



ESE 2115

 **fly & drive**

# ROUND TRIP THROUGH THE LAND OF DON QUIXOTE

07 days/06 nights with rental car

*"In a village of La Mancha, the name of which I have no desire to call to mind, there lived not long since one of those gentlemen that keep a lance in the lance-rack, an old buckler, a lean hack, and a greyhound for coursing.*

*So begins one of the most popular and best-selling books in world literature, "The Adventures of the meaningful junker Don Quixote and his minion Sancho Pansa" that Don Miguel de Cervantes wrote. On this occasion, many cultural and tourist activities in different regions of Castile-La Mancha were presented, which inspired the most famous Spanish writer of all time. For this purpose, we have prepared a package to show visitors the most important places described in the novel, such as the writer's birthplace and the castle where the brilliant Hidalgo spent a night. We will also experience his fight against the giant, we will fall in love where he fell in love with Dulcinea and we follow the thousand and one vicissitudes, through a route that is no less famous than Don Quixote.*

*Here we present the details of the route you will self drive. During the tour, local tour guides will introduce you to the route, to its cuisine, to its history, in the world of Don Quixote. In addition, you can taste some typical dishes from the region, which were described by Cervantes in his famous book. We see you in the land of Don Quixote, his minion Sancho Panza and his beloved Dulcinea. You will also visit the sites that are closely related to the most important work of the author, "The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha". On this trip you have the opportunity to get to know La Mancha, the country of plains and of errant knights and vassals.*

## DAY 1 Saturday INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TO MADRID – ALCALA DE HENARES

Arrival at Madrid airport and reception through our guide. Almost immediately we start our tour of the region and try to find this place of La Mancha, whose name Cervantes did not want to remember. In fact, all the peoples and regions we visit in this journey try to find themselves with the literature and show that this place belongs to them. In doing so, they are trying to increase their travel offers and attract more and more tourists.

Don Quixote is unthinkable without Madrid. In addition, we are aware that Miguel de Cervantes walked their streets and squares and in dealing with crowds he managed to create both the form of the protagonist of the novel, as well as most of his characters.

We start the tour through the city center and visit the Plaza del Sol and the Plaza Mayor. Our guide will envelop us in the world of Miguel de Cervantes and Don Quixote. Then we will visit the Royal Palace and the Cathedral before we arrive at the Plaza of Spain, dominated by the colossal monument of Cervantes, one of the most photographed monuments of tourists in the capital. The figures that make this iconic monument are, on one side, a sitting Cervantes. On the other and on the pedestal of the monument, under the feet of the writer, the statues of Don Quixote and Sancho Pansa. Referring to the universality of Don Quixote, the monument also includes the five continents that read all of the works of Cervantes.

And regarding Don Quixote and other signs that appear in the Plaza de Spain, Cervantes wrote: *"I pray that you will not forget me, good Rosinante, my eternal companion in all my ways and career ...." "... Oh Princess Dulcinea, Lady of this captive heart! Many insults you have made me with your farewell and on the stern reproach of not appearing before their beauty."* We will continue on foot across Gran Vía to Cibeles Square, the heart of the city. Your guide will take you to the rental office and you will get your car to start your visit to the next point of our route of Don Quixote.

**PRICE PER PERSON IN  
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

**from EUR 676.-**

Surplus single room **EUR 280.-**

**Car rental for 7 days from  
EUR 200.- for 2-4 persons**

**2021 – 2022**

**DEPARTURES ON REQUEST  
APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER**

If you have a group we will be very happy to send you a special offer with bus or rental cars

### INCLUDED SERVICES

- 6 nights accommodation in hotels of your choice category 3 \*\*\*, 4 \*\*\*\* and / or 5 \*\*\*\*\*
- 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Guided sightseeing tour with a bilingual tour guide in English in Madrid. Upon request also in other cities.
- Travel Money Security Certificate

### NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic Flights
- 7-days rental car in the category of your choice. We will help you with pleasure selecting the car you want.
- Parking fees at the hotels and visits
- Meals or other tours not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Personal expenses
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters







In a short time, we reach Alcala de Henares (25 km). Registration at Hotel Parador. After a short break you can visit the old town, with places linked to the author of Don Quixote. Cervantes was born in Alcala de Henares, was baptized in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore and died on April 22, 1616. Return to the hotel and time to enjoy the spa. Overnight stay at the Parador de Alcala.

#### DAY 2 (Sunday) ALCALA DE HENARES – SIGÜENZA The land of the Cervantes

After breakfast at the hotel, you follow the route of Don Quixote over Manchego land to Sigüenza (99km), a small region that was a defensive military settlement during Moorish rule. The construction of the fortress dates back to this period, although the present appearance is due to the Christian reconquest. Among the most important sights are the Cathedral, authentic and valuable museum, the churches of Santiago and San Vicente, the Plaza Mayor, the parish hall, the Bishop's Palace and the small chapel of Calvary. registration at the Hotel Parador am Schloss. After a break, you can make a short visit to the city center. Regarding the Quixote, Sigüenza was explicitly mentioned by Cervantes in Chapter I Part I of the book, when the village pastor faithful toned this novel character before deciding to become a driving knight, following the behavior of the protagonists of his cavalry books, whose reading he was so attached to. Dinner at Parador and overnight stay. (B) (D).

#### DAY 3 (Monday) SIGÜENZA – CUENCA Hanging houses

Breakfast at the hotel. You will continue your trip to Cuenca (174km), also Cervantes town. Cuenca is the city of the hanging houses, that literally stand out over the gorge of the river Huecar in this Castile – La Mancha destination. This World Heritage City of cobbled streets and ancient buildings also has a modern side and is a centre of abstract art. Registration in the Parador hotel, built in a former monastery with magnificent views of the hanging houses, landmarks of the city. In the afternoon, guided city tour in Cuenca, where we learn the origin of the hanging houses, walk through the narrow streets and visit the cathedral. Return to the hotel. Overnight in the Parador. (B)

#### DAY 4 (Tuesday) CUENCA – BELMONTE Land of Quixotes

After breakfast, check out and continue through the Don Quixote route to Belmonte (96km), one of the most quixotic places on the route. The story tells that in this town, formerly called Las Chozas (the hut), a castle in the Moorish-Gothic style from the fifteenth century was built and the city was called Monte Bello. Registration at the Hotel Palacio del Infante Don Juan Manuel, which is recently renovated on the ruins of an old castle. Time at leisure until dinner. The hotel restaurant offers Belmont's delicacies such as Morteruelo, porridge and zarajos, which were also mentioned in don Quixote's book. Accommodation (B) (D).

#### DAY 5 (Wednesday) BELMONTE Land of the Quixotes

After breakfast we visit the castle of Belmonte. Its construction began in 1456 with Don Juan Pacheco. Its exterior design is very similar to Manzanares el Real in Madrid and Avila Mombeltrén. Through weddings, the castle is passed on to the Montijo House and in the nineteenth century, inherited the Countess of Teba, Eugenia de Montijo, who was later Empress of France when she married Napoleon III. Return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon free for private activities or to enjoy the facilities of the hotel. You can also book a therapy or treatment at the Spa Hotel (not included in the price). Overnight (B) (L)

#### DAY 6 (Thursday) BELMONTE – CAMPO DE CRIPTANA – TOLEDO Land of love and giants

Breakfast at the hotel. The next stage of our journey is El Toboso (34km) from La Mancha-Land, with many quixotic romantic memories, worthy of contemplation, wonder and tranquility. Its narrow streets and its typical architecture of La Mancha meet us in the heart, especially when we come to the square where there are sculptures of Don Quixote and his Dulcinea against the church. A little further you will find the house of Dona Ana Martinez Zarco de Morales, the Dulcinea of Cervantes, a traditional La Mancha structure from the 16th century, which has been magnificently renovated.





It has a stately main front with two coats of arms and contains a museum of tools of ethnological value and of everyday use in La Mancha life. The furniture is from the 17th century, the time of Don Quixote. It has work units, a pigeon house (which will visit inside and is active) and garden behind the house, as well as the usual residential units. This house is worth a visit.

Before you continue, visit the Cervantino Museum. Here you can see a valuable collection of editions of Don Quixote in different languages, all gifts from various intellectual persons or the world of politics, which they are dedicated in handwriting to the people of El Toboso. As curiosities you can see a display that was gifted and signed by Hitler and others by Argentine President Juan Domingo Peron. Other curious editions are the first published in the Basque, in the Celtic sign (from Ireland) and a manuscript decorated with pictures. You will continue the journey towards the land of giants. In the village of Campo de Criptana (19km) you will find a large pattern of typical windmills, against which Don Quixote fought in Chapter VIII of the Universal Book of Cervantes, thus transformed into a trademark of La Mancha: "... is discovered in this sight that thirty or forty windmills preserved in this field and... gave him the incentive to his horse Rosinante without hearing the screams of his minion Sancho. He warned him that without a doubt they were windmills and not giants he wanted to attack." The rest will tell you in detail to your local guide.

Continuation of the route. Soon you will visit Consuegra (49km), the nearest region, in the province of Toledo in La Mancha. We will go directly on the hill where the mills of the region from the XVI century, twelve of them restored and as thematic museums. This castle was probably built by Emperor Trajan, although the first existing documents, located the beginning of construction work during the caliphate of Cordoba in the X. century. El Cid son died in this castle in 1097.

After lunch exit to Toledo (64km), Carpetana capital, Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Muslims, Jews and Christians, leaving clear traces of their passage.

And what happened to Don Quixote? Cervantes details some facts from Hidalgo Caballero about this beautiful city. "In the district of Toledos Las Ventillas submitted the landlord, who housed Don Quixote at the exit from his village some of their misdeeds" (I, 3). Your guide will tell you details of this Toledo presence of Don Quixote when he proposes a nice restaurant where you can taste some of the culinary specialities of Toledo. Be sure to try the "Cuchifrito" or partridge. Overnight stay at the selected hotel (B) (D)

#### DAY 7 (Friday) TOLEDO – MADRID AIRPORT

After breakfast, we will invite you to a guided walking tour through the old town of the three religions. Visit the cathedral, the mosque and the synagogue, the Puente de San Martin and the Alcazar. Our guide shows you the Cervantes city in the region, which together with Madrid, is the most famous with the mythical character from Don Quixote, always in the hands of its immortal creator Don Miguel de Cervantes. Return to the hotel for check-out. You will leave the hotel on time to get to the airport in Madrid (84km) for your return flight home. Before checking in at the airline, return the rented car. End of our services (B)

... In the last chapter of the second part writes Cervantes, that the fictional narrator in the novel have not named the hometown of the protagonist, "... to allow all cities and villages of La Mancha to compete on the subject, which place would include him as his son, as once those seven cities of Greece fought by Homer. "



(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner