

Ávila & Segovia

Avila

The famous walls are the symbol of the city, but Ávila is also a city of contrasts: the hustle and bustle of the *Mercado* (market) contrasting with the peace of the religious buildings and their cloisters. With its churches and convents, beautiful palaces and impressive cathedral, Ávila has a distinctive character and identity in which the spirit of Santa Teresa of Jesus and of Saint John of the Cross still vibrate. The house where Santa Teresa de Jesus' was born is now a well-known Church containing the garden and playground where the Saint spent many hours. The church itself has a neoclassic and baroque façade, and there is also a Carmelite Convent. Personal objects, relics, and images related to the life of the Saint can be seen.



Segovia

Segovia is Spain and Castile at its best - twisting alleyways, the highest concentration of Romanesque churches in all Europe, pedestrian streets where no cars are allowed, all surrounded by the city's medieval wall which itself is bordered by two rivers and an extensive green-belt park with miles of shaded walks. On the north-west end of the wall is the famous [Alcázar](#) castle, a source of inspiration for Walt Disney, and where Queen Isabel promised Columbus the financial backing he needed to discover America. To the south-east is the world-renowned Roman Aqueduct, the largest and best preserved of its kind

anywhere, which served as the mintmark on all coins struck in the city from 1455 to 1864. The tallest building in Segovia is still the 16th-century Cathedral, a prominent landmark that can be seen on all approaches to the city.

