

Spanish Cities



A selection of places of interest based on personal experience and preferences.

November 2016, Willem Peeters ©

Aranjuez

[A Royal Estate of the Crown of Spain since the times of Philip II in 1560](#)

[Palacio Real de Aranjuez](#)

Philip II commissioned the building of the palace to the architect Juan Bautista de Toledo in 1559. The work was completed 200 years later.

October-March: Tuesday - Sunday 10:00-18:00.

April-September: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-20:00.

Closed on Monday



[Royal Gardens](#) (Spanish)

There are four royal gardens:

Jardín de la Isla

Jardín de la Parterre

Jardín de Isabel II

Jardín del Príncipe (garden of the crown prince)

Open from 08:00-21:30.



[Museo de Falúas Reales](#) (Spanish)

It has collections of ships that the kings of Spain used to browse the Tagus River.

Calle de la Reina (inside the Jardín del Príncipe).

October-March 10:00-17:15.

April-September 10:00-18:15.

Closed on Monday



Ávila

In pre-Roman times (5th century BC), Ávila was inhabited by the Vettones, who called it Obila ("High Mountain")

Muralla de Ávila

The work was started in 1090 but most of the walls appear to have been rebuilt in the 12th century. The enclosed area is an irregular rectangle of 31 hectares with a perimeter of some 2,516 meters, including 88 semicircular towers.



La Catedral de Ávila (Spanish)

The Cathedral of Ávila is a Romanesque and Gothic church. It is not known exactly when the construction of the Cathedral began, there being two theories. One states that Alvar García started its construction in 1091 inside the remains of the Church of the Saviour, which was in ruins as a result of successive Muslim attacks. Other historians believe the Cathedral to be the work of the maestro Fruchel in the 12th century.



Real Monasterio de Santo Tomás (Spanish)

The Royal Monastery of Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Dominican convent of the late 15th century, founded by the Reyes Católicos (Catholic Monarchs) Isabel I and Fernando II. Despite being away from the historic centre, it is one of the most important monuments of the town.

Plaza de Granada 1

Daily 10:30-14:00 and 15:30-19:30.

In July and August 10:30-21:00.



Barcelona

[Founded by the Romans in 15 BC.](#) in the Middle Ages Barcelona became the capital of the County of Barcelona. After merging with the Kingdom of Aragón, Barcelona continued to be an important city.

[National Museum of Art of Catalunya \(MNAC\)](#)

Located on the on the Montjuïc hill, it hosts Catalan art (sculpture, painting, drawing, engraving, posters, photography and coinage) from the Romanesque period to mid-twentieth century.

Palau Nacional of Montjuïc.

May - September: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-20:00.

Sundays and holidays: 10:00-15:00.



[Sagrada Familia](#)

This great cathedral, inspired by gothic style yet a landmark of modern architecture, Gaudí died before he could finish his biggest and most beloved project.

Plaça de la Sagrada Familia.

October: 09:00-19:00

November - February: 09:00-18:00.

March: 09:00-19:00.

April - September: 09:00-20:00.



[Parc Güell](#)

A fascinating scenario of gardens and overdimensional architectonic forms which seem to be born by the ground. Photo Gaudí created an equilibrium that usually only exists in nature, but never in architecture.



[Museum of Modern Art](#)

Paintings and sculptures from 17th century until today. Specially remarkable are the works of Fortuny, Russiñol, Casas, Zuloaga, Sunyer, Solana, and the "Harlekin" of Picasso.

Parque de la Ciutadella. Plaza de Armas

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 11:00-19:30. Saturday: 10:00-19:00.

Sunday and holidays: 10:00-15:00.

Closed on Tuesday (except public holidays)



Bilbao

Bilbao is a major city in the province of Biscay founded in 1301 by Diego López V of Haro, Lord of Biscay.

Museo Guggenheim Bilbao

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is a museum of modern and contemporary art, designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry. The museum was inaugurated on 18 October 1997 by former King Juan Carlos I of Spain. Built alongside the Nervion River, which runs through the city of Bilbao to the Cantabrian Sea, it is one of several museums belonging to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and features permanent and visiting exhibits of works by Spanish and international artists.

Tuesday - Sunday: 10:00-20:00.
Closed on Monday.



Museo de Belles Artes

The Museum of Fine Arts in Bilbao was established in 1908: After moving through various venues, the final headquarters were built in 1945, in a great neoclassical building that was to undertake paths expansions in 1970 and 2001 to house the growing museum collection.

Museo Plaza 2.
Wednesday to Monday: 10:00-20:00.
Closed on Tuesday.



Burgos

City of 'El Cid'. Founded in 884 by the count of Castile.

Burgos Cathedral (Spanish)

Santa Iglesia Catedral Basílica Metropolitana de Santa María de Burgos. Its construction began in 1221, following French Gothic patterns.

Plaza Santa María.

19 March - 31 October: 09:30-19:30.



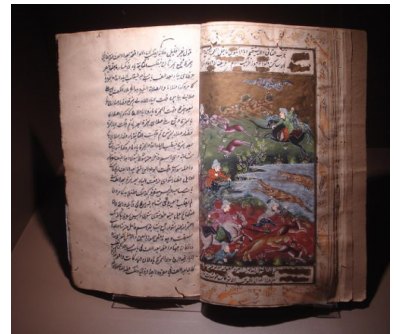
Book Museum (Spanish)

The Fadrique de Basilea Book Museum 'Museo del Libro Fadrique de Basilea, of the Burgos publisher, Siloé, a cosy museum that shows the history of the book from its first written form to its modern electronic form.

Travesía del Mercado 3.

Monday - Saturday 10:00-14:00 and 16:30-20:00.

Closed on Sunday



The Castle of Burgos

Castle and alcázar, located in the city of Burgos, in the hill of San Miguel to 75 m above the city.

Cerro de San Miguel.

Opening hours (Spanish)



Museum of Human Evolution

Its foundation is based on the archeological site of Atapuerca located 20 km (12 mi) east of Burgos.

Paseo Sierra de Atapuerca.

Tuesday - Friday 10:00-14:30 / 16:30-20:00.

Saturday, Sunday, public holidays and July, August and September 10:00-20:00.



Cáceres

Cáceres was a strategic city under Roman occupation, and remains found in the city suggest that it was a thriving center as early as 25 BC.

Casco Antiguo (The Old Town) (Spanish)

The Old Town still has its ancient walls; this part of town is also well known for its multitude of storks' nests. The walls contain a medieval town setting with no outward signs of modernity. Cáceres was declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1986 because of the city's blend of Roman, Moorish, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance architecture. Thirty towers from the Islamic period still stand in Cáceres, of which the Torre del Bujaco is the most famous.



Concatedral de Santa María de Cáceres

The construction of the Co-Cathedral of Cáceres began in the 15th century in a Gothic style. The main portal was built in Romanesque style.

Plaza de Santa María.
10:30-13:30 and 17:30-19:30.



Museo de Cáceres

Cáceres Museum is housed in two historic buildings in the historic town centre of Cáceres: La Casa de las Veletas and la Casa de los Caballos.

Plaza de las Veletas 1.
14 April - 30 Sept.: Tuesday - Saturday 09:00-15:30 / 17-20:30. Sunday 10:00-15:30.
1 Oct.- 13 April: Tuesday - Saturday 09:00-19:00. Sunday 10:00-15:30.
Closed on Monday and holidays



Cádiz

Founded in 1104 BC by Phoenicians. Oldest city of Western-Europe

Castillo de San Sebastián

The Castle of San Sebastián is a fortress located in Cádiz, Spain, at the end of La Caleta beach on a small island separated from the main city.



Casa del Obispo (Spanish)

The archeological site of the Casa del Obispo shows a great part of the history of Cádiz via a walk through 1.500 m² of excavations dating from the VIIIth century BC to the XVIIIth century.

Plaza Fray Félix.

Monday - Friday: 09:00-20:00.

Closed on Saturday and Sunday.



Museum of Cádiz

The Museum of Cádiz was founded in 1970. Archaeology on the ground floor, art on the first (paintings by Velazquez and Zurbarán), and puppets on the second floor.

Plaza de Mina.

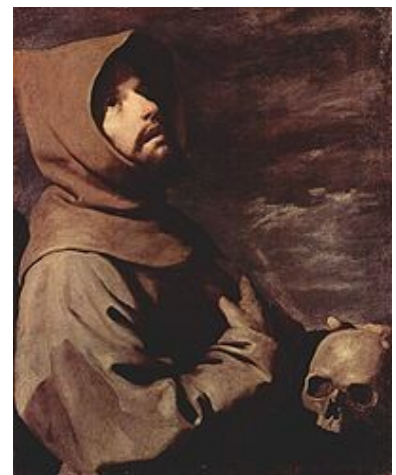
1 January -15 June and 16 September - 31 December: Tuesday to Saturday: 09:00- 20:30.

Sunday and public holidays: 09:00 to 15:30.

Monday: closed

16 June - 15 September: Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays: 09:00 to 15:30.

Monday: closed



Francisco de Zurbarán:

Torre Tavira

This watchtower rises up to 45 m. above sea level and was completed in 1778: Its name is derived from the first watchman, Antonio Tavira. On the top floor is a Camara Obscura that gives a fantastic 360° view of the city.

On the corner with Marqués del Real Tesoro street and Sacramento street.

October – April: 10:00 – 18:00.

May – September: 10:00 – 20:00.



Cartagena

[The Carthaginians founded Cartagena in 277 BC.](#) They named it Qart Hadasht (Cludad Nueva, or New City).

[The Roman Teatro](#)

The building dates from the first century and after a raging fire it fell into oblivion. Houses and the Cathedral of Cartagena, which was destroyed in 1936 during the Civil War, were partly built upon it.

1 October - 30 April: Tuesday -Saturday 10:00-18:00.
Sunday 10:00-14:00. Monday closed.

1 May - 30 September: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00-20:00. Sunday 10:00-14:00. Monday closed.



[Castillo de Concepción](#) (Spanish)

According to the Greek historian Polybios there used to be a temple on this site dedicated to the demigod of medicine, Asclepius, but that is not certain. The foundations of the castle are clearly Roman. Remnants have also been found from the Moorish period. It was during the reign of King Alfonso X (El Sabio, or the Wise man) that the castle took its present shape.

15 March - 1 November: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-19:00.

1 July - 15 September: Monday-Sunday 10:00-20:00.

16 September - 1 November: Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00-19:00.

2 November - 14 March: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-17:30.



[Palacio Consistorial de Cartagena](#) (Spanish)

After suppressing the revolt of 1873 that turned the city into ruins, new buildings were raised. The Palacio Consistorial de Cartagena is one of them.

Tuesday-Friday 10:00 - 13:30 / 17:00-19:00.

Saturday 10:00-13:30.

Closed on Monday.



Córdoba

Córdoba was founded by the Romans in 199 BC. From 929 Córdoba was the capital of the Caliphate of Córdoba until 1031.

Mezquita (Mosque) de Córdoba

The site was originally a small temple of Christian Visigoth origin. When Muslims conquered Spain in 711, the Emir Abd al-Rahman I, build the grand mosque of Córdoba. Córdoba returned to Christian rule in 1236 and the building was converted to a Roman Catholic church, culminating in the insertion of a Renaissance cathedral nave in the 16th century.



Museo Arqueológico y Etnológico de Córdoba

The Archeological and Ethnological Museum of Córdoba (MAECO) is located in the Palacio de los Páez de Castillejo and contains an extensive collection of pieces dating from prehistory to the Middle Ages.

Plaza Jerónimo Páez 7

16 September - 15 June: Tuesday - Saturday 09:00-20:30. Sunday and public holidays 09:00-15:30.

16 June - 15 September: Tuesday - Sunday and public holidays 09:00-15:30.



Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos

The Alcázar shows the evolution of Cordobes architecture during the Roman, Visigothic and Moorish ages.

Calle de las Caballerizas Reales

Working days 08:30-20.45.

Saturday 08:30-16:30.

Closed on Monday.



Museo Julio Romero de Torres (Spanish)

Julio Romero de Torres (1874 – 1930) was a Spanish painter. The museum is dedicated to him and was opened in 1931.

Plaza del Potro 1.

16 October - 30 April: 10:00-14:00 / 16:30-18:30.

May, June, September - 15 October: 10:00-14:00 / 17:30-19:30.

July and August: 08:30-14:30

Sunday and public holidays: 09:30-14:30.

Closed on Monday.



La Coruña

La Coruña is built on the site of an ancient Celtic hillfort (castro), which was inhabited from the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD.

Torre de Hercules

This tower was built in the 18th century on the remnants of a old Roman lighthouse. It has been functioning permanently since the second half of the 1st century.

Monday to Sunday

October to May: 10:00-18:00.

June to September: 10:00-21:00.



Castillo de San Anton (Spanish)

A defensive work that controlled the entrance to the bay of La Coruña. The construction started in 1587.

September - June: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-19:30.

Sunday 10:00-14:30.

July and August: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-21:00.

Sunday 10:00-15:00.

Closed on monday.



Casa Museo de María Pita

María Mayor Fernández de Cámara y Pita (1565 – 1643), known as María Pita, was a Galician heroine in the defense of Corunna, northern Spain, against the English Counter Armada in 1589.

Calle Herrerías 28.

Tuesday-Saturday 10:30-14:00 / 17:30-20:00. Sunday 10:30-14:00.



Museo de Bellas Artes (Spanish)

Officially founded in 1922, but just opened for the public in 1947: The present building dates from 1995:

Rúa Zalaeta.

Tuesday - Friday: 10:00-20:00.

Saturday 10:00-14:00 / 16:30-20:00.

Sunday 10:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday and public holidays.

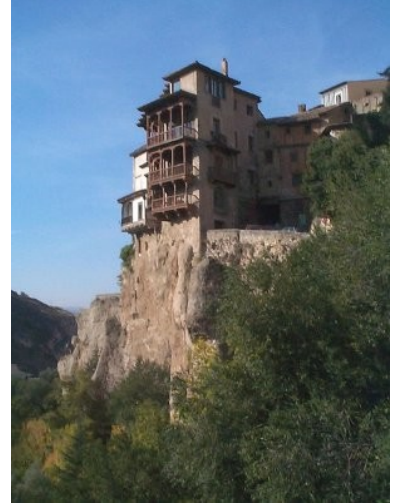


Cuenca

The old city of Cuenca developed in the 8th century during the Moorish occupation.

Casas Colgadas (Hanging Houses)

In the 15th century the Hanging Houses were built against the steep slope created by the river Huécar. Only a few of them are left.



The Museo de Arte Abstracto Español (Museum of Spanish Abstract Art)

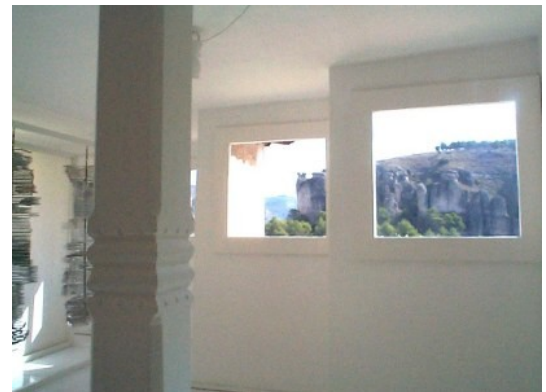
The museum was established in 1966. It has a collection of some 129 paintings, mainly by 1950s and 1960s Spanish artists.

Casas Colgadas.

Tuesday–Friday: 11:00–14:00 / 16:00–18:00.

Saturday: 11:00–14:00 / 16:00–20:00. Sunday and public holidays 11:00–14:30.

Closed on Monday.



Catedral de Santa María y San Julián

Cuenca Cathedral is a Gothic cathedral. The building started in the year 1196 and was completed in 1257:

Plaza de Pío XII.

In summer: 09:00–15:30 / 16:30–19:30 (18:30 in winter).



Elche

Elche was founded by the Arabs in the 10th century near a place called Ilice, an Iberian settlement from the 5th century BC.

Palmeral de Elche

The date-palm orchard of Elche contains about 200:000 palm trees. In 2000 it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Most famous is the Palmera Imperial (Imperial Palm) in the Huerta del Cura (Garden of the Priest). Probably 175 years old with seven stems sprouting from the main trunk.

In the Museo del Palmeral the history and development of the orchard is shown.

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00-14:00 / 15:00-18:00. Sunday and public holidays 10:00-14:00.
Closed on Monday.



Dama de Elche (The Lady of Elche)

In the Huerta del Cura a replica of the famous Lady of Elche can be seen. The original dates back from the 4th century BC and is exhibited in the National Archeological Museum in Madrid.



Museo Arqueológico y de Historia de Elche (MAHE)

The archeological museum of Elche has its seat in the Palacio de Altamira (Alcázar de la Señoría) in the centre of Elche.

Monday - Saturday: 10:00-18:00.
Sundays and public holidays: 10:00-15:00.



Granada

In the early 11th century, after a civil war that ended the Caliphate, an independent kingdom was established, the Taifa of Granada, with the former Jewish settlement Illiberis / Granada as its capital.

Alhambra and Generalife

Completed towards the end of Muslim rule of Spain by Yusuf I (1333–1353) and Muhammed V, Sultan of Granada (1353–1391), the Alhambra is a reflection of the culture of the last centuries of the Moorish rule of Al Andalus, reduced to the Nasrid Emirate of Granada. It is a place where artists and intellectuals had taken refuge as the Reconquista by Spanish Christians won victories over Al Andalus. The Alhambra integrates natural site qualities with constructed structures and gardens, and is a testament to Moorish culture in Spain and the skills of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian artisans, craftsmen, and builders of their era.



Visits

Catedral de la Encarnación de Granada

Granada Cathedral, or the Cathedral of the Incarnation (Spanish: Catedral de Granada, Santa Iglesia Catedral Metropolitana de la Encarnación de Granada). Building of the church lasted from from 1518 to 1699

Monday - Saturday: 10:00-18:30.
Sunday and public holidays: 15:00-18:00.



Albaicín

El Albayzín (also Albaicín), is a district of Granada, that retains the narrow winding streets of its Medieval Moorish past. It was declared a world heritage site in 1984, along with the famous Alhambra.

Sacromonte

Sacromonte, traditional neighbourhood of the eastern area of the city of Granada. It is located on the hill and valley of Valparaíso, in front of the Alhambra. It is the traditional neighborhood of the Granadian Gipsies. It is one of the most picturesque neighborhoods of the city, by the landscape and its cave houses, installed in whitewashed caves that serve as housing.



Guadalajara

The town of Guadalajara was founded by the Andalusians in the 8th century. They named it Wādī-al-Ḥajāra, meaning 'Valley of Stones'.

Palacio del Infantado (Spanish)

It was build at the end of the 15th century in Isabelline-Gothic style.

20 September - 15 June:

Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-14:00 / 16:00-19:00.

Sunday: 10:00-14:00.

16 June - 19 September:

Sunday: 10:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



El panteón de la duquesa de Sevillano (Spanish)

The Pantheon of Guadalajara is a monument build in 1916by order of Doña Maria Diega Desmaissières and Sevillano, Countess de la Vega del Pozo and Duchess of Sevillano, in honor of her father

Tuesday - Thursday: 10:30-12:30 / 17:30-19:30.

Fryday and Saturday: 11:00-14:00 / 17:00-19:00.

Sunday and public holidays: 11:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



Concatedral de Santa María de Guadalajara (Spanish)

This cathedral was build during the 14th century in the typical Mudéjar-style.



Torreón del Alamín (Spanish)

The tower is part of the old Moorish city wall.

Fryday and Saturday: 11:00-14:00 / 17:00-19:00.

Sunday and public holidays: 11:00-14:00.



Guadalupe

Guadalupe is a small village came into being in the 14th century and is one of the most important places of pilgrimage of Spain.

Real Monasterio de Santa María de Guadalupe

The monastery is an outstanding repository of four centuries of Spanish religious architecture. It symbolizes two significant events in world history that occurred in 1492: the Reconquest of the Iberian peninsula by the Catholic Kings and Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Its famous statue of the Virgin became a powerful symbol of the Christianization of much of the New World.

Daily: 09:00-14:00 / 15:00-19:00.



Jerez de la Frontera

During the Moorish occupation (711-1264), Jerez was known as Sherisch. After the conquest of the town by the Christians, Jerez became a border town (border between Castile and the Moorish Granada) and 'de la Frontera' was added to the name Jerez.

Sherry

Jerez is known as the world capital of sherry wine. **Sherry** is a fortified wine made from white grapes that are grown near the town of Jerez. Jerez has been a centre of viniculture since **winemaking** was introduced to **Spain** by the **Phoenicians** in 1100 BC. If you ask in a pub for a 'blanco' (white wine), you always get a glass of sherry. The most famous bodega is **González Byass**.

Manuel M^a González 12.



Fundación Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation)

The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation is known all over the world thanks to its show entitled 'How the Andalusian Horses Dance, a unique exhibition of horsemanship which both exhibits and summarises the work which the institution has carried out since its establishment.' There are two museums: the **Equestrian Art** and the **Carriage museum**.

Avenida Duque de Abrantes.



Palacio del Tiempo

The Antique Clock Museum is located in this Palace, unique within its genre: the most varied exhibition of European antique clocks that enriches the wide cultural offer of Jerez since 1973.

Calle Cervantes 3.



Alcázar de Jerez de la Frontera

The Alcazar of Jerez de la Frontera is a former Moorish alcázar that dates from the 11th century, when Jerez was part of the kingdom of the taifa of Arcos de la Frontera, on a site settled since prehistoric times in the south-eastern corner of the city.

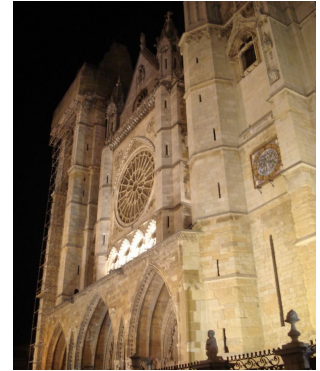


León

[Founded as the military encampment of the Legio VI Victrix around 29 BC](#)

[Catedral de León](#)

León Cathedral was built on the site of previous Roman baths of the 2nd century which, 800 years later, king Ordoño II converted into a palace. It is known as the Pulchra Leonina and is a masterpiece of the Gothic style of the mid-13th century. The design is attributed to the architect Enrique. By the late 16th century it was virtually completed.



[Visits](#)

[Real Colegiata Basílica de San Isidoro](#)

The Basílica de San Isidoro de León is located on the site of an ancient Roman temple. Its Christian roots can be traced back to the early 10th century when a monastery for Saint John the Baptist was erected on the grounds. In 1063 the basilica was rededicated to Saint Isidore of Seville. Isidore was archbishop of Seville, and the most celebrated academic and theologian of Visigothic Spain in the period preceding the Arab invasions.



[Visits](#)

[Convento de San Marcos](#)

The Convento de San Marcos was a convent in León, Spain is today an operating luxury [parador hotel](#). It also contains a consecrated church and museum, and is one of the most important monuments of the Renaissance in Spain.

Plaza San Marcos 6.



[Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León \(Spanish\)](#)

Avenida de los Reyes Leoneses 24.

Tuesday to Friday: 11:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 11:00-15:00 / 17:00 - 21:00.

Closed on Monday.



Madrid

Madrid originates from the Roman period and was chosen by Philip II as his residence and capital of Spain in 1561.

Museo del Prado

Goya, Velazquez, El Greco, Zurbarán, Murillo and Tizian, as well as for representants of the Flemish school.

Paseo del Prado.

Tuesday - Saturday: 09:00-19:00.

Sunday: 09:00-14:00. Closed on Monday.

Hieronymus Bosch, Garden of Earthly Delight:



Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza

Impressionism, Fauvism, German Expressionism and the experimental avant-garde movements of the early 20th century. In addition, it boasts an important collection of 19th-century American painting not found in any other European museum institutions.

Paseo del Prado 8: 10:00-19:00. Monday 12:00-16:00.

Vincent van Gogh, Les Vessenots in Anvers:



Museo Nacional Reina Sofía

This modern building featuring interesting expositions made complete the "Arts Triangle of Prado" in 1993.

Santa Isabel 52.

10:00 - 21:00. Closed on Tuesday.

Pablo Picasso, Guernica:



Museo Arqueológico Nacional

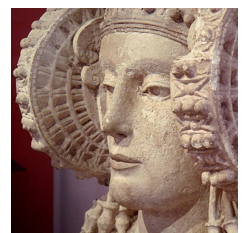
Objects from prehistorical time until middle-ages.

Serrano 13.

Tuesday - Saturday: 09:30-20:30. Sunday and public holidays 09:30-14:30.

Closed on Monday

Most famous is the prehistorical Lady of Elche:



El Escorial

The Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is a historical residence of King Philip II of Spain, in the town of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, about 45 kilometres (28 miles) northwest of the capital, Madrid.

Accessible by train (Cercanía C8a, 55 min. from Madrid Chamartín).

October - March: 10:00-18:00.

April - September: 10:00-20:00.



Mérida

The town was founded in 25 BC by emperor Augustus, with the name of Emerita Augusta (meaning the veterans – discharged soldiers – of the army of Augustus). It was the capital of the Roman province Lusitania.

Museo Nacional de Arte Romano (Spanish)

The Mérida National Museum of Roman Art was inaugurated in 1986. Inside you will find objects from the time of Roman civilisation. You can see tombstones, ceramics, glassware, coins, sculptures, paintings and mosaics.

Calle José Ramón Mérida

1 October - 31 March: Tuesday-Saturday 09:30-18:30.

1 April - 30 September: Tuesday-Saturday 09:30-20:00.

Sunday and public holidays: 10:00-15:00.

Closed on Monday.



Acueducto de Milagros (Spanish)

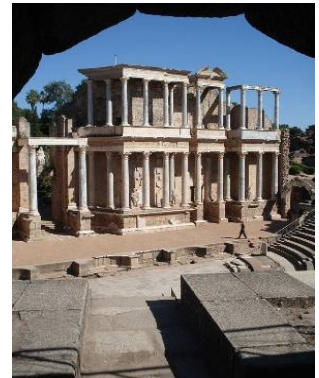
Build by the Romans, this aquaduct had a length of more than 2700 ft and its height reached 82 ft. It withdrew water from Lake Prosperpina, an ancient reservoir. The Prosperpina dam, which was build in the 1th or 2th century BC is still in use.



Teatro and Anfiteatro

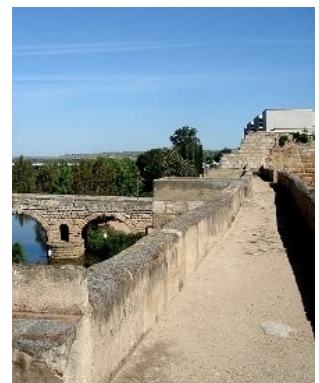
The Roman Theatre of Mérida is a construction promoted by the consul Vipsanius Agrippa in the Roman city of Emerita Augusta. It was constructed in the years 16 to 15 BC.

The Amphitheatre of Mérida is a ruined Roman amphitheatre, inaugurated in the year 8 BC. This building was intended for gladiatorial fights and combats between beasts or men and beasts.



Alcazaba

The Alcazaba is a Muslim fortification located near the Roman bridge over the Guadiana river, the Puente Romano, it was built by emir Abd al-Rahman II of Córdoba in 835.



Murcia

Murcia was founded by the emir of Cordoba Abd ar-Rahman II in 825 with the name Mursiyah.

Santa Iglesia Catedral de Santa María

In 1385 the laying of foundations began and in 1388 the first stone was laid. But it was not until 1394 that the construction began, which would be finished in October 1467: Nevertheless, the cathedral continued to grow until the 18th century, which means that the cathedral is made of a variety of artistic styles.



Museo Salzillo (Spanish)

The museum is dedicated to the work of the Spanish baroque sculptor Francisco Salzillo y Alcaraz.

Plaza de San Agustín 3

15 June-15 September: Monday-Friday 10:00-14:00.
Saturday and Sunday closed.

15 September-15 June: Monday-Saturday 10:00-17:00.
Sunday and public holidays 11:00-14:00.



Museo de la Ciencia y el Agua

The Science and Water Museum opened in 1996, with the aim of promoting and popularizing science in a fun and interactive way for all audiences (children and adults), which contributes to the popularization of scientific knowledge and method.

Plaza de la Ciencia.

1 September - 15 June: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-14:00 / 16:30-19:00. Closed on Monday.

16 June - 31 August: Monday-Friday 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00. Closed on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.



Jardín de Floridablanca (Spanish)

The oldest public garden in Spain, created in the 18th and 19th century.



Orense

The origin of the town can be traced to the Romans. It was destroyed by the Moors in 716 and later rebuilt by Alfonso III of Asturias about 877:

Catedral de Ourense

Orense Cathedral is dedicated to St Martin, it was founded in 550. The present mainly Gothic building was raised with the support of Bishop Lorenzo in 1220.



Museo Arqueológico Provincial (Spanish)

Tuesday-Saturday: 09:30-14:30 / 15:00 -21:00.
Sunday: 09:30-14:30.
Closed on Monday.



Museo Municipal (Spanish)

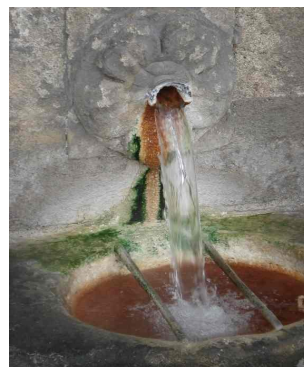
A small museum showing works of local artists

Rúa Lepanto 8
Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00-13:30 / 18:30-21:30.
Sunday 11:00-13:30.
Closed on Monday.



Las Burgas (Spanish)

This hot spring produces geothermally heated groundwater that rises from the Earth's crust at the rate of 300 liter per minute, with a temperature of 64-68 degree Celsius (147-154 Fahrenheit).



Pamplona

In 75–74 BC, the area served as a camp for the Roman general Pompey. He is considered to be the founder of Pompaelo, which became Pamplona.

Ciudadela de Pamplona (Spanish)

From the prominent military past of Pamplona remain three of the four sides of the city walls and, with little modifications, the citadel or star fort. All the mediaeval structures were replaced and improved during 16th, 17th and 18th centuries in order to resist artillery sieges. Completely obsolete for modern warfare, they are used today as parks.



Palacio de Condestable

This palace was built in the 16th century by order of Luis de Beaumont, Field Marshal of Navarra. Now its in posesion of the municipality and has a cultural function.

Inside the building is the museum Pablo Sarasate, the famous violinist and composer.



Calle Mayor 2.

Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00-14:00 / 18:00-21:00.

Closed on Sunday, Monday and public holidays.



Museo de Navarra

The museum is sited in the old hospital of 16th-century Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia de Pamplona, converted to museum only in 1956.

Calle de Santo Domingo 47.

Monday-Saturday: 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-19:00.

Sunday and holidays: 11:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



Plasencia

Plasencia was founded in 1186 by Alfonso VIII of Castile. Before it was a settlement called Ambrosia.

Muralla de Plasencia

The double wall of Plasencia was built at the end of the 12th century. There were seven gates and seventy watch towers. Some parts of the wall, towers and gates are restored.



Catedral Nueva de Plasencia (Spanish)

The construction of the New Cathedral of Plasencia started in 1498 and took 80 years to be completed.



Casa Consistorial (Spanish)

This former consistory, built in 1523, was reconstructed in 1966 and now in use as the city hall. There is a bell tower where the 'Abuelo Mayorga' (the Old Man Mayorga) rings the bells. The name of this huge puppet (2 m./85kg.) seems to be borrowed of the village Mayorga near Valladolid.



Monasterio de Yuste

The Monastery of Yuste (25 mi. from Plasencia) was the place where emperor Charles V spent the last two years of his life after his abdication in 1556. The Monastery was founded in 1402.

Winter: 09:30-12:30 / 15:00-18:00.

Summer: 09:30-12:30 / 15:30-18:30.



Ronda

Ronda was first settled by the early Celts, who called it Arunda in the sixth century BC. The current Ronda is of Roman origin.

Puentes (bridges)

Ronda is called the City of Bridges. There are three bridges over the river Guadalavin: Puente Romano or Puente de las Cortaduras, constructed by the Moors on a Roman structure; [Puente Viejo](#), built in 1616 and the huge [Puente Nuevo](#), built between 1759 and 1793.



Museo Municipal

The municipal museum is located in the Palacio de Mondragón.

Plaza de Mondragón 5.

Monday - Friday: 10:00-19:00.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 10:00-15:00.



Museo Peinado

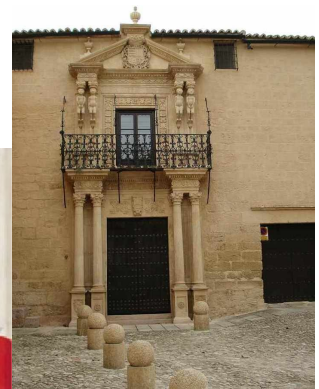
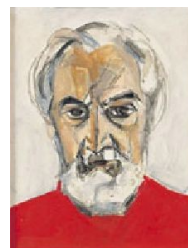
The Museo Peinado is located in the Palacio de Moctezuma and contains the work of the Spanish artist Joaquin Peinado.

Plaza del Gigante.

Monday to Friday: 10:00-17:00.

Saturday and public holidays: 10:00-15:00.

Closed on Sunday



Museo del Bandolero (Spanish)

The Bandolero Museum gives an overview of the phenomenon of Banditry.

Monday - Friday: 11:00-15:30.

Saturday and Sunday: 11:00-18:00.



Salamanca

The city was founded in the pre-Ancient Rome period by the Vaccaeii, a Celtic tribe. In the Roman era it was an important city along the Vía de la Plata. During centuries it was a battleground (Moors vs Christians). Resettlement by the Christians took place in the 11th century

Museo de Art Nouveau y Art Déco / Casa Lis

The Art Nouveau and Art Déco Museum is a museum for decorative arts that sets a tour through time from the last decades of the 19th century until World War II.

Calle Gibraltar 14.

April - October: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-20:00.

November - March: Tuesday-Friday 11:00-14:00 / 16:00-20.

Saturday and Sunday: 11:00-20:00.

Closed on Monday, except in August and on public holidays.



Domus Artium (Spanish)

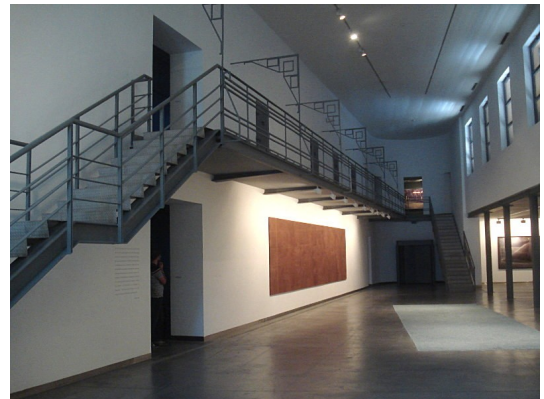
Domus Artium is a museum of modern art, located in a former prison built in 1930. It was completely renovated and opened its doors in 2002.

Avenida de la Aldehuela.

Tuesday - Friday: 12:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 12:00-15:00 / 17:00-21:00.

Closed on Monday, except public holidays.



Catedral Nueva

The New Cathedral was constructed in two styles: late Gothic and Baroque. The building began in 1513 and the cathedral was consecrated in 1733.



Plaza Mayor

The first Plaza Mayor in Spanish style was constructed by order of Philip II in Valladolid, after the city centre burned down in 1561. A right-angled square with arcades where seven streets come together. The Plaza Mayor of Salamanca is considered to be the most beautiful Plaza Mayor in Spain.



Santiago de Compostela

The city has its origin in the shrine of Saint James the Great, now the city's cathedral, as destination of the Way of St. James, a leading Catholic pilgrimage route originated in the 9th century.

Catedral de Santiago de Compostela

According to legend, the apostle Saint James the Great brought Christianity to the Iberian Peninsula. In 44 he was beheaded in Jerusalem. His remains were later brought back to Galicia, Spain. The legend tells that this tomb was rediscovered in 814 by the hermit Pelagius, after he witnessed strange lights in the night sky. Bishop Theodomirus of Iria recognized this as a miracle and informed king Alfonso II of Asturias and Galicia (791–842). The king ordered the construction of a chapel on the site. This was followed by the first church in 829 AD and then in 899 AD by a pre-Romanesque church which caused the gradual development of the major place of pilgrimage. The present cathedral dates from the 11th century.

Daily: 07:00 - 20:30.



Colegiata de Santa María a Real do Sar (Spanish)
Church of Santa María a Real do Sar is a small church built in Romanesque style in the 14th century. Its pillars are leaning.

Daily: 11:00 - 14:00 / 16:30 - 19:30.



Monasteiro e Igrexia de San Martiño Pinario

The monastery of San Martiño Pinario is a former Benedictine monastery. Little remains of the original medieval buildings, as the monastery has been largely rebuilt since the sixteenth century. The monastery was closed in the nineteenth century. The building currently house a seminary and a [museum of religious art](#) (Spanish).

Plaza de San Martiño.

Tuesday - Sunday: 11:00 -13:30 / 16:00-18:30.

Closed on Monday.



Arteria Noroeste

The Arteria Noroeste building, which houses the association of authors and publishers (SGAE) in Galicia, is a spectacular design by Antón García Abril set in the historic Vista Alegre estate. One of the walls of its gallery is made of haphazardly piled up granite blocks and the other of ten thousands CD-boxes.

Rúa das Salvadas 2A - Parque de Vista Alegre.



Segovia

During the Roman period the settlement belonged to one of numerous contemporary Latin convents. It is believed that the city was abandoned after the Islamic invasion of Spain centuries later. Around 1085 Segovia was resettled with Christians.

Acueducto de Segovia

The Roman aqueduct was built at the end of the 1st century without the use of mortar or cement. The aqueduct is 813 meters long and raises to a maximum height of 28 meters (92 feet) above the Plaza del Azoguejo. It is made of granite rocks and consists of 166 arches and 120 pillars arranged in two levels. The aqueduct once transported water from the Rio Frio river, situated in mountains 17 km (11 mi) from the city in the La Acebeda region. It runs 15 km (9:3 mi) before arriving in the city.



El Alcázar

The Alcázar was built in the 12th Century over the remains of an old Roman fortress. It became one of the favorite residences of the Castilian Monarchs and was successively modified. For most of the 17th and 18th centuries, the Alcázar served as a prison. In 1862 the Alcázar was devastated by a fire. In 1898, after the restoration, the General Military Archives of Spain were moved to the Alcázar and placed on the upper floor where they remain to the present day.

October - March: 10:00-18:00.

April - September: 10:00-19:00.



Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente

The Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente houses the extraordinary collection of works donated by Esteban Vicente (1903 – 2001), the only Spanish member of the first generation of the New York School of Abstract Expressionism in America.

Plazuela de las Bellas Artes.

Tuesday - Friday: 11:00-14:00 / 16:00-19:00.

Saturday: 11:00-20:00.

Sunday and holidays: 11:00-15:00.

Closed on Monday.



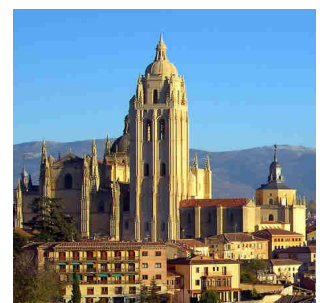
Catedral de Santa María

The massive cathedral was built between 1525-1577 in a late Gothic style, outdated elsewhere in Europe.

Calle Marqués del Arco 1.

Monday - Saturday: 09:30-19:00.

Sunday: 13:00-19:00.



Sevilla

[The city was known from Roman times as Hispalis.](#) In the Visigoth era (409-712) Seville was an important bishop seat, held by [Isidoro de Sevilla](#). It was taken by the Moors in 712 and in 1247 by the Christians.

[Catedral de Sevilla](#)

Seville Cathedral was built to demonstrate the city's wealth, as it had become a major trading center in the years after the Reconquista in 1248: In July 1401 it was decided to build a new cathedral. It is the largest Gothic cathedral and the third-largest church in the world.



[Giralda](#)

The Giralda is the bell tower of the Seville Cathedral in Seville. It was originally built as a minaret during the Moorish period (1184), with a Renaissance style top subsequently added by Spaniards.



[Museo de Belles Artes](#) (Spanish)

The Museum of Fine Arts of Seville contains a collection of mainly Spanish visual arts from the medieval period to the early 20th century.

Plaza del Museo 9.

Tuesday: 14:30-20:30.

Wednesday - Saturday: 09:00-20:30.

Sunday: 09:00-14:30.

Closed on Monday.



[Real Alcázar de Sevilla](#) (Spanish)

The Alcázar of Seville is a royal palace originally developed by Moorish Muslim kings. The palace is renowned as one of the most beautiful in Spain, being regarded as one of the most outstanding examples of mudéjar architecture found on the Iberian Peninsula.

Patio de Banderas.

October - March: Monday-Sunday 09:30-17:00.

April - September: Monday-Sunday 09:30-19:00.



Toledo

Toledo was a settlement conquered by the Romans in 193 BC, who called it Toletum. Capital of the Visigothic kingdom (570-711). Emperor Charles V made Toledo capital of his imperium. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986 for its extensive cultural and monumental heritage and historical co-existence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures.

Catedral de Santa María

The cathedral of Toledo is one of the three 13th-century High Gothic cathedrals in Spain and is considered, in the opinion of some authorities, to be the magnum opus of the Gothic style in Spain. It was begun in 1226 under the rule of Ferdinand III and the last Gothic contributions were made in the 15th century when, in 1493, the vaults of the central nave were finished during the time of the Catholic Monarchs.

Calle Cardenal Cisneros 1
Monday - Saturday: 10:00-18:30.
Sunday: 14:00-18:30.



Museo de Santa Cruz

The building was originally a hospital, the Holy Cross Hospital, a charitable institution for the care of the sick, old and poor.

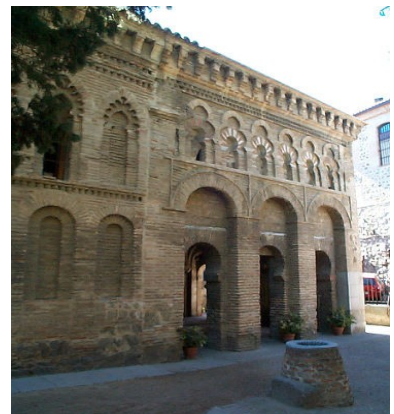
Calle Miguel de Cervantes 3
Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00-19:00.
Sunday: 10:00-14:30.
Closed on Monday.



Mezquita de Bab al-Mardum

The Mosque of Cristo de la Luz is a former mosque in Toledo, Spain, the only one of the ten once existing in the city which remains largely as it was in the Moorish period. It was then known as Mezquita Bab-al-Mardum, deriving its name from the city gate Bab al-Mardum.

Cuesta de las Carmelitas Descalzas 10.
In summer, daily 10:00-19:00.



Valencia

Valencia was founded in the Roman period, c. 138 BC, under the name 'Valentia Edetanorum'. The city surrendered to the invading Moors about 714. Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, known as El Cid, ruled the city for five years. James I of Aragón brought Valencia under permanent Christian control in 1238:

Lonja de la Seda

Built between 1482 and 1533, this group of buildings was originally used for trading in silk (hence its name, the Silk Exchange) and it has always been a centre for commerce. It is a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture. The grandiose Sala de Contratación (Contract or Trading Hall), in particular, illustrates the power and wealth of a major Mediterranean mercantile city in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Mercado (access via calle de la Lonja 2).

Monday - Saturday: 09:30-19:00.

Sunday and holidays: 09:30-15:00.



Mercado Central

The Mercado Central was a piece of Modern Art, built between 1914 and 1928: Its the biggest fresh food market of Europe.

Plaza de Mercado.

Monday - Saturday: 08:00-15:00.



Estación del Norte

The North Station, built in Art Nouveau style (Jugendstil) is the main railway station in Valencia, Spain. It is located in the city centre next to the Plaza de Toros de Valencia.



Jardín del Turia

The river Turia, feared for its floodings, was re-routed in the fifties of the 20th century and the river bed changed into a large walking, sports and cycling park: the Jardín del Turia. The Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias is located at the south end of the garden. It is an entertainment-based cultural and architectural complex, designed by Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela.



Catedral de Valencia

Most of Valencia Cathedral was built between the 13th century and the 15th century, and thus its style is mainly Gothic. However, its construction went on for centuries. As a consequence there is a mixture of artistic styles, ranging from the early Romanesque, Valencian Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical. Its bell tower is called the 'Miguelete'.

20 March - October: Monday-Saturday 10:00-18:30.

November - 19 March: Monday-Saturday 10:00-17:30.

Sunday and holidays: closed from 14:00-17:00.



Valladolid

In the 12th and 13th centuries, Valladolid came into growth. It was made the capital of the kingdom between 1601 and 1606 by Philip III.

Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

The structure has its origins in a late Gothic collegiate church, which begun in the late 15th century. Before temporarily becoming capital of a united Spain, Valladolid was not a bishopric, and thus it lacked a cathedral. However, with the newly established episcopal see in the 16th century, the Town Council decided to build a larger, modern cathedral in Renaissance-style, befitting the city's new status.



Museo Oriental

The Oriental Museum is located in the Convento de los Agustinos Filipinos and contains numerous works of art collected by Agustinian missionaries in China, Japan and the Philippines.

Calle Jorge Guillén 6.

Tuesday - Friday: 11:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00

Saturday: 11:00-20:00. Sunday: 11:00-15:00.

Closed on Monday.



Palacio de Santa Cruz

The Palacio de Santa Cruz is an Early-Renaissance palace. Construction began in 1486 and was finally completed in 1491.

Museo de Arte Africano Arellano Alonso (Spanish) (Museum of African Art) is located in this building.

Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00-14:00 / 16:30-20:00.

Sunday: 11:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



Patio Herreriano de Arte Contemporáneo Español (Spanish)

In the Museum of Modern Art of Valladolid a large collection of contemporary art works is shown containing works of artists like Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Serrano, Eduardo Chillida, Esteban Vicente et cetera.

Calle Jorge Guillén 6.

Tuesday - Friday: 11:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00

Saturday: 11:00-20:00. Sunday: 11:00-15:00.

Closed on Monday.



Plaza del Viejo Coso (Spanish)

This small square used to be the first bullring of Valladolid, built in 1833. In 1980 the loges of the 'plaza de toros' were converted into small flats. It's an oasis of tranquility.



Zamora

With its 24 characteristic Romanesque style churches of the 12th and 13th centuries, Zamora has been called a 'museum of Romanesque art'. Zamora is the city with the most Romanesque churches in all of Europe.

Catedral de Zamora

The Cathedral of Zamora is located above the right bank of the Duero in the southern and rather higher part of the old town, and is still surrounded by its old walls and gates. Built between 1151 and 1174, it is one of the finest examples of Spanish Romanesque architecture.

April - September: Monday-Sunday 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00.

October - March: Monday-Sunday 10:00-14:00 / 16:30-19:00.



Castillo de Zamora (Spanish)

The castle was built on Pre-Roman foundations and a Romanesque structure during the 11th century. It stands northwest of the Cathedral and was an important Christian defensive work.

Tuesday - Sunday: 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00.

Closed on Monday.

Castle garden: Daily 10:00-23:00.



Museo Provincial de Zamora (Spanish)

The museum was inaugurated in 1877, but opened its doors not until 1911. There are three sections: Archeology, Fine Art and History of the city of Zamora.

Plaza Santa Lucía 2.

October - June: 10:00-14:00 / 16:00-19:00.

July - September: 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-20:00.

Sunday and holidays: 10:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



Museo Baltasar Lobo (Spanish)

Baltasar Lobo (Spanish) (1910 - 1993) was a Spanish artist, anarchist and sculptor, best known for his compositions depicting mother and child. Some of his works are shown in and around the castle of Zamora.

Plaza la Catedral.

April - June: 10:00-14:00 / 17:00 -20:00.

July - September: 10:00-14:00 / 18:00-21:00.

Closed on Monday.



Zaragoza

Zaragoza was founded by the Roman emperor Augustus in 14 BC. He named it 'CesarAugusta'.

Palacio de la Aljafería

This splendid king's palace of 11th century is one of very few remaining Moorish buildings of the dynasty 'Taifas'.

Calle de los Diputados

Monday - Saturday: 10:00-14:00 / 16:00-18:30.

Sunday: 10:00-14:00.



Museo Pablo Serrano (Spanish)

Pablo Serrano was a Spanish abstract sculptor (1908 - 1985).

Paseo María Agustín 20.

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-21:00.

Sunday: 10:00-14:00.

Closed on Monday.



Museo Pablo Gargallo

Pablo Emilio Gargallo (1881-1934) was a Spanish sculptor and painter.

Plaza de San Felipe 3

Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00-14:00 / 17:00-21:00.

Public holidays: 10:00-14:30.

Closed on Monday.



Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar

This church is one of the most visited places of pilgrimage in all Spain, consecrated to the "Holy Virgin of Pilar", patroness not only of this town but of all Spanish-speaking countries.

Plaza del Pilar.

