

GUIDE

# *Dry Stone Tourism (Bombos)*

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# Discovering the Bombos of Tomelloso

## Jewels of Rural Architecture in La Mancha

Bombos are traditional constructions in La Mancha, designed so that shepherds and farmers could take refuge with their animals and work tools. Although they are very characteristic of Tomelloso, they are also found in the surrounding municipalities, as they are located on land belonging to farmers from Tomelloso.

At first glance, someone unfamiliar with them might mistake them for piles of stones, but in reality they are a testament to the effort, wisdom and history of peasant families. The bombos mainly emerged at the end of the 19th century, when the expansion of vine cultivation made it necessary to have shelters away from the village. Some were used as dwellings during agricultural work.

## Dry Stone Architecture: How Bombos Are Built

The most surprising thing about bombos is that they are built using dry stone:

- **No cement or mortar:** The stones are carefully placed, using their own weight to make the structure firm and durable.
- **Varied layouts:** They can be circular, elliptical, square or oval.
- False dome-shaped roof: The stones are placed in concentric circles, reducing the diameter until the dome is closed with a final stone called a "keystone"..

The builders, known as "bomberos", learned this technique from generation to generation, observing and participating in the process. Thanks to this, many bombos are still standing decades later, with only minor damage..

## The interior and life inside a bombo

The interior of a bombo is functional and cosy, designed for people and animals to live together:

- Rooms: From a single room in the oldest ones to three in the largest ones: entrance, bedroom and stable.
- Kitchen with fireplace: For cooking, heating and airing out the room.
- Stone benches or poyos: Benches used for resting, eating or storing food and straw for sleeping.
- Mangers or stables: For working animals, which also provided warmth.
- Niches or alambor: Holes in the wall for storing food.
- Pegs and hooks: For hanging clothes, harnesses and tools.
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Dry stone maintains a stable temperature: warm in winter and cool in summer. Some bombos even keep horseshoes at the entrance as a symbol of good luck.







## Heritage, tourism and tips for visiting

Nowadays, many bombos are no longer used, but more than 90 in Tomelloso are preserved in perfect condition as historical heritage.

## Tips for your visit

### 01 Museum of Carts and Farming Implements

- It exhibits a bombo from the late 20th century, built by **Pablo Moreno** "Cota", with more than two million stones.
- It displays traditional tools from the La Mancha countryside..

### 02 Rural hiking trails

- The PR-CR 50 Bombos route is a 17.17 km circular route from the Sanctuary of the Virgen de las Viñas.
- Best visited in spring, autumn or winter.

### 03 Visitas guiadas

Local guides explain the history, construction and significance of the bombos.

### 04 Respect the heritage

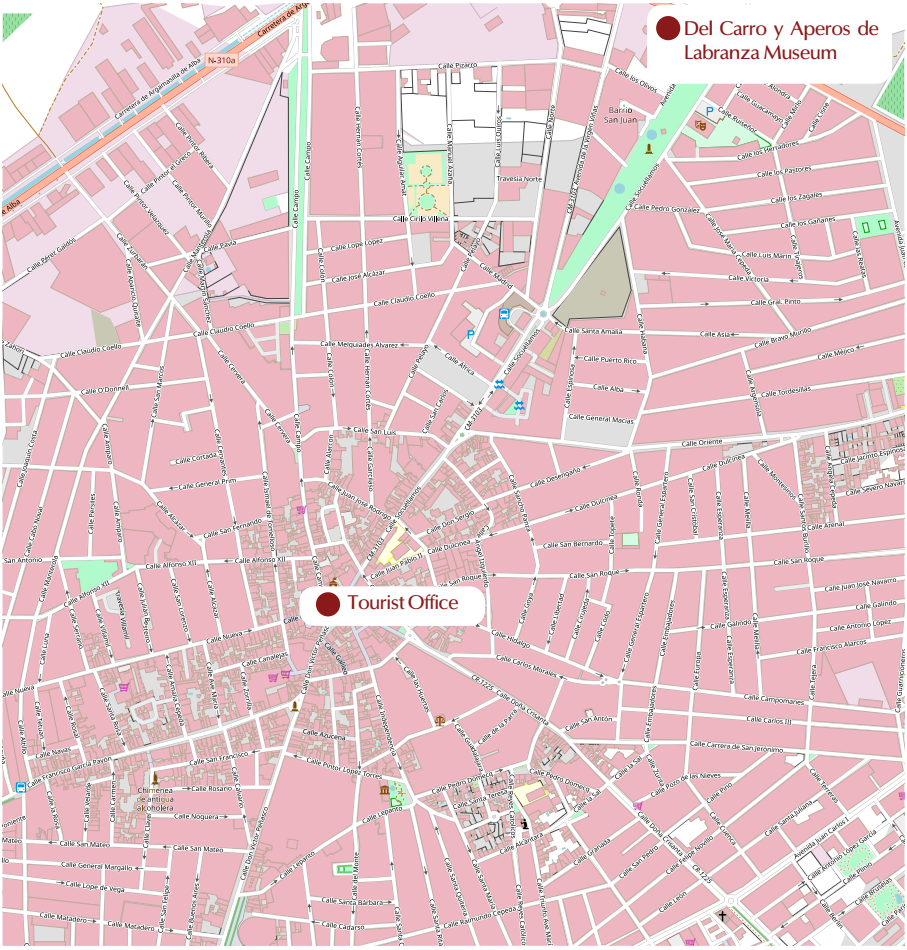
Not all bombos are open, but their presence invites visitors to appreciate local history and culture.

## Información práctica:

- **Email:** turismo@aytotomelloso.es
- **Telephone:** 926 52 88 01- Ext. 1335
- **Ubicación:** Los Portales Inn, Plaza de España, s/n, 13700 Tomelloso (Ciudad Real).








# 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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