



 **Diputació
de Castelló**

**EL PALACIO-
FORTALEZA
DE
ZEIT ABU ZEIT**



**Ayuntamiento
de Argelita**

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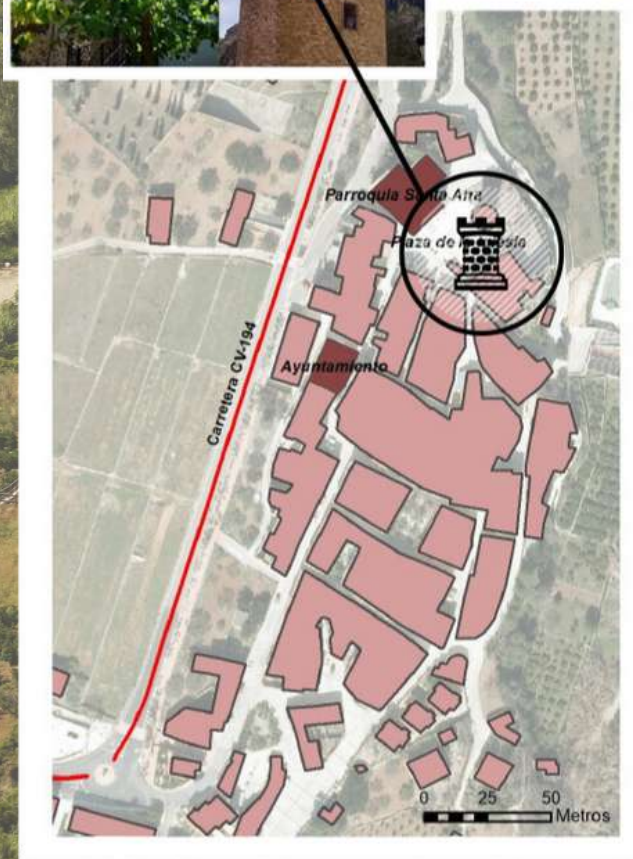
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ARGELITA

SOBRE ESTE SOLAR ESTUVO
EDIFICADO EL PALACIO DEL REY
ZEIT-ABU-ZEIT, REY DE VALENCIA.
LOS HABITANTES DE ARGELITA,
EN RECUERDO A ESTE ILUSTRE VECINO,
CONVERTIDO AL CRISTIANISMO,
LE DEDICAN ESTE PARQUE.
ARGELITA 3-MAYO-1994

Location

The remains of the Zeit Abu Zeit palace are located within the site of the church square, this is the main square of the village of Argelita. In this same place, we can also find the Church of Saint Anne, 17th century building in the Churrigueresque Baroque style.



Historical Background

AArgelita is located in the Alto Mijares region of Castellon. It was an important centre at the time of the Christian conquest during the 13th century. The municipality was one of the territories in the hands of one of the most important figures of this period, Zeit Abu Zeit, dethroned as King of Valencia by Zayyan Ibn Mardanix.

Therefore, the palace fortress is a defensive building of medieval origin where Zeit Abu Zeit remained until his death in 1269. After his death, his children received an important inheritance, as they were related to the Aragonese nobility. Thus, his son Fernando Pérez, became the owner of the Argelita properties.

The palace was demolished in 1942 to use its timber for the parish church of Saint Peter of Grau of Castellon, demolishing all its walls. The two towers remain standing, between which there is now a garden.



The palace fortress

Nowadays, the two towers remain of the original castle-palace (Asset of Cultural Interest) and walled enclosure of the town. The first one has a rectangular ground plan with four stories and a crenellated top. It is a masonry tower with corners reinforced with ashlar. There are two rectangular windows, one with stone lintels and another with a segmental arch. This tower was refurbished in 1881. The other tower has a round floor plan and is also made of masonry. Access to the first floor is through an ashlar doorway with a semicircular arch. It has rectangular windows and a crenellated top. This tower is higher than the previous one and was connected to the palace by a drawbridge at the height of the first floor. It has an Arabic inscription commemorating the year 1252.

