

TOURIST GUIDE

ALCALÁ, *una experiencia única*



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Fotografías cedidas por Baldomero Perdigón Puebla, Baldomero Perdigón Melón, Rubén Gámez, Oscar Masats y Vicente Perez Palomar.



GETTING TO ALCALÁ

Alcalá de Henares is a worthwhile destination for any tourist visiting The Community of Madrid. It is located 30 km away from the capital city. You can get there by the A2 Highway and the R2 Motorway, also by train from the Atocha or Chamartín Railway Stations. You can enjoy a trip on Cervantes Train, only available at certain times of the year, on Saturdays only, featuring actors dressed in Golden Age costumes who serve samples of our delicious typical city desserts. Alcalá de Henares is located just 15 kms from the Madrid Adolfo Suárez/Barajas Airport.

• RAILWAY STATIONS (RENFE)

Alcalá de Henares (City Centre)

Paseo de la Estación, s/n

La Garena (Close to Complutum and House of Hyppolitus)

Calle Fausto Elhuyar, s/n

- Line C-2: Guadalajara-Alcalá de Henares-Atocha-Chamartín

- Line C-7: Alcalá de Henares-Atocha-Chamartín-Príncipe Pío

Information and reservations: 902 24 02 02

www.renfe.es

• INTERCITY BUS LINES (ALSA)

Avenida de Guadalajara, 5

- Line 223: Alcalá de Henares-Madrid

- Line 824: Alcalá de Henares-Madrid Adolfo Suárez/Barajas Airport (timetables at www.crtm.es)

Tel: 91 888 16 22

www.alsa.es

• URBAN BUS LINES

Calle Chile, 43

Tel: 91 888 00 21

www.autobusesdealcala.com

alcabus@autobusesdealcala.com

• TAXIS

Alcalá Radio Taxi

CC. Los Pinos, loc. 30-31

Tel: 91 882 21 88 / 91 882 21 79

www.alcalaradiotaxi.com

Servitaxi

Calle Tomás Bretón, 19

Tel: 676 91 41 99

servitaxialcala@hotmail.com

Freetaxi

Tel: 91 134 21 34 / 658 77 41 91

www.feetaxialcala.es

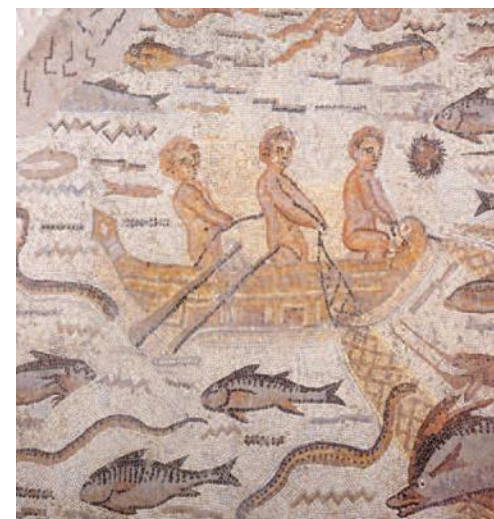
A BIT OF HISTORY

The archaeological remains around Alcalá de Henares prove the presence of different peoples and cultures in the area. The foundation of the city dates back to *Ikesancom Kombouto*, a pre-roman settlement known as Complutum after the Roman conquest. Even today, the people from Alcalá de Henares are known as "Complutenses". With the Arab invasion, Complutum gradually lost most of its population, and a new fortified town was built, known as *Al Qal'at Wadi-i-hiyara*, the origin of the current name of the city.

After 1118, when the Christians retook the city during the *Reconquista*, the heart of Alcalá started to grow again around the old temple of St Justus, the place where the legend said that two young Christian martyrs (Justus and Pastor) had been executed at the beginning of the 4th century.

King Alfonso VII of Castille granted Alcalá and its region to the Archbishops of Toledo. They built an important castle that later was transformed into a palace, residence of kings and nobles, and birth-place of an emperor and a queen. General courts and councils took place there, as well as the first meeting between Christopher Columbus and the Catholic Monarchs.

In 1499, Cardinal Cisneros founded the Complutense University, which soon became one of the cores that expanded the culture of the European Renaissance. That made Alcalá a unique city model devoted to culture, that, along with the constructive boom of the later Counter-Reformation, shaped a true example of Spanish urbanism during the Early Modern period. This urban design has remained untouched since then.





World Heritage City

Alcalá de Henares, the city that saw the birth of Miguel de Cervantes in 1547, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO on December the 2nd, 1998. This acknowledgement does not only refer to the historical and artistic legacy of the city, but also to the significant contribution provided to universal culture, particularly during the 16th and 17th centuries. During the meeting at Kioto, UNESCO stated that the “University and historical precinct of Alcalá de Henares” deserved the inclusion in the World Heritage list, as it fulfilled three criterion:

- Criterion II: Alcalá de Henares is the first city in being designed and planned as a University City, and that design would serve as a model for foreign educative institutions in Europe and America.
- Criterion IV: The concept of the *Civitas Dei*, the ideal City of God, came to be a reality for the first time at Alcalá de Henares, and from here it spread to the whole world.
- Criterion VI: The contribution of Alcalá de Henares to the intellectual development of mankind was shown in the materialization of the *Civitas Dei* concept and in the linguistic progress that took place in the city, especially concerning the Spanish language, and through the works of its most illustrious son, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, and his masterpiece, *Don Quixote*.





Miguel de Cervantes

Alcalá de Henares was also the birthplace of the most acclaimed figure in the Spanish literature, Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616). He is universally admired for his masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, considered by many the first modern novel and one of the best works of world literature.

The Cervantes Institute was created in his honour in the old King's College at Libreros Street. Its main function is to promote and teach Spanish language worldwide, spreading Spanish and Spanish American culture. Besides, the Miguel de Cervantes Prize is awarded annually in Alcalá, as the highest recognition for the creative labour of Spanish language writers.

The Cervantes Birthplace Museum and the Interpretation Centre of the Universes of Cervantes –preserving the baptismal font of the writer– can be visited at Alcalá de Henares.





CATHEDRAL OF ST JUSTUS AND ST PASTOR

The Magistral Cathedral of St Justus and St Pastor is located at Santos Niños Square. The modern square was built at the beginning of the 20th century after a urban reform meant to improve the views over the church and to create open areas at the city centre. The place was originally taken up by a block of houses and the small Pillory Square (*Plaza de la Picota*), where the second town hall of the city was located.

Pillory Square was the centre of the city during the Middle Ages, and was designed to expose the prisoners and the bodies of criminals that were sentenced to death. Here, in 1509, the New Law of the city (*Fuero Nuevo*) was enacted by Alcalá's chief magistrate, Pedro de Cervantes.

The origin of the temple dates back to the martyrdom of Justus and Pastor, which, according to the legend, happened at this spot in 305 a.C. In 1497, Cardinal Cisneros commissioned the current, late-gothic styled building to the Egas brothers. At the main façade we can find a mixture of Renaissance and *Mudéjar* (Moorish) styles. The elegant, slightly leaning bell tower was designed by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón. In 1519, Pope Leo

X gave the church the title of *Magistral*, a unique honor that is shared only with St Peter Cathedral in Leuven (Belgium). In 1991 the old diocese of Complutum of the Visigoth era was restored, and today, the temple of St Justus and St Pastor has been proclaimed a Cathedral

A WALK THROUGH THE MEDIEVAL QUARTER

● BURGO DE SANTIUSTE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The *Burgo de Santiuste* –the name of the walled town of Alcalá between the XII and XIII centuries– Interpretation Centre shows how the urbanism of the city had changed during the Middle Ages, from the end of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the Renaissance. The Centre helps us to understand the origins of the present day Alcalá and the main medieval areas and monuments that still exist, for instance, the Walls and the Archbishop's Palace, the Cathedral or Calle Mayor. For that reason, an interesting collection of original pieces, sculptures from the 16th century, models, legal texts reproductions and, specially, virtual reconstructions that bring the visitor closer to the real aspect of medieval Alcalá de Henares.

● ST LUCY HERMITAGE. TERCIA STREET

The Hermitage of St Lucy housed the town council meetings until 1515. The current temple was built in Baroque style in the 17th century. The name of the street comes from the fact that the tithe for the Church was collected in this place, and a third (*tercio*, in Spanish) of the total amount of the money was given to the king

● VICTORIA SQUARE. LIZANA FAMILY HOUSE.

The name of the square recalls the old Minor College of Our Lady of Victory, whose beautiful Baroque building today houses the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. The *Studium Generale*, precursor of the University, was located here. It was founded in 1293 by King Sancho IV under the request of Gonzalo García Gudiel, Archbishop of Toledo. Before we arrive to the square, at Victoria Street, we find the Lizana family house. Built as a palace for the Mendoza family, it was used as a college for the University and later as a private residence. It has preserved one of the most beautiful Renaissance façades in Spain.





● The Old Prison and Santa María La Rica

The Archbishops of Toledo used the Old Prison to punish crimes against ecclesiastical and civil laws. The building that housed the jail still exists, but its memory also endures through the name of the street: *Cárcel Vieja* (Spanish for “Old Prison”).

The Hospital of Santa María la Rica was founded before 1312, and lives on as a remembrance of the medieval hospitals that looked after pilgrims, beggars and sick people. Nowadays, the building, reformed during the 16th and 17th centuries, is one of the most beautiful exhibition galleries in the city



● The House of the Meeting

The House of the Meeting is, in fact, an old monastery founded by Cardinal Cisneros during the late 15th century for Franciscan nuns. It also served as a maiden college and as a feminine hospital. In 1884, due to the deterioration of the building, the nuns moved to the Convent-College of the Discalced Augustinians of St Nicholas of Tolentino, at Santiago Street, where the community still lives today. In 1968, the Institute for Hispanic Culture restored the old church, that became an exhibition gallery. The main reason was to commemorate the first meeting between Christopher Columbus and the Catholic Monarchs, held at the Archbishop's Palace on January the 20th, 1486. The old Renaissance style cloister is today part of the Cardinal Cisneros Public School.

● The Archbishops of Toledo Palace

During the 13th century the Archbishops of Toledo were the owners of some fortified houses in Alcalá. The current residence was designed as a fortress in the 14th century. During the 15th, 16th and 16th centuries the fortress developed itself first in *Mudéjar* (Moorish) style, and later in Renaissance and Baroque styles. The most important architect that worked in the Palace was Alonso de Covarrubias, author of what today is the main façade and

the vanished Fonseca courtyard and its masterful staircase. The coat of arms comes from the 18th century, and is the emblem of Luis Antonio de Borbón, the son of king Philip V. Today is the see of the Diocese of Alcalá

Archbishop Pedro Tenorio commissioned a wall to protect Alcalá de Henares during the 14th century. It surrounded the whole city and reached the area of the present day Cervantes Square. At the end of the 15th century, Archbishop Alonso Carrillo de Acuña extended the perimeter to the present day Mártires and Aguadores Squares. The last ambitious remodelling of the city walls came from the initiative of Archbishop Bernardo de Sandoval y Rojas, who ordered to rebuild the area surrounding the present day Convent of Saint Bernard and to erect the gate of the same name. The only surviving medieval gate is the Gate of Burgos, that was assimilated by the

convent. During the 18th century Archbishop Francisco de Lorenzana ordered to rebuild the Gate of Madrid in Neoclassical style.

● The Antiquarium and the Archaeological Promenade

Of the medieval walls that once surrounded the whole city, only the sector that around the Archbishop's Palace, with its sixteen towers, survives today. Alcalá de Henares was walled in due to defensive and fiscal purposes. Anyone entering any of the gates had to pay the toll. Nowadays, the walled enclosure holds the *Antiquarium*, an open air museum that displays the archaeological remains of the Archbishop's Palace. It reproduces the Ave Maria Gallery, the Fonseca Courtyard and the famous Covarrubias Staircase. It is also possible to climb the medieval wall, visiting its towers from the inside.





● CISTERCIAN CONVENT OF SAINT BERNARD

This convent, designed by Juan Gómez de Mora, was built to hold a feminine Cistercian community following the dictates of the Archbishop of Toledo Bernardo de Sandoval y Rojas in 1618. The inside of the centralized floor plan church is covered by a majestic cupola. There is a Museum of the Closure in the high galleries. There we can visit a reconstruction of a closure cell and a kitchen of the monastery. Also, we can contemplate some of the magnificent art pieces that the community has collected along centuries.



● REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Museum is located in the former Agustinian Convent-College of the Mother of God, erected from 1676. The most important archaeological remains of the Madrid province can be seen inside. The mosaics of the old Roman city of Complutum especially stand out.



● CARPE DIEM

The medieval quarter of Alcalá is also an alive and amusing place, where we can find a lot of bars and coffee shops of any kind, hiding in the corners and in the alleys. And all the experiences can be shared with students from all over the world that come every year to our city.



● THE BONFIRE OF SAINT LUCY

In the twilight of December the 13th, St. Lucy Day, the traditional bonfire takes place in front of the hermitage of the same name. The party is livened up with the popular music of the *dulzainas* (traditional Castillian flutes).





A WALK THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY QUARTER. THE MAJOR COLLEGE OF ST ILDEFONSUS. UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ

Founded during the Renaissance, in 1499, Complutense University was the materialisation of the dream of a humble Franciscan friar called Cisneros. Intellectuals as renowned as Nebrija, Quevedo, Calderón de la Barca, Lope de Vega, Saint Ignatius of Loyola or Tirso de Molina were students or professors at the Major College of Saint Ildefonsus, the main college of the University. Thus is how Alcalá de Henares established itself as a great centre of culture and worldwide knowledge.

The Major College is made up of several buildings: The Schools' Courtyard (or Saint Thomas of Villanueva Courtyard), the Philosophers' Courtyard, the Assembly Hall (or Paraninfo) and the Chapel of Saint Ildefonsus, containing the Carrara marble tomb of Cardinal Cisneros.



● The façade of the Major College

Considered the most emblematic item of the heritage of Alcalá, the main façade of the Major College was built between 1537 and 1553. Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón used the original brick wall of the College as a canvas, inserting there a limestone façade from the quarries of Tamajón. He imported a new and surprising aesthetic identity, transforming this monument into one of the landmarks of both sculpture and architecture of the Renaissance (or plateresco style) in Spain.



● The Cervantes Literature Prize ceremony

Every year, on April the 23rd, the King of Spain visits the Assembly Hall of the University of Alcalá to present the Cervantes Literature Prize. Since the establishment of the award in 1976, influential writers in Spanish language (from both Spain and Spanish America) such as Jorge Guillén, María Zambrano, Jorge Luis Borges, Camilo José Cela, Juan Carlos Onetti, Roa Bastos, Octavio Paz or Vargas Llosa have received this prize.





● FORMER MINOR COLLEGES

Cardinal Cisneros started to promote the urban development that ennobled the university city during the 16th and 17th centuries. Not only the Major College was built, but also a network of Minor Colleges was designed to serve and supplement the University. Among them, the colleges of Málaga, Caracciolos, Mínimos, Saint Peter and Saint Paul and Discalced Trinitarians stand out specifically because of their beautifully restored Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Nowadays, they house relevant spaces of the current University, like the faculties of Humanities and History, English and Spanish studies, Economics and Business Administration; Libraries and the university Management offices.



● CHRIST OF THE DOCTRINOS HERMITAGE

According to the legend, the origins of the temple date back to the 13th century. In this place, Juan López de Úbeda founded an infantile seminar (*Doctrinos*, the Spanish name of the Hermitage, refers to the children that attended to those Christian Doctrine classes) during the 16th century. The current building dates back to the beginning of the 17th century, and harbours one of the best religious sculptures of Alcalá: the University Christ of the Doctrinos. It was carved during the 16th century by Domingo Beltrán, and it has been considered one of the masterpieces of late Renaissance sculpture in Spain. The two main religious orders of the Spanish



Golden Age were established in this hermitage: the Society of Jesus and the Piarists.

● CARAMEL-COATED ALMONDS

The sweet *par excellence* in Alcalá de Henares. Its remote origins are unknown, but there are documents that mention them in the city since the 18th century. The ingredients used by pastry chefs in Alcalá are just toasted sugar and braised almonds. The Poor Claires of the Closure Convent of San Diego make fantastic *garrapiñadas* (caramel-coated almonds) that can only be purchased through a turntable, preventing the client to break the closure monastic vow by seeing the nuns.





CERVANTES SQUARE

Originally it was known as the Market Square. It has always been the heart of the city of Alcalá. The weekly market, bullfighting and every important party were held here. The square was usually decorated with ephemeral architecture for those occasions. The Town Hall houses were placed here during the Spanish Golden Age, and even today, one of their original columns decorated with the coat of arms of the city can be discovered at the porticoes.

● MIGUEL DE CERVANTES MONUMENT AND BANDSTAND

The statue of the author of Don Quixote, cast in bronze by Carlo Nicoli in 1879, is a symbol of the square. The reliefs that decorate the base are modern, designed by Pepe Noja, representing scenes from Don Quixote. The Bandstand is another milestone of Cervantes Square. It was cast by Lebero foundry in Madrid in 1898, under the direction of Pastells.

● THE BORDER

The invisible line that split the city in two crossed the old Market Square and determined the urbanism of Alcalá. One side was under the Major's jurisdiction, and the other one under the Rector's authority, and only the Major's side had porticoes



● THE UNIVERSES OF CERVANTES INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Of the old parish of St Mary Major that once existed at the southern side of Cervantes Square only the bell tower, the ruins of the apse and the side chapels remain. It was burnt down in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. Among the surviving structures, the Chapel of Antezana and the Chapel of the *Oidor* (a kind of judge that worked for the kings of Castille during the 15th century) stand out. Inside the second one, we can find *mudéjar* style plasterworks and the remains of the baptismal font of Miguel de Cervantes.

Today, the standing chapels house the Universes of Cervantes Interpretation Centre, where we can find a collection of Don Quixote (and other works by Miguel de Cervantes) editions in many languages, an audio-visual presentation about the Chapel of the



Oidor and its history, as well as interesting temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

● TOWER OF SAINT MARY

The bell tower of the old church has survived two fires during the last century. It has been recently restored, and with its 34 metres in height and its 109 steps it has become both a challenging experience to the visitor and an splendid lookout over the roofs of the historical city.

● CORRAL DE COMEDIAS (PLAYHOUSE)

It is considered to be the oldest theatre in Europe preserved in working condition. Erected in 1601 by Francisco Sánchez, a local carpenter, it was the first stable theatre in Alcalá. It was designed following the traces of a classic *Corral de Comedias* (Spanish Golden Age open-air playhouse), with its *balcón de apariencias* (set), *apostentos* (boxes), *cazuela* (gods), and a pebble pavement with its medieval well. In 1769 the playhouse was roofed in and transformed into an Italian style 18th century theatre. Later, in 1831, it was reformed again, this time transforming the traditional floor plan into an elliptical one, following the fashion of the Romantic era. Today, after the restoration by the architect José María Pérez, "Peridis", the old playhouse is working again.



Calle Mayor, the longest porticoed street in Spain

The main artery of the Jewish Quarter of Alcalá during the Middle Ages. Originally there were wooden beams instead of the current stone columns. The reforms begun during the time of archbishops Tenorio, Carrillo and Cisneros, but much later, during the 19th century, the aspect of Mayor Street was unified by replacing many of the medieval and Renaissance columns by granite square pillars. Some of the old columns still persist, and in some of them we can even observe the traces of blue and red polychromies, remains of the decorations of the festivals carried out in the street during the Spanish Golden Age.

● **BIRTHPLACE OF CERVANTES MUSEUM**

Nowadays, the house where Miguel de Cervantes was born in 1547 is the most visited museum in the city. It is a reconstruction of a typical house from the 16th and 17th centuries. Through the ambience recreation the museum takes us back to the lifestyles and daily life of the Spanish Golden Age. Two of the lounges exhibit the museum's book collection, containing some of the most valuable editions of Cervantes' works, as well as bibliographic rarities and curiosities.



● **HOSPITAL OF ANTEZANA**

Located at Mayor Street, by the Birthplace of Cervantes, it was founded as a free hospital for the poor in the year of 1483 by Don Luis de Antezana and Doña Isabel de Guzmán, husband and wife. It

is a *Mudéjar* style building with a two-storey inner courtyard, with a wooden pillared balcony. The chapel of the Hospital is devoted to Our Lady of Mercy, and houses an interesting 17th century sculpture of the Christ from the school of the great sevillean sculptor Martínez Montañés.

● **RESTAURANTS AND TAPAS**

At Mayor Street and its surroundings we can find a huge, high quality, gastronomic variety, mostly of Castillian cuisine. Also, in a city such as Alcalá, some of the best restaurants offer Don Quixote-inspired dishes. But if you want to try some typical Spanish *tapas*, you cannot miss getting lost in the wide range of bars of the city centre.



● **OPEN-AIRED SHOPPING CENTRE**

The core of the old city of Alcalá offers many amusements and leisure activities, such as souvenir shopping around Calle Mayor. This street has been the commercial centre of the city for centuries. Today we can enjoy a wide gamut of stores, including bookshops, perfumeries, and food, clothing and complements shops. In addition, the refurbished *Mercado Municipal* (City Market), offers the best quality traditional products.





OTHER TREASURES

● Roman City of Complutum. The Forum Monumental Complex

The ancient city of Complutum was the origin of the modern day Alcalá de Henares. This archaeological site includes the old monumental Forum of the roman city. There we will find the remains of the public buildings, such as the Monumental Façade, the Civil Basilica, the northern side of the Curia (or the *Paredón del Milagro*, the Wall of the Miracle, according to the popular tradition), the Baths, the Market, and also some of the paved streets and hydric network.



● House of Hippolytus

Discovered in 1991 and opened to the public since 1999, the House of Hippolytus was in fact a leisure building for the high class of Complutum. The roman urban elites could enjoy the several pools and thermal areas, as well as the eastern style garden. Visitors will also find the remains of the Temple of Diana, and, the central piece of the site: a magnificent mosaic depicting fishing scenes, constructed by a so called Master Hippolytus, hence named the complex. The archaeological site includes adapted signing for both children and adults, models, audio-visual presentations and seasonal guided tours.

● Chapel of the Holy Hosts

It's an exceptional 17th century side chapel of the Church of St Mary Major (formerly the Church of the Jesuits) at Libreros Street. Juan Vicente de Ribera profusely decorated the inside of the cupola. A sacristy was added to the complex during the second decade of the 18th century. It was built for the custody and veneration of the 24 consecrated hosts that were delivered to one of the priests, Father Juárez in 1597, which, with the passing of

time revealed themselves to be incorrupt. The people of the city started to venerate those Holy Hosts (*Santas Formas*, in Spanish). They became a symbol, and, along with the Holy Children and the Virgin of el Val celebrations, the annual commemoration of their discovery was one of the biggest religious feasts of the city from the 17th to the 20th centuries, until their disappearance during the Spanish Civil War.

● Church of Saint John of Ávila

It was designed by the Uruguayan civil engineer Eladio Dieste, as a fine example of modern architecture. The church stands out thanks to the masterful use of bricks, highlighted with the three-dimensional stained glass windows. The peculiar undulated walls and ceilings were executed using the reinforced ceramics techniques discovered by Dieste.

● Open-air Sculpture Museum

It's considered to be one of the biggest museums of its kind in Europe. It covers most of the tendencies in modern sculpture through the works of Spanish and international artists, such as Amadeo Gabino, Úrculo, Caruncho, Jorge Varas, José Lamiel or Tony Segura. The promenade runs all along Via Complutense, starting at the Madrid Gate, going around the city walls and penetrating into the modern quarters of Alcalá.

● Laredo Palace, Cisneros Museum

It was built at the end of the 19th century thanks to the will and imagination of Manuel José de Laredo y Ordoño, painter, restorer, architect, set designer and mayor of Alcalá. A mixture of gothic and Mudéjar revivals, the palace is an artistic and architectural folly. Going over its halls is entering a magical world of mirrors, fake doors and beautifully decorated rooms. Today is the headquarters of the Cisneros Museum, devoted to the founder of the University, and guards a rich library full of essential historical documents and sources for tracing the history of the institution.



ENJOY ALL YEAR LONG

- First week of February: Gastronomic Week
- February: Carnival
- March-April: **Holy Week. Festivity of Regional Tourist Interest.**
- March-April: Gastronomy Contest
- April: Cervantes Literature Prize Ceremony/Cervantes' April/Book Fair/Gastronomic Fair in honour of the Cervantes awarded writer.
- April: Beginning of the Cervantes Train (Tren de Cervantes) spring season.
- June: Classical Theatre Festival (Clásicos en Alcalá).
- Beginning of August: St Justus and St Pastor festivity.
- End of August: City Fair and Festivals.
- September: Tapas Route.



- Third Sunday of September: Virgin of Val festivity.
- End of September: Cervantes Gastronomy Festival.
- October: Beginning of the Cervantes Train (Tren de Cervantes) autumn season.
- Around October the 9th: **Cervantes Week. Cervantes Market. Festivity of Regional Tourist Interest.**
- October the 31st-November the 1st: **Don Juan Tenorio Theatre Festival** (Don Juan en Alcalá). **Festivity of Regional Tourist Interest.**
- November: Alcalá Short Film Festival (ALCINE).
- November: Sales Weekend Festival (AlcaLowCost).
- December the 2nd: Commemoration of the UNESCO Word Heritage declaration.
- December the 13th: Bonfire of St Lucy.
- December-January: Christmas.





DISCOVERING THE CITY ON YOUR OWN. PROPOSED ROUTES

● The CITY OF THE THREE CULTURES

Discover Alcalá during the Middle Ages, with its three quarters –Christian, Jewish and Muslim–, through a route that goes all over the landmarks of these historical areas. The spaces and memories of the mosque and the old synagogues, the Jewish butcher's, the shop keepers, the churches, the trades and places that shaped and gave much of its character to a medieval town full of contrasts, was an example of cultural fellowship. Ceramic plaques are placed at the most relevant places of medieval Alcalá. A cross, a seven branched lampstand or a half moon appears on them, depending on which one of the three quarters they are placed at. There are also three main plaques, marking the limits of each quarter and the location of the remaining plaques.

(Elapsed time: 2 hours)

The Muslim Quarter

- ① Main Plaque, [Bernardas Square, Archaeological Museum.*](#)
- ② [Mosque](#), Santiago Street.
- ③ [Almanxara](#), San Bernardo Street, Archaeological Museum.
- ④ [Old Market](#), crossing between Diego de Torres and Santiago Streets.
- ⑤ [Muslim Quarter wicket](#), Diego de Torres Street, in front of Madre de Dios street.

Jewish Quarter

- ⑥ [Main Plaque](#), Mayor Street, in front of Imagen Street.
- ⑦ [Major Synagogue](#), Corral de la Sinagoga alley,

facing Mayor Street.

- ⑧ [Minor Synagogue](#), Santiago Street.
- ⑨ [Jewish butcher's](#), crossing between Cervantes and Mayor Streets.
- ⑩ [Shops and houses at Cambio Corner](#), Mayor Street, in front of Santos Niños Square.



11 Main Plaque, Santos Niños Square, near Calle Mayor. Cathedral of St Justus and St Pastor.*

12 The Town Council and the Tercia/St Lucy Hermitage, Tercia Street.

13 Studium generale, Travesia de Seises Street.

14 The Brothel, Damas street.

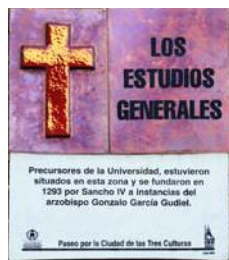
15 Archbishop's Jail, Vicario Street.

16 Santa María la Rica medieval hospital, Santa María la Rica Street.

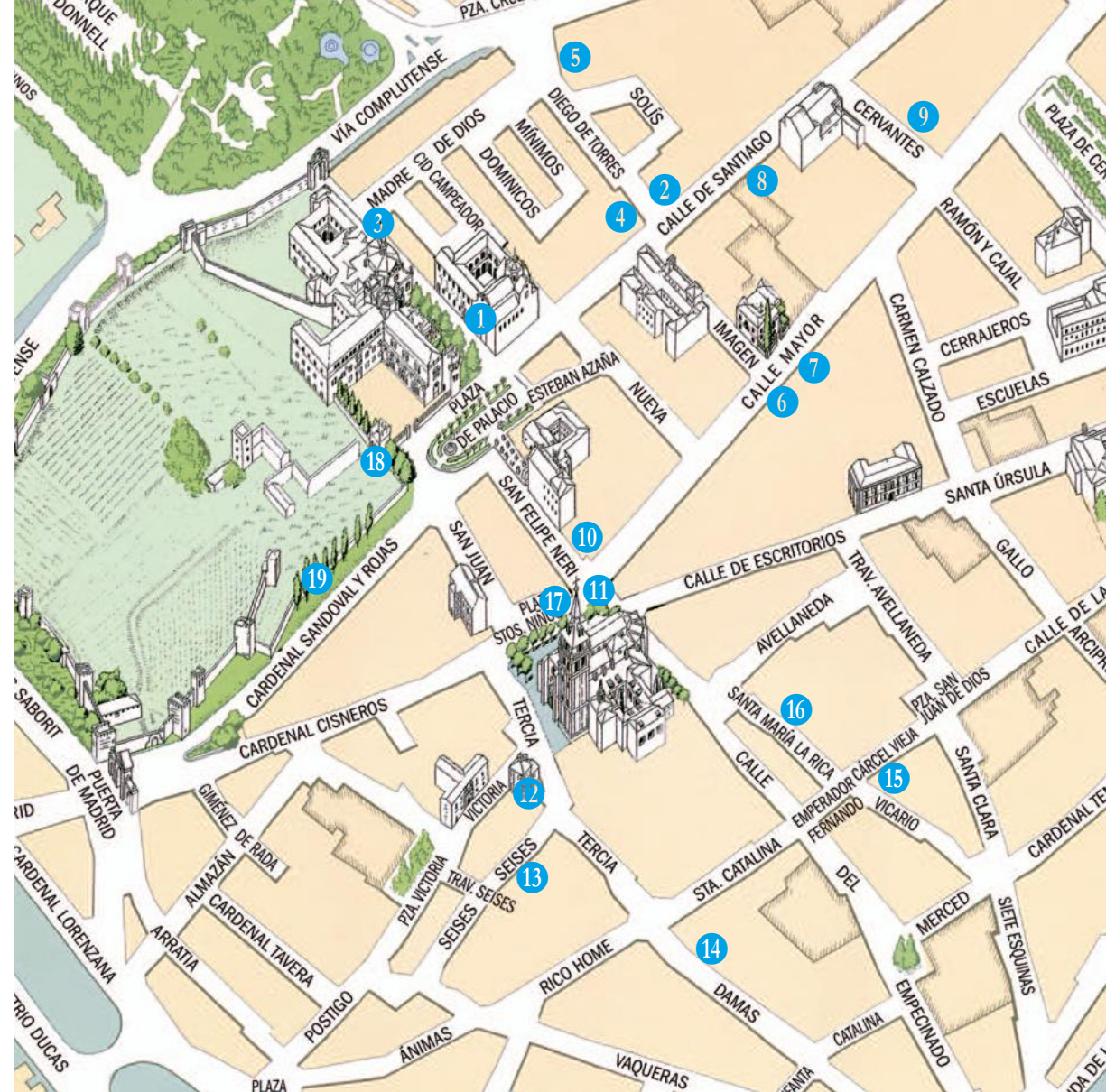
17 Pillory Square, Santos Niños Square.

18 Fortress/Archbishop's Palace, Fountain Tower, Palacio Square.

19 Walled enclosure and Antiquarium,* Sandoval y Rojas Street.



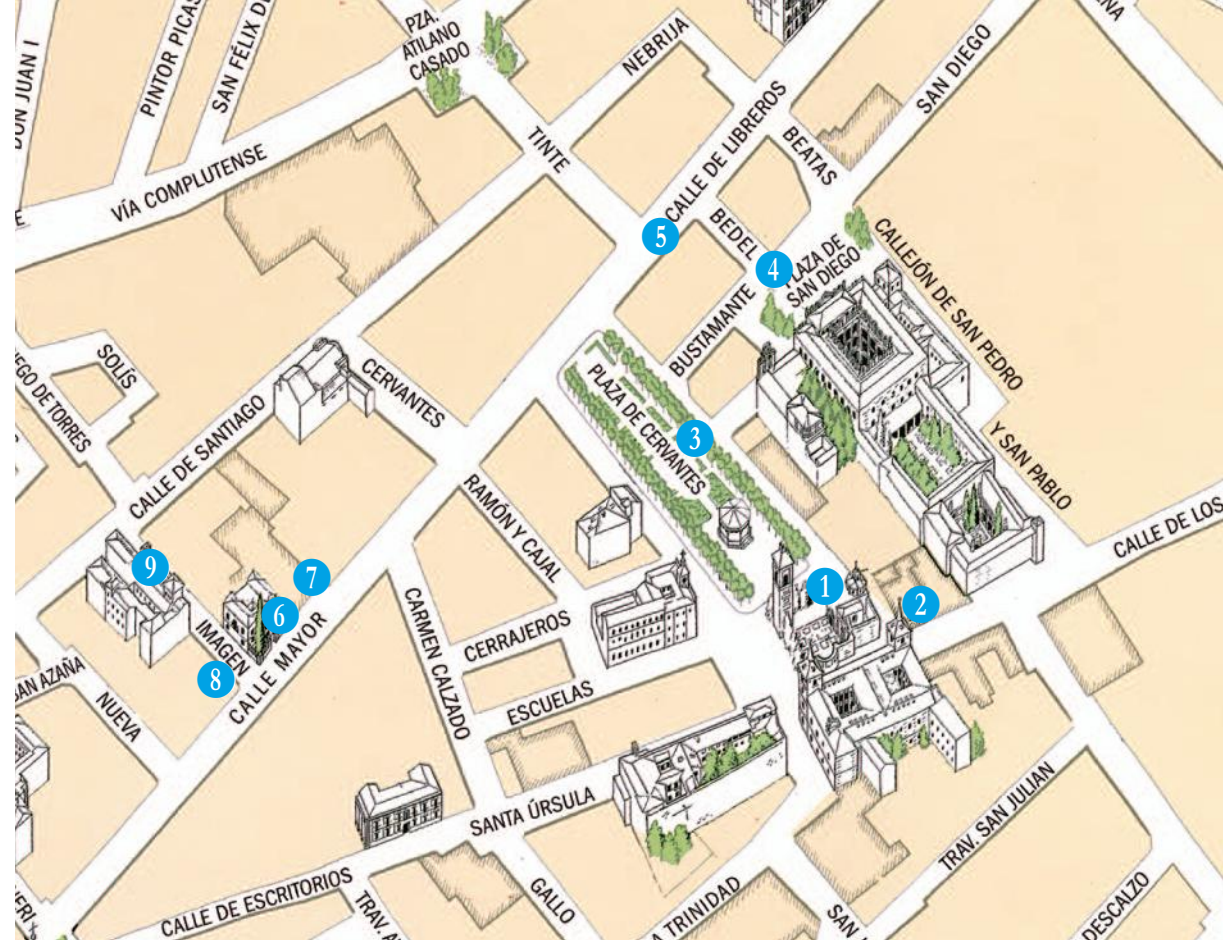
*Visitable monument. Further information at www.turismoalcala.es and at the Tourist Information Offices.



This route traverses the sites that are related with Miguel de Cervantes' life and work in Alcalá de Henares: his birthplace, the buildings where his family lived or those related with the publishing of his works.

(Elapsed time: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- 1 **The Universes of Cervantes Interpretation Centre***. On October the 9th, 1547, Miguel de Cervantes was baptized here. The remains of the original baptismal font are preserved inside this museum devoted to the figure of the writer.
- 2 **Theology College of the Mother of God**. This building –today the Bar Association– was one of the most relevant minor colleges of the University. In 1604 the erratum of the First Part of Don Quixote was published here.
- 3 **Cervantes Square and Monument**. The Market Square of the city until the late 19th century. The statue, cast in bronze by Carlo Nicoli, was unveiled by the mayor of Alcalá, Esteban Azaña –father of the president of the II Spanish Republic, Manuel Azaña–, on October the 9th, 1879.
- 4 **Major College of Saint Ildefonsus***. The Cervantes Literature Prize, considered to be the most important literature award for Spanish speaking countries, is given here, at the beautiful Paraninfo (Assembly Hall).
- 5 **La Galatea printing house**. The workshop of Juan Gracián was located at the number 9 of Libreros Street. Here, *La Galatea*, Cervantes' first novel, was published for the first time. Although the original building does not exist anymore, a plaque remembers the spot.
- 6 **Birthplace of Cervantes Museum***. The historian Luis Astrana Marín discovered during the 1940's that this was the family house of Miguel de Cervantes' father. The building was transformed into a museum in 1956. It houses a complete collection of Don Quixote editions from all over the world.
- 7 **Hospital of Antezana***. According to the legend Rodrigo de Cervantes, the father of the writer, worked here as a barber-surgeon. The institution was founded by Luis de Antezana in 1483, and is the oldest hospital in Spain.
- 8 **Calzonera House**. Around 1540 this house, located at Imagen Street, 1, was owned by Juan de Cervantes, Miguel's uncle.



- 9 Convent of Imagen.** Luisa de Belén, the sister of Miguel de Cervantes, was the prioress of this convent for three times. Its beautiful Renaissance façade is attributed to Alonso de Covarrubias.

*Visitable monument. Further information at www.turismoalcala.es and at the Tourist Information Offices.

ALCALÁ DE HENARES

● The City of Literature

Thanks to Alcalá de Henares's cultural relevance and its university tradition our history is full of writers. Some of them were born here, others discovered and described our city, and many became famous. This signposting guides us through the places connected with writers in Alcalá.

(Elapsed time: 2 hours)

- 1 Alonso Fernández de Avellaneda, Puerta de Madrid Square.
- 2 Juan Ruiz, Archpriest of Hita, Palacio Square.
- 3 Miguel de Unamuno, Padre Lecanda Square.
- 4 Saint Teresa of Jesus, Imagen Street.
- 5 Manuel Azaña, Imagen Street.
- 6 Miguel de Cervantes, Imagen Street.
- 7 Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Antezana Hospital, Mayor Street.
- 8 Fray Luis de León, Colegios Street.
- 9 Pedro Calderón de la Barca, Libreros Street.
- 10 Leandro Fernández de Moratín, Tinte Street.
- 11 Francisco de Quevedo, Libreros Street.
- 12 María Isidra de Guzmán, Libreros Street.
- 13 Mateo Alemán, Pedro Gumiel Street.
- 14 Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos, Pedro Gumiel Street.
- 15 Lope de Vega, Colegios Street.
- 16 Saint John of the Cross, Santo Tomás de Aquino Street.
- 17 Camilo José Cela, Railway Station.





● The CITY OF THE STORKS

Historical and natural heritage are closely linked in Alcalá's landscape. The historical buildings' rooftops are a natural settlement area for the white stork. This favours a tourist route merging both elements, thus creating a new way to discover the city.

Further information at www.turismoalcala.es and at the Tourist Information Offices.

● PATHS THROUGH THE CITY OF THE ARTS AND LETTERS

This route takes us through the landmarks, events and historical experiences that have sculpted the personality of the city. The proposed routes are *The Path of Cervantes*, *The Path of the New World*, *The Theatre Path* and *the Path of the Students*.

GUIDED TOUR SERVICES

● Cervantes Train

A unique way to visit Alcalá de Henares, World Heritage city and birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes. Visitors will discover the city's history and monuments as well as its gastronomy.

The actors, dressed up with Spanish Golden Age inspired costumes, will receive the visitor at the

platform in Madrid, and will help and look after the travellers all along the non-stop route to Alcalá. At the arrival, a guided tour through the city centre will start. The route goes all over the most important monuments and streets and ends on time for lunch, allowing the visitors to enjoy Alcalá's gastronomy through the associated restaurants, which offer discounts for the clients of the Cervantes Train.

The Cervantes Train departs every spring and autumn Sundays from Madrid-Atocha station.

Further information at www.turismoalcala.es and at the Tourist Information Offices (0034 91 889 26 94 / 0034 91 881 06 34)

Booking at www.renfe.es (902 24 02 02)

Recommended by Lonely Planet



● Monumental Alcalá

Guided tour through the most representative places of the city. From Tuesday to Sunday and Holidays, 12:00 h.*

Meeting point: Parador Nacional de Turismo de Alcalá (Colegios Street, 8). No booking required.

Service provided by Promoción Turística de Alcalá, S.L.

Tel. 0034 91 882 13 54

www.alcalaturismo.com

● Monumental Alcalá + Corral de Comedias (PLAYHOUSE)

From Tuesday to Sunday and Holidays, 11:30 h. Saturdays also 16:30 h.*

Meeting point: Parador Nacional de Turismo de Alcalá (Colegios Street, 8). No booking required.

Service provided by Promoción Turística de Alcalá, S.L.

Tel. 0034 91 882 13 54

www.alcalaturismo.com

● DISCOVER ALCALÁ

Guided tour through the most representative places of the city. From Tuesday to Sunday, 12:00 h.*

Meeting point: Cervantes Monument (Cervantes Square). No booking required. Minimum of 4 people.

Service provided by Cervantalia Turismo Teatral, S.L.

Tel. 0034 91 888 25 66/ 0034 647 702 663

www.cervantalia.com

● MUCH MORE THAN CERVANTES... Between History and Legend

Guided tour through the most representative places of the city, outdoors only. Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Holidays, 12:30 h.*

Meeting point: Cervantes Monument (Cervantes Square). No booking required. Minimum of 4 people.

Service provided by Cervantalia Turismo Teatral, S.L.

Tel. 0034 91 888 25 66/ 0034 647 702 663

www.cervantalia.com

● ALCALÁ On BIKE Panoramic Tour

Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 h. Also on weekdays with previous booking.*

Meeting point: Alcalá Bikes shop (Teniente Ruiz Street, 2).

Service provided by Alcalá Bikes.

Tel. 0034 91 265 78 67

www.alcalabikes.com

*Further information at www.turismoalcala.es and at the Tourist Information Offices (0034 91 889 26 94 / 0034 91 881 06 34)



ALCALÁ DE HENARES

VISITABLE MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS

7 BIRTHPLACE OF CERVANTES Museum

Mayor Street, 14. FREE ADMISSION

21 INTERPRETATION CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSES OF CERVANTES

Cervantes Square. FREE ADMISSION

17 CORRAL DEL COMEDIAS (PLAYHOUSE)

Cervantes Square, 15

16 CHAPEL OF SAINT ILDEFONSUS

San Diego Square

15 MAJOR COLLEGE OF ST ILDEFONSUS. UNIVERSITY

San Diego Square

43 LAREDO PALACE. CISNEROS MUSEUM

Paseo de la Estación, 10

31 CATHEDRAL OF ST JUSTUS AND ST PASTOR. CATHEDRAL TOWER

Santos Niños Square

4 CONVENT OF SAINT BERNARD (CHURCH

and Museum of the Closure)

Bernardas Square

5 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Bernardas Square. FREE ADMISSION

59 TOWER OF SAINT MARY

Cervantes Square

57 BURGO DE SANTIUSTE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Cardenal Sandoval y Rojas Street, 3

40 ROMAN CITY OF COMPLUTUM

Camino del Juncal (Urban Bus Lines 1 and 6)

55 HOUSE OF HIPPOLYTUS

Avenida de Madrid (Urban Bus Line 1)

58 ANTIQUARIUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROMENADE

Cardenal Sandoval y Rojas Street. FREE ADMISSION

60 OLD UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE

Cervantes Square, 11. FREE ADMISSION

Tourist Information Office. Cervantes Square
(Callejón de Santa María, 1)
Tel. 0034 91 889 26 94
otcervantes@ayto-alcaladehenares.es

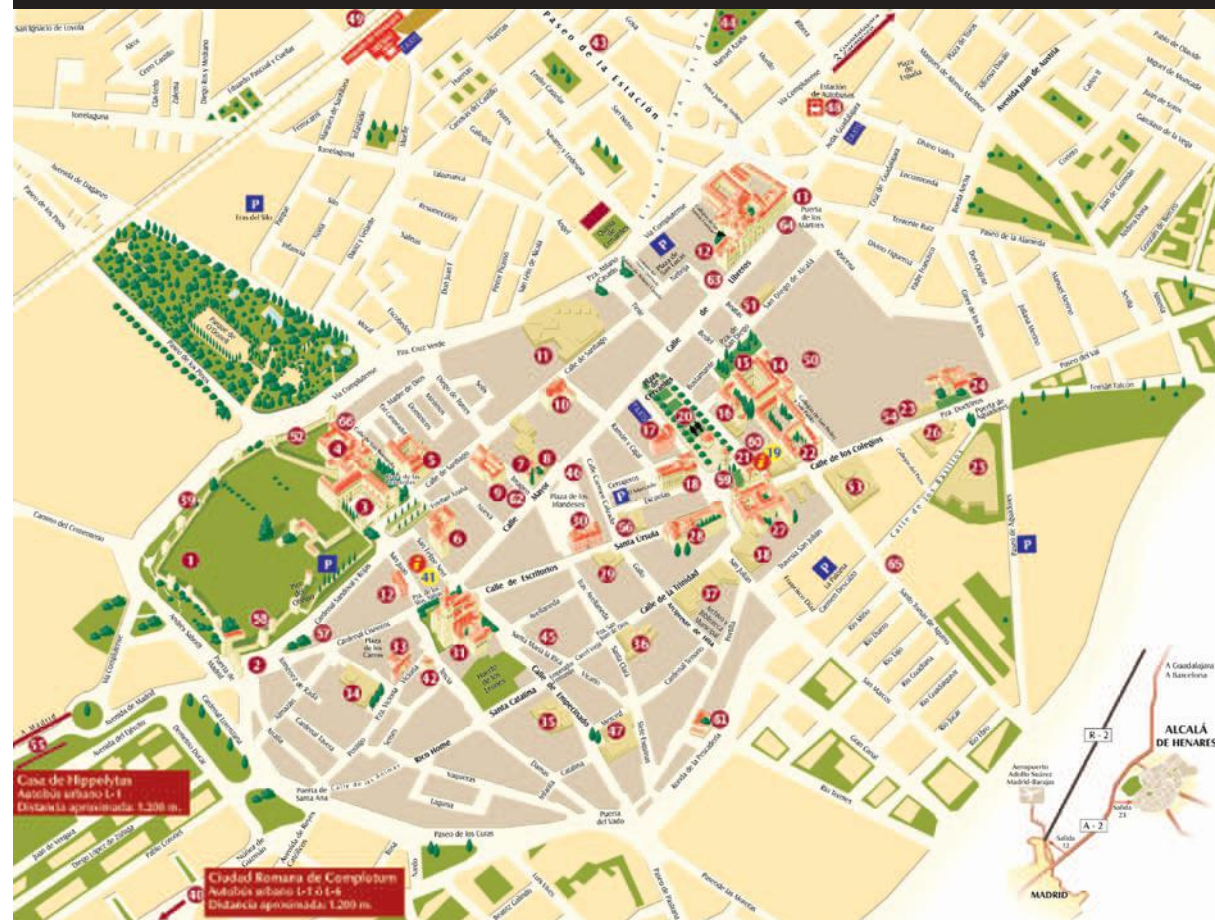
Tourist Information Office. Santos Niños Square
Tel. 0034 91 881 06 34
otssnn@ayto-alcaladehenares.es

WWW.TURISMOALCALA.ES



- 1 Walled Enclosure
- 2 Gate of Madrid
- 3 Archbishop's Palace
- ✓ 4 Convent of Saint Bernard
- ✓ 5 Regional Archaeological Museum. Former Dominican Convent of the Mother of God
- 6 Oratory of St Philip Neri
- ✓ 7 Birthplace of Cervantes Museum
- 8 Hospital of Antezana
- 9 Convent of *Imagen*
- 10 *Teatro-Salón Cervantes* (Cervantes Theatre)
- 11 Convent of St John the Penitent. Museum.
- 12 *Instituto Cervantes*. Former King's College.
- 13 Church of St. Mary Major and Santas Formas (Holy Hosts) Chapel. Former College and Church of the Jesuits.
- 14 College of St Peter and Paul
- ✓ 15 Major College of St Ildefonsus. University of Alcalá.
- ✓ 16 Chapel of Saint Ildefonsus
- ✓ 17 *Corral del Comedias* (Playhouse)
- 18 Town Hall
- 19 Tourist Office (at Cervantes Square)
- 20 Cervantes Square
- ✓ 21 Interpretation Centre of the Universes of Cervantes
- 22 *Hostería del Estudiante* (Parador)
- 23 Doctrinos Hermitage
- 24 Convent of Corpus Christi
- 25 *Archivo General de la Administración* (General Administration State Archive)
- 26 University Music Hall. Former College-Convent of St Basil the Great
- 27 Letters and Philosophy Faculty. Former College of Málaga
- 28 Convent of St Ursula
- 29 Agustiniens Female Convent
- 30 College of the Irish
- ✓ 31 Cathedral of St Justus and St Pastor.
- 32 House of the Meeting
- 33 Lizana Family House
- 34 Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. Former Minor College of Our Lady of Victory
- 35 Convent of St Catherine
- 36 Convent of Our Lady of Hope
- 37 Letters and Philosophy Faculty. Former College of Caracciolo
- 38 Former Convent-College of the Trinitarians
- 39 Open-air Sculpture Museum
- ✓ 40 Roman City of Complutum
- 41 Tourist Office (at Santos Niños Square)
- 42 St Lucy Hermitage
- ✓ 43 Laredo Palace. Cisneros Museum
- 44 St Isidore Hermitage
- 45 Former Hospital of Santa María la Rica
- 46 Alley of the Old Synagogue
- 47 Convent-College of Discolced Mercedarians
- 48 Intercity Bus Station
- 49 Railway Station (*RENFE*)
- 50 Central University Library. Former Lepanto and Principe Barracks
- 51 Poor Claires Closure Convent of San Diego
- 52 Gate of Burgos
- 53 Parador. Former College of St Thomas of Aquino
- 54 Labor Movement Archives. Former Calced Trinitarians College.
- ✓ 55 House of Hippolytus
- 56 University School of Architecture. Former Minor College of Calced Carmelites
- ✓ 57 Burgo de Santiuste Interpretation Centre
- ✓ 58 *Antiquarium* and Archaeological Promenade
- ✓ 59 Tower of Saint Mary
- ✓ 60 Old university residence
- 61 Regional Houses. Former Slaughterhouse
- 62 Manuel Azaña birthplace
- 63 College of Leon
- 64 College of *Los Verdes*
- 65 University Theatre. Former Convent of St Cyril
- 66 Gate of St Bernard

CITY CENTRE MAP





www.turismoalcala.es

Información:

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Plaza de Cervantes, 12. 91 888 33 00

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Calle Santa María, 3
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