



Extremadura

Includes ➔

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Trujillo	555
Guadalupe	558
Valle del Ambroz.	562
Mérida	565
Albuquerque	569
Zafra	570

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Atrio (p553)
- ➔ La Rebotica (p571)
- ➔ La Cacharrería (p553)
- ➔ Villa Xaraliz (p562)
- ➔ Tábula Calda (p569)
- ➔ Nardi (p563)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Atrio (p553)
- ➔ El Jardín del Convento (p563)
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- ➔ Posada Dos Orillas (p557)
- ➔ Hospedería del Real Monasterio (p559)
- ➔ Haldón Country (p562)

Why Go?

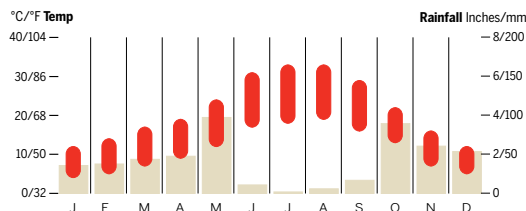
Exploring Extremadura is a journey into the heart of old Spain, from the country's finest Roman ruins to mysterious medieval cities and time-worn villages. Mérida, Cáceres and Trujillo rank among Spain's most beautifully preserved historical settlements. *Extremeño* hamlets have a timeless charm, from the remote northern hills to sacred eastern Guadalupe and seductive Zafra on the cusp of Andalucía in the south.

Few foreign travellers make it this far. Spaniards, however, know Extremadura as a place to sample some of inland Spain's best food: roasted meats, the pungent, creamy Torta del Casar cheese and the finest Monesterio *jamón* (ham).

This is a region of broad blue skies and vast swathes of sparsely populated land with isolated farmhouses and crumbling hilltop castles. And yet, city sophistication fills Mérida and Cáceres. Wooded sierras rise along the northern, eastern and southern fringes, while the raptor-rich Parque Nacional de Monfragüe is arguably Extremadura's most dramatic corner.

When to Go

Caceres



Mar–Apr The Valle del Jerte becomes a spectacular white sea of cherry blossom.

Jul–Aug Mérida's 2000-year-old Roman theatre hosts the Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico.

Sep Prime time to visit: fewer tourists and good weather, without the intense summer heat.



Extremadura Highlights

- 1 Cáceres** (p549) Exploring the Ciudad Monumental's magical cobbled streets and packed tapas bars.
- 2 Mérida** (p565) Clambering over Spain's finest Roman ruins.
- 3 Trujillo** (p555) Travelling to the medieval hometown of some of Latin America's most infamous conquistadors.
- 4 Zafra** (p570) Feasting on tapas beneath the

Plaza Grande's palms, then sleeping in a castle.

- 5 Parque Nacional de Monfragüe** (p564) Spotting majestic birds of prey wheeling above the Tajo.

- 6 Guadalupe** (p558) Admiring the fabulous art and architecture at Guadalupe's extraordinary monastery.

- 7 Alcántara** (p555) Checking out the mighty, impressive Roman bridge over the Tajo.

- 8 La Vera** (p561) Exploring half-timbered villages and rushing rivers, then marvelling at the cherry blossom of the adjacent Valle del Jerte.

- 9 Granadilla** (p564) Pacing the quiet lanes of this restored historic museum village.

- 10 Monesterio** (p572) Learning all about Spain's favourite food at the Museo del Jamón, and then tasting it.

Cáceres

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The Ciudad Monumental (Monumental City) of provincial capital Cáceres is truly

extraordinary. Narrow cobbled streets twist and climb among ancient stone walls lined with palaces, mansions, arches and churches, while the skyline is decorated with turrets, spires, gargoyles and enormous