



TOLEDO



THERE'S SO MUCH TO SEE AND FEEL!

Toledo and its province are a complete and particular showcase for your senses. The capital, one of the most attractive old towns in the world, is the hub of an environment rich in artistic and cultural heritage. Its villas and wetlands from La Mancha are a haven of peace where you can enjoy the Cervantine atmosphere. Its hills, mountains, forests, 'rañas', rivers and meadows are part of a natural environment of singular beauty. Its festivities, traditions and gastronomy are an invitation to live **the unequalled attractive of the lands of Toledo.**

ENDLESS TOLEDO... AND CAPITAL OF GASTRONOMY

By the end of the 11th Century the poet Yehuda ha Levi wrote: 'The city where I live is big, and its inhabitants are giants'. He was actually talking about Toledo, the place where Jewish, Muslims and Christians gave an example of cohabitation and tolerance.

Located on the top of a hill, protected by the Tagus River, Toledo still preserves that open-minded character. All civilizations that have been in the Iberian Peninsula have made of this setting an important one, enriching it with their culture and arts. Each generation gave it a bit more beauty. UNESCO understood it so in 1986 by declaring it a World Heritage Site.

Writer Julio Caro Baroja said that Toledo is a luxury that Spain has. A luxury at your fingertips.

Being home to more than a hundred monuments, its streets invite you to enjoy the joys of its Roman, Visigothic, Jewish, Muslim and Christian past. Listing so much beauty becomes a difficult task: the Prime Cathedral, San Juan de los Reyes, the Synagogues of Santa María La Blanca and El Tránsito, the old Hospitals of Tavera and Santa Cruz, the Mosque of El Cristo de la Luz, the Alcázar, the Gates of Bisagra, El Sol and El Cambrón, the Bridges of Alcántara and San Martín,...

Dare to enter each gate you see open; you will not know what surprises you will find. In the conventual churches and chapels you will find peace, calm and lots of art. This word has a proper name in Toledo: Domenikos Theotokopoulos, El Greco.



Catedral, Alcázar and Convento de San Gil.



Walk around town looking for his paintings. From the Cathedral to Tavera Hospital, from El Greco Museum to the Convent of Santo Domingo El Antiguo or from the Church of Santo Tomé to the Santa Cruz Museum. Get excited with paintings such as *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, *The Disrobing of Christ*, *View from Toledo* or the incredible *Oballe Blessed Virgin*. They are all in the Honour Roll of Spanish art of all times. If you are keen on knowing more paintings by the Cretan painter, visit the Sanctuary of the Caridad, in Illescas.

Toledo needs time and curiosity. You should not be in a hurry. Wander around its streets, huts and baileys. Get lost in its medieval layout and imagine how life was for those men and women who made this town glorious, and made its School of Translators a great one.

Walking on its cobbled streets, you can dream of bumping into Alfonso X the Wise, Isabel The Catholic, the Queen Juana of Castille, Garcilaso de la Vega, Carlos V, Juan de Padilla and María Pacheco, Lope de Vega, Cervantes, St. Teresa of Avila, Tirso de Molina, Galdón, Rilke, Doctor Marañón, Buñuel... The list of all those who have walked through its streets over the centuries its never-ending. Join them!

Jewish Quarter of Toledo / El Greco Museum.



Toledo offers you new attractions every day. The constant restoration of the old town is making visible its unknown heritage. Roman and Arab Baths, medieval tanks and subterranean caves are an attractive touristic offer today; do not hesitate to get to know it! The Pozo Amargo, the Virgin of Alfileritos, the Green Cross, the brook of la Degollada, the Three Arrows, The Cristo of the Cuchilladas, the Cristo de la Luz, the Cristo de la Vega,... Bécquer and Zorrilla skilfully recreated them. Ask for them and you will listen to imaginative stories that have been told by parents to children over generations. This is the way people from Toledo learn and tell their History.

Any time of the year is appropriate to visit Toledo, since each one of them has its own charms. But if you really want to live a truly unforgettable experience, come during the Corpus Christi.

Since the 14th Century this Eucharistic celebration has had a universal fame. Toledo's narrow streets are decorated with hangings and thousands of flowers and garlands, while several Manila shawls hang from the balconies. Over the weeks, a beautiful urban scenery is created for the Arfe Custody to walk by. It is a masterpiece of Gothic goldsmithing, holding a monstrance made of the first gold brought from America. The itinerary is made by a carpet of thyme and rosemary, taken from the famous houses of Toledo, the Cigarrales. All the society from Toledo takes part in the procession, from old guilds and brotherhoods, as well as the clergy and civil authorities.

During the Corpus Christi, a festivity declared to be of International Tourist Interest, Toledo offers a number of cultural, artistic and festivity activities. These are days of bustle and happiness, and also an opportunity to visit the numerous traditional courtyards, whose doors are open during these days.

Of a similar international consideration is Easter. Its processions walk by the narrow streets led by the sound of the drums and under the echo of the penitent's footsteps. Take advantage of this opportunity to visit cloistered convents and get to know those silent churches and chapels, as well as tasting the delicious sweets made in their workrooms.





Ruiz de Luna Museum in Talavera de la Reina.

In 2016, Toledo is the Spanish Capital of Gastronomy. From the simplicity and solvency of its roasts, hotpots, marinades, casseroles and sweets, the Toledan cuisine is committed to innovation and imagination. Do not miss it! This fusion between tradition and modernity has deserved the greatest praises and distinctions. And it should not be a surprise, since it is home to great wines, oils, cheese, hair feather game, sheep, cold meats, legumes and great agricultural produce.

The feast continues in its restaurants and hotels, many of which are set in old restored buildings, fusing archaeological remains with bold architectural solutions from our days. Some others, placed in cigarrales and settings close to the city, allow you to enjoy a magnificent sight of this millennial capital, which faces up to the 21st Century. Do not forget to try its delicious marzipan.

TALAVERA AND THE TAGUS

Toledo cannot be understood without the Tagus, and neither can its province. The river divides it in two almost identical halves. In its bank is also Talavera de la Reina.

Talavera, the old Roman Caesarobriga, is a commercial town with a cattle tradition. Its artistic heritage is wide, with a highlight in the Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Prado and the collegiate church of Santa María la Mayor. The former is located in the famous gardens where 'La Caprichosa', the bullring where Joselito died, is erected. In the latter rest the remains of Fernando de Rojas, who was the mayor of the town and author of 'La Celestina'. You can admire its impressive rose window, which provides greatness to the Plaza del Pan. Walking through the streets of Talavera you will arrive at the shores of the Tagus, where you can practise canoeing. Cross the river walking through any of its bridges; the shapes formed by the ones of el Viejo and el Hierro are unmistakable.

Gardens of El Prado in Talavera and Basílica of Nuestra Señora del Prado.



Main Square in Ocaña.

In the old convent of Agustinos Recoletos, the Museum Ruiz de Luna opens its doors, being a sanctuary for ceramic from Talavera, and sheltering pieces made between the 16th and 20th Centuries. The Ethnographic Museum, in the old Winery of San Jerónimo is a must in order to know the identity of this town and its region, whose maximum popular expression is demonstrated during the festivities of San Isidro, San Mateo or Las Mondas, when certain old pagan rites in honour of Ceres are recreated.

CASTLES, ROMANS, WETLANDS AND EL QUIXOTE

If you are fond of history, you will love to know its ancient castles. The shapes of their walls and fortified towers will guide the way: San Servando in Toledo, Almonacid, Peñas Negras in Mora, Consuegra, Guadalerzas in Los Yébenes, Orgaz, Peñaflor in Gálvez, San Martín of Montalbán, Guadarmur, Malpica del Tajo, Barcience, Maqueda, Escalona or Puñoenrostro in Seseña. After visiting them, you will feel intrigued with all the plots, revenges and challenges that happened there.

If you guide your tour to popular architecture, you cannot miss the main squares in Tembleque, Ocaña, La Puebla de Montalbán or Escalona, in whose porches takes place one of the most famous parts of the *Lazarillo de Tormes*. The white and proud windmills of Consuegra are also waiting for you. In Villacañas you will see silos, subterranean dwellings. Mountain buildings in the towns of the Montes de Toledo and Sierra de San Vicente. Villas in Orgaz, Yepes or Esquivias, a town with large Cervantine roots. And El Toboso, literary homeland of Dulcinea, is an example of traditionalism of La Mancha.

Castle of Escalona.





El Toboso / Santa María de Melque / Windmills in Consuegra.



The remains from the past waiting for you in the towns of Toledo are numerous. North to the province, in Carranque, you will find an Archaeological Park in which beautiful Roman mosaics stand out from the so-called Villa de Materno. Other sites of interest that you cannot miss are the Muslim town of Vascos, in Navalmoralejo; Guadamur, where the magnificent votive crowns from the Visigothic Kings were found or the necropolis of Malamonedá in Hontanar. Do not forget Santa María de Melque, in San Martín de Moltalbán, which is considered the best preserved Visigothic church in Spain.

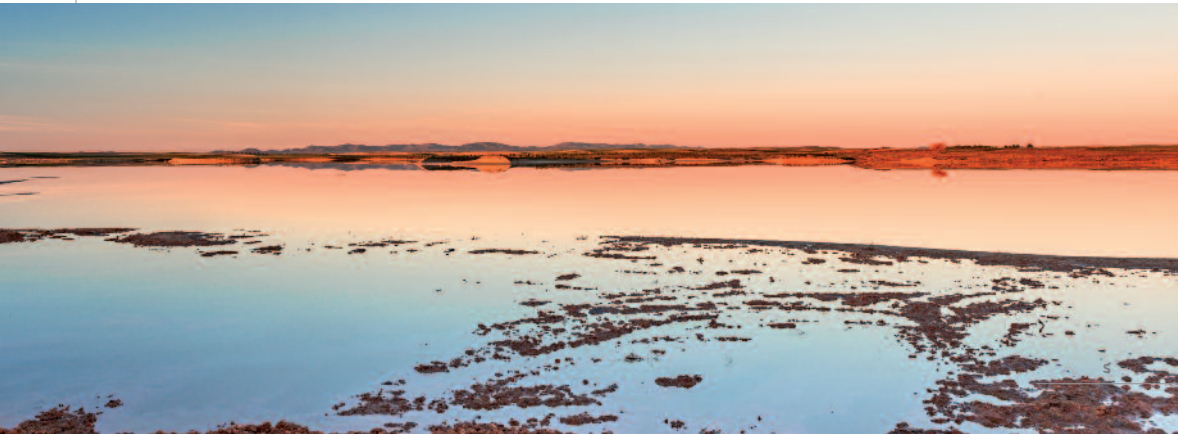
Mosaic in the Archaeological Park of Carranque.

Nature in Toledo is expressed in several and different ways. The National Park of Cabañeros is a paradise itself. You will visit a privileged Mediterranean ecosystem. Specimens of the most representative species of the Iberian fauna inhabit it: imperial eagle, black stork, black vulture, deer, roe deer and wild boar. During the first days of autumn, the powerful roaring of the bellowing can be heard all over the land. It is a generous gift from nature that you can also enjoy at the 'Risco de las Paradas', close to Navahermosa.

In the region of la Campana de Oropesa and Las Cuatro Villas you will feel the closeness to the mountains of Gredos and El Valle del Tiétar. La Jara is a rough land that goes up to the Puerto de San Vicente. In Sevilleja de La Jara, the Recovery Centre for Iberian birds of prey has its doors open, being the most important of the country. 'El Chorro' and 'Las Becerras' are landscapes of special beauty in Los Navalucillos, as it is the 'Garganta de las Lanchas' in Robledo del Mazo. If you are keen on cycle-tourism or hiking, the 'Vía Verde de la Jara' is a must. It goes through an old railway route, starting in Talavera, which aimed to end at Extremadura, but never got to be built.

A good option to get to know the Montes de Toledo is following the 'Ruta del Pastor Magdaleno', which starts in Ajofrín and ends in San Pablo de los Montes. Another long route, of 140 km, is waiting for you at the 'Senda de Viriato', which runs through paths and narrow passes in the Sierra de San Vicente.

Lakes of Villacañas / Ruta Verde de La Jara / El Chorro in the National Park of Cabañeros.



Leaving behind the national reserve of 'Los Quintos de Mora', in Los Yébenes, you will go deep into La Mancha. In its land runs the rivers Riánsares, Amarguillos, Cigüela and Algodor, creating wetlands of great interest in Villacañas, Quero, Miguel Esteban and Villafranca de los Caballeros. Here you will find popular and crowded lakes, known as 'the Beach of La Mancha'.

The pine forests of Almorox are well known as a place for leisure and relaxing. The sharp clay soil that the river Tagus has created in 'Las Barrancas', near Burujón, is really impressive. It is a privileged place to go bird-watching, and such an unreal spot is frequently home to advertising spots and cinema productions.

You cannot leave the province of Toledo without taking part in its festivities. Some of them are as unique as the festival light of San Antón, in Galvez, San Sebastián, in Madridejos, the Festivity of La Vaca in San Pablo de los Montes, the 'Encamisada' in Menasalbas, the Carnivals of El Toboso or Villafranca de los Caballeros, Easter in Ocaña, the 'Santísimo Cristo de la Viga' in Villacañas, the religious pilgrimage of 'La Milagra' in Navahermosa, the Corpus Christi in Camuñas or Lagartera, the horse races in honour of Santiago Apostle in El Carpio de Tajo, the Cristos de la Sala and La Vera Cruz in Bargas and Urda, the Festivity of El Olivo in Mora, the Sementera in Torrijos or the Festivity of La Rosa del Azafrán in Consuegra.

Before leaving the land of Toledo, leave some space in your luggage to pack some piece of its famous craftwork. Damascene works and swords from Toledo, ceramics from Talavera or El Puente del Arzobispo, embroideries from Lagartera and Oropesa, pottery from Villafranca de los Caballeros or Cuerva, leather from Las Ventas con Peñaguilera, works of forging from Guadamur, Alcaudete de la Jara, Noez, Consuegra or La Puebla Nueva, as well as excellent guitars from Esquivias.

Toledo, its towns and villages, its festivities, gastronomy and heritage are waiting for you. Delay your visit no more! 🍷





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