

The Route of the Monarchs:

In the footsteps of Isabella I and Charles V



Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, Cuacos de Yuste

Extremadura provides you with the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of two important figures in Spain's history: Queen Isabella I and King Charles V.



The Route of Isabella I

Queen Isabella I (also known as Isabel the Catholic or Isabel la Católica) and her descendants maintained strong links with Extremadura and many of the region's cities and towns have connections with the queen. Cáceres witnessed several episodes in her life; she settled with her court in Trujillo; King Afonso V of Portugal renounced the crown of Castile to Queen Isabella and her husband King Ferdinand II, known as the Catholic Kings, in Alcántara; and it was there that Queen Isabella was notified of the death of her only son, Prince Juan. Jerez de los Caballeros and Fregenal de la Sierra provided the monarchs with essential support by way of the grand master of the Order of Santiago. Other significant locations in her reign include Zafra, Zalamea de la Serena, Llerena and Madrigalejo, which was where King Ferdinand died. Valencia de Alcántara witnessed the royal wedding

of her eldest child, Princess Isabella, to the King of Portugal, which is commemorated every year at the Church of Nuestra Señora de Rocamadador.

Plasencia supported Queen Isabella's niece, Juana la Beltraneja, when she stood against her for the crown. However, the most significant location for Isabella was the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe, whose setting she described as "her paradise". She visited the place on several occasions and received Christopher Columbus there, before the expedition that would lead to the discovery of America.

If you are a fan of the Spanish TV series "Isabel", you can visit some of the show's locations or take part in activities, surrounded by nature.



Guadalupe



The Route of Charles V

Following his historic reign, Charles V travelled to Extremadura for his retirement. He stayed at the castle of the

Counts of Oropesa in Jarandilla de la Vera, which is now part of the Paradores hotel chain. Once the works on his rooms at the Monastery of Yuste were completed, the king's retinue travelled via Aldeanueva de la Vera to the religious community in Cuacos de Yuste. It was a beautiful and exciting journey full of history and nature, which, four centuries later, can be relived on the Route of Charles V. The route is celebrated on the first weekend of February every year, in an Event of Tourist Interest in the monarch's honour that marks the 10km journey. During the event, visitors can enjoy the period setting, performances and a Renaissance-style market. The hiking route, meanwhile, is available to walkers throughout the year.

Both routes provide you with the opportunity to enjoy local food and drink, along with delicacies fit for a king.



The Route of Charles V



The Route of the Jewish Quarters:

Traces of the Jewish legacy



Jewish Quarter, Hervás



The monumental character of Extremadura's Jewish quarters is visible in the streets of the San Antonio neighbourhood in Cáceres, the setting of the Parador hotel in Plasencia and the medieval neighbourhood of Hervás. All three towns are part of the Network of Jewish Quarters in Spain.

Cáceres' two Jewish quarters will surprise you. First, you have the Old Jewish Quarter or *Judería Vieja*, full of narrow streets and whitewashed houses, and crowned by the Chapel of San Antonio on the site of the former synagogue located inside the walled Old Town.

The New Jewish Quarter or *Judería Nueva* was created as a place for Jews to live in 1478 next to the main Plaza Mayor square and outside the city's walls. The building known as the Palacio de la Isla, which is currently a centre for cultural activities, was built on the site of the former synagogue. September marks the European Day of Jewish Culture and November welcomes the Three Cultures Medieval Market, featuring a number of different activities.



Plasencia



Chapel of San Antonio, Cáceres

mark on the town, as shown by the Los Conversos festival held in July, which provides visitors with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the period. The festival's highlight is a performance featuring the town's residents in the Historic-Artistic Site of the Jewish neighbourhood or *Barrio Judío*.

Visitors can also follow the Jewish trail around the charming streets and alley-



Jewish Quarter, Valencia de Alcántara



The Route of the Discoverers

A journey to the discoverers' birthplace



Trujillo



Discover the legacy of the explorers from Extremadura through an itinerary packed with culture and heritage. The route begins in Guadalupe, where Queen Isabella I encouraged Columbus to travel to the Indies, to a New World discovered by several illustrious Extremadurans.

Trujillo is home to the Los Descubridores Visitor Center. The centre provides information on the role played by the town in the discovery of America and especially on its illustrious sons Francisco Pizarro, who conquered Peru by toppling the Inca Empire, and Francisco de Orellana, who founded Ecuador's largest city, Guayaquil, and located the Amazon River. The famous *conquistador* Hernán Cortés was a native of Medellín and Pedro de

Alvarado y Contreras, who helped him in his efforts against the Aztec Empire and who is considered to have discovered El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, came from Badajoz.

Francisco de Godoy left his birthplace of Cáceres to help Pizarro conquer Peru and was appointed mayor of Lima shortly



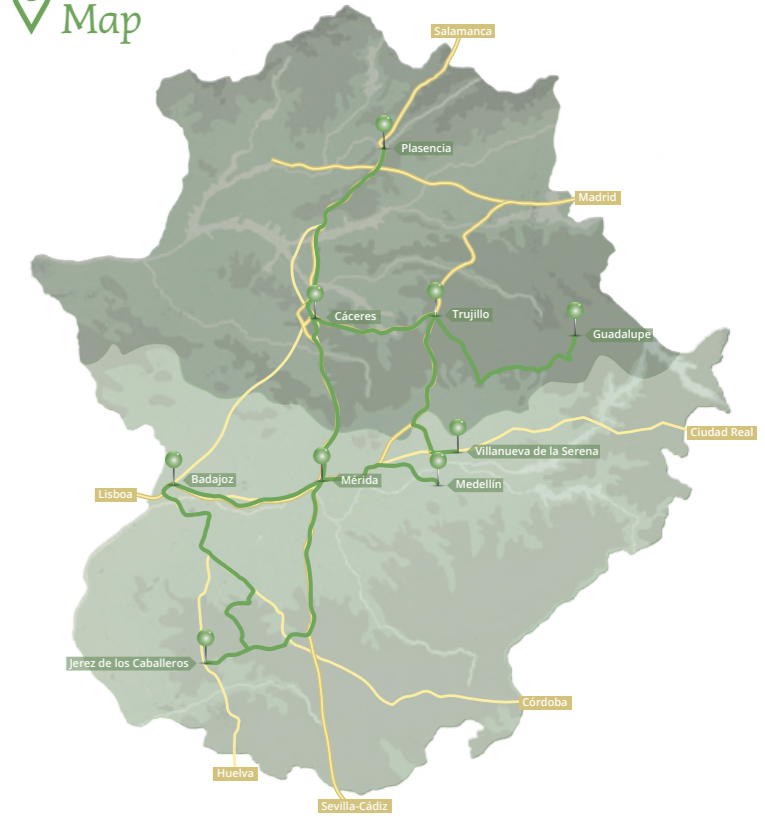
Jerez de los Caballeros

a part in the history of the Discovery of America.

We complete our journey in Jerez de los Caballeros, the birthplace of Vasco Núñez de Balboa, who was the first to sight the Pacific Ocean and open up new routes that another illustrious son, Hernando de Soto, would subsequently use. De Soto became governor of Cuba and explored the North American territories to the Mississippi River, where he died.



Medellín



The Route of the Fortresses:

Travel back in time



Castillo de Luna, Albuquerque



In Albuquerque, in the province of Badajoz, the privileged location of the Luna Castle, declared a National Monument, made it one of history's most coveted sites. In the eastern part of the province, opposite the Roman Theatre in Medellín, is the historic heritage site of the Arab Fortress. From the top of the castle's keep in Puebla de Alcocer, built in the 13th century and remodelled at the end of the 15th century, the views take in the whole of La Serena Valley, the Orellana Reservoirs, La Serena and an extensive part of the La Siberia Biosphere Reserve. Feria Castle includes an impressive keep with its square base shape and rounded corners. It offers privileged views over the Zafra-Rio Bodión district and is also home to the Señorío de Feria Interpretation Centre. Olivenza Castle, conquered by the Templars at the beginning of the 13th century, belonged to Portugal, France and Spain at different times and



Burguillos del Cerro Castle

Cáceres province is home to Trujillo Castle, which was built on Cabeza del Zorro hill on the site of a former Arab citadel

between the 9th and 12th centuries. The origin of the castle at Montánchez goes back to Roman times, but the Almohads were responsible for the current structure, as shown by its three water cisterns. To the east of Cáceres is the Castle of Belvis de Monroy, which unites medieval, Renaissance, Gothic, plateresque and baroque styles. To the north, at the Historic-Artistic Site of Granadilla, you can visit the tall and narrow structure of its castle from which a number of different bird species can be viewed due to its proximity to the Gabriel y Galán Reservoir. Trevejo's castle played a prominent

role in controlling the western valleys of Sierra de Gata, which can be seen from the building, while anthropomorphic graves can be viewed in the area below the castle. The Knights Templar of the Orders of Alcántara and Pereiro were in charge of rebuilding the Arab Castle at Santibáñez el Alto, which is the largest fortification in the Sierra de Gata Mountain Range. And if you want to feel like a king, you can visit the castle at Jarandilla de la Vera, which is now part of the Paradores hotel chain, where Emperor Charles V stayed before his permanent retirement to the Monastery of Yuste.



Trevejo Castle



Extremadura, Film Set:

Stunning backdrops and secrets from behind the scenes



Los Barruecos Natural Monument in Malpartida de Cáceres



Extremadura is a natural and cultural paradise that offers a wide range of locations, given its well-conserved wealth of historic and natural heritage and excellent climate. The Extremadura Film Commission is the regional office that supports the audiovisual sector to facilitate any filming work in the region.

For decades, Extremadura has been a film set for several audiovisual productions dealing with a wide variety of subjects and periods. The collection of historic buildings in Cáceres has provided the setting for many films and TV shows, with millions of "Game of Thrones" followers witness to its streets and squares. The UNESCO World Heritage Site provided the set for the Romeo and Juliet-based drama "Still Star-Crossed" and Spanish



Trujillo

the film "The Sandman". Successful Spanish historic dramas such as "Isabel" and "Carlos V, los caminos del Emperador" were also set in Zafra, a place of noble heritage, and in Plasencia, the pearl of the Jerte Valley. The latter production also used emblematic sites such as the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe as sets for royal scenes, along with the historic location of the Royal Monastery at San Jerónimo de Yuste (also used in the production of "Carlos, Rey Emperador"), which the king chose for his retirement.

Film lovers can enjoy one of the most famous locations featured in Pedro Almodóvar's film "Tie me up! Tie me down!" in Villa de Granadilla. And close by you will find the International Centre of Sport Innovation known as The Ring, located at the Gabriel y Galán Reservoir, where the Spanish film and subsequent TV show "Heroes Wanted" was filmed.



Cáceres



C.I.I.D El Anillo, Gujo de Granadilla



Camino de la Plata:

A historic pilgrims' route to Santiago



Roman arch at Cáparra.



The Camino de la Plata, part of the Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago) along the Via de la Plata Route, is the Roman road along the western side of the Iberian Peninsula that, 2,000 years later, is used by pilgrims heading on foot or by bike to Santiago de Compostela. This classic route of pilgrimage travels through Andalusia, Extremadura, Castilla y León and Galicia to Santiago. The journey through Extremadura presents travellers with amazing landscapes and a valuable historic and cultural heritage.

Along the 300km route through Extremadura, you will see Roman remains that are worth a visit. They include the

remains of the original road, Roman bridges, thermal baths at Montemayor and cities built during the period. One such example is Cáparra, with its famous four-sided arch—the only one of its kind in Spain—which you will travel through on your journey towards Santiago. Mérida, declared a World Heritage Site for its archaeological ensemble, deserves a separate mention. The theatre, the amphitheatre, the bridge over the Guadiana and Diana's Temple are just some of its most emblematic monuments. The Camino de la Plata's most interesting elements as it travels through Extremadura amount to more than its Roman legacy, however, and include Christian, Muslim and Jewish influences. The World Heritage Site of Cáceres, with its beautiful towers, churches and medieval streets, is a must-see for visitors. It's no wonder that, some years ago, the Council of Europe declared



Cáceres

the city the Third Monumental Complex of Europe after Tallinn (Estonia) and Venice (Italy), while Zafra and Plasencia also have important old towns.

Every stage of your journey will bring you beautiful landscapes, as you travel along meadows, plains and mountain ranges and through charming towns and villages, accompanied by a rich and varied cuisine. Starting with the delicious Ibérico ham, you will also have the opportunity to see

how Extremadura's delicacies give you strength on your journey towards Santiago.



Plaza Grande, Zafra.



Cultural Routes

Extremadura is a land rich in history and culture, home to the legacy of some of the most important civilisations in history, with several different options for travellers. Here are a series of tourist routes around some of the most interesting and unique parts of the region for you to choose and enjoy its secrets and attractions. There's bound to be a route for you.

Follow historic pathways such as the **Ruta de los Monarcas (Route of the Monarchs)**, with two routes around Extremadura that allow you to experience some of the most important moments in the life of Queen Isabella I and the retirement of her grandson, Emperor Charles V.

Immerse yourself in a journey through the legacy of the Jewish people, which lives on through the streets, festivals and cuisine of Extremadura's towns and villages, with the **Ruta de las Juderías (Route of the Jewish Quarters)**.

The **Ruta de los Descubridores (Route of the Discoverers)** will reveal the exploits and the birthplaces of Extremadura's explorers who, after returning from the Americas with large fortunes, built noble palaces and homes that became a legacy for Extremadura.

Extremadura is home to countless monuments; centuries of history set in stone that created what we now call the **Ruta de las Fortalezas (Route of the Fortresses)**. An approachable, fun and exciting way to experience other periods in history with some of our best castles.

Extremadura has been the natural setting for numerous productions. **Ruta Extremadura, Plató de Cine (Extremadura: Film Set)** shows visitors the locations of globally successful television series such as "Game of Thrones" and film shoots, including that of Pedro Almodóvar's "Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!".

The **Camino de la Plata** lets you travel by foot or by bike along an ancient road for almost 1,000 kilometres towards Santiago de Compostela, revealing a unique wealth of monuments and natural sites as it travels through Extremadura. The landscape is dominated by the Mediterranean forest and meadows, along with UNESCO World Heritage Sites that turn the region's heritage into a unique and vast open-air museum.

All our routes are a pleasure for the senses, including those related to food and drink, providing visitors with the opportunity to enjoy the region's culinary delights.

Routes around Extremadura full of interesting ideas, spectacular landscapes and pleasant surprises.

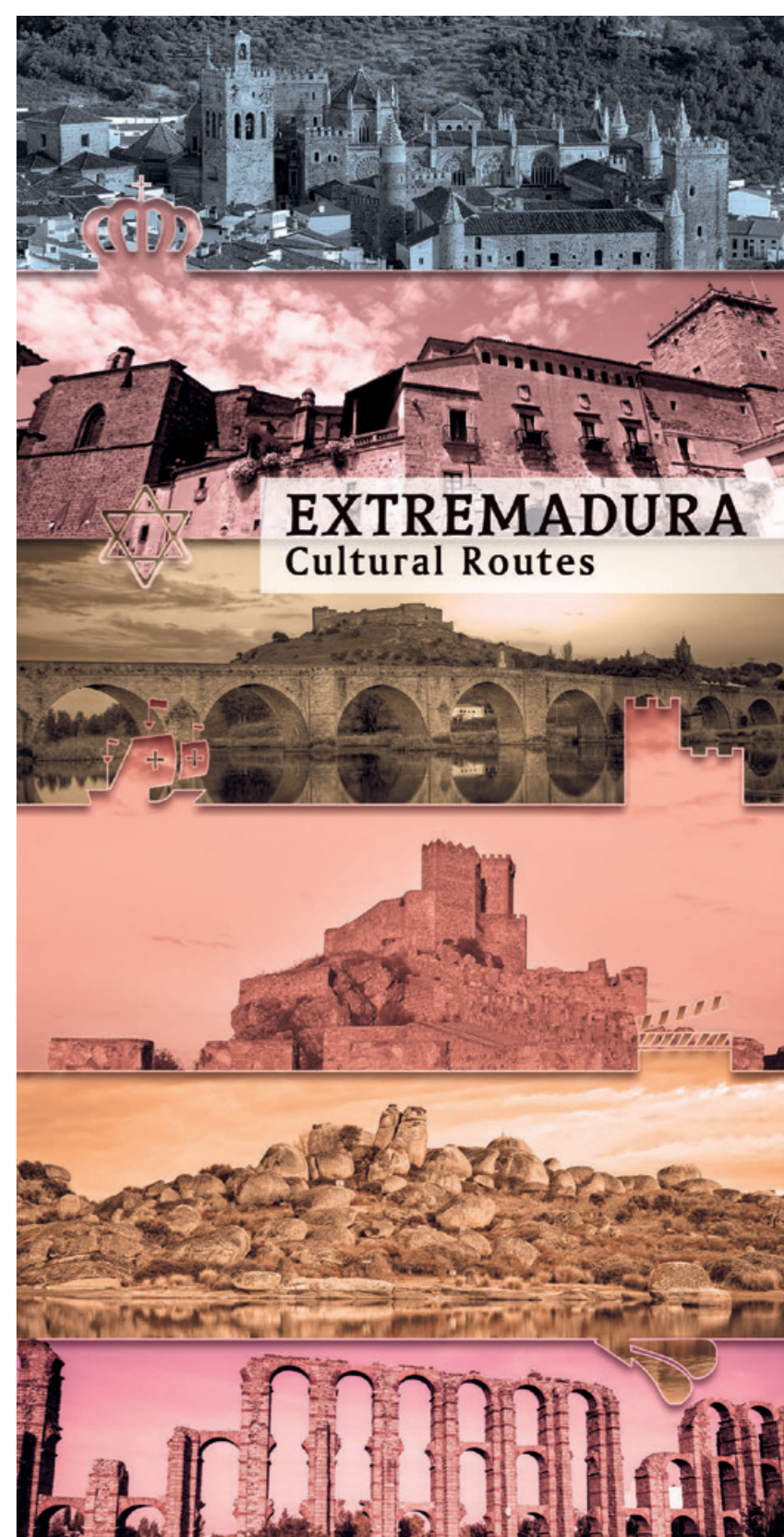


- Key**
- Highways
 - Roads
 - Route of the Monarchs: Charles V
 - Route of the Monarchs: Isabella I
 - Route of the Jewish Quarters
 - Route of the Discoverers
 - Route of the Fortresses
 - Extremadura: Film Set
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Cultural Routes

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