

Castilla y León Tourist Information
turismocastillayleon.com

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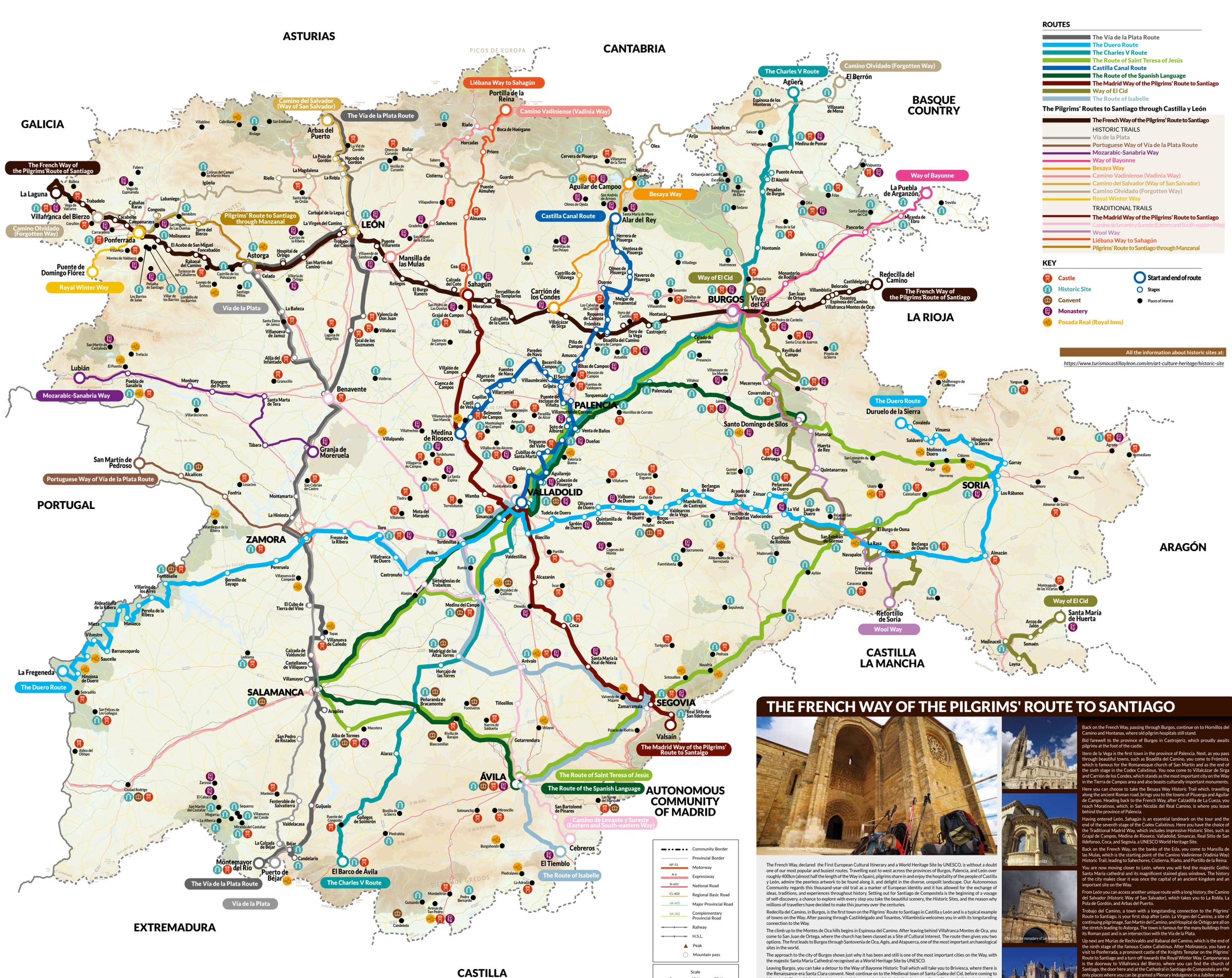
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MAJOR ROUTES AND HISTORIC SITES

Castilla y León is crossed by ten major routes that invite you to a very special journey. Routes whose paths encompass the Via de la Plata Route, the French Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, the kingdoms of Isabelle the Catholic and Charles V, the lives of historic figures such as El Cid and Teresa of Jesús, the course of the River Duero, one of the most culturally important sites in southern Europe, and the great 18th and 19th century work of hydraulic engineering, the Castilla Canal, and the core aspect that unites all of Castilla y León: Castilian Spanish as the common tongue.

We encourage you to travel these routes in the footsteps of thousand-year-old cultures at the Historic Sites in the Autonomous Community, stay in places full of charm and history such as Posadas Reales (Royal Inns) and palaces, and savour the vast range of delicious food they offer. Explore the castles, one of the main hallmarks of the landscape in Castilla y León. Castilla y León boasts more than 200 of these imposing fortifications from the Middle Ages. Visiting and admiring them will take you back to the way life was in the past. Make sure to take in the monasteries, nestled in the heart of cities or hidden in mountains and valleys. Part of the history of Castilla y León was written behind their walls.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/art-culture-heritage>
<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/art-culture-heritage/historic-sites>



- ROUTES**
- The Via de la Plata Route
 - The Duero Route
 - The Charles V Route
 - The Route of Saint Teresa of Jesús
 - Castilla Canal Route
 - The Route of the Spanish Language
 - The Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago
 - Way of El Cid
 - The Route of Isabelle
- The Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago through Castilla y León**
- The French Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago
 - HISTORIC TRAILS
 - Vía de la Plata
 - Portuguese Way of Via de la Plata Route
 - Mozarabic-Sanabria Way
 - Way of Bayonne
 - Besaya Way
 - Camino Vadinense (Vadina Way)
 - Camino del Salvador (Way of San Salvador)
 - Camino Olvidado (Forgotten Way)
 - Royal Winter Way
 - TRADITIONAL TRAILS
 - The Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago
 - Camino de Levante y Sureste (Eastern and South-eastern Way)
 - Wool Way
 - Liébana Way to Sahagún
 - Pilgrims' Route to Santiago through Manzanal
- KEY**
- Castle
 - Historic Site
 - Convent
 - Monastery
 - Posada Real (Royal Inns)
 - Start and end of route
 - Stages
 - Pieces of interest

All the information about historic sites at:
<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/art-culture-heritage/historic-sites>

THE FRENCH WAY OF THE PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO

Back on the French Way, passing through Burgos, continue on to Hornillos del Camino and Hontanas, where old pilgrim hospitals still stand. Bid farewell to the province of Burgos in Castrojeriz, which proudly awaits pilgrims at the foot of the castle.

Horno de la Vega is the first town in the province of Palencia. Next, as you pass through beautiful towns such as Bosdilla del Camino, you come to Frómista, which is famous for the Romanesque church of San Martín and as a site of the sixth stage in the Codex Calixtinus. You now come to Villalcázar de Sirga and Carrión de los Condes, which stands as the most important city on the Way in the Tierra de Campos area and also boasts culturally important monuments.

Here you can choose to take the Besaya Way Historic Trail which, travelling along the ancient Roman road, brings you to the towns of Pisuegra and Aguilar de Campos. Heading back to the French Way, after Valladolid de la Cruz, you reach Morcinos, which, in San Nicolás del Real Camino, is where you leave behind the province of Palencia.

Having entered León, Sahagún is an essential landmark on the tour and the end of the seventh stage of the Codex Calixtinus. Here you have the choice of the Traditional Madrid Way, which includes impressive Historic Sites, such as Grajal de Campos, Medina de Rioseco, Simancas, Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, Coca, and Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

From León you can access another unique route with a long history, the Camino del Salvador (Historic Way of San Salvador), which takes you to La Robla, La Piedad de Gordón, and Arbas del Puerto.

Troballo del Camino is a town with a longstanding connection to the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, its year first stop after León. La Virgen del Camino, a site of continuing pilgrimage, San Martín del Camino, and Hospital de Oribe are all on the stretch leading to Astorga. The town is famous for the many buildings from its Roman past and as an intersection with the Via de la Plata.

Up next are Murias de Rechivaldo and Rabanal del Camino, which is the end of the ninth stage of the famous Codex Calixtinus. After Molinaseca, you have a visit to Ponferrada, a prominent castle of the Knights' Templar on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and a turn off towards the Royal Winter Way. Compostela is the doorway to Villafraña del Bierzo, where you can find the church of Santiago, the door here and at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela are the only places where you can be granted a Plenary Indulgence in a Jubilee year.

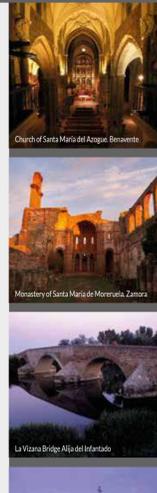
Finally, you pass through the last towns on the French Way to reach La Laguna, the last town in León and the end of the Camino de Santiago in Castilla y León.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/caminos/>

THE VÍA DE LA PLATA ROUTE



On this, 393km route crossing the provinces of Salamanca, Zamora, and León in Castilla y León, you can delve into the main civilisations and periods of Spanish history: the Romans, the Arabs, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Baroque period... From the Sierra de Béjar mountains (where a one-of-a-kind Roman road remains that is unique in Spain due to how long and well-preserved it is) to the Puerto de Pajares mountain pass, you can travel through some of the most beautiful and iconic places in our country. This route is a journey back in history at the Historic Sites and unique places of natural beauty to be found by the side of the thousand-year-old Roman road of the Via de la Plata Route.



In our Autonomous Community, the route begins in the province of Salamanca. Crossing the landscape of castles and town walls, you visit Monasterio de Santa María del Anzue, where the castle receives you from its lofty position, and carry on towards Béjar to take in the walls, the castle-palace, the Plaza Mayor main square, and the 16th century town hall. Nearby, Candelario, blessed with beautiful traditional architecture, holds a reenactment of a typical traditional wedding in August. Guzmalo has a tempting selection of cold meats to try before you head on to Arapiles, known as the site of a battle that is named after the town.

The Via de la Plata Route winds its way through towns rich in history, as can be seen in the traces of monuments in Salamanca city, where a stroll in the Plaza Mayor square and sample of the local cuisine is particularly worthwhile.

Carrying on to the north, a Roman fountain is to be found in Calzada de Valdunciel and in Villanueva de Cañedo there is the Buen Amor castle-palace, which has been converted into a Resaca Real (Royal Inn).

This is the crossing point into the province of Zamora, where El Cubo del Vino area awaits, with its traditional wine cellars dug into the ground, and Morales del Vino, where there is a 16th century church. Both towns have a long history of winemaking. You now head towards the city known as the 'capital of the Romanesque' in Spain, the walled city of Zamora. Here you can take in the castle and fortified palace. The route where those walking the Via de la Plata Route have crossed over for centuries, the Romanesque Cathedral, with its spectacular Byzantine-inspired dome, and the 22 Romanesque churches. After Zamora, the route marks the way towards La Hiniesta, Montañana, and reaches Graña de Morada, where you can find the impressive ruins of the Cistercian monastery.

Benavente is a transport hub between Tierra de Campos and Pirameo. You can visit the castle keep, now a 'Parador' hotel, the Romanesque churches of San Juan del Mercado and Santa María del Anzue, and explore the Plaza Mayor square.

In León, on the way to Astorga, the route takes you to the Romanesque church of San Verísimo in Alja de Infanzado, which is also home to a 15th century castle-palace and the Vizana stone bridge. Continue on to Quintana del Marco and Villanueva de Jarama, both of which boast castles belonging to the Counts of Luna.

From here, your next stop is La Bañeza, where there is a square lined by arcaded buildings and the Salvador church. Carry on to reach Astorga where the attractions include the early 4th century walls, the Episcopal Palace, designed by Antonio Gaudí, the town hall, the Plaza Mayor main square, and the Collegiate Church of Santa María de Arbis, which in days gone by was a shelter for those walking the route.

The Via de la Plata Route, between Astorga and León, follows the French Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and comes to the Hospital de Orbigo and the shrine of the Virgin del Camino.

In the city of León, the walls, the cathedral, the San Marcos hospital monastery, and the Basilica de San Isidoro, the finest work of Romanesque art in all of the Iberian Peninsula, are waiting for you.

Heading towards Asturias, the Alto del Rabizo mountain pass leads to La Robla. On the way to the Puerto de Pajares mountain pass, you can see the Roza and Gato mountain ranges, Polade Gordon, and Huera de Gordon, where the Buen Suceso church is located. In this pass, you come to the site of the ancient San Juan de la Cruz route. In the town of Pajares, you can take the cable car to the top of the mountain. The route of our Autonomous Community ends in the Collegiate Church of Santa María de Arbis, which in days gone by was a shelter for those walking the route.

<https://www.viaadelaplata.com/>

[https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/caminos/](https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/caminos/)

THE ROUTE OF SAINT TERESA OF JESÚS



The Carmelite monastery of **Soria** was founded in 1581. The saint wrote ten letters, poetry, and a significant section of chapter 30 of the Book of Foundations in which she recounts all aspects of the monastery in Soria.

The convent of San José and Santa Ana in **Burgos** was the last monastery that Saint Teresa founded. Various relics of the saint have been preserved, such as canvas sandals, veil, and a collection of letters.

The foundation of the monastery in **Palencia** in 1580 was supported by the city from the very start. The warm welcome from the people of Palencia is shown by a phrase attributed to her: "The Palencians are of the finest composition I have seen".

On 15 August, 1567, in **Medina del Campo**, Saint Teresa of Jesús founded the Discalced Carmelite monastery of San José, where she met her first spiritual son, Juan de la Cruz. The saint was closely linked to the town of **Alba de Tormes**. In 1574, she founded the convent of the Annunciation, where she would die in 1582. Her tomb has been preserved and you can venerate the main relics: her heart and left arm.

She visited **Valladolid** in 1568, where she founded her fourth monastery, the convent of the Concepción del Carmen (Discalced Carmelites). They subsequently moved to another location in the city and are now found in the convent of Saint Teresa of Valladolid, where her cell and several signed letters are kept.

Saint Teresa also left her mark in **Salamanca** where she went in 1570. The house of Saint Teresa de Jesús would be remembered as the place that inspired the quote: "I leave nothing of myself in me".

ROUTE OF SAINT TERESA OF JESÚS

ROUTE OF LIFE

Ávila and Alba de Tormes. This route links the towns where the Saint was born and died, respectively, and where the first and eighth of her monasteries are located.

FINAL MANIONS

Soria, Burgos, and Palencia. In the final three years of her life, Saint Teresa lived in Palencia, Soria, and Burgos, where she founded the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth and final Discalced convents.

EARLY MONASTERIES

Ávila, Medina del Campo, and Valladolid. Saint Teresa de Jesús founded the first Discalced Carmelite monastery in Ávila in 1562, in Spain during the 18th and 19th centuries. Initially a workshop for transporting goods, it is now classed as a Site of Cultural Interest and one of the most popular tourist routes in Castilla y León because of the wonderful scenery and the historical and artistic riches to be found in the towns that lie along it.

TERESA IN WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

Segovia, Ávila, and Salamanca. This route covers the Teresian cities of Castilla y León, which are also recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage Cities.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/footsteps-teresa-wjls/>

THE MADRID WAY OF THE PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO



Passing through Zamarramala, Valdeca, and Los Huertos you come to Santa María la Real de Nieva. This is one of the historic towns on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on this route starting in Madrid. It offers a range of services and is an important heritage.

Nieva is a typical Segovia countryside town, where visitors can sample a number of excellent wines. Next is the town of Coca, where there is an impressive Mudéjar castle, considered the finest fortification built using brick.

Pilgrims now reach Villagigedo, the last town in Segovia on the Way. Nestled in a pine forest, it has a month with a message of encouragement for pilgrims: "Hacemos camino al andar" (we make the road by walking).

The town of Alcañón, one of the most welcoming in the whole of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, is held to be one of the cradles of Mudéjar art. It is the first town in the province of Valladolid on the Way.

When you come to the River Duero, you will find the town of Simancas, where the castle is home to the General Archives of Simancas. Built by Juan de Herrera, it was the first official archives of the Crown of Castille and holds the most consistent and complete collection of documents on or after 16th century history.

The small town of Ciguñuela has a four-level spine in the church of San Gines that is a beacon guiding pilgrims over these last few kilometers through grain fields. There is also a good municipal hostel for pilgrims.

Medina de Rioseco is perhaps the town on the Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago that has the greatest concentration of heritage. You can take in Holy Week, which has been designated as an International Tourist Attraction, the Castilla Canal, and pastries.

Walking a few kilometers further leads pilgrims to Cuenca de Campos, another magnificent place for pilgrims to take a break. The range of services make this town one of the most welcoming on this entire section of the Way.

Villaviñón grew to prominence in the 13th century when it was granted the right to hold fairs and in the 15th and 16th centuries the town built up a large cattle trading fair.

The route takes pilgrims to Melgar de Abenda, the last town on the Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in the province of Valladolid.

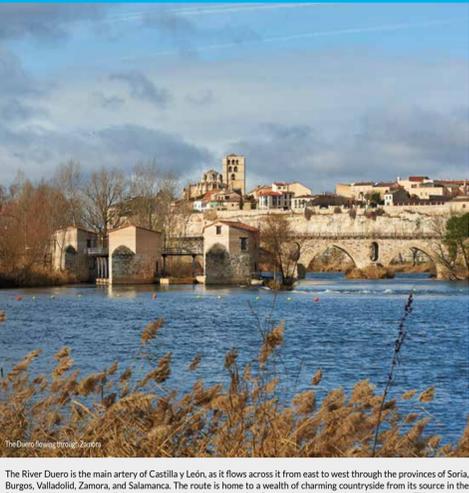
After travelling the length of the whole province of Valladolid, you reach the first town in the province of León in this section. This is the small town of Arcos de Valdecarlos. In the 7th century church of Santo Tomás Apóstol a 12th century apse has been preserved.

The walled town of Gralajón de Campos is known for the battles that were waged there. The whole town is criss-crossed by alleys and has a number of Mozarabic buildings. There are also the remains of a pilgrim hospital. You can visit the Palencia sites of Gralajón de Campos, the castle, and the castle. Pilgrims can spend the night and rest up at the hostel in the Palace of the Counts of Gralajón.

The next stop is San Pedro de las Duernas, which is the end of this stretch of the Way.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/caminos/>

THE DUERO ROUTE



The section of the Duero in the city of Soria was a source of inspiration for Becquer, Gorría's Duero, and Machado. On the left bank, you can visit the marvellous cloisters of San Juan de Duero and the San Saturnio shrine.

The river flows on to the historic towns of Almazán (with its town walls and palace of the Hurtado de Mendoza) and close to Berlanga de Duero, where you can visit the castle. The route carries on to the imposing Gormaz castle and San Esteban de Gormaz, and its Romanesque churches, which is the starting point of the Ribera del Duero Wine Route.

At La Vid, the Duero crosses into the Burgos lands of the Ribera del Duero Denomination of Origin. The river continues on to Penaranda de Duero, the towns of Zuzar and Yaldosnes, through Fresno de las Dueñas, home to underground wine cellars, until it reaches Aranda de Duero.

The Duero broadens significantly as it comes to Roa, where it is joined by the Riza on the left bank. This town is the headquarters of the Regulatory Board of the Ribera del Duero Designation of Origin. It is lodged high above the valley which gives it panoramic views over the river and the fertile lands full of riverside vineyards.

The Duero enters Valladolid at Valdearcos de la Vega and flows through Boco and Curia de Duero where you can take in the castle and fortified palace. The course of the river is overlooked by Peñañel Castle, which has been turned into the Provincial Wine Museum. It continues through Pesquera de Duero, which is home to a large collection of Romanesque buildings known as the 'Cotozaro de San Pedro' and emblematic wineries of the D.O. that are fed by the rich waters of the River Duero.

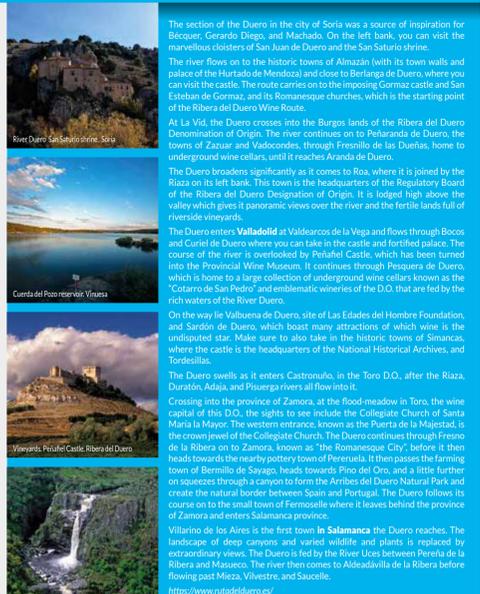
On the way to Valbuena de Duero, site of Las Edades del Hombre Foundation, and Sardon de Duero, which boasts many attractions of which wine is the undisputed star. Make sure to also take in the historic town of Simancas, where the castle is the headquarters of the National Historical Archives, and Tordesillas.

The Duero swells as it enters Castromojo, in the Toro D.O., after the Riza, Buradón, Adaja, and Pisuerga rivers all flow into it.

Crossing into the province of Zamora, at the flood-meadow in Toro, the wine capital of this D.O., the sights to see include the Collegiate Church of Santa María la Mayor. The western entrance, known as the Puerta de la Majestad, is the work of the Gothic architect. The Duero continues through Villavieja de Ribera on to Zamora, known as 'the Romanesque City', before it then heads towards the nearby town of Pereñuela. It then passes the farming town of Bermillo de Sotillo, heads towards Pino de Duero, and a little further on crosses the Duero by a canon from the Arribes del Duero Natural Park and create the natural border between Spain and Portugal. The Duero flows into its course on to the small town of Fermoselle where it leaves behind the province of Zamora and enters the province of Salamanca.

Villanov de las Añas is the first town in **Salamanca** the Duero reaches. The landscape of deep canyons and varied wildlife and plants is replaced by extraordinary views. The Duero is fed by the Ribera de Uca between Pereda de la Ilera and Mazon. The river then comes to the Aldeas de la Ribera before flowing past: Meza, Villaverde, and Sasovillo.

<https://www.viaadelduero.es/>



CASTILLA CANAL ROUTE



The engineering and architecture of the canal includes important features such as the locks, which were built to overcome differences in the height of the terrain and ease sailing. There are also stone docks, for loading and unloading goods, numerous bridges, and a total of 69 aqueducts, such as the one in Villamao or the one on the River Uceja.

It has warehouses, built at the docks, worker housing, and the abobe or brick lock-keepers' houses, mills and flour factories, such as the one in San Antonio in Medina de Rioseco or the one in Abanca. The basins were built to take water from irrigation canals used for watering and moving water. The league markers are the milestones of the Castilla Canal, landmarks that mark the distances travelled between the ends of the branches. Irrigation valves stations are dotted along the entire length of the canal.

The story of the canal started in 1751, under a plan devised by Ferdinand VI at the request of the marquis of Ensenada. Antonio de Ulloa conducted the initial studies, under the guidance of engineer Carlos Lemaur. Ulloa drew up the General Plan for Sailing and Irrigation in 1753, which envisaged four canals: the three we find today and a fourth one for Segovia. Work officially started on 16 July 1753 and concluded in 1849. In 1792, when work on the three branches had not yet been completed, the first commercial journeys of the canal were undertaken.

Transport peaked between 1850 and 1860, mainly in the shipping of goods (wheat, flour, and timber). The introduction of railways led to decreasing traffic until, in 1859, the State ordered it to be closed definitively. Ever since, the canal has been used for irrigation, water supply, and tourist activities.

The best options for **travelling along the canal** are by walking or on mountain bike. At an average of 25 or 30km per day, hikers can expect to complete the more than 200km in a little under eight days. The towns make it possible to do the route by mountain bike in roughly four days. This is a great option for enjoying the full extent of the monuments, countryside, and wildlife along the route.

If you prefer adventure tourism, you can kayak the Castilla Canal. You can also go on different boat tours all along the Castilla Canal, from Medina de Rioseco to Fernalmatín, Herrera, de Pisuegra and Frómista in Palencia, and Melgar de Fernamental in Burgos.

<http://www.canaledcastillo.org/>

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/canal-castilla/>

This impressive feat of hydraulic engineering was one of the finest projects of its type to be built in Spain during the 18th and 19th centuries. Initially a workshop for transporting goods, it is now classed as a Site of Cultural Interest and one of the most popular tourist routes in Castilla y León because of the wonderful scenery and the historical and artistic riches to be found in the towns that lie along it.

It stretches 270km across the plateau over the provinces of Palencia, Burgos, and Valladolid, and has three branches: Northern, Southern, and Campos. The Northern branch starts in Alar del Rey and ends in Ribas de Campos, where the Campos branch starts and continues to Medina de Rioseco. The Southern branch, in turn, starts at the split of the Campos branch in El Serrón and extends to the city of Pisuerga, Valladolid.

THE CHARLES V ROUTE



The emperor visited the town of Torquemada several times. On Mayor street, tourists can easily spot the house of Joanna the Mad, the emperor's mother, which are still standing. Whilst passing through Cabozón de Pisuerga on 21 October 1556, he met his grandson, Don Carlos. After having lunch, Charles V set out for Valladolid, 14 kilometres away.

Valladolid was one of the cities where the emperor stayed the longest on his final journey. He decided to stay there from 22 October to 4 November.

The records state that on the fourth his entourage set out towards Extremadura and Charles V ate in public. A short time later he had a very affectionate farewell to his daughter, grandson, and sisters. At around half past three in the afternoon, he left the city refusing to allow the prelates, nobles, and many others who wanted to accompany him to go further than the Campogate.

During his stay, Charles V lodged at the old Royal Palace. On 4 November 1556, after leaving Valladolid, emperor Charles V reached the town of Valladolid at roughly eight o'clock in the evening. He would spend the night there before starting the journey to Medina del Campo at first light.

The city of Medina del Campo, whose Mota castle perched on a small hill is the first sight of the city visitors see, received the imperial entourage, which stayed in the house of the banker Rodrigo de Torres to the Plaza de Bracamonte on the outskirts of the town and is known as the Casa Blanca (White House).

Horcajo de las Torres, in the north of Ávila province, saw the emperor arrive on **06 November 1556**. As the records state, this was a relief for Charles V. He exclaimed: "Thank God I will have no more visits or receptions".

To make the journey from Horcajo de las Torres to the Plaza de Bracamonte in the province of Salamanca, the emperor travelled a distance of three leagues. He stayed the night there on 7 November and the distance by road today is no more than 38km.

The clergy house of Callegos de Solórzano in Salamanca witnessed the night that Charles V spent in the town on 9 November.

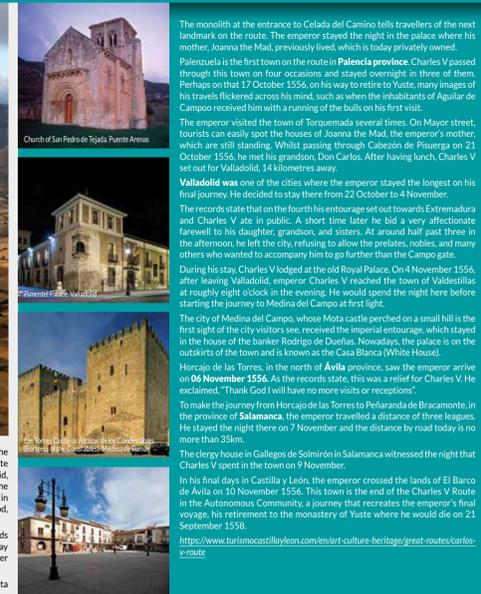
In his final days in Castilla y León, the emperor crossed the lands of El Barco de Ávila on 10 November 1556. This town is the end of the Charles V route in the Autonomous Community, a journey that recreates the emperor's final voyage. His last rest stop was the monastery of Yuste where he would die on 23 September 1558.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/charles-v-route/>

Emperor Charles I of Spain and V of the Holy Roman Empire, called 'Caesar', son of Joanna I of Castille and Phillip I the Handsome, was a travelling king. He crossed Castilla y León on his journey to retire to the monastery of Yuste. This route travels from the north of Burgos to the south of Ávila across many towns in the provinces of Burgos, Palencia, Valladolid, Salamanca, and Ávila where the emperor stayed in both beautiful palaces and humble hostels and was able to enjoy the sumptuous cuisine of these areas. Following in the footsteps of emperor Charles V, you will discover heritage rich in important Historic Sites, unique areas of natural beauty, and cultural tradition that has been kept alive in festivals and food, which is now a part of everyone.

The emperor went on a pilgrimage lasting one month and three days, from 8 October to 10 November 1556, across the lands of Castilla y León. He arrived in Medina de Pomar on 9 October 1556. A monument in the town marks the emperor's stay there. The mansion of the town include one of the town gates, the north gate, where there is the old governor's castle-tower that the emperor stayed the night in.

The emperor's tour featured a visit to the city of Burgos, where he stopped for three days. A stay that is recorded in the Santa María arch, the entrance to the city, which bears decorations in memory of Charles V.



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Nieva is a typical Segovia countryside town, where visitors can sample a number of excellent wines. Next is the town of Coca, where there is an impressive Mudéjar castle, considered the finest fortification built using brick.

Pilgrims now reach Villagigedo, the last town in Segovia on the Way. Nestled in a pine forest, it has a month with a message of encouragement for pilgrims: "Hacemos camino al andar" (we make the road by walking).

The town of Alcañón, one of the most welcoming in the whole of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, is held to be one of the cradles of Mudéjar art. It is the first town in the province of Valladolid on the Way.

When you come to the River Duero, you will find the town of Simancas, where the castle is home to the General Archives of Simancas. Built by Juan de Herrera, it was the first official archives of the Crown of Castille and holds the most consistent and complete collection of documents on or after 16th century history.

The small town of Ciguñuela has a four-level spine in the church of San Gines that is a beacon guiding pilgrims over these last few kilometers through grain fields. There is also a good municipal hostel for pilgrims.

Medina de Rioseco is perhaps the town on the Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago that has the greatest concentration of heritage. You can take in Holy Week, which has been designated as an International Tourist Attraction, the Castilla Canal, and pastries.

Walking a few kilometers further leads pilgrims to Cuenca de Campos, another magnificent place for pilgrims to take a break. The range of services make this town one of the most welcoming on this entire section of the Way.

Villaviñón grew to prominence in the 13th century when it was granted the right to hold fairs and in the 15th and 16th centuries the town built up a large cattle trading fair.

The route takes pilgrims to Melgar de Abenda, the last town on the Madrid Way of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in the province of Valladolid.

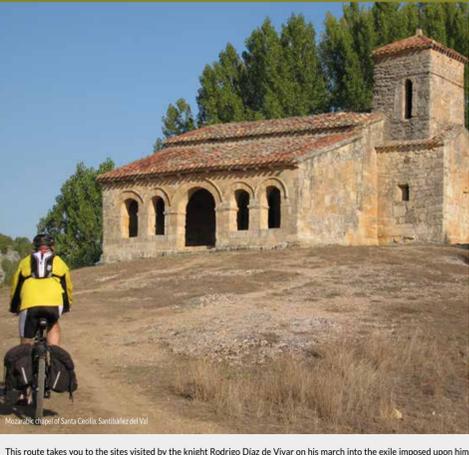
After travelling the length of the whole province of Valladolid, you reach the first town in the province of León in this section. This is the small town of Arcos de Valdecarlos. In the 7th century church of Santo Tomás Apóstol a 12th century apse has been preserved.

The walled town of Gralajón de Campos is known for the battles that were waged there. The whole town is criss-crossed by alleys and has a number of Mozarabic buildings. There are also the remains of a pilgrim hospital. You can visit the Palencia sites of Gralajón de Campos, the castle, and the castle. Pilgrims can spend the night and rest up at the hostel in the Palace of the Counts of Gralajón.

The next stop is San Pedro de las Duernas, which is the end of this stretch of the Way.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/caminos/>

WAY OF EL CID



The route begins in Vivar del Cid in Burgos and crosses eight Spanish provinces: Burgos, Soria, Guadalajara, Zaragoza, Teruel, Castellón, Valencia, and Alicante. As it is extremely long (some 1,400km of trails and 2,200km of roads), it is split into roughly 50 to 100km inter-connected routes. Two of them, the Exile Route and the Borderlands Route, cross Castilla y León through the provinces of Burgos and Soria.

The Way of El Cid in Burgos boasts several unmissable sights: Vivar del Cid, the Gothic Cathedral in Burgos, La Cartuja monastery, San Pedro de Candeña monastery, Covarrubias, Santo Domingo de Silos monastery, San José de Cén (Pinarojel), the convent complex in Caleruega, and Peñañel de Castro, where the Roman city of Clunia is located. Travellers will encounter areas of nature such as the remnants of the Arzaya Juniper grove, towns such as Covarrubias and wonderful examples of Romanesque art, such as the cloisters of Santa Domingo de Silos, and the Gothic, such as the Cathedral or the Cartuja de Miraflores monastery, both of which are in Burgos.

The focal point of the Way of El Cid in Soria is the River Duero. The landscape is dotted with watchtowers and castles, the most iconic of which is the caliphate-era fortress of Gormaz. The route crosses towns rich in heritage, especially the Romanesque, such as San Esteban de Gormaz (churches of San Miguel and the Virgin del Rocio), the Romanesque Park, the castle and Medieval bridge. El Burgo de Osma (Santa María de la Asunción Cathedral, San Agustín hospital, Osmá Castle), Berlanga de Duero (collegiate church of Santa María del Mercado, castle), Castillejo de Robledo (where some authors place the legendary Arriaba de Corpes tale), which are all on the Exile Route. Two noteworthy places on the Borderlands Route are the town of Medinaceli (castle, Roman arch, collegiate church, and Plaza Mayor main square) and Santa María de Huerta, which has a Cistercian monastery.

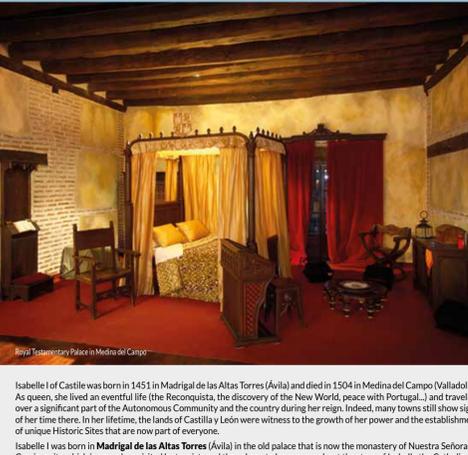
Travellers can get their Letter of Safe Conduct stamped at each of the towns they pass through. It is similar to the Middle Ages document that was used to ensure free and safe passage for travellers and goods. It is now El Cid who figuratively grants safe passage to 21st century travellers on the Way. It makes for a lovely souvenir of your time on the Way of El Cid. The stamps are very appealing and much sought after. This is a way of learning about the "secret history" of the towns you pass through. Every stamp is linked to a historic event or some aspect of the town's heritage. This credential gives you discounts in over 200 accommodations that are part of the Red de Selloado al Camino del Cid (discounts are applied to the main accommodation service).

The Letter of Safe Conduct is free, you can request yours by email or in person at the Way of El Cid offices. It is valid for 15 days. You can also get it stamped at 200 places along the route, each one has a different stamp and may have one or several stamping sites, such as Tourist Information Offices, hotels and other accommodation sites, town councils, and other establishments. Many of the stamping sites have a sign on their premises as a tie with the Way of El Cid. There are over 540 stamping sites. If you manage to get four stamps in each of the eight provinces along the route, you will get a free certificate of completion of the Way of El Cid.

<https://www.caminodelcid.org/>

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/route-cid/>

THE ROUTE OF ISABELLE



A series of succession conflicts and fights in the royal court pitted Prince Alfonso, aged just 12, against King Henry, who was deposed in the 'Farce of Ávila' in Ávila (5 June 1465). The differences between Isabelle and her brother Henry led to the Treaty of the Bulls of Guisando on 19 September 1468. In 1469, Isabelle and Ferdinand married in Vivero Palace in Valladolid. After their marriage, the Catholic Monarchs moved to the palace of the Counts of Buendía in Buedias, Palencia, where their first child, Isabelle, would be born. You can visit the church of Santa María la Asunción in this town where the princess was baptised.

On 12 December 1474, when Isabelle was at the Alcázar de Segovia castle, she received the news of the death of her brother King Enrique. Quick preparations were made for Isabelle to be proclaimed Queen the following day. Isabelle received her husband Ferdinand in the ancient Romanesque Cathedral of Segovia after he was proclaimed Queen of Castile in the old church of San Miguel.

Medina del Campo in Valladolid was a market town that Isabelle held lordship of as a result of a gift by her brother Alfonso. The Royal Testamentary Palace in the city would become her primary residence.

Despite her initial reluctance to marry without papal authorisation, the marriage contract was signed in March 1469 and Isabelle and Ferdinand were married in the Sala Rica in the Vivero Palace over the site of the Province of Valladolid Historical Archive) on 19 October 1469.

The town of Tordesillas, in the province of Valladolid, was, in 1494, the scene of one of the most important events in the history of Castilla y León, the signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas, which established peace with the kingdom of Portugal. Negotiations took place in the Houses of the Treaty of Tordesillas Map Room, two linked palaces that are open for visits nowadays.

On 12 October 1504, Queen Isabelle made her will, three days before her death granted her codicil, and then on 26 November 1504 died in the Royal Palace of Medina del Campo.

No history of Zamora is complete without reference to Isabelle the Catholic. In 1475, war broke out over the Crown of Castile. The Battle of Toro in 1476 was won by the Catholic Monarchs, who were supported by troops from Zamora. As a mark of gratitude, they had the old Zamora city council building built. In 1494, the Catholic Monarchs moved the royal court to the town of Almazán in Soria for almost 3 months. They stayed with Prince John, Princess Maria and Catherine, the infant Princess of Navarre in the palace of Antonio Hurtado de Mendoza, Count of Miranda.

In Burgos, the Queen ordered the building of the Cartuja de Miraflores Monastery, as it would be the burial place of her parents and her brother Alfonso. The whole site and the sumptuous altarpieces were the work of the great artist Juan de Herrera. The Queen established the Comendado of the Sea in 1494 to conduct Castile's trade with the Netherlands. Christopher Columbus was received in the Casa del Condán in 1497 after his second voyage to America.

<https://www.turismocastillayleon.com/en/culture-heritage/great-routes/way-isabelle/>

Isabelle of Castile was born in 1451 in Madrigal de las Altas Torres (Ávila) and died in 1504 in Medina del Campo (Valladolid). As queen, she lived an eventful life (the Reconquista, the discovery of the New World, peace with Portugal...), and travelled over a significant part of the Autonomous Community and the country during her reign. Indeed, many towns still show signs of her time there. In her lifetime, the lands of Castilla y León were witness to the growth of her power and the establishment of unique Historic Sites that are now a part of everyone.

Isabelle I was born in **Madrigal de las Altas Torres** (Ávila) in the old palace that is now the monastery of Nuestra Señora de Gracia, a site which is nowadays visited by tourists and those keen to learn more about the story of Isabelle the Catholic.

After the death of John II of Castile and the ascent to the throne of his son Henry IV, Isabelle of Portugal and her children, Isabelle and Alfonso, moved to Arévalo at the express wish of the queen, who was the ruler of the town.

She received comprehensive schooling and Christian teaching in Ávila, in which the Franciscans played a crucial role. Her devotion to the Virgin de las Angustias de Arévalo was so great that she appointed her patron saint of Granada. In the church of San Nicolás de Bari, tourists can visit the baptismal font that Queen Isabelle was baptised in.

In 1461, prior to the birth of Joanna de Castile, daughter of King Henry IV and his wife Joan of Portugal, the King's siblings (Isabelle and Alfonso) were moved to the city of Segovia, where the royal court was located so that the monarch could have control over them. In February 1462, the King and Queen announced the marriage of their daughter who would soon come to be known as 'la Beltrana' due to the insistent rumours that her father was not King Henry but rather Beltrán de la Cueva.