

toledo

CITY GUIDE

ONLY
WITH
LOCALS
toledo

A GUIDE MADE BY

FOR OASIS HOSTELS



things to do



Toledo is one of Spain's oldest cities, rich with history as the long-time Spanish capital as well as having been an important centre of culture to the Romans, the Moors, Christians, and Visigoths through the ages. Distinct from the more modern cities of central Spain, this city is a history lover's wet dream. Innumerable ancient structures, several breathtaking views, and truly remarkable museums of art, architecture, and archaeology make this storied city a cultural and historical gem that, somehow, has yet to be saturated with tourists and still retains an authentic feel.

The Cathedral Plaza del Ayuntamiento



In the very core of the city, Toledo's Cathedral is a place of worship not only to faith, but to great artistic achievement as well. The ornate white limestone façade houses a magnificent collection of works by artists of world renown including Goya, Raphael, and local hero El Greco. Stunning inside and out, this is an unquestionable and obligatory must-see.

Open Monday to Saturday:
10h – 18h30
Public holidays and Sundays:
14h – 18h30

Entry 07

tel.: (+34) 925 222 241

www.catedralprimada.es

The Alcazar Fortress Calle Unión



Sitting atop Toledo's highest hill, the Alcazar boasts the most sweeping and dramatic views of the city. At the Alcazar, rich history and imposing design combine with commanding views and grand scale to make it a place well worth discovering. Having served as a fortress in times of war, it now holds one of Europe's biggest municipal libraries as well as Toledo's Military Museum.

Open Oct 01 to May 31:
Tuesday to Saturday: 10h – 19h
Sunday: 10h – 15h
Open Jun 01 to Sep 30:
Tuesday to Saturday: 10h – 21h
Sunday: 10h – 15h

Entry 05 / Reduced 02,5
Sundays Free

tel.: (+34) 925 238 800

www.museo.ejercito.es

Monastery S. Juan Reyes (Saint John of The Kings) Calle Reyes Católicos, 17



Built by the Catholic monarchs to commemorate their victory over Afonso V of Portugal at the Battle of Toro, this 15th century monastery has a dramatic Mudejar style ceiling, cloisters, and three calming chapels. The main chapel is decorated with the coats of arms of the Catholic Monarchs supported by large eagles, and the granite façade on the exterior displays the chains of freed Christian prisoners.

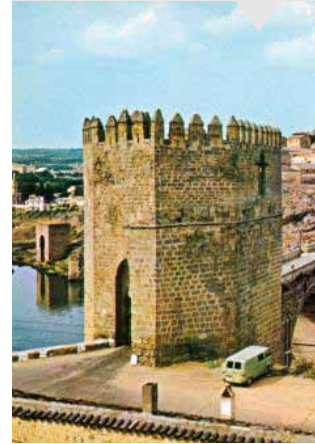
Open Apr 01 to Sep 30:
10h – 18h30
Open Oct 01 to Mar 30:
10h – 17h30

Entry 02,50

tel.: (+34) 925 223 802

www.sanjuandelosreyes.org

Walk along the River Tagus



The river Tagus encircles Toledo on three sides providing an exciting walkway. Take an hour of your time and set out on the route of Don Quixote. You will find picnic areas, fishing spots, rock-climbing adventures and more. Tired yet? Cross the river on the free ferry (Thursday to Sunday) and walk up the hill to the Church of the Virgin of the Valley and enjoy panoramic views of Toledo.

El Greco Museum Paseo Tránsito



Among the typically narrow and lively streets of Toledo's old Jewish quarter, lies the home of the famous local painter, sculptor, and architect El Greco. The museum's two buildings share a beautiful courtyard and house many of the artist's priceless works as well as a number of works by other 17th century Spanish painters.

Open Apr 01 to Sep 30:
Tuesday to Saturday:
09h30 – 20h
Public holidays and Sundays:
10h – 15h
Closed Mondays.
From Oct 01 to Mar 31:
Tuesday to Sat.: 9h30 – 18h30
Public holidays and Sundays:
10h – 15h

Entry 03 / Reduced 01,50
Free Sundays / Saturdays after
16h / 18 April / 18 May / 12
October / 6 December

tel.: (+34) 925 223 665

museodelgreco.mcu.es/

The City Walls, its Gates and Bridges



The Toledo City Walls have been standing since Roman times. Originally constructed by a Visigoth King in the year 674 AD, there are ten gates surrounding the interior of the old city of Toledo, each with a special and unique story to be told. It makes for a beautiful walk and, like everything else in Toledo, it's peppered with historically significant points of interest.

Plaza Zocodóver



The main plaza of Toledo is named after the market that was once held here in Moorish times. It's still the hub of Toledan activity, branching out onto bustling Calle del Comercio – packed with tourists, shops, and cafés. While it is a major tourist magnet, it's also a popular meeting point for locals and travellers alike.

Roman Circus Paseo del Circo Romano



Outside the city walls, the Roman Circus of Toledo was built during the 1st century, likely under the rule of Rome's first Emperor, Augustus. While history lovers wait for current restoration projects to progress and return the place to some semblance of its original form, the site still makes for a beautiful and relaxing stroll – whether or not its distant past is your point of interest.

Hospital of Tavera (Duque of Lerma Museum) Calle Cardenal Tavera, 2



While the building is extremely beautiful and impressive from the outside, the real treasures lie within its walls and Renaissance facades. Among works by El Greco, Titian, Rivera, and others, there are also remarkable tapestries and luxurious furniture and 16th century décor. A small pharmacy museum is perhaps its most famous spectacle aside from the large marble sepulchre of Cardinal Tavera by Berruguete.

Open Monday to Saturday:
10h – 13h30 // 15h – 17h30
Sunday: 10h – 13h30

Entry €4,50

tel.: (+34) 925 220 451

www.fundacionmedinaceli.org

Plaza de Toros Avenida de la Plaza Toros



Just outside the narrow streets and city walls of Old Toledo, this iconic structure continues to host classic Spanish bullfights and still puts on some intense and impressive spectacles. And if bullfighting's not your thing, no worries – the place is also frequently host to festivals, cultural events, and concerts. The ring's construction reflects aspects of Moorish design and can hold roughly 9,000 people.

tel.: (+34) 925 220 482

restaurants



Dining in Toledo means you're combining some of the best aspects of Spanish cuisine with local fare. And while the food is the star of the show, you'll notice that these restaurants provide the stage: an atmosphere preserving the city's rich history with its tendencies toward innovation and creativity. So expect tradition and heritage to combine with creatively inspired dishes to create a dining experience like no other.

buon appetito!

La Abadía
Plaza de San Nicolás, 3



La Abadía offers tasty dishes that are as unique as its environment. Locals and travellers alike pour into this place for fantastic tapas and filling meals at very reasonable prices. They keep coming back to enjoy the cavernous 16th century ambiance and the enticing wine list. Wonderful atmosphere and brilliant cuisine.

tel.: (+34) 925 251 140

www.abadiatoledo.com

Los Coloniales
Calle de Alfileritos, 24



While the old facade and stone walls of this restaurant blend beautifully with Toledo's Old Town neighbourhood, the inside is a whole other world. Step inside to discover a hip and happening dining house spread over four floors, with a chic tapas bar, spacious lounge area, and a vast dining hall. Last but not least, it stocks an extensive selection of incredible Spanish wines.

tel.: (+34) 925 239 625

www.alfileritos24.com

La Ermita
Carretera Circunvalacion



An emerging restaurant based on an obsession with creative-based cooking that uses local ingredients. One of the best things about this restaurant, as well as the food of course, is its elevated location overlooking the city nightscape with breathtaking views. The best views come from window tables on Fridays and Saturdays, when the monuments are lit.

tel.: (+34) 925 253 193

La Lumbre
Calle de Real del Arrabal, 5



This stylish restaurant is becoming more and more popular as patrons are beginning to appreciate the restaurant's simple dishes made with fresh ingredients and eye-catching presentation. The 29€ menus are sizeably portioned and the desserts are blissful. And while the food is deceptively minimalist, the surroundings are more noticeably elegant, so dress accordingly.

tel.: (+34) 925 285 307

Venta de Aires
Paseo del Circo Romano, 35



This restaurant bets on innovation without leaving behind its Toledan roots. Situated in the heart of the nearly two-thousand year old Roman Circus and operating since 1891, its 120 year old stoves allow you to enjoy a traditional culinary experience of Toledan dining with inventive presentation and style.

tel.: (+34) 925 220 545

www.ventadeaires.com

Com.es
Calle Sierpe, 4



A small restaurant full of history. Having once been the home of one of Spain's most famous writers, Lope de Vega, recent renovations have brought this restaurant to a new level of modern chic. The varied menu mixes dramatic flavours and textures with contemporary design and specialized service.

tel.: (+34) 925 257 560

www.comesentoledo.com

bars



Whether you're looking for a place to beat the heat and enjoy a cold one, or you want to get loosened up before a big night out, these suggestions will keep you crawling for more. From local haunts where locals play pool over drinks to lively theme pubs, old breweries, and live music hotspots – Toledo is a city where

one never stays thirsty for long.

O'Briens Irish Pub
Plaza de San Vicente, 2



A nice Irish pub located a half a block away from the Zocodover Plaza in the old quarter. While it's obviously not typical Toledan style, it is a good place to get tips about Toledo from English speaking locals. So tradition and authenticity aside, this is an easy-going locale – and they serve the best Guinness in town.

El Trebol
Calle Santa Fe, 1



Typical Spanish brewery near Zocodover Plaza with a modern look that's very distinct. Its absorbing interior is composed of 3 levels, with a glass floor peering down on the top of old medieval remains. Great tapas, very good prices, fun staff, and tons of character – don't miss out.

tel.: (+34) 925 281 297

Livingstone
Calle de Alfileritos, 4



This is an English pub with a kitsch African Expedition theme. Swords, lances – all sorts of skins, weapons, and pictures fill the walls.

tel.: (+34) 925 239 625

Ludeña
Plaza Magdalena, 10



This family establishment located near Zocodover Plaza where guests can enjoy the best 'carcamusas' (well seasoned pork or beef with veggies) in the city, as well as great variety of exquisite dishes, all served as large tapas at affordable prices. Try if you can to get one of the four tables in the courtyard on a sunny day.

tel.: (+34) 925 223 384

Babia
Calle Siepre, 11



Friendly Toledan bar where you'll meet both locals and visitors enjoys beers, cocktails, and tasty tapas. Take your drinks over to the pool table or the dartboard and play a challenge a friend. Or sit down to a more relaxed game of chess or cards. Friendly and relaxed – perfect for tapas, beer, and lively distractions in the afternoon.

Broadway
Calle Alfonso XII, 12



This is a small Jazz and Rock pub where photos of the greats, like Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, and Billy Holiday adorn the walls. With live performances every now and then, a great music selection, smooth lighting, and a cozy atmosphere, this bar is always a good choice.

tel.: (+34) 667 493 118

museums



Arguably one of the most historic cities in all of Spain, it comes as no surprise that the museums of Toledo are packed with cultural treasures. Visit the city's many museums to get a look back into the last 2,000 years of Toledan history. And as the world turns, so does Toledo – check out the more modern museums to see priceless works of contemporary art. Whether you're interested in ancient history, architecture, archaeology, or modern art, there's simply no shortage of

things to absorb in Toledo..

Museum of Contemporary Art Calle Bulas Viejas, 15



Set in the “Casa de las Cadenas”, one of the most remarkable buildings in the old Jewish quarter and within a fascinating 16th century look, this modern art gallery has exhibitions of my noteworthy 20th century pieces. The museum houses paintings, sculptures, drawings, and engravings with pieces that span from pastoral landscapes to surrealist art with several representatives of other significant contemporary movements.

tel.: (+34) 925 227 871

Visigothic Councils and Culture (Church S. Roman) Calle San Román



Built in the 12th century, this is one of the oldest churches in Toledo and a great example of one of the first Mudejar-style buildings in the city. The museum contains some incredibly well-made and interesting reproductions of crowns from the Guarrazar Treasure as well as Visigothic remains.

Open Tuesday to Saturday:
10h – 14h // 16h – 18h30
Holidays and Sundays:
10h – 14h

Entry Free.
tel.: (+34) 925 227 872

Museum of Victorio Macho Plaza de Victorio Macho, 2



Victorio Macho was a representative of realist sculpture and, housed the artist's former home, the museum bearing his name contains some of the artist's most well-known sculptures, as well as several interesting drawings, sketches, and notes. Be sure to check out the wonderful views from its garden.

Open Monday to Saturday:
10h – 19h
Sundays: 10h – 15h

Entry €3 / Reduced €1,50 /
Children under 12 Free.

tel.: (+34) 925 284 225

www.realfundaciontoledo.es

Military Museum Calle Unión



Situated in the Alcázar fortress, it houses large collections from the 19th century up to today. The collections include artefacts like blades, firearms, artillery, flags, and uniforms. Beyond these relics, there are displays of miniatures, models, and collections from the Romero Ortiz Museum and the House of the Dukes of Medinaceli. It also houses the remains of Roman and medieval structures, as well as some more modern constructions.

Open Jun 01 to Sep 30:
Thursday to Tuesday: 10h – 21h
Sundays: 10h – 15h
Oct 01 to May 31:
Thursday to Tuesday: 10h – 19h
Sundays: 10h – 15h
Closed: 1 and 6 January, 1 May, and 24, 25, and 31 December.
Entry €5 / Reduced €2,5 /
Free Sundays and everyday for students.

tel.: (+34) 925 238 800

www.museo.ejercito.es/

Museum of Santa Cruz C/ Miguel de Cervantes, 3



This museum houses a number of 16th and 17th century paintings from Toledo, and of course a number of works by El Greco. Moreover, there is an impressive exhibition of archaeological riches as well as some truly impressive architectural achievements noticeable upon entry at the museum's Plateresque doorway, in its lovely patio, and its coffered ceilings.

Open Monday to Saturday:
10h – 18h30
Sundays: 10h – 14h
Closed 1 January, 1 May, and 25 December.

Entry Free.

tel.: (+34) 925 221 402

www.patrimoniohistoricoclm.es/museo-de-santa-cruz/

clubs and nightlife



Don't be misled by the city's love affair with history. In modern Toledo, you'll find clubs and dance floors to rival those of any major Spanish city, but with the benefit of a local feel and unpretentious vibe. Dance away your sins in an old church, enjoy amazing views from a chic terrace, or sip specialty cocktails and shots complimented by live jazz or rock music in one or all of these

fantastic clubs.

Sala Pícaro
Calle Cadenas, 6



Choose from the most beautifully presented cocktails and the best coffee liqueurs in town. The place has plenty room to dance and it's an excellent place to go for live shows on weekends.

El Gallo
Callejón de la Sillería, 1



This is one of the most iconic places in Toledo, being a tavern during the day and a pub at night. Its eclectic décor creates a unique atmosphere throughout its three levels and central patio.

tel.: (+34) 925 256 451

www.tabernaelgallo.com

Circulo del Arte
Plaza de San Vicente, 2



In what was once the Church of San Vicente, this place has deserted its pious past in favour of modern culture, art, music, and parties. One of the coolest nightclubs you can find – it's a cultural centre with art exhibitions, events, and good music. It's a stylish place, so dress to impress, but not to boast.

www.circuloartetoledo.org

Garcilaso
Calle de Rojas, 5



Get inside and take a look at the dance floor from the top floor. Sleek modern design, stylish lounge areas, a relaxed Arabic-style corner lounge, and an active dance floor combine for a definitely cool experience.

tel.: (+34) 925 229 160

Terraza Monterrey
Near El Cigarral de Las Mercedes



Located on a prime scenic location with great views of the city and the river Tagus. Hosts special parties and also disposing of a restaurant on the lower levels and a terrace at the ground floor, serves a wide list of cocktails.

Cigarral Caravantes
Carretera Circunvalación, 2



A coffee-bar located across the river Tagus with one of the most enviable views of Toledo you can find. Its terrace allows you to enjoy this awesome place from 15h all the way into the wee hours of the morning. With a wide selection of cocktails aside from its specialty coffee liqueurs, it's perfect for both something new and a taste of something more familiar – day or night.

tel.: (+34) 925 283 680

City Bridges & Gates



The bridges and gates of Toledo

are hard to miss from nearly any vantage point in the city, but a close up look is its own reward. Soaring towers and mammoth fortifications testify to the strength of a city that's maintained its borders for well over a thousand years. Each gate, each bridge, and each fortification has its own unique story to be told, so check out our favourites and see them for yourself!

Puente de San Martín
St. Martin Bridge



San Martín's bridge is a late 14th century medieval bridge that connects Toledo to the west across the river Tagus to complement the much older Puente de Alcantara, linking to the east. Both sides of the bridge boast heavily fortified towers, the more recent dating from the 16th century. Try finding out who the woman in the middle is...

Puente de Alcántara
Alcantara Bridge



Early in the second century, the Romans built this fortified stone bridge over the river Tagus to connect the city of Toledo with the river's eastern bank. The inscription the central archway, "Pontem perpetui mansurum in saecula," or, "I have built a bridge which will last forever," testifies to the strength of its fortifications.

Puerta Bisagara Nueva
The Bisagra Gate



Originally called Bab al-Saqra, the gate was built by the Moors in the 10th century. Rebuilt in 1559, it served as the city's main gate and adopted the name Puerta de Bisagara Nueva. Two mammoth circular towers stand at the outer gate and two commanding towers at the inner gate make for an imposing and impressive introduction to the city.

Puerta del Cambron
The Cambron Gate



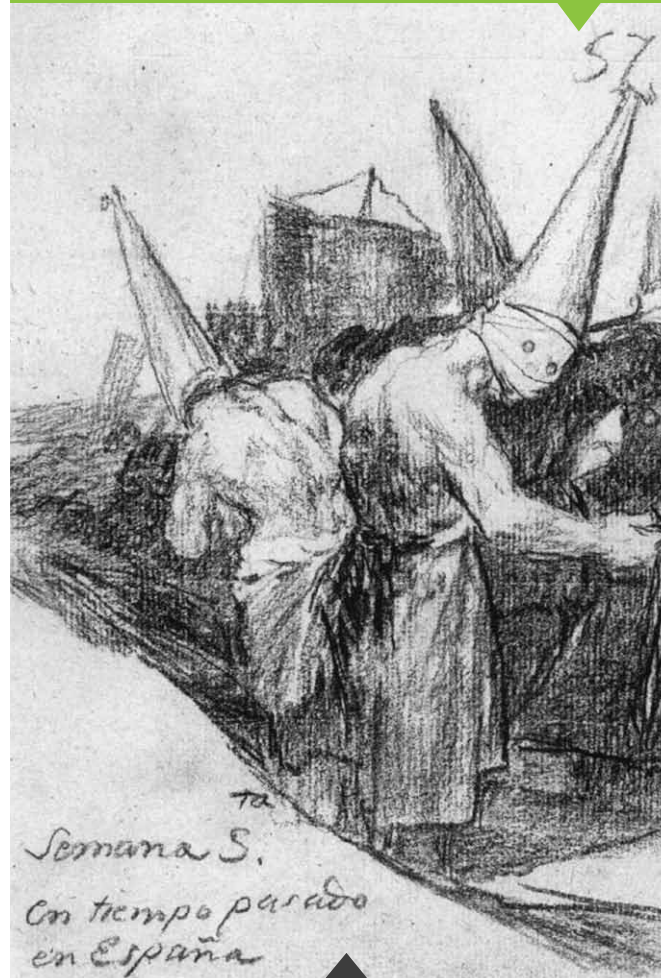
Near Puerta de San Martins, where a Visigoth gate once stood, this gate was rebuilt in the 16th century, and retains only a piece of the original structure on its outer façade. The structure has two gates and four towers and took on the nickname Jew's Gate for a time, as it linked the river Tagus' western bank to Toledo's Jewish Quarter.

Puerta del Sol
Gate of the Sun



This medieval city gate can be found along the road from the Bisagra gate to Zocodover Plaza. The medallion above the arch of the gate depicts the ordination of the Visigothic Ildephonsus, Toledo's patron saint. The name of the gate comes from the sun and the moon that were once painted on either side of this medallion.

festivals



If you're lucky enough to be in Toledo during a festival, you won't be able to ignore it and nor should you. These often sombre processions and festivals represent some of the most deeply cherished rituals in Spain. If you can manage to get a look you'll enjoy detailed floats, elaborate banners, and decorated figures, all moved to a unified purpose. Not quite a party, but a truly unforgettable cultural feast for the senses in Spain's religious capital.

Semana Santa



Semana Santa (Holy Week) celebrates the week of Easter and extravagant parades from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday fill the streets. People carry statues of saints around on floats or wooden platforms and an atmosphere of mourning (which can seem quite oppressive to onlookers) and the Easter week processions end with Easter Sunday, a day full of light and colour when church and cathedral bells are heard ringing throughout the city.

El Corpus



Perhaps Toledo's most famous festival is the procession of Corpus Christi, held on the Sunday of the ninth week after Holy Week for the last eight-hundred years. Presided over by the Archbishop himself, this spectacular procession begins as the marvellous 16th century gold monstrance by Enrique de Arce is taken out of the cathedral (among other treasures) and accompanied by the Spanish Knights through the streets. Houses are adorned for the occasion with antique fabrics from the medieval weavers' guilds, and the ground is covered with flowers and fragrant herbs.

Religious Processions



As the spiritual capital of Spain, there are many religious processions that take place during the year. One of the most important is the one dedicated to the Virgin of the valley. Be sure to check the local calendar to know if there is any going on during your visit.

chillout places



Sometimes you just want to chill. And, lucky for you, we do too. We've compiled this list of our favourite places to soak in an amazing view, have a drink, maybe a bite, and perhaps even an impromptu siesta. Relaxation can be the key to a good visit in any city – don't you forget it. And Toledo has opportunities galore.

Miradero Terrace Calle de Gerardo Lobo



This place is relaxed, cool, and has some of the greatest views of Toledo's surrounding landscapes. It's mainly a bar, but you can get some dishes to eat that mix local ingredients with exotic recipes. Without a doubt, one of the coolest places to lounge in Toledo.

ChillOut Café Calle Cervantes, 10



Nicely tucked into a corner on a plush sofa – that's the best seat in the house. The energy level here is low, but spirits are high, creating a nice atmosphere. It has a wide selection of quality drinks and from time to time you can catch mellow live performances.

Café Del Fin Terrace Calle del Taller del Moro, 1



Set up near Alcazar the terrace has amazing views over the Toledo's valley. In such pleasant atmosphere it's easy to relax and gather energy for the rest of the day. Beers come cold in iced glasses, adding the final touch to a kick-back session on a sunny day.

tel.: (+34) 925 251 052

Legendario



Located in the center of the old Town this bar has a wonderful patio – a great place to chill and enjoy a drink with your friends.

City of 3 Cultures



Known for the intercultural richness which earned this city the title of "The city of the three cultures" Toledo was a place of coexistence between Christian, Jewish, and Muslim cultures, as well as the place where harsh religious persecutions were once conducted by the

Visigoths.

Church of Santo Tomé



Built in the 14th century, with its incredible square brick and edge work, it houses El Greco's masterpiece "The Burial of the Lord of Orgaz" (El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz).

Mosque Cristo de la Cruz



This 10th century mosque is one of the few buildings remaining from before the Reconquista that has survived. The mosque is charmingly simple, lacking the ostentation that marks much of Spanish architecture, and is worth seeing as a breath of fresh air. It is situated at 300 meters from Oasis and has a mystically charming story.

Synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca



Designed and decorated by Mudejar architects (defined as Moors working on Christian soil on non-Islamic buildings). The Islamic influence is readily apparent in the lovely horseshoe arches and other features. It was completed in 1203.

The Synagogue of "El Tránsito" (or Synagogue of Samuel ha-Levi)



A 14th-century building, it's historically important as a house of worship for Toledo's large Jewish population. Moreover, it's also an excellent example of Spanish-Jewish art especially noteworthy for its superbly preserved stucco Hebrew inscriptions.

Santiago del Arrabal



Built in 1248, at the orders of Sancho II, on the site of an older church and mosque, it is known to have been used since 1125.

Mosque of Tornerías



Built in the middle of the 11th century, after the example of the Mosque of Cristo de la Luz, it is now the seat of the arts and crafts centre of Promotio of Craftmanship of Castilla-La Mancha.

survival guide*OK let's get serious.*

Getting to and from all of the great tapas bars, night clubs, and flamenco shows may require some help from the public transportation in Seville. The information here will help you navigate the city and will give you some useful numbers to keep in mind should anything go wrong.

PAN-EUROPEAN
EMERGENCY NR.



112

Police



Local Police (Policía Municipal)

tel.: (+34) 092

National Police (Policía Nacional)

tel.: (+34) 091

Civil Guard (Guardia Civil)

tel.: (+34) 062

Fire Services + Medical



FIRE SERVICES (Bomberos)

tel.: (+34) 080

MEDICAL (Ambulance)

tel.: (+34) 061

Transportation Services



EMERGENCY BREAKDOWN SERVICES

Spanish Royal Automobile
Club - RACE
tel.: (+34) 902 404 545

Rail RENFE

tel.: (+34) 902 240 202

www.renfe.es

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus Unauto

tel.: (+34) 925 220 300

www.unauto.es

There are 19 lines, most running from Plaza de Zocodover. Line 12, the Circular Casco Histórico, makes a round trip of the historic city.

Taxi Radio Taxis

tel.: (+34) 925 255 050

Car Hire Avis

tel.: (+34) 925 215 794
www.avis.es

Hertz

tel.: (+34) 925 253 890
www.hertz.com

Arexi

tel.: (+34) 925 233 664

OCSA Rent a Car

tel.: (+34) 925 240 870