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Ana del Castillo / Shutterstock.com

Forever immortalised as the setting for Don Quixote's misadventures, the beautiful medieval city of Ciudad Real is just a short train journey from Madrid or Seville. Remnants of ancient city walls, churches galore and spectacular cuisine based primarily on cheese, cured meats and wine are but some of the reasons to visit.



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Noradoa / Shutterstock.com

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THE CITY



Pedro Oliva / Shutterstock.com

Ciudad Real's fascinating history begins in the 13th century, when it was founded by King Alfonso the Wise. Throughout most of its history its diverse population comprised Christians, Muslims and Jews, and these mixed influences are visible still in the city.

Little remains of the four kilometres of walls that once surrounded the city, protected by 130 towers, but remnants of those times can still be found scattered around town, the most notable example being the famous Puerta de Toledo. Looking at a map, the historic centre is still clearly identified, marked by where the walls once stood, and the modern city radiates from that centre. It is a small and walkable area, but it packs a punch when it comes to things to see, with beautiful buildings, pleasant squares and labyrinthine alleyways.

DO & SEE



pedrosala / Shutterstock.com

Ciudad Real is a city of churches and cathedrals, each more impressive than the last. Be sure to also walk through the winding alleys in the historic centre, and marvel at the imposing Puerta de Toledo, a remnant of the ancient city walls.

Iglesia de Santiago



Dating back to the 13th century, the Iglesia de Santiago is the oldest church in Ciudad Real. It was constructed in the Gothic style, but the design shows signs of Romanic and Islamic influences.

Photo: josepizarro/shutterstock

Address: Plaza Santiago, 1, Ciudad Real

Phone: +34 926 22 08 14

Internet: www.parroquiasantiagoapostolcr.com

Puerta de Toledo



A remnant of the city's Islamic past, the Puerta de Toledo is all that remains of the Royal Alcázar of Ciudad Real. It was constructed during the 14th century, and it still impresses with 6 arches, 2 square towers and the ornate coat of

arms of Castilla.

Photo: milosk50/shutterstock

Address: Puerta de Toledo, Ciudad Real

Ciudad Real Cathedral



This 16th century cathedral boasts the intimidating full name "The Holy Priory Church Cathedral Basilica of the Military Order of Our Lady Saint Mary of the Prado of Ciudad Real". It is the city's main cathedral and houses the second largest nave in the country.

Photo: josepizarro/shutterstock

Address: Catedral de Ciudad Real, Ciudad Real

Don Quixote Museum & Cervantes Library



The small Don Quixote Museum houses a interesting mix of exhibits centred around Cervantes' masterpiece, which takes place in La Mancha and the area around Ciudad Real.

Highlights include some 19th century illustrations depicting Don Quijote, as well as the library, which contains over 3,500 titles.

Photo: LeicherOliver / Shutterstock.com

Address: Ronda Alarcos s/n 1, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-2pm and 5am-8pm, Sun 10am-2pm

Phone: +34 926 20 04 57

Internet:

www.ciudadreal.es/turismo/museos/museo-del-quijote.html

Iglesia de San Pedro



Perhaps the city's most beautiful and ornate church, the Gothic temple Iglesia de San Pedro dates back to the 14th and 15th centuries and boasts several gorgeous doors, gates and chapels that showcase masterful craftsmanship.

Photo: Raimundo Pastor/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: Calle General Rey, 1, Ciudad Real

Phone: +34 926 22 11 15

Internet: www.parroquiasanpedro.com

Plaza Mayor

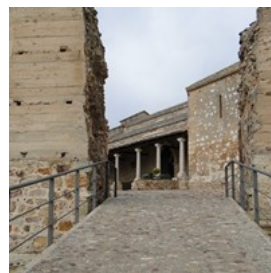


Plaza Mayor, the city's main square, is the heart of civic life in Ciudad Real, a lively open space surrounded by shops, restaurants, cafes and bars. When the weather is nice throngs of visitors and local residents flock to the square, making it the best place in town for people watching, as well as the best place to go for food, shopping and nightlife.

Photo: Josep Curto/shutterstock

Address: Plaza Mayor, Ciudad Real

Alarcos Archaeological Site



Before there was Ciudad Real, there was ancient Alarcos. 8 km from the city, this Bronze Age excavation site also contains Iberian and medieval remains (a castle and Gothic chapel). The site was a fortified city in the 6th century, and after conquest in 1212, the citizens relocated down river to modern-day Ciudad Real.

Photo: Rafael Tello/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: N-430, Km 8, 13005 Ciudad Real, Cdad. Real, Spain

Phone: +34 926 25 52 00

Internet: www.turismo.ciudadreal.es/en/what-to-visit/alarcos-archaeological-site/

DINING



CatchaSnap / Shutterstock.com

The best of Mediterranean cuisine is on offer at Ciudad Real's great selection of restaurants, cafes, and bistros. Meat dishes feature heavily on menus, as do some seafood and a slew of creative fusion dishes. If you're looking for a light snack, tapas bars are ubiquitous and offer small bites on a budget. Of course, no meal would be complete without a bottle of the region's finest wines.

Asador San Huberto



Asador San Huberto boasts a welcoming rustic interior, in which customers can enjoy the creative and varied cuisine on offer from the grill. Options range from lamb and suckling pig to stuffed squid and prawns, among many more.

Photo: Kostenko Maxim / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Montesa s/n, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Daily 1:30pm-4pm and 9pm-11:30pm

Phone: +34 926 92 35 35

Internet: www.asadorsanhuberto.es

Email: asadorsanhuberto@gmail.com

Pura Cepa Neotaberna



A fine selection of Mediterranean fusion cuisine is on offer at Pura Cepa Neotaberna, one of the best restaurants in the city. Enjoy the casual

tapas or opt for a complete dinner, and complete your meal with a refreshing cocktail or a choice wine from their cellar.

Photo: rocharibeiro / Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Torreon del Alcazar 9, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Sun-Wed 10am-12am, Thu-Sat 10am-2:30am

Phone: +34 647 61 40 03

Internet: www.puracepaneotaberna.com

Email: puracepaneotaberna@hotmail.com

Cafeteria Derecho y Ciencias Sociales



A university cafeteria might not be what you expect when you think of good eating in Spain, but this, the law and social science department, is no

ordinary cafeteria. The chefs here put together fantastic set menus and daily specials, often showcasing the best of regional cuisine, and you will surely not find a better deal anywhere in the city in terms of price to quality.

Photo: Tawat Suthirangkoon / Shutterstock.com

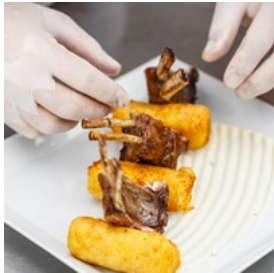
Address: Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Sociales, Ronda de Toledo, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-8:30pm

Phone: +34 617 36 01 46

Email: cafeteriafacultadderechoccss@gmail.com

Doña Croqueta



"Not everything in life is fun, but eating should be." This is the philosophy at Doña Croqueta, where eating is a delight thanks to their wonderful food offerings (where croquettes are the star) and the new outdoor dining area, Croqueta Deluxe.

Photo: grafvision / Shutterstock.com

Address: Ronda de Granada, 11, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-5pm and 7:30pm-12:30am

Phone: +34 926 25 02 36

Internet: www.donacroqueta.es

Email: hola@donacroqueta.es

CAFES



Kichigin / Shutterstock.com

Most cafes in Ciudad Real double as full restaurants or bars, and are thus worth visiting at any time of day or night, and their offering goes well beyond just coffee and pastries. That said, be sure to try a homemade dessert or churros dipped in thick hot chocolate at one of the city's many establishments for a memorable experience.

Churrería La Glorieta



A true gem in Ciudad Real, Churrería La Glorieta is a well-loved institution in the city. Visitors can watch locals socialise over breakfast and indulge in sweet churros dipped in thick chocolate at this cosy cafe.

Photo: Liliya Kandashevich / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Lentejuela, 3, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 6:15am-12pm

Phone: +34 926 21 28 98

Confitería La Deliciosa



Confitería La Deliciosa offers fresh handmade pastries and natural products, including truffle tart and regional specialities, all in their ideal location right in the centre of the city.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov / Shutterstock.com

Address: Plaza Mayor, 5, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Daily 9am-2:30pm and 5pm-9pm

Phone: +34 926 25 17 48

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Yulia Grigoryeva / Shutterstock.com

The best place in Ciudad Real for nightlife is without a doubt Plaza Mayor, surrounded by a slew of restaurants, bars, cafes and nightclubs. Many establishments host regular live music and support local artists, so be sure to check out a show while you're in town.

Plaza Mayor



Plaza Mayor, the city's main square, is the heart of civic life in Ciudad Real, a lively open space surrounded by shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars. When the weather is nice, throngs of visitors and local residents flock to the square, making it the best place in town for people watching, as well as the best place to go for food and nightlife.

Photo: Josep Curto/shutterstock
Address: Plaza Mayor, Ciudad Real

Disco Terraza Platinum



Summer nights in the region of La Mancha need to be spent outdoors, in one of the numerous 'terrazas', open-air terraces for drinking,

eating, and merriment. Terraza Platinum, located just east of the city centre, is one of the very best.

Photo: Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com
Address: Arrabal Sector D, 79, Ciudad Real
Opening hours: Fri-Sun 10:30pm-4am
Phone: +34 667 70 30 82
Email: terrazaplatinumcr@hotmail.com

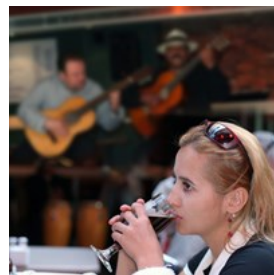
Cervecería Dallas



Cervecería Dallas is a well-loved brewery and restaurant that offers creative home-style cooking, including tasty gazpacho and stews, as well as great refreshing beer varieties.

Photo: Joshua Resnick / Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Hervas y Buendia, 3, Ciudad Real
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm and 8pm-11:30pm,
Sat-Sun 12pm-4:30pm
Phone: +34 926 22 90 94
Email: bartapasdallas@hotmail.com

Deicy Reilly's



Deicy Reilly's is Ciudad Real's mandatory Irish pub, complete with a great selection of international beers (including, of course, Guinness), as well as hearty pub food and frequent live music performances.

Photo: Galina Barskaya / Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle Alcantara, 2, Ciudad Real
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 4pm-3am, Fri-Sat 4am-4pm
Phone: +34 926 25 32 16
Email: peliferg@yahoo.es

SHOPPING



Syda Productions / Shutterstock.com

Ciudad Real is a great literary city, being a centre for Cervantes culture and scholarship, and as such visitors will find many fine bookstores around town. There is also great shopping to be found in the area around Plaza Mayor, where many fashion boutiques are located. Be sure to also pick up some regional specialities to take home with you.

Plaza Mayor



Plaza Mayor, the city's main square, is the heart of civic life in Ciudad Real, a lively open space surrounded by shops, restaurants, cafes and bars.

When the weather is nice throngs of visitors and local residents flock to the square, making it the best place in town for people watching, as well as the best place to go for food, shopping and nightlife.

Photo: Josep Curto/shutterstock

Address: Plaza Mayor, Ciudad Real

Librería Serendipia



Another great bookstore in Ciudad Real, Librería Serendipia carries a fine selection of both fiction and non-fiction. Regular literary events are also hosted, with invited speakers from around the country, and there is a small delicatessen area, as well.

Photo: ESB Professional / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calatrava 21, Ciudad Real

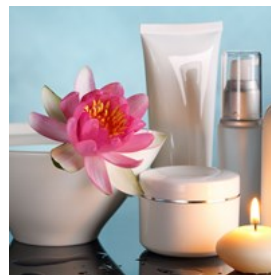
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-2:15pm and 5pm-9pm

Phone: +34 926 92 16 20

Internet: www.libreriaserendipia.com

Email: info@libreriaserendipia.com

El Herbolario



El Herbolario is a small but lovely boutique specialising in natural and organic beauty products, as well as health food, including gluten-free, sugar-free, vegan and whole-wheat items, the very best in healthy regional products.

Photo: Sofiaworld / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Ciruela, 3, Ciudad Real

Phone: +34 926 23 30 95

Internet: www.el-herbolario.com

Zona 84 Books & Games



Zona 84 offers a great selection of comic books, manga, board games and strategy games, as well as video games and merchandise. They also organise special events, including book launches and board game nights.

Photo: Studio Matitanera / Shutterstock.com

Address: C/Calatrava 24, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2:15pm and 5pm-9pm, Sat 10am-2pm

Phone: +34 926 25 49 66

Internet: www.zona84.es

Email: zona84@zona84.es

TOURIST INFORMATION



Anna Omelchenko / Shutterstock.com

Airport



The Ciudad Real Central Airport is no longer in operation, so visitors will have to fly into either Madrid-Barajas Airport (MAD) or Sevilla Airport (SVQ). Luckily, with new connections on Spain's high-speed rail, AVE, the ride from Madrid can take as little as 50 minutes (with 15-20 daily departures) and under 2 hours to Sevilla.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Madrid-Barajas Airport, Av de la Hispanidad, Madrid

Phone: +34 913 21 10 00

Internet:

www.aena.es/es/aeropuerto-madrid-barajas/index.html

Public Transport



Ciudad Real is small and compact enough to be explored on foot. For transport to other cities and areas, the central train station is listed below. High-speed rail connections to and from Madrid and Sevilla depart and arrive there.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Address: Avenida de Europa, 1, Ciudad Real

Phone: +34 902320320

Internet: www.adif.es

Taxi



Taxis are easy to find and can be hailed just about anywhere. They are usually white with a colourful stripe across the doors. Some reputable companies are:

Taxi Abel Jesús Violero
+34 667 69 43 68

Asistencia y Transporte Cano
+34 926 53 10 71

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post

Oficina de Correos



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Plaza de la Constitución 4, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-8:30pm, Sat 9am-1pm

Phone: +34 902 19 71 97

Internet: www.correos.es

Pharmacy

Farmacia Rosario Romero



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Calle de Toledo, 19, Ciudad Real

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-9:30pm, Sat 9:30am-2pm

Phone: +34 926 22 33 59

Internet: www.farmaciarosarioromero.es

Telephone

Country code: +34 Area
code: 826



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

220 v, 50 hz Standard
European plug



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

75,000

Currency

Euro, 1 EUR = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops in Ciudad Real are normally open from 10am to 2pm and from 5pm to 9pm on weekdays, but there are exceptions. Larger shopping centres and shops stay open all

day.

Internet

www.turismociudadreal.com

www.ciudadreal.es

turismo.ciudadreal.es

Newspapers

La Tribuna de Ciudad Real — www.latribunadeciudadreal.es

El Día de Ciudad Real —

<https://www.eldiadigital.es/sec/ciudad-real>

El Mundo — www.elmundo.es

El País — www.elpais.com

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

Concejalía de Turismo

Plaza Mayor, 1, Ciudad Real

+34 926 21 64 86

turismo@ayto-ciudadreal.es

Information is subject to change. Please contact your cLifestyle Consultant for the most up-to-date recommendations.