Mérida

Province of Badajoz · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Mérida is a city in Extremadura, in western Spain, and the regional capital. Founded by the Romans as Emerita Augusta in 25 BC, it has the best-preserved Roman remains in Spain, and its archaeological ensemble is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The theatre, amphitheatre, bridge and aqueduct are all within the city. It suits a full day or an overnight stay, and it is close to Cáceres and Badajoz.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons, with mild, sunny weather. Summers are very hot and dry, with temperatures often above 35°C. Winters are mild, with some rain.

The International Festival of Classical Theatre runs from July to August in the Roman Theatre, with evening performances. The summer evenings are cooler, so it is a good time to visit the sites after dark.

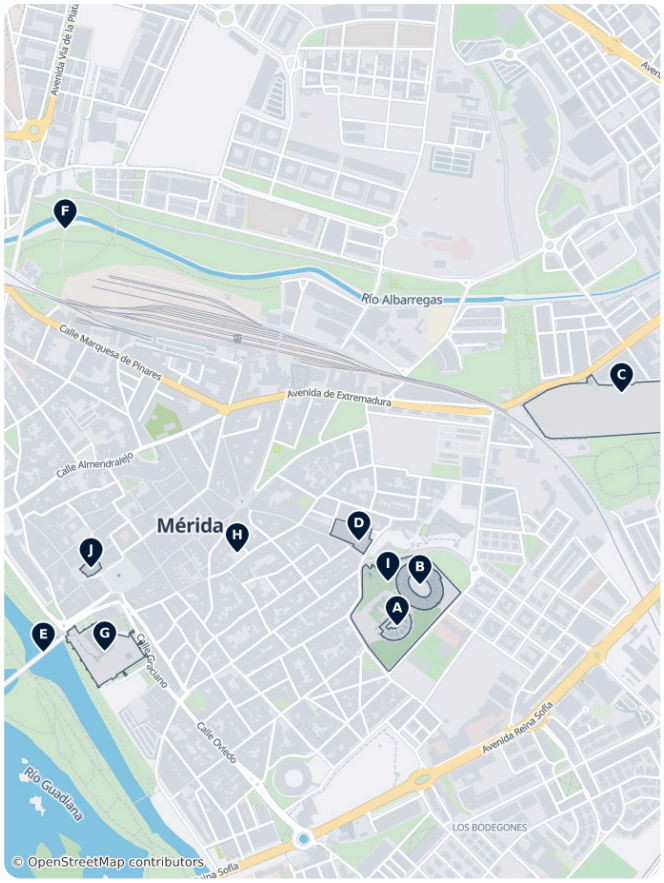
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 18° Feels like 10°	4° / -2°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	4° / -2°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24° Feels like 15°	6° / 1°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	9° / 4°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 35°	12° / 7°	☀ 20 sunny days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 41°	17° / 11°	☀ 23 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 10 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	37° / 42°	20° / 15°	☀ 29 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 23 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	37° / 42°	20° / 15°	☀ 28 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 22 days above 35°
September	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 38°	17° / 12°	☀ 21 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · Up to 6 days above 35°
October	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	13° / 8°	Dry air
November	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	7° / 2°	Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 18° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	Dry air

Best months: April, May, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Teatro Romano is a Roman theatre from around 15 BC with a restored stage, still used for performances.
- B Anfiteatro Romano is a Roman amphitheatre next to the theatre, where gladiator fights were held.
- C Circo Romano is a Roman chariot-racing circus, one of the best preserved in the Roman world.
- D Museo Nacional de Arte Romano is a museum of Roman art in a brick building designed by the architect Rafael Moneo.
- E Puente Romano is a Roman bridge more than 700 meters long, one of the longest to survive.
- F Acueducto de los Milagros is a Roman aqueduct with brick and granite arches.
- G Alcazaba de Mérida is a Moorish fortress from the 9th century, built with Roman materials.
- The Temple of Diana is a Roman temple in the old town, with columns that rise above a later palace.
- The Trajan Arch is a Roman arch at the edge of the old forum.
- H Foro Romano and I Conjunto Arqueológico de Mérida cover the wider Roman city.
- J Concatedral de Santa María la Mayor is the co-cathedral of Mérida.



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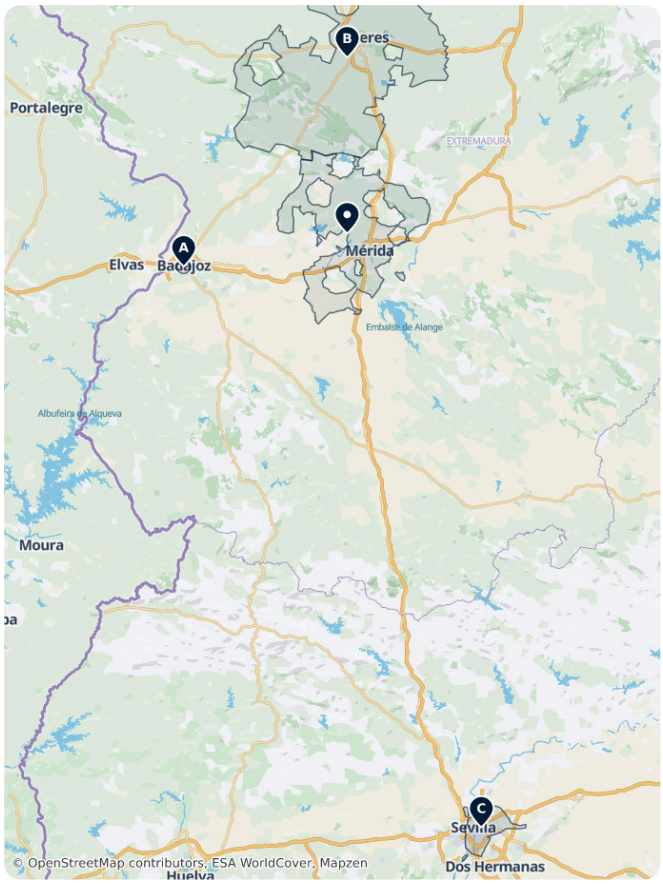
What to experience

- Watch a performance in the Roman Theatre during the summer festival.
- Walk across the Roman Bridge at sunset.
- Buy a combined ticket for several of the sites to save money.

Day trips

- Ⓐ Badajoz (about 60 km, 45 minutes): a border city with a Moorish fortress.
- Ⓑ Cáceres (about 70 km, 50 minutes by car): a medieval walled town.
- **Almendralejo** (about 25 km): a wine town in Extremadura.
- **Lácara Dolmen** (about 15 km): a prehistoric burial chamber.
- Ⓒ Seville (about 200 km, 2 hours by car): the Andalusian capital.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Extremadura**: Cáceres and Badajoz.
- **Andalusia**: Seville.

Getting there

- **By air**: Badajoz airport (BJZ) has very few flights. Seville and Lisbon airports are the main alternatives.
- **By train**: Trains run to Badajoz, Cáceres and Madrid, though the services are slow and infrequent. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Coaches serve Madrid, Seville, Cáceres and Badajoz.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The Roman sites are close together and mostly flat. The theatre, amphitheatre and museum are within a few minutes of one another.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat, and a bike is a good way to reach the aqueduct and the circus.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The Roman sites are close together and mostly flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The city is flat, and a bike is a good way to reach the aqueduct and circus.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Helpful for day trips, but not for the city.
- **Parking**: Use a car park near the center.
- **Restrictions**: Parts of the old town are pedestrian only.

Food & drink

Mérida's food is typical of Extremadura. *Jamón ibérico*, *migas* (fried breadcrumbs with chorizo), *torta del Casar* cheese and roast lamb are common. Local wines come from the Tierra de Barros area.

Many bars serve generous tapas with each drink.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Mérida is a safe city. Summer heat is extreme, so visit the open-air sites in the morning or evening, drink water and wear sun protection. The ruins have uneven ground, so wear sturdy shoes.

History

The Romans founded Emerita Augusta in 25 BC as a home for retired soldiers, and it became the capital of the province of Lusitania. The theatre was built around 15 BC, and the amphitheatre in 8 BC.

The city declined after the fall of Rome, but it remained a major Visigothic town. The Moors built the Alcazaba in 835. Mérida was named capital of the Extremadura region in 1983, and the archaeological ensemble was listed by UNESCO in 1993.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

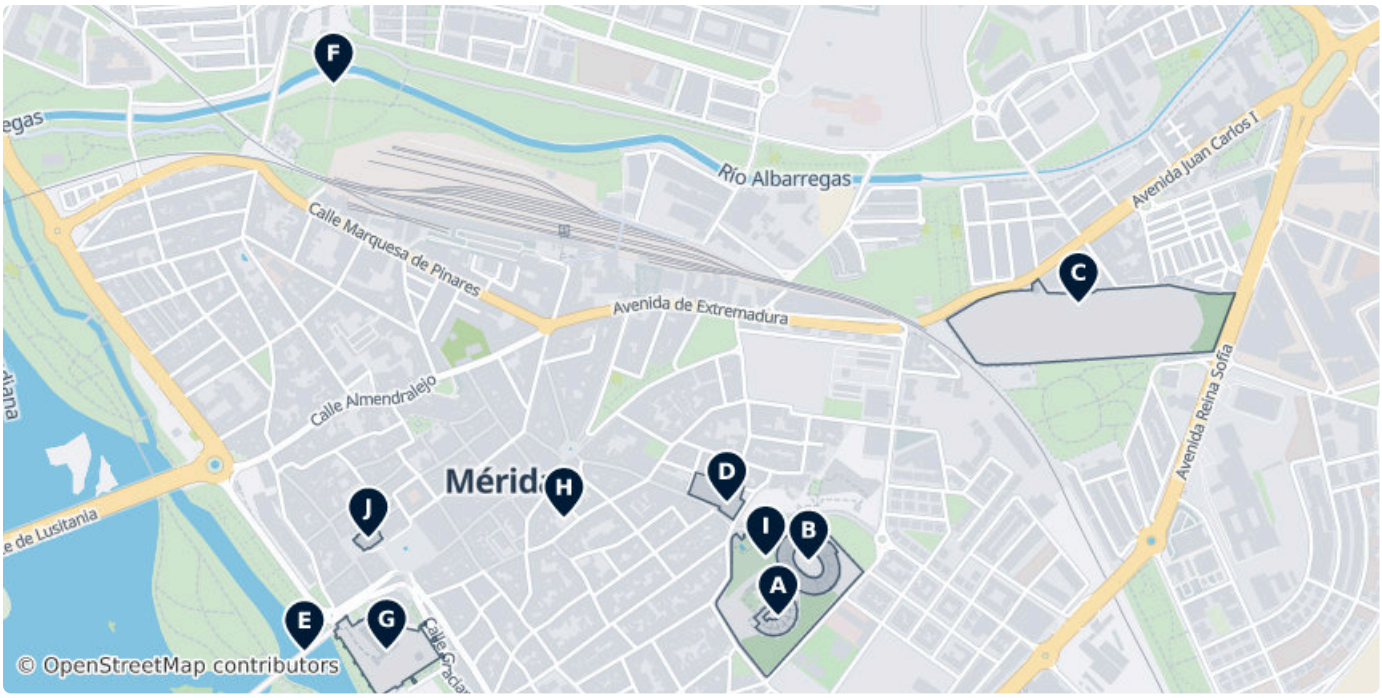
LANGUAGES

Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Top sights





A Roman Theatre of Mérida

The Roman Theatre of Mérida is a construction promoted by the consul Vipsanius Agrippa in the Roman city of Emerita Augusta, capital of...

2A Avenida del Arzobispo Antonio Montero, Mérida 06800, Spain (38.91528, -6.33856)

consorciomerida.org/conjunto/monum... , +34 924 004 908



B Amphitheatre of Mérida

The Amphitheatre of Mérida is a ruined Roman amphitheatre situated in the Roman colony of Emerita Augusta, present-day Mérida, in Spain.

Mérida 06800, Spain (38.91618, -6.33792)



C Roman Circus of Mérida

The Roman circus of Mérida is a ruined Roman circus in Mérida, Spain. Used for chariot racing, it was modelled on the Circus Maximus in Rome...

Circo Romano de Mérida, Calle Cuacos de Yuste, Mérida 06800, Spain (38.92039, -6.33225)



D Museo Nacional De Arte Romano

The National Museum of Roman Art is an archaeology museum located in Mérida, Spain.

Calle de José Ramón Mélida, s/n, 06800, Mérida, Badajoz, España (38.91714, -6.33964)

Oct-Mar Tu–Sa	09:30–18:30
Apr-Sep Tu–Sa	09:30–20:00
Apr-Sep Su	10:00–15:00

museoarteromano.mcu.es



E Roman Bridge

The Puente Romano is a Roman bridge over the Guadiana River at Mérida in southwest Spain.

Avenida de Portugal, 06800 Mérida, Badajoz, Spain (38.91470, -6.34851)



F Miraculous Aqueduct

The Acueducto de los Milagros is a Roman aqueduct in Mérida, Spain. It was built during the first century AD to supply water from the...

Mérida 06800, Spain (38.92397, -6.34790)



G Alcazaba of Mérida

The Alcazaba is a ninth-century Muslim fortification in Mérida, Spain.

Mérida 06800, Spain (38.91472, -6.34679)



H Roman Forum

The Roman Forum is an archaeological area in Mérida, Spain. It was the main public area of the Roman city of Emerita Augusta, founded in 25...

20 Calle de Sagasta, Mérida 06800, Spain (38.91688, -6.34306)



I Archaeological Ensemble of Mérida

Augusta Emerita, also called Emerita Augusta, was a Roman colonia founded in 25 BC in present day Mérida, Spain.

Mérida 06800, Spain (38.91625, -6.33882)



J Co-Cathedral of Saint Mary Major

The Metropolitan co-cathedral of Saint Mary Major of Mérida is a Roman Catholic cathedral church in Mérida, Extremadura, western Spain.

Plaza de Santa María 1, 06800 Mérida (38.91655, -6.34717)

DATA SOURCES

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