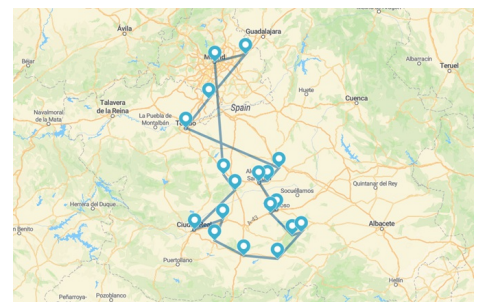




Spain, 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Don Quixote Route

Discover a land of adventure, culture, nature and delicious cuisine. Our proposal entails discovering all the secrets behind the hectic life of Miguel de Cervantes and his famous and ingenious knight errant Don Quixote de la Mancha, one of the most important books of world literature and the second most translated book after the Bible. Our starting point to follow in the footsteps of Don Quixote is the university city of Alcalá de Henares and on the tour we'll visit windmills, inns and World Heritage cities of Castilla La Mancha. This is the famous Don Quixote Route, the first European Cultural Route based on a literary character and one of the most prominent eco-tourism corridors in Europe. A fascinating journey on which you'll discover famous Quixote episodes, unexpected corners, legends dating back to the Golden Age, heroic battles and love stories, deep-rooted traditions handed down from generation to generation, beautiful natural scenery, a rich heritage and a gastronomic paradise. Anything can happen in the land of Don Quixote! Relive the adventures of this noble knight and visit centuries-old villas, historic trails, natural areas yet to be explored, castles peppered with legends... Tilt at windmills in Campo de Criptana, Alcázar de San Juan or Consuegra; visit the alleged home of his beloved Dulcinea in El Toboso; explore deep and magical places such as the Cave of Medrano in Argamasilla de Alba and the Cave of Montesinos; feel the essence of La Mancha at the inns of Puerto Lápice; discover the surprising and bewitching beauty of the Lagunas de Ruidera Natural Park; and stroll through beautiful towns full of history such as Toledo and Ciudad Real. And all of this while savouring the delicious dishes of the land and the excellent local wines in the same way as Don Quixote and Sancho Panza would have done 400 years ago. Are you ready to experience your own story?



CULTURAL

FAMILIES

**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

**From:** Cork, Shannon, Dublin

## Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - MADRID - ALCALA DE HENARES

Flight departure from the city of origin to Madrid and rental car pick-up.

Your adventure begins here. This interesting Cervantes route begins in the historic university town of Alcalá de Henares near Madrid. For many scholars, this is the beginning of everything. Located just 20 kilometres from the airport and declared a World Heritage Site, the city is famous for its literary atmosphere and for being the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, the genius who would give life to our illustrious knight errant. Calle Mayor, the Teatro Cervantes with its Corral de Comedias, the charismatic Plaza de Cervantes and the house-museum of Cervantes will take you back in time to discover some of the best-kept secrets of the Spanish Golden Age. And to recharge batteries, nothing better than wandering around its cobbled streets and trying out tapas in each bar you go past. In the old town alone there are more than twenty bars, restaurants and taverns! The University, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso or the city walls are just some of the treasures found in Alcalá.

Overnight stay in Alcala de Henares.

## DAY 2 · ALCALA DE HENARES - ESQUIVIAS - TOLEDO

Today we'll leave the community of Madrid behind and drive into the Toledo countryside to enjoy a true feast: delicious dishes such as "perdiz a la toledana" (slow-cooked partridge in wine) or "carcamusas" (pork and tomato stew), the famous Toledo homemade marzipan, and excellent local wines... After an hour's drive we'll reach Esquivias, birthplace of Carvantes' wife Catalina de Palacios. Here they married (1584) and spent their first few years as man and wife. We recommend a trip down to the wine cellar of the Casa-Museo de Cervantes, a really interesting experience, and a visit to the parish church which still retains the marriage certificate: now that's an historical treasure! Just half an hour's drive away lies the enigmatic Toledo, an impressive city (World Heritage Site, in fact) graced with a magnificent old town and an important legacy of monuments. It was in this walled city, dotted with stories and legends, where Cervantes justifies the creation of his work. As told in the book "Don Quixote", it was in the old Toledo neighbourhood of Alcaná (site now occupied by the cloister of the cathedral) where Cervantes bought some old papers from a certain Cide Hamete Benengeli that narrated the adventures of Don Quixote. City of cardinals, kings and emperors, Toledo can be enjoyed from many perspectives: architectural, cultural, artistic, culinary, and so on... Recognised as a Spanish City of Gastronomy, Toledo surprises the traveller with recipes that fuse the very best of tradition and innovation. We recommend wandering around its streets, even better if at night... but always taking your time to soak everything in. This is the only way that its doors, walls and bridges will thrust you back to another era. Overnight stay in Toledo.

## DAY 3 · TOLEDO - EL TOBOSO - CAMPO DE CRIPTANA - ALCAZAR DE SAN JUAN - TOMELLOSO

After enjoying the delights of Toledo, such as the San Juan de los Reyes monastery, the Greco Museum or the Cathedral, we're ready to unearth the true essence of La Mancha. Our first stop is El Toboso, a pretty town that was home to Dulcinea, the eternal love of Don Quixote. Here you can visit Dulcinea's house-museum and taste "pelusas" and "caprichos de Dulcinea", delicious sweets handmade by the nuns at the Convento de las Clarisas. And after enjoying the sensational landscape and the vastness of the plain, we'll now enter the legendary "land of the giants". In the photogenic Campo de Criptana, one can imagine Don Quixote and his faithful squire Sancho Panza fighting bravely against the defiant windmills... And we continue onwards to Alcázar de San Juan, a Cervantes-rich town that rivals Alcalá de Henares for being the birthplace of the famous writer. Strolling through its historic streets and visiting the Cervantes Interpretation Centre will give travellers an insight into what life was like for the knights errant who would trek across Europe in search of fame and fortune. Must-visits include the Torreón and the Santa Maria church, which safeguards the baptism certificate of "Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra", and don't forget to taste one of the famous Alcázar cakes. Then we'll drive past vineyards, cereal fields and olive groves to finish today's journey in Tomelloso, the perfect place to savour the delicious local wine with some D.O. Manchego cheese. You'll be amazed at its 4,000 underground caves for storing wine. Overnight stay in Tomelloso.

#### ● DAY 4 · TOMELLOSO - ARGAMASILLA DE ALBA - LAGUNAS DE RUIDERA - OSSA DE MONTIEL - VILLANUEVA DE LOS INFANTES - VALDEPEÑAS

We'll leave Tomelloso today to embark upon one of the most beautiful, magical and enticing legs of the tour. We'll head deep into the land of magic spells, beautiful landscapes that taste of wine and culinary delights such as gazpacho, white beans with partridge or pisto... Our first stop will be Argamasilla de Alba, a town rivalling Villanueva de los Infantes for being the writer's famous "place whose name I do not care to remember". It was in the cave of Medrano where the then captive Cervantes is said to have started writing his masterpiece. Then we'll continue to Ossa de Montiel to discover the magic cave of Montesinos (visit not included) and the ruins of Castle Rochafriada, two key places in the adventures and misadventures of our famous knight errant. In the monument-rich Villanueva de los Infantes, we'll discover the house of Diego de Miranda, who according to tradition was the Knight of the Green Gaban, and the Lagunas de Ruidera National Park, one of the most beautiful wetlands in Spain. Here you'll get the chance to see thirteen lakes connected together by waterfalls. An incredible natural sight that for Don Quixote depicted princesses who had been turned into lakes by the magician Merlin "because of their weeping". And we'll end the day in Valdepeñas, a city intrinsically linked to wine. We recommend a tour of its famous wineries and a wine-tasting session with an expert connoisseur (visit not included). Overnight stay in Valdepeñas.

#### ● DAY 5 · VALDEPEÑAS - ALMAGRO - TABLAS DE DAIMIEL NATIONAL PARK - CIUDAD REAL

We bid farewell to La Mancha of inns and windmills to explore the legendary lands of Calatrava, riddled with castles, Don Quixote episodes, heroic battles, love stories, and natural landscapes yet to be explored... Our first call is the majestic town of Almagro. After visiting its noble neighbourhood, its charming old quarter and its magical Corral de Comedias, the only fully-preserved Golden Age theatre in the world, you'll understand why it was one of the social, cultural and theatrical epicentres in the Cervantes era. Today its beautiful Plaza Mayor dotted with majestic homes gives the traveller an insight into the lavish parties and merry comedies that would attract the local powers-that-be. After taking in the beautiful National Park of Las Tablas de Daimiel, one of the most valuable natural areas in Spain, we'll head for the modern city of Ciudad Real, a university town and business hub. During the trip we'll be able to make out the famous maars, traces of volcanic eruptions which once rocked the region. Both the city and the lands around it behold an interesting history forged by centuries of border fighting between Christians and Muslims. Take advantage of your stay to discover restaurants and places inspired by the adventures of Don Quixote and to visit the shopping area (General Aguilera, Carlos Vázquez, Paloma, Ramón y Cajal, and Ciruela)... And along the way try out some delicious local specialities such as "gachas de almortas" (cornflour porridge), "migas" (sautéed breadcrumbs), "asadillo de pimientos" (roast pepper salad), "duelos y quebrantos" (scrambled egg with chorizo), or "berenjenas de Almagro" (pickled aubergines)! Overnight stay in Ciudad Real.

#### ● DAY 6 · CIUDAD REAL - PUERTO LAPICE - CONSUEGRA - MADRID

Following in the footsteps of the knight errant, today we'll head to Puerto Lápice, a village with typical La Mancha architecture where everything evokes Don Quixote. Some authors say that he experienced his early adventures here and was knighted in the village. You'll be amazed to see how details of the knight errant are hidden in its charming nooks and crannies. Have a bite to eat at La Venta de Don Quixote, a typical inn where travellers would stop off for sustenance and which today serves hearty dishes common in the local cuisine. Then we'll continue on the Don Quixote Route to Cerro Calderico in Consuegra. Here it's easy to let your imagination run riot and imagine the battle of Don Quixote against those who he believed were ferocious giants. From the hill you can admire spectacular views of the immensity of La Mancha. If you have time, go and watch one of the cereal grinding displays held in the old windmills. You'll see how the blades of the mills, powered effortlessly by the wind, trigger the heavy machinery that turns grain into flour. A great experience to round off this intense journey. Late in the afternoon, we'll return to Madrid to admire the beautiful panoramic views of the city from one of its spectacular terraces. Overnight stay in Madrid.

#### ● DAY 7 · MADRID - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

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Your trip includes

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### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Alcala De Henares.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Toledo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tomelloso.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Valdepeñas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ciudad Real.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Alcala De Henares.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Toledo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tomelloso.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Valdepeñas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ciudad Real.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Madrid.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Madrid.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Madrid



Alcala De Henares



Esquivias



Toledo



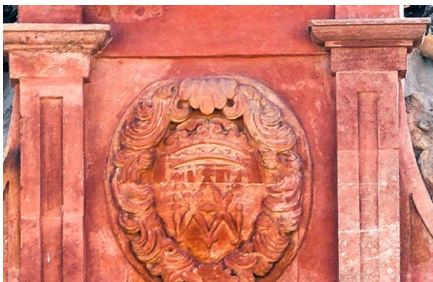
El Toboso



Campo de Criptana



Alcazar De San Juan



Tomelloso



Argamasilla de Alba



Lagunas De Ruidera



Ossa de Montiel



Villanueva de los Infantes





Valdepeñas



Almagro



Daimiel



Ciudad Real



Puerto Lápice



Consuegra



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.