

PLASENCIA

Plasencia is located in the autonomous community of Extremadura, in the province of Cáceres. Romans and Arabs lived there until the year 1186, when the king Alfonso VIII of Castile took the city and repopulated it, and in the year 1189, Pope Clement III gave the bishopric.

It is a fortified city on a hill to the right of the river Jerte on the borders between Extremadura and Castile on the “Ruta de la Plata”, an ancient route through which flows the Ambroz River the Tagus’ tributary.

During the wars for the Reconquest Alfonso VIII of Castile made the city one of the bulwark of the defensive line to the borders with the territories occupied by the Arabs and created the new diocese of Plasencia.

Between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the city suffered an economic and social crisis, but from the second half of the eighteenth century conditions improved.

The strategical and geographical position of necessary way for the passage of the troops involved the city in the war of independence, from 1808 to 1814, when Plasencia was home to the headquarters for the supply of French and Spanish troops.

In 1901 the Queen Maria Cristina gave the title of “The very charity” for humanitarian behavior with repatriated soldiers from the Cuban war in 1898.

Monuments and places of historical and artistic interest:

THE WALLS AND THE AQUEDUCT

The walls were built at the time of Alfonso VIII in 1197, and contain the city with doors and towers. Next to them there is the medieval aqueduct, where passed the water that came from the “Sierra de Cabezabellosa” and El Torno. The aqueduct was built in the sixteenth century, it is located in San Anton Park and is bordered by two other Parks: Pine’s park and the Coronation Park.



LUCIA TOWER INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The centre is located inside the walls and it allows to visit various exhibition halls, to see explanatory panels and documentaries about the history and construction of the walls. You also can climb a tower and enjoy a splendid view of the city and its walls.

Address: Plaza de Torre Lucía, s / n

Visiting hours:

Winter: from Monday to Sunday: from 10:00 to 14:00 and from 16:00 to 19:00

Summer: from Monday to Sunday: from 10:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 20:00

Admission: Free



THE NEW AND OLD CATHEDRAL

The old cathedral, dating back to the XII-XIV centuries, preserves a Romanesque facade with an incomplete scene of the Annunciation of the Virgin. From the cloister you can go to the chapel of St. Paul, the ancient Chapter House attributed to Gil de Cisar, a work in Romanesque Gothic style with Byzantine and oriental influences which preserves the image of the Virgin of Forgiveness. The new cathedral was finished to build in 1578 with the intervention of several architects such as Juan de Álava, Francisco de Colonia and Enrique Egas. The new cathedral has two Renaissance facades. Very interesting is the choir, piece of work of Rodrigo Alemán in flamboyant Gothic style with biblical and animals scenes. From the cathedral you can access the museum that preserves Ribera and Morales' paintings, an illuminated bible of the fourteenth century and sacred jewels.



Opening hours New Cathedral:

Winter (from 1 October to 31 March)

From Monday to Friday: from 10:00 to 14:00 (10:30 Mass); from 16:00 to 18:00

Saturday and eves of obligatory feasts: from 10:00 to 14:00; from 16:00 to 19:00 (19:00 Mass)

Sunday and obligatory feasts: from 11:00 to 14:00 (Mass 9:00; 10:30; 12:00)

Summer (from 1 April to 30 September)

From Monday to Friday: from 10:00 to 14:00 (10:30 Mass)

Saturday and eves of obligatory feasts: from 10:00 to 14:00; from 17:00 to 19:00 (20:00 Mass)

Sunday and bank holidays: 09:00 to 13:00 (Mass 9:00; 10:30; 12:30)

During the liturgical celebrations are suspended sightseeing.

Entrance: with ticket

Address: Plaza Catedral, s / n

http://www.catedralesdeplasencia.org/web/?page_id=71



PALACES

MARQUESS MIRABEL PALACE

It was built in the fifteenth century by the Dukes of Plasencia Alvaro de Zúñiga and Isabel de Pimentel. Inside you can visit the salon of Charles V which contains the bust of the Emperor Charles V of Pompeyo Leoni; the salon of the signatures, the medieval kitchen, the chapel and the neoclassical patio of two floors with arches and tiles coming from the Monastery of Yuste.

Address: Plaza de San Vivente Ferrer s / n

Visiting hours: to make a request for the visit to the porter's lodge.

Admission: donation

CITY HALL – PLAZA MAYOR

Located in Plaza Mayor, the building dates back to the sixteenth century. The Renaissance tower was built in 1546, but “The grandfather Mayorga” appeared in the year 1743 as a complement of the clock. The first grandfather Mayorga was destroyed by the French in the year 1811, while the current was placed on the tower in 1972.



MONROY PALACE OR HOUSE OF THE TWO TOWERS

It's the most ancient gentleman's residence of Plasencia. It was built by the Abbot of Santander, Pérez Monroy in the early fourteenth century. The building has been renovated several times and retains the primary Gothic facade with two lions.

Address: Rincón de San Nicolás s / n.

BISHOP'S PALACE

It was built in the fifteenth century in the Renaissance style, it contains the shield of Vargas and Carvajal bishop.

Address: Plaza de la Catedral

Visiting hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 14:00

Admission: Free

DEAN HOUSE

It is a seventeenth century palace-house, called Dean because in it there lived some deans of the Cathedral. Now houses the courthouse.

Address: Plaza Catedral, 6

CHURCHES

SHRINE OF "NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PUERTO"



5 km from the city, you will find this wonderful place, from which you can admire magnificent views of Plasencia and surroundings. In this shrine is venerated the patroness of Plasencia, the Virgin of the Port. The sanctuary was built in the mid-seventeenth century and inside you can see beautiful images on tiles .

Address: Avenida Ermita de la Virgen del Puerto, 112

Admission: Free

SAINT ELENA HERMITAGE

Formerly it called Saint Cross Hermitage, because in it was worshiped the Holy Christ of the Battles, in front of which the knights of Placencia swore loyalty to the homeland. The image of Christ of the Battles was transferred and now there is the image of Saint Elena.

Address: Calle Santa Elena, s / n

SAINT MARTIN CHURCH

It is considered as the oldest parish of Plasencia. It is a temple built in the thirteenth century. Currently it doesn't celebrate religious cults.

Address: Plaza de San Martín s / n

Visiting hours:

Winter: from Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00 to 13:00 and from 16:00 to 18:00

Entrance: with ticket.

SAINT ANNA CHURCH - AUDITORIUM

Works began in the year 1555, the main façade is Renaissance, in the centre there is St. Anne, the Virgin and Child. It is currently an auditorium.

Address: Plaza Santa Ana, S/N

<http://www.fundacioncajaextremadura.es/aulas-de-cultura/plasencia>

CHURCH OF "SANTO DOMINGO" OR SAINT VICENTE FERRER

Founded in the fifteenth century, his style is Gothic inside. Now houses a collection of statues of the Holy Week processions. While in the Convent there is the "Parador Nacional de Plasencia", a complex of tourist accommodation.

Address: Plaza de San Vicente Ferrer. s / n

Admission: Free in the church

CHURCH OF CHRIST OF BATTLES

Originally it was known as the hermitage of Santiago, to be a stop for pilgrims that headed for Santiago de Compostela, but when it was transferred the image of Christ of the Battles acquired its current name.

Address: Calle Cristo de San Nicolas, 8

TEXTILE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM "PÉREZ ENCISO"

The museum is located inside the cultural complex Saint Mary, an old hospital that had the same name, founded by Engracia de Monroy in 1300. In 1405 the bishop of Plasencia contributed to improve it with extensions. Since 1985 the building was converted into a cultural centre: in it there is the Conservatory Garcia Motos, the art school Rodrigo Alemán and ballet school. The museum occupies the space that corresponds to extensions made in the eighteenth century. In 1989 it was inaugurated the textile ethnographic museum that contains different objects of traditional life.

Visiting hours:

Summer: from Monday to Saturday: from 9:30 to 14:30

Sunday and holidays closed

Winter: from Wednesday to Saturday: from 11:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 20:00

Sunday and holidays from 11:00 to 14:00

Monday and Tuesday closed

Closed: 1 and 6 January, 1 May, 8 September, 19 October, 24, 25, 31 December.

Admission: Free

<http://www.brocense.com/textil.asp>

PARKS

- **Pines park**: it is an ornithological park which is located inside the old town. Its area exceeds five hectares and the flora and fauna are very varied.

Visiting hours: daily from 10:00 to 19:00 and in summer from 10:00 to 20:30

- **Cachón park:** it is located next to the river Jerte, it has installations for children and tools for exercise.
- **Island park:** it is surrounded by the waters of the river Jerte, has installations for exercise and quiet walks.
- **Coronation park:** near the pines park, the coronation park is a leisure site for all ages, especially for children who can have fun with childhood installations.

PATHS

You can walk the surrounding areas through paths made available to the public. From Valcorchero to Santa Barbara, Gargüera, El Torno or Galisteo.

FEAST DAYS

SAINT FULGENCIO

On the 16th of January is Saint Fulgencio, patron saint of the city. Is tradition, the night before the 16th, celebrate the “night of the three days carnival” in which it was the custom to masquerade. On that night the associations and the city hall invite you to taste wines, liqueurs, sweets and crumbs of Extremadura. Also it proceeds to deliver the awards San Fulgencio.

PILGRIMAGE OF THE VIRGIN OF THE PORT

The Sunday after the resurrection, people of Plasencia pay homage to the patron saint, “Nuestra Señora del Puerto”, walking on a pilgrimage to the hermitage of Porto. The procession of the image attracts many faithful.

FAIRS

Usually they coincide with the second weekend in June. In the afternoon you can attend bullfights and on night you can walk and taste food and beverages in the lodges of the Berrocal fence.

MAJOR TUESDAY

It is celebrated on the first Tuesday of August, it is a Feast of Regional Tourist Interest. During the morning of Tuesday in Plaza Mayor there are places of fruit and vegetables, as well as different places around the historical centre of handicrafts from all over the north of Extremadura. It also takes also place the traditional fruit and vegetable competitions, tambourines, crafts and windows and balconies competitions too.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

This festival takes place in Plaza Mayor last weekend of August.

“TAPA’S” FAIR

It is generally celebrated in the months of autumn. Most of the bars and restaurants of the city serves three “tapas” (a kind of appetizer, entree) for tasting and then they are submitted to the vote of the public and a professional jury.

Other sights nearby Plasencia:

- ✓ In **San Jeronimo de Yuste** there is a monastery founded in 1408 where Emperor Charles V retired and died in 1558 after abdicating in 1557. He was buried in the crypt of the monastery church, where he remained for six years, then his remains were brought to the

Escorial. The convent, sacked by Napoleon's troops, it was bought by the state in 1941, restored and entrusted to the monks Gerolimini.

- ✓ In **Jarandilla de la Vera** there is a huge fifteenth-century castle which was the residence of Charles V. Today is a National Parador.
- ✓ In **Hervás** there is the Jewish district of fifteenth-century declared national monument; an old quarter of popular grill-work houses.
- ✓ The *Parque natural de Monfrague* is a large area around an artificial dam on the Tagus created in 1979 to protect wildlife from extinction.
- ✓ In **Baños de Montemayor** there are the thermal baths and the remains of the Roman pavement of the road that linked Emerita Augusta, the current Mérida to Astorga.

Tourist office:

- ❖ Municipal tourist office
C/ Santa Clara, 4
Phone: 0034 927 423 843
Fax: 927 425 594
oficina.turismo@aytoplasencia.es
www.turismoplasencianorteextremadura.com

Map of Plasencia

Legend

 Aqueduct

 The walls and Lucia tower interpretation centre

 The new and old cathedral

 Marquess Mirabel palace

 City Hall - Plaza Mayor

 Monroy palace or House of the two towers

 Bishop's palace

 Dean house

 Shrine of "Nuestra señora del puerto"

 Saint Elena hermitage

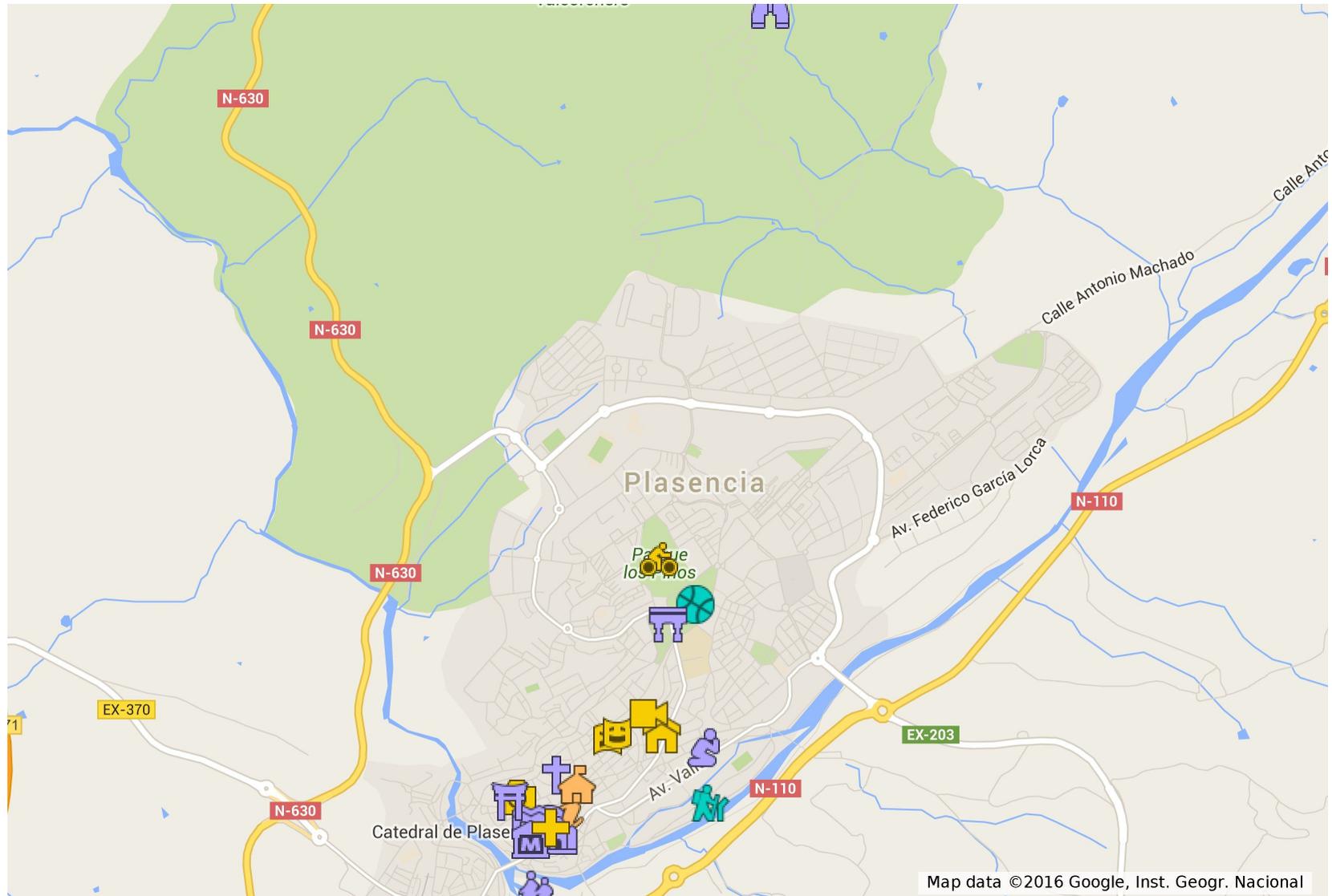
 Saint Martin church

 Saint Anna church - Auditorium

 Church of "Santo Domingo" or Saint Vicente Ferrer

 Church of Christ of Battles

 Textile Ethnographic museum "Pérez Enciso"



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 Pines park

 Cachón park

 Island park

 Coronation park

 Tourist office

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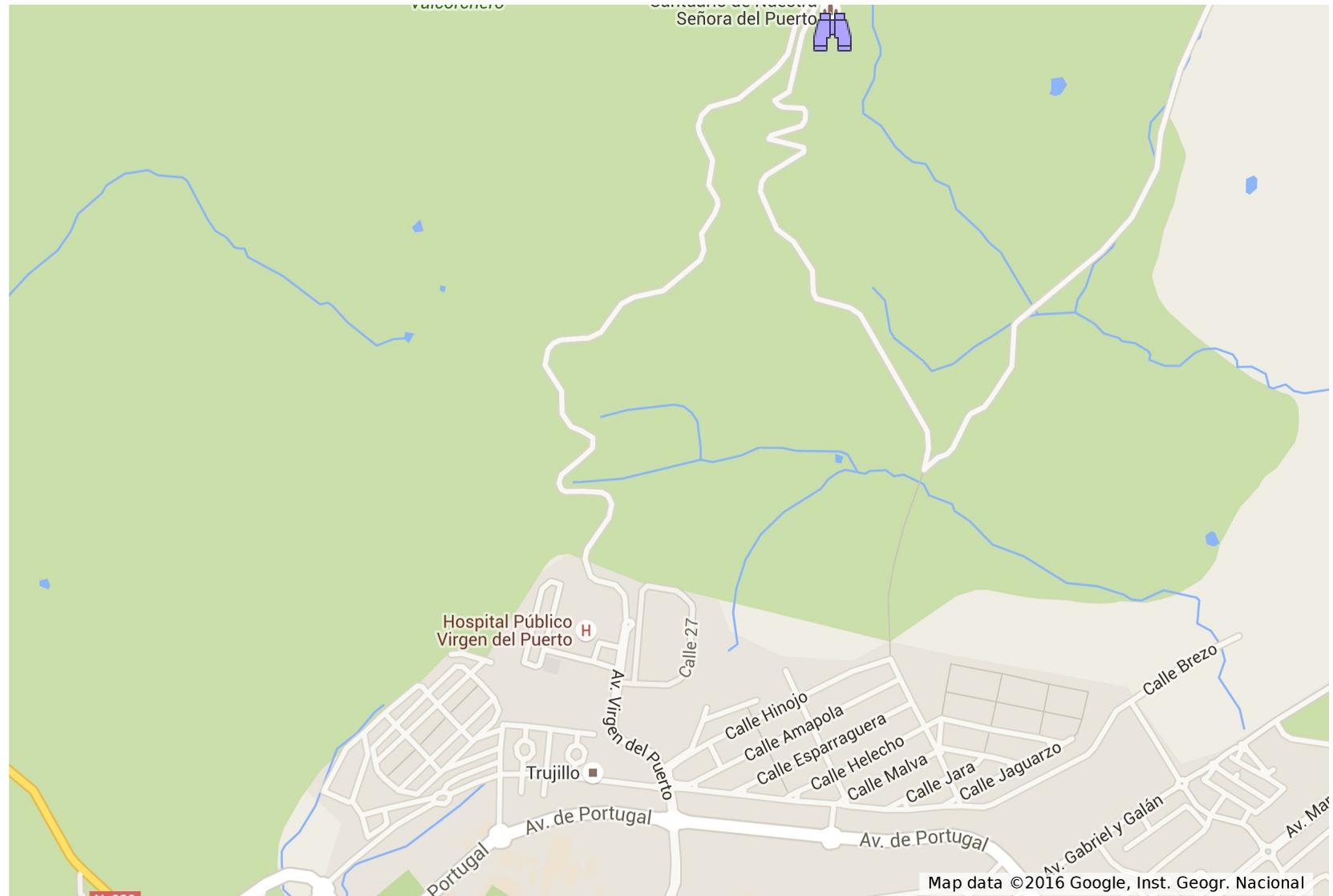
Island park



Coronation park



Tourist office



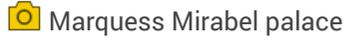
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Legend



The walls and Lucia tower interpretation centre



Monroy palace or House of the two towers



Shrine of "Nuestra señora del puerto"



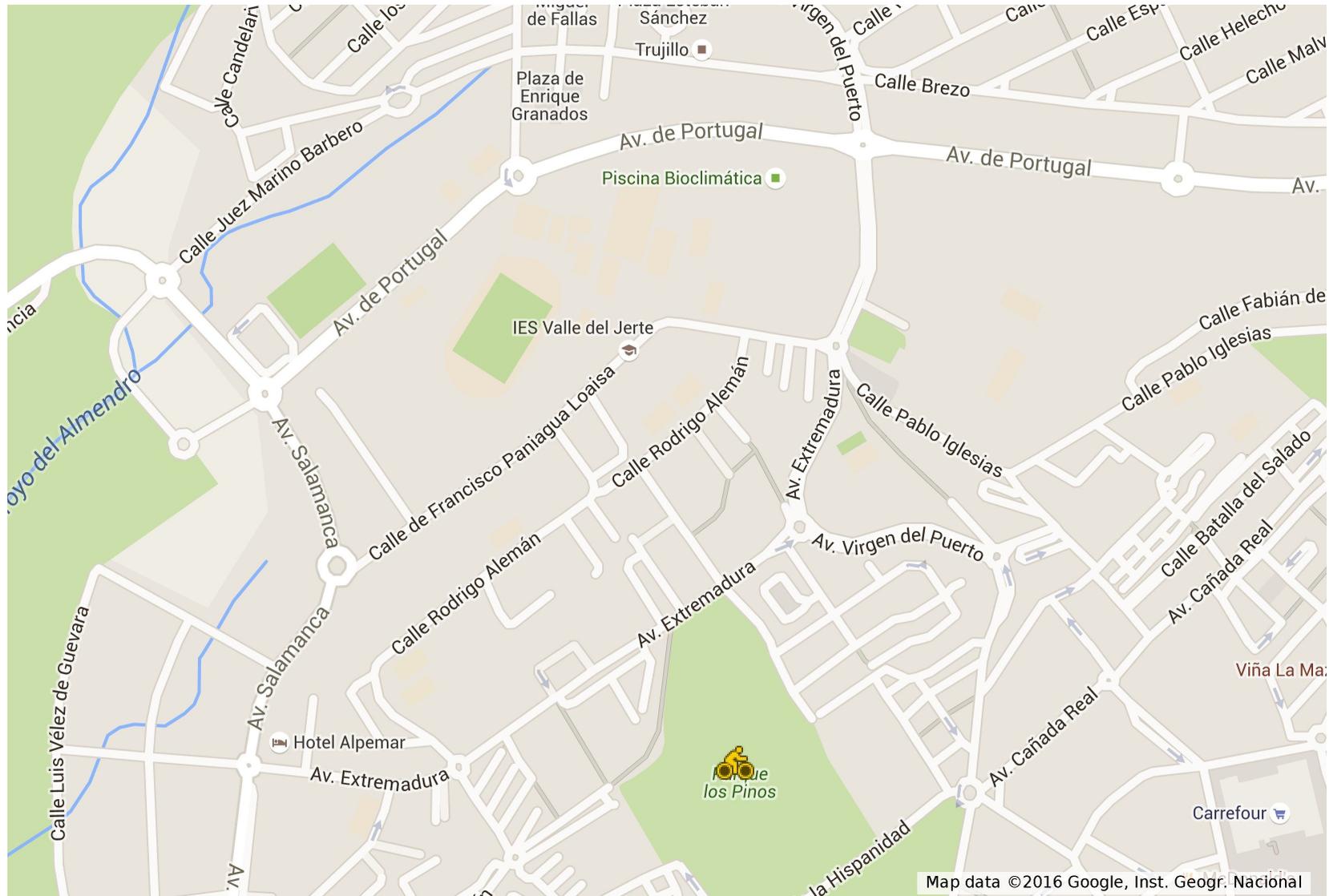
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Church of "Santo Domingo" or Saint Vicente Ferrer



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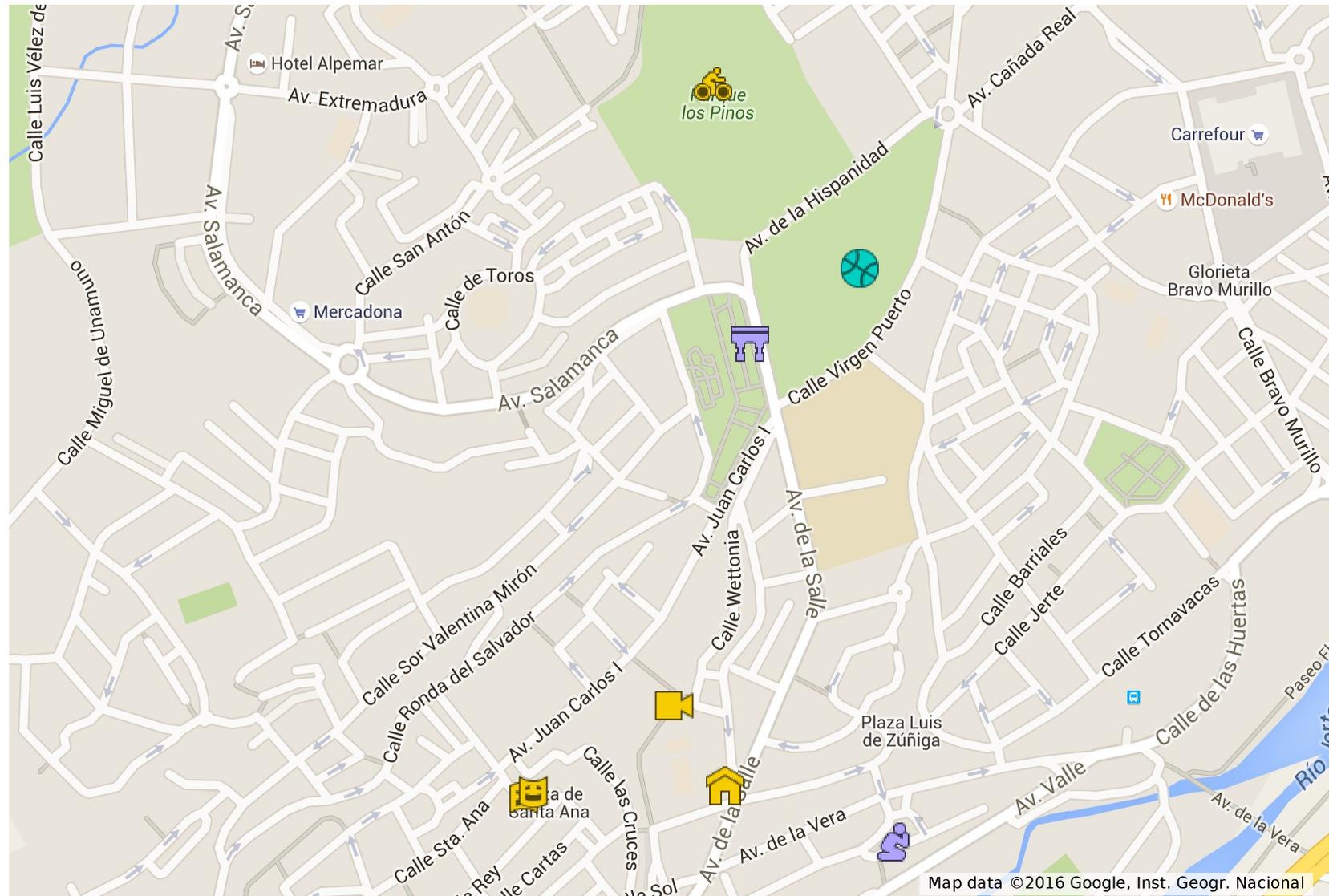


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-  The walls and Lucia tower interpretation centre
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-  City Hall - Plaza Mayor
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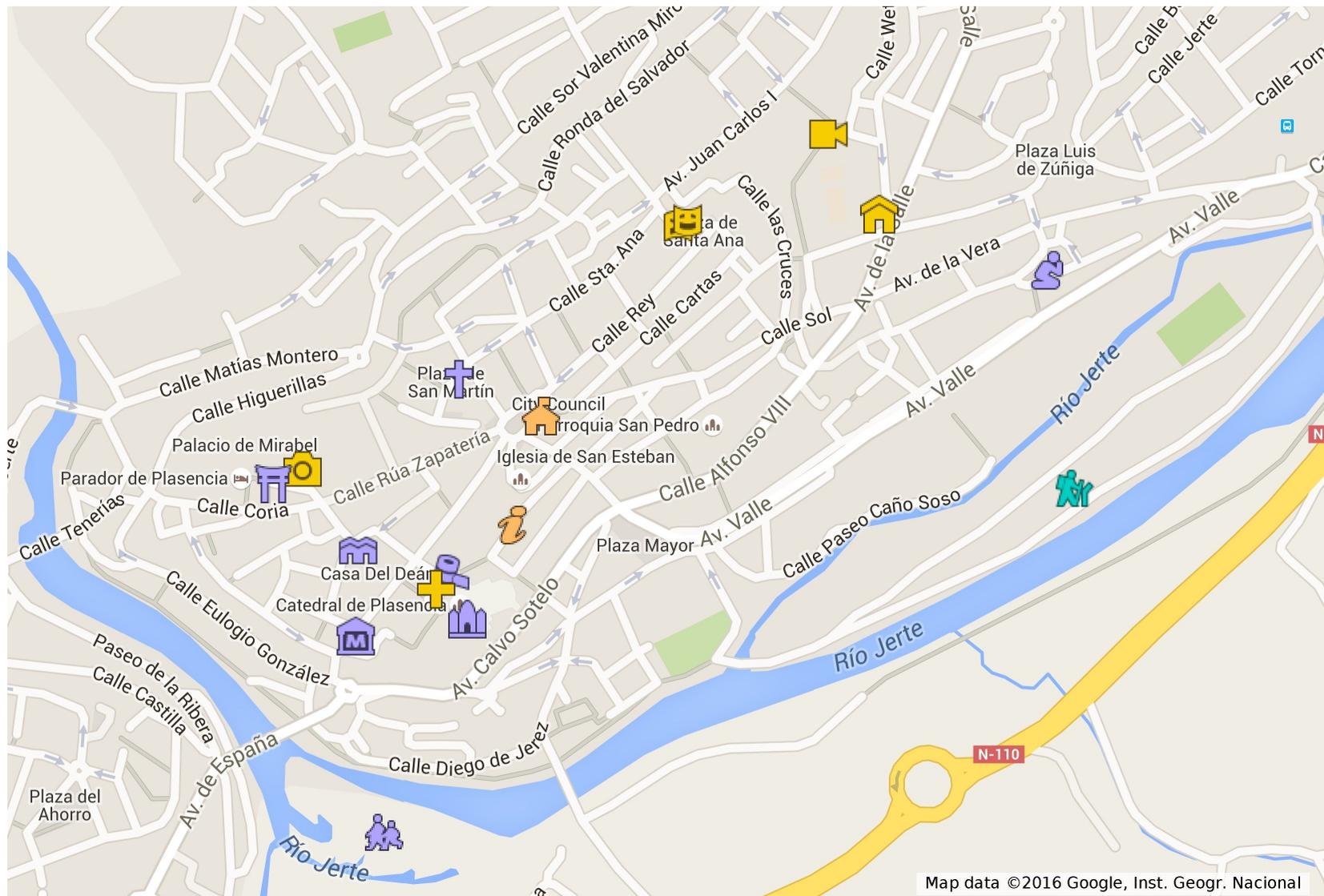


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