

## **4. The Guiding Star**

### **Play of the Magi (Auto de los Reyes Magos)**

It is nice to drive along national route #4 from Madrid down to Andalucía. If you are not driving nonstop to Córdoba, it would also make a fine detour to leave route #4 and visit the small town of Almagro in the Ciudad Real prefecture. Just walking around the Plaza Mayor is quite enjoyable. For those who are interested in Spanish literature, the Corral de Comedias, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is a must to visit. This roofless theater hosts an international classical drama festival every year. Unfortunately there were no plays on when I visited, but the theatre was open for visitors to look around and even to go up on the stage.

It is probably in the evening that we can enjoy the most splendid view of Spain. When I left Almagro in the afternoon and went up north to Toledo, there was a beautiful sunset along the rural road at dusk. Following that, I pulled over for safety and looked up at the countless stars in the sky above the dry Meseta highlands. This is the type of experience that surely reminds us of the miracle of the Earth and the vast expanse of the universe.



**[Picture 4a: Rural Road at Ciudad Real]**