

MONÓVAR

When the traveller comes closer to Monóvar, the town is seen lying on one side of the hill, and the buildings which make up its silhouette: Santa Barbara's Chapel, the Clock Tower, the remains of the old Castle and San Juan Bautista's Archpriest Church. Walking around its quiet streets, enjoying the visit to its most emblematic buildings, its exceptional panoramic views over the Vinalopo Valley, its people... The charm of being a town is present in every corner.



Monóvar means also culture. It is hometown to the famous writer Azorín, whose house has been turned into a Museum; it really deserves a visit, along with the discovery of this magnificent writer. Another worth visit is the Arts and Crafts Museum, an ethnological museum of private property, where old professions linked to the town are depicted.

Monóvar celebrates its festivities from 6th to 10th of September, honouring the Virgen del Remedio; these are celebrations full of tradition and appeal, where religious acts, such as the Flower and Fruit Offering, are mixed with more ludic ones, like Mascletàs, the Vermut sessions and release of heifers, and with more traditional ones, like Nanos i Gegants (giant grotesque figures), or the multicolour parade.

Monóvar also deserves a visit at Easter, where several processions take place, from Palm Sunday's to Easter Sunday's, with the Santo Encuentro's procession. Monóvar's Holy Week is considered by visitors as one of the most beautiful in the province.



The old quarter from La Goletja.



Nanos i Gegants.



Azorín's House Museum.



Procession at Monóvar's Holy Week.



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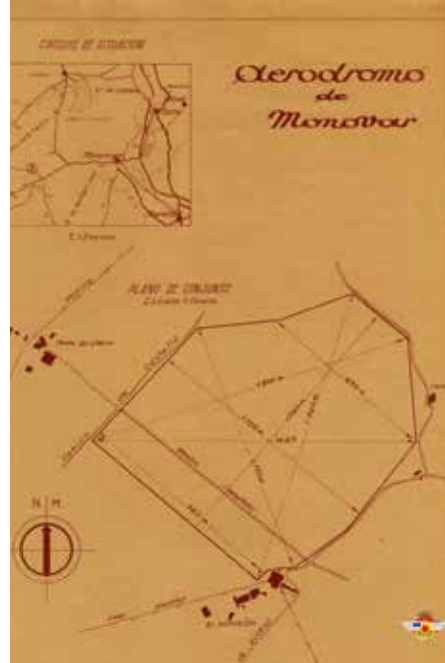
MONÓVAR'S AERODROME

Monóvar's aerodrome was built in 1938 in the hamlet of El Hondón. This place was chosen by its favorable relief –a long flatland–, and its strategic location, which allowed the government of the 2nd Republic to go into exile on board of a Douglas DC-2 from the Spanish Post Airlines.

This aerodrome belongs to the 3rd Air Region AZ-1; for its construction, young recruits from the 1921's draft were mobilized, along with people from the area, stonecutters in most cases, since not only the airfield had to be built up, but also other major works such as the Air-Raid Shelter.

Location: 37° 46' 15" latitude, 2° 47' 54" longitude. 385 m above sea level. 6 km from Monóvar, 8 km from La Romana, 12 km from Pinoso.

It has an irregular hexagonal shape, 1,150 m x 1,450 m, and it withstands prevailing winds from north and west.



SHELTERS

1,000 kg air-raid shelter, with a capacity of 200 people. It is found inside the village, at the south-west edge of the runway, at 30 m distance.

It is a gallery excavation at 13.80 m deep, with a 20 cm-thick concrete coat, stretching for 70 m.

The Aerodrome's Aviation Arm Report, kept in the Air Force Archive, reveals the existence of ten more shelters distributed around the field's surroundings, although the locals only talk of 4 or 5. Only one of these other more basic shelters remains, with a capacity for 20 people. The rest, under the crop fields, are still being uncovered.



EL HONDÓN AND THE END OF THE 2ND REPUBLIC

At the beginning of the year 1939, the Government of the 2nd Republic, with its President Juan Negrín leading, moved to the country estate of El Poblet in Petrer, neighbouring town. There it stayed until the following March, when Colonel Segismundo Casado made a coup-d'état against the mentioned Government.

This led to an unsustainable situation for the 2nd Republic, and due to the incapability of President Negrín to reach an agreement for a honourable peace, there only remained a possible outcome: exile. It is then when Monóvar, its aerodrome and the hamlet of El Hondón get the leading roles in Spain's most recent history.

From here, between March 6th and 7th, the planes carrying the most important leaders of the Government of the 2nd Republic, including other celebrities like poet Rafael Alberti and Dolores Ibarruri 'Pasionaria', take off into exile.



Havilland Dragon Rapide

SURROUNDINGS

Around Hondón, agriculture covers the landscape; olive and almond trees, and above all, vineyards; stocks which sprout grapes with character and personality, and from which excellent wines have always been produced, among them the famous Fondillón. Near Hondón different wineries can be visited, offering this valuable treasure.



On the background, the impressive Mount Coto, declared Natural Site. It is worth to go deeper into it and enjoy the richness of the pine and kermes oak Mediterranean forest, all along the different paths. Places of interest are the Quintaneta and Cabeceras Ravine, and the 'Barranc de Caseta' shady spot, along with the 'l'Almorquí' quarry.

GASTRONOMY

The Mediterranean culture envelopes Monóvar's cookery; its gastronomy is full of tradition, and its dishes cooked with vine shoots and its typical pastries will guarantee a sublime experience.

In the neighbouring hamlets of Casas del Señor, Chinorlet, El Mañar or Casas Sanchis, together with the town of Monóvar itself, you will be able to enjoy the traditional dishes like Gazpachos with rabbit and snails, rabbit and snails rice made with vine shoot fire, Gachamiga, Faseguras, Ajos, Olleta, Migas or homemade cold meat. You will also find in the different traditional ovens some examples of our delicate confectionery: Crespells, Coca de Manteca, Coca amb Oli, Toñas, Perusas, Mojávenes...

There is no better way to finish our visit than with a traditional Monóvar sweet, served with a little glass of muscatel from its wineries.



Bon Profit!!



Wine exclusively elaborated in the province of Alicante; from Monastrell stocks, grapes are selected and then stored in oak barrels for at least 8 years. This wine is included in the EU deluxe winelist.

