



AUDIO GUIDE



AYUNTAMIENTO DE
SANTA MARTA DE
TORMES



TURISMO DE
SANTA MARTA DE
TORMES
SALAMANCA

SOTO ISLAND

Santa Marta de Tormes

La Isla del Soto is the **great green lung of Santa Marta de Tormes**. This 14-hectare natural space combines nature and leisure. With this AUDIO GUIDE, you'll discover its history, its flora and fauna, its surprising artistic sculptures, and much, much more.

Let yourself be amazed. Stroll, feel, take photos, share your experience... and above all, **enjoy nature at your own pace**.



SOTO ISLAND.



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1.3 kilometres long



210 metres wide at its widest point

The Soto is more than just an island. For the people of Santa Marta, it's a symbol - as important as the Plaza Mayor is to Salamanca.



This **boomerang-shaped island** is connected by 3 **convenient pedestrian walkways**.

You can access it from **Aldehuela**, from **Fontana**, and also from the town centre via **Church Square (Plaza de la Iglesia)**.

Additionally, it opens every day, with **generous opening hours** posted on signs at each entrance.

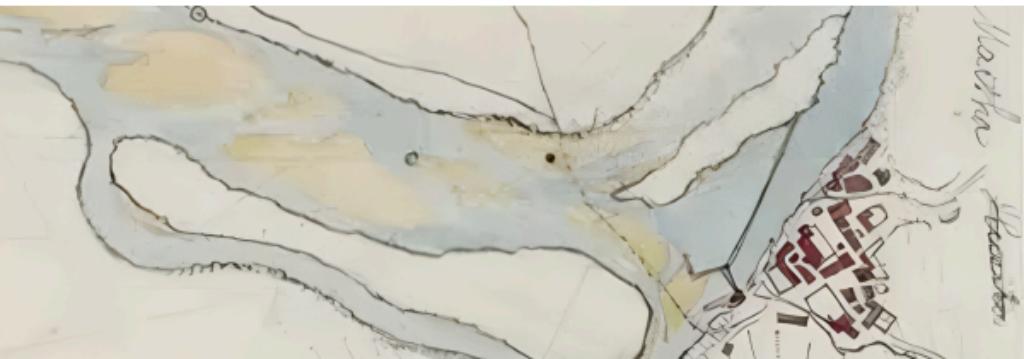




ORIGIN OF THE ISLAND.



This island wasn't always an island, but rather agricultural lands belonging to **Aldehuela de los Guzmanes**, located on the right bank of the river. Over the years, the Tormes River itself - through its **seasonal floods** - gradually shaped the landscape to form the island we see today.



Over time, it served **agricultural, livestock**, and even strategic purposes during the **Peninsular War**.

Both Allied and French troops crossed the river at the Santa Marta ford on four occasions. One such crossing proved especially crucial on the eve of the famous **Battle of Los Arapiles**.

As years passed and the island fell into disuse, nature reclaimed the area. Today, thanks to the City Council, it stands as a **natural paradise of significant environmental value**.



FLORA.



The Soto boasts a **riverbank ecosystem** rich in plant diversity. **Reeds and bulrushes** line the shore, while **willows, alders, poplars, black poplars, elders, and ash trees** stand further inland.

This **high-value ecological environment** shelters birds, insects, and small mammals, all coexisting harmoniously.



FAUNA.



Silent and elusive, several animals that inhabit or visit the island stay hidden: **moles, wild boar, or otters; birds, fish, and a wide variety of insects, arthropods, and mollusks.** Even the most inconspicuous organisms play a part in the natural cycle. Each species fulfils a role, part of a perfect chain that sustains the biodiversity of the ecosystem.



BIRDS OF THE RIVER AND RIVERBANK FOREST.

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Herons, egrets, cormorants, coots, mallards, gulls, and woodpeckers inhabit this area—alongside the golden oriole and **the kingfisher, the island's symbolic bird**. Each species, with its unique traits and behaviours, makes this space an ideal **haven for birdwatching**.



INTRODUCED SPECIES.



At Soto Island, we find species introduced by humans – such as

London plane trees, walnut trees, or hybrid poplars – which coexist without major disruption. However, other species like **carp, pike, American minks, and slider turtles** cause serious imbalances in the Tormes River ecosystem. Respecting local biodiversity is essential.



ISLA DEL SOTO INTERPRETATION CENTRE.

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The Centre features an exhibition **on traditional riverside trades - millers, market gardeners, laundry women, and fishermen** - recalling the lives of past generations. It showcases period objects, images, and tools. Additionally, it houses the **Miguel Delibes Room**, with rotating temporary exhibits.



AREAS AND USES OF THE ISLAND.

The Soto offers a variety of outdoor activities: walking, running, cycling...

Facilities include dedicated dog-walking areas, fishing spots, a children's playground, an outdoor fitness park, a birdwatching observatory, event spaces, and picnic shelters. An **ideal setting to unwind, exercise, relax, or create art** in the middle of nature – while always respecting the environment and fellow visitors.

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SANTA MARTA DE TORMES TRAIL NETWORK.



Discover 5 trails that have transformed not only the island but also the entire municipality of Santa Marta de Tormes.

The Emboscado Art Route showcases iron sculptures including a kingfisher, woodpecker, heron and an ant colony - blending artistic creativity with the natural surroundings.



The Pencil Route features colourful sculptures made from recycled wood, as well as smaller hidden pencils waiting to be discovered throughout the urban area.

The Soto Bugs Route features oversized insect sculptures – bold silhouettes, vivid colours, and colossal proportions.

The Battle of Los Arapiles Cycling Route is an IMBA-certified, 35-km circular loop through sites of profound historical importance.



The Murals Route illustrates how urban art can transform public spaces.

Works by artists like Daniel Martín, Caín Ferreras, and Roberto Bece have turned Santa Marta de Tormes into an open-air art gallery.

Discover these pieces both on Soto Island and throughout the town, stretched across buildings and urban landscapes.





SEE YOU SOON!



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