

PALM SUNDAY

1. THE NOBLE AND GLORIOUS BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST THE KING IN HIS TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION IN JERUSALEM AND OUR LADY OF FUENSANTA

María Auxiliadora Church, District of María Auxiliadora / 2 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

Known as the Borriquita ('the Little Donkey') procession, this brotherhood was founded in 1962, being the most recent one in Arcos. The polychrome image of Jesus, whose author is unknown, rides a little donkey and keeps in company of a Hebrew woman with little children. This Christ image is made of Flanders pinewood, created in 1985 by local carpenters, the Blanca brothers. There was just a single image until the 1990's, when a second one, Our Lady of Fuensanta, was added.

The brotherhood makes its route on Palm Sunday morning through the district of María Auxiliadora. It has a colourful and cheerful nature, with its own bando of drums and trumpets and a roman guard made up of children, the Romanitos.

HABIT: The brothers who accompany Christ the King wear ivory-coloured robes, red turbans, and a colourful Hebrew cincture. Besides, they carry palms. The brothers going with the Virgin wear ivory-coloured robes with red cinctures and masks.



The Little Donkey



Our Lady of Fuensanta

2. NOBLE BROTHERHOOD OF OUR FATHER JESUS OF THE SOVEREIGN POWER ON HIS ARREST AND HOLY MARY OF LOVE AND GRIEF

Saint Mary's Minor Basilica / 1 Holy Week's carving in procession.

This brotherhood, popularly known as El Prendi ("the Arrest of Jesus"), was founded in 1946 and is the second youngest in the city. The image of Our Father Jesus, created by artist José Marín García-Primatesta from Jerez, was blessed in 1948 and it's a very expressive and beautiful wood-carving that represents a dark-skinned Christ with sad eyes and his hands tied in front of him. Such scene is completed with Judas Iscariot, a roman soldier, and a natural olive tree. The original 1957 carving, created by the Casas brothers – two local carpenters – was replaced by another one of natural wood in this last decade. The emotionally charged procession along its way through the streets of the District of San Pedro is really noteworthy.

HABIT: The brothers wear ivory-coloured robes with red cinctures and masks.



The Arrest

HOLY MONDAY

3. ROYAL AND VENERABLE BROTHERHOOD AND CONFRATERNITY OF THE PENITENTS OF OUR FATHER JESUS OF THE THREE FALLS AND HOLY MARY OF MISERY

San Francisco Church / 2 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

This brotherhood was founded in 1940 and its penitents typically keep a commendable discipline and order. Both carvings, real artistic gems of religious imagery, were created in 1953 by Sevillian artist Antonio Castillo Lastrucci. The float of the Christ is made of wood with carved air vents and baroque fretwork. That of the Virgin is a float with a canopy over it, used for the first time in the year 2001. The most solemn moments of the route are the exit and the entrance of the Temple, the way down through Alta Street and the passage by Nueva Street. The brotherhood has its own band of drums and trumpets.

HABIT: The penitents wear black robes and masks with a white cross on their chests. Their cinctures are made of esparto grass and their espadrilles are white.



Our Lady of Misery



The Three Falls

HOLY TUESDAY

4. SAINT, ROYAL, NOBLE, AND VENERABLE BROTHERHOOD OF OUR LORD TIED TO THE COLUMN, OUR LADY OF PEACE, AND SAINT JOHN

San Francisco Church / 3 Holy Week's carvings in procession

This confraternity was founded in the year 1651 and is called "Saint Anthony's Brotherhood" as this image holds the title of "Perpetual, Honorary Brother of the Confraternity." It is one of the most traditional in Arcos and the one with the highest ornamental and artistic quality. The authors of Our Lord and Our Lady of Peace are unknown. The throne of Our Lord is golden baroque and the corners lamps are the work of Sevillian goldsmith Villarreal. The Virgin's float has a canopy with silver poles, also created by Villarreal. It is difficult to stand out a moment along the route, since Our Lady's beauty and Our Lord's drama, with Roman soldiers flagellating him, thrill everybody on any kind of scenario.

The Armaos, a Roman guard who accompany Our Lord, are the most popular Roman soldiers in the whole Holy Week of Arcos.

HABIT: The brothers of Our Lord wear white robes and blue masks, capes, buttons, and cinctures. Those of the Virgin wear white robes, masks and capes with blue cinctures and buttons.



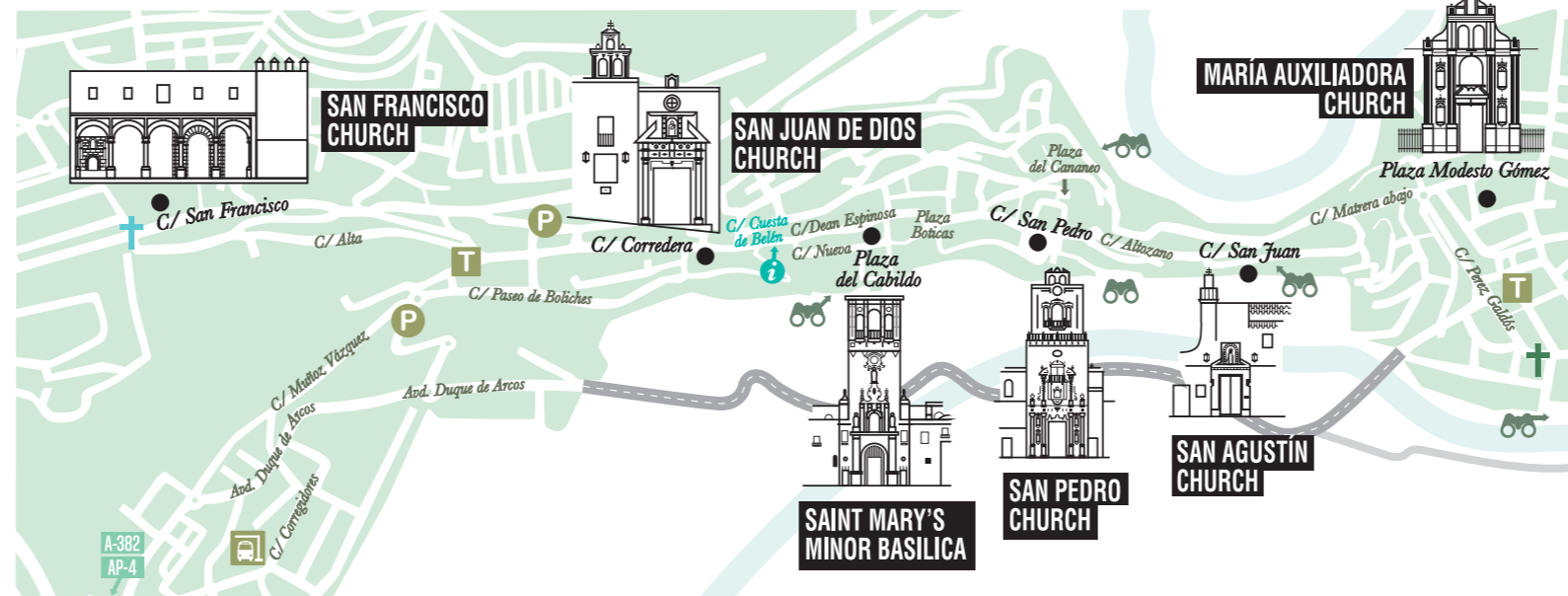
Our Lady of Peace



Our Lord tied to the Column



Saint Anthony



S	M	TU	W	TH	FR
María Auxiliadora Church	San Francisco Church	San Francisco Church	Saint Mary's Minor Basilica	San Juan de Dios Church	San Agustín Church
Saint Mary's Minor Basilica				San Pedro Church	San Francisco Church

- ✚ Jesus' Blessing at 8 a.m.
- ✚ Jesus' Blessing at 2 p.m.
- 🏛️ Temples
- 📍 Viewpoints
- 🌊 Guadalquivir River
- 🛣️ C-334
- 🚏 Bus Station
- 🅅 Parking
- 🚖 Taxi Rank



In Arcos de la Frontera, we usually say, 'It smells already of Holy Week, and indeed it's like that; at dawn, streets smell of the limestone that covers the facades of the shiny-white big houses, at sunset it smells of incense and wax of the churches that celebrate their Divine Offices. In the evening, it smells of the old and dusted off carvings with devout float brotherhoods recover to start the first rehearsals with devout float bearers. During the whole day, it smells of blossoming spring, before its encounter with the full moon. Declared Festivity of Tourist Interest, this sacred drama, which is repeated year after year, is really unique compared to another places, not only for the singular scenario where it is developed, making it intimate and colourful, but also due to its history. Such personal and folkloric addition to the religious rituals of the Holy Week, revives many centuries of tragic beauty. There are many peculiarities worth seeing and remember in the Greatest Week of Arcos, which stimulate the visitor's interest, like the Armaos, a local version of the Roman guard in charge of the Nazarenes' custody, and the saetas, religious flamenco songs which are chanted next to the Holy Week's images. They are aimed at the worshippers' feelings. Currently, there are 10 brotherhoods that make their penitential procession all over the city, and the following are the most significant data to each of them.



HOLY WEEK

FESTIVITY OF NATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST



HOLY WEDNESDAY

5. ANCIENT, CLERICAL, DEVOUT, AND VENERABLE BROTHERHOOD AND CONFRATERNITY OF PENITENTS OF THE HOLY CHRIST OF FORGIVENESS, HOLY MARY OF PIETY, AND SAINT JOHN

Saint Mary's Minor Basilica / 1 Holy Week's carving in procession.

The confraternity of the Forgiveness was founded in the XVI century, disappeared at the end of the XVIII century, and reappeared in 1929 thanks to the driver's guild. The Christ of Forgiveness and the Virgin, whose authors are unknown, exist since the very beginning of the confraternity. The Christ was restored by local artist Manuel Gallardo in 1986 and in 2009 by Isaac Navarrete from Jerez. The image of Saint John belonged to the Brotherhood of the Holy Name and was restored in 1979. The current float was commissioned in 2003 to Sevillian carver Guzmán Bejarano's workshop.

This confraternity has one of the largest numbers of members and about its procession should be pointed out the exit of the temple and the breathtaking moment of the entrance through the steps from Cabildo Square.

HABIT: The penitents wear white robes with purple masks and cinctures.



GOOD FRIDAY

8. ROYAL, NOBLE, AND ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHERHOOD AND CONFRATERNITY OF PENITENCE OF OUR FATHER JESUS THE NAZARENE, HOLY MARY OF THE GREATEST SORROW AND TRANSVERBERATION, SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, AND SAINT VERONICA

San Agustin Church / 3 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

The brotherhood, known as "The Nazarene", was founded at the end of the XVI century following the rules of the Sevillian penitents and has the honour of being the most venerated one in Arcos.

The image of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene, "the Lord of Arcos", dates from the year 1600 and is a work of Jaime Velardi. This carving parades in procession over a beautiful throne dated in 1712 and carries a silver and tortoiseshell cross created in 1760.

The author and creation date of the Virgin of the Greatest Sorrow remain unknown. Her mantle, embroidered with gold, dates from 1903 and the float's throne was plated in fine 22kt gold in 1965.

Saint John and Saint Veronica go in procession with the Nazarene since the beginning of the XX century, however the name of their author is unknown.

This the longest penitential procession of the Holy Week of Arcos, since it crosses practically the whole city. The procession in early morning offers really emotionally charged moments like the prayer, the blessing at dawn in San Francisco Church and, the one, on the bridge of the District of María Auxiliadora at midday.

HABIT: The penitents wear purple robes and yellow cinctures.



10. ROYAL, VERY ILLUSTRIOUS, ANCIENT, VENERABLE, AND SAINT BROTHERHOOD OF THE HOLY CHRIST OF THE GOOD DEATH, OUR LADY OF SOLITUDE AND THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

San Pedro Church / 2 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

The Confraternity of the Holy Sepulchre was founded in the middle of the XVI century and it is in charge of closing the Week of Passion in Arcos de la Frontera.

The reclining Christ came to replace the original, damaged carving of the XVII century. The Lord is carried inside a beautiful, silver embossed urn created in the Sevillian workshop Villarreal.

The carving of Our Lady dates from XVI century and its author is unknown. It's a canopy-float with silver embossed air vents. It has eight silver poles made by Villarreal and its canopy is black velvet with a starry sky and silver flowers. The Virgin's sterling silver crown and her gold and jet rosary are of high artistic value.

Some places of interest during the procession are the exit of the temple and the way down through the church steps, where the Virgin's canopy-float is a pleasure to be enjoyed by all the senses, Cadenas Street, Cananeo Square, and Callejón de las Monjas Alley. The silence and the spiritual discipline of the penitents and the people who accompany the Holy Sepulchre offer an incredible setting full of emotion and melancholy.

HABIT: The brothers of the Holy Sepulchre wear black robes and masks, and black esparto cinctures and espadrilles. Those of the Virgin add white capes to their robes.



HOLY THURSDAY

6. ROYAL, NOBLE, ANCIENT, HOSPITABLE, DEVOUT AND ILLUSTRIOUS CONFRATERNITY OF THE HOLY CHRIST OF THE TRUE CROSS, OUR LADY OF SORROWS AND SAINT JOHN

San Juan de Dios Church / 3 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

The True Cross is the oldest confraternity in Arcos, founded at the beginning of the XVI century. The Christ of the True Cross was commissioned to Antón Vázquez in January 1545, and it is one of the most valuable in the arcense Holy Week. Our Lady of Sorrows is a polychrome carving of the eighteenth century and comes from a Sevillian workshop.

It is also worth mentioning the artistic richness of the thrones. That of the Christ is golden of XVII century and has its own four angels that carry silver lamps and candles. The veil hanging from the cross dates from the XVII century and it is made of green velvet with golden embroidery. The throne of Our Lady dates from the XVIII century and is golden Rococo style. They have two teams of female float bearers who carry the floats of Saint John and the Virgin.

The colours of this brotherhood look particularly beautiful during its Old Town route.

HABIT: The True Cross penitents wear white robes with green buttons, cinctures, and masks. Those of Our Lady of Sorrows wear white robes and masks and green buttons and cinctures.



7. NOBLE BROTHERHOOD AND CONFRATERNITY OF THE VENERABLE THIRD ORDER OF SERVITAS, HOLY CHRIST OF REMEDY AND PEACE, AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS

San Pedro Church / 2 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

This brotherhood, popularly known as "The Silence", was created in February 1749 in San Antonio Abad Chapel. Traditionally, Our Lady of Sorrows, which dates from XVIII century and whose author is unknown, used to parade in procession alone, however in the 1980's Holy Week the carving of the Holy Christ was incorporated. This carving belongs to the personal altarpiece of the Ayllón Family's Chapel, created in the XVI century. Our Lady parades in procession over a float with silver air vents and the Holy Christ of Remedy image, illuminated by torches, is carried on the brothers' shoulders. About its procession should be pointed out the exit of the temple and the descent through the Church steps.

HABIT: The penitents wear black robes and red masks and cinctures. Following the Holy Christ of Remedy, the sisters parade in procession wearing traditional, black veil-shawl dresses.



9. SACRAMENTAL, ROYAL, NOBLE, ANCIENT, VENERABLE, AND VERY ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHERHOOD OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS, HOLY CHRIST OF SORROWS AND OUR LADY ON HER FIFTH SORROW.

San Francisco Church / 2 Holy Week's carvings in procession.

The brotherhood was founded in the San Pedro Church in 1541, but they moved to San Francisco Church in 1582 where the Holy Name image arrived from Rome in 1766. Its author and creation date are unknown, but it was brought to Arcos by Clemente Antonio de Baena, a presbyter who intervened in the dispute among Santa María Church and San Pedro Church over which one was the Biggest and the Oldest one. The image used to carry a parchment in its right hand with the Roman Rota's judgement finding in favour of Santa María. The carving is taken out in procession in a beautiful silver float acquired in the middle of XX century.

The carving of the Holy Christ of Sorrows, a work of Miguel Adán in 1585, was the original and main image of the brotherhood and is taken out in procession in the arms of Our Lady on Her Fifth Sorrow, whose author is unknown. The float is a recent acquisition.

About this procession, the exit of the temple and the descent through the church steps should be pointed out, as well as its passage by Nueva Street.

This brotherhood stages a resurrected Jesus or the Resurrection Sunday, represented by the Holy Name of Jesus.

HABIT: The brothers wear white robes and red capes, masks and buttons.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MIGUEL GONZALEZ BLAZQUEZ