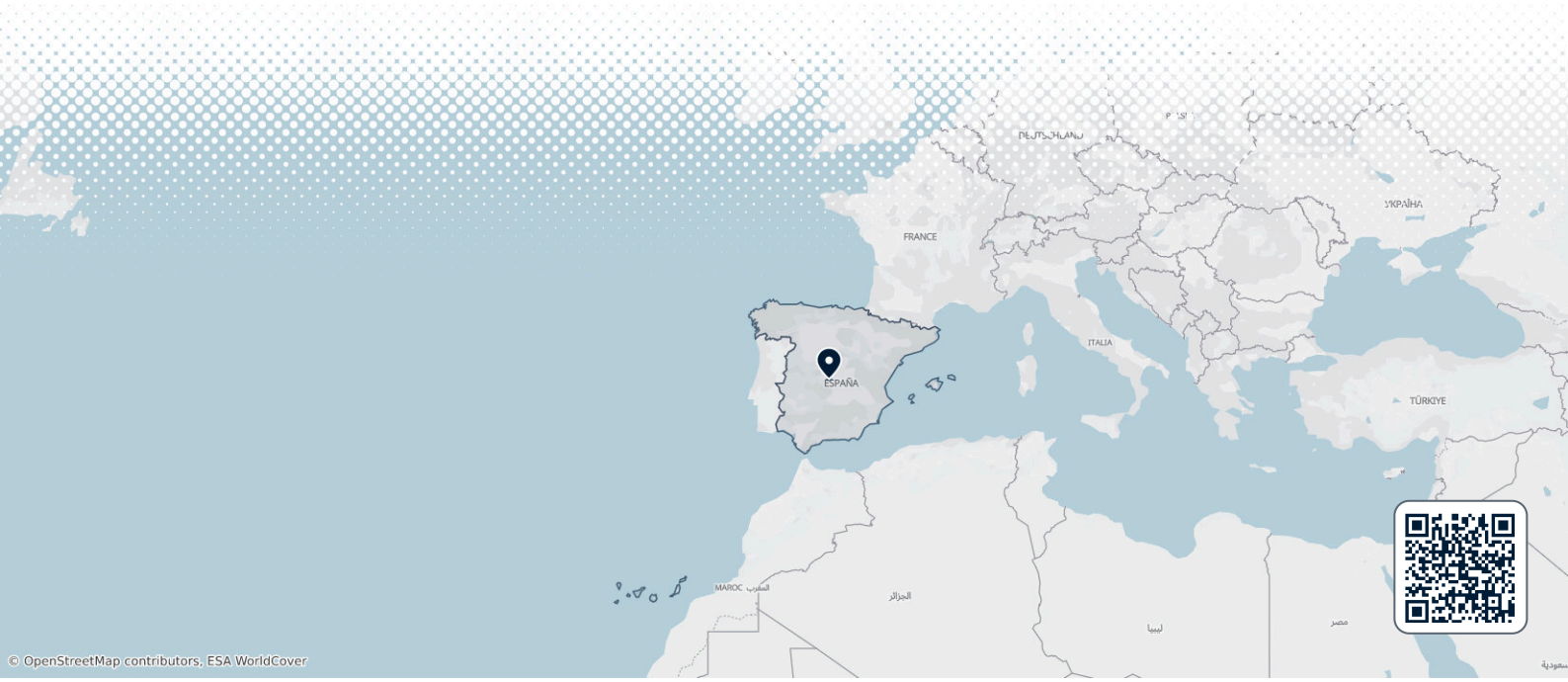


Toledo

Castile-La Mancha · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Toledo is a compact hill town above a bend of the Tagus river. The whole old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is known as the "city of three cultures", because Christians, Jews and Muslims lived here side by side for centuries. You see this in the churches, synagogues and mosques that stand close together.

It suits a day trip from Madrid or a quiet night or two inside the walls. Most visitors come for history, art and architecture. The painter *El Greco* lived and worked here, and several of his works are still in the city.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons. Days are mild and good for walking the steep streets. Summer is very hot with little shade, so start early and rest in the afternoon. Winter is cold, and mornings can be frosty.

A major event of the year is the Corpus Christi procession. It takes place in late spring or early summer and has been a Festival of International Tourist Interest since 1980. The procession carries a large monstrance from the cathedral through the old town. Book rooms well ahead if you plan to visit then.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 16° Feels like 7°	1° / -3°	Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 19° Feels like 10°	2° / -4°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 23° Feels like 13°	4° / -2°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27° Feels like 17°	7° / 1°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	10° / 5°	Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 39°	15° / 10°	☀ 21 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 6 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 40°	19° / 14°	☀ 28 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 18 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 40°	19° / 15°	☀ 26 sunny days · Dry air · Up to 16 days above 35°
September	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 35°	15° / 10°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	10° / 5°	Dry air
November	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 21° Feels like 12°	5° / -1°	Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 16° Feels like 8°	2° / -3°	Dry air

Best months: April, May, September, October

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

Top sights



- A Toledo Cathedral is a Gothic cathedral begun in the 1220s and finished in 1493. The sacristy holds paintings by El Greco, and the Baroque Transparente altarpiece lets in natural light.
- Above the old town, B Alcázar of Toledo is a fortress with four corner towers. It holds the army museum, C Army Museum, and was badly damaged in the siege of 1936.
- D Church of Santo Tomé is a small church that keeps El Greco's large painting *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*. It is the one work to see if you only have time for one.
- E El Greco Museum is a house museum that shows how the painter's home may have looked. Combine it with the church above.
- F Old Synagogue Santa Maria la Blanca was built as a synagogue around 1200, with white walls and rows of horseshoe arches. It became a church in the early 15th century.
- G Museo Sefardí is inside the 14th-century Synagogue of El Tránsito. The prayer hall has fine carved stucco and a wooden ceiling.
- H Monasterio de San Juan de los Reyes was founded by the Catholic Monarchs, and building started in 1477. Chains once worn by Christian prisoners hang on the outside of the building.
- I Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz was completed in the year 999. It later became a chapel.

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What to experience

- See the whole old town on its hill from the viewpoint Mirador Del Valle, across the river.
- Cross the old bridges Puente de Alcántara and Puente de San Martín in the evening. Sunset from the bridges is a local favourite.
- Time your visit for the Corpus Christi procession, a festival that has drawn visitors for decades.

Day trips

Toledo is a good base for a few nearby trips. Madrid is the easiest.

- Ⓐ Madrid: about 30 minutes by high-speed train from Atocha station. Spain's capital has major art museums and a lively centre.
- Consuegra: about 60 km south-east of Toledo, best reached by car. A ridge above the town has a row of windmills and a castle, in the landscape of La Mancha.



Where to explore

Other cities in Castile-La Mancha:

- Cuenca is a town in the east of the region.
- Guadalajara is a city north-east of Madrid.

Getting there

- **By air**: Most visitors fly into Madrid airport and continue by train or bus.
- **By train**: High-speed trains run from Madrid Atocha station in about 30 minutes. Toledo station lies outside the old town, so continue by local bus, taxi or on foot.
- **By bus**: Buses also run from Madrid.
- Official tourist information: Spain tourism: Toledo

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small, and walking is the best way to see it. Streets are narrow, steep and cobbled, so wear good shoes.
- **Escalators**: Public escalators help you climb up to the old town from the lower parts of the city, including a route towards Plaza de Zocodover.
- **City buses**: Local buses connect the stations and car parks with the old town and Plaza de Zocodover.
- **Tourist bus and train**: Sightseeing buses and a tourist train run through the city.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and best seen on foot, but the streets are steep and cobbled.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills and narrow cobbled streets make cycling in the old town hard.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for a city visit. A car helps only for trips into the surrounding countryside.
- **Parking**: Leave the car in a car park outside the old town centre and continue on foot or by public transport.
- **Restrictions**: Access to the old town streets is restricted. Follow local signs rather than driving into the centre.

Food & drink

Toledo is known for sweets and slow-cooked dishes. **Marzipan** is the local speciality and has protected status. It is a sweet made from almonds and sugar. Savoury dishes include carcamusas, a pork stew with peas and tomato often served as a tapa, and partridge stew.

For eating, the best choice is an area, not one restaurant. Try the bars and cafes around Plaza de Zocodover and the lanes near Plaza Magdalena. The covered market, Mercado de Abastos, is a good place to see local produce.

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

Toledo is generally safe for visitors. Crowded places can attract pickpockets, so keep bags closed in busy streets and on public transport.

- In summer the heat is the main risk. Carry water, wear a hat and avoid long walks in the afternoon.
- The steep, uneven streets are hard for wheelchairs and small children in pushchairs.
- Emergency number: 112.

History

Toledo has been an important city since Roman times. It became the capital of the Visigothic kingdom in the 6th century. In 711 or 712 Muslim armies took the city. Their mosque, Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz, was completed in 999 and still stands.

King *Alfonso VI* of León took Toledo on 25 May 1085. Afterwards Christians, Jews and Muslims lived in the city together for a long time. The two synagogues, Old Synagogue Santa Maria la Blanca and Museo Sefardí, show the Jewish quarter's wealth.

Emperor *Charles V* used Toledo as a royal residence from 1525, and the court moved to Madrid in 1561. The city has been the seat of government of Castile-La Mancha since the 1980s. The Alcázar was held by Nationalist forces against Republican attack in the Spanish Civil War of 1936. It was rebuilt in the years after the war.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

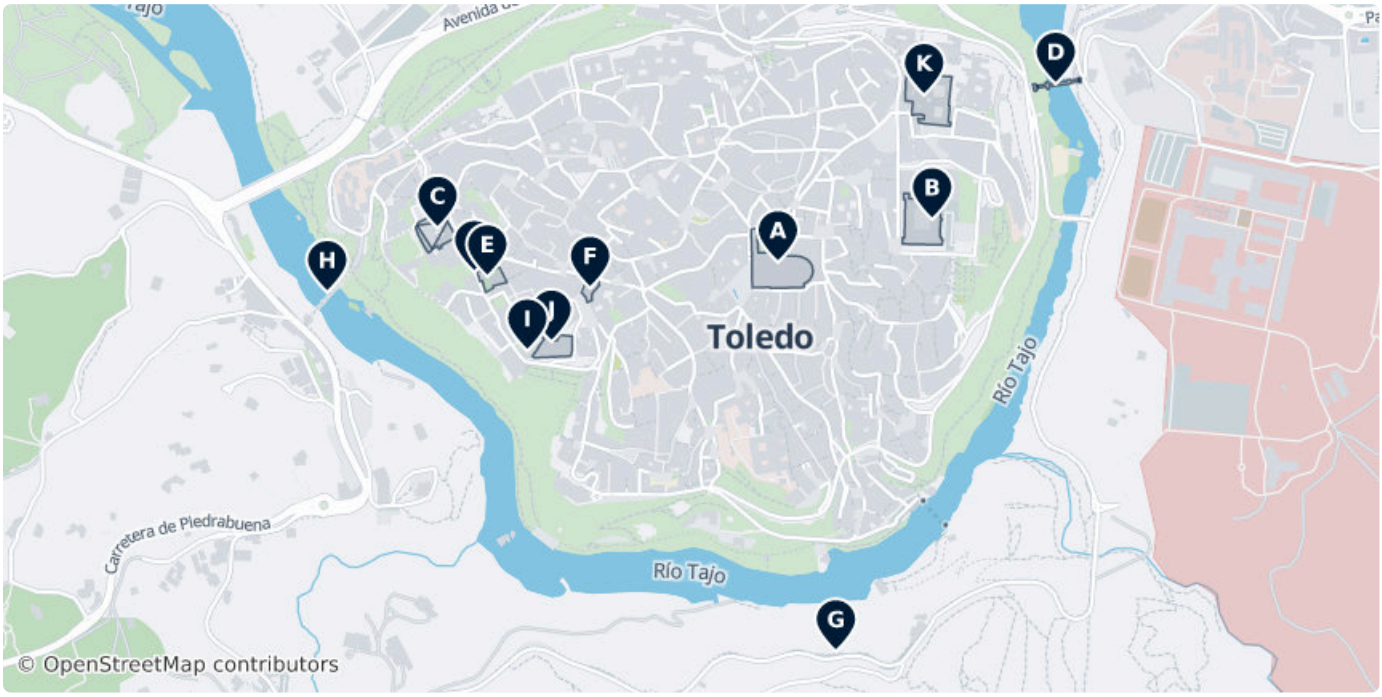
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Toledo Essentials

Toledo showcases the historical convergence of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions. This selection features the 13th-century Gothic Cathedral, the Renaissance Alcázar fortress, and the Isabelline Gothic Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes. The city's Sephardic heritage is preserved at the Synagogue of El Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca. El Greco's artistic legacy is highlighted at his namesake museum and the Church of Santo Tomé. Spanning the Tagus River, the Roman Alcántara and medieval San Martín bridges anchor the city's perimeter, while the Mirador del Valle offers a full panoramic view.





A Toledo Cathedral

Historic Gothic cathedral dating back to the 13th century, recognized for its architectural grandeur, religious significance, and rich artistic heritage.

Calle Cardenal Cisneros, 1, 45002 Toledo, Spain
(39.85724, -4.02385)

Mo–Sa	10:00–18:30
Su	14:00–18:30

catedralprimada.es, +34925222241



B Alcázar of Toledo

Historic stone fortress with Renaissance architecture housing a military museum and regional library. It dates back to Roman times and holds national monument status.

1 Cuesta de Carlos V, Toledo 45001, Spain
(39.85799, -4.02030)

+34925238800



C Monastery of Saint John of the Kings

Isabelline Gothic Franciscan monastery known for its religious significance and architectural beauty.

Calle Reyes Católicos 17, 45002 Toledo (39.85784, -4.03167)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

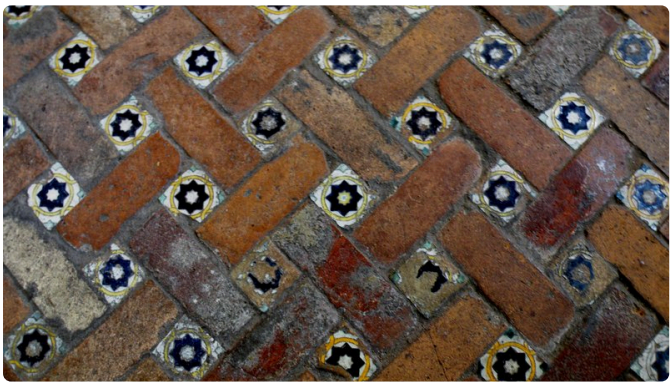
sanjuandelosreyes.org, +34925223802



D Alcántara Bridge

The Puente de Alcántara is a Roman arch bridge in Toledo, Spain, spanning the River Tagus.

Toledo (39.86038, -4.01746)



E Old Synagogue Santa Maria la Blanca

The Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca is a museum and former synagogue in Toledo, Spain.

Calle Reyes Católicos 4, 45002 Toledo (39.85699, -4.03052)

Oct 16-Feb 28 Mo–Su 10:00–17:45
Mar 01-Oct 15 Mo–Su 10:00–18:45



F Church of Santo Tomé

The Iglesia de Santo Tomé is a church located in the historical center of the city of Toledo, and was founded after the reconquest of this...

Plaza del Conde 4, 45002 Toledo (39.85678, -4.02816)

Oct 16-Feb 28 Mo–Su 10:00–17:45
Mar 01-Oct 15 Mo–Su 10:00–18:45

santotome.org, +34 925 256 098



G Mirador del Valle

A favourite viewpoint from where you can see the Tagus River and also the whole city of Toledo. Don't forget to take pics!

Ctra. Circunvalación, s/n, 45004 Toledo, Spain (39.85037, -4.02252)



H San Martin's Bridge

The Puente de San Martín is a medieval bridge across the river Tagus in Toledo, Spain.

Paseo Recaredo, 45002 Toledo, Spain (39.85671, -4.03420)



I Synagogue of El Tránsito

The Synagogue of El Tránsito, also known as the Synagogue of Samuel ha-Levi or Halevi, is a historic synagogue, church, and Sephardic...

Calle Samuel Leví, s/n, 45002 Toledo, Spain (39.85568, -4.02961)

museosefardi.mcu.es, +34 925 22 36 65



J El Greco Museum

The El Greco Museum is located in Toledo, Spain. It celebrates the mannerist painter El Greco, who spent much of his life in Toledo, having...

Paseo del Tránsito, 45002 Toledo (39.85584, -4.02905)

Tu–Sa	09:30–18:30
Su	10:00–15:00

en.museodelgreco.mcu.es, +34 925 99 09 80



K Santa Cruz Museum

The Museum of Santa Cruz is an art, archaeology and ethnographic museum located in the historic centre of the city of Toledo, Spain.

Calle de Miguel de Cervantes 3, 45001 Toledo, Spain
(39.86018, -4.02049)

+34 925 221 036



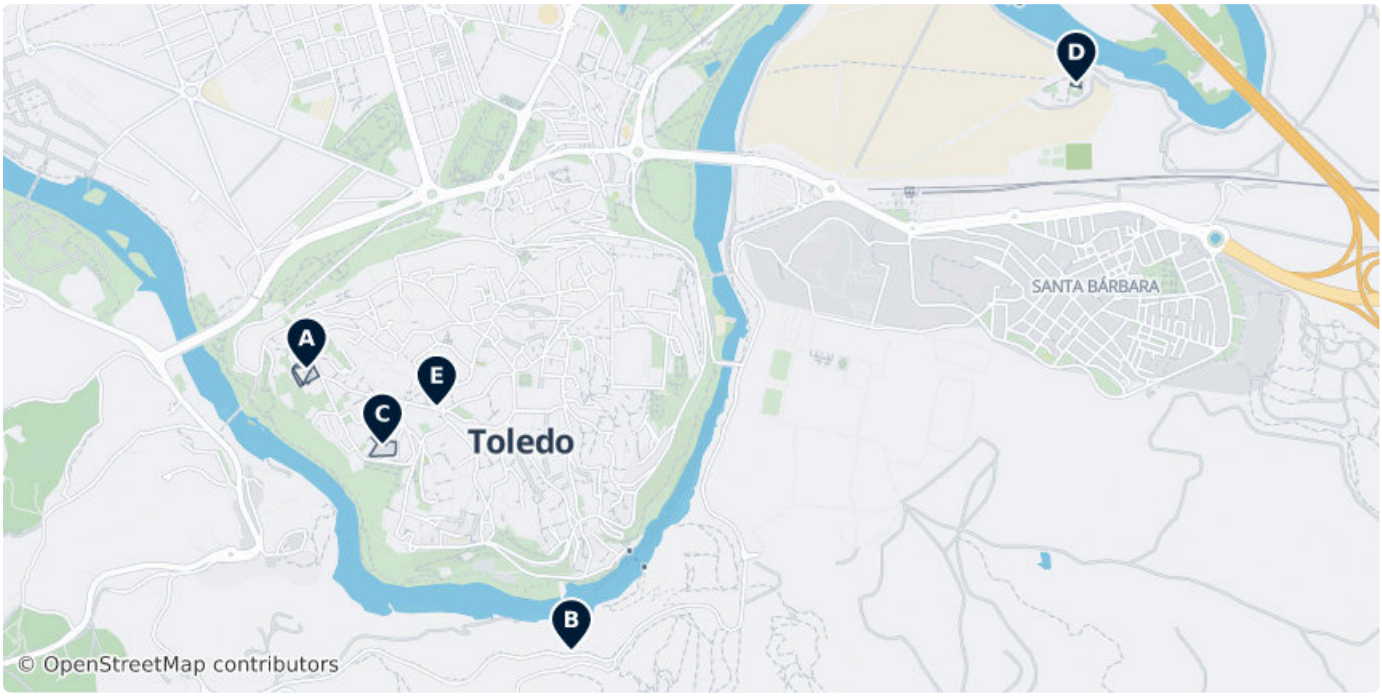
L Jewish Quarter

Established as early as in the 8th century, this Jewish quarter has been entagled with many legends ever since. Come to explore its streets!

6 Callejón de los Jacintos, Toledo 45002, Spain
(39.85706, -4.03082)

Editor's Choice

Toledo's essential landmarks include the 15th-century Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes, a prime example of Isabelline Gothic architecture. The El Greco Museum showcases works by the Mannerist painter in the city where he lived, while the Palace of Galiana provides a rare look at 13th-century Mudéjar design. Visitors can capture the city's skyline from the Mirador del Valle viewpoint or sample traditional Toledo marzipan at Café de las Monjas, where sweets are historically linked to the city's convents.





A Monastery of Saint John of the Kings

Isabelline Gothic Franciscan monastery known for its religious significance and architectural beauty.

Calle Reyes Católicos 17, 45002 Toledo (39.85784, -4.03167)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

sanjuandelosreyes.org, +34925223802



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Paseo del Tránsito, 45002 Toledo (39.85584, -4.02905)

Tu–Sa	09:30–18:30
Su	10:00–15:00

en.museodelgreco.mcu.es, +34 925 99 09 80



D Palace of Galiana

The Palacio de Galiana is a Mudéjar palace in Toledo, Spain, on the borders of the Tagus River.

(Unnamed Road), 45006, Spain (39.86543, -4.00506)



E Café de las Monjas

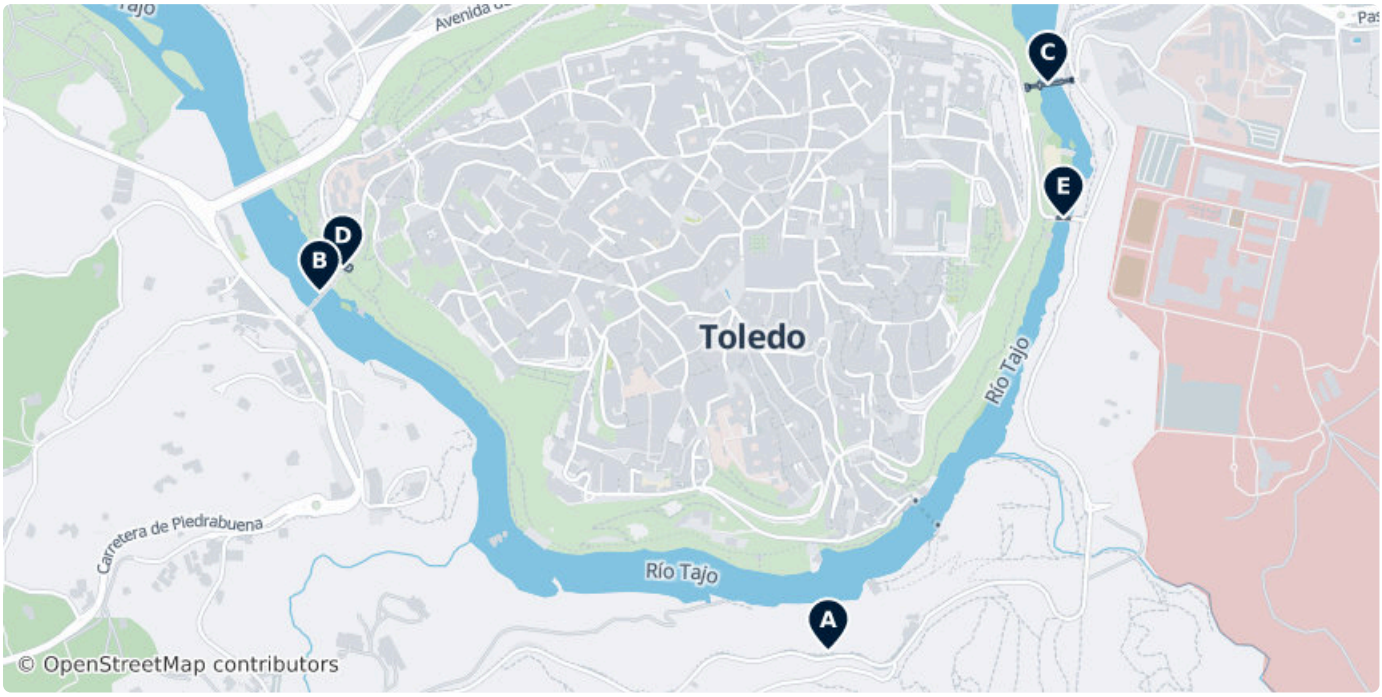
Traditional café specializing in authentic Toledo marzipan. Located in a historic building, it features a viewing window into the workshop where almond-based sweets are prepared according to convent recipes.

Calle Santo Tomé, 45002 Toledo, Spain (39.85685, -4.02717)

elcafedelasmonjas.com, +34 925 213424

Panoramic Viewpoints

Toledo's dramatic landscape is best appreciated from its historic bridges and elevated lookouts. The Mirador del Valle offers a classic panorama of the city's Alcázar and Cathedral encircled by the Tagus River. The medieval Puente de San Martín and the Roman-origin Puente de Alcántara provide vantage points over the river's rocky gorge. Nearby, the Torreón del Puente de San Martín overlooks a riverside park, while the Nuevo Puente de Alcántara serves as a contemporary link for vehicle traffic adjacent to the ancient fortifications.





A Mirador del Valle

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Toledo (39.86038, -4.01746)



D Tower of San Martin's Bridge

The area around one of the towers of San Martin's Bridge is currently turning into a nice park with a great view of the surroundings.

Paseo Recaredo, 45002 Toledo, Spain (39.85715, -4.03367)



E Nuevo Puente de Alcántara

A 20th-century road bridge constructed in 1973 to alleviate traffic from the historic Puente de Alcántara. It spans the Tagus River, providing views of the medieval city walls and the older Roman-origin bridge.

Nuevo Puente de Alcántara, 45090 Toledo, Spain (39.85802, -4.01711)

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