

## FACT FILE

**Capital:** Mérida is the administrative capital of Extremadura

**Provinces:** Badajoz, Cáceres

**Location:** The "Comunidad Autónoma de Extremadura" (Autonomous Community of Extremadura) is in south-west Spain and borders Portugal to the west, Castilla and León to the north and Andalucía to the south.

**Connections:** Extremadura has one of the best and most modern road networks in the country, linking up the whole region, and a motorway system which connects to all the major cities surrounding it.

The Madrid-Lisbon motorway (A-5) crosses the region from east to west and the Sevilla-Salamanca motorway (A-66) crosses it from North to South linking up with the Extremadura North motorway. Air connections from the airport of Talavera la Real, close to Badajoz - with direct flights to Madrid and Barcelona, and ongoing projects like the high speed AVE train linking Madrid to Lisbon and a future international airport complement the modern infrastructure within the region. Closest international airports are located in Madrid, Lisbon and Seville.



**Area:** 41.602 km<sup>2</sup> an area larger than Holland, Belgium or Denmark.

**Population:** nearly 1.100.000. The population density per sq. km is only 27 people compared to the national average of 75 people and the European average of 170.

**Climate:** Mediterranean with some Atlantic influence.

**Landscape:** Mountain ranges and pasture lands, Sierra de Gredos to the north, Montes de Toledo in the centre and the Sierra Morena to the south. Highest point 2.400m lowest 130m. Crossed from east to west by the Tagus and north to south by the Guadiano, both rivers have been important hydraulic resources since Roman times.

**Economy:** Principal activities are in agriculture employing 30% of the active population. Olives, vines, cereals, fruit and vegetables, pigs, sheep and cattle, forestry and tourism are amongst Extremadura's main exports.

**Tourism:** Extremadura has 7 Paradores de Turismo, 30 campsites, 8 hotels with spas and several hundred rural houses and inns. The main cities of Badajoz, Cáceres, Mérida and Plasencia offer a range of excellent hotels from 3 to 5 stars.