

Mon, Feb 15 – Toledo

Overview:

- Wake up in Madrid, quick breakfast
- drive to Toledo
- Drop off car at hotel and take 1 hour walk around Toledo
- lunch: something leisurely around Toledo as we walk
- After lunch, continue the walking tour

Driving Directions:

89.4 km 1 hour 2 mins

1. Head east on Carrera de San Jerónimo toward Calle de Echegaray - 0.3 km
2. Continue onto Plaza de las Cortes - 0.2 km
3. Slight right at Plaza de Cánovas del Castillo - 29 m
4. Continue onto Paseo del Prado - 0.6 km
5. Continue onto Plaza del Emperador Carlos V - 79 m
6. Turn right to stay on Plaza del Emperador Carlos V - 0.2 km
7. Continue onto Paseo de Sta María de la Cabeza - 1.9 km
8. Continue onto A-42 (signs for Toledo/R-5/Badajoz/Plaza de Fernández Ladreda) - 3.2 km
9. Take exit 6 to merge onto Autopista M-40/M-40 - 1.4 km
10. Slight right at R-5 (signs for Leganés/Via Lusitana/R-5/Toledo/Badajoz) Partial toll road - 16.4 km
11. Take exit 15 to merge onto AP-41 toward Toledo Partial toll road - 60.1 km
12. Take the exit - 0.3 km
13. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit toward A-42/Madrid/N-401/Ciudad Real/N-403/Ávila/Toledo - 0.6 km
14. Take the exit toward Toledo/N-401/Ciudad Real - 0.3 km
15. Slight right toward Av de Castilla-La Mancha (signs for Toledo) Go through 2 traffic circles - 1.2 km
16. Continue straight onto Av de Castilla-La Mancha - 0.4 km
17. Slight left at Cuesta de Doce Cantos - 0.3 km
18. Continue onto Paseo de Cabestreros - 0.7 km
19. Paseo de Cabestreros turns slightly left and becomes Calle de Carreras San Sebastián - 0.6 km
20. Turn right at Calle del Calvario - 0.3 km
21. Turn left at Calle de los Descalzos - 6 m
22. Turn left at Paseo del Tránsito - 0.1 km
23. Sharp right at Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito - 56 m
24. Take the 1st left to stay on Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito - 68 m

Arrive at: Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito 45002 Toledo, Spain



Toledo History:

Long the spiritual capital of Spain, Toledo perches atop a rocky mount with steep ochre hills rising on either side, bound on three sides by the Río Tajo (Tagus River). When the Romans came in 192 BC, they fortified the highest point of the rock, where you now see the Alcázar. This stronghold was later remodeled by the Visigoths. In the 8th century, the Moors arrived.

The Moors strengthened Toledo's reputation as a center of religion and learning. Unusual tolerance was extended to those who practiced Christianity (the Mozarabs), as well as to the town's exceptionally large Jewish population. Today, the Moorish legacy is evident in Toledo's strong crafts tradition, the mazelike arrangement of the streets, and the predominance of brick rather than stone. For the Moors, beauty was a quality to be savored within rather than displayed on the surface, and it's significant that even Toledo's cathedral—one of the most richly endowed in Spain—is hard to see from the outside, largely obscured by the warren of houses around it.

Alfonso VI, aided by El Cid ("Lord Conqueror"), captured the city in 1085 and styled himself emperor of Toledo. Under the Christians, the town's strong intellectual life was maintained, and Toledo became famous for its school of translators, who spread to the West knowledge of Arab medicine, law, culture, and philosophy. Religious tolerance continued, and during the rule of Peter the Cruel (so named because he allegedly had members of his own family murdered to advance himself), a Jewish banker, Samuel Levi, became the royal treasurer and one of the wealthiest men in town. By the early 1600s, however, hostility toward Jews and Arabs had grown as Toledo developed into a bastion of the Catholic Church.

As Florence had the Medici and Rome the papacy, so Toledo had its long line of cardinals, most notably Mendoza, Tavera, and Cisneros. Under these patrons of the arts, Renaissance Toledo emerged as a center of humanism. Economically and politically, however, Toledo began to decline in the 16th century. The expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, as part of the Spanish Inquisition, had serious economic consequences for Toledo. When Madrid became the permanent center of the Spanish court in 1561, Toledo's political importance eroded, and the expulsion from Spain of the converted Arabs (Moriscos) in 1601 led to the departure of most of Toledo's artisan community. The years the painter El Greco spent in Toledo—from 1572 to his death in 1614—were those of the town's decline. Its transformation into a major tourist center began in the late 19th century, when the works of El Greco came to be widely appreciated after years of neglect. Today, Toledo is conservative, prosperous, and expensive.

Toledo's winding streets and steep hills can be exasperating, especially when you're looking for a specific sight. Take the entire day to absorb the town's medieval trappings, and expect to get a little lost.

Walking Route:

- 1) **Santo Tomé** - Topped with a Mudejar tower, this chapel was specially built to house El Greco's most famous painting,



The Burial of Count Orgaz, and remains devoted to that purpose. The painting portrays the benefactor of the church being buried with the posthumous assistance of St. Augustine and St. Stephen, who have miraculously appeared at the funeral to thank him for all the money he gave to religious institutions named after them. Though the count's burial took place in the 14th century, El Greco painted the onlookers in contemporary costumes and included people he knew; the boy in the foreground is one of El Greco's sons, and the sixth figure on the left is said to be the artist himself.

To avoid crowds in summer, come as soon as the building opens. Cost: EUR 2.30 mid-Oct.-Feb., daily 10-5:45

- 2) **La Catedral de Toledo** - Jorge Manuel Theotokópoulos was responsible for the cathedral's Mozarabic chapel, the elongated dome of which crowns the right-hand side of the west facade. The rest of this facade is mainly early 15th century and has a depiction of Mary presenting her robe to Toledo's patron saint, the Visigothic



Ildefonsus. Enter the cathedral from the 14th-century cloisters to the left of the west facade. The primarily 13th-century architecture was inspired by Chartres and other Gothic cathedrals in France, but the squat proportions give it a Spanish feel, as do the wealth and weight of the furnishings and the location of the elaborate choir in the center of the nave.

Immediately to your right as you enter the building is a beautifully carved plateresque doorway by Covarrubias, marking the entrance to the Treasury. The latter houses a small Crucifixion by the Italian painter Cimabue and an extraordinarily intricate late-15th-century monstrance by Juan del Arfe, a silversmith of German descent; the ceiling is an excellent example of Mudejar (11th- to 16th-century Moorish-influenced) workmanship.

From here, walk around to the ambulatory; off to the right side is a chapter house with a strange and quintessentially Spanish mixture of Italianate frescoes by Juan de Borgoña. In the middle of the ambulatory is an example of baroque illusionism by Narciso Tomé known as the Transparente, a blend of painting, stucco, and sculpture. Finally, off the northern end of the ambulatory, you'll come to the sacristy and several El Grecos, including one version of El Espolio (Christ Being Stripped of His Raiment). This painting is considered to be the first recorded instance of the painter in Spain. Before leaving the sacristy, look up at the colorful and spirited late-baroque ceiling painting by the Italian Luca Giordano **Cost: EUR 7 Open: Mon.-Sat. 10-6:30, Sun. 2-6:30**



- 3) **Calle del Comercio** - the town's narrow and lively pedestrian thoroughfare, lined with bars and shops and shaded in summer by awnings.

- 4) **Plaza de Zocodover** - Toledo's main square was built in the early 17th century as part of an unsuccessful attempt to impose a rigid geometry on the chaotic Moorish ground plan. This teeny plaza is also home to the largest and oldest marzipan store in town, Santo Tomé—and Toledo's only McDonald's. You can catch inner-city buses here and the tourist office is just around the corner.



- 5) **Puente de Alcántara** - Roman in origin, this is the town's oldest bridge. Next to it is a heavily restored castle built after the Christian capture of 1085 and, above this, a vast and depressingly severe military academy, a typical example of fascist architecture under Franco.



- 6) **Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz** - A gardener will show you around this mosque-chapel, in a park above the ramparts; if he's not around, ask at the house opposite. Originally a tiny Visigothic church, the chapel was transformed into a mosque during the Moorish occupation; the Islamic arches and vaulting survived, making this the most important relic of Moorish Toledo. The chapel got its name when the horse of Alfonso VI, riding into Toledo in triumph in 1085, fell to its knees out front (a white stone marks the spot); it was then discovered that a candle had burned continuously behind the masonry the whole time the Muslims had been in power. Allegedly, the first Mass of the Reconquest was held here, and later a Mudejar apse was added. **Cost: EUR 2.30 Open: Oct. 1-Mar. 1, daily 10-5:45**



- 7) **San Roman** - A virtually unspoiled part of Toledo hides this early-13th-century Mudejar church with extensive remains of frescoes inside. It has been deconsecrated and is now the Museo de los Concilios y de la Cultura Visigótica, and has statuary, manuscript illustrations, and jewelry.



Cost: Free Open: Tues.-Sat. 10-2 and 4-6:30, Sun. 10-2. Closed Monday.

- 8) **Puente de San Martín** - This pedestrian bridge on the western edge of the town dates from 1203 and has splendid horseshoe arches.



- 9) **San Juan de los Reyes** - This convent church in western Toledo was erected by Ferdinand and Isabella to commemorate their victory at the Battle of Toro in 1476 and was intended to be their burial place. The building is largely



the work of architect Juan Guas, who considered it his masterpiece and asked to be buried here himself. In true plateresque fashion, the white interior is covered with inscriptions and heraldic motifs.

Cost: EUR 2.30 Open: Oct. 1-Mar. 1, daily 10-5:45

- 10) **Santa María la Blanca** - Founded in 1203, Toledo's second synagogue is nearly two centuries older than the more elaborate Tránsito. The white interior has a forest of columns supporting capitals of enchanting filigree workmanship. Stormed in the early 15th century by a Christian mob, the synagogue was later used as a carpenter's workshop, a store, a barracks, and a refuge for reformed prostitutes. **Cost: EUR 2.30 Open: Oct.-Mar., daily 10-6**



Hotel Pintor El Greco

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Fax: +34 925 21 58 19

E-Mail: info@hotel-pintorelgreco.com



Double with bath

Bedroom with a brick arch in the room and in the bathroom. Very cozy room with double bed. Vistas over a typical patio of Toledo. Very quiet.

The type of floor is: terracotta

Private bathroom with integrated bath and shower with bidet in all rooms

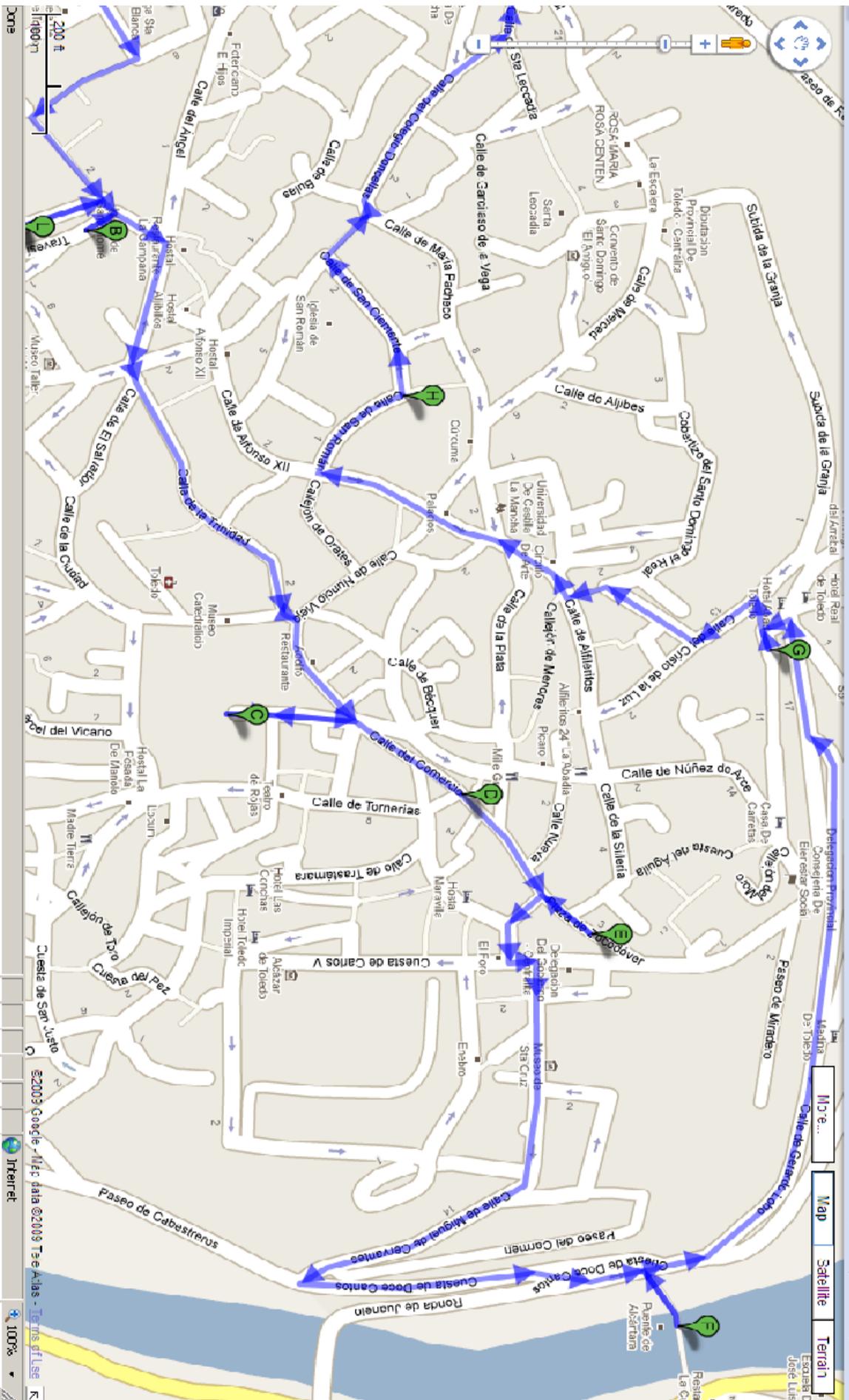
Hair dryer

2 Double with bath : Best Available Rate 56.07 €
Breakfast not included
Feb 15, 2010

€56.07 each
€112.14 (7.00% VAT not included)



- Your reservation has been confirmed.
Your reservation code is: 100118-68579.
Your cancellation code is: 4117396.
Map rotated 90 degrees.



Map Satellite Terrain

Escuela D José Luis

Restaurante Le Coq

Puente de Alarcón

Ronda de Juanein

Cuesta de Doce Santos

Calle de Miguel de Cervantes

Paseo del Carmen

Calle de Doce Santos

Museo de San Cruz

Ensayo

Escuela D José Luis

Restaurante Le Coq

Puente de Alarcón

Ronda de Juanein

Cuesta de Doce Santos

Calle de Miguel de Cervantes

Paseo del Carmen

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Ensayo

Escuela D José Luis

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Ronda de Juanein

Cuesta de Doce Santos

Calle de Miguel de Cervantes

Paseo del Carmen

Calle de Doce Santos

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Walking Tour Directions

Start at: Hotel Pintor el Greco Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito 13 45002 Toledo, Spain

1. Head north on Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito toward Calle de San Juan de Dios - 71 m
2. Turn right at Calle de San Juan de Dios - 15 m
3. Turn right at Plaza del Conde - 26 m

Arrive at: Parroquia De Santo Tome Plaza del Conde 4 45002 Toledo, Spain

4. Head northwest on Plaza del Conde toward Calle de San Juan de Dios - 26 m
5. Turn right at Travesía del Conde - 45 m
6. Turn right at Calle de Santo Tomé - 0.1 km
7. Slight left at Plaza de El Salvador - 15 m
8. Continue onto Calle de la Trinidad - 0.2 km
9. Turn left to stay on Calle de la Trinidad - 11 m
10. Turn right at Calle del Hombre de Palo - 0.1 km
11. Turn right at Calle de Chapinería - 62 m
12. Continue onto Calle de la Chapinería - 34 m

Arrive at: Catedral de Toledo 45002 Toledo, Spain

13. Head north on Calle de la Chapinería toward Calle del Maestro Pedro Pérez - 34 m
14. Continue onto Calle de Chapinería - 62 m
15. Slight right at Calle del Comercio - 0.1 km

Arrive at: Calle del Comercio 45001 Toledo, Spain

16. Head northeast on Calle del Comercio toward Cuesta de los Pajaritos - 0.1 km
17. Continue straight onto Plaza de Zocodóver - 48 m

Arrive at: Plaza de Zocodóver 45001 Toledo, Spain

18. Head southwest on Plaza de Zocodóver toward Calle de la Sillería - 48 m
19. Turn left to stay on Plaza de Zocodóver - 35 m
20. Turn left to stay on Plaza de Zocodóver - 32 m
21. Turn left to stay on Plaza de Zocodóver - 20 m
22. Turn right at Travesía de Sta Fe - 30 m
23. Continue onto Calle de Miguel de Cervantes - 0.3 km
24. Sharp left at Cuesta de Doce Cantos - 0.2 km
25. Slight right to stay on Cuesta de Doce Cantos - 42 m
26. Continue onto Ronda de Juanelo - 41 m
27. Turn right Destination will be on the right - 52 m

Arrive at: Puente de Alcántara

28. Head west toward Ronda de Juanelo - 52 m
29. Turn right at Ronda de Juanelo - 15 m
30. Continue onto Cuesta de Doce Cantos - 33 m
31. Slight left at Calle de Gerardo Lobo - 0.5 km
32. Slight right at Calle de las Carretas - 0.1 km
33. Turn left - 21 m
34. Turn left at Calle del Cristo de la Luz Destination will be on the right - 16 m

Arrive at: Mezquita Cristo de la Luz 45003 Toledo, Spain

35. Head west - 16 m
36. Continue straight onto Calle del Cristo de la Luz - 28 m
37. Turn left to stay on Calle del Cristo de la Luz - 59 m
38. Turn right at Cuesta de las Carmelitas Descalzos - 80 m
39. Turn left at Calle de las Carmelitas Descalzas - 30 m
40. Turn right at Calle de Alfileritos - 23 m
41. Continue onto Plaza de San Vicente - 51 m
42. Continue onto Calle de Alfonso X 'El Sabio' - 0.1 km
43. Turn right at Calle de San Román - 94 m

Arrive at: Iglesia de San Román Plaza de San Román 45002 Toledo, Spain

44. Head west on Plaza de San Román toward Calle de San Román - 39 m
45. Continue onto Calle de San Clemente - 94 m
46. Turn right at Calle de San Pedro Mártir - 49 m
47. Turn left at Plaza de la Cruz - 13 m
48. Slight right at Calle del Colegio Doncellas - 0.2 km
49. Slight left at Calle de Sta Leocadia - 25 m
50. Continue onto Cuesta de Sta Leocadia - 68 m
51. Slight left at Calle de las Carmelitas Descalzas - 79 m
52. Continue onto Bajada de San Martín Destination will be on the left - 0.3 km

Arrive at: Puente de San Martín 45002 Toledo, Spain

53. Head northeast toward Paseo de Recaredo - 76 m
54. Continue straight onto Bajada de San Martín - 0.1 km
55. Turn right at Travesía de San Martín - 34 m
56. Turn right at Lugar de la Puerta del Cambrón - 24 m
57. Turn left at Calle de los Alamillos de San Martín - 35 m
58. Continue onto Bajada de San Martín - 72 m
59. Slight right at Calle de los Reyes Católicos Destination will be on the right - 0.1 km

Arrive at: Monasterio San Juan de los Reyes Calle de los Reyes Católicos 17 45002 Toledo, Spain

60. Head south on Calle de los Reyes Católicos toward Callejón de los Jacintos Destination will be on the left - 58 m

Arrive at: Sinagoga de Santa María La Blanca Calle de los Reyes Católicos 4 45002 Toledo, Spain

61. Head south on Calle de los Reyes Católicos toward Calle de Sta Ana - 41 m
62. Turn left at Travesía de la Judería - 53 m
63. Turn right to stay on Travesía de la Judería - 93 m
64. Turn left at Calle de San Juan de Dios - 88 m
65. Turn right at Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito - 71 m

End at: Hotel Pintor el Greco Calle de los Alamillos del Tránsito 45002 Toledo, Spain

Link:

<[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Calle+de+los+Alamillos+del+Tr%C3%A1nsito+13,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Hotel+Pintor+el+Greco\)&daddr=Plaza+del+Conde+4,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Parroquia+de+Santo+Tome\)+to:Catedral+de+Toledo+to:Calle+del+Comercio,+toledo+to:Plaza+de+Zocodover,+toledo+to:Puente+de+Alc%C3%A1ntara+to:Mezquita+del+Cristo+de+la+Luz,+toledo+to:Plaza+de+San+Rom%C3%A1n,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Iglesia+de+San+Rom%C3%A1n\)+to:Puente+de+San+Mart%C3%ADn+to:Calle+de+los+Reyes+Cat%C3%B3licos+17,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Monasterio+San+Juan+de+los+Reyes\)+to:Calle+de+los+Reyes+Cat%C3%B3licos+4,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Sinagoga+de+Santa+Mar%C3%ADa+La+Blanca\)+to:Calle+de+los+Alamillos+del+Tr%C3%A1nsito+13,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+\(Hotel+Pintor+el+Greco\)&geocode=FWInYAlDwWojC_yFYX7Qz_atSZQ%3BFUopYAlDjYjC_yEmU9r4U9WszA%3BFwYAlDwprC_yn7SLuCPgtqDTFgZIn39EADHQ%3BFQzYAlDJ7C_yINE3zBpQtqDTFkjdAkq0_2A%3BFWU2YAlDg6PC_yn9d0-bpQtqDTFS9AGSRw170Q%3BFY4YAlDpLLC_ymvdDWhugtqDTH6qjreYFXBDQ%3BFaQ6YAlDxJJC_ykVvN2vqAtqDTGwZVn39EADHQ%3BFYixYAlD2Y7C_yG3NIA-](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Calle+de+los+Alamillos+del+Tr%C3%A1nsito+13,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Hotel+Pintor+el+Greco)&daddr=Plaza+del+Conde+4,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Parroquia+de+Santo+Tome)+to:Catedral+de+Toledo+to:Calle+del+Comercio,+toledo+to:Plaza+de+Zocodover,+toledo+to:Puente+de+Alc%C3%A1ntara+to:Mezquita+del+Cristo+de+la+Luz,+toledo+to:Plaza+de+San+Rom%C3%A1n,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Iglesia+de+San+Rom%C3%A1n)+to:Puente+de+San+Mart%C3%ADn+to:Calle+de+los+Reyes+Cat%C3%B3licos+17,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Monasterio+San+Juan+de+los+Reyes)+to:Calle+de+los+Reyes+Cat%C3%B3licos+4,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Sinagoga+de+Santa+Mar%C3%ADa+La+Blanca)+to:Calle+de+los+Alamillos+del+Tr%C3%A1nsito+13,+45002+Toledo,+Spain+(Hotel+Pintor+el+Greco)&geocode=FWInYAlDwWojC_yFYX7Qz_atSZQ%3BFUopYAlDjYjC_yEmU9r4U9WszA%3BFwYAlDwprC_yn7SLuCPgtqDTFgZIn39EADHQ%3BFQzYAlDJ7C_yINE3zBpQtqDTFkjdAkq0_2A%3BFWU2YAlDg6PC_yn9d0-bpQtqDTFS9AGSRw170Q%3BFY4YAlDpLLC_ymvdDWhugtqDTH6qjreYFXBDQ%3BFaQ6YAlDxJJC_ykVvN2vqAtqDTGwZVn39EADHQ%3BFYixYAlD2Y7C_yG3NIA-)

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