

Museums and Monuments

- [1] **Renaissance Hospital of Tavera (Duque of Lerma Museum).** It was founded by Cardinal Juan Tavera in 1541. Its façade of classic Italian style with padding stone gives access to a paired Renaissance courtyard with Dorian columns separated by a small central gallery, built by Alonso de Covarrubias. The founder is buried inside the chapel. Outstanding marble tomb by Berruguete. Its period hospital pharmacy is noteworthy. Many different works from famous painters are exhibited in the museum, such as El Greco, Jusepe Ribera, Zurbarán, Sánchez Coello, Caravaggio. The National Section of Nobility Archive is currently kept on the premises of the building. **(a3)**
- [2] **Mosque of Cristo de la Luz.** This 10th century building is preserved from times before the Christian Reconquest in 1085 by Alfonso VI. It has a square base with nine small, ribbed domes. It was turned into a Christian chapel in the 12th century. **(b3)**
- [3] **Alcázar. Army Museum.** Considered as one of the most symbolic buildings of palace architecture and the Spanish Renaissance. Conceived historically as a fortress, castle and Palace of Carlos V, its main façade is by the architect Alonso de Covarrubias. Nowadays, it houses the new Army Museum and the Regional Library of Castile-La Mancha. Remarkable collection of steel weapons. Uniforms and documents of the Spanish Army from 19th and 20th. **(c3)**
- [4] **Santa Cruz Museum.** The hospital was founded by Cardinal Pedro González de Mendoza with a Covarrubias design. Beautiful Plateresque doorway, coffered ceilings and roofs, the noble courtyard and the monumental staircase. It houses major archeology, fine arts, decorative arts, industrial arts collections and the Carranza’s Ceramic Collection. Notable are the 16th and 17th century Toledo School works, including paintings by El Greco and Luis Tristán, among others. **(c3)**
- [5] **Toledo’s Cathedral.** It was initially built in 1226 by King Fernando III “The Saint” and Archbishop Ximenez de Rada and finished in 1493. The main visit includes the **Mayor Sacristy** with El Greco’s masterpiece: El Expolio (the Disrobing of Christ) and The Serie of Apostles, the **Treasure Room** with the 16th c. Monstrance, the **Chapter House** and the **Choir**. **Main Chapel**, Cloister and Bell Tower are recommended. **(c3)**
- [6] **Church of Santo Tomé.** Built in the 14th century. Noteworthy is the magnificent square brick and edged stonework Mudejar tower. Its interior houses El Greco’s masterpiece, “The Burial of the Lord of Orgaz”. **(c2)**
- [7] **El Greco Museum.** Its building is a recreation of a 16th century Toledo house from the period of El Greco. It is set in the old Jewish quarter of Toledo. Exquisite selection of paintings by El Greco: the View and Plan of the City of Toledo, the Apostles, The Tears of Saint Peter, the portraits of Diego and Antonio de Covarrubias, nobles of the time, and also notable paintings by artists such as Luis Tristán, Carreño, Zurbarán and Murillo. **(c2)**
- [8] **The Sephardic Museum. (Synagogue of El Tránsito).** The museum is set up in the synagogue of El Tránsito. The museum shows the historical and geographical framework of the Jewish people in antiquity, traditions, beliefs and customs and the history of Jewish people in Spain from their arrival. This imposing synagogue was built in the mid 14th century under the patronage of Semuel ha-Levi, treasurer of King Pedro I. The main room is the Great Prayer Room, with a splendid tie-beam roof and profuse plasterwork decoration on the walls. Mudejar motifs in red, green, black and ochre are predominant in the interior decoration. The upper part contains the Women’s Gallery. The north courtyard displays a collection of tombstones with Hebrew inscriptions. The “Garden of the Memory”, a special Sephardic musical sound garden, is recommended. **(c2)**
- [9] **Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca.** From the early 13th century, it shows blends of Mudejar and Nazari styles. Noteworthy are its five naves divided by horseshoe arches over lime-painted octagonal columns with unusual Eastern-style honeycombed capitals of outstanding beauty. **(c1)**
- [10] **Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes.** It was founded by the Catholic Monarchs (Ferdinand and Isabella), in 15th century, who intended it to be their own pantheon. This 15th Franciscan monastery of Gothic style was designed by Juan Guas. Large display of decorative royal coats-of-arms. Mixtilinear and lancet arches in the two levels cloister. In 1808, the city was occupied by Napoleon’s troops, and the monastery was greatly damaged. The outer walls hold chains hanging as an offering for the Christian captives taken by the last Muslim king of Granada around 1492. **(c1)**
- [11] **Convent of Santo Domingo de Silos. “El Antiguo”.** An 11th century Cistercian convent reformed in the 16th century, popularly called “El Antiguo” (the Old). It was founded by King Alfonso VI after the conquest of Toledo. Original plans by Juan de Herrera, was totally rebuilt by the masterbuilder of the Cathedral, Nicolás de Vergara. Several rooms are open to the public: church, choir, old choir and antechoir. Interesting paintings, altarpieces, sculptures of wood, stone and wax, altar fronts, embroidery, furniture and documents are shown. It conserves three altarpieces by El Greco (1577-1579), and three original canvases by the Cretan painter. **(c2)**
- [12] **Museum of the Visigoth Councils and Culture. Church of San Román.** One of the oldest churches in all of Toledo, it was built in the 12th century in the typical style of the first Toledan Mudejars. It contains the Museum of the Visigothic Councils and Culture with interesting reproductions of votive crowns from the Guarrazar Treasure. It includes Visigothic remains and beautiful Romanesque wall paintings in the Mudejar church. **(c2)**
- [13] **Church of the Jesuits or San Ildefonso Church.** The church is located at a top part of the city, and its towers offer a spectacular view of Toledo’s roofs. This is a typical example of the Baroque style with a superb main façade. It was built around 1742. **(c2)**

- [14] **The San Marcos Castilla-La Mancha Cultural Centre.** It offers temporary major exhibitions. It was an old mozarabic church and a great temple of Toledo Baroque. Restored in 20th century by Ignacio Mendaro Corsini. **(c2)**
- [15] **Royal College of Noble Maidens.** Founded in 1551 by Cardenal Silíceo, Archbishop of Toledo, the building has ever since been co-managed by the Archbishopric and the Crown. Even if the relief by Juan Bautista Vázquez “el Viejo” is conserved over the main gate, the construction we see today dates from 18th century, partly designed by José Hernández Sierra from 1757 to 1768 and Ventura Rodríguez from 1775 to 1787. **(c2)**
- [16] **Convent of San Antonio de Padua.** This convent is situated in the former Palace of the Count of Ávalos. Renaissance style and notable for its Baroque altarpiece and the Cardinal Cisneros’ cutlery set. **(c2)**
- [17] **Royal Toledo Foundation. Victorio Macho Museum.** The Museum is located in Roca Tarpeya with views of an impressive ravine over the Tagus River. It is dedicated to the work of the sculptor Victorio Macho (Palencia, 1887-Toledo 1966), one of the best representatives of the realist trend before the Civil War. The museum houses some of the sculptures, drawings, sketches and notes of the artist. Beautiful views from the garden. **(c1)**
- [18] **Mosque of the Tornerias.** The 11th century mosque was built on Roman foundations. It comprises two levels and in the upper level you can find The Mosque with square base and three naves divided by arches. **(c3)**
- [19] **Bisagra Gate. (“Hinge”).** Extended and rebuilt in 1550 by Alonso de Covarrubias. It was envisioned as a grand triumphal arch dedicated to Emperor Carlos de Habsburgo (Charles of Hapsburg), grandson of Catholic Monarchs. Impressive imperial shield of arms with the two-headed eagle, and the insignia of the order of Toisón de Oro knighthood or Golden Fleece. It has a large entry arch flanked by stout semicircular towers. **(b2)**
- [20] **Gate of Alfonso VI.** Also referred as the Old Bisagra Gate it is of Muslim origin dating from the early 10th century. The construction is composed of three horseshoe arches, and is one of the most interesting examples of military and defensive architecture of its time. Its modern designation is in memory of the king who reconquered the city in 1085. **(b2)**
- [21] **Cambrón Gate.** Originally known as the Jew’s Gate it was rebuilt in the second half of the 16th century. It has double gates and four towers. Its name derives from the buckthorn bushes which grew nearby. **(c1)**

- [22] **San Martin Bridge.** Raised above five arches, dating from the 14th century, the construction of the San Martin bridge was promoted by Archbishop Tenorio. **(c1)**
- [23] **Cristo de la Vega Hermitage.** This chapel is built over the ancient Basilica of Santa Leocadia to house her remains. It was where the first Visigoth Councils of Toledo were held. The inside hosts the popular Cristo de la Vega which gives the legend A buen juez, mejor testigo, “a good judge will have an even better witness”, composed by the Romantic Spanish writer José Zorrilla. **(b1)**
- [24] **Puerta del Sol Gate.** Built mainly in the 14th century. It owes its present name to the paintings on the tympanum representing the sun and the moon. Beautiful example of Toledo’s Mudejar architecture. **(b3)**
- [25] **Alcántara Bridge.** Of Roman origin and rebuilt in Muslim and Christian times. It rests on two round arches, and supports the fortified gate tower which gives access to the alficen (Al-Hizan). **(c4)**
- [26] **Convent of Santa Isabel de los Reyes.** Convent founded in 1477 by Doña María Suárez de Toledo, also known as “Sor Maria the Poor”. The origin of this convent dates from a 14th century palace owned by the grandmother of King Fernando El Católico. It houses a Museum of Religious and Convent Art. **(d2)**

- [27] **Church of El Salvador (The Saviour).** Built on a top of an old mosque. It still preserves several Visigothic bas-reliefs in its tower. The inside contains Muslim horseshoe arches supported by Visigothic pillars and capitals, among which the most interesting is one including scenes that narrate the life of Christ. It houses a Visigothic pilaster with a representation of the New Testament and a minaret converted into a bell tower. **(c2)**

- [28] **Amador de los Ríos Roman Baths.** It currently houses the Consortium of Toledo Cultural Resources Management Centre. The Bath complex dates between 1st and 2nd century AD. **(c2)**

- [29] **School of Infantes. Tapestries, Garments and Goldsmithing Museum** Located in the old School of Infantes founded by Cardinal Silíceo in 16th century, it holds a collection of historical tapestries from Primatial Cathedral, often made with Rubens’ designs. An outstanding exhibition of goldsmithing and liturgical garments is also offered. **(d3)**

- [30] **Taller del Moro Museum:** It is situated in an old Mudejar palace of the 14th and 15th centuries. The name is due to the fact that, according to tradition, this place served as a workshop and warehouse of repairs for the Cathedral during the Middle Ages. **(c2)**

TOLEDO

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