

THE MOLA'S CASTLE

The Mola's Castle, a Historical-Artistic Monument of National Interest since 1931 is located on a hill which visually dominates the regions of the Vinalopó medio valley. It forms part of the network of castles and towers built during the Middle Ages as a control and defense system to defend the Andalusian territory against the Christian kingdoms of Castile and Aragon.

The first known settlement, a village from the Bronze Age, was located at the south plain of La Mola. However, it is not until the Islamic period (10th century) when fortified premises were built and used for daily life. We could highlight from this period, with the arrival of the Almoravid Caliphate (12th century), the construction of the "Hisn" or castle, consisting of two rooms: the "albacar" or fortress protected by a wall and used as a refuge for the population living in rural farmsteads in the valley of Novelda, and a second space formed by the fortress, with a wall, various fortified towers, and the square tower made of rammed earth.

During the mid-13th century, the Mola's Castle was abandoned after the Christian conquest by Alfonso X of Castile. The Muslims then migrated or settled to the city, Novelda, thus consolidating an important nucleus of the Mudejar population.

Due to the strategic importance of the fortress, the castle was settled again in the 14th century under the kingdom of James II of Aragon; this time with a new Christian population. The unique triangular tower was built during this period.

During the 14th and 15th centuries, the castle belonged to various noble families. The towers were used as important elements of defense and communication, and smoke signals were emitted to warn of an attack to the population of Novelda and also to the castles of Petrer, Monforte del Cid, Agost, and Aspe.

The various campaigns of excavations carried out inside the fortified area have led us to identify several domestic and leisure areas, such as cisterns, a kitchen with cupboards and benches, a food storage space, banquet hall, and a mill among other departments, which allow us to explore aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants in the various historical stages of occupation. Everything has been documented and is exposed in the Archaeology Museum of our city.



Texts:

Concepción Navarro Poveda

Design:

J. Antonio López

Concepción Navarro y Daniel Andrés

Translation:

V. Martínez

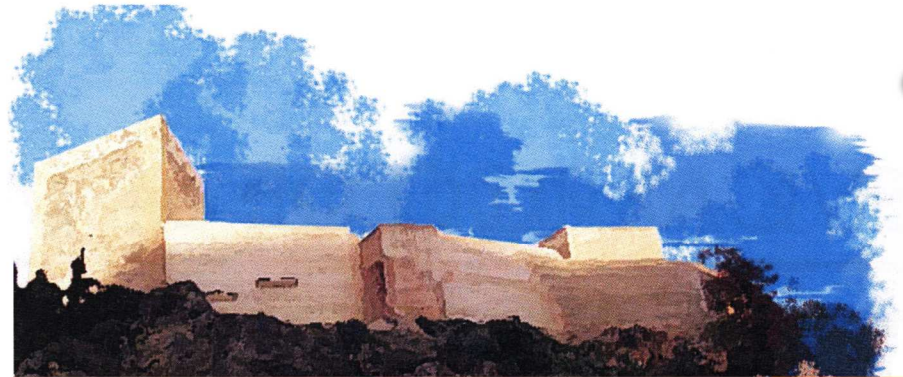
Information and times:

Tourist Info Novelda

C/ Mayor, 6. Phone: 965 609 228
novelda@touristinfo.net
www.novelda.es
facebook.com/turismo.novelda

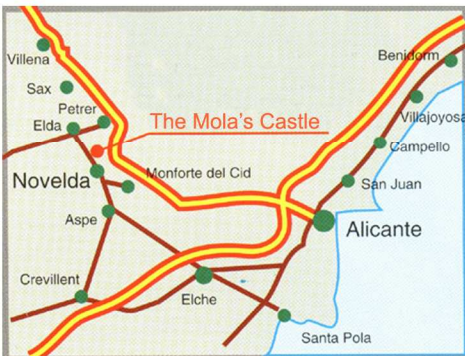
Museo Arqueológico de Novelda

C/ Jaume II, 3. Phone: 965 604 650
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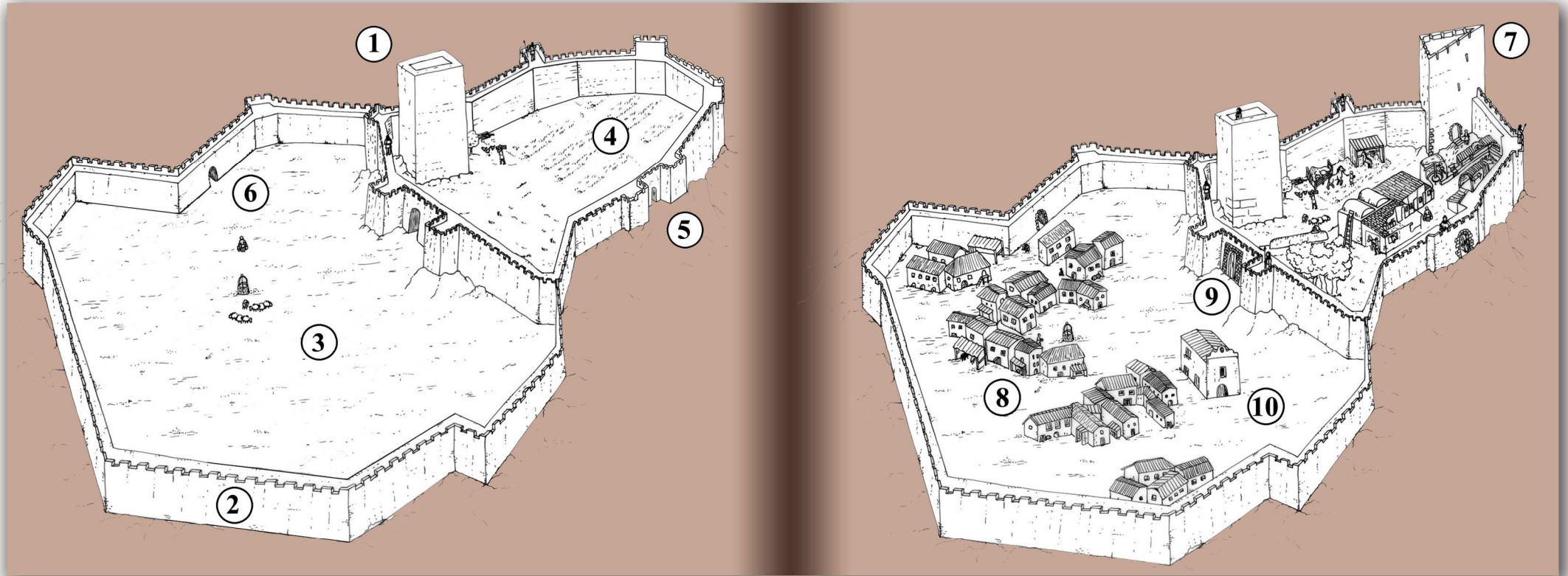
Novelda
(Alicante, Spain)



EXCMO. AYUNTAMIENTO
DE NOVELDA
Concejalía de Cultura y Patrimonio



THE MOLA'S CASTLE (12th-17th centuries)



Islamic Period. 12th-13th centuries:

1. Square tower, made of rammed earth
2. Old walls
3. Albacar or fortress
4. Castle's main bulwark
5. Main entrance to the fortress
6. Entrance to the albacar or fortress

Christian Late Middle Ages. 14th-17th centuries:

7. Triangular tower
8. Village
9. Castle's gateway
10. Old Saint Mary Magdalene's shrine