

HOST SATW FREELANCE COUNCIL MEETING 2023

Cáceres, November 3 – 13, 2023



MEETING ITINERARY

This itinerary represents the general agreement between SATW FLC and Extremadura. A final itinerary with event details will be completed at a later date by SATW FLC and Extremadura. The itinerary is subject to change at any time upon agreement.

Monday, November 6 – Day One

All Day – Delegates arrive, registration open – check in at NH Collection Palacio de Oquendo, Cáceres.

Internal meeting for FLC Board Members.

8:00 pm – Welcome reception at hotel. Representatives from Extremadura Tourist Board and city officials will be in attendance to welcome FLC. There will also be a short destination presentation.

Tuesday, November 7 – Day Two

Breakfast and SATW FLC business meeting in dining room.

9:30 – 13:00 Walking tour of the Old Quarter of Cáceres.

Lunch in downtown Cáceres.

Professional Development Sessions at hotel.

Dinner in Cáceres.

Wednesday, November 8 – Day Three

Breakfast

HALF DAY TOUR OPTIONS MORNING

1. Helga del Alvear Museum:

Minimum limit: 5

Maximum limit: 30

Experience a tour deep into this modern art museum to get to know some of its best pieces on behalf of the museum staff. This collection is nested alongside the Old Quarter of Cáceres and the story behind its owner and why she chose Extremadura of all places to house her collection is worth the visit.

2. Game of Throne's and other filming tours:

Minimum limit: 5

Maximum limit: 30

Thanks to the spectacularly preserved Old Quarter of Cáceres, the city has been chosen for Spanish and international productions as their period film set. The latest and most famous of these productions is Game of Thrones and the Prequel House of Dragons. Take a walk through the town and jog your memory for the different scenes filmed within the walls of the city.

3. Art and birdwatching in Los Barruecos:

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 20

Visit the Wolf Vöstell Museum in nearby Malpartida de Cáceres, well known for the German artist's Fluxus style and other contemporary artists. In addition to the art, the location of the museum is in a stunning landscape complete with large granite boulders and stork's nests. Participants will be led by a local nature guide to point out the interesting birds and wildlife that coinhabit with this art haven.

4. Cheese tour in Casar de Cáceres:

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 20

See how this delicious cheese is made and enjoy a cheese tasting accompanied by a glass of regional wine and a stroll in the town afterwards. The town of Casar de Cáceres is a short drive from Cáceres and is the producer of this creamy strong cheese made with a special ingredient in comparison to other cheeses.

HALF DAY TOUR OPTIONS AFTERNOON

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4. Wine and cheese tasting tour in Cáceres:

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 15

Take a tour through the region guided by the wines and cheeses that are made in the different parts of Extremadura. The tasting will be done in the city of Cáceres by a local sommelier who will be able to give you a better picture of the variety available in Extremadura.

Dine Around: Dinner at different restaurants in Cáceres. Alcoholic beverages will be paid separately or following the individual restaurant's menu offer (for example, one glass of wine provided with the meal).

Thursday, November 9 – Day Four

Breakfast

FULL DAY TOURS:

Minimum limit: 10 per tour

Maximum limit: 20 per tour

1. Trujillo:

Visit this charming town and one of the well-known wineries of the area.

The walled town of Trujillo stands on a hill overlooking the surrounding countryside. Like so many of other cities in the region of Extremadura, Trujillo has a wide and varied history, which is visible in the buildings and monuments found throughout the city. Trujillo was the birthplace of many explorers such as Francisco Pizarro and Francisco de Orellana.

2. Plasencia and Hervás:

Visit this surprising city and the charming town of Hervás.

Plasencia has a historic quarter that is a consequence of the city's strategic location along the Silver Route, or Ruta de la Plata. Since the 15th century, the noblemen of the region began to move to Plasencia, defining its current appearance. Palaces, ancestral homes and significant religious buildings make up a unique old quarter.

3. Mérida:

Visit the Roman Capital and enjoy a Roman style meal.

Once capital of Lusitania (Spain and Portugal), Mérida was founded in 25 BC. It boasts some of the finest Roman ruins in the whole of Spain and possibly the world: the Roman Theater, the Amphitheater, the Temple of Diana or the Roman Bridge. It is nowadays the administrative capital of the region of Extremadura and was awarded the title of World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

4. Monfragüe National Park:

Full day of activities (to be announced depending on weather conditions) in the National Park with nature guide.

Monfragüe is located in the center of the province of Cáceres, at the confluence of the Tajo and Tiétar Rivers. It is at present the only National Park in Extremadura, with 18,118 ha under this protection. The park and its immediate surrounding area, a total of 116,151 ha, are protected by the Natura 2000 network as a SPA. The center of the park consists of several small, parallel mountain ranges, between which flows the Tajo River. The Tiétar River and other lesser waterways carve out deep gorges as they flow towards the Tajo, creating a spectacular system of rocky cliffs in which a huge number of birds breed. Nowadays the river courses are dammed up by the reservoirs of Alcántara, Torrejón-Tajo and Torrejón-Tiétar. Despite the area's low height, the uneven relief and the water

barrier has enabled the conservation of areas of Mediterranean forest and scrubland of extremely high value in terms of fauna and flora. However, what really gives the area its value is the large dehesa areas that extend to the north and south of the National Park, providing an abundant food supply for Monfragüe's most valuable birds.

SATW Closing Dinner

Friday, November 10 – Day Five

Breakfast

Delegates depart for home or post tours.

PRE & POST TOURS

Extremadura will arrange pre-meeting and post-meeting tour options as part of the Freelance Council Meeting. Pre and Post tours can be two to three nights depending on the agreement with the companies in question. Airport transportation between the Madrid airport and convention hotel will be provided at the start of pre-tours and end of post-tours by the companies running the tours.

PRE-TOURS

The Pre Tours will take place from November 3 through November 6. Transportation, accommodation, activities and meals will be provided:

1. Photo Quest:

Minimum limit: 6

Maximum limit: 10

This is designed for the attending photographers and consists in a rental car and a voucher for accommodation and dinner at any of the 8 Hospederías throughout Extremadura <https://www.hospederiasdeextremadura.es/>. The rental car will be picked up in Madrid on November 3 and dropped off in Cáceres November 6 before 6:00 pm. The SATW FLC member is responsible for the costs of insurance and gas for the vehicle. The photographer is free to plan their own itinerary, however they must reserve accommodation beforehand at the hotels. The photos they take during this tour will be

judged during the SATW FLC core meeting. Extremadura requests the promotional use of three of the photos from each participant for strictly promotional purposes of the destination. There are no monetary prizes in this Photo Quest.

2. Olive Oil in the North of Extremadura

Minimum limit: 5

Maximum limit: 8

Extremadura produces fine quality olive oil and this tour will allow you to witness firsthand how this product is made following the whole process. You will stay at the hotel Aqua et Oleum which is a luxury hotel built inside an old olive oil mill <https://aquaetoleum.com>. The owners of the establishment are firm believers in the beauty and importance of the area and will take you to see their olive harvest and to the local factory where they are turned to the golden liquid so prominent in Spanish and Extremadura cuisine. You will also have a tour of the nearby neighboring villages of Trevejo and Robledillo de Gata.

3. Plasencia, Granadilla Castle, Versátil restaurant and smoked paprika (Pimentón de la Vera)

Minimum limit: 5

Maximum limit: 10

Combine the historic city of Plasencia with some of the natural treasures found nearby. Visit the abandoned town and castle of Granadilla and enjoy a local Michelin Star restaurant, Versátil <https://versatilrural.com/>, nestled in this quaint landscape in the north of the region. To end this gastronomy tour, you will travel to La Vera valley where you will see what's behind the scenes of their gourmet product smoked paprika.

4. Defending the Border (*La Raya*) with Portugal: Alcántara, Albuquerque, Olivenza

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 20

The frontier between Spain and Portugal is known as La Raya and has some peculiar characteristics of the fusion between the two cultures. On this tour you will be able to visit some of the strong holds and castles that narrated the history of the everchanging border. Alcántara is well known for their immaculate Roman Bridge as well as the convent where classical theatre festivals are still held annually. The castle of Albuquerque is located on a strategic point which gives you a bird's eye view of the surrounding Dehesa.

The architecture of Olivenza is a clear example of the combined cultures here on the Raya. There have been contraband routes throughout the past and the recipes of the two cultures create some of the dishes that are popular in Extremadura gastronomy today.

5. Jamón, *Dehesa* and Wines:

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 15

Visit local family owned wineries to discover the Extremadura wines and cavas as well as learn firsthand the secret behind the delicacy of jamón ibérico from the Dehesa de Extremadura, acorn fed free range cured ham. You will be led by one of the experts in the field and he will take us to see the pigs, the factory and also give you a class on how to correctly slice this gastronomic staple of Spanish cuisine.

6. Culture and wines in southern Extremadura:

Minimum limit: 5

Maximum limit: 10

Stay at the astrotourism hotel Entre Encinas & Estrellas <https://www.eyeye.es/en/accommodation/> to fully appreciate the landscape of Extremadura and its Starlight Destination skies. Here you will be able to relax and also learn from the experts on sight and use the telescopes on sight. In addition, visit some of the nearby towns and local gastronomy.

7. Roman Remains: Mérida, Medellín, Aljucen, Alange

Minimum limit: 10

Maximum limit: 15

Take a step back 2,000 years into the Roman Empire and their reign of the Lusitania Province. This tour will let you dive deeper into the many Roman remains left in the region of Extremadura, many in spectacular condition. You will get to tour the city of Mérida which was the capital of the Lusitania Province (Spain and Portugal). In addition to the remains in Mérida you will discover the nearby town of Medellín, the Roman baths in Alange, a roman meal in Aljucén and an evening guided tour of the secrets of Mérida.

POST-TOURS

The Post-Tours will take place from November 10 through November 13. Transportation, accommodation, activities and meals will be provided:

*Same tours except for the Photo Quest