

# GROUP RETREATS & PILGRIMAGES



## TOLEDO



View of Toledo

Nowadays, Toledo's narrow cobbled streets and sandstone buildings immerse the visitor in its past, whilst enjoying the tremendous architectural and artistic sites of this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage city. Its gothic cathedral is the see of the Primate of Spain, the Archbishop of Toledo, and the works of El Greco are dotted all over the city, in parish churches, aristocratic palaces and in the painter's original home, currently an art museum. Toledo is one hour south west from Madrid, and its International Airport.

In the middle ages, Toledo was one of the main religious and cultural capitals of the Iberian Peninsula. It was one of the few Christian cities in which all three Abrahamic faith communities (Christian, Muslim and Jewish) lived in relative harmony, from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Toledo became a centre of Carmelite spirituality. Teresa of Ávila established her fifth foundation (monastery) in this city, and years later John of the Cross would suffer imprisonment within its city walls. In this same period, Toledo became the city of El Greco, one of the most universal artists of the Spanish Golden Age.



View of Toledo Cathedral



Discalced Carmelite Monastery, Toledo

The Carmelite monastery is found in the historic centre within the city walls. You will be staying in the retreat centre within the monastery, and will be able to enjoy its cloister, chapel, guest refectory and gardens. You will also be able to explore the city on your own during your stay. As part of our programme, we will enjoy two special pilgrimage walks, led by a brother from the community, visiting special sites connected with the Spanish mystics. All accommodation is ensuite, in simple, yet well-appointed single or twin bedrooms. More information about the venue in: <http://www.carmelitasdescalzosdetoledo.com/>