **Mr. Vicente Antonio Álvarez de Monteserín y Cienfuegos** settled in the town, born in the town of Grandas, located in the Principality of Asturias, marrying the neighbor of the town of Fines, **Mrs. Ana Ramos Nieto**. This family came from an ancient lineage and therefore were considered noblemen. This condition allowed him and his descendants to be excluded from municipal taxes and service in the military.

They settled in this sober but noble house with its coat of arms carved in marble over the door.

Under the helmet of the blazon you can read the family motto: "Mount I am and I will be."



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'32.2"N 2°15'47.5"W

GD Coordinates: 37.358946, -2.263192

<https://goo.gl/maps/SSjhyVokDur5bBXE9>

- **The Small House of the Light.**

In 1918, the **Monteserín y Compañía company** for the production of brushes and brushes began the electrification of its industry. For this, **José Monteserín Juárez**, a Finnish resident of Barcelona and owner of the brand, decides to create a second company called **Monteserín y Compañía - Santa Engracia** in order to resell the surplus electricity contracted for his business.

Through a contract between the company and the Fines City Council, this surplus would be supplied to the municipality for the first municipal public lighting and those individuals who would like to have electricity for their own use.



HOW TO GET THERE:

GMS Coordinates: 37°21'41.2"N 2°15'44.5"W

GD Coordinates: 37.361449, -2.26236

<https://goo.gl/maps/5hZmFbqvTdFcsFkc8>



CURIOSITIES: THE STORY OF "EL TUZANI"

The Villa de Fines is located almost in the center of the Almanzora Valley. More precisely, in the lower part of the "Alto Almanzora". Finix - for the Arabs - was a small and quiet town.

However, in the 16th century, around the year 1570, when Felipe II reigned, and his brother Don Juan de Austria was fighting the Moors of Los Filabres and the Almanzora Valley, the performance of a Moorish man from Fines caught the attention of the winner of Lepanto and also of some writers of the time. He was the protagonist of a sentimental and tragic story of that fratricidal war.

El Tuzani was a notable Moorish of Fines according to Ginés Pérez de Hita, an eyewitness of Mr Juan de Austria's campaign in Almeria.

In his frequent trips to Purchena he fell in love with a beautiful Moorish woman, the sister of the Moorish chief Jerónimo "El Maleh", the visible head of the uprising and who placed herself under the command of the rebel Arab leader Aben Humeya.

Once the war started, Tuzani's beloved took refuge in the house of some relatives in the town of Galera (Granada) for greater security.

Professor Mr. Martín García Ramos published in the Voice of Almería:

"El Tuzani secretly entered Galera, the day after his conquest by the Christian troops and he could still see his girlfriend dead, stabbed.

He then swore to avenge his death and for that purpose he enlisted as a Christian soldier in the troops under Mr. Lope de Figueroa and thus carried out the campaign.

After this phase of the war was over and one night in the Christian camp of the Alpujarra, he learned who was the author of the death of his girlfriend; turned out to be a friend of hers. He invited him out of the Camp. Tuzani told him why he had joined the Christian troops. He challenged him, and killed him in a duel".

Calderón de la Barca wrote a dramatic work on this subject with the title "Love after death, or the Tuzani de la Alpujarra", the second part of the title was not correct possibly because Calderón did not know the geography of the area (El Tuzani did not was from the Alpujarra). Some said it was from Olula, others from Cantoria but according to Pérez de Hita he confessed the following:

"Mr. Juan asked el Tuzani there in front of everyone where he was from and the Moorish did not want to deny the truth. With good spirits he replied that he was a native of a town called Finis located between Cantoria, Olula and Purchena, that he was a knight and that his name was Tuzani. "

Finally, Ginés Pérez de Hita comments that years later on one of the trips he made to Madrid, he met Tuzani, old and sick, and reminded him of his great love while showing him a small portrait of the Moorish woman. The traveler and writer Pérez de Hita stated that he had never seen such a beautiful woman.