

REPORT IN ENGLISH

Cáceres 2031 at Heritage Nights 2026

Heritage Nights, held on **11 and 12 September**, represented an important opportunity for citizen participation, public engagement and European connection for Cáceres 2031. The bid played an active role in a programme that recorded **50,329 participations**, with 40 activities and 40 venues open to the public free of charge.

Citizen participation and listening. During the event, the Cáceres 2031 volunteer programme collected **706 surveys on culture and the European Capital of Culture**. The sample was intergenerational and strongly connected to the territory, with **90.2% of respondents living either in the city of Cáceres or elsewhere in the province**.

Awareness and expectations of Cáceres 2031. **88.7%** of respondents have some degree of awareness of Cáceres 2031. Cultural life received an average rating of **7.77 out of 10**, while the expected impact of Cáceres 2031 on cultural life reached **8.31 out of 10**. In addition, **81.6%** rated its expected impact at 7 or above.

Key survey findings. **88.7%** of respondents reported having participated in cultural activities in some way over the previous twelve months. Lack of time and information emerged among the main barriers to participation. Young people are perceived as the group least represented in the cultural offer, while **77.8%** believe culture can help address the territory's main challenges. Inclusion, social cohesion, education, employment and opportunities for young people feature prominently among the priorities identified.

Participation in Cáceres 2031 activities. *Ovejas Perdidas* ('Lost Sheep'), the bid's cultural mystery game, filled all **150 available places** and generated a waiting list. The **Transcultura sheep photocall attracted nearly 1,000 people**, providing a playful and accessible way to introduce residents and visitors to the bid's central concept. Cáceres 2031 was also present through projections, wellbeing areas, information activities, volunteering and a recording set.

European connections. Heritage Nights strengthened the international dimension of Cáceres 2031. **Évora, European Capital of Culture 2027**, brought heritage-related projects, musical performances and experiences connected to the landscapes and culture of the Alentejo to Cáceres. Its presence provided another opportunity to deepen the relationship between the two cities and develop future shared initiatives.

This connection with Portugal was complemented by the participation of the **Italian company Korsia**, which presented a dance performance at the Foro de los Balbos that revisited European folk traditions from a contemporary perspective.

Overall assessment. For Cáceres 2031, Heritage Nights brought together citizen participation, valuable information for the further development of the bid and stronger European connections. The 706 surveys provide a clearer picture of citizens' perceptions and expectations, while the response to the activities demonstrates public interest in actively taking part in the journey towards 2031.