

# MÉRIDA

*Mérida, the political capital of Extremadura province, is famous for its Roman ruins. Ruins of an amphitheatre, a bridge, aqueducts, baths, and an arena are scattered throughout the town, which is also a stop on the Ruta de Plata, a former commercial route connecting Seville in the south with Gijón in the north.*

**Location:** Mérida is located in the southern part of Extremadura province, which borders Portugal, as well as Andalucía, Castilla la Mancha, y Castilla y León.

**Population:** 60,000

**History:** Mérida was founded in 25 BC and became the largest Roman city in the Iberian Peninsula with more than 40,000 residents. Centuries later the city was conquered by the Visigoths and the Moors, and eventually incorporated into the Spanish kingdom in 1230, but it never returned to the glory of its Roman period. In 1993 Mérida was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



**Climate:** In general, Extremadura has a harsh climate. There is very little precipitation, and summers are intense and hot, and winters are quite cold.

**Geography:** Plains dominate the landscape in Mérida, and Extremadura in general.



**Local Industries:** Tourism, Livestock

**Famous Monuments:** Roman Art Museum, Amphitheatre, Bridge.

**Local Highlights:** Festival of Classical Theater, every July and August.

**Cultural Insight:** Cuisine in Extremadura reflects the region's tradition of animal husbandry. Dishes made with pork, lamb pigeon, and rabbit are common.

## More Information:

- [http://goeurope.about.com/cs/spain/a/merida\\_guide.htm](http://goeurope.about.com/cs/spain/a/merida_guide.htm)
- [http://www.spainexchange.com/travel\\_spain/cities\\_spain.php?cityname=M%C3%A9rida](http://www.spainexchange.com/travel_spain/cities_spain.php?cityname=M%C3%A9rida)
- <http://www.merida.es/> (Spanish)