





GUIDE

Tomelloso's Romería

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Tourist Guide to the Romería of Tomelloso

The Tomelloso Rmería is one of the most deeply rooted and popular festivals in Castilla-La Mancha. Celebrated in honour of the Virgen de las Viñas, patron saint of the city, it is a religious, cultural and popular event which brings together thousands of people every year. The festival is notable for its spectacular floats, colourful traditional costumes, the tradition of harnessing mules and the fervour of its religious ceremonies.

History and origin

The first pilgrimage was held in 1944 as a prayer for rain, in a ceremony known as the "Water Pilgrimage". The image of the Virgin was transferred from the parish church to the Pinilla estate, where her chapel would be built. In 1945, the Pinilla Sanctuary was inaugurated and since then the pilgrimage has been celebrated without interruption. It has gone from being a humble pilgrimage to becoming a massive celebration, aspiring to be recognised as a national tourist attraction.

The reatas: living heritage of the Pilgrimage

One of the most unique and striking aspects of the Tomelloso Pilgrimage are the strings of harnessed mules, a direct legacy of La Mancha's agricultural heritage.

What is a reata?

A reata is a string of mules tied together in a line, led by a herdsman, which were traditionally used to pull carts in farm work. In the pilgrimage, these beasts are adorned with impressive handmade harnesses and parade proudly as a symbol of rural work and Tomelloso identity.

Harness characteristics

Embroidered shawls placed on the back. Bells, wool ribbons, mirrors and tassels.
Heads adorned with pompoms, cowbells and mirrors.
The harnesses are handmade, sometimes taking a whole year to complete.

A harness competition is held, rewarding fidelity to tradition, craftsmanship and the elegance of the ensemble.

Heritage value

The ropes are not only visually striking but also represent an essential part of Tomelloso's agricultural heritage. The farmhands, mule drivers, families who care for the animals and make the tools are part of the human heritage that keeps this tradition alive.

Previus days

Proclamation of the pilgrimage.
Appointment of the mayoral.
Musical proclamation.



Saturday

Ploughing and tractor skills competitions.
Slingshot championship and children's drawing competition.
Marian prayer at the chapel.
Festive day: Folklore, traditional food and socialising. Guided tour of the Virgin's museum
Torchlight procession, with fireworks and singing of La Salve on arrival at the chapel.



Sunday

Departure of authorities, floats, reatas and pilgrims to the Pinilla Sanctuary.
Outdoor mass outside the Sanctuary.
Procession back to Tomelloso of the Virgin of the Vineyards, accompanied by pilgrims, folk groups, reatas

Traditional elements



Mule harnesses: reatas
The mules are dressed in embroidered shawls, necklaces of bells, wool flowers and handmade decorations.
Originality and fidelity to tradition are rewarded.

Artistic floats and "green" floats
The artistic floats, decorated by hand by clubs, represent local current events.
The green floats are made up of tractor trailers covered almost entirely with fresh pine branches.
Prizes are awarded to the most outstanding in each category.

Peñas romeras
Groups of family or friends who actively participate in the pilgrimage with their own floats.
They wear personalised T-shirts, badges or slogans.



The Pinilla Sanctuary
Located about 4 km from the town centre of Tomelloso. A Latin cross-shaped building, it houses the chapel of the Virgen de las Viñas, the work of Ezequiel Cano, a renowned local painter. The Pinilla complex has a museum, which houses a collection of embroidered mantles, votive offerings, banners and the Brotherhood's Golden Book.

Recommendations for visitors

Wear comfortable footwear and sunscreen.
Bring water and some food if you are going to spend the whole day in the countryside.
Respect the natural environment: use the bins, do not leave any rubbish behind, follow the safety instructions.

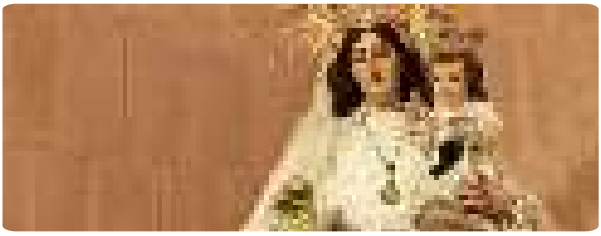
How to get there

By car
Tomelloso is connected by the A-43 (Ciudad Real – Valencia motorway). There are signposted access roads to Pinilla from the eastern exit of the city.

On foot or by bicycle
Many pilgrims make the journey to the sanctuary on foot as an act of devotion. It is also a viable option for cyclists, with a signposted route.

Bus
During the Tomelloso Pilgrimage, the most convenient way to reach the Pinilla Sanctuary is by using the special bus service. Buses depart from Socuéllamos Street, between the Olivo roundabout and the

Parking
Areas for private vehicles and buses are available in the vicinity of Pinilla. It is advisable to check the exact location a few days before the festival.



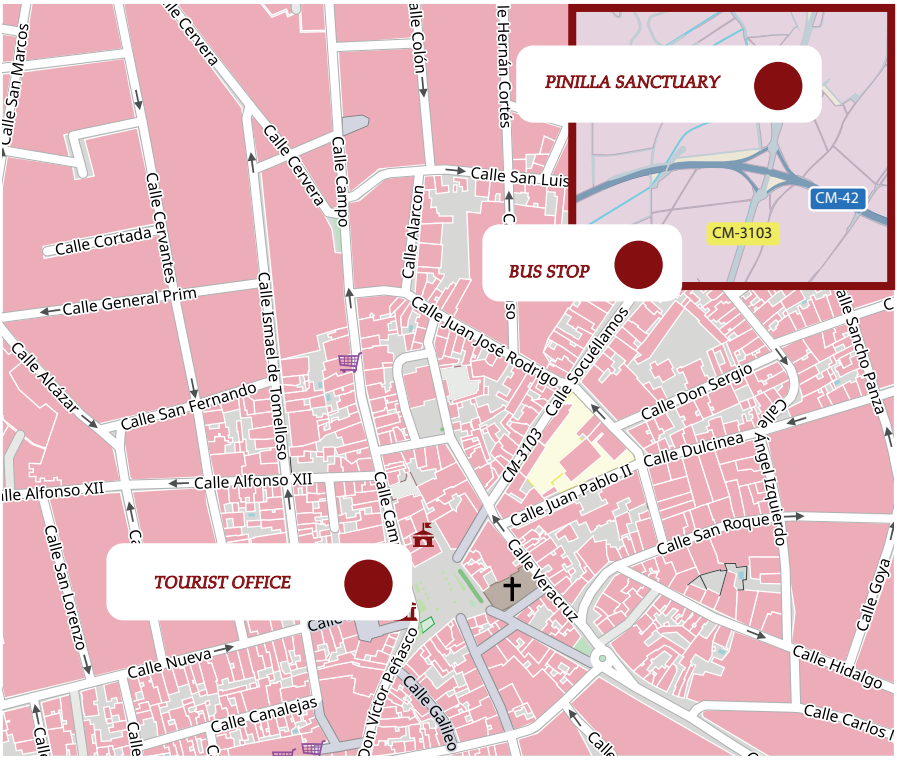
Contact
Tomelloso City Council Tourist Office
Tel.: 926 52 88 01 – Ext. 1335
Email: turismo@aytotomelloso.es

Services available
Public toilets.
Healthcare points.
Refreshment areas.

Accommodation in Tomelloso

Check the official list of the city's accommodation on the tourism website and book well in advance.

Hotels (from 1 to 4 stars), hostels and tourist apartments just one click away.



Municipal Tourist Office

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Public holidays: 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m./Mondays: closed

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