The name Antequera derives from the Iberian name Andilasa, which means "opposite the enormous lime rock". This town has been settled by all the different civilisations which have established themselves on this land. Its geographic location has made it the very heart of Andalucía as well as the ninth city of Spain in the Spanish Golden Age, because of its number of inhabitants and commercial activity, as well as being a cross roads between Seville-Granada and Málaga-Córobas. After the conquest of the town by Prince Ferdinand and the grandson of the Catholic King Ferdinand in 1410, Antequera became a frontier land and the most beautiful Moorish legends appeared, such as the “Abrincanaje and the beautiful Jafita” or the one which gives name to the Lover’s Rock. The fortress which crowns the city became a meeting point for poets and historians who, around the grammar school founded in the Royal Collegiate Church of Santa Maria (the first pre-Renaissance church in Andalucía) formed the Antequera Poet Group. This group which was a precursor of the Golden Age poet Cervantes, Pedro Espinosa or Cristobal Fernandez de Alarcon stood out among others. Step by step, Antequera, due to its spirituality and location, became a city of churches.

The city spread to the lower part, and the Baroque style was used in the construction of new temples as the Collegiate Church of San Sebastian, San Juan, San Pedro, San Zelio, San Augustin, La Encarnacion or the Carmen church, which has one of the most relevant altarpieces of the 18th Century-Andalucian Baroque.

All the religious orders which were required settled in Antequera and lots of Monasteries and Baroque churches were built in the 16th and 17th Century. Most of them still remain nowadays: Trinidad, Loreto, Santa Inmaculada, Belén, San Juan de Dios, Remedios, Victoria, Descalzas, Santa Catalina, Merced de Dios, Santiago, Santa Clara, San Miguel, etc. The arrival of lots of noble families also helped the city to reach its Golden Age its period of splendour. These rich families built big houses. The majority of these buildings are still used as houses, others have other uses: the Nájera Palace (nowadays Museum of the City), where unique pieces such as the Roman Sculpture El Efigio de Antequera or Pedro de Velasco’s sculpture San Francisco de Asis can be found. The Palace of the Marquis of la Peña de los Enamorados, the House of the Colomina Family (museum-house), the House of the Baron de Salmahona, the Palace of the Marquis of Villafranca and the House of the Count of Pinillos, among others.

Nowadays, we do not only preserve the historic-artistic heritage, churches andสไตly homes, Antequera also keeps lots of traditions, such as the Easter Week processions which are completely different to the rest of Andalusia: the floats in Antequera style, El Patuano (person in charge of the float), Cover a Vega (to run in front of the float) which has been declared Provincial Feast of Tourist Interest. All the Baroque statues from the processions are from an extraordinary quality. Apart from Easter, there are other processions during the course of the year. Some of the most important are those of its patron saints: in May, El Señor de la Salud y de las Aguas and in September, the Virgen de los Remedios and Santa Eufemia. To really discover Antequera, you also have to enjoy its fairs. In spring, during the last weekend in May, Agrogala (a farming and livestock fair) and the Real Feria (Royal Fair) in August. You also have to taste its gastronomy: try the mollete antequerano (a kind of bread), and some typical dishes such as pomo (thick puree consisting of tomato and bread), gulas de patatas (potato stew), ajo blanco (a soup consisting of garlic, almonds and bread), gazpachuelo (a soup consisting of maize, beans and fish), migas (a dish consisting of fried bread), cardo con salado, pin antequerano (consisting of cod and oranges), rabbit a la cazadora (cooked with tomato, mushrooms and garlic) or goat a la criolla (cooked with liver, orange and paprika). Outstanding desserts include the Biznigüe (a pudding consisting of ground almonds), the Anguixor (a sponge cake with meringue) and lots of recipes coming from the Arabs such as mantecados, pestos, torrijas and rosquillas. Experience Antequera, straight to your heart!