

2



CASTILLA
LA-MAN
CHA
X

EL QUIXOTE



THE ADVENTURES NARRATED IN DON QUIXOTE by Miguel de Cervantes are known worldwide. With them La Mancha, the most extensive natural province of the region, acquired universal popularity. Its white windmills, its plains of infinite horizons, their old shops dotted with Indigo, its villages of wide streets, their sober hamlets, endless green vineyards, its unique lagoons, its people... expect the traveller to discover these places, living memory of some regions, **whose name will not fail to remember.**



How right was the writer Carlos Fuentes when he affirmed that no literary work combined words, imagination or action as Don Quixote. The adventures narrated by Cervantes are worldwide famous. With them La Mancha, the most extensive natural province of the region, acquired universal popularity. Its white windmills, its plains of infinite horizons, their old shops dotted with Indigo, its villages of wide streets, their sober hamlets, endless green vineyards, its unique lagoons await you. Save a copy of the novel in your luggage. It will be the best guide to enjoy this literary-turistic tour of Castilla-La Mancha.

The route of Don Quixote will take you to places expressly cited in the works of Cervantes, as well as other nearby areas which cultural, patrimonial, artistic or scenic attractions are worth to visit.

In the pages of Don Quixote, Cervantes wrote that walking one day through Toledo Alcaná, commercial district in the vicinity of the Cathedral, he bought a few folders written in Arabic characters in which were chronicled the ingenious adventures of a nobleman. The Capital of Castile-La Mancha is a good place to start the quixotic journey. Enjoy peacefully the art and culture that this city of World Heritage treasures. Then cross the Tajo river on one of its bridges and head to La Mancha.

Manchegan plains in La Solana.

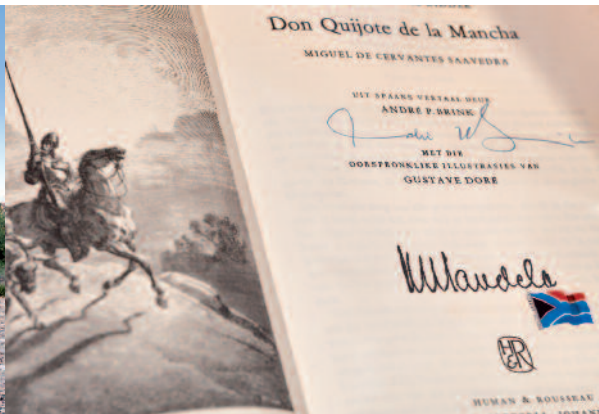


La Mancha of Don Quixote is land of windmills. Ingenious flour mills that, in his delirium, the nobleman confused with giants and charged his spare on the lance-rest against its batwing blades. You will recognise his unmistakable silhouette in numerous places. If you want to feel like the main character of the “atrocious and never imagined adventure” which the nobleman and his faithful Sancho lived, make a stop in Consuegra, Alcázar de San Juan, Mota del Cuervo or Campo de Criptana. Some mills in this last locality, bright illusion of whitewashed and ribboned Indigo façades, still conserve its machinery of the 16th century and you can watch them work.

We are very close to El Toboso. As we get closer, the tower of its parish church of San Antonio Abad will lead us to Dulcinea’s birthplace. Poblachón has a rich popular and stately architecture; its attractions include the Cervantes Museum, where there are more than five hundred editions of Don Quixote, and the House Museum of Dulcinea, recreation of a La Mancha mansion during the period of Cervantes.

La Mancha has the greatest vineyard of the world. A vineyard sea will accompany you throughout the journey and you will then see that such statement is not exaggerated. Arriving to Tomelloso, between its vines you will see surprising constructions made with overlapped stones without any mortar to join them. They are the unmistakable “bombos” small rural buildings where farmers keep the cattle and tool.

Bombo in Tomelloso / Quijote signed by Nelson Mandela in El Toboso / Plains in Consuegra.





Although different localities dispute the place in La Mancha where Don Quixote lived and Cervantes did not want to remember, in Argamasilla de Alba awaits you the Medrano Cave, where Miguel was imprisoned. It is said that, there he began writing the immortal novel. Also, the property hosts an extraordinary collection of works by the artist from Valdepeñas Gregorio Prieto.

CAVES AND TAVERN

Inside Montesinos Cave, in Ossa de Montiel, Don Quixote lived the most famous enchantment ever to be told in the history of our literature. Immerse in it and let yourself go through the magical spell from the wise Merlin. We are in the Lagunas de Ruidera (Ruidera lagoons), one of the most singular lacustrine ensembles of Spain. In them you can practice nautical sports and enjoy an authentic paradise. When you will leave, you will not forget the green colour of its waters. This Natural Park, together with Las Tablas de Daimiel and other wetlands located in villages as Villafranca de los Caballeros, Alcázar de San Juan, Pedro Muñoz, Quero, Villacañas or Mota del Cuervo, protected as Biosphere Reserve, are the treasure of Natural Heritage in La Mancha.

When the first night of his adventures came, Don Quixote headed with Rocinante (his horse) to one of the taverns near Lápice Harbour. It is one of those modest paradors, frequented by drovers and cart path on the way to Andalusian land, where the nobleman went armed.

And armed, the journey of Don Quixote takes us to Campos de Calatrava and Montiel. Migueltura, Peralvillo, Almodóvar del Campo, Tirteafuerta, El Viso del Marqués or Caracuel are places cited in Cervantes novel. There are also references of other places from Castile-La Mancha as Cuenca, Guadalajara, Sigüenza or La Alcarria.



While in these lands next to Sierra Morena, where hidalgo made wild penance, the stately Almagro awaits you, with its famed Corral of comedies and its beautiful square; Valdepeñas, immense winery whose wines were once kept in skins similar to the stabbed ones by Don Quixote; Villanueva de los Infantes, declared a historic-artistic place and where Quevedo lived his retirement; Almadén, which mining Park is considered World Heritage; Santa Cruz de Mudela, Malagon or Ciudad Real. In Manzanares awaits you its modern parador, with architectural traces of marked manchego flavour that will remind you of the main squares of Tembleque or Puerto Lapice.

With bread and wine the path is walked. Although Cervantes would tell us culinary hardships of the nobleman- more cow than ram, salad, *duelos y quebrantos* (duels and losses is a traditional dish made of scrambled eggs, chorizo and fat), lentils and some palomino- this journey to Don Quixote's land is an excellent chance to savour the rich gastronomy of La Mancha, generously cited in the pages of the novel. If in his ravings Don Quixote confused mills with giants, taverns with castles and flocks of sheep with armies, our restoring masters fantasise nowadays merging in their kitchens lamb or pig, hare, partridge, cod, cheeses, pickles, vegetables, vegetables, egg-plant, garlic, saffron, wines, oils, and oven or skillet sweets producing exquisite delicacies that nothing detract to the fabulous food served in those famous Weddings of Camacho.

Enjoy the journey and remember: the dawn would be... 🌄

Duel and loss / Virgen Sanctuary in Antigua de Villanueva de los Infantes / Montiel Castle.







**SOMEWHERE
IN YOUR LIFE**

www.turismocastillalamancha.es



Unión Europea

Fondo Europeo
de Desarrollo Regional
"Una manera de hacer Europa"



**IV CENTENARIO
DE CERVANTES**



Castilla-La Mancha