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LEARN SPANISH
IN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITIES OF SPAIN
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Spain is privileged to be among the countries with the great number of sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The Spanish Group of World Heritage Cities began to combine their efforts in 1993 to create a nonprofit Association, with the specific objective of working together to defend the historical and cultural heritage of these cities: Alcalá de Henares, Ávila, Baeza, Cáceres, Córdoba, Cuenca, Ibiza/Eivissa, Mérida, Salamanca, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Santiago de Compostela, Segovia, Tarragona, Toledo and Úbeda.

In view of their wide variety of historic-artistic, cultural and gastronomic attractions, World Heritage Cities stand out as unique, must-see tourist destinations.
The city, whose roots go back to the Roman town of Complutum, is without doubt the cultural capital of the Madrid region. Alcalá’s rich heritage evidences the enormous contribution it has made to universal culture, notably in the 16th and 17th centuries – the city’s most famous son, Miguel de Cervantes, was born here in 1547.

The old medieval city of Alcalá de Henares experienced a major artistic and cultural boom following the establishment of its university by Cisneros in 1499. This earned it the nickname ‘City of Knowledge’, a reputation it continues to hold to this day.

Alcalá is also known as the ‘City of Arts and Letters’, thanks to its extensive range of top-quality cultural attractions, all topped off by superb cuisine, magnificent hotels and a wide variety of leisure activities.

The city is a member of the Madrid Spanish Platform, in turn part of the Madrid Network (www.madridnetwork.org). This cluster draws together regional and local institutions and the academic community in pursuit of several common goals: to position the Madrid region as an economic power for Spanish-related industries, to promote tourism and to lead the production of Spanish language teaching materials and the dissemination of Spanish.

With the support of the Madrid Network and the initiative of the Henares Entrepreneurs Association, the City Council of Alcalá and the University of Alcalá, Spanish language learning has become the linchpin of a thriving new business niche.
Ávila is a city in which past and present come together. Its heritage: the old city walls, its temples, palaces, convents, etc. as well as its legacy as a medieval melting pot of three cultures – Islamic, Jewish and Christian – and its gastronomy and traditions, offer visitors a rich cultural experience, whether they have come to the city as tourists, to learn Spanish or for an extended stay.

Besides running courses, the city’s universities and schools offer a series of activities such as routes, guided tours, excursions, etc., to perfectly complement your classes.

Ávila’s city walls, cathedral, churches, convents and monumental buildings all formed the backdrop for the mystical experiences of Saint Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross. The strength and intensity of their religious and literary work has made them the undeniable icons of a city in which history and the cultivation of knowledge have gone hand in hand.

Not only are we able to follow the trace of both authors in Ávila, but also of others who are more contemporary, from the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Unamuno, García Lorca, “Azorín” and Delibes, who found their inspiration in this city, dedicating to it some of the most beautiful passages in the Spanish language. The nine entrances in Ávila’s walls are more than just gates – they are gateways inviting travellers to cross the line between past and present in search of historic, literary and artistic adventures, which live on in its streets and buildings.
The entire city permeates its Humanist sense, the traces and memories of its main personalities, which have been kept among its age-old stones: Saint John of Ávila, Juan Huarte de San Juan, the painter Gaspar Becerra, Saint John of the Cross, Pablo de Olavide, the poet Antonio Machado or the historian Vicens Vives, among many others who were born or lived in Baeza.

Nowadays this university tradition still remains, maintained by the remarkable educational work carried out by the International University of Andalusia, with a large number of courses, postgraduate courses, etc. throughout the academic year and even more during the summer months.

Almost 1000 students go to the Antonio Machado section of the University in Baeza, to follow one of the nearly 40 courses offered and take part in the intense cultural life programmed to complement the educational aspect. Among these courses, there are those that teach Spanish to foreign students, which are consolidated and part of the annual offer. The Antonio Machado section of the International University of Andalusia has its seat in two emblematic buildings that belong to the Baeza heritage: the Jabalquinto Palace and the *Old Seminar*.
Since 1989, international students who make themselves stand out for studying in the city of Cáceres, may receive Spanish lessons in order to familiarise themselves with the language while learning about the culture and way of life in the region.

The University of Extremadura provides trimestral intensive courses throughout the year. Such courses are taught at the university’s campus and the classrooms are equipped with the latest technology in order to facilitate student learning.

In addition, spending time at the campus gives foreign students the possibility to coexist with Spanish students, which will not only help improve their integration in university life but will also help them learn Spanish faster.

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Cáceres is acknowledged by the European Council as the Third most important Monumental Set in Europe and the First one in Spain. Knowing Cáceres is a must for those travellers interested in encounters among worlds and Cultures, present throughout History on one single geographical space. Cáceres is a walk through History, accompanied by the different peoples who, since Paleolithic until today, have made possible a unique architectural concentration. For that reason, it was declared World Heritage City by Unesco in 1986. Cáceres is a destination waiting to be discovered… Cáceres is waiting for you.

www.unex.es/spainext

MORE INFORMATION: UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA – SPANISH COURSES FOR FOREIGNERS

www.unex.es/spainext

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

www.turismo.caceres.es
The two thousand years of history that coexist in this city will provoke an avalanche of feelings. Simply crossing the Guadalquivir over the sixteen arches of the Roman Bridge, leaving behind the Calahorra Tower and then entering the city through the centuries-old gateway, is itself an experience to remember.

Córdoba is the scent of fresh geraniums and orange blossom; the taste of spices and secrets concealed behind barred windows; the sound of bells pealing and water trickling; hints of Roman, Jewish, Arabic, and Christian influences in its monuments; and warmth and silk to the touch, as depicted in the paintings of Julio Romero de Torres.

But without doubt, Córdoba’s jewel, the monument that alone justifies a visit to the city, is its Cathedral-Mosque, where Punics, Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths prayed. This spectacular structure has a storied history, standing on the site of the first, modest Jewish quarter, which the Umayyads then turned into the Great Mosque, before it was eventually converted into a Cathedral after the Reconquista.
In Cuenca, art, culture, landscape and nature come together. The local people’s kindness and their welcoming customs make this a unique place to stay for Spanish language students. Added to its rich folklore, monumental heritage and cultural legacy, the city stands out for its remarkable variety of museums in the fields of modern and contemporary art, amongst them: the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art, the Antonio Pérez Foundation and the Saura Foundation, and also the Fine Arts Faculty, which is a permanent breeding ground for young artistic talent.

Cuenca’s City Council is committed to creating a language tourism brand, and to do so it enjoys the support of the University of Castile-La Mancha, which develops the Spanish Programme for Foreigners in Cuenca (Spanish initials: ESPACU) through its General Foundation.

The courses at the UCLM, which has been recognised as a Campus of International Excellence by the Spanish government, are based on a flexible academic system, personalised treatment and all-round quality education.

Cuenca City Council has teamed up with the regional university and signed agreements with a range of public and private organisations in order to offer perks for foreign students including:

- Official receptions at the City Council
- Access to and use of the lending service at municipal libraries
- Agreements with sport centres
- Special rates at guest houses, hostels, apartments, etc.
- Management and reservation of university residences
- Visits to the historical regional archives and the city’s museums
- Activities and specific workshops at museums
- Agreements so students can get involved with different NGOs
- “Cicerone” Service: local university student volunteers offering support for all activities
- Language exchanges
- Personalised and flexible design of Spanish as a foreign language courses

In 1996 UNESCO declared it a World Heritage City due to the magnificent preservation of its original urban environment, medieval fortress, its rich civil and religious architecture ranging from the 12th to the 18th centuries, and the exceptional fusion between the city and the beautiful natural environment it is located in.
Ibiza, an island in the Mediterranean sea, is only one hour’s flight away from Madrid and Barcelona, and no more than two hours from almost any European capital city. Famous around the world for its beaches and its warm climate, this city is a true mix of sensations where history and modern-day amenities always go together. Declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1999, it offers the possibility of discovering a particular way of living the history and customs, the local colour and Mediterranean gastronomy, and also of studying Spanish.

Mediterranean Light, 365 days of culture
- Outdoor museum, in the walled area of Dalt Vila, World Heritage Site.
- Musealization of the Sant Jaume and Sant Pere bastions
- Museum of Contemporary Art of Eivissa (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Eivissa)
- Archaeological Museum (Museo Arqueológico) and Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Puig des Molins
- Puget Museum (Museo Puget)
- Madina Yabisa Interpretation Centre (Centro de Interpretación Madina Yabisa)
- Music, theatre and dance in the Espacio Cultural de Can Ventosa
- Shopping at the port, the Marina and Nueva Ibiza
- Ibiza, underwater nature (visiting the seabed where the posidonia declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco)

The initiative of the Instituto de Idiomas Ibiza Language School, a centre accredited by the Instituto Cervantes and with the support of the Eivissa City Council, has resulted in an attractive offer of language tourism in the paradise-like island of Ibiza.

The Instituto de Idiomas Ibiza Language School offers the following programmes:
- Spanish as a Foreign Language (ELE - Español como Lengua Extranjera) during the summer and the low season for adults and children
- Spanish for business and for tourism programmes
- Programmes for families
- Preparation for DELE exams
- Accommodation with host families not far from the school, central hotels and flats with high quality standards
- Free time programmes: Excursions to World Heritage Sites in Ibiza, intercultural meetings, museum visits, trips to Formentera island, Spanish dance and nautical activities (diving, stand-up paddle ...)
- Special offers in low season
- School with 9 classrooms, over 300 m² with leisure areas and library.

INSTITUTO DE IDIOMAS IBIZA LANGUAGE SCHOOL
www.ii-ibiza.com
Its Geographical location makes Mérida an important communication point as the nerve centre of an extensive territory and key for a railway and roadway connections, from north to south and from east to west.

In Mérida, travellers can discover the most magnificent Roman legacy anywhere on the Iberian Peninsula, and admire buildings and ruins from the Hispanic-Visigothic and Islamic eras as well as the Christian kingdoms from the late Middle Ages. In addition to this set of unique archaeological and monumental remains it has a unique collection of museums, whose galleries teach visitors about the emergence and evolution of a Roman province over a period of five centuries, as well as how the Visigoth kingdom was established and how the elites which cornered the emirs from Cordoba were then formed.

The city is a good example of how the subject of a still alive past is approached from the present: attending a performance in a theatre that is more than two thousand years old, soaking up the waters in a Roman spa, enjoying the view of the longest surviving Roman bridge in the world and doing so from the wall of the fortress of the first Emirate citadel established on the peninsula.

Capital of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura and situated right on the Silver Route, Mérida is heir to a splendid Roman past. Its Theatre, Amphitheatre and temple dedicated to Goddess Diana, make the old capital of Roman Lusitania one of the best preserved archaeological ensembles in Spain, for which it was declared a World Heritage Site in 1993.
In 2005, Salamanca City Council decided to create the tourism brand “Salamanca, The City to learn Spanish” as a comprehensive project with the goal of promoting the city of Salamanca as the perfect destination to learn Spanish. To do so, it counted on the support of both the University of Salamanca and the Pontifical University as well as 16 private Spanish teaching centres accredited by the Cervantes Institute. The priority objectives are to guarantee quality and excellence in an increasingly competitive market.

Salamanca City Council has signed agreements and partnerships with both public and private organisations and has launched a series of specific initiatives geared towards language tourism, among which stand out:

- A website in 8 languages: www.espanolensalamanca.com
- Information and Assistance Office for Spanish learners
- Free SCE student ID
- Production of informative and promotional material (map, verb wheels, gymkhana route, DVD, bags, etc.)
- Creation of a student residence reservation center in the city called Residencia Virtual “Salamanca, Ciudad del Español”, dedicated exclusively to providing accommodation to students of Spanish
- Agreements with sport centres and municipal swimming pools
- Access to and use of the lending service at municipal libraries and museum guided tours
- Special rates at more than 20 hotels in Salamanca for family members of foreign students
- Official receptions at the City Council
- Gastronomy courses
- Visits to the Regional Cinematheque
- International football championship
- Language exchanges
- Free tickets to promote Spanish performing arts
- Local safety board
La Laguna offers the possibility of learning and improving one’s knowledge of the Spanish language in a privileged setting – culturally speaking, because it is one of the hidden jewels of the Atlantic, and linguistically speaking since the Canary archipelago lies halfway between Europe and America.

La Laguna currently has various campuses that take in students from both the Canary archipelago and from abroad.

A host of cultural and leisure activities are on offer in La Laguna, a city with a deep-rooted university tradition, historic buildings, varied cuisine and an outstanding open-air shopping centre. Furthermore, the geographic situation of the Canaries (in subtropical Europe) means it is possible to enjoy outdoor pursuits (beach and mountain alike) all year round.
An attractive and young destination for Spanish language students, the city’s university – which has been declared a Campus of International Excellence – is over 500 years old. The international programmes at the University of Santiago de Compostela offer Spanish language and culture courses, as well as Spanish courses geared towards specific areas such as gastronomy, tourism, the Way of St James, business, or medicine.

Language tourism. This is a service offered by the Santiago Tourist Board which, in collaboration with the University of Santiago de Compostela – USC –, provides information about the city as a destination to study Spanish, with the added value of living with another culture and another language, Galician.

The university, one of the most famous and oldest in Spain, is reason enough to study Spanish in Santiago, especially if one keeps in mind that the rest of the Spanish teaching schools in the city share its good reputation.

Santiago is a historic, monumental, safe and fun city. It is an open museum with a vibrant cultural scene, the capital of Galicia and of the Way of St. James.
Segovia’s city council has managed the “Learn Spanish in Segovia” courses for foreigners since 2009. These courses offer:

- Training programs designed according to the formative needs and/or area of interest
- Personalised and reduced classes
- Didactic material
- Student transfer from and to the airport
- Official reception in the City Council
- Stay with Segovian families in full-board accommodation
- Option to participate in complementary activities according to the students’ preferences:
  - Guided tours around the city and its surroundings (e.g. Madrid, visiting Museo Nacional del Prado, Museo Reina Sofía, etc.), or the province of Segovia (San Isidro Palace, the village of Pedraza, the ravines of Duratón river, etc.)
  - Ludic activities such as gymkhanas, canoeing, paintball, festivities of cultural interest, etc.
  - Pottery, cinema, gastronomy, enology or music and traditional instrument workshops

GENERAL COURSES

- 3-Week Intensive Spanish Course (March and September)
- 4-Month Intensive Spanish Course (March-July and September-December)
- Spanish Course – Twice a year.

COURSES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

- 4-Month Spanish Course and Training (March-July and September-December)
- 4-Month Spanish Course in Negotiation and Protocol (March-July and September-December)
- 4-Month Business Spanish Courses: Elementary and/or Advanced Certificates in Business Spanish (March-July and September-December)
- 2-Week DELE Preparation Course (1st-15th of each month, from March to September)
- 2-Week Courses for adults aged over 50 (15th-30th of each month, from March to September)
- 2-Week Spanish Course + Gastronomy (1st-15th of each month, from March to September)
- 2-Week Spanish Course + Golf/Tennis (15th-30th of each month, from March to September)

PERSONALISED SPANISH COURSES

- 5 (or more) people groups, with duration, didactic content and leisure activities upon request
The city has been recognised by UNESCO on three occasions: for the archaeological ensemble of Roman Tarraco, for its intangible assets of humanity: the castells (human towers), and for its Mediterranean diet.

Tarragona has numerous tourist assets, a Mediterranean-flavoured gastronomy and a year-round festive cultural programme wrapped in a university environment.

A living city whose walls house centuries of history and speak of a Roman past that rubs shoulders with the medieval and the modernist, offering an incomparable setting for anyone who decides to immerse themselves in the Spanish language.

The language service at the University of Rovira i Virgili provides courses in both co-official languages of Catalonia, Castilian and Catalan, as well as four foreign languages. The Spanish language options are specially designed for members of the university community that arrive in the city to participate in different study programmes. The courses are adapted to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and cover all competency levels.
Toledo City Council is continuing in its bid to create a distinctive language tourism brand. To do so it counts with the experience of the University of Castile-La Mancha (UCLM) which, through its General Foundation, develops the Spanish Programme for Foreigners in Toledo (ESTO).

ESTO’s motto “Toledo, your Spanish class” reflects the essence of what Toledo is, an old and modern, cultured and fun, natural and urban space, with a properly spoken Spanish both inside and outside of the classroom, where every corner offers an ideal moment to learn Spanish and improve your language.

For over 10 years the UCLM, which has been recognised as a Campus of International Excellence by the Spanish government, has been teaching courses in Toledo based on a flexible academic system, personalised treatment and all-round quality education. Toledo City Council has teamed up with the regional university and signed agreements with a range of public and private organisations in order to offer perks for language students including:

• Specific informative and promotional material for foreign students (map, city guide, bags, etc.)
• Official receptions at the City Council
• Access to and use of the lending service at municipal libraries
• Agreements with sport centres
• Special rates at guest houses, hostels, apartments, etc.
• Management and reservation of university residences
• “Cicerone” Service: local university student volunteers offering support for all activities
• Language exchanges
• Personalised and flexible design of Spanish as a foreign language courses

Toledo, named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, has a population of 80,000 habitants and is the administrative capital of the community of Castile-La Mancha. Its historical legacy is embodied by its outstanding medieval architecture and culture, with the shadow of El Greco projected over the ochre contour of the city. Known as the City of the Three Cultures, it maintains a multicultural spirit thanks to its successful melding of the past and present-day modernity, making the city a vibrant, pleasant, up-to-date, culture-rich destination where you will immediately feel at home.
Úbeda is a privileged place to learn the Spanish language. Located in the centre of the Jaén province, this is a small city with 36,000 inhabitants where the Renaissance appears as an admirable, unusual, historical fact. Learning Spanish in Úbeda will become a unique, essential experience in Spanish culture, which will have a permanent effect on those who have lived it.

SPANISH TEACHING CENTRES IN ÚBEDA

UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE ANDALUCÍA
CAMPUS ANTONIO MACHADO, BAEZA
www.unia.es | baeza@unia.es

Set on a crossroads, Úbeda is a communication hub between Andalusia and Levante. It is one and a half hours from Granada and Córdoba, and two and a half hours from Málaga and Seville.

The Renaissance architecture is the most noteworthy urban feature in Úbeda - at the southernmost end of the city is one of the most beautiful squares in Spain, the Plaza Vázquez de Molina square - but the city boasts other buildings in very different styles, memories of the many civilizations that have left their trace here. Its long Arabic past is still visible and present in many of the city’s nooks and crannies.

This is a safe, traditional, historical city, but it is also modern and vibrant. Its people are open and social, always happy to meet new people. Its deeply rooted festivals, age-old crafts and its wise gastronomy are a confirmation that we are, indeed, in Andalusia.

A cultural reference for its province, Úbeda has a very active cultural life, with a programme that involves all sort of artistic events throughout the year: street festivals, the San Miguel fair, Renaissance festivals; music or theatre festivals, bullfighting... entertainment is guaranteed the whole year round.