



# DRIVE TO DISCOVER SPAIN

## 7 MUST-SEE UNESCO SITES



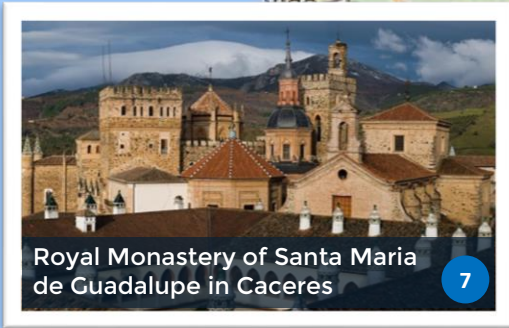
Alcala de Henares

1



Hanging Houses of Cuenca

2



Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Caceres

7



Archaeological Ensemble of Merida

6



Historic City of Toledo

3



Archivo de Indias in Seville

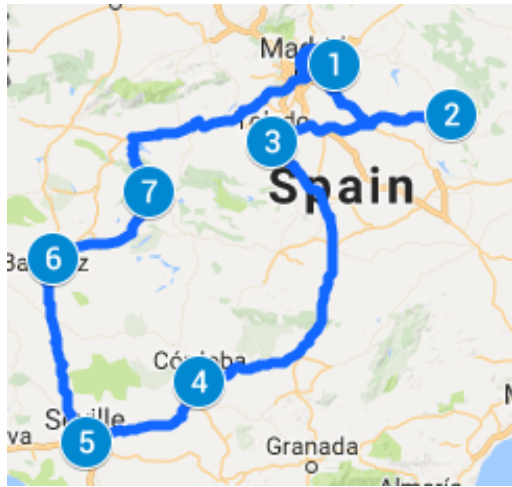
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Historic Center of Cordoba

4





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Barajas Airport to Alcalá de Henares	15 miles	24 mins
Alcalá de Henares to Cuenca	104 miles	1 hour 42 mins
Cuenca to Toledo	111 miles	1 hour 45 mins
Toledo to Córdoba	215 miles	3 hours 19 mins
Córdoba to Seville	90 miles	1 hour 36 mins
Seville to Merida	119 miles	2 hours
Merida to Cáceres	78 miles	1 hour 30 mins
Cáceres to Barajas Airport	162 miles	2 hours 45 mins
<b>Total Distance Covered:</b>	<b>894 miles</b>	

Spain offers visitors a multitude of must-see destinations including vibrant cities, pristine beaches, and delicious food. With so much to see & experience, deciding what to do on your next road trip can be daunting. That's why we've created this road trip itinerary to help you Drive to Discover the best places to visit in Spain! This itinerary features our 7 favorite UNESCO World Heritage sites from across the country and is perfect for bucket list travelers or history buffs.

**TO/FROM: Madrid's Barajas Airport**

With this guide you will begin your 894 mile journey at Barajas Airport in Spain's capital city of Madrid and travel through central & southern Spain, checking off 7 must-see UNESCO World Heritage site from your bucket list! Remember to pack accordingly as temperatures in this area of Spain can vary.

**1. Alcalá University - Alcalá de Henares, Madrid**

After picking up your rental car at the Barajas airport, drive just 24 minutes northeast of Madrid to find the city of Alcalá de Henares, home to Alcalá University. This was the first city in the world to be designed and built as a university town and served as a model that was replicated across Europe and in the US. The site was granted UNESCO site status for its impressive architecture and cultural importance which includes significant contributions to the Spanish languages.

**2. The Hanging Houses of Cuenca - Cuenca**

Cuenca is situated high atop a mountainside, with cliffs that overlook the Huecar River. The ancient buildings were meticulously constructed in harmony with the natural landscape, creating an architectural style that is both stunning and culturally unique. The "hanging houses" or casas colgadas are a famous feature in the Castillo quarter which includes a number of mansions and large baroque churches. As the name implies, these structures are hanging over the sides of the cliffs producing some awe inspiring views. Visitors can access this section of the city via a narrow suspension foot-bridge.

**3. Historic City of Toledo - Toledo**

Known as a veritable "museum-city", visitors to the historic city of Toledo will find 2 millenniums worth of history dating back well into ancient Roman times. With architectural structures representing three major religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) and works of art from countless famed artist, Toledo offers a window into the history of multiple ancient cultures in one destination.

**4. Historic Center of Córdoba - Córdoba**

Having been occupied by all sorts of cultures over the centuries, Córdoba's architecture offers visitors a diverse mix of artistic styles. The city has 300 mosques including The Great Mosque (La Mezquita) dating from 784 A.D.. The towering interior has not been replicated anywhere in the world making it an ever-impressive structure.

**5. Cathedral, Alcazar and Archivo de Indias - Seville**

Seville is home to three UNESCO sites. The first is the spectacular and massive Alcazar compound which is undoubtedly one of the most stunning places to visit in Spain. Visitors exploring the interior will discover lush gardens, gorgeous reflecting pools and ornately decorated structures. The second site is the cathedral which is the largest Gothic building in Europe and houses the tomb of Christopher Columbus. The third site is the Archivo de Indias which house treasured documents from Spain's explorations into the Americas. Aside from these UNESCO sites, the city is famous for flamenco dancing as well as bull fighting. Travelers could always opt to rent a car in Seville to spend even more time discovering the ancient charm of the city.

**6. Archaeological Ensemble of Mérida - Mérida**

This ensemble is one of the most extensive and best preserved examples of Roman architecture in Spain boasting a Roman amphitheater, a large circus, towering aqueducts, an impressive bridge over the Guadiana River along with many other structures. Visitors will be astonished to find ancient dams that still function as a true testament to Roman architecture.

**7. Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe - Cáceres**

The Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe was built surrounding the shrine to Santa María de Guadalupe. Local legend states that the Virgin Mary appeared to a boy in the mountains and told him a statue of her was hidden high in the hillside. The boy fetched the bishop who uncovered a 2 foot sculpture that had been hidden for centuries and is one of Spain's three black Madonnas. The monastery was granted UNESCO status for its ensemble of religious architecture. The dramatic mountain landscape surrounding the Monastery make this location a spectacular last stop on your Drive to Discover journey.