Why Go?

Visiting Extremadura is like traversing old Spain, from the country’s finest Roman ruins to beautiful medieval cities and villages. Mérida, Cáceres and Trujillo rank among the country’s best-preserved historical settlements, while extremeño villages have a timeless charm, from the remote hills of the north to beguiling Zafra on the cusp of Andalucía in the south.

This is a region of big skies and vast swathes of sparsely populated land with isolated farmhouses. Wooded sierras rise along the region’s northern, eastern and southern fringes, while the raptor-rich Parque Nacional de Monfragüe is arguably Extremadura’s most dramatic corner.

Relatively few foreign travellers make it this far. Spaniards, however, know it as a place to sample some of inland Spain’s finest food, especially roasted meats and the pungent and creamy Torta del Casar cheese.
If you have time to visit just one region, make it this one; the heart of Extremadura is home to some of Spain’s prettiest towns: Cáceres, Trujillo and Guadalupe.

Cáceres
POP 95,030
The Ciudad Monumental old town of Cáceres is truly extraordinary. Narrow cobble streets twist and climb among ancient stone walls lined with palaces and man-

### Extremadura Highlights

1. Stroll the Ciudad Monumental’s evocative cobbled streets in Cáceres (p780)
2. Clamber over Spain’s finest Roman ruins in Mérida (p798)
3. Travel to Trujillo (p785), medieval home town of some of Latin America’s most infamous conquistadors
4. Spot majestic birds of prey as they wheel over the Parque Nacional de Monfragüe (p797)
5. Check out the mighty impressive Roman bridge over the Tajo in peaceful Alcántara (p785)
6. Admire the fabulous art collection in the extraordinary monastery of Guadalupe (p789)
7. Explore the half-timbered villages of La Vera (p791) and marvel at the cherry blossom of adjacent Valle del Jerte (p794)
8. Pace the quiet lanes of the restored historic museum village of Granadilla (p796)