



Excelentísimo Ayuntamiento de Cádiz

HISTORY OF CADIZ

According to tradition, Cádiz was founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 BC. Modern historic science, however, dates it back to 800 BC. When the Phoenician ships first reached the bay.

The geographical nature of the town and the unique cultural characteristics of its founders have marked the history of Cádiz since then: GADIR (meaning enclosed area) was to become the base for commercial routes throughout the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

With the decline of Tiro, the Phoenician metropolis on which the town depended, Gadir passed into the hands of the Carthaginians, the new rulers of the sea.

From the 5th century BC. The Carthaginians ruled Gadir, making it a key site for its coastal factories and central to its needs during the punic wars between Carthage and Rome.

During the course of these wars for domination of the Mediterranean, the people of Cádiz were able to liberate themselves from Carthaginian domination by signing an agreement. The town became known as GADES and grew to become one of the most important cities in the Roman province of Hispania.

In about the 5th century AD. GADES fell into the hands of the Goths and entered a period of decline, as the Visigoths began to sever links with the sea and navigation.

The beginning of the Islamic conquest of the peninsula in 711, marked by the defeat of the Gothic King D. Rodrigo in the Battle of Guadalete, heralded a period of muslim domination. These were dark years for the town, in the control of a non- maritime culture.

During the christian reconquest of the south of the peninsula, the Castilian King Alfonso X the Wise conquered and repopulated Cádiz in



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1262, converting the site of the old arab mosque into the first christian cathedral.

Cádiz became a city in 1265 and after the death of the Grand Marquis of Cádiz, D. Rodrigo Ponce de León, it was incorporated into the Crown of Castille in 1493.

The 16th century was a period of renaissance for the city, with its port becoming pivotal to trade with the recently discovered New World. In 1717, the Customs House was moved from Seville to Cádiz. This was due largely to the difficulties encountered in negotiating the Guadalquivir but it was also a result of the fact that trading conditions in Cádiz were more favourable and convenient to merchants from abroad. From this date, therefore, Cádiz played a part of outstanding importance in trade with the New World.

This thriving economic growth during the 18th century left its mark on the city's urban development, which is still evident today. Furthermore, it created a commercial middle- class, who were practical and well-educated, favoured free trade and a constitutional monarchy.

In its auspicious environment and in a Spain overrun by the French, Cádiz, under siege by napoleonic troops, provided refuge for the politicians who then established the Spain Parliament in Cádiz in 1812 drafted the first Spanish Constitution, known as "La Pepa".

More recent history of the city is marked by the development of the shipbuilding industry during the 1960's and 70's. The city economy grew to depend markedly on its dockyards, although this was to change drastically with the petrol crisis and changes in the world shipbuilding market.

Nowadays, without doubt, the development of the city is centred on the tourist industry, the university and the service sector in general.

AYUNTAMIENTO DE CÁDIZ