

Ubeda

Andalusia · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Úbeda is a hill town in the province of Jaén, in eastern Andalusia, surrounded by olive groves. Together with nearby Baeza, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its Renaissance architecture, which was built in the 16th century by wealthy noble families.

The old town is compact and made of golden stone, with palaces, churches and squares close together. It is a calm place that rewards a slow walk, and a base for the Sierra de Cazorla natural park.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons, with mild weather. Summers are very hot, and winters can be cold. Holy Week (Semana Santa) has long processions. The Fiestas de San Miguel in late September are the town's main festival.

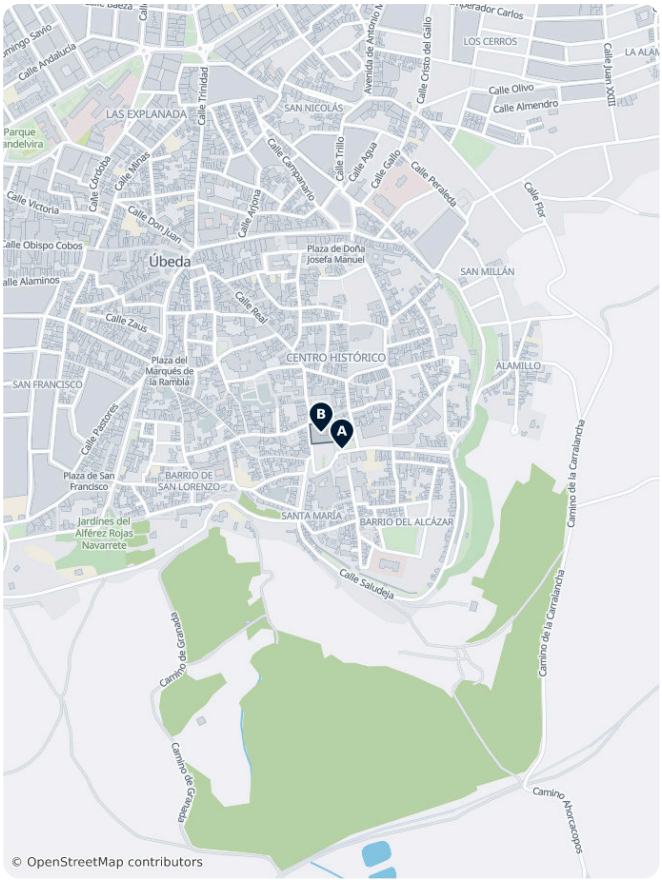
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 18° Feels like 8°	2° / -3°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 20° Feels like 10°	2° / -3°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27° Feels like 17°	7° / 2°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	11° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	32° / 39°	16° / 11°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 8 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	36° / 40°	19° / 15°	29 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 21 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 40°	20° / 15°	27 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 18 days above 35°
September	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 35°	16° / 11°	21 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	11° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 23° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 19° Feels like 10°	3° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: April, May, September, October

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

Top sights

- A Úbeda City Centre is the heart of the old town, with the Plaza Vázquez de Molina, the main monumental square.
- B Palacio Juan Vázquez de Molina is a Renaissance palace on the main square, built in the 16th century and used as the town hall.
- The Sacra Capilla del Salvador del Mundo is a chapel with a grand Renaissance façade, one of the best examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture.
- The Hospital de Santiago is a large 16th-century hospital, now a cultural center, with a patio.
- The Iglesia de San Pablo is a church with Gothic and Renaissance elements, on a small square.
- The Sinagoga del Agua is a rediscovered synagogue with a water cistern, in the Jewish quarter.
- The Casa de las Torres is a Renaissance palace with towers and a decorated portal.
- The old walls and gates, such as the Puerta de Santa Lucía, and the viewpoints at the edge of town look over the olive groves.



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What to experience

- Walk the Plaza Vázquez de Molina at sunset, when the stone glows.
- Visit the chapel, the hospital and the synagogue.
- Shop for the local ceramics, a craft of the town.
- Take a day trip to Cazorla.
- Sample olive oil from the local mills.

Day trips

- A Baeza (about 9 km): the sister town in the UNESCO listing, with a cathedral and plazas.
- **Sierra de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas** (about 50 km): Spain's largest protected natural area, with forests and walking trails.
- B Granada (about 120 km): the Alhambra and a university city.
- C Córdoba (about 140 km): a mosque-cathedral and old Jewish quarter.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Jaén province**: Baeza.
- **Andalusia**: Granada, Córdoba and Antequera.

Getting there

- **By train**: The nearest station is Linares-Baeza, about 25 km away, with trains to Madrid and Córdoba. Book on Renfe. A bus or taxi links the station and the town.
- **By bus**: Buses run from Jaén, Granada, Córdoba and Madrid.
- **By air**: Granada, Córdoba and Jaén have no major airports nearby. Granada airport is about 130 km away, and Madrid about 330 km.
- **By car**: The A-316 and A-32 roads.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The monumental area is compact and mostly flat. The lanes can be steep and cobbled.
- **Taxi and local bus**: Available, and useful for Baeza and the station.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The monumental area is compact, though some lanes are steep and cobbled.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The terrain is hilly, but traffic is light.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Cazorla and the olive-oil estates. The old town is on foot.
- **Parking**: Paid car parks are at the edge of the old town.
- **Roads**: Roads are good and uncrowded.

Food & drink

Jaén province is the world's largest producer of olive oil, and *aceite de oliva* is central to the food. Try *ajo de harina*, *andrajos* (a stew with flatbread), *pipirrana* (a salad), *lomo de orza* (marinated pork) and *espinacas con garbanzos*. Many tapas bars give a free tapa with a 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

Úbeda is a safe town. Summer heat can be extreme, so visit in the morning and evening. Cobbled lanes can be slippery when wet.

History

Úbeda was reconquered from the Moors in 1233. In the 16th century, nobles and clergy built palaces and churches in the Renaissance style, notably under the influence of Andrés de Vandelvira, the architect of the Sacra Capilla and the Hospital de Santiago.

Decline followed in the 17th century, which helped preserve the buildings. In 2003, Úbeda and Baeza were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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

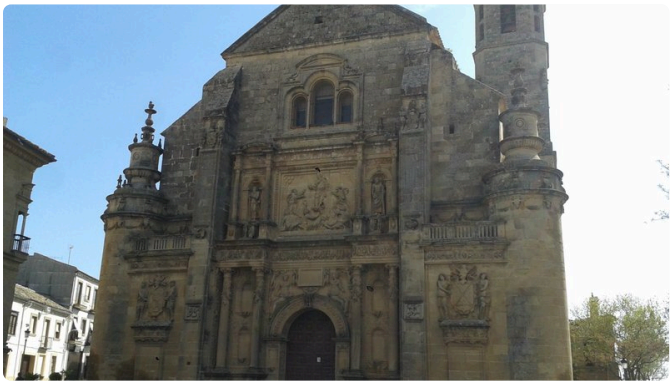
TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Úbeda Essentials

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Úbeda represents the pinnacle of the Spanish Renaissance. The city's historic core, centered around the Plaza Vázquez de Molina, features a dense concentration of 16th-century palaces and churches designed by architect Andrés de Vandelvira. Beyond its architectural monuments, the town is defined by its ancient defensive walls, traditional pottery workshops, and its position as a major center for olive oil production, offering panoramic views across the vast olive groves of the Guadalquivir valley.





A Úbeda City Centre

The Renaissance centre of the city has been enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Site. A prime example of the urban planning at that time.

Plaza de Vázquez de Molina, s/n, 23400 Úbeda, Spain
(38.00781, -3.36803)



B Vázquez de Molina Palace

The Vazquez de Molina Palace, also known as the Palace of the Chains is a renaissance palace located in Vazquez de Molina Square in Úbeda.

Plaza de Vázquez de Molina 3, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00811, -3.36850)



C San Pablo

A historic church featuring a blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles, notable for its late-Gothic chapel and the Renaissance fountain located in the adjacent square.

Plaza Primero de Mayo 1, 23400 Úbeda (38.00984, -3.36768)



D Hospital de Santiago

A 16th-century former hospital designed by Andrés de Vandelvira. Known as the 'Escorial of Andalusia,' it features a grand colonnaded courtyard, a frescoed chapel, and twin towers.

Calle del Obispo Cobos, 23400 Úbeda (38.01206, -3.37642)



E Palacio del Deán Ortega, Úbeda

Palacio del Deán Ortega is a palace in Úbeda, in the Province of Jaén, Spain.

Calle Horno del Contador, 23400 Úbeda, Spain (38.00825, -3.36722)

F Palacio de Vela de los Cobos

This 16th-century Renaissance palace preserves its original library and period furnishings. It is distinguished by its stone facade and a unique covered gallery on the upper floor.

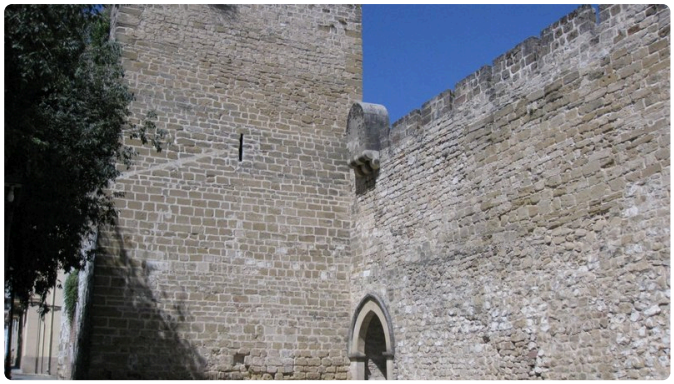
Calle Juan Montilla 6, 23400 Úbeda (38.00899, -3.36911)



G Casa de las Torres

A 16th-century manor house characterized by its twin square towers and a decorative Plateresque facade. It currently serves as the city's School of Art.

Plaza de San Lorenzo 7, 23400 Úbeda (38.00738, -3.37103)



H Muralla Sur del Alcázar

The southern section of the city's medieval defensive walls, primarily dating from the 10th century, offering views over the surrounding agricultural landscape.

30 Calle de la Madre Soledad Torres Acosta, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00596, -3.36818)

I Miradores

Scenic viewpoints situated along the historic fortifications, providing vistas of the Sierra Mágina mountains and the extensive olive plantations of the Jaén province.

(38.00775, -3.36540)



J Centro de Interpretación Olivar y Aceite

A museum and educational center focused on the culture of olive oil. It hosts guided tastings and exhibits detailing traditional and modern extraction methods.

Calle de la Corredera de San Fernando 32, 23400 Úbeda (38.01147, -3.36919)

K Museo San Juan de la Cruz

Located in the Oratory of San Juan de la Cruz, this museum commemorates the life of the Spanish mystic with a collection of relics, manuscripts, and religious art.

Calle del Carmen, 23400 Úbeda (38.00960, -3.36589)

Mo Closed

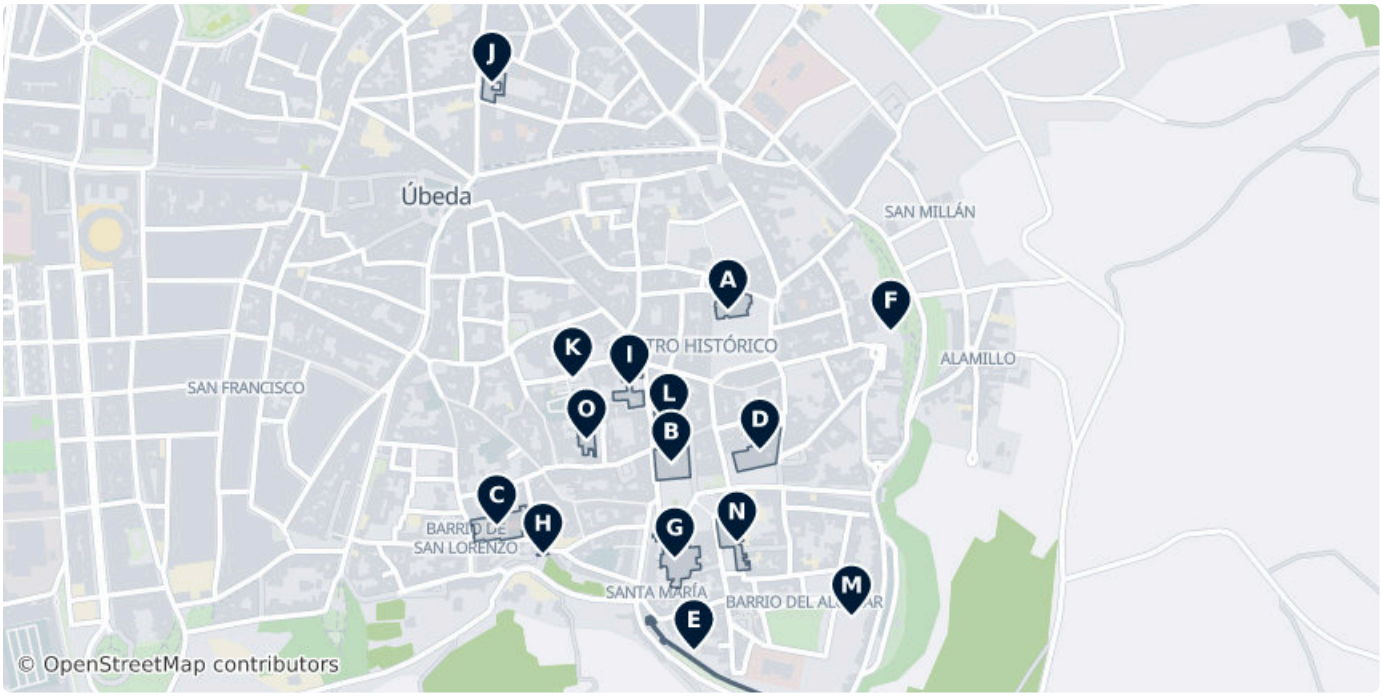
L Museo de Alfarería

Set in a traditional workshop, this museum showcases Úbeda's distinctive green-glazed pottery. It includes a historic 18th-century kiln and a collection of folk ceramics.

Calle Valencia 22, 23400 Úbeda (38.01244, -3.36429)

Historic Architecture of Úbeda

Úbeda's historic center represents one of the finest ensembles of Renaissance architecture in Spain, earning it UNESCO World Heritage status. This collection highlights the city's 10th-century medieval walls and 16th-century palaces, many designed by the renowned architect Andrés de Vandelvira. Key sites include the administrative hub of Plaza de Vázquez de Molina, the fortified remains of the Alcázar, and various noble residences like the Casa de las Torres and the Palacio de Vela de los Cobos.





A San Pablo

One of the city's oldest churches, featuring a 13th-century Romanesque apse and a late Gothic interior with a Plateresque facade added in the 16th century.

Plaza Primero de Mayo 1, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00984, -3.36768)



B Vázquez de Molina Palace

The Vazquez de Molina Palace, also known as the Palace of the Chains is a renaissance palace located in Vazquez de Molina Square in Úbeda.

Plaza de Vázquez de Molina 3, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00811, -3.36850)



C Casa de las Torres

A 16th-century Plateresque palace characterized by its two prominent square towers and a facade decorated with the Dávalos family coat of arms.

Plaza de San Lorenzo 7, 23400 Úbeda (38.00738, -3.37103)



D Palacio del Deán Ortega, Úbeda

Palacio del Deán Ortega is a palace in Úbeda, in the Province of Jaén, Spain.

Calle Horno del Contador, 23400 Úbeda, Spain (38.00825, -3.36722)



E Muralla Sur del Alcázar

A section of the 10th-century defensive walls that once protected the city's fortress, offering views over the surrounding olive groves.

30 Calle de la Madre Soledad Torres Acosta, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00596, -3.36818)



F Muralla de San Millán

Part of the medieval fortifications dating back to the 10th century, which helped define the original perimeter of the historic quarter.

6 Plaza de Carmen, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00960, -3.36532)



G Basílica de Santa María de los Reales Alcázares

Basílica y Real Colegiata de Santa María la Mayor de los Reales Alcázares de Úbeda is a Spanish national monument.

Plaza de Vázquez de Molina 4, 23400 Úbeda (38.00701, -3.36845)



H Puerta de Granada

A historic stone gateway in the city walls that served as the primary exit toward the road to Granada.

1D Calle de la Puerta de Granada, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00706, -3.37036)

I Palacio de Vela de los Cobos

A 16th-century Renaissance palace designed by Andrés de Vandelvira, notable for its elegant corner balcony and library.

Calle Juan Montilla 6, 23400 Úbeda (38.00899, -3.36911)

J Palacio de los Bussianos

A 16th-century Renaissance palace featuring a classic stone facade and traditional Andalusian courtyard.

(38.01243, -3.37110)

K Plaza de Santa Clara

A quiet, cobblestone pedestrian square located in the historic quarter, adjacent to the Convent of Santa Clara.

(38.00907, -3.36993)

L Plaza del Ayuntamiento

A central pedestrian square located behind the Palacio de las Cadenas, serving as a hub for the city's administrative buildings.

5 Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00854, -3.36854)

M Alcázar

The site of the former fortress on the Cerro de Ibiut, now an archaeological area revealing the city's early defensive history.

17 Calle de la Redonda de Miradores, Úbeda 23400, Spain (38.00635, -3.36589)

N Palacio del Marqués de Mancera

A 16th-century palace in the Plaza de Vázquez de Molina, formerly the residence of the Marquis of Mancera, Viceroy of Peru.

Calle de María Soledad Torres Acosta 1, 23400 Úbeda (38.00719, -3.36755)

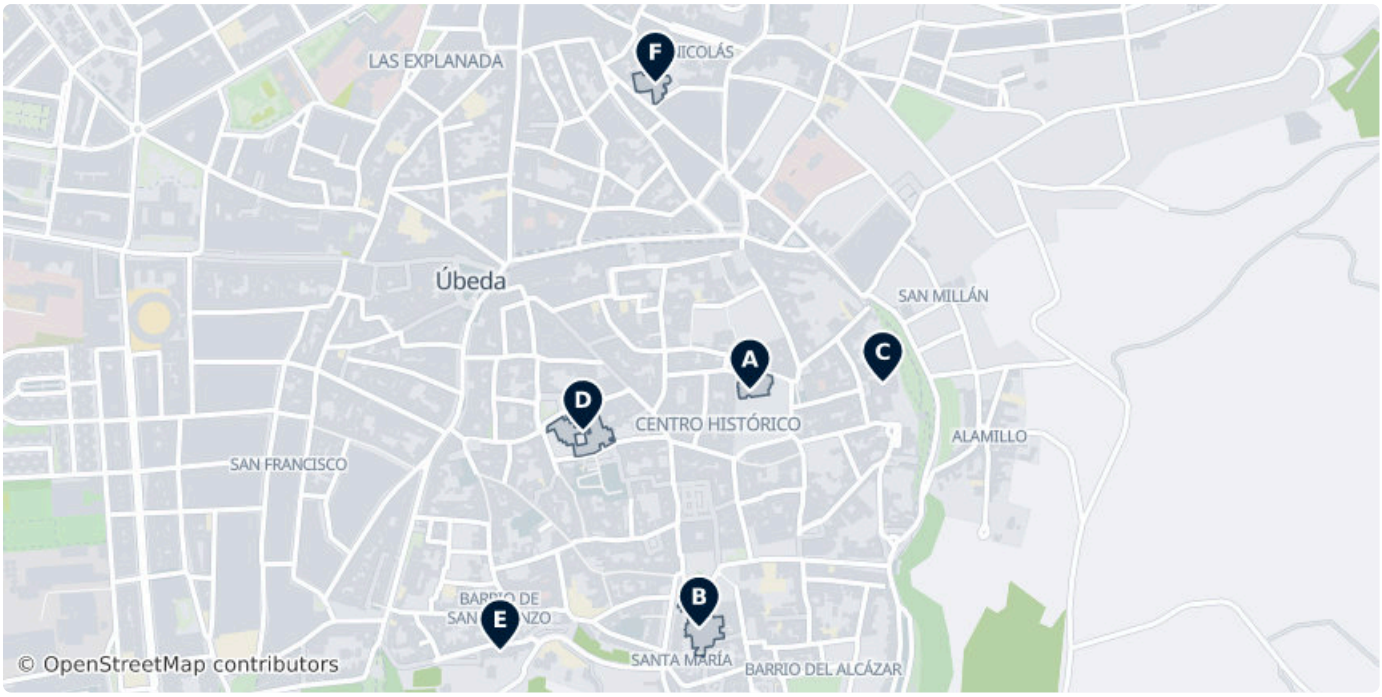
Palacio Marqués de Contadero

An 18th-century palace featuring a transition from Baroque to Neoclassical styles, currently housing the municipal tourism office.

Calle Baja del Marqués 4, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00836, -3.36973)

Historic Churches of Úbeda

Úbeda's religious architecture reflects its transition from a medieval stronghold to a Renaissance powerhouse. This collection features national monuments and historic convents, showcasing the works of master architect Andrés de Vandelvira alongside Mudéjar cloisters and Gothic portals. The sites range from the 13th-century Convento de Santa Clara to the church where Saint John of the Cross spent his final days.





A San Pablo

A Romanesque church with significant Gothic and Renaissance modifications, featuring a 16th-century Plateresque fountain and a chapel designed by Andrés de Vandelvira.

Plaza Primero de Mayo 1, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00984, -3.36768)



B Basílica de Santa María de los Reales Alcázares

Basílica y Real Colegiata de Santa María la Mayor de los Reales Alcázares de Úbeda is a Spanish national monument.

Plaza de Vázquez de Molina 4, 23400 Úbeda
(38.00701, -3.36845)

C Iglesia de San Miguel

A Gothic-Renaissance church and former monastery historically significant as the place where the mystic poet Saint John of the Cross died in 1591.

(38.00993, -3.36567)

D Convento de Santa Clara

One of Úbeda's oldest religious foundations, this 13th-century convent features a notable Mudéjar cloister and a 16th-century Renaissance portal.

(38.00935, -3.37021)

E Iglesia de San Lorenzo

A 14th-century church built into the medieval city walls. After centuries of neglect, it has been restored as a cultural center and community space.

(38.00674, -3.37147)

F Iglesia de San Nicolás de Bari

A 14th-century Gothic church distinguished by its southern portal, a Renaissance masterpiece designed by architect Andrés de Vandelvira.

Calle San Nicolás 30, 23400 Úbeda (38.01350, -3.36911)

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