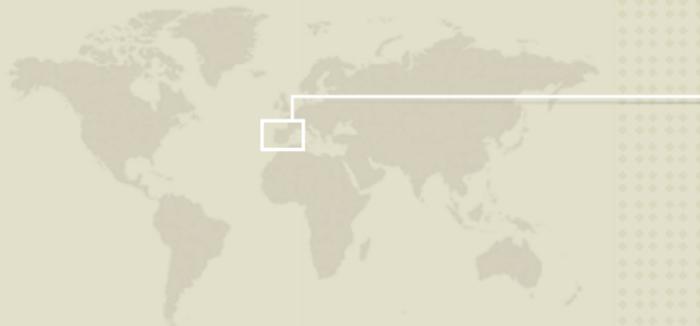


# TOLEDO

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

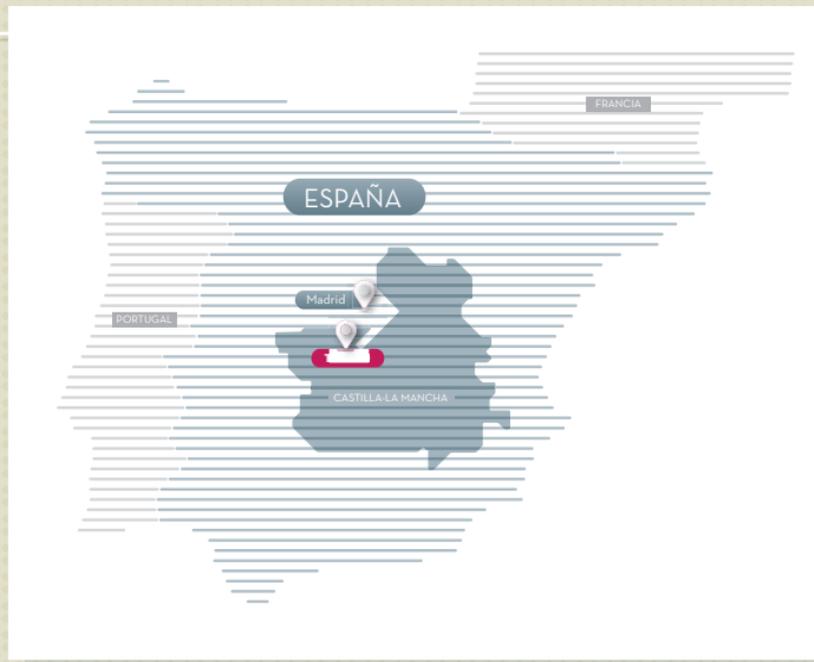


# WORLD HERITAGE SITE



**Toledo**, strategically located in the centre of the Iberian Peninsula, can be reached in less than an hour by road and in almost 30 minutes with the high speed train, AVE, from the Spanish capital, Madrid, and its international airport Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas.

A four-hour train ride on the **High Speed Train (AVE)** separate Toledo from Barcelona, and it will only take you three hours to get to cities like Córdoba and Seville. Toledo, **Castilla-La Mancha's capital, is connected to the world!**





## I N T R O

### O 1

The Historic City of Toledo was declared **World Heritage Site** by **UNESCO** on 28 November 1986. This ancient enclave lies on a huge granite rock and its streets expand across **twelve hills**, with the highest point in Toledo at the Alcázar, 548 metres above sea level, followed by the church of San Román at a height of 543 metres.

Crossing the city, we have **the Tagus** river, which encircles and protects this city full of personality. The Tagus is then added to the uniqueness and beauty of the singular heritage created by man.

**Toledo**, source of inspiration for great and universal painters, architects, sculptors, writers, film directors... always there for you, Toledo.

Holy and timeless city.

**Today, Toledo opens its gates to you!**

Welcome!

02 TOLEDO  
MAGNIFICENT





Heavenly, magnificent, timeless, monumental, always there, **TOLEDO**.

The beauty of this city lies on its walls and ceilings, masterfully sculpted by the best artists of each period, all of these have filled **Toledo** with moments and memories for all the eternity.

Coffered ceilings, rib vaults, multifoil arches, colourful tilework, capitals, stunning marble, exclusive wood and stonework from the Montes de Toledo region, brick walls, goldwork and the best mild steel. All these are some of the ingredients that make the ancient city of **TOLEDO** so great.





Visit Toledo's old suburbs, narrow streets, battlements, roofed alleys or cobertizos, convents, Renaissance hospitals, mosques, synagogues and monasteries. Enjoy its Gothic, Renaissance and the so typical Mudéjar art. **Such a display of ART**, not to mention its cathedral... such a magnificent cathedral.

Walk the city and discover its little secrets and hidden wonders.

+ INFO



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## A FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST



Come and experience the quiet nights at the light of the candles, hearing the prayers and the sound of drums and cog rattles mixed with the cornets. The typical shawls and capirotes (pointed hats that members of the religious brotherhoods wear during their penance) are some of the elements of the unique and austere Holy Week in Toledo. Come and listen to a miserere in absolute silence among hundreds of people who wait for the processional float of our redeeming Lord. You will hear the ring of the bells announcing the passing of the penitents, thrones and processional floats or pasos that cross the winding streets of Toledo, and while waiting for the next brotherhood to start its procession, pay attention, because you might hear a Castilian saeta breaking the silence. The night is the perfect moment to transmit the elegance, respect and austerity of this festival.

Do not forget to **visit the numerous convents** (many of which are open only during this week of the year), try

## HOLY WEEK <sup>0 3</sup> IN TOLEDO



their delicious **sweets**, and do not stop **wandering the streets** in search for the best spot to admire the processions from different angles. Do not be surprised if you spend the whole night awake, it's part of what the Holy Week means in Spain.



## 04 TOLEDO GASTRONOMY

Going for **tapas in Toledo** means having **carcamusas** (a typical meat stew with tomato sauce), **Manchego cheese**, and **DO wines** from La Mancha or Mérida. At around lunch time, the lively bars and terraces in the historic centre will offer you a nice range of tapas at any time of the year.



If you are looking for a proper lunch, what about an **olive oil** tasting from the Montes de Toledo region? Go for lunch to any of its underground restaurants, located in old cellars, which combine high-end cuisine with tradition. Toledo's **restaurants are full of heritage**. Come and enjoy Toledo's cuisine at its fullest! At dinner time, you will have several options, from the traditional and typical **cigarrales**, traditional recreational mansions at the edge of the Tagus river with historical gardens and terraces; to





the wide range of bars and gastropubs that spread out across the historic centre. As a dessert, do not forget to have a **marzipan** delicacy.

Go on a guided tour in the late evening and travel through history to the times where oil lamps and sword-fighters filled the streets.

To round off your gastronomical experience, what about a cocktail in one of Toledo's rooftop bars?

**This is what a true night in Toledo looks like!**







## 05 TOLEDO WITH FAMILY

Go on a quest to find the coats of arms belonging to noble families, look for sculptures, historical plates and carvings. Learn about Toledo's cobertizos, find out why the cathedral's biggest bell is called "**campana gorda**" (the fat bell) or how many **monumental gates the wall** has. Do not miss any detail since history has left its clues in the city for you to explore.

Keep on looking... El Greco's son, do you know which **masterpiece** is he featured on? Do you know what type of eagle is represented in the **coat of arms of the city**? Why is the **calle Alfileritos** so popular?

Would you like to try the longest urban zip line in Europe crossing the river next to one of its **historical bridges**? Or perhaps you prefer to follow the **traces of Sefarad** by finding the many little tiles dotted across the Jewish quarter. What is it going to be?



A family of five is taking a selfie in front of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The father is holding a selfie stick with a camera attached, and the family members are smiling and looking towards the camera. The cathedral's intricate stonework and tall spire are visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

Have you already found the treasure?  
If not, you need to keep on searching until  
you discover the city's gems.

# HAVING FUN IN TOLEDO 06



Toledo gives you the opportunity to go shopping around the traditional shops in the historic centre or **go for tapas** in many of the Toledo's rooftop bars with views. The city also offers **guided theme tours** to discover its magical side. Or perhaps head to one of its historical lookout points to enjoy a different autumn or spring sunset.

**Do not stop wandering** through the streets and discover the hidden spots and squares of the city. Among other activities, Toledo also offers the zip line next to the historical bridge of San Martín, or its world famous viewpoint where the sightseeing bus or train can take you in order to have one last shot of the city.

**ARE YOU UP TO ALL THIS AND MORE?**



07 NIGHT TIME  
IN TOLEDO





What can we say about Toledo at night? Watching the moon from el Valle in the southern part of the city is just amazing or from any other viewpoint, historical bridge or rooftop. Go beyond and discover the unknown Toledo with its caves and cellars, all full of legends featuring noble ladies and witches. Go on a night tour to discover magical tales and stories narrated by the local professional guides who know each corner of the street maze the city is. And what about starting night time in Toledo with some tapas in the evening? It is special to go out and admire how each monument is illuminated at nightfall, from the Alcázar, the cathedral, the Jesuit church of Saint Ildefonso, the monastery of San Juan de los Reyes, the city walls, the tower of Santo Tomé church to the convent of San Gil, known in the city as los gilitos.



While walking alone in the quiet of the night, you will cross the **roofed alleys** and the **convent's quarter** all the way down until the **Jewish quarter**. Now it's time to experience the city's nightlife. Head to **Zocodover square, Alfileritos or San Vicente streets** to enjoy what Toledo's nightlife has to offer: **live music, lively bars, flamenco shows, cocktails on rooftop bars with views over the city rooftops**; and all this without even having to leave the historic centre. However, the night is not over, as the cigarrales (recreational mansions located in the southern part of the city crossing the Tagus river which overlook the city) offer you the last opportunity for some drinks in the moonlight, get ready to hear the stories the cigarrales have for you.



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# 08 CORPUS CHRISTI IN TOLEDO

## FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST



Sunshine, flowers, boxwood garlands, the fresh smell of thyme, lavender and rosemary... it's Corpus Christi! A month before the great festive week in Toledo, during the celebration of the Fest of Corpus Christi, the historic centre is covered with the famous awning or "heaven" as if it were a canopy. The Blessed Sacrament displayed in the **monstrance by Enrique de Arfe** (16th century) awaits patiently inside de cathedral. Soon it will be Thursday, the brightest day in the year, that Thursday after Trinity Sunday when the city gleams even more than the sun itself. **Toledo's typical patios** are also beautifully decorated and full of colours, predominantly a palette of greens of all kind.





On the key day, you will see the **procession of the Blessed Sacrament displayed in the stunning monstrance**. Another of the highlights of the day is the outer walls of the cathedral that are covered with Flemish tapestries from the 17th century. The city is celebrating one of its most important festivals. The streets are full of joy and such is the beauty of its colourful street decorations. Come and enjoy this unique and special atmosphere!

At 11 am, as every year, the **monstrance** will be taken out through the Level Portal, Puerta Llana in Spanish, to be displayed in a procession through the streets of Toledo, always covered by the awning symbolising Jerusalem's heaven and followed by the different religious brotherhoods, each one dressed with their colourful and picturesque capes, habits or dress uniforms. As the procession continues, the monstrance is covered by a **rain of petals** falling from Toledo's **balconies**, packed with locals and tourists. A complete celebration for this city and a festival to **delight your senses**.





# 09 TOLEDO'S HERITAGE NATURAL

There's nothing like putting on a pair of walking shoes and your most comfortable clothes to go out for a walk or run around Senda Ecológica (ecology path) next to the **Tagus river**, or perhaps for those willing to push themselves a bit more, go for a **walk around the valley** and you will enjoy breath-taking viewpoints, historical cigarrales and little chapels. Move those legs and make your heart beat while having a **complete panoramic view** of the city! Pay attention, though, you may bump into the statue of the famous cyclist **Federico Martín Bahamontes**, known as "the eagle from Toledo". He was the first Spaniard to win the Tour de France back in 1959. By the way, the statue is located in one of the most beautiful looking points in the city, do not miss it! Take out your camera and... click!





וְצִדְקָתָם יַעֲקֹב אֵת עֵשָׂי תִירָמֵם

# 10 TOLEDO HANDCRAFTED

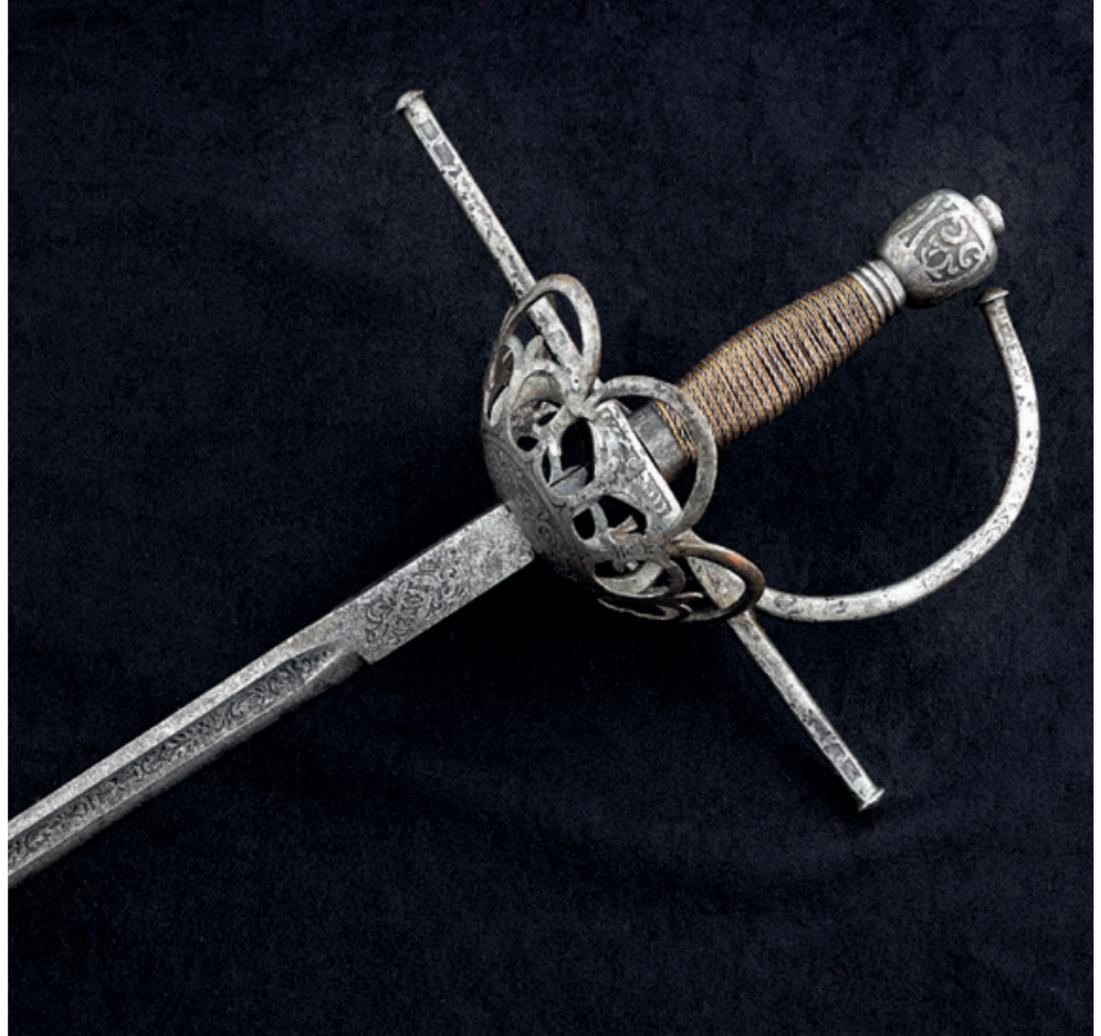
**Damascene ware, sword-making** and **marzipan** are the three elements that identify this ancient city.



The crowded **calle Comercio** (commonly known as Broad street by locals) and the following narrow streets leading to the Jewish quarter are full of little shops that display unique **damascened works** characteristic of Toledo for all pockets and tastes. Damascening is the name of a technique in which a skilled **craftsman** inlays gold and silver into a darkly oxidised background using a burin. Make sure you do not miss witnessing the gifted craftsmen's hands at work!



The admired **swords** of Toledo have witnessed many historical events in the hands of kings and warriors. Blades that were engraved with timeless phrases such as *no me saques sin razón - ni me envaines sin honor* whose translation would be “unsheathe me not without reason - sheathe me not without honour”. It is said their quality is due to the water of the **Tagus**. Its fame has made them the quintessential city ambassador of Toledo around the world thanks to the expertise of the master swordsmiths.







## 11 DISCOVERING TOLEDO WITH...



Who would not like to go for a walk and discover Toledo with **El Greco, Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint John of the Cross, Garcilaso de la Vega, Cervantes, Bécquer** or the so-called “**Order of Toledo**”? You’re watching the same skies once contemplated by these timeless figures, stepping on the same streets they once wandered. Come to Toledo and discover the city’s identical tones and colours in autumn, spring, winter or summer in the company of such distinguished figures. Observe their works in the original settings they were created for or inspired by; read again and again their books; or perhaps just think about these artists and how they, like you now, walked the streets of Toledo.

**CREATE your own experience in the city!**



TOLEDO  
OUTSIDE THE WALLS

12





There are two elements that define Toledo, one is **the Tagus river** that surrounds and protects the city, and the other is **its walls**, with its many **monumental gates: king Alfonso's VI Gate** (former Bisagra Gate), the **New Bisagra Gate** (Bab Sagra Gate), the **Cambrón Gate** (or Jewish Gate), **Doce Cantos Gate**, **Valmardón** (from Arabic Bab al-Mardum) Gate, **Sol Gate** and **Alarcones Gate**. Finally, to complete the defensive enclosure we cannot forget the two **historical bridges, Alcántara and San Martín Bridges**, both of which are protected by defensive towers.



There is more to Toledo than just the historic centre. Let's leave the walls behind! The **Renaissance hospital of Saint John the Baptist**, also known as **Tavera Hospital** or the Outer Hospital cannot be missed if you visit the city. Nor should the remains of the **Roman circus** be forgotten. It was said to have had a capacity of 13,000 attendees.

You will find the remains in the **Escolar Park**.

Another important park, located next to Bisagra Gate, is **La Vega** where both kids and adults spend the spring and summer evenings. Sit down and have a cold glass of horchata, tiger nut milk drink, or iced lemon drink accompanied

by the typical homemade crisps and some **olives and pickles**. Resting on those terraces will make you feel in heaven and will recharge your batteries to keep on visiting the city.

If you like modern architecture, do not miss the **modern escalators** located next to La Granja as an example of a modern touch in a mediaeval city. The **City Archive**, and the **Railway Station in Neo-Mudéjar style** are also worth mentioning. However, that's not all... You still have lots of places to visit in Toledo, so you might have to come back soon!

Toledo will be always waiting for you!  
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Ciudad histórica de Toledo  
Inscrita en la lista  
del Patrimonio Mundial  
en 1986



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