

AUDIO GUIDE



AYUNTAMIENTO DE
SANTA MARTA DE
TORMES



TURISMO DE
SANTA MARTA
DE TORMES
SALAMANCA

SOTO ISLAND

Santa Marta de Tormes

Isla del Soto is **the great green lung of Santa Marta de Tormes**. A natural space of 14 hectares where nature and leisure come together.

With this AUDIO GUIDE you will discover its history, its flora and fauna, the surprising artistic sculptures found within it, and much more.

Let yourself be surprised; walk, feel, take photos, share your experience... **and above all, enjoy nature at your own pace.**





AUDIO GUIDE

Scan to begin the experience



SOTO ISLAND



1.3 kilometres long



210 metres at its width point

***El Soto* is more than just an island** — for the people of Santa Marta, it is a symbol, as important as the Plaza Mayor is for Salamanca.



This island, with its **curious boomerang shape**, is connected by three convenient pedestrian footbridges.

You can access it from ***La Aldehuela***, from ***La Fontana***, and also from the town centre via ***Plaza de la Iglesia***.

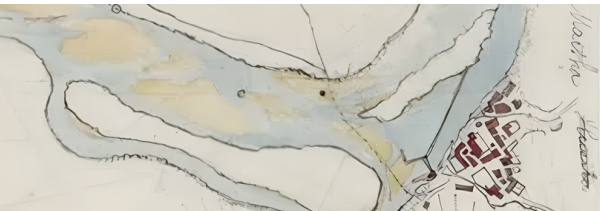
It is open every day. The wide opening hours are displayed on signs at each of the entrances.



ORIGINS OF THE ISLAND

This island was not always an island, but farmland belonging to the **Aldehuela de los Guzmanes**, located on the right bank of the river.

Over the years, the Tormes itself, through **various floods**, shaped the landscape until it formed the current island.



Over time, it was used for agriculture, livestock, and even held strategic value during the **Peninsular War**.

Troops, both allied and French, crossed the river at the Santa Marta ford on four occasions. One of these crossings was especially significant the day before the famous **Battle of Salamanca in Arapiles**.

As the years passed and the island was abandoned, nature reclaimed the space. Today, thanks to the initiative of the Town Council, **it is a natural paradise of great environmental value.**



FLORA

El Soto hosts a riverside ecosystem with great plant diversity. From reed beds and bulrushes along the riverbank to **willows, alders, poplars, black poplars, elder trees, and ash trees** further inland.

This natural environment of **high ecological value** is home to birds, insects, and small mammals that coexist in harmony.



FAUNA

Elusive and silent, many of the animals that live on or visit the island do so without wishing to be seen.

Moles, wild boars, or otters; birds, fish, and a wide variety of insects, arachnids, and molluscs. Even the least noticed, like fungi, contribute to the natural cycle.

Every species plays a role and forms part of a perfect chain that sustains the biodiversity of the environment.



AVIFAUNA OF THE RIVER AND RIPARIAN FOREST

Heron, egrets, cormorants, coots, mallards, gulls, and woodpeckers inhabit the area, as well as the golden oriole and the **Kingfisher, symbol of the island.**

Each species, with its own unique characteristics and behaviours, makes this an ideal spot for **birdwatching.**



INTRODUCED SPECIES

On Isla del Soto we find species introduced by humans, such as **london plane trees, walnut trees, or hybrid poplars**, which coexist without major disruption.

However, other species such as **carp, pike, american mink or non-native terrapins** cause serious imbalances in the Tormes River ecosystem. Respecting local biodiversity is essential.



ISLA DEL SOTO INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The Centre offers an exhibition about **traditional trades connected to the river, such as millers, gardeners, washerwomen or fishermen**, evoking the lives of past generations.

It includes period objects, images, and tools. It also houses the ***Sala Miguel Delibes***, which offers temporary exhibitions.



ZONES AND USES OF THE ISLAND

El Soto **offers multiple outdoor activities:** walking, running, cycling or meditating. It features dog areas, fishing spots, a children's playground, an outdoor fitness park, birdwatching observatory, performance area, and picnic spots.

An ideal space to enjoy, play sport, relax, or create art in the heart of nature — always with respect for the environment and for others.



ROUTES OF SANTA MARTA DE TORMES

Discover five routes that have transformed not only the island, but also the municipality of Santa Marta de Tormes.

The **Route of Arte Emboscado** displays iron sculptures such as the kingfisher, the woodpecker, the heron, and a group of ants.



The **Route of the Pencils** surprises with colourful figures made from recycled wood, including smaller pencils hidden around the town centre.

The **Route of the Soto Bugs** presents giant insects with simple shapes, bright colours and enormous sizes.

The **Battle of Arapiles Cycling Route** is a certified trail by IMBA and crosses historical sites through a circular route of approximately 35 kilometres.



The **Route of the Murals** highlights urban art as a tool for transforming public space.

Various artists, such as Daniel Martín, Caín Ferreras and Rober Bece, have contributed works that turn Santa Marta de Tormes into an open-air art gallery.

You'll find some on *Isla del Soto* and others throughout the town, located on different façades and in urban spaces.





Until next time!



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