

Spain

STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIES



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*Front Page: Shooting of the film "Altamira" in Santillana del Mar, Cantabria.
 Photo: Spain Film Commission
 Back: Shooting of the film "Altamira" El Capricho, Comillas, Cantabria.
 Photo: Spain Film Commission*

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INTRODUCTION

Would you like to see places where **James Bond**, **Indiana Jones** and **Anakin Skywalker** had some of their adventures? Spain has great film locations and many of its destinations offer routes related to the silver screen. Choose yours.

Thanks to the magic of film, our cities, monuments and natural landscapes have been transformed into distant planets, the wild west or the Siberian steppe. Discover places where great commercial successes have been

filmed, such as the series *Game of Thrones*, with over 15 locations in different points of Spain, and *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones*.

You can also follow the lead of great film stars like **George Clooney**, **Nicole Kidman** and **Tom Cruise**, in succumbing to the charms that our country offers, or visit the favourite spots of prestigious filmmakers like **Orson Welles**, **Stanley Kubrick** and **Woody Allen**.

Spain, straight out of the movies.
Come and discover it and walk around real scenery that will let you live out the adventures of films.

CLAY KIDS
CLAY ANIMATION



SPAIN, STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIES!

ESSENTIAL LOCATIONS IN SPAIN

Spain's incredible wealth of monuments and nature makes it a real goldmine for filmmakers. Visit the places that appear in some of your favourite films and discover what our country has to offer.



▲ PLAZA DE ESPAÑA
SEVILLE

CITIES THAT ARE TRANSFORMED

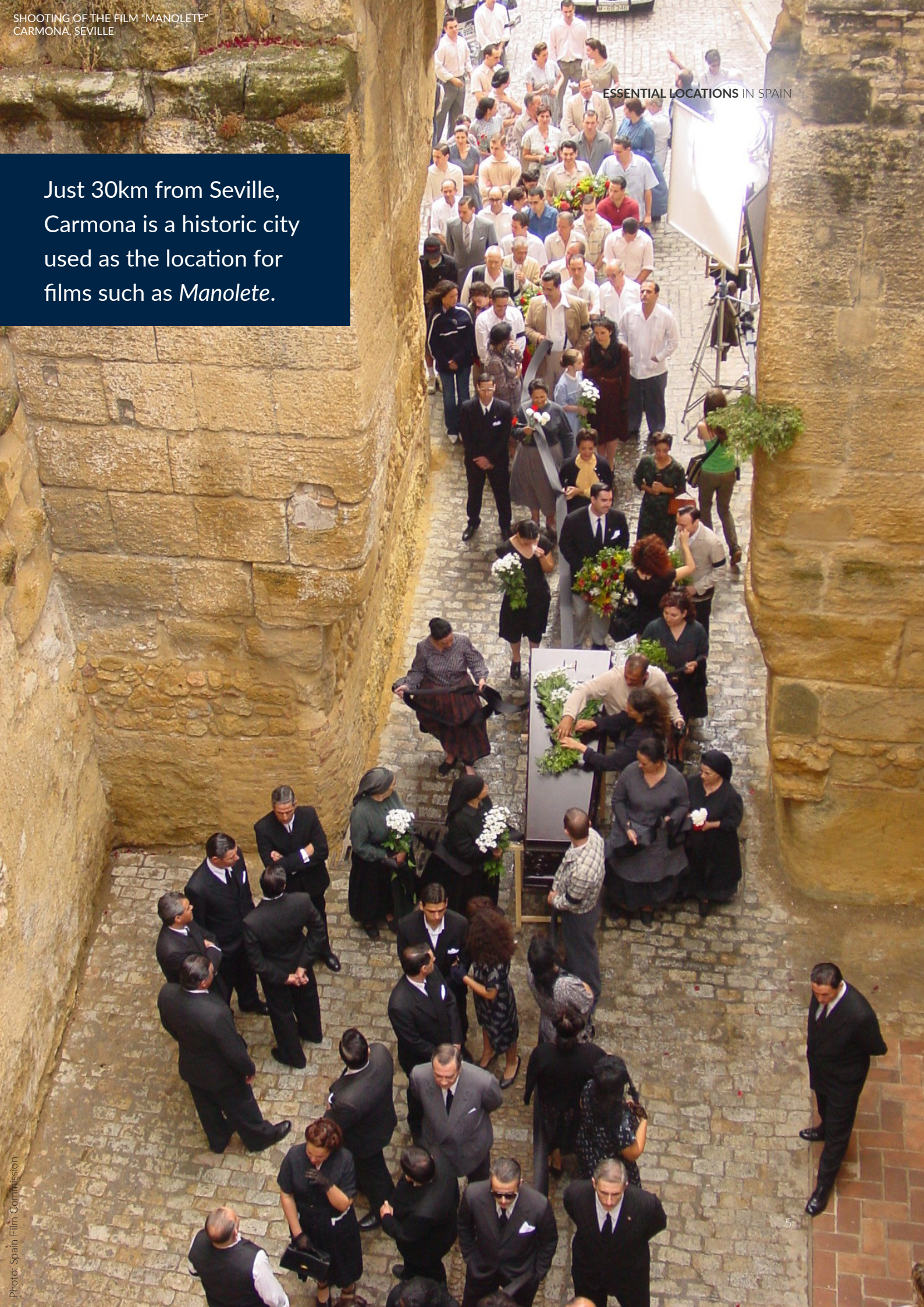
Emblematic streets, picture-postcard corners, monuments and historical buildings, charming parks, etc., are some of the favourite locations for renowned directors and the top level productions that have been shot in different Spanish cities.

SEVILLE

To create the images of the beautiful Theed Palace, in the capital city of planet Naboo, George Lucas used **Plaza de España** in Seville, which provided the perfect location for shooting a sequence of *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack*

of the Clones. This is one of the city's most spectacular spots: a semicircular plaza walked in by a young Anakin Skywalker, Princess Amidala and the ever faithful R2D2.

Just 30km from Seville,
Carmona is a historic city
used as the location for
films such as *Manolete*.



In addition to the large central plaza, its fountain and some of its bridges, what is seen in the film with more detail and no special effects is the network of galleries under the buildings, comprising a porticoed walkway capable of transporting you to a very, very far off galaxy.

If your favourite style is comedy, you're sure to know about Sacha Baron Cohen, the British actor and screenwriter who has created characters like Borat. Director Larry Charles and the controversial actor, wearing a large false beard, also used Plaza de España in Seville as a location for the comedy *The Dictator*. In this film, the central building, with two curved lateral arms and a tower at either end, serves as the presidential palace of an Arab tyrant as he makes one of his ridiculous speeches to his subjects.

Seville's rich architectural heritage extends far beyond this. As one of the main cities from the Al-Andalus period, major directors have chosen it to create the atmosphere for other big productions. For example, Ridley Scott and *Kingdom of Heaven*, in which this city on the Guadalquivir River is used to represent Jerusalem in the 12th century, thanks to buildings like the **Real Alcázar Fortress**, which was transformed into the Palace of King Baldwin during the time of the Crusades.

A stroll in the orange tree gardens, courtyards and fountains of this home to kings and high dignitaries of the Middle Ages will transport you to the Far East. The beautiful Monteria courtyard is where Balian (Orlando Bloom) and Princess Sibyl of Jerusalem (Eva Green) meet for the first time and seal their fate.





▲ THE MERCURY POOL GARDEN
REAL ALCÁZAR PALACE, SEVILLE

Casa de Pilatos is another of the places that captivated Scott, who chose this palace in Italian-Mudéjar Renaissance style as the location for the residence of the Roman praetor in Jerusalem. Take a look inside and go into the very beautiful interior gardens, typical of noble palaces in the city centre, with beautiful plaster skirting and Plateresque style grilles.

It was not the first time that Scott succumbed to Seville's charms. In **1492: Conquest of Paradise**, a film about the discovery of America, he had already used both locations. Within the Alcázar Fortress, **Rey Don Pedro Palace** was the residence of Queen Isabella I (Sigourney Weaver), who received the visit of Christopher Columbus (Gérard Depardieu). It is a key moment in the film and in history, the start of negotiations in which Columbus asked the queen to

support his quest to reach the Indies by a new maritime route.

More recently, Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz shook up the city during the weeks in which they shot the action comedy ***Knight and Day***, directed by James Mangold. Dizzying chase scenes take place in the beautiful streets next to the cathedral. Monumental buildings, like the previously mentioned Casa de Pilatos Palace, are converted into places such as the home of a rich arms dealer.

Spanish cinema has not missed the opportunity to make use of some of Seville's most emblematic sites and buildings, such as the old **Royal Tobacco Factory**, now the seat of the University of Seville, which appears in ***Carmen***, directed by Vicente Aranda and starring Paz Vega.



▲ GÜELL PARK
BARCELONA

BARCELONA

One of the most photogenic cities in Spain is Barcelona. And if there is one film that is a tribute to the main tourist attractions of the capital city of Catalonia, it is *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, by Woody Allen.

The filmmaker from New York had it quite clear while writing the script: "it's a city full of visual beauty, with a very romantic feel." And so naturally the film, in which Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall play two American tourists, offers a tour of Barcelona comparable to the best travel guide.

The magic of the buildings and spaces created by Antoni Gaudí are fundamental in the story that Woody Allen unfolds for us. Buildings such as the **Basilica of La Sagrada Familia**, in the heart of the city, the greatest example of modernism, in which the couple of



friends are seen taking photos. Climb up to its pointed towers to get a beautiful panoramic view of the city.

The characters also enjoy all the details of the rooftop terrace of **La Pedrera-Casa Milà**, one of the best examples of Gaudí's taste for sinuous forms. *Trencadís* (broken-tile mosaic), stone, marble and glass are fundamental elements of a building worthy of an Oscar.

Another scene, with Javier Bardem and Rebecca Hall, is shot in **Güell Park** by



▲ THE BASILICA OF LA SAGRADA FAMILIA
BARCELONA

the lizard-shaped fountain. The park's curious shapes and bold colour combinations, mixed with its vegetation, will transport you to a magical world.

Special mention should be made of some of Barcelona's most outstanding museums where the film's characters appear, such as the **Joan Miró Foundation**, the **National Art Museum of Catalonia** and the exterior of **MACBA**, the city's main contemporary art museum.

Other sites that you can discover following the steps of the characters in this film are **the Tibidabo** amusement park, with unsurpassed views of the city, the hustle and bustle and traditional flower stalls of **Las Ramblas** thoroughfare or the charming **Plaza de San Felipe Neri** square. In addition to Barcelona, Woody Allen's film also has scenes in Oviedo and Avilés (Asturias), two cities of which the New York genius declares himself to be an admirer.

▼ LA PEDRERA-CASA MILÀ
BARCELONA





▲ GOTHIC QUARTER
BARCELONA

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer, based on the bestseller by Patrick Süskind and directed by Tom Tykwer, is another perfect feature film for discovering the charms of Barcelona, here converted into 18th century Paris. The narrow streets of the **Gothic Quarter** are the setting for the wanderings of Grenouille, the film's protagonist. There you can see the city's Roman past, ruins of ancient walls, the narrow streets of the Jewish quarter, the Gothic cathedral and the most important of its palaces.

Some of the corners of the city shown in *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* are not so well known. We are talking about **Laberint d'Horta Park**, in the north of the city, with its intricate maze of cypresses, temples, fountains and mythological sculptures. And **Pueblo Español**, an open-air architectural museum located at the foot of Montjuïc hill, with scaled reproductions of buildings, squares and streets representative of various Spanish cities. Its main square is the scene of the film's culminating moment.



PUEBLO ESPAÑOL (SPANISH TOWN)
BARCELONA

Also filmed here in 2006, was the Italian comedy *Manuale d'amore 2*, directed by Giovanni Veronesi, in which the beauty of Monica Bellucci and Elsa Pataky shone brightly in the streets of the Gothic Quarter, the Olympic Port and on Barceloneta Beach.

Other great declarations of love for Barcelona are *All About My Mother*, the production with which Pedro Almodóvar won the Oscar in 1999, and *Pot Luck (L'Auberge Espagnole)*, a French comedy directed by Cédric Klapisch and which can also serve as a guide for an attractive tour of Barcelona. As well as the Basilica of La Sagrada Família, Almodóvar filmed in iconic places such as the **Columbus Monument**.

You can follow the steps of its characters and see such modernist buildings as the **Palau de la Música Catalana**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and **Cases Ramos**, a building in the Gracia district with Gothic touches.





▲ CITY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
VALENCIA

VALENCIA

If there is a place in Spain that seems to come from the future, it is the **City of Arts and Sciences** in Valencia. This was what director Brad Bird thought when he chose the avant-garde look of the white buildings that make up the complex designed by architect Santiago Calatrava for his film *Tomorrowland: A World Beyond*.

The exterior of futuristic-looking buildings such as the Príncipe Felipe Science Museum, like the skeleton of some prehistoric animal or of a huge whale, is the setting for the young protagonist of this story to wander in. Other iconic buildings in the complex are L'Oceanogràfic, the largest aquarium in Europe, and L'Hemisfèric, with its appearance of a huge white eye. Complete your tour by seeing the Palau de les Arts auditorium, a building designed in the form of an immense sculpture.

Doctor Who, the longest-running science fiction series in history, also wanted to make use of this exceptional setting to shoot an episode of its tenth season, retouched in post-production to show it surrounded by a field of wheat and the sea.

The Tardis, that time (and space) machine shaped like an old-fashioned English police box, carried the doctor to a colony dominated by robotic beings. But the imposing exteriors of the buildings that make up the City of Arts and Sciences did not need to any digital additions: their forms are pure science fiction.





▲ CADIZ

CADIZ

Some cities are capable of stealing the scene from even the most popular actor. This is the case with Cadiz, which is known as the "silver cup" because of the colour of the sunlight reflected from the sea. This is seen clearly in ***Knight and Day***, which, in addition to Seville, used several streets of the old town of Cadiz for chase scenes with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

The actors appear in the film walking along **Calle Ancha**, a street that is the city's heart. Stately palaces like **Casa de los Cinco Gremios**, churches like **La Conversión de San Pablo** and its buildings' balconies are its main hallmarks.



SHOOTING OF THE FILM "THE LIBERATOR"
JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA IN CADIZ PROVINCE

Cadiz has also been transformed into Havana on several occasions thanks to the similarity between the two cities. This is seen clearly in ***Die Another Day***, directed by Lee Tamahori, with Pierce Brosnan playing Bond, James Bond. It only took a few old cars and hundreds of extras to turn the **Campo del Sur** seafront promenade into Malecón Avenue, **Santa Catalina Castle** into a mojitos bar, and **Plaza de Abastos**, which is



Photo: Spain Film Commission

The province of Cadiz has providing locations for countless films. Very close to the city of Cádiz, in Jerez de la Frontera, *The Liberator* was filmed.

now the Central Market of Cadiz, into the Cuban Tobacco Factory. If you want to follow the steps of 007 and Giacinta "Jinx" Johnson (Halle Berry) through the city, visit the **La Caleta Spa**. Very close to Cádiz, in San Fernando, there are other luxury locations used in the film, such as the **Camposoto Beach** and **Torregorda Beach**.

This last beach is known all over the world thanks to the famous scene in

which Halle Berry emerges from the waters of the Atlantic in her orange bikini, as Pierce Brosnan watches her with binoculars.

This same place, a sandy beach overlooked by the imposing **castles of Santa Catalina** and **San Sebastián**, was chosen for several scenes in productions like *Alatriste* and *Manolete*.

SPAIN, STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIES!



BILBAO

Cinema's most famous spy is now a regular in the geography of our country. In *The World Is Not Enough*, directed by Michael Apted, it was Bilbao's turn to be the location for one of those action scenes in which the agent on Her Majesty's secret service so often finds himself.

The story begins precisely with the scene in which Pierce Brosnan hangs from a rope having jumped from a building opposite the **Guggenheim Museum**. The museum building, designed by Frank Gehry, has become the great icon of Bilbao. Neither does the film fail to show the **Puppy** sculpture, even if it is in the background: a giant dog covered in flowers, designed by Jeff Koons.

The Guggenheim, with its aspect of a titanium transatlantic liner anchored in the estuary, has also been in demand for superproductions such as *Jupiter Ascending*. The sinuous shapes and changing colour of its outer covering inspired the Wachowski sisters. Thanks to post-production, the film shows spectacular panoramic views which incorporate other real parts of Bilbao's

skyline, such as the **Iberdrola Tower** and the sculpture by Anish Kapoor that adorns the museum's exterior.

The other building featured in one of the scenes is the **Zubizuri Bridge**, designed by Santiago Calatrava, bringing to the film that futuristic touch so much appreciated by lovers of science fiction.



ZUBIZURI BRIDGE
BILBAO

MADRID

Make a tour of the Madrid of Pedro Almodóvar, our most international filmmaker, or visit places strongly associated with the cinema, such as the **Gran Vía** thoroughfare, Madrid's spectacular axis of leisure, culture and shopping.

This street, related to film ever since it became Madrid's main street for cinemas, has been a great setting for productions such as *Open Your Eyes*, directed by Alejandro Amenábar. The film begins with the protagonist's dream of crossing a strangely deserted Madrid, with this usually very crowded artery of the capital city totally empty.

Plaza de Callao, a square with some of Madrid's most iconic buildings, such as the **Carrión** building with its illuminated sign, which also features prominently in *The Day of the Beast*, by Álex de la Iglesia. This last film, shot entirely in Madrid, also featured other well known places in Madrid, such as the first leaning skyscrapers to be built in the world: **Puerta de Europa** in Plaza de Castilla square.

One of the filmmakers who has portrayed the soul of Madrid best and most often is Pedro Almodóvar. From the outset, this director has considered the city to be his muse and this is reflected throughout his filmography.

The **square** and **district of Chueca** have been constants in his films (*Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*, *The Flower of My Secret*, *Julieta...*). Located in the heart of the city, this district's streets are full of history and it is the heart of the city's LGBTI scene, perfect for lunch or din-



SPAIN, A COUNTRY STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIES!



▲ PLAZA MAYOR
MADRID

ner in very original places and for making your more alternative purchases.

The **Madrid de los Austrias** district has also been a frequent setting for his characters. It is the most monumental area of the city, with such outstanding places as **Plaza Mayor** square, the ideal starting point for an Almodovar route or to go dancing at night, as the characters in *The Flower of My Secret* do.

Madrid's **Gran Vía**, where his films have been shown so often in its cinemas, was portrayed by Almodóvar in *Live Flesh*, focusing on the **Metrópolis building**. The statue of the Winged Victory that crowns the building and that appears in

its the film's stills is one of the unmistakable symbols of Madrid.

The **Cuartel del Conde Duque**, a baroque building with large courtyards, now converted into an active cultural centre, features in a classic scene of *Law of Desire*, where Carmen Maura says to a road sweeper in the heat of the night: "Spray me, spray me!"

Hollywood has also made use of the charms of Madrid in films such as *The Bourne Ultimatum*, directed by Paul Greengrass. Apart from the modern T4 Terminal of **Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport**, a singular building designed by the architect Richard Rogers,



GRAN VIA
MADRID

and various aerial shots of **Paseo de la Castellana**, the city's business centre, the most surprising of the Madrid locations shown in this film starring Matt Damon is **Atocha Station** and the curious tropical garden inside.

OTHER PLACES THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED

Throughout Spain you can see charming historic buildings inhabited by ghosts... at least in fiction.

This is the case with **Los Hornillos Palace**, a mysterious, evocative building located in Las Fraguas (Arenas de Iguña, Cantabria). In *The Others*, by Alejandro Amenábar, Nicole Kidman had more than one fright in the great halls, staircases and rooms of this English picturesque-style palace, the design of which later influenced the

La Magdalena Palace in Santander. As it is a private residence, you cannot visit the interior, but you can see the estate.

From the same period, and with an equally mysterious aura, discover **Partarrío Palace**, also known as Villa Parres. Located in the beautiful fishing village of Llanes, in Asturias, this huge mansion was the terrifying setting for *The Orphanage*, the film début of Juan Antonio Bayona.

SPAIN, STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MOVIES!

NATURAL SETTINGS

Relive the adventures of mythological characters in the spectacular landscapes of the Canary Islands, visit beaches straight out of the movies in the Balearic Islands or discover locations in Almeria where characters like Indiana Jones and Conan appeared. Spain's natural beauty invites you to experience cinematic sunsets and innumerable adventures.

▼ TIMANFAYA NATIONAL PARK
LANZAROTE

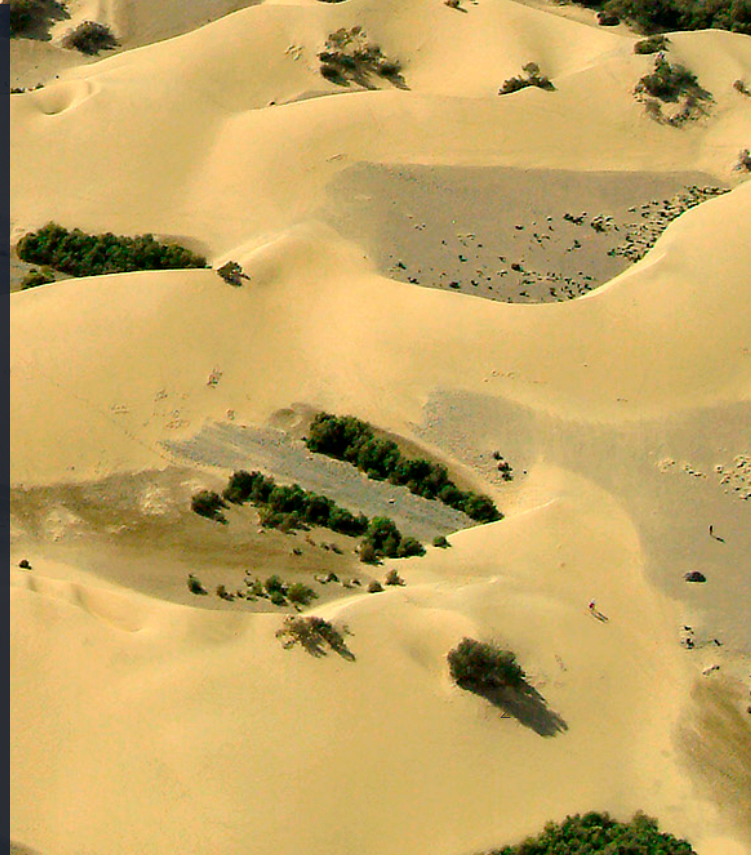




CANARY ISLANDS

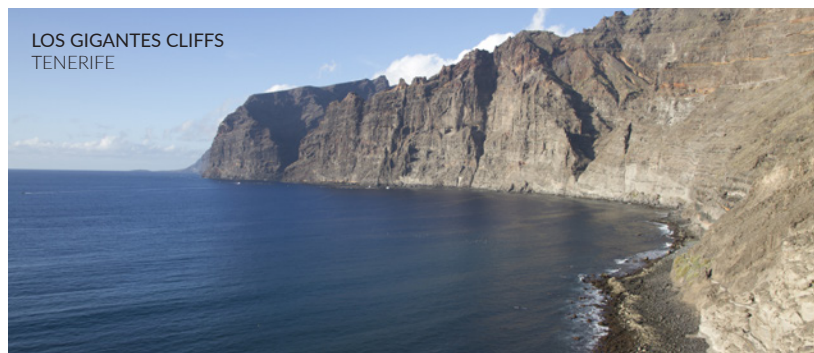
Like Moses parting the Red Sea and how Ridley Scott must have felt when he shot that long-awaited moment in *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, when Christian Bale leads his people in flight from Egypt. In reality, this is **Risco del Paso Beach**, in **Fuerteventura**, one of those heavenly sandy beaches so common in the Canary Islands archipelago.

The protagonists of this cinematic exodus also made good use of the kilometres-long natural beach of Cofete and the Barranco del Buen Paso ravine, in **Jandía Nature Reserve**, with its desert, mountainous horizon, used in the film to simulate the Sinai peninsula.



The volcanic landscape of Lanzarote has provided natural scenery for the big screen. The prestigious film director, **Pedro Almodóvar**, used these places for films of his such as *Broken Embraces*, starring Penélope Cruz.





LOS GIGANTES CLIFFS
TENERIFE

Clash of the Titans, by Louis Leterrier, allows us to see what the Teide, an inactive volcano in the centre of the island of Tenerife and the highest peak in Spain, might look like when active. **Teide National Park** was used to replicate the mythological underworld in which much of the film takes place.

The dizzying **Los Gigantes Cliffs**, located in Santiago del Teide, were also the scene of the titanic struggle between Perseus (Sam Worthington) and the god Hades (Ralph Fiennes). Other scenes were filmed at different locations in the Canary Islands archipelago, such as **Maspalomas Dunes**, in **Gran Canaria**, and **Timanfaya National Park**, in **Lanzarote**.

Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard were seen in the old quarter of the Vegueta district, in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, during the filming of *Allied*, by Robert Zemeckis, who sought to recreate Casablanca in World War II. Several scenes were filmed in Alameda de Colón boulevard, Núñez de la Peña street and the squares of Plaza de Cairasco and Plaza Ingeniero Manuel Becerra. In order to recreate the Sahara desert, the producers decided to use the landscapes of **Corralejo Nature Reserve** and **La Caldera de Arrabales crater**, both in **Fuerteventura**.



BALEARIC ISLANDS

Mallorca was confirmed as one of the best locations in the world to shoot sea scenes thanks to *Cloud Atlas*, directed by Tom Tykwer and the Wachowski sisters. **Sa Calobra Cove**, which is the stage for concerts in summer, was used as a natural film set, between cliffs and a turquoise coloured sea, for a scene with Tom Hanks.

The natural harbour of **Sóller** is where the Earl of Pembroke sailing ship arrives, and the precipitous **Sierra de Tramuntana** mountains, where the imposing peak of **Puig Major** rises, were also seen in the feature film.

The charms of **Formentera**, the smallest and wildest inhabited island in the Canary Islands archipelago, could well be seen as one more character in *Sex and Lucia*, directed by Julio Medem and starring Paz Vega. Rent a motorcycle like the one she rides and visit, for example, the heavenly beaches of **Ses Illetes**.

Another way to follow the protagonist's steps is to visit the **Ses Salines Nature Reserve**, which has a bike path ideal for enjoying the landscape, or the **Cabo de Barbaria lighthouse** from where you can see unforgettable sunsets.





Santa Maria del Camí, at the foot of the Sierra de Tramuntana mountains, offers you surprising places full of magic and charm.

ALMERÍA

From biblical epics and *spaghetti westerns* (the European western) to the adventures of Indiana Jones and modern action films, **Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Reserve** and the **Tabernas Desert** have been the settings for hundreds of film shoots. They clearly merit their place as two of the most cinematographic places in our country.

Tabernas was the first location used in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, directed by Steven Spielberg back in 1988. Its rocky, arid landscape became Hatay (Turkey) for a few days to host the film's main action sequence: an exciting chase with tanks and horses.

Another of the most important locations in the third instalment of Indiana Jones was **Mónsul Beach**, one of the most beautiful in the Mediterranean, located in Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Reserve. It is the setting for Sean Connery, armed only with an umbrella,

to shoot down a Nazi plane, with the help of some seagulls.

A few years before, a still unknown Arnold Schwarzenegger arrived in Almeria with director John Milius and the film crew of *Conan the Barbarian* to use some of its desert landscapes as the perfect locations for the film. One of these places was **Peñón de Bernal**, the highest peak in the **Sierra de Gádor** mountains. Re-named for the film as the Mountain of Power, it was the setting chosen for the construction of the fortress of Thulsa Doom, leader of a cruel army of warriors.

At **Oasys MiniHollywood** and **Fort Bravo Texas Hollywood** you can act like a real cowboy. These are two theme parks where you can discover what it feels like in the Wild West. Walk around the sets of hundreds of *westerns* filmed in Tabernas, ride in a stagecoach or on horseback and enjoy live shows.





SPAIN, A SETTING FOR GAME OF THRONES

If you dream of following the steps of Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen and names like Braavos, Dorne or King's Landing sound familiar, Spain's the place for you. Some of the series' most iconic scenes have been filmed here.



Photo: Natasha Walton/123rf.com

▲ ITÁLICA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
SANTIPONCE, SEVILLE PROVINCE

Seville and its Moorish architecture have given life to the southern kingdom of Dorne, the home of House Martell. In the heart of this beautiful city stands the **Real Alcázar**, one of the oldest palaces in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This architectural complex was used to recreate the Water Gardens, the private residence of the Lord of Sunspear. Stroll among fountains, orange trees and palm trees that provide a real spectacle for the senses. See for yourself the ruins of Dragonpit, the place where the faces of the saga's two most powerful queens, Cersei

Lannister and Daenerys Targaryen, were first seen. This is the amphitheatre of the **Archaeological Site of Itálica**, the first city of the Roman Empire to be founded in Hispania, located in Santiponce, which is very close to Seville by car.

Relive one of the series' most spectacular scenes, in which Daenerys manages to escape at the last moment from the fighting pits of Meereen on the back of one of his dragons. The bullring in the town of **Osuna**, in Seville province, is the setting of the gladiator fight that ends with the ambush of the Mother of Dragons.

Almería has also provided several locations for *Game of Thrones*. The spectacular **Tabernas Desert** was used to shoot the arrival of the Dothraki people to the city of Vaes Dothrak. In addition, sets for a town used to represent the capital of the horse-riding people can still be seen in the area of **El Chorrillo** (Pechina municipality).

Still in Almería, the strikingly shaped **Mesa Roldán Tower** was the site used to bring to the screen the battle for control of the city of pyramids, Meereen. From this watchtower in the municipality of Carboneras you can enjoy one of the most beautiful sunsets in Spain.

You can also relive the adventures of your favourite characters in **Peñíscola Castle**, in Castellón, a medieval, templar fortress where you can retrace the steps of Tyrion Lannister and Lord Varys.

The cobbled streets of the **historic district of Girona** played host to Arya lost in Braavos and the spectacular steps of its cathedral were used to recreate the Great Sept of Baelor in King's Landing. You will not be able to climb them on horseback, as Jaime Lannister did, but you will be amazed by their imposing size.

CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA IN GIRONA





▲ BARDENAS REALES
NAVARRE

Next we travel to **Girona**, where we can discover such places as **San Pedro de Galligans Monastery**, now the Archaeological Museum of Catalonia. Its interior was used to recreate the library where Sam Tarly attempted to become a maester and made great discoveries about the complex genealogical tree of the Westeros families.

In the interior of Spain, **Zafra Castle** (Guadalajara province) was the location for one of the key moments in the series: the recurring *flashback* in which the circumstances of Jon Snow's birth are explained. The wild, isolated environment of the **Sierra de Caldereros** mountains and the extraordinary rock on which the castle stands are what make it such a great film location.

In addition to setting Westeros here, the series' producers have made use of the great variety of landscapes and natural



▲ SAN JUAN GAZTELUGATXE SHRINE
BIZKAIA

environments in Spain to create such unique places as the immense desert plains of the Dothraki Sea. The unique geological formations of **Bardenas Reales Nature Reserve** (Navarre) seem to be from another world, a piece of Mars on Earth.

Three different locations in **Euskadi** (the Basque Country) were merged on the screen to become Dragonstone, the ancestral seat of House Targaryen. **Itzurun Beach** in Zumaia (Guipuzkoa province), **Muriola Beach** in Barrika (Bizkaia province) and the magnificent climb to **San Juan Gaztelugatxe Shrine** (Bizkaia province) are stopping points on a beautiful route along the Basque coast, with excellent cuisine.

GREAT CLASSICS

FILMED IN SPAIN

Orson Welles, Stanley Kubrick, David Lean and Sergio Leone are key figures for all cinema buffs. These are cinema legends who saw Spain as an immense, fascinating film studio full of opportunities not to be found elsewhere in the world.

CABO DE GATA
ALMERÍA



With *Lawrence de Arabia*, David Lean became the first director to claim Spain for the Hollywood film industry. This English director made use of landscapes in the **Tabernas Desert** and **Cabo de Gata-Níjar Nature Reserve** (Almería), such as **Algarrobo Beach**, in Carboneras, where a replica of the Jordanian port of Aqaba was built.

In **Seville** he was able to recreate Damascus and Cairo thanks to such classic places there as **Real Alcázar Fortress** and **María Luisa Park**. Thousands of extras from Seville took part in scenes such as the arrival of Lawrence of Arabia at the English general's barracks in Jerusalem, recreated in **Plaza de América** square and at the main entrance to the **Archaeological Museum**.



Lean had intended to film the Siberian steppes that appear in *Doctor Zhivago* in the snow-covered landscapes of Soria and Sierra Nevada, but as the year proved to be warmer than normal, he had to settle for fake snow and large tracts of land outside Madrid. Other prominent locations used in Madrid were **El Capricho Park**, a charming Romantic garden to the northeast of the city, the traditional neighbourhood of **Canillas** and **Delicias Station**, now converted into an interesting Railway Museum.

American producer Samuel Bronston brought all of the splendour of Hollywood here to make several historical films. One of the best remembered is *El Cid*, directed by Anthony Mann, with Charlton Heston as the legendary Castilian knight, a prominent figure in the period of the Reconquest. Its locations include some of Spain's most outstanding medieval castles, such as **Belmonte**

(Cuenca), **Manzanares El Real** (Madrid region) and **Peñíscola** (Castellón).



Another lavish production was *55 Days at Peking*, by Nicholas Ray. The streets of the Chinese capital were recreated in Bronston's studios in Las Matas, a town in the Madrid region with the Guadarrama mountains as a backdrop, in what is now the Parque Residencial Nuevo Golf Club.

The most colossal of the films produced by Bronston in Spain was *The Fall of the Roman Empire*. The reconstruction of the forum in Rome, also in the Las Matas studios, held the record for many years of the largest set built for a film.

But not everything is papier mache: the **Valsain** woods in the province of Segovia, near to **La Granja de San Ildefonso**, were the scene of an epic battle.

Another classic of the *peplum* film genre is **Spartacus**, in which Kirk Douglas plays the slave who rebels against Roman tyranny. At the express request of Stanley Kubrick, its exteriors were shot in several locations in the region of Madrid, such as **Casa de Campo Park**, **Colmenar Viejo** and **Alcalá de Henares**.

But if there is one great director especially associated with Spain it has to be Orson Welles. Enamoured of our country from his youth, and one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, he filmed sequences here of six of his feature films, some of them unfinished. The best remembered of them is **Chimes at Midnight**, filmed entirely in Spain, in which the director and actor depicted Falstaff, a character who appears in several works of Shakespeare.

This version, in which Welles recreates 15th-century England, featured locations such as **Cardona Castle**, in Barcelona province, an ancient fortress with the **Collegiate Church of San Vicente**, a jewel of the Catalan Lombard Romanesque. The cobbled streets of the medieval town of **Pedraza** (Segovia province), the snowy landscapes of **Soria**, **Navarre** and the **Basque Country**, **Montjuïc Castle** in Barcelona and **Casa de Campo Park** in Madrid, where the famous battle of

Shrewsbury was shot, are others of the most outstanding locations.

Sergio Leone was another great fan of Spain and its landscapes. He was responsible for filling the **Tabernas Desert**, in Almería, with tough cowboys, wild Indians and gunmen chewing tobacco. In the famous Dollars Trilogy, comprising the films **A Fistful of Dollars**, **For a Few Dollars More** and **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**, Leone used the landscapes of the province of Almería to turn a then unknown Clint Eastwood into a legend.

You can still visit some of the locations used in these films, such as the town of **Western Leone**, which was built to shoot the film **Once Upon a Time in the West**. You do a route in the surrounding area on foot, in a 4x4 or even hire horses to act like the film's characters.


There are also other places that keep alive the memory of Leone's time spent in our country. In the Sierra de la Demanda mountains in Burgos province you can visit the locations where much of **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** was shot, such as the ruins of **San Pedro de Arlanza Monastery**. **Valle de Mirandilla**, a lush valley between mountains and canyons, is the scene of the famous final shoot out at Sad Hill Cemetery, rebuilt by a local association that often organises screenings and events related to the film. The perfect excuse to put on your poncho and hat and feel like Clint Eastwood.



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