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## WEB RESOURCES

### INFORMATION ON THE WEB

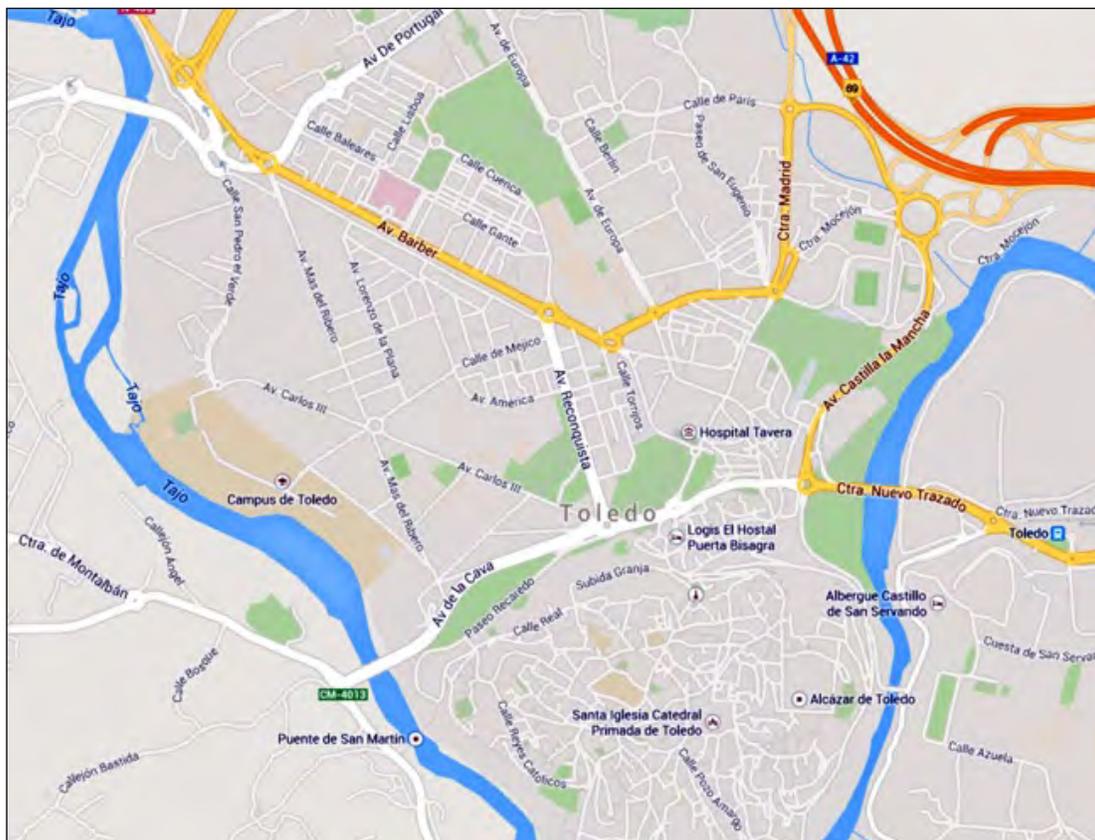
- [www.toledo.es](http://www.toledo.es) - the official website for the city of Toledo
- [www.toledo-turismo.com](http://www.toledo-turismo.com) - the tourist office of Toledo
- [www.castillalamancha.es](http://www.castillalamancha.es) - Official website of Castilla-La Mancha

## TRAVEL PLANNING SERVICES

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## ARRIVING IN TOLEDO

### DRIVING TO TOLEDO

For those arriving in Toledo by car from Madrid on the toll road, AP-41, when reaching traffic circle where you will see a branch of the Toledo Tourist Bureau on the square in the park, take a right turn onto the Calle Alfonso VI which will become Paseo de Recaredo, drive past the Bisagra Gate and Hostal del Cardenal entrance on your left. A short distance further down, on your right, you'll find an underground parking garage-just follow the blue **P** signs. Across the street from the garage entrance you'll see signs for the escalator, *remonte mecánico*, that will zip you up to the historic quarter to begin your touring, avoiding a long, strenuous uphill walk.

### HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

From Puerta de Atocha station, take the high-speed AVANT (a regional AVE), a 31 to 33-minute ride (depending on the departure time), for the bargain price of 12,90€ one-way, with a discount for a round-trip ticket. Check the current schedule at: [www.renfe.com](http://www.renfe.com). Please make sure to purchase your ticket at least a few days in advance, or better still, online on the RENFE site. If you have problems purchasing tickets on Renfe, use [petrabax.com](http://petrabax.com), the official representative in North America.

Tickets for the morning departures from Madrid often sell out early, and you will be sorely disappointed if you wait until the morning of your trip to purchase tickets. For a Toledo visit on a New Year's Eve weekend, all morning trains were sold out upon our arrival at 9:00 am at Atocha station, but luckily we had purchased our tickets online.

There is only one class of service on the AVANT trains, tourist, and four cars on each train, carrying 232 passengers. Car 1, next to the bar car, is called a Club Car but costs no more; it simply gives passengers a two and one seat configuration, thus a quieter ride.

For a full day tour we suggest that you depart on the Avant 08292 train at 9:20 am to reach the city slightly before monuments open at 10:00 and that you return on the Avant 08172 at 5:50 in the afternoon. Or if you are a more avid sightseer with a keen interest in history and great art, you might even want to return later, at 7:50 on the Avant 08192.

From the Toledo station, a beautiful Neo-mudéjar structure, the city bus 5, 6.1 or 6.2, fare: 1,70€, or taxi (7€) will take you up through the Puerta de Bisagra gate to the **Plaza de Zocodover**, the main square and heart of this World Heritage City, to start your tour.

On the square you'll find a handy tourist office, the **Casa del Mapa**, where you can pick up maps and brochures. It opens at 10:00 am. There is also an information booth at the Toledo train station, a tourist office on the Town Hall Square facing the cathedral and another across from the main entrance gate, Puerta de Bisagra.

*A note on Toledo's principal sights: Keep abreast of current exhibits and cultural events, along with current monument opening hours at [www.toledo-turismo.com](http://www.toledo-turismo.com)*

## TOLEDO'S MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

### ALCÁZAR DE TOLEDO

The former fortress, a Nationalist stronghold and scene of fierce fighting during the Spanish Civil War, has been completely renovated. Reopened in the spring of 2010, it now houses Spain's official Military Museum, the Museo del Ejército ([www.ejercito.mde.es](http://www.ejercito.mde.es)).



Open 10:00 to 5:00, closed on Wednesdays, including public holiday, January 1 & 6, 1 May 1, December 24, 25 and 31. General admission is 5€. Free to EU citizens over 65 and those under 18. Free on Sundays, March 29, April 18 May 18, December 6 and Armed Forces Day (Spain). General admission is 5€. An audio guide is available in five languages ([www.museo.ejercito.es](http://www.museo.ejercito.es)).

### CATHEDRAL DE TOLEDO - SANTA IGLESIA CATEDRAL PRIMADA

The enormous 13th century Gothic Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo can best be seen in its entirety, including the Chapter House, Choir, Treasury and Sacristy filled with El Grecos, plus a Caravaggio, Van Dyck and Goya, by renting the excellent audio guide available in the Museum gift shop across from the visitors' entrance at the Puerta Llana, where one must purchase the cathedral admission ticket ([www.catedralprimada.es](http://www.catedralprimada.es)).



Open Monday-Saturday from 10:00 to 6:00, closes at 6:30. Closed January 1, 8th day of Christmas and December 25. Check the schedule for special opening hours. Audio guide costs €3, while the complete tour cost is 11€.

Tours can be booked online. Admission is free on Sunday afternoons for Spanish citizens. Photography is forbidden inside the Cathedral and Museums.

## MUSEO DEL GRECO



The newly renovated **Museum del Greco**, at Paseo del Tránsito, is open Tuesday-Saturday, April-September from 9:30 to 8:00, and from October-March from 9:30 to 6:30, on Sundays and bank holiday from 10:00 to 3:00. Closed on Monday, January 1 & 6, May 1 and December 24, 25 & 31. Entry is free on Saturday after 4:00 pm, April 18, May 18, October 12, and December 6. General admission is 3€, free to those under 18 and over 65 ([en.museodelgreco.mcu.es](http://en.museodelgreco.mcu.es)).

### MUSEUM - HOSPITAL DE SANTA CRUZ

The museum, at C/ Miguel de Cervantes, 3, below the Plaza de Zocodover, is housed in a 16th century Renaissance former charity hospital conceived by Cardenal Mendoza. Downstairs you'll find a fine collection of Flemish tapestries ([www.patrimoniohistoricoclm.es](http://www.patrimoniohistoricoclm.es)). While upstairs you'll find a very interesting Ceramics museum displaying beautiful works from all of Spain's ceramics producing regions from Talavera to Manises to Catalunya.



Open Monday-Saturday from 10:00 to 7:00, Sunday from 10:00 to 2:30. Closes January 1 & 5 and December 25. General admission is 5€.

### **SANTA MARÍA LA BLANCA**

The 12th century Moorish-built synagogue, C/ Reyes Católicos, 4, has undergone a beautiful restoration of its tiny interior and is currently the administration of a community of cloistered nuns. It, and the Synagogue of the Transit, are the only two that survive of the twelve original Toledo synagogues. It opens daily from 10:00 to 5:45, until 6:45 in summer. Entrance is 2,50€.

### **MEZQUITA DE CRISTO DE LA LUZ**

The tiny, square mosque, from the 10th century (922), is the oldest building remaining in the city, and is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 2:00 and 3:30 to 5:45. On Saturday and Sunday it's open from 10:00 to 5:45, and until 6:40 during the summer months. Entrance is 2,50€.

### **MONASTERIO DE SAN JUAN DE LOS REYES**

The Franciscan monastery-church, at Reyes Católicos, 17, was founded in 1476 by the Catholic Monarchs and originally designated to be the final resting place of Ferdinand and Isabella. But the surrender of Granada in 1472 was an event of such magnitude that it caused the King and Queen to change their burial plans, and the Royal Chapel of Granada became their mausoleum. The monastery has an elegant Gothic cloister ([www.sanjuandelosreyes.org](http://www.sanjuandelosreyes.org)).

Open daily from 10:00 to 5:45, in the summer until 6:45. Closed December 25 and January 1. Closes at noon on December 21, 24 and 31. Entrance fee is 2,50€.

### **IGLESIA DE SANTO TOMÉ**

To view El Greco's most famous work, the Burial of the Count of Orgaz, you'll find it on display covering an entire wall at the diminutive Iglesia de Santo Tomé, but beware of the heavy tour bus crowds. Best to be at the door upon opening at 10:00 or a half hour before closing ([www.santotome.org](http://www.santotome.org)).

Open daily from 10:00 to 6:00 (in summer until 7:00). Admission is 2,50€.

### **SEPHARDIC MUSEUM AND SYNAGOGUE OF THE TRANSIT**

In the 11th century Toledo was home to the largest population of Jews in Spain. This museum sits alongside the 14th century synagogue, **Sinagoga del Tránsito**, built for Peter the Cruel's treasurer, Samuel Levi, and is Spain's National Museum of Hispano-Jewish and Sephardic Art. It houses an impressive collection of artifacts of Jewish culture ([museosefardi.mcu.es](http://museosefardi.mcu.es)).

The museum is open from March 1 to October 31, Tuesday-Saturday from 9:30 to 7:30, and from November 1 to February 28, Tuesday-Saturday from 9:30 to 6:00. Closed on Mondays, January 1, May 1, December 24, 25, 31 and local holidays. Open on Monday, May 18 for the International Museum Day, from 9:30 to 7:30.

General admission is 3€. Audio guides are available in English. The museum is free on Saturdays and national holidays from 10:00 to 3:00.

## IGLESIA DE SAN ROMÁN

There is a fascinating mixture of architectural styles found within this church. Here you'll find the Museum of Visigothic Art, Museo de los Concilios y Cultura Visigoda, with a collection of VI, VII, VIII century artifacts from the former Visigothic kingdom of Toledo.

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 2:30 and 4:00 to 6:30, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 2:30. General admission is 6€ (valid for the Museum of the Councils, Visigoth Culture and Museum of Santa Cruz). Admission is free on Wednesday and Saturdays afternoons from 4:00 to 6:30 and on Sundays.

## TOLEDO CITY TOURS

There are two private tour companies offering reasonably priced city tours, **Conoce Toledo** ([www.conocertoledo.es](http://www.conocertoledo.es)) and **Toledo Paisajes** ([www.toledopaisajes.com](http://www.toledopaisajes.com)). Tours are given in English on demand; otherwise, participants are given an audio guide to follow in English (and other languages). Must reserve by phone or by email and **NOT** at the Tourist Office across from cathedral.

For those visiting the city with limited mobility, electric cars can be rented for 2 hours for a cost of 40€. A much cheaper option is to take the open-air tourist Choo-Choo, the **Zocotren**, which departs from the Plaza de Zocodover for a ride to the major monuments.

## SHOPPING

### MAZAPANES SANTO TOMÉ

If you're a lover of marzipan, head straight to this shop on Calle Santo Tomé, the principal artery running along the tourist path in the Judería, or former Jewish quarter. Just look for the gigantic marzipan cathedral in the store window! You'll find another branch on the Plaza Zocodover.

### DAMASCENE WARE



About the ubiquitous damascene (*damasquinado*) ware, which is hammered black steel with gold inlay, done in jewelry, pill boxes, swords and any number of trinkets, I'm just no longer a fan due to sheer overkill of shops and hard sell of shopkeepers hawking it.

But if this typical Toledana ware strikes your fancy, be sure to purchase it at a shop displaying the official seal of authenticity and avoid the first shop

on the left on Calle Comercio, which leads down to the cathedral.

### SIMÓN ARTESANÍA

One trustworthy shop, whose artisan-owner has been featured in articles in leading Spanish travel magazines, can be found at Plaza San Vicente, 1.

### BORDADOS VELASCO

For lovely hand embroidered linens (placemats, tablecloths, napkins, pillow covers) from the village of Lagartera in the Toledo province, you'll find this reputable shop on Calle Alfonso X at number 12, in the historic quarter.

### PINCEL Y BARRO CERÁMICA ARTÍSTICA

For handsome ceramics from the towns of Puente El Arzobispo and Talavera de la Reina, go to Calle del Real Arrabal, 32, below and on the opposite side of Hotel Abad, near the Bisagra Gate ([www.pincelybarro.es](http://www.pincelybarro.es)).

## DINING IN TOLEDO

For dining in the heart of Toledo, I highly recommend four spots, three for more moderately priced, casual fare and the fourth, a true gourmet treasure that will please the most discriminating palates.

### ALFILERITOS 24

A casual yet sophisticated dining spot located blissfully away from the tourist hordes at Calle Alfileritos, 24, and a favorite of local business types, it is housed in an ancient 14th century Toledo building with central atrium on several floors ([www.alfileritos24.com](http://www.alfileritos24.com)).



The ground floor space serves as a tapas bar/tavern, serving a Monday-Friday bargain priced lunch menu for 10,50€, while the more formal and quite stylish dining rooms are found upstairs. On our last visit we chose to dine upstairs and took advantage of the very well priced three course set menu for 18,50€ (including bread, water and a glass of wine), which changes regularly, served for lunch only, Monday-Friday.

There is also a children's menu, menu in English and free Wi-Fi. Several dishes are gluten-free and vegetarian friendly. The restaurant and tavern are open daily from 10:00 am until midnight.

Tel: (+34) 925 239 625

### COLECCIÓN PERDIZ

This wine bar/gourmet shop/casual dining venue, at Reyes Católicos, 7, is a member of the Adolfo group of dining venues belonging to local restaurateur, chef and wine maker Adolfo Muñoz, and lies within close proximity of the Cathedral. There is also a delicatessen where visitors can shop for gourmet gifts such as cheeses, honey, olive oils and wine, and upstairs there's an open kitchen where one can have wine and tapas or a bargain 12,90€ *menú del día*. Open from 1:00 to 4:00 and from 8:00 to 11:00. Closed Sunday nights and Monday ([www.grupoadolfo.com](http://www.grupoadolfo.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 252 919 / 639 938 140

## LOS CUATRO TIEMPOS RESTAURANTE

C/ Sixto Ramón Parro, 5, in the historic quarter, in a 16th century building, this popular spot serves a good value *menú del día*. Open for lunch from 1:30 to 5:30 and for dinner from 8:45 to 12:30 am. Closed Sunday night and all day Monday ([www.restauranteloscuatrotiempos.com](http://www.restauranteloscuatrotiempos.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 223 782

## LOCUM

This atmospheric gourmet restaurant can be found near the cathedral, around the corner and down the narrow Calle Locum from Los Cuatro Tiempos restaurant. It's also housed in a 3-story ancient mansion and dining here is a very leisurely affair with highly polished service that comes with its gourmet pedigree. The degustation menu of three half-starters, a fish, meat, water, dessert and coffee cost only 40€. Our meal of two courses, including a first course of half-portions of starters, a bottle of Castilla-La Mancha wine and coffee (with plate of chocolates) came in at 90€.

A very elegant experience and worth the short train trip from Madrid just to dine. The one to watch! It receives a 7/10 rating in the '10 Gourmetour guide and has been awarded a Repsol Guide *sol* (equivalent to a Michelin star). Chef Víctor Sánchez Beato serves a terrific foie and loin of venison with quince paste, cheese and hazelnuts, along with delicious desserts such as the warm marzipan cake with cheese and maracuyá ice cream. It closes Monday night and all day Tuesday, plus the last two weeks of August. One should reserve ahead ([www.locum.es](http://www.locum.es)).

Tel: (+34) 925 223 235

## RESTAURANTE LA ERMITA

A NY Times article by Dale Fuchs recommended this restaurant for cliff side dining in the storehouse of a 15th century sanctuary but with modern decor. It's found on the Carretera de Circunvalación on the road leading up to the Parador. The '10 Gourmetour guide gives it a 6.5/10 rating and praises its well-chosen wine list.

Specialties include black rice with baby clams and artichokes, venison medallions served with a teriyaki sauce, puff pastry cones filled with cream cheese and ice cream. Open for lunch from 1:30 to 5:30 and for dinner from 8:45 to 12:30. Kitchen closes at 11:00. Closed on Sunday night and all day Monday ([www.laermitarestaurante.com](http://www.laermitarestaurante.com))

Tel: (+34) 925 253 193

## TAPAS AND WINE BARS

### TABERNA BOTERO

Ciudad, 5, behind the Town Hall (Ayuntamiento), this lively and informal tavern is a good option for a wine and small plates dinner ([www.tabernaelbotero.com](http://www.tabernaelbotero.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 280 967

### BAR TRÉBOL

Located just steps from Plaza de Zocodover at Called Santa Fe, 1, has one of the loveliest terraces in Toledo. Offers a tapas menu for 18€ ([cerveceriatrebol.com](http://cerveceriatrebol.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 281 297

### BAR LUDUEÑA

Plaza de la Magdalena, 10, is open daily from 10:30 to 4:30 and from 8:00 to 11:30. Normally very busy with locals.

Tel: (+34) 925 280 967

### EL CASÓN DE LOS LÓPEZ DE TOLEDO

Located at C/ Sillería, 3, in a 16th-century mansion. This is a busy bar/café with a more formal dining room on the first floor.

Tel: (+34) 925 254 774

## NOTES ON OVERNIGHTING IN TOLEDO

Although most people tour Toledo on a full day-trip from Madrid, the city's charms are best appreciated at night, after the hordes of bus tours and day trippers have disappeared and the hundreds of tourist shops, literally door-to-door, selling swords, damascene ware and other trinkets have closed. On a day visit Toledo can easily appear a city driven by and surviving on tourism alone, while at night it becomes a much more pleasant, even magical place for a stroll along its silent, cobblestone maze of steep, narrow streets.

## ACCOMMODATIONS IN TOLEDO

### 2-STAR HOSTAL SANTA ISABEL

A very affordable budget option located on a quiet side street in the center of the historic quarter at C/Santa Isabel, 24, this 42-room inn is housed in a 15th century building with roof terrace boasting lovely, panoramic views. The superior double rooms with views (some with balconies) run from 68€, depending on the season. Some rooms are large enough to accommodate a family of four, and some are non-smoking. The simply decorated rooms come equipped with a/c, satellite TV and small baths. There is an elevator and complimentary Wi-Fi in the lobby ([www.hotelsantaisabel.net](http://www.hotelsantaisabel.net)).

Tel: (+34) 935 253 120 / 925 259 043

### 3-STAR HOSTAL DEL CARDENAL

For first time visitors, to appreciate the charms of the city, I highly recommend a stay in one of two highly atmospheric inns. For those on a moderate budget, I continue to recommend a Karen Brown and Alistair Sawday favorite, the seigniorial 3-star Hostal del Cardenal, a former 18th century archbishops' mansion in pale brick, located on the ring road, Paseo de Recaredo, but tucked into the city's thick, fortified walls, right at the Bisagra gate.

It's romantic, quiet and filled with beautiful antiques and ceramics in its several sitting rooms, although the guest rooms themselves, below wood beamed ceilings, have simple, traditional hand-carved Castilian furniture, wrought iron lamps and tiled floors. The modern baths are decorated with hand-painted blue tiles. There are lots of nooks and crannies in which to sit, and the fountain filled Moorish gardens are very inviting ([www.hostaldelcardenal.com](http://www.hostaldelcardenal.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 224 900

Since access to the hotel is through three tiers of gardens, up several flights of steps, I don't recommend it for the elderly or those traveling with small children. And the hotel is not elevator equipped. I've found little help from the staff in navigating my luggage from parking lot to room, so be prepared to carry your own luggage up to the check in desk. The hotel's adjacent restaurant is run by the owners of Botín in Madrid and serves its legendary specialties of roast lamb and roast suckling pig plus the signature Toledoan dish of roast partridge (*perdiz estofado*). It's particularly pleasant for summer night dining on the lovely terrace surrounded by the walled garden and fountains.

**4-STAR SERCOTEL PINTOR EL GRECO**

A more prosaic choice than the antique-filled Hostal del Cardenal, this well-run, fairly priced inn lies in the very heart of the Jewish quarter, next to the House-Museum of El Greco and within easy walking distance of the city's monumental treasures. It is a typical Toledo dwelling from the 17th century, a former bakery, converted into a comfortable 60-room inn, including three junior suites and one suite. It received its fourth star with the addition of nine rooms, all with exposed brick and stone and wood beams. Amenities include individually controlled a/c, in room safe, mini bar, complimentary Wi-Fi, writing desk. Some rooms offer Jacuzzi baths. Pets allowed, upon request ([www.hotelpintorelgreco.com](http://www.hotelpintorelgreco.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 285 191

**5-STAR FONTECRUZ PALACIO EUGENIA DE MONTIJO**

For those who wish to splurge, I suggest the elegant (but not overpriced) 5-star Fontecruz Palacio Eugenia de Montijo, the most luxurious lodging within the city walls. It's located at Plaza Juego de Pelota, 7. It has 40 rather plush rooms with handmade carpets and antique furnishings plus large marble baths, a lovely and tranquil atrium lobby with beautiful dome, a spa with hammam and a well-regarded gourmet restaurant, Belvís, a member of the prestigious Adolfo group. Wi-Fi is complimentary ([www.palacioeugeniademontijo.com](http://www.palacioeugeniademontijo.com)).

Tel: (+34) 925 274 69

There's easy access to the hotel from the ring road and a handy public garage just around the corner has a special rate for guests. (The parking spots on the square belong to residents.) It's a member of Fontecruz hotels, a four and five-star group with lovely properties also in Granada, Sevilla and Cáceres. Prices here run equal to (or sometimes below) those at the Parador.

There are a few parking spots available in front of the hotel entrance, in a tiny public lot, but they usually fill by 10:00. Guests must then park in the underground public lot just below the hotel on the right side of the Paseo going down the hill. For easy access up to the main tourist sites, one can take the escalator across the way from the underground lot, built into the Arab walls. Look for the yellow sign indicating "*remonte mecánico*". Breakfast at the Cardenal is buffet and rather ordinary. The hotel has 18 doubles, 3 singles, 6 triples and 2 suites with sitting room and private terrace-great for honeymooners.

## STAYING OUTSIDE THE CITY

### PARADOR DE TOLEDO

For repeat visitors with a car, or a family traveling with small children, not wishing to spend the entire day pounding the well trodden tourist trail, I have often recommended the modern Parador de Toledo, with outdoor pool (seasonal). This Parador is located 4 kilometers outside of town, up in the Cigarrales zone, atop the Cerro del Emperador hill, across the Tagus River (a *cigarral* meaning a summer residence of 17th century aristocrats). From this vantage point, one can enjoy perfect photo ops of the entire city encircled by the river.

The Toledo Parador emerged from a top-to-bottom refurbishment, and the large guest quarters have been appointed with contemporary blond wood furnishings (some with 4-poster beds) and completely remodeled baths. We recently stayed in room 417 (the pre-renovation room 14), THE room with the perfect city view with wrap-around balcony and seating on both sides. The view from this perch across the Tagus is simply priceless. Toledo, a living museum, looks even more dramatic and compelling from this angle. Sunrises and sunsets are magical from this vantage point.



The disadvantage of a Parador stay, the additional cost of taxi fare to and from the city. A recent taxi ride, called from the Parador to take us down to the Plaza Zocodover cost 8,90€, while the return trip (taxi caught from tourist office near Bisagra Gate) cost 5,60€. The Parador does offer a shuttle with limited runs, but the hours are not at all handy for sightseeing ([www.parador.es](http://www.parador.es)).

Tel: (+34) 925 221 850

#### 4-STAR AC CIUDAD DE TOLEDO

This contemporary style, business class hotel (46 rooms, 3 suites) serves as an excellent alternative to the Parador (but without the pool) for those passing through by car (free on-site parking) and wishing the peace and quiet of a location in the country. It also lies on the ring road, but closer to the city, with a city bus stop right outside the door. The bus runs by every hour and the ride takes a short 10 minutes. Taxi fare to and from the city is slightly lower here due to the closer proximity to the city gates. The AC enjoys the same fantastic panoramic views of the city as well.

Rooms come equipped with the usual AC features of very comfortable beds, plenty of pillows, sparkling clean baths, powerful hair dryers and powerful a/c. The superior rooms offer bathrobes and slippers. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel. Not all rooms have terraces with splendid views, so be sure to upgrade to a room with a view. Can be booked with Marriott points ([ac-hotel-ciudad-de-toledo](http://ac-hotel-ciudad-de-toledo)).

Tel: (+34) 925 285 125

#### 5-STAR PALACIO BUENAVISTA

If you're looking for 5-star luxury with a view, you might consider the Hotel Eurostars Palacio Buenavista, 2 kilometers outside the city with lovely views of the city from afar. The hotel offers all the usual amenities in a completely refurbished 16th century palace. The owner has included a small museum to display his impressive private art collection. The hotel does offer shuttle service three times daily to pick guests up at the train station and to take them into the city for touring.

The very ample sized, plush guest rooms have all the creature comforts, including king beds, a sofa, work desk, 32-inch flat screen TV, Wi-Fi, iron and ironing board, coffee maker, nightly turndown service. The opulent marble baths have separate shower stall with rain head, and bathrobes and slippers are provided in the deluxe rooms

There is a full service spa with up to date exercise equipment, treatment rooms, and hydrotherapy pool as well as a kids' club. The outdoor pool is seasonal, open from late June to mid-September. Dining options included the formal Quixote Restaurant offering traditional regional cuisine, a poolside Tajo river terrace, a more casual Toledana bar and restaurant that serves casual fare and the buffet breakfast.

Disadvantages of staying at the Palacio Buenavista: You're a 10€ taxi ride from the city if you don't wish to depend on the shuttle bus schedule or walk to the city bus stop, the hotel is off a busy highway, the incidentals here (spa treatments, food, drinks, internet access) do not come cheap. The views aren't quite as spectacular as the ones from the Parador. Count on rates (breakfast included) of 175€-295€, and up, depending on your dates. Parking is an additional 10€/day ([www.eurostarspalaciobuenavista.com](http://www.eurostarspalaciobuenavista.com)).

Tel (+34) 925 289 800

## THE TOLEDO SKYLINE

Toledo's highly dramatic skyline is only visible from outside of town, across the Tagus, so if you stay inside the city walls, make sure to take a taxi drive or drive yourself up the Circunvalación ring road to the Parador or other Cigarrales area hotels/restaurants to enjoy this truly unforgettable view.



*Toledo in late afternoon*

*Toledo at night from the terrace of the Parador*



## EXCURSIONS FROM TOLEDO

### THE WINDMILLS OF CONSUEGRA

If you're planning on spending a few days in Toledo, then you can do a day trip to see the famous windmills of Castilla-La Mancha in the medieval village of Consuegra, just southeast of the city. 2015 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the second volume of Cervantes' tale of Don Quixote "*El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*", the man from La Mancha ([www.qvixote2015.es](http://www.qvixote2015.es)).

If you do not have a car, there is regular daily bus service between Toledo and Consuegra on the Sarma bus (lines 11, 12, 22 & 23). Round-trip tickets are 9,36€. The first departure is 9:15 am, Monday-Friday. Check the Saturday and Sunday schedules at: [samar.es](http://samar.es).

Part of the fortress castle, dating from the 13th century, is now open to visitors.



## WINE TOURING FROM TOLEDO

### BODEGA FINCA LORANQUE

This 500 hectare wine estate, dating from the 18th century, is located within a 30-minute drive north of the city, just to the west of the village of Bargas. Wine was first produced on the land in the 11th century. Visits, for a maximum of 10 people, are available Monday through Saturday by appointment only, and include a tasting of 3 wines. A wine tasting course, lasting 1-1/2 hours, is available for a maximum of 6 people ([www.fincaloranque.com](http://www.fincaloranque.com)).

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### FINCA DOMINIO DE VALDEPUSA

This beautiful estate, considered one of the most important in the region, is located about an hour's drive west of Toledo, a few minutes south of Malpica del Tajo, in the Pusa River Valley, for which the estate is named. It has been in the Marqués de Griñón's family since the end of the 13th century, and first opened its doors to the public in 2009. Contact them to arrange a tour of the winery and estate, and enjoy a gastronomic lunch ([www.pagosdefamilia.es](http://www.pagosdefamilia.es)).

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