



Extremadura



Extremadura is a remote region, bordering Portugal, with areas of mountains, forests, steppes, lakes and nature reserves. The landscape is one of rolling hills and vast plains of cereals, enormous areas of cork oaks, holm oaks and olive trees. This wild region is also home to the black pig which, for the final

three months of its life (Oct-Dec), is allowed to roam free and eat the holm oak acorns. The resultant 'Jamon Iberico Puro Bellota' is a unique and much sought after ham.

Many famous conquistadors originated from Extremadura and went in search of the New World including Hernan Cortes and Andres Tapia, both from Medellin, and Francisco Pizarro who was born in Trujillo.



1 Iberian Black Footed Pig

In our opinion the wafer thin slices of ham from the black Iberian pig are the tastiest in the world. In the Extremadura this is a major industry though very much a cottage industry.



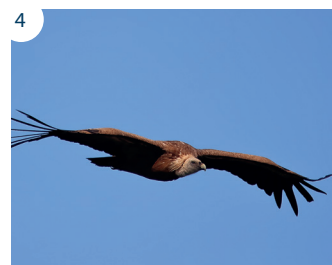
2 Cáceres and Trujillo

These are two of the most fascinating medieval towns in Spain, featuring the most beautifully preserved historical settlements. Many medieval inhabitants would hardly see a change in their surroundings.



3 Jarandilla de la Vera

The Vera and Jerte valleys and the Monfragüe National Park are perfect locations for hiking, cycling, horse riding, canoeing and swimming in natural pools.



4 Birdlife

The Monfragüe National Park and the Cornalvo Natural Park are now prime environments for migratory birds with an enormous diversity of birds and one of the prime regions in Europe for birdwatchers.

The Province of Cáceres

Delight in the plazas, cobbled streets and noble houses of the 16th century medieval town of Cáceres, and explore the green meadows, ancient cave dwellings and Roman bridges of Jarandilla de la Vera.

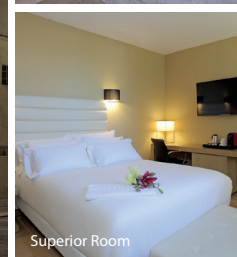
Palacio de Oquendo Hotel, Cáceres

A very elegant hotel, ideally located in San Juan II square, 200 metres from the main Square (Plaza Mayor), the ancient wall that surrounds the old town and the shopping and business areas of Cáceres. The building dates from the 16th century, with much granite and ancient stone in evidence. Meticulously restored but with state of the art amenities, the Palacio still keeps the magic and atmosphere of the original stately home of the Marquises of Oquendo. Though a hotel of 86 bedrooms, the Palacio does not feel like a large hotel. It has an intimate feel.

Accommodation: 86 air-conditioned rooms including single superior rooms, superior rooms and junior suites.

- Airports: 264km Seville / 313km Madrid Barajas
- 4-star NH Collection hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Historic centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£866 per person***



Superior Room



Beholiday Santiago Apartments, Cáceres

These four apartments with vaulted ceilings are set in a restored 18th century building in Plaza de Santiago, within the historic, old town of Cáceres and a 3 minute walk (300 metres) to Plaza Mayor, the emblematic main square of the city. In a quiet spot and yet within a few minutes' walk from shops, cafes and restaurants, the apartments are an ideal base from which to explore the city and the surrounding countryside. They are particularly suitable for a family or group of friends.

Accommodation: 4 air-conditioned one-bedroom apartments (sleeps 2+2).

- Airports: 270km Seville / 314km Madrid and Lisbon
- City Apartments (4-star equivalent)
- Self Catering
- Car hire recommended
- Complimentary WiFi
- Historic centre location

Guide price from **£792 per person***

Parador de Jarandilla, Jarandilla de la Vera

The pretty village of Jarandilla de la Vera, located in the province of Cáceres, is surrounded by attractive countryside and historic sites of interest. The Romans, Visigoths and Moors have all left their mark and can be seen in the cave paintings, settlements, ceramics and bridges throughout the region. Originally the castle of the Counts of Oropesa, dating from the mid 15th century, the Parador today offers a place to rest and from which to explore. Monumental and historic, its predominant features include a parade ground, turrets, an attractive patio and a spacious Gothic gallery.

Accommodation: 52 air-conditioned rooms including single rooms, standard rooms, standard plus rooms and superior rooms.

- Airport: 235km Madrid Barajas
- 4-star Parador (Castle)
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural village location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£733 per person***



Superior Room



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type for 7 nights, flights from London to Madrid (Jarandilla de la Vera) or Seville (other airports on request) and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

Trujillo, Mérida & Zafra

Trujillo has to be one of the most beautiful and perfect villages in Spain with an enchanting main square. Mérida retains an extensive collection of Roman ruins and has a fabulous museum and bridge. Zafra is a charming white town known as little Seville. Nearby Guadalupe is a must.

Izan Trujillo Hotel, Trujillo

The Izan Trujillo hotel is a friendly and very well located hotel, being about a 6 minute walk from the hotel to the main square 'Plaza Mayor'. Located in the 16th century former Convent of San Antonio, it is a classical baroque style building. Like all palaces, monasteries and convents, the hotel has an atrium/colonnaded courtyard where the bar and ample seating is provided. Being just outside the historic centre with its narrow streets, the hotel is in a quiet location and parking is available in the square outside the hotel.

Accommodation: 77 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, junior suites and a suite.

- Airport: 267km Madrid / 285km Seville
- 4-star hotel
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£782 per person***



Parador de Mérida, Mérida

Located in the heart of the city, the parador was originally an 18th century convent built above a Roman temple dedicated to the goddess Concordia and the Augustan religion. The building has also been used as a hospital, an asylum and even a prison. There are still items of interest featured in the interior cloister, dating from Mudejar, Roman and Visigothic times. This is a rambling, building with large bedrooms, minimalist in its furnishings and with most definitely a rather mystical, monastic feel.

Accommodation: 82 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and junior suites.

- Airports: 199km Seville / 361km Madrid Barajas
- 4-star Parador (Convent)
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£827 per person***

Parador de Zafra, Zafra

This grand 15th century castle, once the residence of the Dukes of Feria, is located in the Medieval quarter of Zafra. Today, it serves as a 4-star hotel with beautiful ceilings, antique furniture, intricate ironwork and large, elegant guestrooms. The exterior is equally impressive with a spectacular façade, nine Moorish towers, well maintained gardens and an outdoor swimming pool. Zafra is a captivating town located in southern Extremadura half way between Seville and Caceres and which is known locally as 'Little Seville' (La Sevilla Chica). Its main feature is the castle that now serves as the Parador.

Accommodation: 51 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, a junior suite and a suite.

- Airport: 143km Seville
- 4-star Parador (Monument)
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Historic centre location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£818 per person***



Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type for 7 nights, flights from London to Seville (other airports on request) and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

Hospederías

Hospederías are a network of charming, very good value, 4-star hotels housed in historic buildings such as palaces, convents and stately homes and located in places of great beauty.

Hospedería Mirador de Llerena, Llerena

The property is part of a 19th century manor house with a glass covered, ornate patio as its air conditioned centrepiece and lounge area. At night you can see the star studded sky through the glass. The area is often used for painting and photograph displays from local artists and photographers. Being central, the cafeteria, with its hand painted ceilings and minimalist and modern furnishings, is well frequented by the locals. A modern section to the rear of the building houses the standard rooms and overlooks the swimming pool and small garden.

Accommodation: 25 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms, junior suites and a suite.

- Airport: 132km Seville
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & breakfast
- Car hire recommended
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Spa
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£926 per person***



Hospedería Puente de Alconétar, Garrovillas de Alconétar

Set in the Plaza Mayorde of Garrovillas, this Hospedería is located in the magnificent, former palace of the Countess of Alba Aliste who settled in the town in the 15th century. Being centrally located, everything is a close at hand. A true four star hotel, with a very good restaurant and friendly service, the property draws its character from the original palace. The renovation from palace to hotel has been beautifully executed with great attention to detail.

Accommodation: 35 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and superior rooms.

- Airports: 301km Seville / 330km Madrid / 344km Lisbon (Portugal)
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Car hire recommended
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Town location

Guide price from **£768 per person***

Hospedería Valle del Ambroz, Hervás

The hotel is what was the 17th century Convent of the Holy Trinity. The conversion is tasteful and of particular note is the cloister with original flooring and a large water fountain from where the sound of running water creates a relaxed and sunny ambience. Light, contemporary furniture complements the 17th century walls and beamed ceilings and the views across the gardens and pools to Mount Pinajaro. The Hospedería is only a 5-10 minute walk from the centre of the town.

Accommodation: 32 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 255km Madrid
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Car hire recommended
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Town centre location

Guide price from **£825 per person***



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type for 7 nights, flights from London to Seville or Madrid (Hospedería Valle del Ambroz) - other airports on request, and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.



Trujillo



Garrovillas de Alconetar

* Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Seville and returning from Madrid (other airports on request)
- 10 days car hire - collect from Seville Airport and drop off at Madrid Airport (one-way drop off fee payable locally)
- 3-nights Hospedería Mirador de Llerena, Llerena BB - Page 99
- 2-nights Hospedería Puente de Alconétar, Garrovillas de Alconétar BB - Page 99
- 3-nights Hospedería Parque de Monfrague, Torrejon el Rubio BB - See website
- 2-nights Hospedería Valle del Ambroz, Hervás BB - Page 99

Departures

Daily (all year)

Duration

10 nights

Guide price from

£950 per person*

Exploring Extremadura staying in Hospederías

Itinerary: 11 days / 10 nights

Extremadura is a region full of surprises. From Merida with its spectacular collection of Roman ruins to Guadalupe that boasts the most imposing monastery in the country. Then there's Cáceres, Plasencia and Hervás - let alone national parks and mountains.

Day One: Arrive at Seville Airport, collect your hire car and drive to Llerena (131km / 1 hour 30 minutes).

Day Two: After breakfast explore the white town of Llerena. The small town is a delightful mix of Moorish, Mudejar, Gothic and Baroque architecture. In the afternoon drive to nearby Zafra (47km / 38 minutes), the town is dominated by its 15th century Alcazar and is a mixture of Moorish and Christian architecture, ancestral homes, convents and churches.

Day Three: After breakfast drive to Mérida (104km / 1 hour 10 minutes) and spend the day in one of the most important receptacles of Roman architecture in Spain and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the Puente Romano Bridge - the longest of all remaining Roman Bridges in Europe; the Roman Forum; the Arch of Trajan; the Circus Maximus, Amphitheatre and Roman Theatre; and the world class Roman Heritage Museum.

Day Four: After breakfast, drive northwest to Garrovillas (207km / 2 hours 10 minutes). Explore this small town and perhaps take a walk in the surrounding countryside. Garrovillas has an enormous square which is considered a historical and artistic monument, and a large Jewish quarter with a maze of narrow, winding streets.

Day Five: Explore the graceful, chic city of Cáceres. The medieval walled city of Cáceres is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The old town is a mixture of cobbled medieval streets, fortified houses and Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

Day Six: It is a short drive (67km 1 hour) west from Garrovillas to the Hospedería Parque de Monfrague. This Hospedería is set in the National Park - a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the largest and best preserved Mediterranean mountain landscape in the world. Spend this, your first day, exploring the National Park.

Day Seven: A whole day needs to be devoted to Trujillo, one of the most romantic towns in Spain. The well preserved medieval, Moorish fortress dominates the town and overlooks the centre. This was the birthplace of Francisco Pizarro who conquered the Incas and whose statue stands in the main square.

Day Eight: Plasencia is a short drive north of Torrejon, a walled market city located on the banks of the Jerte River. The city, since the 15th century, has always had a strategic position and gained considerable wealth as is reflected in the imposing buildings, churches and noble houses. The Convent of St Dominic, the Aqueduct of Plasencia and the complex of two cathedrals should be visited.

Day Nine: On leaving Monfrague, it is worth taking a detour to visit Guadalupe. It is a 2 hour drive (125km) to the charming, small medieval town. But it is The Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe, dating from 1325 and the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe which are spectacular. The return trip to Hervás will take another 2 hours (170km).

Day Ten: Spend your final day exploring Hervás which many consider to be the loveliest area in Extremadura. Hervás is a large medieval town and its most significant feature and historical heritage is a very large Jewish Quarter of steep alleyways that drop down from the main plaza to the River Ambroz and the medieval Fuente Chiquita Bridge.

Day Eleven: After breakfast, set off for Madrid Airport (255km / 2 hour 45 minutes).

Exploring the Alentejo in Portugal and Extremadura in Spain

Evora – Elvas – Cáceres – Beja

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

This fly drive explores two of the most fascinating and undiscovered regions of Portugal and Spain. If you like castles, chivalry, noble buildings and the chance to sample tasty local cuisine and wonderful wines then you could not imagine a more perfect combination of destinations. Roman, Moorish, Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture all fuse within some of the most picturesque towns and villages and UNESCO World Heritage Sites abound.

Day One: Arrive at Faro airport, collect your car and drive to Evora (226km, 2 hours 30 mins). Evora is a UNESCO World Heritage site in its entirety and is easily explored on foot. Take a walk through the narrow cobbled streets, wander through the squares, peak into the churches and stop at one of the many cafes for refreshment.

Day Two: Visit the village of Monsaraz (54 km, 50 mins) and the town of Estremoz (47km, 36 mins). Both are topped by mighty medieval castles and have border castles built as a defence

against attacks from Spain, whose border is only a few kilometres from each castle. Make sure you stop for tea or a drink in the Pousada of Estremoz which is a magnificent palace.

Day Three: After breakfast take the short drive to Elvas (86.5km, 60 mins). Elvas, a small city is virtually on the border with Spain and was the garrison town that defended the Portuguese from any Spanish incursion. The town is spectacular, from the stunning mid sixteenth century Neoclassical 4 arch Aqueduct of Armoreira to the hilltop Moorish Castle.

Day Four: The drive from Elvas across the border into Spain and onto Cáceres will take 1 hour 30 mins (109km). It is worth stopping at the Adega Mayor Winery and Coffee Science Museum (Ciencia do Cafe) for a few hours which is 30 km (33 mins) north of Elvas and on your way to the Spanish border. This interactive, ultra modern facility follows the history of coffee from bean to cup. Then walk across to the most modern winery in Europe, the Adega Mayor. Both the Adega and the Coffee Museum can be visited in a combined tour and the experience should not be missed.

Cáceres, a 16th century medieval city, is stunning and once you have arrived you will be anxious to walk the cobbled streets and marvel at the beautiful buildings. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, the city was founded by the Romans in 25 BC.

Days Five and Six: You have two full days in which to explore Trujillo (45 km from Cáceres), Guadalupe (77 km from Trujillo), Plasencia (124 km from Guadalupe) and Jarandilla de la Vera (50 km from Plasencia). All are medieval towns and Trujillo and the Monastery of Santa Maria in Guadalupe are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Day Seven: Another early start, as you have to visit the World Heritage Site of Merida (74 km 55 mins), to see the longest Roman bridge in Europe which is still in use, the Roman Theatre, the Circus Maximus and the so called arch of Trajan built in honour of the Emperor Augustus. The National Roman Art Museum which opened in 1986 is a world class museum. It will be a further 242 km (2 hours 30 mins) to Beja for your final night in the magnificent Pousada de Beja.

Day Eight: Return to Faro Airport (148km) for your return flight home to the UK.

* Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flight from Gatwick to Faro (other airports on request)
- 7 days car hire
- 2-nights M'Ar de Ar Muralhas Hotel, Evora (Alentejo, Portugal) BB - Page 33
- 1-night Santa Luzia Hotel, Elvas (Alentejo, Portugal) BB - Page 36
- 3-nights Palacio de Oquendo Hotel, Cáceres (Extremadura, Spain) BB - Page 97
- 1 night Pousada de Beja, Beja (Alentejo, Portugal) BB - Page 34

Departures

Daily

Duration

7 nights

Guide price from

£795 per person based on 2-sharing*

Estremoz, Alentejo, Portugal





Zafra



Mérida

* Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London to Seville, returning from Madrid (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire
- 2-nights Parador de Zafra, Zafra BB - Page 98
- 2-nights Parador de Cáceres, Cáceres BB - See website
- 2-nights Parador de Guadalupe, Guadalupe BB - See website
- 2-nights Parador de Plasencia, Plasencia BB - See website

Departures
Daily

Duration
8 nights

Guide price from
£893 per person*

Exciting Extremadura

Zafra – Cáceres – Guadalupe – Plasencia

Itinerary: 9 days / 8 nights

One of the least known yet most fascinating regions of Spain, Extremadura is a remote region, bordering Portugal, with areas of mountains, forests, steppes, lakes and nature reserves.

Day One – Zafra: On arrival at Seville airport collect your hire car and self drive (142km /c.1 hour 30 minutes) to the Parador in Zafra.

Day Two: Day at leisure. Zafra is a captivating town to explore - known locally as 'Little Seville' (La Sevilla Chica). Its main feature is the castle, formerly a Moorish fortress that now serves as the Parador.

Day Three – Cáceres: After breakfast, drive to Cáceres (137km /c.1 hour 20 minutes) via Mérida. Founded by the Romans in the 1st century B.C, Mérida is rich in Roman architecture from the still-used Romano Theatre and Roman Bridge spanning 792m across the Guadiana River to the chariot racing Circus Maximus and the largest Roman Art Museum in Europe outside Rome.

Day Four: Day at leisure. Explore the impressive UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cáceres. The city has been shaped over the centuries by Roman, Arab, Jewish and Christian rule which have all left their mark. Walk through the labyrinth of streets and squares with its many ancient arches and towers, Arabic walls and medieval fortified houses. The town is particularly atmospheric at night.

Day Five – Guadalupe: Today, depart for the Parador de Guadalupe (128km /c.1 hour 50 minutes) with a stop en route at Trujillo - one of the most fascinating medieval towns in Spain. On top of a hill overlooking the centre of Trujillo is a fortress which affords fabulous views over the town and surrounding area. There is a small, fascinating museum - the Casa Museo de Pizarro (his former home), which highlights the life and times of the conquistador Francisco Pizarro, who conquered the Inca Empire.

Day Six: Day at leisure. Take a walk through this historic village with its cobbled streets, traditional houses and most famous monument - the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day Seven – Plasencia: After breakfast, drive to your final destination, Plasencia. The Parador offers the perfect location from which to explore the ancient city and its beautiful surrounding landscapes. The city centre, declared a Cultural Heritage Site, has a wealth of historic buildings, palaces, cathedrals, an aqueduct, medieval walls and fortified towers and gates.

Day Eight: Day at leisure. Visit the Sierra de Gata Mountains and Jerte River Valley. Here you will see gushing waterfalls, nature trails, pretty historic towns and taste the local delicacies such as the delicious Ibérico ham and exquisite Torta del Casar cheese. If you visit the Jerte valley in spring you will also see the cherry trees in blossom. The valley is ablaze with white petals which only happens for a couple of weeks towards the end of March and the beginning of April - subject to weather conditions.

Day Nine: After breakfast, drive to Madrid airport (265km / c.2 hours 35 minutes) for your flight home.