INTRODUCTION

WORLD HERITAGE CITIES OF SPAIN

Alcalá de Henares 4
Ávila 6
Baeza 8
Cáceres 10
Córdoba 12
Cuenca 14
Ibiza/Eivissa 16
Mérida 18
Salamanca 20
San Cristóbal de La Laguna 22
Santiago de Compostela 24
Segovia 24
Tarragona 28
Toledo 30
Úbeda 32

THEMED ROUTES

Conferences 36
World Heritage Cities and the Spanish Language 40
Modern and Contemporary Architecture 42
Natural areas 44
Sephardic Heritage 46
Roman Hispania 50
Islamic Legacy 52
Religious Tourism 54
Renaissance Cities 58
Olive Oil Tourism 60
Nautical Tourism 62
Active Tourism 64
Golf 66

USEFUL INFORMATION 68

CITIES IN SPAIN DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY UNESCO

REINVENTED CITIES

Spain has the privilege of being among the countries with the largest number of registrations in UNESCO’s World Heritage list. The World Heritage Cities of Spain Group began joining the forces of the cities involved in 1993, to create a not-for-profit association with the purpose of acting together to protect the historical and cultural heritage of those cities: Alcalá de Henares, Ávila, Baeza, Cáceres, Córdoba, Cuenca, Ibiza, Mérida, Salamanca, San Cristóbal de la Laguna, Santiago de Compostela, Segovia, Tarragona, Toledo and Úbeda. These fifteen cities offer an extraordinary legacy, as well as modern spaces with renewed infrastructures to enhance their monumental character and make them closer to their citizens. They are reinvented cities, especially designed to live the adventure of history. Punic, Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Jewish, Arabs, Christians... all those different civilisations and cultures that have dominated the peninsula and its islands over the centuries, have left their traces in these cities with their architecture and history. This legacy can be followed around the country in those traces, via the themed routes designed by the World Heritage Cities of Spain Group.

At the same time, the touristic, sports and social resources of each city give the visitor the possibility of combining the visit to their historical centres with many other entertainment and sports activities, with visits to lush natural areas. Furthermore, one can attend congresses and conventions, enjoy some of their most modern architectural feats or taste some of their many, diverse gastronomic features.
CITIES

ALCALÁ DE HENARES, ÁVILA, BAEZA, CÁCERES, CÓRDOBA, CUENCA, IBIZA / EIVISSA, MÉRIDA, SALAMANCA, SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SEGOVIA, TARRAGONA, TOLEDO AND ÚBEDA.
Alcalá de Henares was the first city to be built as a university site and was considered as an adapted version of the “City of God”. The city became a model for other education centres in Europe and America, as its boundaries provided shelter for the wise man, feeding their creativity and protecting them so that Spanish literature could be defined and enriched. In 1547 Alcalá gave birth to the most celebrated narrator in Spanish literature, Miguel de Cervantes, who was born less than half a century after the cardinal Cisneros founded the university.

The city transformed from the ancient Roman town of Complutum, to the Muslim Alcalá and later to a mixed enclave in the Middle Ages. This is an example of Muslim, Jewish and Christian cohabitation which experienced an artistic and cultural explosion in the 16th and 17th centuries. This strong trace of heritage can be seen in every corner of the city, as the spirit of the university not only shaped people’s conscience, but completely defined the city’s development.

The limestone façade of the university, which is a landmark from the Renaissance of Spain, the courtyards of Santo Tomás de Villanueva, Filósofos and Trilingüe, San Ildefonso chapel, which houses the tomb of Cisneros, and the Paraninfo lecture hall, which has a Mudéjar coffered ceiling, all compose an unforgettable setting. By walking through the city’s streets and parks and entering its churches and buildings you can follow the same steps taken by the great thinkers in search of inspiration like Juan de la Cruz, Fray Luis de León, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, Francisco de Quevedo and Cervantes.

The city treasures its abundant and valuable heritage; with medieval echoes around the Plaza de los Santos Niños, the main cathedral and the fourteenth-century walls. The city’s history runs deep in the Plaza de Cervantes, the epicentre of the city, in the arcades of the Calle Mayor, in the Casa de los Lizana, in the Colegio de Mínimos, the present Faculty of Economics and in the Palacio de los Arzobispos (Archbishops Palace) in Toledo. It is here where Christopher Columbus first told the Catholic Monarchs his plan to reach the Indies by sailing in a straight line, six years prior to disembarking in the New World. This is one of many dreams that were conceived in Alcalá.

**DON’T MISS:**
- University
- Casa de Cervantes Museum
- Comedy theatre
- Complutum / Casa de Hyppolitus
- Los Universos de Cervantes Interpretation Centre
- Semana Cervantina (Cervantes Week) and Güijote Market (month of October)
- Easter Week in Alcalá
- Don Juan in Alcalá (11th November)
- Cervantes Award Ceremony, Abril de Cervantes (23rd April)
- Festival de Clásicos (month of June)
Due to its exceptional condition, the medieval wall of Ávila is an extraordinary monument, which is unique in Europe. The stone wall encloses a historic city which has expanded within its boundaries, scattered with churches, convents and palaces. Losing yourself in the streets allows you to get a taste of medieval life in the 21st century.

Ávila was reborn after the reconquista, when it was rebuilt by the knights, who considered it as an impregnable fort. The twelve-century wall dominates the landscape and from a distance it makes those who see it for the first time shudder with fear, due to its 88 crenelated towers, and its solid structure of 2500 metres in perimeter, 12 metres in height and 3 in thickness.

Within the walls of the city you will find a labyrinth of small streets, quiet plazas, churches, palaces and stony passages, which reveal its interesting past. The fighting spirit which rebuilt Ávila is well represented in the cathedral, which was started in the 12th century and stands with the solidity of a fortress. Other beautiful religious buildings are nearby, such as the Santo Tomás monastery, and the Romanesque churches of San Vicente, San Pedro and San Andrés.

However, Ávila also has a mystic past. Saint Teresa occupies the most important pages in the city’s history books, and even today, several convents of runs follow her teaching. The sixteenth-century La Encarnación monastery, San José monastery, which has a version of the cell where Teresa had her revelations, the Santa Teresa convent and the Museo Teresiano (Santa Teresa Museum) form part of the heritage.

The legacy of the soldiers is also an essential part of Ávila’s heritage. The palace of Los Dávila stands out as a symbol of nobility and power, and is found against the city’s wall. The palace is accompanied by other noble buildings, such as the Torreón de los Guzmanes (Los Guzmanes tower), and the palaces of de Los Marqueses Velada, Los Verdugo, Las Deanes and Los Águila.

ÁVILA

THE WALL AND ITS TOWERS CREATE AN UNUSUAL LANDSCAPE, PROTECTING THIS MYSTIC AND WARLIKE CITY.
Baeza, declared WORLD HERITAGE CITY since 2003, is located in the centre of the province of Jaen, not far from the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas Natural Park. A settlement since forgotten times, the proof of which is in the archaeological sites found in the Cerro de Alcázar, that show its evolution from prehistory through Iberian, Roman and Muslim times.

Baeza, however, did not reach its maximum architectural and cultural apogee until the 16th century, during the Renaissance, a legacy that is still palpable nowadays. That was when its University was created and, around it, many new religious institutions appeared, as well as a great urge to erect civil buildings. There was also the presence of all kinds of crucial personalities, noblemen, clergy, wisemen and saints, architects, masons, painters and sculptors; physicians, musicians and poets who would turn it into one of the main cities in the south of Spain, and it was going to keep this position for a few centuries thereafter.

The city spreads its monumental splendour before the visitor’s eyes. A walk through Baeza streets is a spectacular architectural masterclass. From Isabelline Gothic to Renaissance, many styles are well represented here, with some exceptionally beautiful specimens, such as the Palacio de Jabalquinto palace and the Natividad cathedral. In addition to this, the city hides jewels such as the church of Santa Cruz, the only Romanesque temple in High Andalusia, and even interesting Iberian artefacts, such as the sculpture that crowns the Fuente de los Leones fountain.

Still, to discover the real Baeza, the best thing to do is to walk the streets that poet Antonio Machado walked in his time, and let them bring us back to the past while gazing at the mansions, the stately houses, the streets and their hidden corners.

DON’T MISS:

• Easter Week, declared of National Tourist Interest.
• The Corpus Christi festival (June), which is very popular in Baeza.
• Feria de Agosto festival, held to honour Baeza’s Patron Saint, Our Lady of Alcázar.
• Cruces de Mayo festival (first week end in May), set in the old town. The festival maintains the old tradition of erecting shrines and crosses.
• The Semana Machadiana festival (17th to 23rd of February), organised to honour the memory of poet Antonio Machado.
• Celebration of the Anniversary of the city as World Heritage Site.
• UNIA Escena Baeza (Theatre festival, 7th to 18th of July)
• Summer courses of the Universidad Internacional de Andalucía.
• Festival del Cómic Europeo de Úbeda y Baeza (European Comic Festival of Úbeda and Baeza), (17th to 20th of October)
• Oño Cultural Flamenco (Flamenco Cultural Autumn) (October and November)
• Premio Internacional de Poesía Antonio Machado (Antonio Machado International Poetry Contest). (February to November 2014)
• Festival de música Antigua de Úbeda y Baeza (Úbeda and Baeza Ancient Music Festival). During December.

ITS STREETS, ITS CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS ARE A TRUE CATALOGUE OF SPANISH RENAISSANCE. A BEAUTIFUL, EDUCATED AND WELCOMING CITY.
Declared as the third World Heritage City and the first in Spain, Cáceres symbolises a noble city par excellence in the medieval world. Here you can enjoy a walk along its streets, where the colour of the stone is in contrast with the blue sky.

The abundance of palaces and the heraldic shields which identify them, the plazas and churches make up an intriguing landscape which takes you back to historic times. Nowadays, the city’s epicentre is the Plaza Mayor, which was first built in 1229 and has been the venue for fairs, knight jousting events, processions, religious ceremonies, children’s events, as well as a romantic spot for lovers. The plaza is situated outside the city’s walls and is presided by the Ayuntamiento (Town hall). It is surrounded by porticoed houses - which have been converted into taverns and restaurants - as well as monuments like the Bujaco and Los Púlpitos towers and the Foro de los Balbos, the Arco de la Estrella and the Ermita de la Paz.

From here the path begins to the most noble part of Cáceres, starting with the co-cathedral of Santa María, which is essentially Gothic, but has Romanesque and Renaissance elements. It is also the lasting resting place for many noblemen, whose importance can be seen by the proximity of their tombs to the high altar. These men were the old proprietors of the palaces surrounding the church, which are a testimony to the variety of designs and architectural elements conceived in this period.

The church of San Mateo, whose tower stands over the stately houses, can be found almost at the top of the old quarter. A short distance away from its plateresque facade there is another collection of palaces, which crown an intriguing and captivating city.

DON’T MISS:
- Old Town of Cáceres
- Old and New Jewish Quarters of Cáceres
- Virgen de la Montaña Sanctuary
- Open-air Sculpture Exhibition in El Príncipe Park
- Fundación Mercedes Calles
- Fundación Helga de Alvear
- Rodeo Park
- Vostell-Malpartida Museum

CÁCERES

THE CITY’S RICH STONE ARCHITECTURE SHAPES ITS PEOPLE’S OPEN AND FRIENDLY CHARACTER.
Córdoba smells of fresh geraniums and orange blossom, with a taste of spices and secret kisses behind the grilles, a sound of church bells, laughter and the murmur of water; a glimpse of the Roman, Jewish, Arabic and Christian traces in its monuments, and with a warm touch of silk, like skin of the women sketched by Julio Romero de Torres.

The city’s two-thousand-year history creates a wave of sensations. Crossing the Guadalquivir over the sixteen arches of the Puente Romano (roman bridge), passing the Torre de la Calahorra and then crossing the Puerta del Puente is a great experience to begin the visit.

However, Córdoba’s undoubted gem is the monument which justifies a visit to the city, the Mezquita-Catedral (Cathedral-Mosque). It is here where the Punics, Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths all prayed. A modest basilica was first built on its foundations, which was replaced with the Mosque by the Umayyad Caliphate and reconverted into a cathedral after the reconquista.

It was an integrating transition, which did not destroy its exceptional architecture of Islamic ornamentation and rows of columns. Even its belfry, at the top of the tower which looks over Córdoba, was erected at the point where the old Islamic minaret finished.

Not far way, you can discover the essence of Córdoba in the Jewish quarter, whose narrow winding streets lead to the synagogue, the Alcázar of the Christian Kings, the Hospital of San Sebastián and the Renaissance Episcopal palace.

In the outskirts, we find the Medina Azahara, the ruins of the legendary palace that Abderramán III built in the 10th century. According to legend, the palace’s gardens were planted with almond trees with the idea that when they flowered, his favourite Azahara would resemble the snowy summits of his native Granada.

CÓRDOBA


DON’T MISS:
- Concurso Popular de Cruces and Festival de los patios Cordobeses, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2012 (May)
- Noche Blanca del Flamenco and Festival Internacional de Música Sefardí (June)
- Festival Internacional de la Guitarra (July)
- The Passion and Spirit of the Horse Equestrian Show (all year round)
- Green Triangle: Botanical Gardens, Zoo and Ciudad de los Niños (all year round)
- Four cultures, four temples: Roman Temple, Synagogue, Mosque and Cathedral (all year round)
- Archaeological Heritage of Madinat Al-Zahra (all year round)
- El Alma de Córdoba - Night visit of the cathedral and old mosque (all year round)
- Córdoba, la Luz de las Culturas - Water, light and sound spectacle in the Alcázar de Córdoba (all year round)
- Mercado Victoria, Centro Cultural Culinario (all year round)
The streets in the historic centre of Cuenca wind around a steep hill in harmony with the landscape, forming an open fortress with two rivers weaving around which isolate and protect it.

This city invites the traveller to walk around its quarters, to search through its streets for viewpoints to admire the beauty of the Huécar and Júcar gorges, and to cross the narrow Puente de San Pablo, which connects it to a desolate convent, which is now the Parador. From here you can enjoy the best panoramic view of the city and Casas Colgadas (hanging houses), whose architecture defies gravity.

The rich and unexpected contemporary spirit of Cuenca is conferred by Museum of Spanish Abstract Art, which houses one of the most important avant-garde collections in the country from the 20th century, as well as other symbolic ventures like the Antonio Pérez Foundation.

A short distance away we find; the Gothic cathedral, with plateresque and Renaissance-style domes and rejería (made from iron) and modern glass doors, the Palacio Episcopal (Episcopal Palace), which encloses the intriguing Diocesan Museum, and the Plaza Mayor, with its pottery shops.

The wonders of Cuenca don’t finish there. There is still the Torre de Mangana (Mangana Tower), which has a clock to mark the passing of the seasons, and the remains of the Arab fortress, as well as the Jewish quarter and the old quarter of Santa María. The Plaza de la Merced must not be missed, with its church, convent and Seminario de San Julián, as well as the quarters of El Alcázar, El Retiro, El Salvador and La Trinidad, leading on to Tiradores and the lower part of the city.

Finally, we must go back the same way and return uphill to the Barrio del Castillo, to appreciate its stone streets, old houses, churches and convents. The unforgettable views from the viewpoints of Camilo José Cela, on the Ronda del Júcar, Florencio Cañas and Huécar, make you appreciate the perfect union between labour of man and power of nature.

DON’T MISS:
- Casas Colgadas
- Spanish Abstract Art Museum
- Cathedral
- The Gorges of the Júcar and Huécar Rivers
- Religious Music Week
- San Miguel Church
- San Pablo Convent
- PhotoEspaña
- Antonio Pérez Foundation
- Puente San Pablo

CUENCA

1. HUÉCAR GORGE
2. JÚCAR GORGE
3. RONDA DE JULIÁN ROMERO
4. CASAS COLGADAS
5. CATHEDRAL

This historic city comprises avant-garde architecture, nature and street-life and reality and legend.
A legendary port for privateers, Ibiza/Eivissa town can be seen from a distance thanks to its colossal sixteenth-century walls enclose a labyrinthian district which is full of life. Bastions, small whitewashed houses, alleyways, churches and viewpoints set the stage for a universal and cosmopolitan environment, which is unique to the world.

The Renaissance fortress of Dalt Vila, together with those of Malta and Terceira Island in the Azores, represents one of the best preserved examples of bastion fortification. It was used by Felipe II as a model for the fortresses which would later be built in Cartagena de Indias and Puerto Rico. Its bastions, which are connected by high and solid stretches of wall, form a star-shaped structure with seven arrowheads on the ends. All of them are named after saints and allow you to see spectacular views of the city, the port, some of the beaches and the neighbouring island of Formentera. The historic enclosure also holds an open-air exhibition which informs the visitor about the island’s long history.

Aiboshim, the city of Bes, was founded by the Phoenicians in the 7th century B.C. After the destruction of Carthage, the Romans took the city and then the Vandals and the Byzantines. Later it formed part of the Al-Andalus, until the Catalans reconquered it in the 13th century, making it Christian land. The trace of all of these cultures lives on today in Ibiza/Eivissa and in its walls, built on stretches of the often visible defence which was built by previous civilizations.

DON’T MISS:
• A walk through the paved streets of Dalt Vila
• Sea-life: spectacular sea beds
• Museums: From archaeology to contemporary art
• Medieval Ibiza/Eivissa (second weekend in May)
• International Jazz Festival (July)
• Classical Concerts [Symphony Orchestra, Wind Band and Ciudad de Ibiza/Eivissa Choir]
• Local Holidays (5th and 8th August)
• A walk around the historic quarter of La Marina: Adlib fashion, crafts and local customs
• Gastronomy of Ibiza/Eivissa
• Nature walks

The charming fortified enclosure goes with the small streets around the port in the quarters of La Marina and Sa Penya, scattered with grocer’s shops and bars, along with art galleries, exclusive clothes shops and lively terraces forming this exotic hotchpotch, which is so characteristic of the island.

Almost in the shadow of the walls, we find the Necrópolis de Puig des Molins, which has several hypogeas and treasure, dating back from the Phoenicians to the Islamists, which is exhibited in the Archaeological Museum, next to the cathedral in the upper part of Dalt Vila. The walls and the old “city of the dead” form part of the collection of items declared as a World Heritage Site, along with the Phoenician Sa Caleta in the town of Sant Josep, and the posidonia meadows which are between Ibiza/Eivissa and Formentera in the Ses Salines Nature Reserve. These are an important source of oxygen for the Mediterranean, a paradise for divers and the origin of transparent waters and the sandy spots of the beaches.
Augusta Emerita was the precursor of the Romanisation of the most western part of Hispania, administratively constituted as the province of Lusitania. It was founded during the first years of the Empire of Augustus, when the Roman civilisation had fully developed, overcoming the limits imposed by the old Republic. The city rose as a driving force of innovations that were previously unknown in these territories, innovations in civil and military engineering. The city has one of the longest and best conserved Roman bridges, and it maintains a lot of stretches of the wall which enclosed and ennobled it, as well as dams and waters pipes.

In terms of political innovations, Merida has historic areas where the curia and senate were once located, and basilicas and colossal churches, which were used for the official cults of the empire. In terms of religious innovations, religions from all over the empire were established, with each one leaving its stamp on the city [such as churches, votive and cult objects, tombs]. Ludic innovations can be clearly seen in the best preserved buildings on the peninsula for hosting spectacles, like the hippodrome, the theatre and the amphitheatre. Town planning innovations are visible in the comfort of the city, with well-planned streets which are scattered with arcades, as well as the sewer network with the capacity to evacuate the water from the houses, public buildings, especially the thermal baths, and industrial facilities.

However, these innovations are most evident in the houses, not only in the way they were built, but also in their distribution and decoration. To appreciate this, you should visit the National Museum of Roman Art, which has one of the best collections of mosaics and parietal painting in Europe.

When we add the innovations brought from new cultures, kingdoms and empires, up to the most recent aspects of Merida, capital of the Autonomous Region of Extremadura, the result is this historic city where you can lose yourself in its collection of monuments.
Salamanca is a city with two cathedrals and Plaza Mayor (Main Square) which seems like the centre of the world due to its magnificent history. Strolling through the streets and areas of the monumental city lets you experience the history, religion and wisdom.

The stone remains which adorn the arches of the Plaza Mayor pay tribute to the thinkers, conquerors and soldiers, such as Unamuno, Cervantes, Pizarro and Hernán Cortés. This reminds the visitor that they are in a city of legends, which was an epicentre for the thinker in the old Europe many years ago. The splendour of this open space, the widest in the historic centre, sustains the perfect balance of a variety of details, making it arguable one of the best plazas in the world.

The magnificence of the city must be credited to the university, which is the oldest in Spain and made Salamanca grow like nobody could have ever expected. Its most import period was in the 15th and 16th centuries, with the brilliance of its teachers Fray Luis de León, Francisco de Vitoria and Unamuno at the head, is combined with the impact of its architecture. The plateresque façade, which contains a hidden frog, the patio de las Escuelas Mayores (Higher Schools courtyard), the Historical Library of the University of Salamanca and the Lesser Schools comprise the city’s most symbolic spaces.

The university also gave rise to a second cathedral in Salamanca. The beautiful Romanesque La Vieja (Old Cathedral), which has a Mozarabic tower named the Torre del Gallo and a unique altarpiece, became too small after the arrival of the new students. The construction of La Nueva (New Cathedral) began in the 16th century. The design followed that of its predecessor, but was built to be wider and higher, becoming one of the latest Gothic cathedrals in Spain.

However, you must keep moving in Salamanca, as there are so many hidden treasures to be found in every corner. The Casa de las Conchas (House of Shells), the cosy Plaza Anaya, the convents of Las Claras and Las Dueñas, the Casa de las Muertes (House of Death), the Torre del Clavero (Clove Tree Tower), Monterrey Palace and the Casa Lis are all worth seeing.

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La Laguna was once the most important city of the Canary Islands, with over five centuries of history and three of them as the capital of Tenerife. It is a non-fortified city, with a well-structured town plan which is still intact, that contains over six hundred Mudéjar-style buildings, and is the direct precedent of the metropolises founded in the New World.

Its origin dates back to the 15th century, after the Spaniards defeated the Aborigines. At that precise moment, Fernández de Lugo became governor and took up residence in the Valle de Aguere, in the fertile land situated by a lake at an altitude of six hundred metres. He named the place San Cristóbal.

His first order was the construction of the church of La Concepción, which has a stone tower with a square base, next to which the first houses were built. Soon after, he decided to move his residence to a nearby enclave, Villa de Abajo, meaning that the city arose in the place which is today occupied by the Plaza del Adelantado.

The distribution of the streets, churches, convents and public buildings was conceived and planned with geometric precision, following the philosophic principles of Plato’s laws and was later marked out in straight lines on the ground. The project would cover 75 hectares and shelter 6000 citizens, establishing a territory for cultivation for each family within its established limits.

A METROPOLIS OF IMPECCABLE GEOMETRY AND INSPIRATION THAT PLATO WOULD HAVE DESIRED FOR THE COLONIAL CITIES OF THE NEW WORLD.
The joy of the pilgrims who have concluded their journey pervades the streets of Santiago de Compostela at all hours of the day, every day. Few cities have been conceived and developed with the idea of receiving the traveller. This makes Santiago an open, universal and welcoming city, where its rich history and atmosphere on its streets live in perfect harmony.

The Praza do Obradoiro is the epicentre of the city. This is an extraordinary monument which seems as if it was created to stimulate the strongest sensations of spirituality in the traveller. The cathedral presides over the plaza. This is an example of a Romanesque church of pilgrimage, which was created in order to shelter hundreds of pilgrims who still head towards the high altar to emotionally embrace Santiago even today. Like the city, it has been transformed over the last 900 years, comprising a balanced mix of movements and styles. Its Portico de la Gloria is a Romanesque masterpiece. The baroque-style Obradoiro façade is also spectacular, as well as the sharp-pointed roofs and the Botafumeiro, the censer, which spreads its purifying aroma at a height of twenty metres as it swings and is the biggest of its kind in the world.

In the area around the church we can find other monuments of carved granite. The Hostal dos Reis Católicos, an old hospital for pilgrims which is currently a Parador; the enormous San Martiño Pinario Monastery, the Praza do Inmaculado, home of the jet artisans; the Praza da Quintana and the Praza das Praterías are all located in this zone.

Santiago is not only spiritually important but also academically, as it has a university which is five hundred years old. Its students, who make up a quarter of the population, fill the streets and plazas with their youthful spirit. Its site comprises an unforgettable collection of historical buildings, with its plaza, church, Faculty of Geography and History and the schools of Fonseca and San Xerome.

You must take a walk around the city’s streets, which are like a medieval labyrinth of taverns and arcades and catch a glimpse of the ancestral houses on the Rúa do Vilar and Rúa Nova. Its counterpart, the market, is where women from the countryside come to sell their delights, which they have cultivated themselves under the stone arches. After that, you must see the green side of Santiago, whose parks are carefully looked after and have been planted with trees from the confines of the world.

DON’T MISS:
- Visit the roofs of the cathedral
- Mix with the pilgrims, marvel at the Portico de la Gloria and embrace the Apóstol
- Visit clothes shops of Galician designers like Adolfo Domínguez, Purificación García, Roberto Verino, Antonio Pernas, Bimba y Lola and Zara
- Visit the market of the Praza de Abastos
- Be moved by the Botafumeiro whilst you hear the sound of the baroque organ
- Sample the local seafood and pie, and taste the Albariño or Ribeiro wine in one of the typical taverns whilst taking in the night-time atmosphere of the city
- Escape to the nearby estuaries and green Galician forests, where the Camino de Santiago passes through
- Go to the Via Stellae concert in a monumental setting and blend in with the student atmosphere
- Admire the fireworks on the 24th July from the Plaza do Obradoiro, declared Fiesta of International Tourist Interest
- Admire the views of the historic city from the leafy parks and gardens

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

A REAL GEM AT EUROPE’S END. THE DESTINATION FOR ALL ROUTES OF CHRISTIANITY’S MOST IMPORTANT PILGRIMAGE SINCE ITS BEGINNING IN THE 10TH CENTURY.
The first historians defined Segovia as a stone ship, stranded in the middle of a plateau, which seems to be waiting for the two surrounding rivers, the Clamores and Eresma, to overflow and make it sail away. Segovia is a jubilant and friendly city, where the visitor experiences a journey through time. The monuments, the history, the labyrinth of streets, the nature of its surroundings, the delicious gastronomy and the warm people who are proud of their land make Segovia an unforgettable place.

Before you walk through the city’s historic streets, it is worth observing its enigmatic outline from a distance where the fairy-tale like Alcázar dominates the view. The landscape can be made out from the surrounding fertile region and ravines of the green valleys, whose lines can be followed to the magical monuments, like the fifteenth-century monastery of San Antonio El Real and the solid Romanesque-style churches of San Millán and Vera Cruz.

Passing through the arches of the Roman aqueduct, which stands at an imposing 28 metres, is one of the most spectacular sensations Segovia has to offer. This striking monument fed the entrails of the city through the canal, with the fresh water from the mountains.

After you’ve seen this Roman symbol, take another leap back in history to the Middle Ages by following the Calle Real to the Plaza Mayor and observing the architecture of the Casa de los Picos and the Plaza de las Sirenas, with the parish church of San Martín and the tower of Lozoya. Once in the Plaza Mayor you will see the dominant cathedral, with its beautiful apse, high tower and illuminated interior, where the sandstone turns a golden colour at dusk.

Once you’re walked around the Jewish quarter and seen the large brick houses, you come to the wall. From here we can continue through the noble quarters, to see La Trinidad parish church, Santo Domingo convent and San Esteban church until we reach the Alcázar. This is the city’s cloister, which has sharp-pointed turrets, making it seem like something from a chivalric fantasy.

DON’T MISS:
- The Aqueduct
- The light at dusk in Segovia
- The plazas of the enclosed area: Plaza de San Martín and Plaza Mayor
- The Jewish Quarter
- Casa Museo de Antonio Machado (Museum)
- The Romanesque-style architecture
- El Balcón de la Miranda: Valle del Eresma - Mirador de Zamarramala
- The Alcázar
- Cultural Festivals
- The gastronomy and night-time in Segovia
Traces of the Roman Empire can be found in every corner of Tarragona. The streets, buildings and plazas preserve the splendour of its civilisation and suggest how the city once appeared, along with Corduba, the first Roman capital on the peninsula.

In the year 218 B.C. the Roman legions made Tarraco their most important operations centre and built the first Roman wall. Some towers, like the Minerva, and stretches of this wall still remain, defying the passing of time.

The Roman presence is so powerful that it has shaped the urban development of the metropolis over the centuries. The form of the city was marked by the enclosing walls, the medieval cathedral housed the old prayer assembly area, the bustling medieval streets developed in the old Foro de la Provincia (Roman forum) and the vaults of the circus became shops, plazas and restaurants.

The present-day market is found next to what was once a great Roman shopping centre, the Foro de la Colonia, the headquarters of the local Government in the form of a porticoed plaza which houses public, civil and religious buildings, decorated with statues of noble families.

The region’s territories were administered from the Foro de la Provincia, which was built around the year 73 A.D., in Vespasian times. In the urban area we find the temple for worshiping the emperor in the upper part, a huge plaza surrounded by arcades and galleries in the middle part and the circus in the lower part, where chariots competed in dangerous races.

On the outside of the city, we find the amphitheatre, with its section of stands carved into the rocky slope, from which the fights of the gladiators were applauded. In the surrounding areas, we come to the Cantera del Mèdol (El Médol Roman Quarry), a source of material for Roman urban construction; the strategic aqueduct of Les Ferreres, Los Escipiones Tower, the Berà Triumphal Arch and the Roman towns of Els Munts and Centelles, where you can see statues, frescos and mosaics.

Although Tarragona still has some features of the former Tarraco, and is a unique enclave for an experiencing Rome, it preserves other historical influences. The Romanesque-Gothic cathedral of Santa María and the Jewish quarter, the stately Casa de Canals and Casa Castellarnau and its collection of modern architecture have all played their part in shaping the city.

DONT MISS:
• Tarragona Living History - July to September: An exciting journey back through Tarragona’s Roman past by means of this historical reconstruction.
• Easter Week (declared Fiesta of International Tourist Interest by the Generalitat of Catalonian)
• Tarraco Viva Festival [second half of May]
• Beaches and coves of crystal-clear water, and fine golden sand
• The district of El Serrallo and the city port
• Fireworks [first week of July]
• Santa Tecla Fiesta [second half of September]
• A balcony view of the Mediterranean, where you can admire the Roman Amphitheatre and the port
• Plaza de la Font
• Rambla Nova
The millennium city of Toledo was named capital city for Culture of Peace and declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1986. It has a unique and historic heritage thanks to the presence of the three cultures, Arab, Jewish and Christian, which lived together in peace for centuries and provided an example of universal tolerance.

In Toledo, the people traded in Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish, and it is here where Alfonso X El Sabio (The Wise) created the Escuela de Traductores (School of Translators). This was an extraordinary movement towards cultural coexistence, which allowed the great thinkers of the Old World to be transferred to Spanish.

The city was modelled around the river Tagus and is protected by a conjunction of ravines and walls. The great Puerta de Bisagra (Bisagra gate), with a double-headed eagle at the top, is the most emblematic threshold of this journey through time. However, the Roman Alcántara Bridge, San Martín Bridge, the Renaissance-style Puerta del Cambrón (gate) and the Saracen gate of Alfonso VI mean that it is not the only one.

Toledo’s urban skyline has two landmarks that stand out; the cathedral and the Alcázar. The cathedral was erected on the remains of the great mosque. It is essentially a Gothic-style construction, but has touches of Renaissance and baroque styles too. Its high tower, the liliput stone gates, the extraordinary choir and vestry with frescos by Giordano and canvases by El Greco, Caravaggio, Rubens, Van Dyck and Goya, stand out among other things. The Alcázar (fortress) is located on the highest hill in the city, and is the present site of the National Army Museum. It was a military bastion in Roman times, a Muslim castle and then reconverted into a royal palace by Carlos V, in the 16th century.

The city’s extraordinary heritage is boosted by Mudéjar churches, monasteries and surprising monuments like the church of Santo Tomé, which is home to the famous painting by El Greco, the Burial of the Count of Orgaz. You can also see temples of other liturgies, such as the mosques of El Cristo de la Luz, El Salvador and Tornerías, and the beautiful synagogues of Santa María la Blanca, El Tránsito and the old main synagogue. El Tránsito was once known as the synagogue of Samuel ha-Levi and is today home to the Sephardic Museum.

You can also find romantic Renaissance-style palaces, cigarrales stately houses, old convents and churches, viewpoints, small squares and quiet corners.

Toledo is an icon of imperial Spain, and discovering traces of its splendour in every part of the city is a moving and unforgettable experience.

DON’T MISS:
- Renaissance-style Tavera hospital
- “Rutas Patrimonio Desconocido” (Unknown Heritage Routes) of Toledo
- San Román church. Museum of Councils and Visgothic Culture
- Easter Week in Toledo. Declared Fiesta of National Tourist Interest
- Big Week in Toledo: Solemn Procession of Corpus Christi in Toledo and the visits of the courtyards on the day of the Corpus (nine weeks after Easter Sunday). Declared Fiesta of International Tourist Interest.
- Toledo International Music Festival (May/June)
- Sephardic Week in Toledo: European Day of Jewish Culture (third weekend of September)
- Music of the Three Cultures International Festival (August)
- Jazz Festival (September)
- Tapas Day (November)

TOLEDO

SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER TAGUS, TOLEDO IS A CITY OF THREE CULTURES, WHERE ART AND KNOWLEDGE COME TOGETHER.
A sea of olive trees surrounds the city that has been called "the Moorish queen", "modest" and "astounding". Úbeda, founded by the Arabs on prehistoric and Roman settlements, has astonished the visitor for centuries, but only blossomed in the Renaissance.

A monumental city par excellence, it has 48 outstanding monuments and nine buildings that have been declared National Monument, as well as a further 19 classified as Assets of Cultural Interest, in addition to other architectural treasures.

Although the city has preserved almost in its entirety the original Muslim plan - based on an external perimeter wall, which circumscribed the medieval city and that nowadays is the limit of most of the historical centre - it was during the Renaissance when Úbeda became what it is today, due to its relationship with the empire of Carlos I and to the work of great artists, like architect Andrés de Vandelvira, whose creativity interpreted Humanism in a personal way and with unparalleled artistic quality. Its palaces, churches, convents and squares are proof of it.

Some of the most outstanding Renaissance monuments can be found around the Plaza Vázquez de Molina square: the Sacred Chapel of El Salvador; the Palacio del Deán Ortega, currently a Parador de Turismo hotel; the Marqués de Mancera palace; the Church of Santa Maria de los Reales Alcázares, with its Renaissance façade and Gothic cloister; the Fuente Renacentista fountain and the Palacio Vázquez de Molina palace, currently the City Hall.

Around this square there are many streets and stately squares, around which many more palaces, churches and convents are set: the Gothic church of San Pablo; the San Miguel convent and the Oratorio de San Juan de la Cruz, in which the mystic poet died; the church of Santísima Trinidad, in Baroque style; that of San Nicolás de Bari, with its Gothic plan, among many other Renaissance jewels.

All this heritage led to Úbeda being declared Historical-Artistic Ensemble in 1955, while in 1975 it was appointed as Exemplary City of the Renaissance. Later on, in 2003, it was included, along with Baeza, in UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

A perfect destination that will stay with the visitor as a unique experience for those who love art, culture, history, good food and authenticity.

ÚBEDA

THE CITY SURROUNDED BY A SEA OF OLIVE TREES, SET OUT ON AN ARABIC PLAN AND THAT BLOSSOMED IN RENAISSANCE TIMES.

DON'T MISS:
- Sacred Chapel of El Salvador.
- Palacio Juan Vázquez de Molina palace, currently the City Hall.
- Church of Santa Maria de los Reales Alcázares.
- Hospital de Santiago.
- Plaza 1º de Mayo square.
- Artisanal workshops (San Millán area).
- Easter Week.
- Festival Internacional de Música y Danza “Ciudad de Úbeda” (‘City of Úbeda’ International Music and Dance Festival, in May and June).
- Muestra de Teatro de Otoño (Autumn Theatre Festival, October to December).
- Festival de Música Antigua de Úbeda y Baeza (Úbeda and Baeza Ancient Music Festival, November and December).
- Jornadas Gastronómicas en el Renacimiento (Gastronomic Renaissance Seminar, January to March).
THEMED ROUTES

CONVENTIONS, WORLD HERITAGE CITIES AND THE SPANISH LANGUAGE, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE, NATURAL AREAS, SEPHARDIC HERITAGE, ROMAN HISPANIA, ISLAMIC LEGACY, NAUTICAL TOURISM, ACTIVE TOURISM, GOLF, RENAISSANCE CITIES, OLIVE OIL TOURISM AND RELIGIOUS TOURISM.
All of these cities are also members of the Spain Convention Bureau, whose objective is the joint promotion of these destinations in the convention market, under the slogan “Chosen by History”. These settings have a wide range of facilities and infrastructures for the organisation of events, with the added value of being grouped together with historic buildings.

Although these seven cities have a high degree of specialisation, all thirteen members of the group have a wide variety of possibilities when it comes to organising a convention. The fact that developing professional meetings in any of these settings implies enjoying the possibility of combining work whilst appreciating beautiful monuments must be considered. That is why it is customary for companies and associations to participate in programmes which include visits to the historic centres, as well as to the museums, cathedrals, enclosed areas, archaeological sites and natural areas.

CONVENTIONS

1. Córdoba Conference Centre
2. Tarragona Conference Centre
3. Mérida Conference Centre
4. Lienzo Norte Conference Centre, Ávila

IN JANUARY OF 2003 THE ALIANZA DE CIUDADES PATRIMONIO DE CONGRESOS DE ESPAÑA WAS CONSTITUTED, WHICH COMPRISSES THE CONVENTION BUREAUX OF ALCALÁ DE HENARES, ÁVILA, CÓRDOBA, CUENCA, SALAMANCA, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AND TOLEDO.
In recent years, the World Heritage Cities have made improvements to their facilities, with important conference centres being built, exhibition sites, auditoriums and other facilities for the organisation of hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of attendees. From a logistical point of view, these are exceptionally well communicated places with different connection possibilities. The exoticism of these places acts as an attractive incentive to come and attend events.

These cities also specialise in the restoration of old monuments, which now contain rooms of different sizes for hosting events. There are endless possibilities, from assembly halls in historic universities to convents, Episcopal palaces, museums, old hospitals and buildings of regional architecture.

The evolution of these historic centres has attracted the best designers in modern architecture who have conceived modern spaces, providing a touch of avant-garde to the monumental setting of these cities. Many of these spaces have been designed to hold events and conventions.

There is also a very extensive hotel sector of the World Heritage Cities of Spain which adapts to all needs and budgets. There are hotels in the historic centres, in the quiet outskirts and in rural areas. They are all equipped with multiple meeting rooms and all the necessary technical services in order to guarantee a successful convention.

The cities, through their Convention Bureaux or tourist information offices, propose the best alternatives and offer detailed descriptions of the available resources for holding events and complementary activities. This helps the companies and groups involved to find the right solutions depending on the requirements.

Hosting any type of event in a World Heritage City is a guarantee of success.

ALCALÁ DE HENARES

The Camino de la Lengua (Route of Spanish Literature) takes you on a journey through the great Spanish landmarks, from when the language was born around the 10th century in San Millán de la Cogolla, passing through different places in Castile and Leon where it developed, to Alcalá de Henares. Here it reached its maturity, brought to life by the literature of the Golden Age and the presence of universal authors like Lope de Vega, Quevedo, Tirso de Molina and Calderón de la Barca.

However, Alcalá is first and foremost the city where Cervantes was born. Every year, the city pays tribute to this legendary figure in Cervantes Week, in October, as it is transformed into a city from the 16th and 17th centuries. The city also hosts the cultural programme of El Abril de Cervantes; the extraordinary museum which today includes the house where the author was born, the Ruta por la Ciudad Literaria (City of Literature Route) and the Interpretation Centre. The Universos de Cervantes Interpretation Centre is an example of the city’s permanent homage to its honorary citizen. Alcalá is also the world capital of Hispanic Writings, as it is home to the central office of the Instituto Cervantes, where the Premio Cervantes de Literatura (Cervantes Literature Award) is presented every year, on the 23rd April.

A CARTEL DE HENARES

The University of Salamanca, founded in 1218, has played its part in spreading the Spanish language over the centuries. Today, it is the centre of attraction for thousands of students from all over the world, who want to learn Spanish on international courses. Before these students, came writers like Unamuno and Góngora, and Saint John of the Cross and Fray Luis de León who left their legacy on the university. This historic part of the Camino de la Lengua comprises a mixture of real and fictitious people and characters like Lazarillo de Tormes, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Beatriz Galindo and el Licenciado Vidriera, as well as the Orchard of Calixto and Melibea and the old classrooms of the university.

DELIBES, who found inspiration in this city, produced some of the most beautiful passages in Spanish literature. Every one of the new gates of the wall of Ávila lets you cross the barrier of the present and the past in search of historic, literary and artistic adventures.

SALAMANCA

Salamanka witnessed the birth of the first grammar structure of a modern European language. This was the work of the university professor Elías Antonio de Nebrija, who edited “Gramática de la Lengua Castellana” in 1492. It meant the establishment of the foundation of the Spanish language, whilst it spread around the New World.

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BAPTISMAL FONT OF CERVANTES. LOS UNIVERSOS DE CERVANTES INTERPRETATION CENTRE. ALCALA DE HENARES
Our strong commitment to our historical heritage does not free us of the huge responsibility of enriching our urban centres with defining architectural, artistic and scenic elements that are suitable for our era. Buildings of contemporary design act as a driving force for the historic buildings, as they are adapted to the needs of the local population, creating more tourist resources at the same time.
CUENCA
The area around Cuenca has a wide range of natural resources which make it a precious place to visit. El Hosquillo Hunting Park and Las Hoces del Cabriel Nature Reserve comprise extraordinarily beautiful landscapes and contain very diverse fauna. The source of the River Cuervo, where the water drops from the high rocks, is truly spectacular. The area is also known for its rocky spots that have eroded over time, such as the magnificent Ciudad Encantada and the Callejones de las Majadas. You must also see the area comprising the caved-in Torcas de los Palancares and the cave paintings of Villar del Humo.

IBIZA/EIVISSA
Thanks to its monumental and natural heritage and its landscape, which is the result of centuries of symbiosis between man and nature, Ibiza/Eivissa has the only joint proclamation on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The posidonia meadows, mainly concentrated in Ses Salines de Ibiza/Eivissa and Formentera Nature Reserve, are the ecological resources of the Pine Islands archipelago. These underwater forests oxygenate the sea and make the waters clear and pure. In addition to this, they form thousand-year-old reefs that protect the coast, they facilitate the formation and stability of the beaches and sand dunes, and they provide a unique habitat where hundreds of marine species reproduce.

MÉRIDA
The Romans made Mérida one of their most symbolic cities on the Iberian Peninsula. It was chosen because of its special geographic location, close to natural areas and fertile lands. Its most significant ecological resources are the meadows of the Cornalvo Nature Reserve and Prado de Labara; the mountainous area of San Servant, Grader and Pena’s Blanca’s, a rocky area of Mediterranean vegetation; the wetlands of the Guadiana, Alburon, Algarrobas, Cachichal and Mitchell rivers and the Lange reservoir. These spots have large areas of extensive cultivation, with a predominance of cereal, olive grove and vineyard, and intensive cultivation on irrigated land between Las Vegas Atlas and Las Vegas Baja’s, in the centre of Extremadura.

SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA
San Cristóbal de La Laguna is immersed in a unique natural environment, which contains Anaga Rural Park. This massif is one of the three vertexes of Tenerife. It has extraordinary landscapes, remote beaches, pools of lava, spectacular cliffs and leafy forests. These forests are scattered with country houses that are adapted to the land and inhabited by a minimal population, which lives from the agriculture. The landscape is exceptional and includes some of the wildest areas of the island. The Laurisilva and the faya-brezal, as well as the middle-elevation juniper woodlands and cardenales-tabaiabales are excellent examples of well conserved natural habitats, with numerous protected species and over thirty threatened ones.

SOME WORLD HERITAGE CITIES COMBINE MONUMENTAL WEALTH WITH BEAUTIFUL STRETCHES OF LANDSCAPE, WHICH LINK TO SOME OF THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE NATURAL AREAS IN THE COUNTRY.
 ÁVILA

Like in many in Spanish medieval cities, Jews, Mudéjars and Christians coexisted in Ávila. There is an abundance of documentation on the prominence of the Jewish community that existed here, with the Jewish quarter as the most important enclave of its heritage. The Hebrews were the owners of a good part of the homes between the Grande and Chico markets, meaning that their shops were located on the Calles Don Jerónimo, Alemania and Reyes Católicos.

On the Calle Reyes Católico we find the old Belforad synagogue, which was reconverted into the Christian church of La Virgen de las Nieves. It has an old Rabbi home, which is now occupied by a hotel and a good part of the original areas of the home has been conserved. In the Plaza del Pocillo, the pointed arch of the gate marks the location of the old fifteenth-century synagogue of Don Samuel, which is now a private home. After the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the area became depopulated, transforming into a marginal area of small houses and orchards. Beyond the Puerta de la Malaventura you can still see the garden of Moses de León, who was the author of the Zohar.

CÁCERES

In the 13th century, when the Christians reconquered Cáceres, the city had a major Jewish quarter and in the 15th century 200 families formed part of it. It is situated in the shelter of the city walls, in the lowest and steepest area of the inner precincts. The buildings here are small, with small windows, arched doors and white-washed facades, as the sloped streets considerably influenced their initial design. The uneven streets contrast with the aristocratic ostentation of the palaces and coats of arms of the old noble Cáceres. The chapel of San Antonio is the central building of the quarter, where the synagogue was a long time ago.

The new Jewish quarter began to take shape in 1478, when all the Jews were ordered to meet in one area, on the outskirts of the city, around the Plaza Mayor. According to tradition, the synagogue was situated on the site which is presently occupied by the Marqués de la Isla palace. Different documents also prove that there were groups of houses and shops that belonged to Jews in the Plaza Mayor, the city’s principal commercial centre.

CÓRDOBA

Between the 10th and 12th centuries, there was a strong resurgence of Sephardic Judaism under Muslim power in Córdoba, the capital of Al-Andalus. When Abd-ar-Raman III declared himself as Caliph of Córdoba in 929, a policy of reconciliation began, which favoured the Jewish community. This gave rise to a significant cultural development, characterised by important people like Hasday Ibn Shaprut, who was the caliph’s personal doctor and protocol chief, and Maimonides. When Fernando III recaptured the city, he also established a policy of tolerance. The synagogue of Córdoba is on the Calle Judíos. This is one of the most historic and attractive synagogues in the world and the

SEPHARDIC HERITAGE

DISCOVERING THE SEPHARDIC HERITAGE COMPRIDES ONE OF THE MOST SURPRISING ROUTES OFFERED BY THE GRUPO DE CIUDADES PATRIMONIO DE LA HUMANIDAD DE ESPAÑA.

The route which links the Jewish quarters of Ávila, Cáceres, Córdoba, Segovia and Toledo, lets you experience these medieval districts by strolling around the narrow and winding streets and seeing the magnificent synagogues.
TOLEDO

The Jewish quarter in Toledo is situated in the southeast of the city, occupying a tenth of the fortified zone. Its medieval appearance has been preserved, with its walkways, small streets, arches and paved slopes.

The existence of the Jews in Toledo can be traced back to the Romans in 4th century A.D., although due to the different diasporas, they undoubtedly arrived previously. The Jews first settled in the district of San Martín, between the Puerta del Cambrón and the river Tagus. The Arabs allocated them this place so that they could set up liturgical baths or Mikveh, Kasher slaughterhouse, primary school or Beit Sefer, bread ovens and markets. In the year 920, they erected a wall for their protection. The quarter comprised a framework of walls and streets closed off with doors, with several linking passages and alleyways. You can still see the house of Ishaq, who loaned money to Isabella I in order to finance the expedition to the New World, as well as the Arquillo del Judío (arch) and the Puerta del Cambrón, among other enclaves.

Toledo also stands out because of its synagogues, with over ten in the city at one point. The biggest one, presently known as Santa María la Blanca, was built in the 13th century and is now a monument of exceptional value in the history of Spanish-Arabic art. On the other hand, El Tránsito Synagogue, formally known as the Samuel-ha-Levi Synagogue, was a church for centuries and today is home to the Sephardic Museum. The museum’s rooms illustrate the evolution of the culture in the old Sepharad. The building was constructed in the 14th century by the powerful Samuel Levi, the treasurer of King Pedro I El Cruel (the cruel), which contains a beautiful prayer assembly room, profusely decorated in a Mudéjar-style typical of Toledo.
ALCALÁ DE HENARES
The ancient Complutum is the only Roman city in the Comunidad de Madrid (autonomous region of Madrid). It was situated next to a major road which connected Augusta Emerita to Caesaraugusta, making it one of the most important metropolises on the peninsula. The work of archaeologists has revealed some remarkable findings. These findings include the city forum, where you can see the basilica, thermal baths, cryptoripticus, market and monumental facade; the Casa de Hippolytus, the first visitable archaeological site in the Madrid region to be made into a museum, which was an old school for local children; and the Casa de los Grifos, which has an extraordinary collection of wall paintings.

The Regional Archaeological Museum of the Comunidad de Madrid houses many of the treasures of this great Roman splendour.

CÓRDOBA
Córdoba was conquered by the Romans in the 2nd century B.C., under the leadership of the General Marcus Claudius. Córdoba, under Augustus, became the capital of the province of Hispania Baetica, until the end of the 4th century A.D. The fruit from the countryside and the minerals from the sierra made the city a place of constant economic activity, which lead to the construction of important buildings. These included the Roman temple, the public forum, the Casa del Bailío, the Villa de Santa Rosa, the palace of Maximian, the mausoleum and the amphitheatre, whose remains can still be seen.

MÉRIDA
The Roman legacy of Mérida seems to appear in every corner of the city. It stands out because of its excellent condition and because all the important operational elements of the city converge. Mérida comprises an unforgettable archaeological collection, which includes forums; defensive structures like the city wall; leisure and competition facilities, like the circus, amphitheatre, theatre and thermal baths; infrastructural constructions like bridges, dams and aqueducts; and the streets, arcades, sewers, fountains and several monuments.

SEGOVIA
The presence of Rome in the province of Segovia can be traced back to the 2nd century B.C. The territory was structured around three municipalities, with several smaller settlements being established around the cities. At this time, construction began on the aqueduct of Segovia. This creation brought great prestige to the builders and to the town itself. Around the high part of this there were stately homes and thermal baths, whose remains can still be partially seen. The findings of the excavations of the last decades can be viewed in the Museum of Segovia.

TARRAGONA
Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio disembarked in Tarragona in the 3rd century B.C. and set up a garrison which would later become the principal military base of Hispania. The city had been structured in the 2nd century, with a street network and the city wall. The wall was 3500 metres long and today you can still see a third part of it, as some of the sections and three towers have been well preserved. Other facilities were also built at this time in Tarraco, including the provincial forum, the temple of Augustus, the circus, the amphitheatre, thermal baths, the Centcelles Roman villa and the early-Christian necropolis.

ROMAN HISPANIA

FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AROUND THE IBERIAN PENINSULA IS A TRULY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

This legacy is especially fascinating in the five cities declared as World Heritage Sites: Alcalá de Henares, Córdoba, Mérida, Segovia and Tarragona.
After 1142, Cáceres became the main strategic point in Extremadura for the Almohads. Therefore, in the third part of the 12th century with the principal aim of defending the city, a rectangular-shaped wall was built, which was crenelated and had a surrounding walkway. The fortification has some crenelated towers, some that are attached to the wall and some detached ones, most of which have been preserved. The Bujaco tower stands out because of the material used for its construction, its stonework and ashlars, whilst the towers of El Horno, La Yerba, La Redonda and the Desmochada are also impressive.

In the Arab period there was a fortress situated in the upper part of the city. Its water cistern has been preserved and was classified as the first one in Spain to be built and the second one in the world, due to its preserved condition. You must pay this monument a visit if you want to learn about the past and present life of the city of Cáceres.

CÓRDOBA

After the Muslims defeated the Visigoths in the year 711 they gained control of the city of Córdoba, transforming it into the capital of the province of the Islamic world which would be known as Al-Andalus. In 756 the city gained independence from Damascus forming the Independent Emirate of Córdoba under the control of Abd al-Rahman I. In 785 the emir made what would turn out to be an important decision for the historic legacy of the Omeyas, the construction of the Mezquita (mosque). This was built on the foundations of the Visigoth basilica of San Vicente, and was extended at various stages. It has been a World Heritage Site since 1984 and today it is the third largest mosque in the world.

Muslim Córdoba’s greatest splendour was completed with the arrival of Abd-ar-Rahman III in the 10th century, making Córdoba the most thriving, cultured and populated city in Europe. He was also responsible for the building of the palatine Medina Azahara, which was a government base and place of residence.

The never-ending list of wise men and artists who gathered in Muslim Córdoba includes the poets Ibn Hazam and Ibn Zaydun, the prestigious ophthalmologist Al-Gafequi, the musician Ziryab and the philosophers Averroes and the Jew Maimonides. The caliphate began to fall apart and ceased to exist in 1013. This was due to the civil wars which finished with the central power and led to the formation of the Taifa Kingdoms all over Al-Andalus. It was later reconquered by the Christians in the 13th century.
is reflected in the city’s urban renovation, remodelling of the temples and in the new foundations, all of which was a result of the economic and social revival. There is a route of the places in relation to Teresa, such as the convents of Santa Teresa and San José, the monastery of La Encarnación and the Mysticism Interpretation Centre.

In addition to this, some of the most outstanding pages of the mystic Hebrew, Islamic and Christian languages were written in Ávila. Here you can follow the traces of historic people like Teresa de Cepeda Ahumada (Saint Teresa), John of the Cross, Pedro de Alcántara, Moses de León, Nissim Ben Abraham and Mancebo de Arévalo.

BAEZA

The Easter Week ceremonies, declared of National Tourist Interest in the late ‘70s, is remarkably sober and recollected. One of its highlights are the concerts by the Coral Baezana on the Holy Tuesday at the Cathedral, during which the public will enjoy the Miserere by Hilarión Eslava, composed specifically for this church. The processions in Baeza have an added interest in the artistic value of the statues, most of which are from Gothic or Renaissance times. The Corpus Christi Festival, carried out in June, is also very popular in Baeza. The historical centre is adorned with shrines and flower carpets, the buildings have their façades decorated and the streets are covered with awnings to prepare the way for the Corpus procession, in which the Monstrance -a work by goldsmith Gaspar Núñez de Castro, from 1714- takes the place of honour.

CUENCA

Cuenca’s extraordinary heritage can be seen best in its religious buildings in the historic centre and the surrounding districts, which are full of churches and convents. Easter Week here is celebrated to the full and dates back to the 17th century. It has been declared Fiesta of International Tourist Interest. The extraordinary beauty of the procession reaches its summit in the evening, as it passes through the city’s streets, immersed in the medieval atmosphere.

RELIGIOUS TOURISM

THE TRACES OF SAINTS, AND THE ARTISTIC GRANDEUR PRODUCED BY THE THREE LARGEST MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, PROVIDE THE BASIS TO GATHER EIGHT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CITIES - ALCALÁ DE HENARES, ÁVILA, BAEZA, CUENCA, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SEGOVIA, TOLEDO AND ÚBEDA - IN A ROUTE WHERE SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH ARE THE MAIN ATTRACTIVE.
Besides this, Cuenca organises one of its most important annual events the Religious Music Week, which has also been declared Fiesta of International Tourist Interest. The festival programme is the fourth oldest in Spain. It includes several performances, by orchestras, choirs and singers of international stature who perform compositions of Christian music.

TOLEDO
The extraordinary resemblance between Toledo and Jerusalem make the Spanish city a unique setting in Easter Week for remembering the events of over two thousand years ago.

The celebration of Corpus Christi is equally impressive. It dates back to 1342 and was declared Fiesta of National Tourist Interest in 2006 and Fiesta of International Tourist Interest. It begins with the raising of the awnings which comprise the procession canopy for the Custodia de Arfe (monstrance) and concludes with the Solemn Procession and the accompanying colourful brotherhood processions. The streets are transformed into an open-air church, decorated with lights, garlands, sixteenth-century tapestries and banners, whilst a strong aroma of thyme, rosemary, lavender and pervades the atmosphere. The city is also the only place on the peninsula where the Mozarabic Rite is celebrated. This was introduced by the first Christians on the peninsula and is now performed on a daily basis in the Mozárabe chapel and on Corpus Christi in the cathedral.

SEGOVIA
Segovia comprises a unique setting for following the footsteps of several historic saints. The cave where Saint Daminic took shelter, the stage where Saint Vincent Ferrer once preached, the path that Saint John of the Cross took from the monastery, where his remains lay, to the upper part of the city set the stage. The convent where Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote "Las Moradas" and "El Castillo Interior", and the font where Saint Alfonso Rodriguez was baptised must also be seen.

In Segovia there are several monasteries, convents and churches that are full of works of art, like the monasteries of Santa Maria del Parral and San Antonio el Real. This sacred art is brought to the streets by the celebrations like that of Easter Week, whose procession on Good Friday marches from the cathedral to the aqueduct.

Here Christianity coexists with significant traces of other religions, which can be seen in several buildings. A good example of this is the Jewish quarter of Segovia, which gives you a good idea of how the city was in Jewish times. There are frequently held cultural and religious activities, including the magnificent Holy Music Week.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
After Jerusalem and Rome, Santiago de Compostela is considered the third holiest city in Christendom. Legend has it that the remains of the Apostle James lie in this city, which receives thousands of pilgrims from all over the world every year. The city’s history goes back to when the Apostle was executed in Jerusalem in the year 44 and his remains were brought to Galicia due to the fact that this was not permitted in the original place of death. The site of his shrine was transformed into the cathedral, which today looks over the Praza do Obradoiro.

In the Middles Ages, several convents and monasteries were built around the El Apóstol basilica. These were of various religious orders such as the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, St Clare, Carmelites and Jesuits, and can be seen on several available tours.

These orders were responsible for the safekeeping of the tomb as well as the board and lodging of the pilgrims. This led to them to share their knowledge of pharmacy and medicine with the people of the city, leading to the origin of Santiago’s medical tradition. The foundation of the university can also be put down to the educational contribution of these orders.

ÚBEDA
The Easter Week celebrations have a defined, particular profile that in Úbeda have led to an extraordinary magnificence and emotion. The processions in which the fraternities (cofradías) parade, some of which can be traced back to the 16th and 17th centuries, are unparalleled in their solemnity and brilliance. The statues paraded are the work of the best 20th century religious sculptors (Mariano Benlliure, Francisco Palma Burgos, Jacinto Higuera...), and are accompanied by large crowds of the fraternities members in their penitence stops, by the sound of drums and bugles and the people filling the streets, and also by the decorated balconies and windows, the scent of incense, the colour of flowers and penitential habits... making of the whole city the most beautiful stage for an amazing play.

Among the most moving moments, of the many that the Úbeda Easter Week offers, is the departure of the Nazarene at dawn on Good Friday, famous because the “Miserere” is played while the crowds keep an imposing silence; also, the brisk climb of the Cuesta de la Merced hill carrying the statue of the Virgen de la Soledad (Our Lady of Solitude) and its mass "Despedida" (farewell) by the Cofradía del Santo Entierro (Holy Internment Fraternity) and, last but not least, the Procesión General, an impressive chronological representation of the Passion, where twenty thrones and about 3,000 penitents take part. The Úbeda Easter Week has been declared of Tourist Interest.
OUR CITIES HAVE LIVED THROUGH VARIOUS HEYDAYS AND SHOW TODAY THE REMAINS OF THE MANY CIVILIZATIONS, CULTURES AND EMPIRES THAT SHAPED THEM. TWO OF THEM, SISTER CITIES OF ANDALUSIA, ARE A SPLENDID CATALOGUE OF THE BEST OF SPANISH RENAISSANCE. SOUTHERN SPAIN WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CENTRE OF RENAISSANCE PRODUCTION IN ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL TERMS. OF WHICH ÚBEDA AND BAEZA ARE THE LIVING PROOF.
Olive oil tourism is a way to get to know the olive oil more in depth, not just regarding its properties for the health and beauty, but also its characteristics, taste and scent, and the ancient methods used for its collection and elaboration compared to those used today.

BAEZA
Since an increasing number of people are becoming interested in extra virgin olive oil, the Museo de la Cultura del Olivo (Olive Tree Culture Museum) in Hacienda La Laguna has begun to carry out activities aimed at the introduction to the knowledge and sampling of olive oil, with the purpose of disseminating the olive oil culture. This initiative has received the name of "Oleoturismo en el museo" (Olive Oil Tourism in the Museum).

The Museo de la Cultura del Olivo offers a guided tour to the museum along with a workshop on olive oil tasting, addressed both at adults and at the little ones. This touristic product is enlarged during the collection period with a "Desayuno Molinero" (Miller’s breakfast) made up of typical produce of the Jaén province, guided tours to almazara or present-day olive oil factories and even walks through olive tree groves and Jaen farms to see first-hand all the processes involved in the collection and elaboration of the "liquid gold".

UBEDA
In Úbeda, capital city of the main olive oil producing area in the province of Jaén and the world’s first olive oil producer, the visitor can find an Interpretation Centre on Olive Oil and Trees, where they can live a unique experience around the Extra Virgin Olive Oil and the olive tree groves. The centre is located in a particularly beautiful 17th century building known as "la Casa de la Tercia", making it the perfect place to get to know this millenary culture in depth. A specialised shop offers the visitor a selection of the best extra virgin olive oils, various types of olives and daily tasting sessions, as well as other typical local products: food, cosmetics and crafts.

On your own or in organised trips, Úbeda offers a great range of possibilities to include olive oil tourism in your plans and make of it a unique experience that you will surely enjoy.
IBIZA/EIVISSA

Ibiza/Eivissa Town and the surrounding coastal zone were declared a World Heritage Site due to the area’s extensive posidonia meadows. Here you can enjoy the luxurious beaches, small islands, steep cliffs and practice several sea sports. There are two marinas in the town and a diving centre. The beaches of Talamanca, Ses Figueretes and Platja d’en Bossa are ideal places for learning sailing, canoeing and many other water sports.

The majority of posidonia meadows are concentrated in Ses Salines Nature Reserve. This comprises part of the coastal zone of Ibiza/Eivissa and Formentera, as well as numerous small islands scattered around the areas in between. These posidonia meadows, which were included in the declaration as a World Heritage Site, oxygenate the sea, provide a unique habitat where hundreds of marine species reproduce and facilitate the formation of sand dunes. The spectacular landscapes make the area a dream place for going sailing. Several pristine beaches can be found in this paradise, like Ses Salines and Es Cavallet in Ibiza/Eivissa, and Illetes, in Formentera.

SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA

Although San Cristóbal de La Laguna is at an altitude of 550 metres, it comprises a stretch of coastline containing two quiet and friendly coastal areas that must be visited when on the island of Tenerife. Bajamar and Punta del Hidalgo are located about fifteen kilometres away from La Laguna in the coastal zone around the Macizo de Anaga, one of the oldest rock formations in Tenerife. You can experience the pleasure of walking by the cliffs, whilst observing the area’s vegetation of Balsam Spurge, Canary Island Spurge and palm groves.

However, Bajamar and Punta del Hidalgo are especially renowned for possessing the intriguing natural phenomenon of natural pools formed by petrified lava as it flowed down to the sea. A swim here in the salty waters will give you a unique experience you are sure to remember for the rest of your life.

TARRAGONA

Tarragona enjoys a mild climate all year round, making it the perfect place to do all kinds of water sports, including sailing, kayaking, water skiing and scuba diving. Here you can find a variety of companies offering these activities in this magnificent setting, as well as a marina and Puente Tarraco, a port from which luxury cruise ship depart.

The area extends to over fifteen kilometres of coast, where you can find numerous easily-accessible coves and beaches bathed in crystal-clear water. These include Playa del Miracle, la Arrabassada, Playa Larga, Playa dels Capellans, Cala Romana, Cala Fonda and Cala Jovera. The surrounding protected natural areas such as Punta de la Mora, the mouth of the River Guá García and Tamarit beach comprise a breath-taking landscape.

APART FROM THEIR MONUMENTAL UNIQUENESS, THE WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF IBIZA/EIVISSA, SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA AND TARRAGONA ALSO HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL VARIETY OF NAUTICAL TOURISM, WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO PRACTISE SEA SPORTS AND ENJOY THE LUXURIOUS COASTAL SETTINGS.
These destinations have active tourism programmes aimed at holiday makers who want to be in contact with nature. Here there is an abundance of possibilities including horse riding, rambling, bike rides, mountain skiing, water skiing, photographic safaris, scuba diving and river diving, adventure parks, climbing walls, hot-air ballooning, canoe excursions, archery and other fun nautical activities.

However, if you’re looking for something more daring you won’t have any problems finding extra activities like ultralight aircraft flights, mountaineering, rafting, canyoning, rock climbing, bungee jumping and quad bike riding in any of these monumental city’s surroundings.

These can be combined with a wide range of more informative cultural and ecological activities, which teach you about the natural and social surroundings. These could be workshops on ornithology, mycology, astronomy or aromatic and medicinal plants, as well as visits to wineries and ranches or capeas (bullfights with young bulls).

More information on these activities and other tourist events can be obtained in the tourist information centres in these cities. The website of the Grupo Ciudades Patrimonio, as well as those of each destination, allows you to consider the different possibilities on offer and get in touch with the specialised companies.

The spectacular natural areas surrounding Cáceres, Cuenca, Ibiza/Eivissa, Salamanca, San Cristóbal de La Laguna and Santiago de Compostela comprise a variety of landscapes ranging from high mountains to sheer coastlines, with beaches, islands, rivers, forests, deserts, gorges and ravines.
You can play a round of golf on a variety of courses with a range of levels of difficulty, some of which were designed by the most prestigious experts in the world. Several of these courses have on-site schools run by renowned professionals, aimed at anyone of any age from beginners to players at a more advanced stage. All this is complimented with different training facilities and other services as the Grupo Ciudades Patrimonio de la Humanidad aims to cover all the necessary things that may be required.

Apart from being situated in the adjoining areas of these monumental locations, these golf courses are also surrounded by picturesque landscapes. The fairways and greens run through oak woods, flow through agricultural fields and pass over valleys of dense vegetation divided by beautiful streams, rivers and lakes. You can play golf in the middle of mountainous areas with views of the sea or trying to avoid the ravines and bridges that get in your way. The favourable climate means you can play in these areas all year round.

A round of golf in these World Heritage Sites is undoubtedly a great way to compliment your cultural experience.

THE MAGNIFICENT SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE THIRTEEN CITIES DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES ARE THE PERFECT PLACE TO BE IMMERSED IN THE RICH HISTORY AND CULTURE.

Alcalá de Henares, Ávila, Baeza, Cáceres, Córdoba, Cuenca, Ibiza/Eivissa, Mérida, Salamanca, La Laguna, Santiago, Segovia, Tarragona, Toledo and Úbeda offer you a combination of monumental wealth and a wide range of facilities for all types of leisure activities. One of these is golf, as all of these places have several courses and offer the necessary complementary services.
ÁVILA
Visitor Reception
Centre:
Puebla del Pilar, 7
T. 630 93 134
informacion@turobalaavia.com
www.turobalaavia.com

This city, located in a crossroads, is a communication hub between Levante and western Andalusia. Úbeda is very well communicated both by road and by railways. It is only 15 min from Córdoba and its AVE train station, and 15 ks from Granada and its international airport. Madrid lies 3hrs away by the N-I highway. The Linaro-Baeza international Airport is only 14 km away.

BAEZA
Tourist Information Office
Plaza del Pípulo s/n
T. 925 77 99 82
tourism@baeza.net
www.baeza.es
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CÁCERES
Municipal Tourist Office:
Olmos, 11
T. 927 247 172
www.caceres.es

TOLEDO
City Council Tourist Office:
Plaza del Consistorio, 1
T. 925 254 038
Municipal Tourist Office
Casa del Mapa:
Plaza de Zocodover, 6
www.toledo-turismo.com
From Madrid, by car or bus on the A-42 toll road, in 1h 15min from Córdoba and AVE train station, and 1.5hs from Granada and its international airport. Madrid lies 3hrs away by the N-I highway. The Linaro-Baeza train station is the easiest way to get there by train.

CÁRIZA
Facility: Casa del Mapa:
Carrer Major, 39
T. 921 466 721
C/ La Carrera, 7
www.ubeda.es

USEFUL INFORMATION
INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE +34
CALSÁBREGA
Tourist Information Centre:
Callejón de Santa María, 1
T. 918 892 694
Plaza de los Santos
T. 918 810 634
www.turismoalcala.es
www.alcaladehenares.es
918 810 634

Alcalá de Henares is located only 30 kilometres from Madrid, a journey which can be comfortably made on the A-2 road. A frequent bus and local train can be comfortably made on the A-2 road. A frequent bus and local train can be comfortably made on the A-2 road.

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