



Toledo & Castilla-La Mancha

Includes ➔

Toledo.....	205
Talavera de la Reina. .	214
Consuegra.....	215
Campo de Criptana .	218
Ciudad Real.....	219
Almagro.....	220
Cuenca.....	222
Sigüenza.....	228
Atienza.....	230

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Figón del Huécar (p226)
- ➔ Adolfo (p213)
- ➔ Nöla (p230)
- ➔ Calle Mayor (p229)
- ➔ El Bodegón (p226)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ La Casa del Rector (p221)
- ➔ Antiguo Palacio de Atienza (p231)
- ➔ La Vida de Antes (p218)
- ➔ Hacienda del Cardenal (p211)
- ➔ Casa Rural Tia Pilar de Almagro (p220)

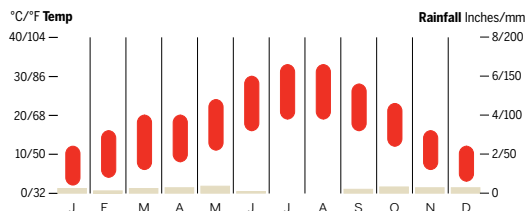
Why Go?

The nation's third-largest region is also one of its quietest. Castilla-La Mancha not only has Spain's lowest population density, but it sees fewer tourists than any region outside Navarra. Located on a windswept but fertile plateau known as La Meseta, this is the land where Cervantes set the fictional journeys of Don Quijote. Reminders of the so-called 'ingenious gentleman of La Mancha' and his escapades resonate everywhere. With the tome under your arm, you can plan your own unhurried, hopefully less quixotic adventures amid old-fashioned windmills, Crusader-era castles, expansive vineyards and enough Quijote museums, statues and plazas to fill a small guidebook.

Elsewhere, the dramatic river gorges that slice sporadically through the Meseta have provided strategic sites for ancient cities. Toledo and Cuenca both offer spectacular history lessons amid winding narrow lanes, multifaith religious monuments and weighty art.

When to Go

Toledo



Mar & Apr

See Cuenca's spine-tingling and atmospheric Semana Santa parades.

Apr & May

Enjoy the countryside's colourful dazzle of wildflowers against a lush green landscape.

Sep & Oct

Hike across Castilla-La Mancha's natural parks and picturesque villages.



Toledo & Castilla-La Mancha Highlights

1 Toledo (p205) Stumble across three medieval cultures in a maze of narrow streets.

2 Atienza (p230) Hiking into the hilltop-hugging medieval town of Atienza on a southern branch of the Camino de Santiago.

3 Consuegra (p215) Taking the Don Quijote shot of the windmills of Consuegra.

4 Alcalá del Júcar (p222) Kicking back with a beer at a riverside bar beneath the cascade of houses and a castle.

5 Museo de Arte Abstracto Español (p223) Visiting this recently upgraded museum in one of the extraordinary hanging houses of Cuenca.

6 Almagro (p220) Marvelling at the handsome

plaza and historic theatre in this enticing town.

7 Oropesa (p215) or **Alarcón** (p228) Being king or queen of the castle, quite literally, by staying in a *parador*.

8 Sigüenza (p228) Checking out the chunky cathedral, hilltop castle and restaurants in the under-appreciated town of Sigüenza.