

Conference Venue (17th March) and Meeting Venue (18th March)

Zona: Old Town
Pza. San Juan 11
10003



NH COLLECTION

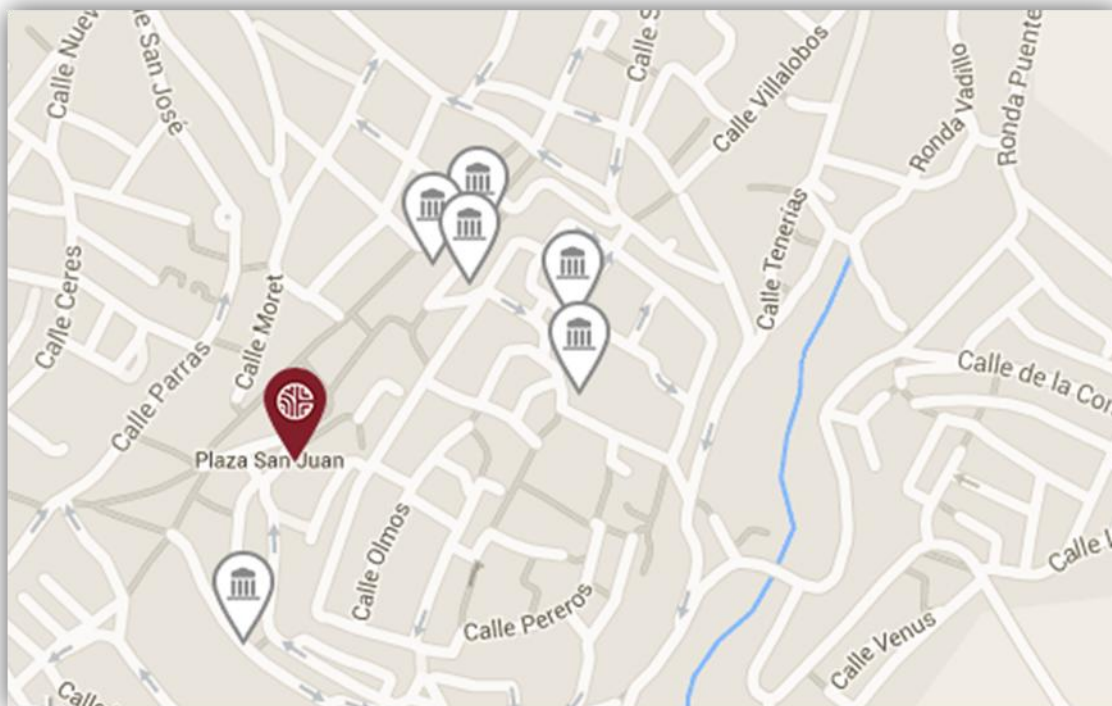
Hotel NH Collection Cáceres Palacio de Oquendo



NH Palacio de Oquendo (Old Town)

Pza. San Juan 11
Cáceres (España)
Tlf. 927 21 58 00

nhcollectionpalaciodeoquendo@nh-hotels.com



ACCOMODATION AND MEETING LOCATION

1. We recommend for your stay the Hotel **NH Palacio de Oquendo**, a 4 star hotel located in a Renaissance Palace that will offer the members of the project a very good deal, just 3 minutes walk from the Conference venue and the venue where the partner meeting will take place.



You can check the hotel here: <http://bit.ly/PsF2Jr>

The cost per night (incl. breakfast) will be approx. 65€ for a single room (75€ for a double). The hotel is situated directly in the city centre, Plaza San Juan 11, just a few minutes' walk from the Old Town.

If you would like to stay in this Hotel, we can help you with booking by filling (the registration form attached.) the on-line registration form available in this link:

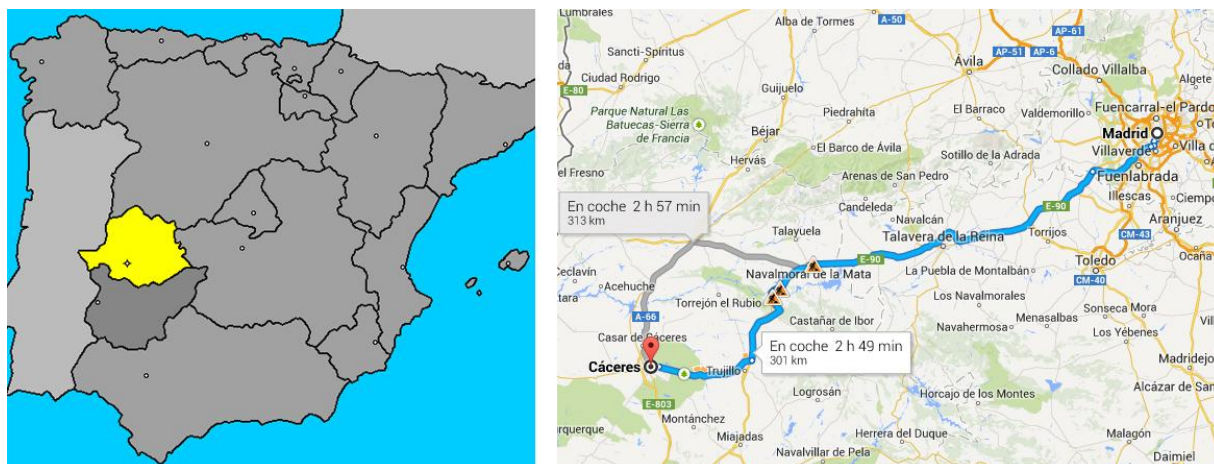
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TdsbQnwGp1CjdQo-wM0xKSBINAE8CN2F-7vgu5MWq-U/viewform?usp=send_form

2. In case you choose to stay in Cáceres in a different hotel, you can consult the website www.booking.com.

We recommend other hotels in the city centre and located at a distance of 5 minutes from the venue:

- Gran Hotel Don Manuel
- Hotel Casa Don Fernando
- Hotel Albarrágena
- Hotel Alfonso IX
- Hotel Iberia Plaza América

HOW TO ARRIVE TO CÁCERES FROM MADRID



Cáceres is the capital of Cáceres province, in the autonomous community of Extremadura, Spain. As of 2013, its population was of more than 96,000 inhabitants. The walled city is declared a World Heritage City.

How to use the metro (underground) in Madrid directly from the Barajas airport. It will take you to both the train or the bus station to get to Cáceres.

<http://www.metromadrid.es/en/index.html>

From Madrid by train

The train from Cáceres to Madrid takes about 3h30 and costs about 50 euros (return)

You can check schedules on www.renfe.es. You can get the ticket on line, but probably the best option is to book in person at the train station.

From Madrid by bus

There are regular buses throughout the day between Madrid and Cáceres. The journey takes around 4 hours and costs about 20 euros each way. Round trip is cheaper. Tickets can only be bought online from www.avanzabus.com. Alternatively, buy your tickets in person at the bus station.

The bus station you need to get from Madrid to Cáceres is **Mendez Alvaro**. Read more about Bus and Train Stations in Madrid.

From Madrid by car

Travelling mainly by the A-5 highway, the 300km trip from Madrid to Cáceres takes about 3h30.

By plane

Cáceres does not have an airport. The region of Extremadura has an Airport (Talavera la Real) located in the province of Badajoz, just 110 km by car (A-66 + A-5). So, it is now worthy to travel by plane from Madrid to Talavera and then rent a car to Cáceres.

Once you arrive at Cáceres bus or train station:

- Take a **taxi to go to the hotel**. It will cost around 6 €.
- Walk to the hotel. It will take 40 minutes from both bus and train station.

WELCOME TO CÁCERES

With your departure for Spain fast approaching, many of you have begun to wonder what it's going to be like spending two or three days in Cáceres. What will you experience living and working in Cáceres?



Just the mention of "Spain" conjures up familiar images in all of us, whether we've been there or not: visions of spirited bullfighters, crowded, noisy tapas bars, haughty flamenco dancers, sun-drenched castles and beaches, colorful Semana Santa parades. This is the Spain, exotic and romantic, that drew thousands and thousands of visitors to celebrate the World's Fair in Sevilla and the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. Those of us who travel in quest of the Spain of Seneca or of Don Quijote will still find enough of it around to satisfy our most romantic expectations. From the Altamira cave paintings in Santander to the Roman aqueduct in Segovia; from the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela to the storied walls of Avila; and, from the Moorish Alhambra in Granada to the Prado and Royal Palace in Madrid, the remains of Spain's rich and fabled past are easy to find.

Downtown Cáceres

"The gorgeous Plaza Mayor was the main attraction of the city, not only for its beautiful roman architecture but because it had cafes, restaurants and shops. While walking through the old part of the city, it is not unusual to look above you and see huge storks surrounded by their nests."



Caitlin Sherman, K'09, says "Cáceres is less busy and less modern than most of Spain. They still close most shops from 2pm-5pm (unlike most cities) and it is very safe and friendly. It is a college town, so most bars are full of students. Also, it is in the least expensive region of Spain." Sarah Sirajuddin, K'08, is of the opinion that "This is a program for people who really want to learn to speak Spanish. By the time you finish SPAN 202, you're completely ready for this program, and I noticed that we were all much more comfortable going out and speaking Spanish than any of the Madrid students. It's all because Cáceres is a small town, so not as many people speak English, so you are forced to use Spanish almost all the time."

History

The origins of Cáceres go back to prehistoric times, as evidenced by the paintings in the Cuevas de Maltravieso (Maltravieso Caves) which date back to the late Paleolithic period. Visitors can see remains from medieval times, the Roman occupation, Moorish occupation and the Golden age of Jewish culture in Spain. Cáceres has four main areas to be explored: the historical quarter, the Jewish quarter, the modern center, and the outskirts.

The first evidence of humans living in Cáceres is from the Late Paleolithic era, around 25,000 BC. Cáceres as a city was founded as CastraCaecilia by Quintus CaeciliusMetellus Pius and started to gain importance as a strategic city under Roman occupation, and remains found in the city suggest that it was a thriving center as early as 25 BC. Some remains of the first city walls built by the Romans in the 3rd and 4th centuries still exist, including one gateway, the Arco del Cristo.

La Paz Hermitage.

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the city was occupied by the Visigoths, and entered a period of decline until the Arabs conquered Cáceres in the 8th century. The city spent the next few centuries mostly under Arab rule, although power alternated several times between Moors and Christians. During this time, the Arabs rebuilt the city, including a wall, palaces, and various towers, including the Torre de Bujaco. Cáceres was reconquered by the Christians in the 13th century (1229). During this period the city had an important Jewish quarter: in the 15th century when the total population was 2,000, nearly 140 Jewish families lived in Cáceres. The Jewish population was expelled by Queen Isabella and Ferdinand of Aragon in 1492, but many remains of the Jewish presence of the period can still be seen today in the Barrio San Antonio.

Cáceres flourished during the Reconquista and the Discovery of America, as influential Spanish families and nobles built homes and small palaces there, and many members of families from Extremadura participated in voyages to America where they made their fortunes. In the 19th century, Cáceres became the capital of the province, marking a period of growth which was halted by the Spanish Civil War. Today, the headquarters of the university as well as several regional government departments are to be found in Cáceres.

Places to visit

Cathedrals and churches

- Church and convent of San Pablo (15th century)
- Convent of la Compañía de Jesus, in Baroque style, today used for art exhibitions
- Church of Santa María, cathedral built in the 13th century, in Gothic style
- Iglesia de San Mateo, a 15th-century church built on the site of a former mosque
- Iglesia de San Francisco Javier (18th century), in Baroque style
- Iglesia de San Juan, large majestic church built between the 13th and 15th century
- Hermitage of San Antonio Iglesia de Santo Domingo
- Hermitage de la Paz
- Church of Santiago

Wall

- Torre de Bujaco (12th century)
- Arco de la Estrella (18th century)
- Torre de Sande (14th-15th centuries)

Palaces and statelhomes

- Palacio de los Golfines de Arriba
- Palacio de los Golfines de Abajo. Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand I lived here
- Palacio del Comendador de Alcuescar
- Palacio-Fortaleza de los Torreorgaz, today a Parador hotel
- Palacio de Carvajal (15th century). It is now seat of the Patronage Office for Tourism and Handicraft of the province.

Museums

- Museum of Cáceres - ALJIBE - housed in La Casa de las Veletas y la Casa de los Caballos in the historical quarter.
- La Casa-Museo Árabe, between the Plaza San Jorge and the Arco del Cristo. Arab culture, art and remains.
- Museo Concatedral de Cáceres, in the Plaza Santa María. Religious art.
- Museo Piedrilla-Guayasamín
- Museo Vostell _ Modern and Contemporary Art. Malpartida de Cáceres.

Nature reserves and rural tourism

- Monfragüe National Park: It encompasses 85 km² (33 sq mi) or 17,852 hectares. The park contains one of the largest areas of Mediterranean forest and scrub in Spain with over 1,400 different species of trees. A favorite with birdwatchers, the park has the world's largest colony of Black Vulture and Spanish Imperial Eagle.
- Los Barruecos Natural Monument, 14 kilometres (9 miles) away from the city, in the locality of Malpartida de Cáceres. It has massive granite boulders with the only colony of White Stork nesting on them. There is also a medieval reservoir and a mill for wool washing. The building complex has been restored and houses a surprising collection of art by German artist Wolf Vostell, who was an important member of the fluxus movement. Spring brings an explosion of colour with the blossom of Spanish White Broom all pervasive in the area.
- The Cáceres and Trujillo plains are protected under the ZEPA (Spanish for Special Protection Area for birds or SPA) protection figure.



Monfragüe National Park

<http://www.parquedemonfrague.com/>