



**Marketing Support**  
**Guide for**  
**Castilla y León's**  
**Tourism Sector**





# INTRODUCTION

Castilla y León's Marketing Support Guide is a tool designed for professionals in the tourism sector. Its main objective is to provide travel agencies, tour operators and convention organizers with an easy-to-use, customized reference (in a digital/paper format) that facilitates the organization of any type of stay or event in Castilla y León.

This tool is designed not only for organizing holidays in Castilla y León, but also for arranging conferences, conventions, and meetings, as well as incentive and group travel in the region. This Sales Manual provides useful and practical information for all of these types of travel.

The Marketing Support Guide facilitates tourism marketing activities by making available in one place all of the information of interest to visitors.

# SERVICES

**The Marketing Support Guide is intended for tourism professionals, such as travel agencies. It provides practical information about Castilla y León, including** information on transportation and accommodations, and details about the region's resources for hosting business meetings, conferences and conventions.

The Guide will facilitate the booking of trips and stays. It was designed to be an **invaluable tool that will allow travel professionals to advise their customers and give them up-to-date, detailed information that will be useful during their stay in Castilla y León.**

The Guide includes helpful information regarding: museums and art galleries (including addresses and hours), contact information for companies that organize recreational and sports activities that may be of interest to tourists, and a list of businesses offering services ranging from car, bicycle and boat rentals to cooking classes.

It also has maps of the towns, information about places of interest and must-see sights, contact details for travel agencies and tourist guides operating in Castilla y León, as well as information about the region's cuisine (including recipes and traditional dishes), culture and nature parks. There is also plenty of detailed information about sports, shopping and markets, entertainment and night life, and wellness and spa options.

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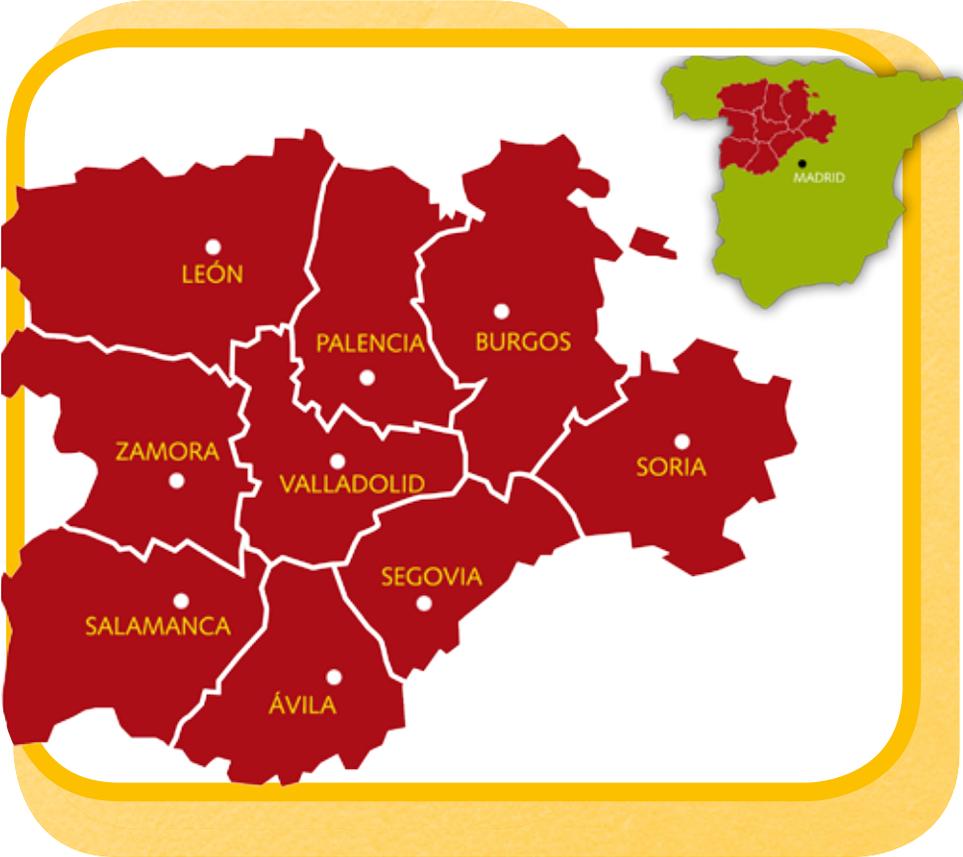
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# What is Castilla y León?

Castilla y León is the largest region in Europe. It is located in the northeast quadrant of the Iberian Peninsula. The region has an area of 94,193 sq. km, representing 18.6% of Spain's territory. It is a land of striking contrasts, spectacular natural areas, ancient traditions, legendary monuments, castles, cities recognized as World Heritage Sites and museums, an area that offers historical routes with a rich culinary tradition, fine wines, opportunities to enjoy a variety of sports and activities and, above all, a region with extraordinary charisma.



## What makes the region unique?



### **Cultural Tourism:**

#### **8 World Heritage Sites**

In addition to Castilla y León's 8 World Heritage Sites, the region offers new Cultural Centres – large modern structures built to house the most avant-garde art. Another cultural attraction is the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago, which bring thousands of pilgrims and tourists to Castilla y León. The "Abrimos" Open Monuments Programme allows tourists to see Castilla y León's heritage in all its splendour, with more than 500 monuments open for visits during peak tourism periods, such as Holy Week and the summer season.

### **Nature:**

#### **Areas for recreation, discovery and learning**

Castilla y León has Natural Areas that offer visitors a wealth of opportunities for exploring and enjoying nature. There are hot air balloon tours for viewing the natural areas from above, Visitors Centres for learning about nature, River Classrooms (educational centres) and numerous routes and paths for exploring. Increasing interest in outdoor fitness activities is apparent in facilities such as Adventure Parks and Outdoor Activity Centres, where specialized regional businesses offer various options for enjoying the great outdoors.

### **Rural Tourism:**

#### **Exploring the rural environment**

The region of Castilla y León is the national leader in rural tourism – 3,500 lodgings with more than 30,000 beds. These facilities provide opportunities to explore the rural and natural environment and enjoy recreational and leisure activities. In addition, the booking centre at [www.castillayleonesvida.com](http://www.castillayleonesvida.com) employs new technology that facilitates the booking of accommodations at any of the more than 300 establishments that have joined this online sales and marketing initiative.

### **Food and Wine Tourism: Traditional and Avant-garde Cuisine**

**Castilla y León** is known for its superb and varied produce, as well as the experience and creativity of its restaurateurs. The region's continually evolving cuisine is now among the most important in Spain. The traditional cuisine and avant-garde cuisine have a synergistic relationship that focuses on local products and features a play of sensations and flavours and creativity in presentation. In addition, the region is known for its fine wines, with nine Designations of Origin and winery tour routes that allow visitors to discover the most closely-guarded secrets of the world of wine.

### **Urban Tourism: Lively cities that offer memorable getaways.**

In addition to being centres for culture, Castilla y León's cities are prime destinations for shopping and enjoying free time, and also serve as settings for important festivals and artistic events. With offerings that include large festivals, exhibitions and musical and cultural events, along with a wealth of historic and artistic heritage, Castilla y León is poised to become a leading cultural destination.

In addition, Castilla y León's cities possess the necessary infrastructure for hosting world-class conferences, as they possess a modern transportation network and are connected to Madrid via the Madrid-Segovia-Valladolid AVE high-speed rail line.



### **Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago Major Pilgrimage Routes**

Since the Middle Ages, the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León and its inhabitants have welcomed pilgrims travelling along the region's Pilgrims' Routes on the way to their final destination – the tomb of St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago, with more than 2000 kilometers, are not just religious pilgrimage routes, its significance goes much further.

Performing arts events, exhibitions, monuments and publications will provide pilgrims and tourists with yet another example of the magnificent cultural and social legacy of these pilgrims' routes, which are still thriving after more than a thousand years. The pilgrims arrive full of joy from all over the world and come together in all paths of pilgrimage in the region of Castilla y León, where they will enjoy this great route.





## Religious Tourism:

### Holy Week

During Holy Week, Castilla y León welcomes visitors and tourists who would like to experience the event. Holy Week has great social and cultural significance and is one of the region's main tourist attractions.

Castilla y León's Holy Week is an event characterized by sobriety and reflection, in which religious sculptures take centre stage and the historic centres of the region's cities and towns provide an incomparable backdrop. As Holy Week represents a manifestation of the inhabitants' devotion, the celebrations are as varied as the region's cultural diversity. Although the events are different in every town, they always have the same spirit and are marked by the same passion, fervour and silence.

The Holy Week events in five cities (León, Salamanca, Valladolid, Zamora and Medina de Rioseco) have been declared Festivals of International Tourist Interest and those of another 15 cities and towns have been named Festivals of National and Regional Tourist Interest.

In addition to the towns and cities that have received this distinction, the rest of the region offers a wealth of religious and cultural events that are also noteworthy. The sobriety and individuality of these celebrations makes each and every one distinctive and unique. The cultural wealth of the brotherhoods and the great artistic value of the sculptures that appear in the processions contribute to making Holy Week in Castilla y León one of the region's oldest and most important tourist attractions.



## Language Tourism

### Learn Spanish

The excellent standard of Spanish language teaching in Castilla y León encourages tens of thousands of students from all over the world to choose our region to study Spanish.

Castilla y León boasts four prestigious public universities (Salamanca, Valladolid, Burgos y León) whose magnificent reputation is the result of their ongoing specialisation in the Spanish language, plus numerous schools of Spanish for foreign learners, of which approximately 20 hold the Instituto Cervantes quality seal.

The excellent reputation of these internationally renowned universities and schools is also due to the fact that learning Spanish in Castilla y León offers students the chance to learn or perfect their skills in one of the world's most important languages in the very region in which it was born more than 11 centuries ago. Here, students learn Spanish in its purest form,

unaltered by local accents and expressions. Indeed, Castilla y León is a major reference in the teaching of the most standard form of Spanish, with a less pronounced accent and greater prestige, making it one of Spain's most popular destinations for language tourism.

Castilla y León's universities also offer students the chance to combine Spanish language courses with degree programmes. Check out the websites of our universities or ask about the destinations included in the ERASMUS programme at any university.

A wide range of cultural activities targeting all age groups, and especially the young, is the perfect complement to the selection of Spanish courses on offer in Castilla y León. It provides numerous entertainment and leisure options in a highly cosmopolitan setting, characterised by its young university environment, in which students can learn Spanish by having fun and have fun learning Spanish.



***The Museum of Human Evolution (Burgos)***

***<http://www.museoevolucionhumana.com/>***

The Museum of Human Evolution was created by the Regional Government of Castilla y León to increase knowledge in the field of human evolution through archaeological and scientific studies. The scientific work conducted at the Archaeological Site in the Atapuerca Mountain Range, declared a World Heritage Site, has gained widespread attention and captured the popular imagination.

***ATAPUERCA Archaeological Site (Burgos)***

***<http://www.visitasatapuerca.com/>***

Lying fifteen kilometres outside Burgos, just off the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, the Atapuerca mountain range is the site of some of the earliest settlers in Europe.

***MUSAC - Castilla y León Museum of Contemporary Art in León (León)***

***<http://www.musac.es/>***

The MUSAC, the Castilla y León Museum of Contemporary Art in León, was designed to be the 'Museum of the Present'. It organizes events that encompass the contemporary art of today.

The museum's objective is to become an essential element in the evolution of Contemporary Art on an international level. The MUSAC takes an experimental approach to designing and developing projects and exhibitions.

***Esteban Vicente Museum of Contemporary Art (Segovia)***

The museum features a permanent collection of works donated by Esteban Vicente. The artist, born in Turégano, had close connections with the Generation of '27 and was part of the American Abstract Expressionism movement.

***The Iron, Steel and Mining Museum (León)***

***<http://www.museosm.com/>***

Located in the Sabero Valley (León), this museum is dedicated to the workers who struggled to support their families in difficult times, using courage and effort to prise their sustenance from the earth, as well as the entrepreneurs who succeeded in making utopia a reality.

***Ethnographic Museum (Zamora)***

***<http://www.museo-etnografico.com>***

The museum, located in Zamora, houses one

The region's museums allow visitors to explore the past and look towards the future. They are 'temples of knowledge' where the arts, humanities and sciences come alive in rooms filled with spectacular collections.

Housed in exceptional buildings, the museums show the culture of the people to the people, offering places where visitors can explore a large part of world history. Castilla y León has a great number of museums, the most important of which include:

# MUSEUMS

of the finest ethnographic collections in Spain. It displays a wide-ranging collection of objects and tools from everyday life, including farming implements, carts, looms, amulets, furniture and many other items.

### **Casa Lis** (Salamanca)

<http://www.museocasalis.org>

The museum is housed in an Art Nouveau mansion dating from 1905, located in the centre of Salamanca. It houses more than 1,600 objects from the late 19th century and early 20th century, which are grouped into 19 collections that include: porcelains and enamels, bronzes from Vienna, jugs, handkerchiefs, Lalique and Galle art glass, French and German porcelain dolls, paintings, figurines, toys, jewellery, bronzes, bathing belles, fans, textiles and postcards.

### **San Gregorio Museum** (Valladolid)

<http://museosangregorio.mcu.es/>

The museum is located in the Colegio de San Gregorio, alongside the Church of San Pablo, in Valladolid. It houses a collection of Spanish religious wood sculpture dating from the 13th to 18th centuries. The museum's highlights in-

clude the altarpiece from the Church of San Benito by Alonso Berruguete, the Lamentation of Christ by Juan de Juni, the Dead Christ by Gregorio Fernández and other works by these artists. There are also works by Carmona, Pompeyo Leoni, Antonio Vázquez, Zurbarán and Gaspar Becerra.

The altarpieces, choir stalls, funerary monuments and processional statues illustrate the evolution of Spanish religious sculpture in the Gothic, Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque periods.

## MUSEUMS

Temples of Knowledge

[www.museoscastillayleon.jcyl.es](http://www.museoscastillayleon.jcyl.es)



## In Castilla y León's Provinces

• The first grammar guide to Spanish, a modern European language, originated in Castilla y León. Written by Antonio Nebrija (a professor at the University of Salamanca) and published in 1492, the work “**Gramática de la LENGUA CASTELLANA**” laid the foundations of the Spanish language. Since that time, Spanish has become one of the most important languages in the world. Castilla y León is renowned as an exceptional area for **learning Spanish**.



• **CASTLES** were fortresses – war machines that offered a clear strategic advantage in terms of security, protection and defence from enemy attacks. Today, Castilla y León has the distinction of having the greatest number of castles, with approximately 300 scattered throughout the region.



• Castilla y León has the most **RURAL ACCOMMODATIONS** in the Iberian Peninsula. The “Posadas Reales” are particularly noteworthy as these establishments provide amenities that will make your stay a truly memorable experience. Located in towns having significant historical interest and important monuments, or in beautiful natural settings, their traditional architecture always blends harmoniously with the surroundings.



• **Gastronomy: a region with 100 CUISINES**. The cuisine of Castilla y León is divided equally between traditional recipes, which focus on local dishes and ingredients, and contemporary cuisine, which holds sway in the majority of Europe's restaurants. As a result of the region's vast area and, more importantly, its geographical and cultural diversity, an extraordinarily varied traditional cuisine has developed. The offerings include a spectacular variety of fine wines from Castilla y León's various wine-growing areas.



# Province by province

# 2

## AVILA

[www.diputacionavila.es/patronato](http://www.diputacionavila.es/patronato)

[www.avilaturismo.com](http://www.avilaturismo.com)

► Jews, Moors and Christians all lived together in relative harmony in Ávila, a medieval city that has been declared a World Heritage Site. The city reached its apex in the 16th century, as both its civil and religious architecture demonstrate. A highlight is the cathedral, which features crenels, machicolations and watchtowers that blend beautifully with the structure.

► Ávila's **WALLS**, a military defence built in the 11th century (initiated in 1090), were based on the Roman model and feature 88 towers and 9 gates. At more than 2 kilometres in length, the city walls are the world's largest floodlit monument.

► **GREDOS** is an immense granite mass, a natural area considered to be the Iberian Peninsula's backbone. From a biological perspective, it is the most valuable stretch of mountains in the entire Central Sierra. All of the

towns offer starting points for the province's innumerable hiking trails.

[www.patrimoniounatural.org](http://www.patrimoniounatural.org)

### ► SAINT TERESA of ÁVILA

The city of Ávila will hold noteworthy religious events relating to Saint Teresa of Ávila in the upcoming years. In 2014, festivities will mark the 400-year anniversary of the beatification of Saint Teresa of Ávila and in 2015 there will be celebrations to honour the 500-year anniversary of her birth (1515 – 2015).

As thousands of pilgrims are expected to visit Ávila and other important sites in Castilla y León relating to the saint in 2014-2015, a variety of cultural, social, religious, spiritual and mystical events and activities are being planned.



# BURGOS

[www.turismoburgos.org](http://www.turismoburgos.org)

[www.aytoburgos.es/turismo](http://www.aytoburgos.es/turismo)



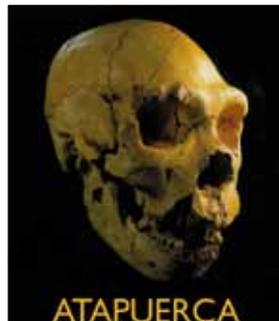
► **Burgos Cathedral** is one of the most beautiful examples of Spanish Gothic architecture and the only cathedral in the country to have been declared a **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE**. A bronze plaque inside the cathedral informs visitors that this is the final resting place of El Cid Campeador.

► The province of Burgos is the highlight of the stretch of the **Pilgrims' Route to Santiago** that traverses the Iberian Peninsula. When travelling the approximately 114-kilometre section of the route that passes through Burgos, visitors will see a varied and beautiful landscape and an impressive ensemble of cultural heritage that has justly earned it the status of a **WORLD HERITAGE SITE**.

► The archaeological site in the **Atapuerca Mountain Range** was declared a **WORLD HERITAGE SITE** by **UNESCO**. The latest major discovery is the more than 780,000-year-old remains that have been labelled Homo antecessor. These are the oldest human fossils to have been found anywhere in Europe.  
[www.atapuerca.com](http://www.atapuerca.com)

► **The Museum of Human Evolution**  
[www.museoevolucionhumana.com](http://www.museoevolucionhumana.com)

The Museum of Human Evolution is located in the centre of the city of Burgos, near the cathedral. The MEH is immediately recognizable, as it exudes science, advancement and evolution. As the Atapuerca System's main attraction, the MEH offers a place to view important artefacts from the archaeological sites and to learn about the scientific enigma of our origins.



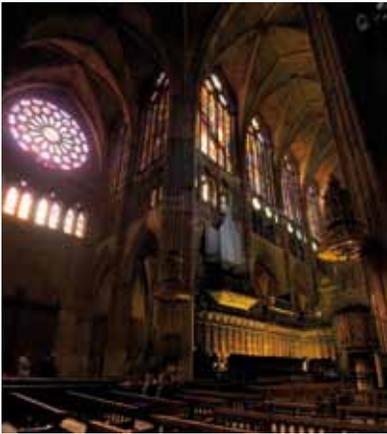
# LEÓN

[www.leon.es](http://www.leon.es)

[www.turisleon.com](http://www.turisleon.com)

► **LEÓN CATHEDRAL** (13th century) has 125 large Medieval stained glass windows (with an area of approximately 1,800 sq. m), which are considered to be the best of their kind in the world. The most spectacular of these windows are the rose window above the central portico (between the two spires), and the windows in the choir, the north transept and the Santiago Chapel.

[www.catedraldeleon.org](http://www.catedraldeleon.org)



► The **MUSAC** plays a fundamental role in the development of Contemporary Art on an international scale. In addition, the museum was awarded the Miles van der Rohe European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – considered to be the Nobel Prize of Architecture.

[www.musac.es](http://www.musac.es)

► This reddish twisting landscape is steeped in mystery. Nobody could imagine that these steep rocky crags once concealed the gold that was so coveted by the Romans. **Las Médulas**, declared a **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE** in 1997, offers visitors a natural setting of extraordinary beauty, as well as museum facilities and an archaeological learning centre.

[www.fundacionlasmedulas.org](http://www.fundacionlasmedulas.org)



# PALENCIA

[www.palenciaturismo.es](http://www.palenciaturismo.es)

[www.palencia-turismo.com](http://www.palencia-turismo.com)

► The stretch of the **PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO** passing through Palencia offers one of the finest displays of **ROMANESQUE** architecture in Europe. The route begins in Frómista, where the Temple of San Martín de Tours – held to be the archetype and ideal expression of the Romanesque style – is a must-see, then continues into the western part of the province, where other magnificent examples of this architectural style can be seen.

► **PALENCIA CATHEDRAL**, known as 'the Unknown Beauty', combines elements from various styles, particularly the Renaissance and Gothic. There are numerous chapels in the cathedral's stunning interior that are of great historical and artistic interest, featuring such important works as "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian" by El Greco.

[www.diocesispalencia.org](http://www.diocesispalencia.org)

► **CASTILLA CANAL**, an impressive 200-kilometre-long hydraulic engineering work, is the only navigable canal in Spain. It was one of the most successful projects of this type, which were constructed during the 18th and 19th centuries. The canal is of interest as both a cultural artefact and a natural area, since it is also home to a variety of flora and fauna as well as being a unique architectural structure.

[www.canaldecastilla.org](http://www.canaldecastilla.org)

► The **ROMAN VILLA of LA OLMEDA** is one of the most important Roman archaeological sites. It was discovered by Javier Cortes in 1968 when he accidentally bumped into the villa's walls with a piece of farm equipment. This impressive mansion from the Late Imperial Period (4th century) has an area of 7,000 sq. m and features rooms and baths decorated with magnificent mosaics. The mosaic in the oecus, the room in which the dominus (master) received clients and administered justice, is particularly spectacular. Measuring 175 sq. m, the upper portion depicts Odysseus searching for Achilles in Nicomedes' (the King of Skyros) gynaecium, while the lower portion has an extraordinary hunting scene. The modern architecture that currently covers the structure has earned it the nickname 'The Guggenheim of the Romans'.

[www.villaromanalao Medina.com](http://www.villaromanalao Medina.com)



# SALAMANCA

[www.salamanca.es](http://www.salamanca.es)

[www.dipsanet.es/turismo](http://www.dipsanet.es/turismo)



► Salamanca's Humanist tradition, rich historical and artistic heritage, buildings constructed in beautiful Villamayor stone, and status as a 'living city' have earned it the distinction of being named a **WORLD HERITAGE SITE** by **UNESCO**. Salamanca is also one of the few cities in the world to have two cathedrals – the **New Cathedral** and the **Old Cathedral**, both of which are splendid and hold considerable artistic importance.

► The **UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA** is the oldest university in Spain and one of the oldest in Europe. Founded under the name of 'Estudio General' in 1218 by Alfonso IX, King of León, it was later granted the status of university by the Pope in 1255. The building is one of the jewels of Spanish Renaissance Art. [www.usal.es](http://www.usal.es)

► The **DEHESA SALMANTINA** (Salamanca's wooded pastureland) is an open woodland that has immense ecological value and is unique in all the world. This vast agricultural and grazing area also leads Spain in the breeding of fighting bulls, with more than 200 ranches and a total of 32,000 heads. The recommended routes are from **Alberca** to **Ciudad Rodrigo** and from Salamanca to Ciudad Rodrigo.

## ► SIEGA VERDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

This magnificent archaeological site, located on the banks of the Águeda River about 15 kilometres from Ciudad Rodrigo, has been declared a World Heritage Site and is one of the most important open-air examples of Palaeolithic Art in all of Europe. There are 94 panels with depictions of deer, horses and animals that are now extinct, such as bison and woolly rhinoceros. These were carved in the rock using a technique in which a thin engraved line was used to outline figures defined with dots or incisions. Prehistoric man chose this site because it provided a strategic location for hunting animals that were crossing the river or stopping at the river to drink. While the exact meaning of these scenes is unknown, they probably formed part of magic rites for hunting, as is the case with cave paintings.

[www.siegaverde.es](http://www.siegaverde.es)

# SEGOVIA

[www.turismodesegovia.com](http://www.turismodesegovia.com)

[www.segoviaturismo.es](http://www.segoviaturismo.es)

► The Roman **AQUEDUCT** from the 1st century (15 km long, 166 arches, constructed from granite ashlar blocks without using any type of mortar) and the **OLD TOWN** of Segovia are **WORLD HERITAGE SITES**. Another highlight is the city's **cathedral**, known as the 'Queen' of Spain's cathedrals due to its soaring height and exceptionally long nave and aisles.

► **THE ROYAL FORTRESS** was built on top of a rock, evidencing its original use as a military structure. It was the residence of Alfonso VII and the site where Isabella the Catholic was proclaimed Queen of Castile. The building has many secret passageways that lead down to the river and connect with other palaces in the city.  
[www.alcazardesegovia.com](http://www.alcazardesegovia.com)

► **THE ROYAL PALACE OF LA GRANJA** is a treasure trove of chandeliers, furniture and paintings. Highlights include the 'Honours and Virtues' tapestries by van Orley, based on cartoons by Goya, and the paintings on glass by Luca Giordano dating from the end of the 17th century. The Royal Gardens, the work of the

same team that designed Versailles' gardens, offer a Baroque setting in which water and luxuriant vegetation reign.

[www.patrimoniocacional.es](http://www.patrimoniocacional.es)

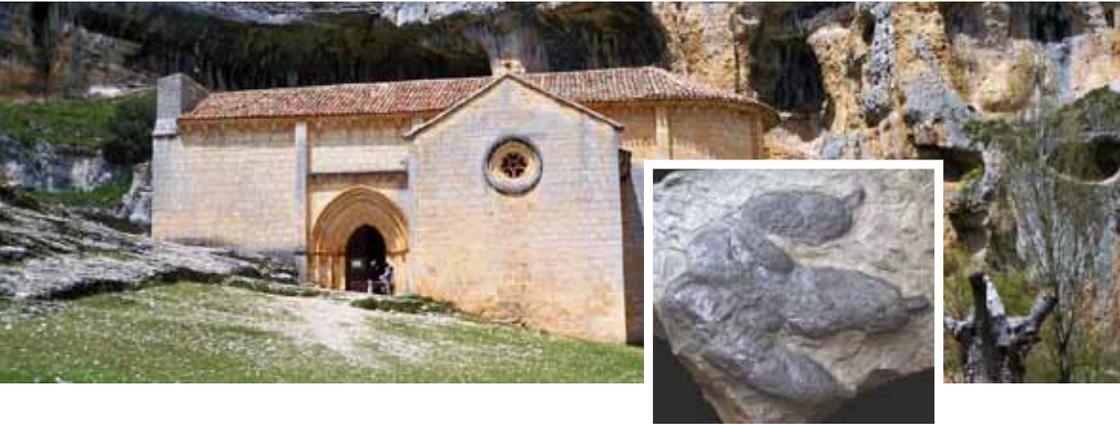
► **MEDIEVAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES**. The north-eastern part of Segovia has the province's greatest concentration of Medieval towns, most notably **Pedraza**, Turegano, **Riaza**, Maderuelo and Ayllón. The southern section of the province is known for its **castles and walled enclosures**, while the northern section features vernacular architecture, including typical rural dwellings.

These small towns have made the most of their resources, creating settings that transport visitors back to the Middle Ages and allow them to learn about daily life in that period. In addition, these villages are known for their crafts and their cuisine – the traditional dish is wood-roasted suckling lamb and typical desserts include 'mantecados' (prepared with flour, lard and almonds), sweets and 'rosquillas' (ring-shaped pastries).



# SORIA

[www.sorianitelaimaginas.es](http://www.sorianitelaimaginas.es)



► **SAN JUAN DE DUERO** is one of the most extraordinary examples of Spanish Romanesque Art. It is a former monastery of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The Romanesque cloister (13th century) displays both Mudéjar-Romanesque and Sicilian-Arab influences. The church (12th century) features two aediculae, located on either side of the chancel.

► The **RIVER LOBOS CANYON** is a spectacular natural area that is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Spain. The canyon and surrounding area are also home to valuable artistic heritage and interesting towns and villages, including the shrine of San Bartolomé, **Calatañazor**, Ucero, San Leonardo and **Burgo de Osma**.

[www.patrimionatural.org](http://www.patrimionatural.org)

► According to legend, the **BLACK LAGOON** is bottomless. The lagoon is located in the **Urbi6n Mountain Range**, an area that features an interesting group of glacial lakes and is famous for being the source of the Duero River. The lagoon's setting – at an altitude of 2,000 m, surrounded by granite walls and vast pine groves – lends it a dark, gloomy appearance.

[www.patrimionatural.org](http://www.patrimionatural.org)

► **ICHNITES ROUTE** The route is located in Tierras Altas, a region in the north-eastern part of the province of Soria that is known for its grazing land, bees and honey, castles and fortified settlements, deer and roe deer, badgers and genets, golden eagles and griffon vultures, oaks, holm oaks, holly trees, mushrooms and more.

140 million years ago, this area was home to dinosaurs and flying reptiles. These ancient inhabitants left impressions of their tracks (known as ichnites or fossilized footprints) in the rocks.

The Ichnites Route is an open-air exhibition space featuring more than 5,000 dinosaur footprints. The route's facilities and attractions include a Visitor Centre (Palaeontology Learning Centre), 14 sites that have been signposted and equipped to host visitors, explanatory signs that discuss the most interesting features, and life-size reproductions of several species.

The Palaeontology Learning Centre, located in Villar del Rio, displays information about the dinosaurs' lifestyle that has been revealed by the ichnites, as well as interesting information about the other animals and plants that shared their habitat.

[www.rutadelosicnitas.com](http://www.rutadelosicnitas.com)

# VALLADOLID

[www.valladolidturismo.com](http://www.valladolidturismo.com)

[www.diputaciondevalladolid.es/turismo](http://www.diputaciondevalladolid.es/turismo)

► The **NATIONAL SCULPTURE MUSEUM**. The building, constructed in the late 15th century, provides one of the best examples of the Hispano-Flemish Gothic style. Recurring motifs include the fleur-de-lys and the Catholic Monarchs' emblems and coats of arms. The museum has a collection of Spanish religious sculptures in the Gothic, Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque styles dating from the 13th to the 18th centuries.

[www.museosangregorio.mcu.es](http://www.museosangregorio.mcu.es)

► Valladolid's **HOLY WEEK** celebrations, declared to be of International Tourist Interest, are in their own right one of the most important exhibitions of religious statues in the world. The event, which has both religious and artistic significance, brings sculptures that are normally housed in churches and museums out into the streets where they can be enjoyed by everyone.

[www.valladolidcofrade.com](http://www.valladolidcofrade.com)

► This **WINE-GROWING PROVINCE** offers an extraordinary range of Designations of Origin (**Ribera de Duero**, **Cigales** and **Rueda**). In addition to touring the best wineries, visitors can immerse themselves in the culture of wine by stopping at the **Provincial Wine Museum**, which is located in an incomparable setting – the beautifully restored Peñafiel Castle.

[www.rutadelvinoriberadelduero.es](http://www.rutadelvinoriberadelduero.es)

► **CASTLES** The province of Valladolid has the most castles of any province in Spain, with structures ranging from Roman fortresses to important archives like those in **Simancas**. Originally defensive structures, they were quickly built along the border between the kingdoms of Castile and León and along the Duero. Some, like **la**

**Mota**, were designed for war, while others, like those in the Esgueva Valley (**Encinas Castle**), were designed as castle-palaces.

Visitors can experience the history of the kings, watch reenactments of border battles, participate in historic events at the 'Storming of the Castle' in Trigueros, the 'Summoning of the Seven Maidens' in **Simancas**, the 'Encounter with the Middle Ages' in **Tiedra**, 'Rebel Week' in **Torrelobatón**, and the 'Master and Apprentice Fair' in **Iscar**, taste the best wines at **Peñafiel Castle**, and enjoy the summer musical events held near these magnificent fortresses – in short, become a part of the region's history.



# ZAMORA

[www.zamora.es/lang/](http://www.zamora.es/lang/)

[www.helcom.es/patronato](http://www.helcom.es/patronato)

► Zamora has a wealth of **ROMANESQUE ART**, with its 12th-century **Cathedral** being the finest example. The cathedral's renowned Byzantine cupola is one of the most novel works in all of Spanish Medieval Art. This famous dome, covered with stone 'scales' and modelled after the Oriental style, is one of the most dazzling Romanesque structures in Spain and all of Europe.

[www.zamoraromanica.es](http://www.zamoraromanica.es)

► The city of Zamora has retained the original character of its **HOLY WEEK** processions, which have been declared to be of International Tourist Interest. The ancient traditions of its brotherhoods perfectly complement the beautiful religious sculptures. An essential aspect of the event is music, which includes Gregorian chants and other choral pieces that are deeply moving to spectators, as well as funeral marches and death knells.

[www.ssantazamora.es](http://www.ssantazamora.es)

► The area that currently comprises the **LAGO DE SANABRIA** Nature Park was created 100,000 years ago, during the Late Pleistocene, by an impressive glacier that had tongues of ice stretching for more than 20

kilometres. Today, the lake's surface area of 318 hectares and depth of up to 51 metres make it the largest glacial lake in the Iberian Peninsula.

[www.patrimonionatural.org](http://www.patrimonionatural.org)

► **TORO** Visiting Toro and walking its narrow streets is like stepping into the pages of Castilla y León's history. Its monuments and architecture are vestiges of the town's former glory as a provincial capital and attest to its previous status as a highly-coveted location, royal domain, noble manor and princely estate. The town's **Carnivals**, **Holy Week**, **Wine Harvest Festival** and **D.O. Toro wine** make it a very attractive destination for tourists.

[www.toroayto.es](http://www.toroayto.es)



## Summary of the most important Natural Areas and Heritage in each of Castilla y León's 9 provinces

<b>AVILA</b>	Old Town / World Heritage Site	Ávila's Walls / Saint Teresa of Ávila	Sierra de Gredos Nature Park
<b>BURGOS</b>	Cathedral (World Heritage Site)	Pilgrims' Route to Santiago (World Heritage Site)	MEH and Atapuerca Archaeological Site
<b>LEÓN</b>	Cathedral	MUSAC / Pilgrims' Route to Santiago	Las Médulas Archaeological Site (World Heritage Site)
<b>PALENCIA</b>	Romanesque Art on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago	Cathedral / La Olmeda	Castilla Canal
<b>SALAMANCA</b>	Old Town / World Heritage Site	University / Siega Verde	Dehesa Salmantina (wooded pastureland) and fighting bulls
<b>SEGOVIA</b>	Aqueduct / Old Town World Heritage Site	Royal Fortress / Medieval villages	Royal Palace of La Granja de San Ildefonso
<b>SORIA</b>	Romanesque Art in San Juan de Duero	Ichnites Route / River Lobos Canyon	Sierra de Urbion y Laguna Negra Nature Park
<b>VALLADOLID</b>	National Sculpture Museum / Campo Grande	Holy Week / Castles	3 Designation of Origin wines
<b>ZAMORA</b>	Romanesque Art in the city / cathedral	Holy Week / Carnival / City of Toro	Lago de Sanabria Nature Park
<b>All provinces</b>	Learn Spanish / Food and Wine / Health		Rural Tourism



# Our routes

# 3

## MAYOR ROUTES

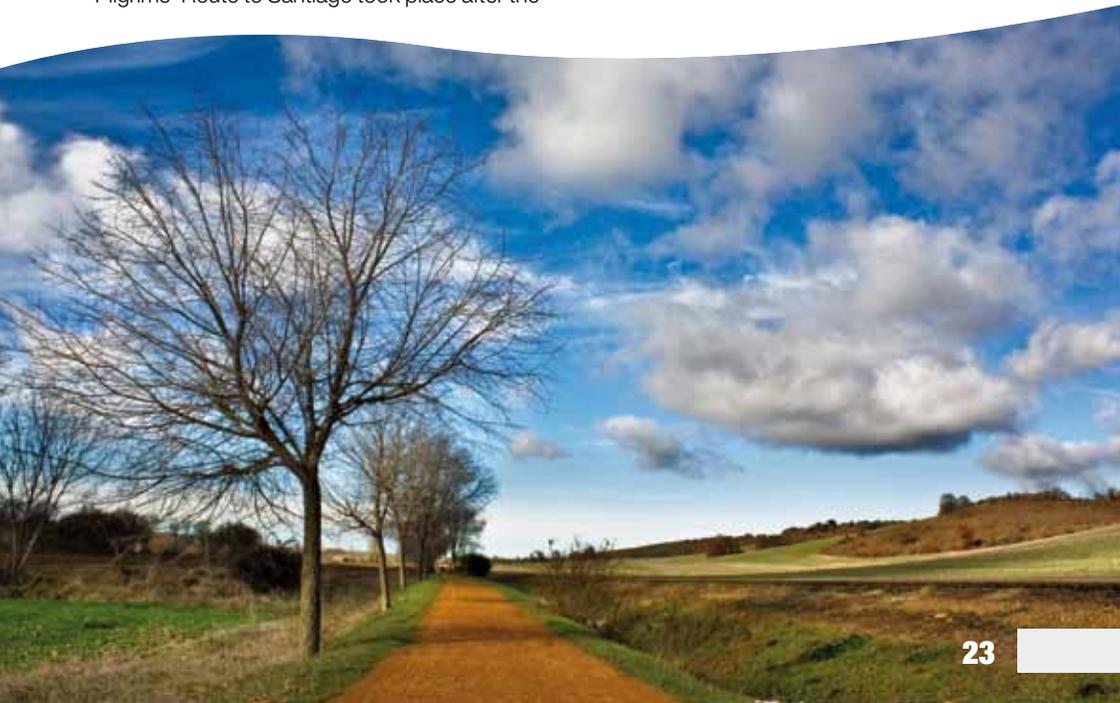
### **Camino de Santiago**

[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

Throughout history, the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago was not only a transit road, but also one of the most important sites that revived the economic and social life of Christian Spain in the 11th and 12th centuries. Thanks to the route of St. James, significant schools of thought, literature and arts entered the Iberian Peninsula.

One of the most relevant periods of the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago took place after the

year 1000, and many monarchs contributed to its development, such as the King of Navarre, Sancho III the Great, and Alfonso VI. It was then that the first infrastructures to house and guide the pilgrims were built. The construction of hostels and hospitals to accommodate and cure travellers became widespread, and bridges were erected to facilitate transit. From then on, the route became quite popular: kings, bishops, nobles, rich and poor, all gathered along the Route as equals.



### Silver Route

[www.rutadelaplata.com](http://www.rutadelaplata.com)

The Silver Route is the name given to the area between regions connecting the Gulf of Cádiz with the Cantabrian coast, linking the communities of Andalusia, Extremadura, Castilla y León and Asturias.

This is a large geographical territory full of natural areas and historic cities which, thanks to their roads, have become an axis of great interest for tourists.

In Castilla y León, the Silver Route penetrates the Béjar Mountain Range, goes through the meadows of Salamanca, crosses the capitals of Salamanca and Zamora and into Maragatería. From there it runs towards the city of León, where it turns towards the Cantabrian coast, leaving our Region at Arbas del Puerto (León).

### Castilla Canal

[www.canaldecastilla.org](http://www.canaldecastilla.org)

The Castilla Canal, an impressive work of hydraulic engineering, was one of the best projects of its kind to be built in Spain in the 18th and 19th centuries, during the Enlightenment, at a time when it was necessary to sell surplus grain and improve trade communications.





What was born as a waterway to transport goods, was closed to traffic in the mid 20th century, in 1959. It is now considered a Site of Cultural Interest and since then its main use has been for irrigation, as well as being one of the most attractive routes for tourists in Castilla y León, given its scenic and natural wealth and the historic and artistic value found in the cities along the way.

### **Duero Route**

The Duero Route is one of the most important cultural axes in Southern Europe. A force dividing the Community into two that allows tourists to enjoy nature, art and gastronomy.

In Castilla y León, where 80% of its layout is located, it goes through five provinces: Soria, Burgos, Valladolid, Zamora and Salamanca. Starting at the Picos de Urbión, in Soria, after going through 572 kilometres of regional territory, its last stretch begins at La Fregeneda (Salamanca) until it flows into Oporto (Portugal), thus covering 20% of its total extension.

### **Charles the Fifth Route**

Charles the Fifth, an emperor known to be a globetrotter, chose the lands of Castilla y León for his final journey. This trip has now become a geographical and historic route that goes through 24 cities and towns of this Community.

The route unfolds through the regions of Cantabria, Castilla y León and Extremadura. A journey across communities that recalls the time that elapsed since Charles I of Spain and V of Germany landed in Laredo, Cantabria, on 26th September 1556, and his death at the Monastery of Yuste, Cáceres, on 21st September 1558.

### Spanish Language Trail

[www.caminodelalengua.com](http://www.caminodelalengua.com)

Castilla y León, known as the cradle of Spanish, allows tourists to follow one of the routes with the greatest historic-cultural wealth of any laid out to date.

This is the Spanish Language Trail, aimed at showing travellers the milestones and places where one of the leading languages of the world germinated. That is, it allows one to learn first-hand about the origin and evolution of what is now known as the Spanish Language.

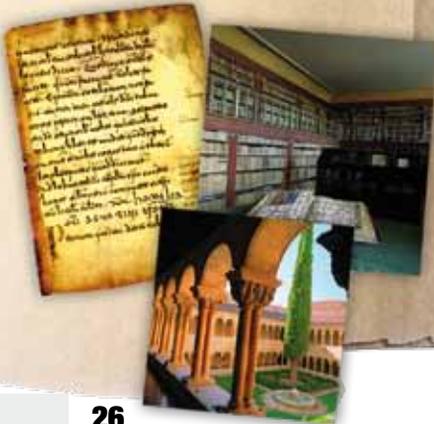
The Spanish Language Trail links three Autonomous Communities along its 700 kilometres: La Rioja, Castilla y León and Madrid. These three governments, the councils of the cities featured (Salamanca, Ávila, Valladolid, Alcalá de Henares) and the Provincial Council of Valladolid set up in 2000 the Spanish Language Foundation, in charge of promoting the route. Since then, its mission has been to raise awareness of this tourist and cultural route, which hopes to be declared a European Cultural Itinerary.

### The Route of El Cid

[www.caminodelcid.org](http://www.caminodelcid.org)

The figure of El **Cid Campeador**, a Castilian hero, half epic and half historic, is quite alive in Castilla y León. This character has left his mark on the rites, customs and places where he wandered throughout his exile from Burgos to Valencia. A journey turned into a tourist route that allows travellers to enjoy the celebrated past of a universal legend.

The itinerary, as it crosses Castilla y León, goes through several municipalities of the provinces of Burgos and Soria. The route is based to a great extent on the *Cantar del Mio Cid* [The Lay of the Cid] which spares no effort to detail and locate the figure's legend.



### Cañadas Reales

Through the Community of Castilla y León run seven of the nine Cañadas Reales (Livestock Trails) that cross the Iberian Peninsula since the times of La Mesta, comprising an extraordinary cultural heritage which is unique across Spain. Except for the Cuenca Cañada Real and the one of the Kingdom of Valencia, these paths cross through a good part of the provinces in the region.

These silent routes are lost or born in high mountain passes, cross valleys, prairies and folds, even go through city streets thanks to the legislation that protects them. They are a true reflection of the stockbreeding hallmark of a Community that maintains its cultural heritage. Something which is noted not only in the farming activities that still survive.

### Green Trails and Paths

[www.viasverdes.com](http://www.viasverdes.com)

In Castilla y León, as in the rest of Spain and other European countries, there are disused railway lines. Stretches of former railway lines currently reserved for tourists who wish to go hiking or cycling. At present there is the Esla Green Trail, La Demanda Green Trail, the Moncayo Green Trail and the Castilla Canal Green Trail. Many short and long trails cross our Community. They are clearly signposted and adapted for access by everyone. The most remarkable are those located in natural areas.



## Other routes

### Weekend Tours

Castilla y León is a region with many weekend alternatives. From Pallozas de Balboa, the Valley of Silence, Riaza, Toro and the cradle of wine up to the route of the ichnites, the Romanesque of Palencia or the Tiétar Valley, is displayed the great diversity of areas to be seen in our land. There are many places to enjoy all kinds of activities, gastronomy, rural tourism... These city breaks are merely an appetizer.



#### **Thousand-year-old architecture, Pallozas de Balboa.**

Balboa, a Celtic temple from the 21st century, shows the incomparable setting of its living "pallozas" or traditional thatched houses and beautiful landscapes in the area of the Ancares, for the enjoyment of its visitors.



**Valley of Silence.** A valley dominated by thick oak forests, rivers and natural waterfalls; scattered villages forming a part of the landscape whose inhabitants share the peace and quiet of this Valley that seems to have stopped in time: the Valley of Silence, untouched, natural and lush.



**Toro, cradle of wine.** Getting to know Toro and enjoying its narrow streets is akin to travelling back in time to the old history of Castilla y León. Its monuments are precisely remains of those glories of yore that made this city a much coveted stronghold, royal heritage, princess domain and prince estate.



**Cervantes / Don Quixote.** The sites where the adventures and misfortunes of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza took place are located in the Sanabria region of La Carballeda, where scholar Leandro Rodríguez, after fifty years of research, claims to have found the house of the renowned Miguel de Cervantes...



**Riaza.** When the Riaza River has finally quenched the thirst of the birds of prey that live in the Serrezuela and it leaves the Vega de Montejo, it enters a land of continuous wonderment.



**La Guareña.** Southeast of the land of Zamora, the natural region of La Guareña provides grazing for fighting bulls and space to extend the vinicultural surface area included in the Toro Designation of Origin.



**Route of the Heretic.** Never would the inhabitants of the city of Valladolid have imagined that a character, arising from the imagination of the great author Miguel Delibes, would become the subject of such tourist pilgrimage. Today, hundreds of visitors follow his tracks.



**Route of the Ichnites.** The real replica of the dinosaur known as Brachiosaurus, located upon a hill in Villar del Río, surprises travellers when they enter the Tierras Altas, or Highlands, of Soria. Tierras Altas de Soria.



**Palencia Romanesque.** The Montaña Palentina holds one of the greatest concentrations of Romanesque constructions in all of Europe. One of its jewels is Santa Cecilia, situated in Vallespinoso de Aguilar, an authentic open air museum of capitals whose shadow is cast along the top of a rocky crag



**Ampudia.** One of the best conserved fortresses, it holds impressive art collections and its treasures are part of the heritage of Castilla y León. Collector Eugenio Fontaneda was responsible for turning it into a cultural reality, which lies behind the walls of the castle of Ampudia, right in the middle of Tierra de Campos.



**Soria.** This city houses some of the most incredible sites of the Autonomous Community; extraordinary nature, and remote places where you can still see dinosaur footprints. As well as the architectural remains of monasteries, shrines and churches, perfectly integrated in the landscape.



**Las Merindades.** Las Merindades alternate an incredible succession of mountains, rivers, waterfalls, caves and ravines. A unique site to enjoy a full weekend of active tourism. East of the region of Las Merindades is the start of one of the rafting itineraries.



**Babia.** This is the northwest of León. Comprised of the municipalities of Cabrilanes and San Emiliano, traditionally known as Babia de Arriba (Upper Babia) or of Suso, and Babia de Abajo (Lower Babia) or of Yuso, Babia was populated by the Astures, and there remain many traces of them in the various fortified settlements across the valleys.



**Arribes del Duero.** The River Duero, after crossing Zamora, continues westward and fits into what is called the Arribes, comprising a unique landscape, made up of a deep canyon of rocky walls that can reach a height of over 200 metres.



**Religious Itinerary of Segovia.** Starting at the Azoguejo, a meeting place, junction of communications, streets and roads, a hub for trade and contracting, we begin a tour through churches, monasteries and convents.



**Candelario.** This is the village of fountains and a temple devoted to water. Candelario is one of the most beautiful locations, with well-kept traditional architecture. Hanging from its balconies, amazing as you cross half doors and awesome with merely the sound of the snowfields forming waterways.



**Tiétar Valley.** To go through the valley, the best way is to follow the course of the river that lends it its name in order to visit magnificent sites of enormous architectural wealth. Monbeltrán castle, Vuelo del águila (eagle flight), the remote gorges or the very beauty of the Gredos mountain range, are sights to be remembered.



**Salaguti.** His house hangs from a hill neighbouring one of the most charming towns in Burgos, Sasamón. The multifaceted artist Carlos Salazar "Salaguti" has opened the doors of his home-museum set in an impressive spot where art and nature merge.



**Crossings of El Cid.** Castillejo de Robledo is where the Poem of El Mío Cid sets the affront of Corpes. The residents of this small Soria town revive this historic and literary episode daily locating the intricate spot a few kilometres away, next to the beautiful shrine of the Virgen del Monte and the fountain whence, according to the locals, oil flowed for some time.



**Sahagún de Campos.** This is one of the statues of St. James that is most worshipped by pilgrims on their way to Santiago. Pearly face, most unique countenance and elegant bearing are adjectives that describe a carving of a woman made by another woman, “La Roldana”, a female sculptor from Seville, who achieved with this work one of her best artistic challenges.



**The Vettones.** Ulaca, the lost city of the Vettones, is perched on a hill, dominating the whole of the Amblés Valley. Located southeast of Ávila, this is one of the most interesting fortified settlements in the province. Its strategic position and the importance of the sites found, make it a unique city lost in ancient history.



**Ponferrada.** There are many reasons for visiting the region of El Bierzo and especially Ponferrada, a medieval town that arose to facilitate the passage of pilgrims towards Santiago de Compostela.



**Musac – Atapuerca.** Castilla y León is Origin and Vanguard. Its history and art, customs and traditions, now combined with quality wines and an exclusive gastronomy, make this region the perfect destination to link two such pure concepts as Culture and Evolution.



**Antonio Machado - Soria.** The poet from Seville, born in 1875, arrived in Soria in 1907 when he was granted the post of French teacher.



**Following Machado's tracks.** Our route begins in Soria, where we will visit the sites related to the poet and his stay in this city.



**Tiétar Valley.** Protected by the Gredos mountain range, the “stone heart of Spain” as Unamuno once called it, Tiétar Valley unfolds its amazing plain in the southernmost part of the province of Ávila.



**Father Hoyos.** Bernardo Francisco de Hoyos (1711-1735). Considered the main apostle worshipping the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Spain.



**Ornithology.** Get to know Castilla y León as a territory of great ornithological diversity where you may spend fascinating days birdwatching, discovering many of the most remarkable species in Europe.



**Family getaways.** History need not exclude adventure and games. We propose a break full of possibilities, a journey back in time, a getaway that will change your view of Castilla y León.



**Life getaway.** Listen to silence, seek peace and quiet, feel like a character in a fairytale... you will find such a beautiful landscape here that you will remember it forever after.

## WINE TRAILS

uero Wine Trail, and very advanced is the Bierzo Designation of Origin. Both designations of origin already appear in the promotional materials and websites of Tour Spain and ACEVIN.

The Arlanza Designation of Origin has also started the certification process and most likely, it will soon appear provisionally in the websites and promotional materials of the above entities.

With regard to other designations of origin in our region, the Rueda Designation of Origin is taking the first steps towards certification, as is the Toro Designation of Origin, although the latter is at an earlier stage.

Aside from the brand certified by ACEVIN and Tour Spain, is the international brand Vinduro-Vindouro with Arribes D.O. wineries and some from the Douro in Portugal.

The routes presented below cover the various tourist areas within each one of our designations of origin.





**Ribera del Duero Route.** [www.riberate.com](http://www.riberate.com). The river Duero, or Douro, flows through one of the most singular viticultural regions in the country. The Ribera del Duero, driving force of Castilla y León wines, can claim to be one of the most significant Designations of Origin in the Community, for it is not by chance that it lies in the heart of the major Duero corridor.



**Route of the Domes, Toro.** The Toro Designation of Origin is set within the Zamora region divided by the Duero into Land of Bread, in the north and Land of Wine, in the south.



**Route of Rosé Wine, Cigales.** The Cigales Designation of Origin spans from the north side of the Duero depression to the bank of the Pisuerga River.



**Route of the Mozarabic Grape, Rueda, Verdejo.** The Rueda Designation of Origin, although producing white, rosé and red wines, has earned itself a position in the Spanish viticultural landscape thanks to the white variety Verdejo, the source of the aromatic value of its whites.



**Route of the Arribes del Duero.** The Wine Trail of the Arribes del Duero is one of the most beautiful ones in the Iberian Peninsula since the vines are completely weaved into the landscape: terraced vineyards on the hillsides descending to the river enhance the beauty of the scenery.



**The Northeast Volcano, Bierzo.** Known as the “Northeast Volcano”, El Bierzo is one of the most important emerging viticultural regions in Castilla y León. Located in the northeast of the province of León, it borders with Galicia and is a major transit area between this Community, Asturias and the rest of the province of León.



**Valtiendas Route.** The wine region of Valtiendas, in the northeast of the province of Segovia, borders on the Ribera del Duero Designation of Origin, near one of the loveliest natural areas in the region: Hoces del Duratón.





**Prieto Picudo Route, V.T. León.** The geographical area of the Wines of the Land of León embraces the regions of the Cea, Los Oteros and Valdevimbre. With its centre in the province of León, it spans several towns of the neighbouring Valladolid.



**Ribera del Arlanza Wine Trail.** The region of the Ribera del Arlanza is found in the centre of the province of Burgos, about 40 kilometres from the capital, right in the mid and low valley of the Arlanza River.



**Wine Trail of the Cebreros Region.** The Cebreros vinicultural region is located southeast of the province of Ávila. It lies between mountainous areas and hills with plentiful forests of pine, oak, rock rose and scrubland. Land devoted to growing vineyards and olive groves, with a maximum height in the southeast, in the Merina mountain range. Moreover, it is the only vinicultural region where the Garnacha variety is predominant.



**Benavente Wine Trail.** The vinicultural region of Valles de Benavente extends along the north of the province of Zamora, specifically along the Vidriales Valley, the Tera, Valverde, La Vega and part of Tierra de Campos, points surrounding the city of Benavente, the capital of the region.



**Wine Trail of the Land of Zamora.** The Wines of the Land of Zamora span over fifty towns, in the geographical area traditionally known as Land of Wine, in the south of the province of Zamora.



**Wine Trail of the Salamanca Mountain Range.** The Francia Mountain Range is one of the places in the province of Salamanca amassing the greatest natural and scenic beauty.



**Route of the lower Duero, Tudela de Duero.** Although their wineries are not registered with any Regulatory Board, we must not forget three towns in Valladolid, bathed by the River Duero, where half a dozen wine producing companies are based, with a strong presence in the province of Valladolid. This is what is now called the Sardón de Duero-Tudela de Duero area.



# Boat Tours

[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

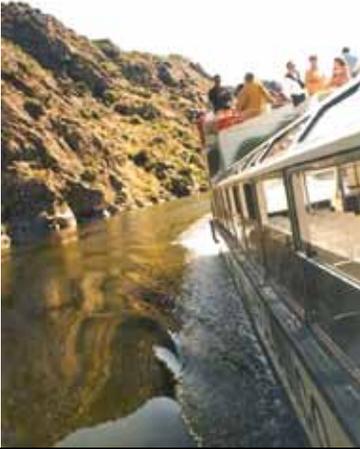
When speaking about boats in Castilla y León, there are two clear alternatives: the proposal of the Duero in the Arribes and the major hydraulic work of the Castilla Canal, both navigable and with appealing routes.

## *Arribes del Duero*

It is wonderful to sail over quiet waters channelled through cliffs that are over 200-meters high, overlooked by a unique fauna within the Protected Natural Area of the Arribes Nature Park. Sailing along the Duero River means enjoying one of the most stunning landsca-

pes in the region, in the Zamora stretch. Deep terraces cover this geological gorge of the Duero and, from a boat, the awe of amazed travellers watching the steep canyons and ravines is even greater.





You will find the following boats and tours:

- **Europarques Hispano-lusos.**  
**MIRANDA DO DOURO**  
[www.europarques.com](http://www.europarques.com)
- **Sociedad Transfronteriza Congida**  
**La Barca – VILVESTRE**  
[www.vilvestre.com](http://www.vilvestre.com)
- **El Corazón de las Arribes**  
**CORPORARIO-ALDEADAVILA DE LA RIBERA**  
[www.corazondelasarribes.com](http://www.corazondelasarribes.com)

### Castilla Canal

The 207-km canal was built to transport grain and goods between the south of the region and Cantabria, but it was soon abandoned when railways became available. The barges that sailed along the canal were pulled by mules walking on both sides of the water along paths that still exist today. The canal has other associated constructions, such as locks to overcome level differences, aqueducts, bridges, dams, warehouses and loading docks. This tourist attraction can be enjoyed on three routes:



- **Canal Antonio de Ulloa Boat - MEDINA DE RIOSECO**  
[www.diputaciondevalladolid.es](http://www.diputaciondevalladolid.es)
- **Marqués de la Ensenada Boat - HERRERA DE PISUERGA**  
[www.palenciaturismo.es](http://www.palenciaturismo.es)
- **San Carlos de Abánades Boat - MELGAR DE FERNAMENTAL**  
[www.melgardefernamental.burgos.es](http://www.melgardefernamental.burgos.es)



### Burgillo Reservoir

A more recent alternative in addition to the two above, are boat tours on the Burgillo reservoir, in Ávila, a route that collects passengers in the Iruelas Valley and the Gaznata Bridge.

**Viajes Marítimos del Sureste – EL BARRACO**

## Hiking Routes

[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

There are many hiking trails across Castilla y León. Many of these routes are described by the Federation of Mountain, Climbing and Hiking Sports of Castilla y León, who endorses the quality and services (signposting, specific information...) provided for hikers on the trail.

[www.patrimoniounatural.org](http://www.patrimoniounatural.org)



## Motorcycle Routes

[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

One community. Two wheels. Nine provinces. Eighteen routes and hundreds of kilometres within your reach. We invite you to travel the roads of Castilla y León and discover

the wealth of a diverse community where you will live unforgettable moments.

A land of contrasts where valleys, forests, plateaus and peaks are accompanied by an exceptional gastronomy and a unique cultural heritage. Get going, drive carefully and enjoy yourself, because, also by motorcycle, CASTILLA Y LEÓN, IS THE REAL LIFE.



# Cultural Tourism

# 4



## **Vernacular or Folk Architecture Tourism**

Attractions in profusion are dotted all over the countryside. There are dovecotes, tiny underground wineries, shepherds' cabins, windmills, stone crosses, bridges, walls and even entire villages that have a symmetry and style all their own. Constructions such as these belong to what is called vernacular architecture.

## **Religious Tourism**

Holy Week is one of the cultural and social displays that proves the most fascinating for tourists in Castilla y León. Here in Holy Week the people turn sober and retiring, while figures and wood carvings are made the focal point of proceedings, in the incomparable setting of Romanesque and Gothic churches. As varied as cultural diversity itself, this display is the living demonstration of the people's devotion. Everywhere Holy Week is celebrated differently, yet there is always the same common denominator: passion, fervour and silence.



### Archaeological Tourism

The Iberian Peninsula is rich in archaeological sites, and it has in Castilla y León a treasure trove. There are magnificent places to visit, rife with the vestiges of many long-gone cultures. The prehistoric peoples who once inhabited these lands left a great number of settlements behind them. They were followed by the Romans, who built great roads to weave together the four corners of the peninsula.

The footprints of the past testify to the incomparable magnitude of the accumulated heritage of the community's nine provinces, a modern-day witness to the events and people who came before us. Surrounded by these tangible tokens of history, travellers can feel the emotion, sweeping them into yesterday to re-live events of yore, where they can reconstruct what happened long ago on the magic stage

of imagination, dressed with items unearthed from the past. Castilla y León's archaeological heritage makes it a 'museum of the world', because the region safeguards remains of singular significance covering a period of more than 800,000 years in the history of mankind. That is a vast amount of baggage. The earliest footprints of humanity's common past are the footprints of the hominids who formed Europe's earliest society. Furthermore, the treasures archaeologists unearth from the pre-Roman, Roman and medieval eras are items of incomparable tourist interest. Thanks to the proliferation of archaeological learning centres and interpretation centres, visitors are finding it increasingly easy to enjoy scholars' findings.



# Art and History Tourism

Castilla y León has a weighty heritage. Its history and art impregnate every corner of this broad region through its monasteries, cathedrals and castles.

## Royal Sites [www.patrimonionacional.es](http://www.patrimonionacional.es)

Castilla y León is one of the few regions of Spain that can boast four Royal Sites of incalculable beauty among the thousands of monuments it holds.



**Royal Palace of La Granja de San Ildefonso in Segovia** The Palace grounds have squares named after their use and local custom: Plaza del Palacio, Plaza del Mercado, Plaza de Canónigos, Plaza de la Cebada, and a square for dreamers, called Plaza de la Melancolía. It is laid out in Neoclassical style.



**Royal Palace of Riofrío** Palace constructed in the 18th century. It lies 15 kilometres from the Palace of La Granja; together they are the Segovian Royal Sites. This palace has been linked to monarchs and royal houses ever since its construction.



**Royal Monastery of Santa Clara de Tordesillas (Valladolid)** Building constructed in the 14th to 15th centuries. The church is Mudejar with Gothic arches. There is a Mudejar door in the façade of the old palace, while inside there are cusped arches with Muslim inscriptions.



**Monastery of Santa María la Real de las Huelgas in Burgos** Twelfth- and 13th-century Cistercian monastery founded in 1188 by King Alfonso VIII and his wife, Queen Eleanor. The king and queen lie in the monastery's Royal Pantheon together with princes, princesses and persons of royal blood of the Crown of Castile.



## Cathedrals

Cathedrals are the skyscrapers of antiquity, mountains of stone that hide the secret of the men who gave them life.



### **Astorga Cathedral, Astorga (León)**

Sharp-eyed travellers will spot the popular statue of well-to-do Astorga citizen Pedro Mato, which has become one of the city's icons.

### **Ávila Cathedral**

[www.obav.es/catedral.htm](http://www.obav.es/catedral.htm)

This is a complex cathedral, the earliest of the Gothic style. It is so much a part of its city that it actually forms part of the city wall. It has the unmistakable air of a fortress.

### **El Burgo de Osma Cathedral**

While the ties between a cathedral and its host city are always very close, in the case of El Burgo de Osma (Soria), the cathedral is the reason the city was ever built at all.

### **Burgos Cathedral**

[www.catedraldeburgos.es](http://www.catedraldeburgos.es)

The area inside the Burgundian choir, the curious 'Papamoscas' statue and the entire contents of the cathedral museum are also noteworthy.

### **Ciudad Rodrigo Cathedral**

[www.catedralciudadrodrigo.com](http://www.catedralciudadrodrigo.com)

High points of the cathedral include sculptures of Ferdinand II of León, his wife Queen Urraca, the diocese's first bishop and Saint Francis of Assisi.

### **León Cathedral**

[www.catedraldeleon.org](http://www.catedraldeleon.org)

Together with Burgos Cathedral, León Cathedral is the indisputable Gothic treasure of Castilla y León. It is faithful to the French model of three naves, a wide transept and an ambulatory.

### **Palencia Cathedral**

[www.diocesispalencia.org/catedral](http://www.diocesispalencia.org/catedral)

The austere outer face of Palencia Cathedral fails to reflect the splendour on display inside. For this reason the people of Palencia call it 'the Unknown Beauty'.



**New Salamanca Cathedral**  
[www.catedralsalamanca.org](http://www.catedralsalamanca.org)

One of the last Spanish examples of Gothic building.

**Old Salamanca Cathedral**  
[www.catedralsalamanca.org](http://www.catedralsalamanca.org)

Pinnacle of Salamanca's Romanesque art and one of the most important cathedrals on the Iberian Peninsula.

**Segovia Cathedral**

Construction on this late-Gothic basilica began in 1525, to replace the old cathedral, which was destroyed in 1520 during the War of the Communities.

**Valladolid Cathedral**  
[www.catedral-valladolid.com](http://www.catedral-valladolid.com)

Entrusted to Juan de Herrera, who designed the Monastery of El Escorial, by Phillip II in the 16th century. The cathedral was unfinished because the court moved to Madrid for reasons of state.

**Zamora Cathedral**

In San Bernardo Chapel reposes the crucifix of Cristo de las Injurias, by Diego de Siloe and Jacobo Florentino, one of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance art.





### Castles

Castles were fortresses, war machines that had clear strategic value and did the work of keeping watch and providing protection and defence from enemy onslaught. They arose as defensive towers in the 13th century and were built until the 15th century, when their original function began to fade.

Some fortresses still stand at practically inaccessible sites far from towns or inside city walls. Of others only loose stones remain. Here is a selection of some of the most attractive castles from the tourist standpoint.

**The Royal Fortress** Segovia

**La Mota Castle** Medina del Campo (Valladolid)

**Peñafiel Castle** Peñafiel (Valladolid)

**Coca Castle** Coca (Segovia)

**Ampudia Castle** Ampudia (Palencia)

There are more than 146 castles that belong to this historic legacy.

Castle Search Engine or <http://bit.ly/hLsTz>.





## Monasteries

Convents and monasteries are the artistic and cultural testimony left behind by all the religious orders that ever inhabited them, a reminder of the economic, social, cultural and religious splendour that made them powers to reckon with in farming and livestock raising a millennium ago. Trinitarian, Cluniac, Cistercian, Franciscan, Teresian Carmelites... All the orders are still here, the custodians of the stones on which Western culture was built, and they often still provide accommodations for travellers.

Within monastery walls a hefty portion of the history of Castilla y León through the ages was written. Monasteries are holy temples, places of retirement and prayer, abodes for the spirit and genuine miniature cathedrals. Despite their destruction and decline, the number of buildings that remain standing is still quite large. Their appearance on the landscape announces the profuse wealth preserved inside: cloisters, capitals and apses safeguard treasures of incalculable value.

The religious and economic importance of monasteries in medieval times now lives anew. Because religious houses are always located at historical sites or in lovely countryside or hidden valleys, they number among some of the most interesting monuments tourists like to see.

Many monasteries are still anchored to the roads that witnessed their birth, and those roads are now itineraries of cultural interest, such as the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and the Silver Route. These monastic complexes are in fine condition, as visitors can see, and many are still inhabited by religious communities. Today there are 119 monasteries all over our region, standard bearers of our culture and history.

Monastery Search Engine or <http://bit.ly/b72514>

## Museums

[www.museoscastillayleon.jcyl.es](http://www.museoscastillayleon.jcyl.es)

These are the true temples of knowledge where arts, letters and sciences are transfixed in human memory and in the case-lined halls in which collectors delight. These are buildings that bring the culture of the people to the people. Castilla y León has a wide variety of museums, and some of them are cultural and historical points of reference.

- Museum of Human Evolution and Atapuerca (Burgos) [www.museoevolucionhumana.com](http://www.museoevolucionhumana.com)
- MUSAC - Castilla y León Museum of Contemporary Art (León) [www.musac.es](http://www.musac.es)
- Esteban Vicente Contemporary Art Museum (Segovia) [www.museoestebanvicente.es](http://www.museoestebanvicente.es)
- Iron and Steel Industry and Mining Museum (León) [www.museosm.com](http://www.museosm.com)
- Ethnographic Museum (Zamora)
- Casa Lis (Salamanca) [www.museocasalis.org](http://www.museocasalis.org)
- Patio Herreriano Museum (Valladolid) <http://www.museopatioherreriano.org>
- San Gregorio Museum (Valladolid) [www.museosangregorio.mcu.es/](http://www.museosangregorio.mcu.es/)

## Universities

Castilla y León can boast of having among its universities the oldest such institution in Spain, the University of Salamanca, a cosmopolitan school and a nerve centre of knowledge, founded by Alfonso IX in the Middle Ages. It is joined by other public centres of learning, the universities of Valladolid, Burgos and León, and private institutions, the University of Segovia, Catholic University of Ávila and the Pontifical University of Salamanca.

Genuine temples of knowledge that, from their chairs, provide instruction in a great many of the disciplines of universal knowledge, making them educational centres of the first order. There is also the Summer University, which each year brings to one place the finest professionals and scholars in diverse subjects to give specialised courses. Some of the university schools are located in the city's old quarter in buildings of incalculable artistic value.

- University of Salamanca Salamanca [www.usal.es](http://www.usal.es)
- University of Valladolid Valladolid [www.uva.es](http://www.uva.es)
- University of Burgos Burgos [www.ubu.es](http://www.ubu.es)
- University of León León [www.unileon.es](http://www.unileon.es)
- Miguel de Cervantes European University Valladolid [www.uemc.edu](http://www.uemc.edu)
- Pontifical University of Salamanca Salamanca [www.upsa.es](http://www.upsa.es)
- Casado del Alisal Summer University Palencia [www.palencia.uva.es](http://www.palencia.uva.es)
- Summer University of Castilla y León Segovia

## World Heritage Sites



### Cities

In Castilla y León there are three cities that have won the label of World Heritage Sites: **Salamanca**, **Ávila** and **Segovia**.  
[www.ciudadespatrimonio.org](http://www.ciudadespatrimonio.org)

### Burgos Cathedral [www.catedraldeburgos.es](http://www.catedraldeburgos.es)

This is one of the most stunningly beautiful examples of Gothic architecture to be found in Spain and the only cathedral in the country to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Its original layout and highly personalised elevation provide this building with an exceptional sense of harmony, as shown in the two twin spires that point up to the sky in a cascade of lace. Inside lies a bronze tombstone informing us that this is the final resting place of the legendary Cid Campeador, Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, and his wife Doña Jimena.

### The Pilgrims' Route to Santiago

The pilgrimage itinerary par excellence. The Pilgrim's Route to Santiago, also known as the Way of Saint James, was declared the First European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe in 1987. In addition the route is considered a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



### Natural Areas

**Las Médulas**, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997, is the last witness to Roman mining engineering.

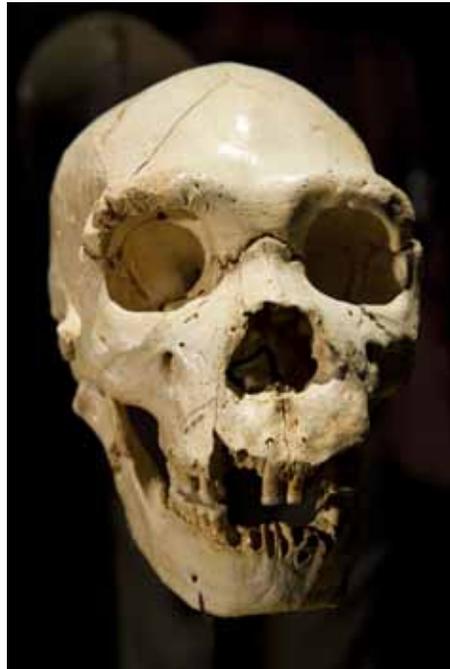
[www.fundacionlasmedulas.org](http://www.fundacionlasmedulas.org)



### Archaeological Stations

Lying fifteen kilometres outside Burgos, just off the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, **the Atapuerca mountain range** ([www.atapuerca.com](http://www.atapuerca.com)) is the site of some of the earliest settlements in Europe.

The **Siega Verde** rock art site ([www.siegaverde.es](http://www.siegaverde.es)) discovered in 1988 is located in the vicinity of Puente de la Unión, the bridge joining the Salamanca towns of Castillejo de Martín Viejo, Villar de la Yegua and Villar de Argañán, scarcely 20 kilometres downstream from Ciudad Rodrigo on the Águeda River. The site features 90 panels with depictions from the Palaeolithic era, similar to the rock art found at the neighbouring Portuguese sites in the Côa Valley.



### Cultural spaces

Centro Cultural Miguel Delibes  
<http://bit.ly/dVxNZL>

Music and performances have a new space in the Miguel Delibes Cultural Centre, a building designed by Ricardo Bofill that has already earned an international reputation. It features a large Auditorium with seating for 1,700 and a Chamber Music hall that can seat more than 500. In addition to the three large concert halls and the space dedicated to teaching, the centre boasts exhibition areas, a library with a collection of videos and sound tracks and spaces for meetings and conventions.

### Festivals

[www.fundacionsiglo.org](http://www.fundacionsiglo.org)

There is a wide variety of festival activity in our region. The events that stand out the most for their international impact, hard work and firm consolidation are:

FACYL. Castilla y León International Arts Festival, Salamanca [www.facyl-festival.com/](http://www.facyl-festival.com/)

SEMINCI. Valladolid International Film Week  
[www.seminci.es](http://www.seminci.es)

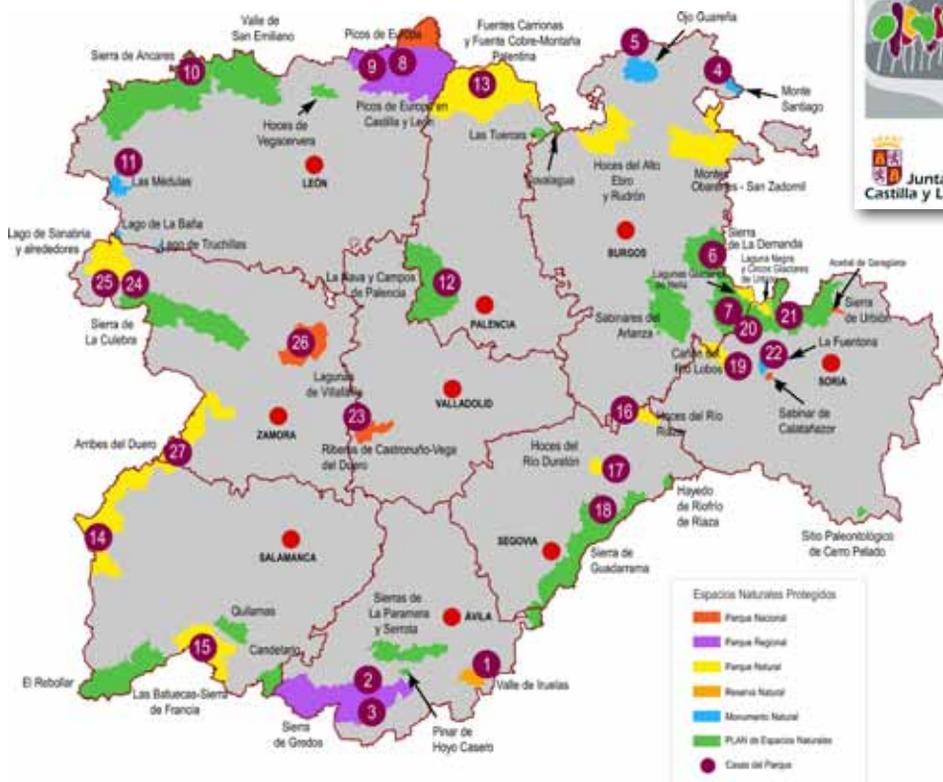
Titirimundi [www.titirimundi.com](http://www.titirimundi.com)



# Nature Tourism

# 5

[www.jcyl.es/espaciosnaturales](http://www.jcyl.es/espaciosnaturales)  
[www.patrimoniounatural.org](http://www.patrimoniounatural.org)





Because of the diversity of natural spaces hoarded within Castilla y León, our region stands out from the rest of western Europe as a region considered to have the greatest natural unity.

The Picos de Europa, the Sierra de Gredos, Monte Santiago, the mountain massifs of the Sierra de la Demanda, the peaks of the Sierra de Urbión and the Sierra de Ancares are just some of the mountain areas

that give nature lovers, hikers and environmental tourists reason to get excited. There are also gorgeous lakes, leafy hills and riverbeds eroded deep into gorges, such as Arribes del Duero, Hoces del Río Duratón, the Lobos River Canyon and the Yecla Ravine, which are spots of unusual beauty and uniqueness. For this reason our region is one of western Europe's must-see spots for anyone who wants to enjoy a living natural environment. We have:

### National Parks

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- Picos de Europa

### Regional Parks

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- Picos de Europa - RIAÑO
- Sierra de Gredos - NAVARREDONDA DE GREDOS

### Nature Parks

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- Laguna Negra y Circos Glaciares de Urbión - DURUELO DE LA SIERRA
- Lago de Sanabria y Alrededores - GALENDE
- Cañón del Río Lobos - UCERO
- Hoces del Río Duratón - SEPULVEDA
- Arribes del Duero - FERMOSELLE
- Fuentes Carrionas y Fuente Cobre - Montaña Palentina - CERVERA DE PISUERGA
- Las Batuecas - Sierra de Francia - ALBERCA (LA)
- Hoces del Río Riaza - MONTEJO DE LA VEGA SERREZUELA
- Montes Obarenes - San Zadornil - PANCORBO
- Hoces del Alto Ebro y Rudrón - PESQUERA DE EBRO
- Sierra Norte de Guadarrama
- Lagunas Glaciales de Neila

### Nature Reserves

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- Acebal de Garagüeta - AREVALO DE LA SIERRA
- Valle de Iruelas - TIEMBLO (EL)



- Sabinar de Calatañazor - CALATAÑAZOR
- Riberas de Castronuño - CASTRONUÑO
- Lagunas de Villafáfila - VILLAFÁFILA

### Natural Monuments

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- Monte Santiago - BERBERANA
- Ojo Guareña - CUEVA - MERINDAD DE SOTOSCUEVA
- Lago de La Baña - BAÑA (LA)
- Lago de Truchillas - TRUCHAS
- Las Médulas - CARUCEDO
- La Fuentona "Ojo de Mar" - MURIEL DE LA FUENTE

### Espacios Naturales

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- Pinar de Hoyocasero - HOYOCASERO
- Sierras de la Paramera y La Serrota - SOLOSANCHO
- Sabinares de Arlanza - SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS
- Sierra de La Demanda - QUINTANAR DE LA SIERRA
- Sierra de los Ancares - VEGA DE ESPINAREDA
- Hoces de Vegacervera - VEGACERVERA
- Covalagua - POMAR DE VALDIVIA
- Las Tuerces - VILLAESCUSA DE LAS TORRES
- Candelario - CANDELARIO
- El Rebollar - FUENTEGUINALDO
- Las Quilamas - LINARES DE RIOFRIO
- Hayedo de Riofrío de Riaza - RIOFRIO DE RIAZA
- Sierra de Urbión - VINUESA
- Sierra de la Culebra - VILLARDECIERVOS
- Valle de San Emiliano - SAN EMILIANO
- La Nava y Campos de Palencia - FUENTES DE NAVA



### Palaeontological Sites

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- Sitio paleontológico de Cerro Pelado - LAYNA

## Wildlife-based Tourism

[www.birdwatchinginspain.com](http://www.birdwatchinginspain.com)



Castilla y León is a fascinating region for watching the birds of the Iberian Peninsula because of its size (It is one of the largest regions in Europe) and its biodiversity (It contains practically every kind of ecosystem except the marine ecosystem). On the plateau in the region' heartland, with its plains, rivers and reservoirs, or in the surrounding mountains and forests, we can find more than 361 species of birds, 218 of the 266 nesting species of Spain.

Castilla y León is the Spanish region most heavily represented in the European ecological network Natura 2000, with 18.94% of the total; and it has seventy special protection areas for birds, a total area of close to two million hectares, something over 21% of the region's land.

The birdwatching available covers a wide range. There are numerous routes and designated areas for observing the most important species, such as the great bustard, the common kestrel, eagles, steppe birds and members of the Anatidae family. As a unique complement, wildlife watchers can also learn about and actually spot mythical animals like the brown bear, the Iberian wolf and the red deer as it roars.



## Winter Sport Resorts

The summits of the mountain chains that wind through Castilla y León are covered with snow, and that makes them an extraordinary place for downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and ski mountaineering, as well as trekking through the mountains and getting to know the beauty spots and age-old towns in the area.

The mountains of Castilla y León have abandoned their green hues for the white mantle of snow and all its splendour. It is easy to combine winter sports with wandering through the many charming mountain villages built of stone and wood, which carry visitors right back to another era. Their streets, their monuments, their histories and their legends, together with their cuisine and the warmth of their accommodations and their people, make for a real gift for the senses.

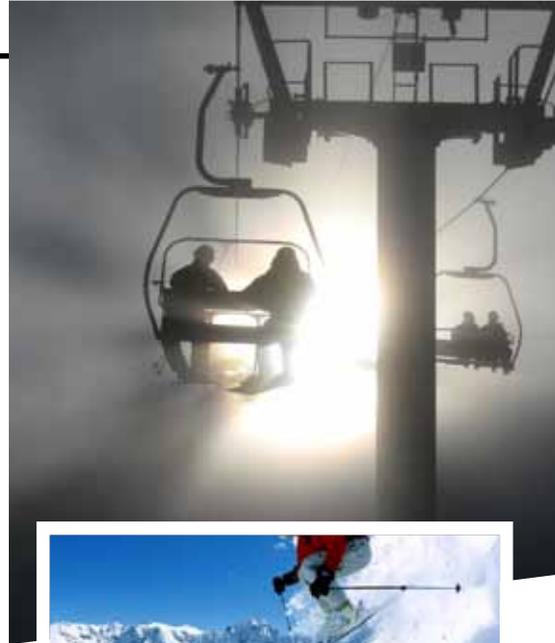
The summits of **San Isidro and Leitariegos** in León, **La Pinilla** in Segovia, **Lunada** in Burgos and **La Covatilla** in Salamanca hold modern winter resorts with easy access and a complete system of services, close to charming age-old villages.

### La Lunada Ski Resort (Burgos)

La Lunada Ski Resort is in the Cantabrian Mountains, on the slopes of Pico La Miel and El Alto de Las Corvas (1,568 metres). It is the starting point for a great many itineraries and walks and a great spot for just having family fun in the snow.

<http://www.lunada.info/>

The resort is also within visiting distance of the Ojo Guareña Natural Monument Visitor Centre, San Bernabé Cave and Shrine, the town of Espinosa de los Monteros, Las Machorras (which is a fine place for observing northern Burgos valley culture) and, lastly, La Engaña Railway Tunnel. The tunnel was built to take the Santander-Mediterranean line through the



mountains, but it was never opened. The stations and the track are still there, though.

### Leitariegos Ski Resort (León)

This resort is in the province of León, in the middle of the Cantabrian Mountains. Many visitors are attracted by the beauty of the landscape and the chance to ski. The atmosphere is family friendly and very pleasant.

[www.leitariegos.net](http://www.leitariegos.net)

In the surrounding area tourists may visit the Wood Grouse Centre at the Sierra de Ancares Natural Area to learn about the wood grouse,

or they might like to see the Babia region's traditionally built villages or the typical thatched 'pallozas' in the Ancares region between León and Orense.

### **San Isidro Ski Resort (León)**

This is one of the leading winter resorts. It has a great variety of slopes for all levels of expertise and for ardent snowboarders, plus off-piste routes and a cross-country circuit.

[www.estacionsanisidro.com](http://www.estacionsanisidro.com)

The activities available include visiting the Pinar de Lillo protected pine forest and the Wildlife Museum in Valdehuesa.

There are also the 'El Torreón de Puebla de Lillo' Picos de Europa Regional Park Visitor Centre and the 'Valdeburón' Picos de Europa Regional Park Visitor Centre. Both have numerous hiking and mountain-climbing routes.

### **Sierra bejar -**

#### **La Covatilla Ski Resort (Salamanca)**

The little ones can enjoy the snow, because there are areas especially designed for them where everything is to scale. There are also play areas with snow parks and slopes that are ideal for beginning skiers.

[www.sierradebejar-lacovatilla.com](http://www.sierradebejar-lacovatilla.com)

In the area nearby tourists can steep in the typical mountain architecture of towns in the

Sierra de Béjar, such as Candelario and Béjar, or the towns in the Batuecas-Sierra de Francia region, such as La Alberca, Mogarraz, Sequeros, Miranda del Castañar and San Martín del Castañar.

### **Valle de Riaza -**

#### **La Pinilla Ski Resort (Segovia)**

This resort is located in the Ayllón Mountains, right in the middle of the Sistema Central. It is ideal for winter sports, and in the off season it runs active tourism activities.

[www.lapinilla.es](http://www.lapinilla.es)

There are plenty of things to see in this spectacular zone: the Hoces del Río Duratón Nature Park Visitor Centre, where tourists can visit the Duratón River Gorges and the various monuments nearby, such as San Frutos Shrine; the Hayedo de Riofrio de Riaza, a beech forest in La Quesera Pass; the red/black/white villages (so called because of the prevailing colour of the buildings), which include Villacorta, Becerril, Serracín, Madriguera, El Muyo, El Negro and Grado del Pico; the historic sites of Riaza, Sepúlveda and Ayllón and Los Enebralejos Caves.

Snow points are places that have the basic infrastructure for snow activities. In Castilla y León we have Valle del Sol, in Pineda de la Sierra, province of Burgos, where traditional and religious architecture can be seen in villages such as Barbadillo de Herreros, Los Tolbaños, Riocavado de la Sierra and Salas de los Infantes.



**El Morredero** ([www.elmorredero.com](http://www.elmorredero.com)) is in Ponferrada, a city that, like Molinaseca and Villafranca del Bierzo, is regarded as a historic site due to its traditional and religious architecture. Two of the outstanding local



beauty spots are the Valley of Silence, which contains lovely, untamed natural landscapes, and, of course, Las Médulas Natural Monument and World Heritage Site. The list of sites to visit would not be complete without Puerto de Santa Inés in Soria.



The cross-country skiing areas include Navarredonda de Gredos, Hoyos del Espino, Navalperal de Tormes and Zapardiel de la Rivera in Ávila; San Glorio Pass in León; Brañosa in Palencia and Piqueras Pass in Soria.

Skiing is one of the draws of winter tourism in Castilla y León. The mountain ranges' summits are transformed by winter's first snows into an extraordinary place phenomenally suited for skiing.

## Visitor Centres and River Learning Centres

[www.patrimonionatural.org](http://www.patrimonionatural.org)

Visitor centres are part of the tourist infrastructure. They are conceived as meeting points and reference points in the natural areas of Castilla y León, for the local population and visitors alike. At visitor centres detailed information can be found about all the possibilities of the natural area and its surroundings, including points of interest in the natural, cultural and social environment.

One of the main objectives of visitor centres is to provide the knowledge necessary to facilitate a new way of approaching these unique areas, in which visitors are given the keys they need to identify, weigh and interpret the cultural and natural heritage of these sites.



A full visitor centre directory is available on the web page.

## Caves



Thanks to its mountain formations, Castilla y León has numerous caves, making it a cavers' paradise. Situated in the heart of the mountains, near nature spots that feature largely in the national heritage, caves are an authentic rocky wonder set deep inside the earth.

Erosion by water and the passage of centuries may discover an entire gallery of bizarre figures, thousand-year-old stalactites, natural passages, roomy chambers and inner corridors hidden away from the sunlight, yet retrieved from darkness for today's tourists to enjoy.

A landscape where time has stopped, a little world with its own ecosystem, accessible only by imagination, and coming alive when the artificial lights are put out.

All the provinces except Valladolid have huge mountain areas just right for cave tourism, an activity that is halfway between sport and entertainment. Cave tourists enter underground cavities, making their way around natural obstacles such as underground rivers and pot-holes with the help of specialised gear.

Given the risk involved in this kind of mountain activity, to avoid unpleasant accidents, it is best

to contact professional cave tourism firms that know their way around the caves. So, before leaving home, any interested amateurs ought to get in touch with professionals such as the members of the Castilla y León Speleology Federation, which has its offices in Valladolid.

[www.fedespeleo.com](http://www.fedespeleo.com)

- Valporquero Cave, Vegacervera (León)  
[www.dipuleon.es](http://www.dipuleon.es)
- Los Enebralejos Cave, Pradena (Segovia)  
[www.cuevadelosenebralejos.es](http://www.cuevadelosenebralejos.es)
- Cave of the French, Revilla de Pomar (Palencia)  
[www.cuevadelosfranceses.es](http://www.cuevadelosfranceses.es)
- Águila Caves, Arenas de San Pedro (Ávila)  
[www.grutasdelaguila.com](http://www.grutasdelaguila.com)
- Ojo Guareña Caves, Cueva (Burgos)
- La Galiana Cave, Ucero (Soria)
- Fuentemolinos Cave, Belorado (Burgos)

# Health Tourism

# 6

Castilla y León is an autonomous community that has put the water from its springs to good use, bathing visitors in a warm welcome.

## *Springs and Medicinal Waters*

To travel through Castilla y León is to venture into a territory of unrestrained nature where springs, rivers and lakes overflow with water and life.

The region has an infinity of nooks and corners presided over by wells and springs. Healing waters and mineral medicinal waters are tapped to quench the thirst of passing travellers.



- Agua de Calabor  
CALABOR
- Fuente Campo del Agua  
CAMPO DEL AGUA
- Fuente de Aira da Pedra  
VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
- Fuente de Barreiros  
BURBIA
- Fuente de Cantejeira  
CANTEJEIRA
- Fuente de Cela  
CELA
- Fuente de Fornbasalla  
PARADASECA
- Fuente de Las Algueiras  
BURBIA
- Fuente de Matascampas  
PERANZANES
- Fuente de Mollapán  
QUINTELA
- Fuente de Penoselo  
PENOSELO
- Fuente de Pereda  
PEREDA DE ANCARES

- Fuente de Pumarín  
PUMARÍN
- Fuente de San Lázaro  
VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
- Fuente de Villarmarín  
VILLARMARÍN
- Fuente Ferruginosa de Aira da Pedra  
VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
- Fuente la Abedul  
TEJEDO DE ANCARES
- Fuente las Becerras  
GUIMARA
- Fuente medicinal de Fumeixin  
CANDÍN
- Fuente medicinal de Peñarrubia  
CAMPO DEL AGUA
- Fuente mineral de Burbia  
BURBIA
- Fuente Quintela Villar de Acero  
VILLAR DE ACERO
- Las Fuentes de Chan de Villar  
CHANDEVILLAR
- Manantial de las Fuentecitas  
SALAS DE LOS INFANTES

- Manantial de Villasumil  
VILLASUMIL
- Manantial de Xípela  
TEJEIRA
- Manantial del Alto de Fumeixin  
CANDÍN
- Manantial la Perica  
GUIMARA
- Manantial la Valiña  
VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO
- Manantial las Lagunas de la Pesca  
GUIMARA
- Manantial las Larmelas  
TEJEIRA
- Manantial las Vaqueras  
PERANZANES
- Manantial Rubia  
TEJEIRA
- Manantial Valdoso  
OÑA

### Spas

Tourists can enjoy the water of these 'water cities' at spas. The salty waters of springtime in the Valladolid countryside, the baths of Salamanca (known as far back as in Roman times), the baths of Ávila and those of the provinces of León and Burgos provide an opportunity for tourists in need of rest and recovery to take their ease at establishments whose location is first rate in terms of natural

beauty and cultural outlets, with excellent connections to large cities. The facilities and medicinal treatments are of the finest, and the hotel complexes are top category. Spas and thermal resorts are no longer a holiday alternative for the elderly only. More and more young people are choosing to plunge into this kind of tourism to get away from the stress and fast pace of everyday life and find some tranquility.



- Hotel Balneario Corconte en Virtus (Burgos),
- Balneario Caldas de Luna Caldas de Luna (León)
- Antigua fuente del Caño de Babilafuente en Babilafuente (Salamanca)
- Balneario de Ledesma en Ledesma (Salamanca)

- Balneario de Retortillo en Retortillo (Salamanca)
- Balneario Hotel Palacio de las Salinas en Medina del Campo (Valladolid)
- Hotel Balneario Villa de Olmedo en Olmedo (Valladolid)
- Balneario de Almeida en Almeida de Sayago (Zamora)

# Rural, Active and Sports Tourism

# 7

## **Rural Tourism**

Rural tourism in Castilla y León has become one of the region's biggest tourist magnets. In rural tourism establishments, travellers find more than just quality facilities.

Rural accommodations afford guests direct contact with the local people, their culture, traditions and trades and the natural environment.

Accommodations are located at sites of undeniable interest to tourists and often offer various activities as well, ranging from stress-relief courses to tours of nearby monuments and local craftsmen's shops, sports and grape harvesting.



- Alojamientos de Turismo Rural
- Central de Reservas
- Posadas Reales





## **Active Tourism** **[www.puntosactivos.es](http://www.puntosactivos.es)**

Thanks to its wealth of mountains, its natural areas, rivers, valleys, cliffs, caves and gorges, its broad plains– in short, the diversity of its astonishing landscape, the land of Castilla y León is an ideal place in which to engage in active tourism activities, to complement the richness of what this autonomous community has to offer in terms of the intellectual and the spiritual.

[Active Tourism Company Search Engine - http://bit.ly/gdFMCd](http://bit.ly/gdFMCd)

### **Water and River Tourism**

Even though Castilla y León is a land-locked region, the array of active tourism on offer affords numerous opportunities for water-loving fun. At rivers, reservoirs and artificial beaches, tourists can choose from a wide range of active tourism possibilities, not only in the summer, but all throughout the year. Those who prefer to stay on the surface can take out small boats, catamarans, canoes and pedalos. The more adventurous can try their hand at gorge walking, waterskiing, kayaking, riverboarding, rafting, surfing, sailing and diving at the numerous sites prepared for all these activities, normally with the assistance of active tourism companies.



### **Golf Tourism**

**[www.federaciondegolfdecastillayleon.org](http://www.federaciondegolfdecastillayleon.org)**

Golf has risen sharply in popularity in our country nowadays, and the passion for this sport has also reached our autonomous community. The rise in the population of golf amateurs and professionals in Castilla y León has sparked an increase in the number of courses and the number of tourist complexes set up around golfing.



### **Ski Tourism**

Castilla y León can also offer ski tourism, an athletic leisure-time option that has already become a first-rate tourist attraction. The ski-related facilities on offer grow year after year, not only because there are more winter resorts, but also because companies are designing wider activity ranges. The possibilities on offer include ice climbing, Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and ski mountaineering, snowboarding and dog sledding.

Castilla y León has all kinds of skiing on offer at its winter resorts and snow points. San Isidro and Leitariegos in León, La Pinilla and Navacerrada in Segovia, and Lunada and Valle del Sol in Burgos are some of the places where beginners and experts alike will be able to get their fill of snowboarding and gliding down the slopes.



### **Hiking [www.patrimonionatural.org](http://www.patrimonionatural.org)**

There is a huge number of hiking trails in Castilla y León. Many routes are listed by the federation that is responsible for guaranteeing trail quality and services (such as trail markings and special information).

### **Bicycle Touring**

This is certainly one of the leading tourism alternatives. Every day more and more people are riding bicycles on trails or over short distances, to get around and enjoy the natural areas and towns of our autonomous community.

### **Geocaching on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago in Castilla y León**

This activity is the 21st century version of the treasure hunt and is based on locating an object through its coordinates, by using a map, compass or GPS.

This way of following the Pilgrims' Route starts in the Tourist Information Offices in each province it passes through - in this case the Silver Trail and the French Way. There you will be given the coordinates (longitude and latitude) of the first point to be located, plus a series of clues.

This information is accompanied by the "Pilgrim's Log", a kind of passport including personal details, as well as details of the history of each place of interest, and which has to be stamped at each corresponding point.

All this information can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/eHvrKZ> and also on Facebook at Geocachingcastillayleon Turismo-castillayleon <http://on.fb.me/eBRI0A>



# Food and Wine Tourism

# 8

## Gastronomy. The Region of a Hundred Cuisines.

Traditional products or <http://bit.ly/eKTCam>

Hand-made foods or <http://bit.ly/hMzCdF>

Typical dishes or <http://bit.ly/hkwCzt>

Food industries and food-making companies or <http://bit.ly/e1RKNC>

Specialised shops or <http://bit.ly/fai6T4>

Food tours or <http://bit.ly/fUy3f4>

Food festivals or <http://bit.ly/eRVx3X>



## Wine Tourism

### Designations of Origin

To mention Castilla y León's wine and wine culture is to emphasize the fact that ours is one of the most widely diversified winemaking regions and that here we make some of the most famous

wines in the world. Historically Castilla y León has always been a great vinegrowing region, with a background reaching to before Roman colonisation. The Autonomous Community of

Castilla y León has nine designations of origin, two QWpsr regions and three historical regions belonging to the generic 'Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León' quality designation.



**BIERZO:** Province of León. Sil River Valley. Transitional area between Galicia and Castilla y León. White, rosé and red wines. Varieties: Mencía, Doña Blanca, Godello (main varieties), Garnacha Tintorera, Malvasía and Palomino. [www.crdobierzo.com](http://www.crdobierzo.com)



**CIGALES:** Provinces of Valladolid and Palencia. Duero River Basin. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tinta del País 'Tempranillo' (main variety), Garnacha Tinta, Garnacha Gris, Verdejo and Albillo. [www.do-cigales.es](http://www.do-cigales.es)



**RIBERA DEL DUERO:** Provinces of Soria, Burgos, Segovia and Valladolid. Duero River Valley. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tinta del País 'Tempranillo' (main variety), Cabernet Sauvignon, Garnacha Tinta, Malbec and Merlot. [www.riberadelduero.es](http://www.riberadelduero.es)



**RUEDA:** Provinces of Valladolid, Segovia and Ávila. Duero River Valley. Sparkling, white, rosé and red wines. Varieties: Verdejo, Tempranillo (main varieties), Sauvignon Blanc, Viura, Palomino, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Garnacha. [www.dorueda.com](http://www.dorueda.com)



**TORO:** Provinces of Zamora and Valladolid. Duero River Valley. White, rosé and red wines. Grape varieties: Tinta de Toro, Malvasía (main varieties), Garnacha Tinta and Verdejo. [www.losvinosdetoro.com](http://www.losvinosdetoro.com)



**ARLANZA:** Provinces of Burgos and Palencia. Duero River Basin. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tinta del País 'Tempranillo' (main variety), Mencía, Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon, Albillo and Viura. [www.arlanza.org](http://www.arlanza.org)



**TIERRA DEL VINO DE ZAMORA:** Provinces of Zamora and Salamanca. Duero River Valley. White, rosé, clarete and red wines. Varieties: Tempranillo, Malvasía, Muscat and Verdejo (main varieties), Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon, Albillo and Godello. [www.tierradelvino.net](http://www.tierradelvino.net)



**ARRIBES:** Provinces of Zamora and Salamanca. Duero River Valley. White, rosé and red wines. Varieties: Juan García, Malvasía and Rufete (main varieties), Tempranillo, Garnacha, Verdejo and Albillo. [www.vinoarribesduero.com](http://www.vinoarribesduero.com)



**TIERRAS DE LEÓN:** Provinces of León and Valladolid. Duero River Basin. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Prieto Picudo, Mencía, Verdejo, Albarín Blanco and Godello (main varieties), Tempranillo, Garnacha Tinta, Malvasía and Palomino (complementary varieties). <http://www.dotierradeleon.es>

### **QWpsr (Quality Wines Produced in a Specific Region)**

**Valles de Benavente Quality Wine:** Province of Zamora. Duero River Basin. White, rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tempranillo, Prieto Picudo, Mencía, Malvasía and Verdejo (main varieties), Garnacha and Cabernet Sauvignon. [www.vallesdebenavente.org](http://www.vallesdebenavente.org)

**Valtiendas Quality Wine:** Province of Segovia. Duero River Valley. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tinta del País 'Tempranillo' (main variety), Garnacha Tinta, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrat, Merlot and, for white wines, Albillo. [www.vinosdevaltiendas.com](http://www.vinosdevaltiendas.com)

**Tierra de Castilla y León Wine:** All the provinces of Castilla y León. White, rosé and red wines. Varieties: All the varieties authorised and recommended in the autonomous community. [www.asovintcal.com](http://www.asovintcal.com)

### **OTHER HISTORICAL REGIONS**

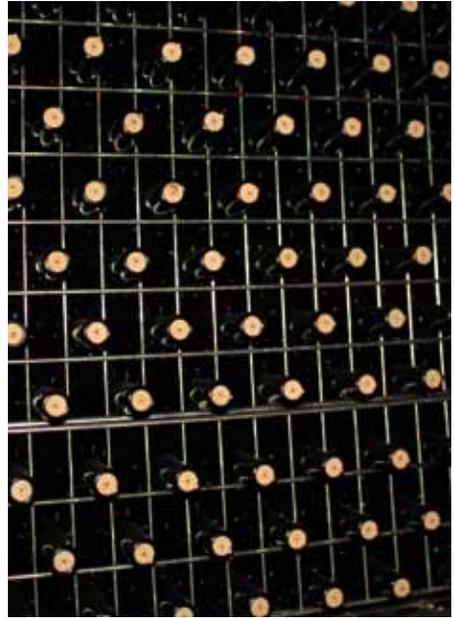
These are regions that have been of great historic importance in regional winegrowing but have never taken the step of securing certification under current legislation, even though they could. In fact, a former member of this group, the Valtiendas region, did so and now produces QWpsr wines.

**SIERRA DE SALAMANCA:** Province of Salamanca. Tajo (Tagus) River Valley. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Rufete (main variety), Tempranillo, Verdejo and Viura.

**CEBREROS:** Province of Ávila. Tajo River Valley. White, rosé and red wines. Varieties: Garnacha Tinta and Albillo.

**SARDÓN AND TUDELA DE DUERO:** Province of Valladolid. Duero River Valley. Rosé and red wines. Varieties: Tinta de País 'Tempranillo', Garnacha Tinta, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec.

**CHACOLI DEL VALLE DE MENA.** Province of Burgos.



Winery Search Engine or <http://bit.ly/h5YLy3>

Using this search engine, you can find any of the 631 registered wineries located in our autonomous community.

### **Traditional Grape Harvest Festivals**

Long ago tradition set certain days of the agricultural calendar in late summer and early autumn as the dates for harvesting grapes. Traditional folklore and local participation combine at that time for festivals, where there are also all kinds of cultural activities and wine tastings. All these attractions make grape harvest festivals events to which thousands of visitors flock. The entire community puts on its finery to celebrate the grape harvest, but some cities and towns stand out from the rest for the deep-rooted feeling they put into the tradition.

- Grape Harvest Festival in Arribes (Zamora)

- Rueda, Grape Harvest Festival RUEDA (Valladolid)
- Serrada, Grape Harvest Festival SERRADA (Valladolid)
- Peñafiel, Grape Harvest Festival PEÑAFIEL (Valladolid)
- Toro, Grape Harvest Festival TORO (Zamora)
- Grape Harvest Festival of La Ribera del Arlanza (Burgos)
- Cebreros, Grape Harvest Festival CEBREROS (Ávila)
- Grape Harvest Festival of Ribera del Duero (Valladolid)
- Cacabelos, Grape Harvest Festival CACABELOS (León)
- Langa de Duero, Grape Harvest Days LANGA DE DUERO (Soria)



### Wine – Wine Tourism

One of the objectives of wine tourism is to take certain locations already involved in rural and cultural tourism and expand their product into something wider reaching. The expansion is based on activities concerning winegrowing (winery tours), food and cultural activities, combined with a previous or simultaneously prepared offer of sufficient accommodations and services directly related with wine and wine culture (wine shops, purpose-built museums and wine-related places that have been turned into museums, craftsmen's shops hav-

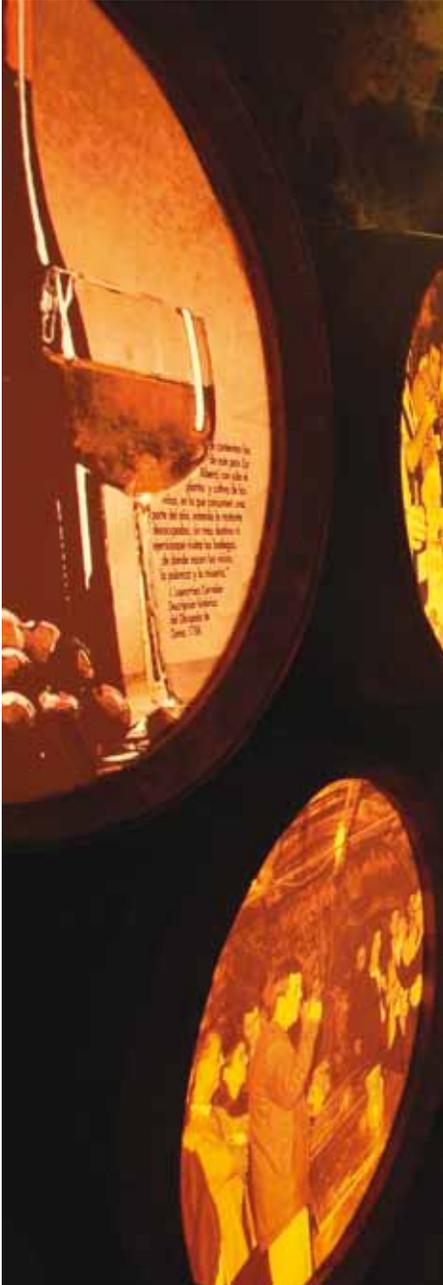
ing to do with the grape-growing and wine-making trades). There must also be a wide range of complementary activities, such as active tourism (for example, hiking and riding trails) and fine restaurants that have a menu based on local dishes, a good wine cellar and a sommelier.

There are over 600 WINERIES IN CASTILLA Y LEÓN. Around 148 of them give tourists an up-to-date picture of our wineries and the processes we use to make wine. See the web sites for the different designations of origin.



### Wine Fairs and Competitions

- Zarcillo Awards International
- Ribexpo. Peñafiel (Valladolid)
- Riberjoven. Peñafiel (Valladolid)
- Opera Prima. Peñafiel (Valladolid)
- Exporauda. Roa de Duero (Burgos)
- Vínoforum. (Ávila)
- Vintoro, the Toro Designation of Origin Wine Fair. Toro (Zamora)
- Wine Fair. Gordaliza del Pino (Valladolid)
- Prieto Picudo Wine Fair. Pajares de los Oteros (León)
- Bierzo D.O. Wine Promotion Fair. Travelling fair (León)
- Cigales Wine Fair and Grape Harvest Festival. Annual Trade Fair for Wines Bearing the Cigales Designation of Origin. Cigales (Valladolid)
- Salamanca Social and Cultural Encounter over Wine (Salamanca)
- Alimentaría Castilla y León
- Gordoncillo. Workshop
- Tierra de León Quality Wine Association QWpsr Wine Fair. Valencia de Don Juan (León)
- International Wine Fair in Arribes del Duero (Salamanca)



### Competitions

- Zarcillo Awards. international
- Manojos Awards. Domestic, wine cooperatives
- Envero Awards for Ribera del Duero Wines. Aranda de Duero (Burgos)
- Peñafiel Oenological Fair
- Vendimiadora Awards. Roa de Duero (Burgos)

### Wine-themed Accommodations

More and more accommodations are being made available with ties to the major wineries, offering guests the chance to submerge themselves in the winemaking experience while enjoying a quality stay in comfortable surroundings.

For example, there are:

- **Arzuaga Navarro Hotel**\*\*\*\*\*  
Quintanilla de Onésimo (Valladolid)
- **Torremilanos Hotel**\*\*\*\*  
Aranda de Duero (Burgos)
- **Real Sitio de Ventosilla. Posada Real**  
Gumiel de Mercado (Burgos)
- **Hacienda Unamuno. Winery Hotel**  
Fermoselle (Zamora)
- **Hacienda Zorita. Winery Hotel**  
Valverdón. Salamanca
- **Hacienda Abascal. Winery Hotel.**  
Quintanilla de Arriba. Valladolid
- **Renacimiento Holiday Cottage.**  
Matarromera Group.  
Cottage with wine cellar.  
Olivares de Duero (Valladolid)
- **Posada Palacio. Monte La Reina Winery**  
Toro (Zamora)
- **Resort & Spa Hotel**\*\*\*\*\*. Valbusenda Winery.  
Peleagonzalo. (Zamora)



### Wine Studies and Wine Tourism

- La Santa Espina (Valladolid). Winery trades.
- University of Valladolid. Palencia Campus. Licentiate degree in oenology.
- University of Salamanca. Zamora Campus. Master's degree in wine tourism.
- Hermanos Gabrielistas. La Aguilera (Burgos). Winery trades.

### Museums

- Peñafiel Provincial Wine Museum. Peñafiel (Valladolid)

- Matarromera Group Emina Winegrowing Interpretation Centre. San Bernardo, Valbuena de Duero (Valladolid)
- Casa de la Ribera. Peñafiel (Valladolid)
- Castilla y León Ethnographic Museum. (Zamora)
- Winery Museum in Aranda de Duero-Las Animas (Burgos). CIAVIN
- Wine Museum. Located in the cellars of the Bierzo Wine Cooperative. Cacabelos (León)



### Mushroom Tourism

[www.buscasetas.es](http://www.buscasetas.es)  
or [www.myasrc.es](http://www.myasrc.es)

More than 1,500 fungus species, many of them edible, bear fruit each year in the forests and wilderness areas of Castilla y León. Mushrooming has a singular charm that combines enjoyment of nature while collecting with enjoyment of delicious, high-quality products.

There are special mushroom tourism centres, mushroom trails, guides and a large network of restaurants, bars and mushroom-themed accommodations that will help visitors discover and enjoy the Fungus Kingdom.

### Picking and Eating

Preserving nature and hunting for mushrooms are compatible, as long as enthusiasts use

good judgement and leave no sign of their passage.

- Mushroom-Picking Permits
- Habitats and Fungi
- Mushroom Season
- Mushroom-Picking Advice





# Conferences, Conventions and Incentives–MICE

# 9



In recent years, meeting and convention tourism has become key for successfully diversifying the model of tourism used in Castilla y León. The fine offer of tourist products, the excellent natural areas and great cultural heritage of Castilla y León, its hotel industry (able to accommodate any demand, and in the best of conditions) and the existence of five major venues especially designed for hosting conferences, conventions and trade fairs make this autonomous community extraordinarily fit for holding and organising major events.

The major conference centres are:

**Conde Ansúrez Conference Centre** (Valladolid)

[www.funge.uva.es](http://www.funge.uva.es)

**Castilla y León Conference Centre** (Salamanca)

[www.palaciocongresososalamanca.com](http://www.palaciocongresososalamanca.com)

**Conference Centre** (Valladolid)

[www.feriavalladolid.com](http://www.feriavalladolid.com)

**City of León Auditorium** (León)

[www.auditoriociadaddeleon.net](http://www.auditoriociadaddeleon.net)

**Lienzo Norte Conference and Exhibition Centre** (Ávila)

<http://www.lienzonorte.es/>



# Urban Tourism

# 10

When it comes to urban tourism, Castilla y León boasts a wide range of possibilities. The region's nine capitals are home to a rich legacy centred on four key areas: an outstanding cultural and natural heritage; excellent communications; a superb culinary offer; and its fine wines.

An outstanding cultural and natural heritage Castilla y León boasts more than 50% of Spain's cultural heritage: 112 historic sites, almost 400 museums, more than 200 castles and 11 cathedrals. It also has a network of 40 privileged natural locations together with 21 ski resorts, 42 golf courses, 115 public camp sites and over 3,500 rural tourism establishments, without forgetting its famous mouth-watering gastronomy.

The region is well communicated with the rest of the Iberian Peninsula by a modern network of motorways, highways and roads, whilst the recent addition of the 'AVE' High Speed Train has further improved the already extensive rail network. This autonomous community also has four airports connecting it to the main Spanish cities and European capitals: Paris, London, Brussels, Milan and Düsseldorf.

Food in Castilla y León is another of the region's principal tourism resources, thanks to the large number of fresh and cured meats, cheeses, legumes and fruits holding designations of quality. These products, combined with the skill and know-how of Castilla y León's expert chefs and restaurateurs have made our gastronomy one of the most attractive, highly valued and complete in Spain.

The wines of Castilla y León, nine of which hold a Designation of Origin (Ribera de Duero, Rueda, Toro, El Bierzo, Cigales, Arlanza, Arribes, Tierras de León and Tierra del Vino de Zamora), enjoy an excellent international reputation and represent another of the multiple attractions of our Region's varied gastronomy.

Moreover, a visit to each of these cities will provide us with a host of fascinating options, ranging from emblematic sites, cultural spaces, places of interest and events to the kind of discoveries that are simply not to be missed.





## AVILA

[www.diputacionavila.es/patronato](http://www.diputacionavila.es/patronato)  
[www.avilaturismo.com](http://www.avilaturismo.com)

Ávila's city wall is the world's biggest floodlit monument. This is a city offering an immense wealth of cultural attractions. Declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, it is the perfect example of a medieval walled city that encloses tens of palaces, convents and churches that speak to us of their past and the city's most illustrious resident, Saint Teresa.

### Landmarks

- **The Cathedral.** Also used for military purposes due to its fortified head.
- **Basilica of San Vicente.** Both the site and façade are of immense artistic value.
- **Ávila City Walls.** Work began in 1090 on what are today considered to be the finest example of medieval walls in Spain.
- **Church of San Pedro.** A 12th century church standing outside the city walls.
- **Convents associated with Saint Teresa.** The Convent of the Discalced Carmelites; the Monastery of La Encarnación and the Convent of San José



## Cultural Spaces

**Saint Teresa – Saint John of the Cross International Centre (CITES).** This centre aims to become a major reference for the documentation and study of mysticism. It regularly organises major events aimed at systemising and diffusing all types of information and the training of specialists.

## Events

- **Ávila city tours.** Guided tours of Ávila with a difference on the Murallito, a tourist train that takes visitors around the city's historic quarter and surroundings.
- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of National Tourist Interest.
- **Legendary Saturdays.** The streets and square of Ávila are steeped in history and legend throughout the month of June.
- **Theatre on the Wall.** Between June and September visitors can enjoy an evening tour around the wall walk, accompanied by some of the characters that once lived there.
- **Moonlit Ávila.** August. A season of concerts featuring a wide range of styles, held at magical venues throughout the city of Ávila.
- **Ávila by candlelight.** August. Candles illuminate the city's cloisters and arches, with music as the central theme.
- **Medieval Festival.** The walled city of Ávila takes you on a journey back in time. September.

## Places of interest

- **Ávila Museum.** Housed in two of the city's finest monumental buildings: the Deans' House and the former Church of Santo Tomás el Viejo.
- **The Tower of the Guzmanes family.** Seat of Avila Provincial Council, it also houses temporary exhibitions and the Celtic and Vettonic culture interpretation centre. The Vettones: Culture and Nature



- **The Monastery of Santo Tomás.** Associated with the Catholic Monarchs and Cardinal Torquemada, it is the site of the Oriental and Natural History Museums, as well as the tomb of Prince John.
- **Palace of the Serrano Family.** Its rooms house important and fascinating temporary exhibitions.

**Not to be missed**

**Cuatro Postes.** Viewpoint Boasting one of the most spectacular views of the city and its magnificent walls, the Convents of Santa Teresa and the Discalced Carmelites, the Monastery of La Encarnación and the Convent of San José.





## BURGOS

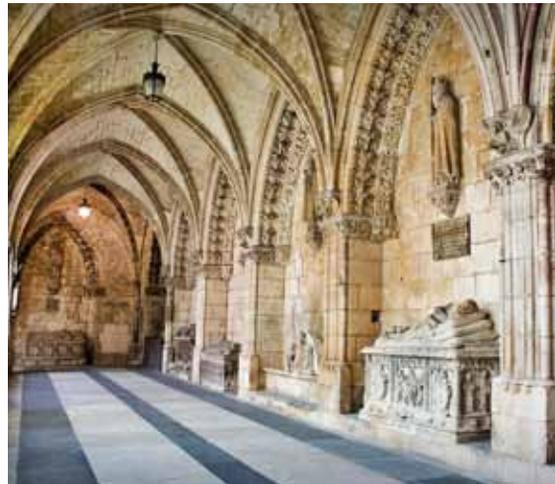
[www.turismoburgos.org](http://www.turismoburgos.org)

[www.aytoburgos.es/turismo](http://www.aytoburgos.es/turismo)

The city of Burgos boasts an immense cultural heritage. The Cathedral was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, acknowledging its status as one of the finest examples of 13th century Gothic architecture. In addition, the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, which was also awarded World Heritage status in 1993, also passes through the city, whilst just a short distance away we find another World Heritage Site, the archaeological sites in the Atapuerca Mountain Range.

### Landmarks

- **The Cathedral.** Work on the cathedral began in 1221 in accordance with the French Gothic tradition and was completed in 1260.
- **Monastery of Santa María la Real de Las Huelgas.** A Cistercian monastery founded in 1187, included on Spain's National Heritage List.
- **Charterhouse of Santa María de Miraflores.** A monastery complex founded in 1441 by King John II of Castile.
- **Archway of Santa María.** One of the 12 ancient gateways that provided access to the city in the Middle Ages.
- **Burgos Castle.** Standing 75 m above the city.



### Cultural Spaces

- **Caja Burgos Art Centre (CAB).** Dedicated in particular to the new trends in contemporary visual arts, video creation and music.
- **Burgos Castle.** In addition to walking inside the walls, visitors can also tour the new archaeological pavilion and the Cueva del Moro (Moor's Cave).

### Events

- **Escena Abierta Festival**
- **January.** An event offering the very latest trends in dramatic art.
- **Jazz Season.**
- **Held in February at the Casa del Cordón.**
- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of National Tourist Interest.
- **International Folk Festival.** July. The colours and music of other countries fill the city streets.
- **Music on the Pilgrims' Route Season.** July
- **Regino Sainz de la Maza Guitar Week.** August. Featuring guest guitarists from around the world.
- **Burgos - New York International Choreography Festival.** August
- **Antonio de Cabezón Ancient Music Festival.** August.
- **Arts Festival: art in the street.** September.
- **Events and performances on Burgos' city centre streets.**

### Places of interest

- **Burgos Museum.** A tour of the province's historical and cultural evolution.
- **Museum of Altarpieces.** A collection of altarpieces dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries.
- **Monastery of Las Huelgas Museum.** A collection of 13th century Moorish plasterwork and cloisters, as well as royal and noble costumes and robes from the 12th to 14th centuries.
- **Castilla y León Language Institute.** A Foundation sponsored by the Junta de Castilla y León for the diffusion and promotion of the knowledge and use of the Spanish language.
- **Marceliano Santamaría Museum.** Situated in the former Monastery of San Juan, it houses a collection of canvases painted by the artist Marceliano Santamaría.

### Not to be missed

**Museum of Human Evolution** An international reference for the history of the evolution of mankind. Part of the Atapuerca System, which includes the Archaeological Sites, the Archaeological Park (Atapuerca) and the Ibeas de Juarros and Atapuerca Visitor Centres. The Atapuerca system offers visitors an integral experience, including a visit to the museum, a tour of the Europe's oldest archaeological sites situated just 16 km outside Burgos, and a series of educational workshops providing an insight into the life of prehistoric man.





# LEÓN

[www.leon.es](http://www.leon.es)

[www.turisleon.com](http://www.turisleon.com)

The city of León is home to a seemingly countless number of monuments, including the Roman ruins in the walls, the Collegiate Church of San Isidoro, the magnificent Gothic Cathedral also known as 'Pulchra Leonina' and the Convent Hospital or 'Hostal' of San Marcos. Other outstanding monuments include the 'Casa de los Botines' (by Gaudí), the Guzmanes Palace, the Old City Hall, the MUSAC Contemporary Art Museum as well as numerous convents and churches, etc.

## Landmarks

- **The Cathedral.** Work on this Gothic temple, built on the site of the former Romanesque cathedral began in the 13th century. It was inspired by Reims Cathedral.
- **Hostal de San Marcos.** A truly outstanding Plateresque building.
- **Casa Botines.** A Neo-classical building designed by Antonio Gaudí.
- **City Walls.** Fairly well conserved, both the Roman and Medieval sections can be seen.
- **Barrio Húmedo (Wet Quarter).** Its countless bars, renowned for their mouth-watering tapas, make this an essential part of any visit to the city.
- **Paseo de Papalaguinda.** An extensive landscaped promenade that runs along the banks of the River Bernesga.





### Cultural Spaces

- **MUSAC Museum of Contemporary Art.** In addition to its fascinating permanent collection, this museum hosts temporary exhibitions, as well as talks, conferences, lectures and children's workshops and also publishes a variety of works. The main façade of this avant-garde style building is inspired by the stained glass windows of León Cathedral.
- **Ciudad de León Auditorium.** Occupying some 9,000 sq. m, it has three halls used for a variety of performances. The auditorium also has two exhibition rooms, is equipped with projectors and audiovisual equipment, and has also been adapted for multi conferencing equipment.

### Events

- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of International Tourist Interest.
- **LEER LEÓN Children's Book Fair.** May. [www.leerleon.es](http://www.leerleon.es)
- **Spanish Music Festival.** June
- **International Trout Week.** A festival of regional tourist interest, held in June
- **León Cathedral International Organ Festival.** September
- **Las Cantaderas Festival.** (October) A traditional festival that commemorates the



Christian victory at the Battle of Clavijo and the liberation of the legendary 'tribute of the hundred maidens'.

- **Purple Weekend Festival.** December An international Mod Festival. [www.purpleweekend.com](http://www.purpleweekend.com)
- **Canto del Ramo.** Christmas. A recently recovered tradition featuring displays of the traditional branches and wreaths in San Marcelo Square.

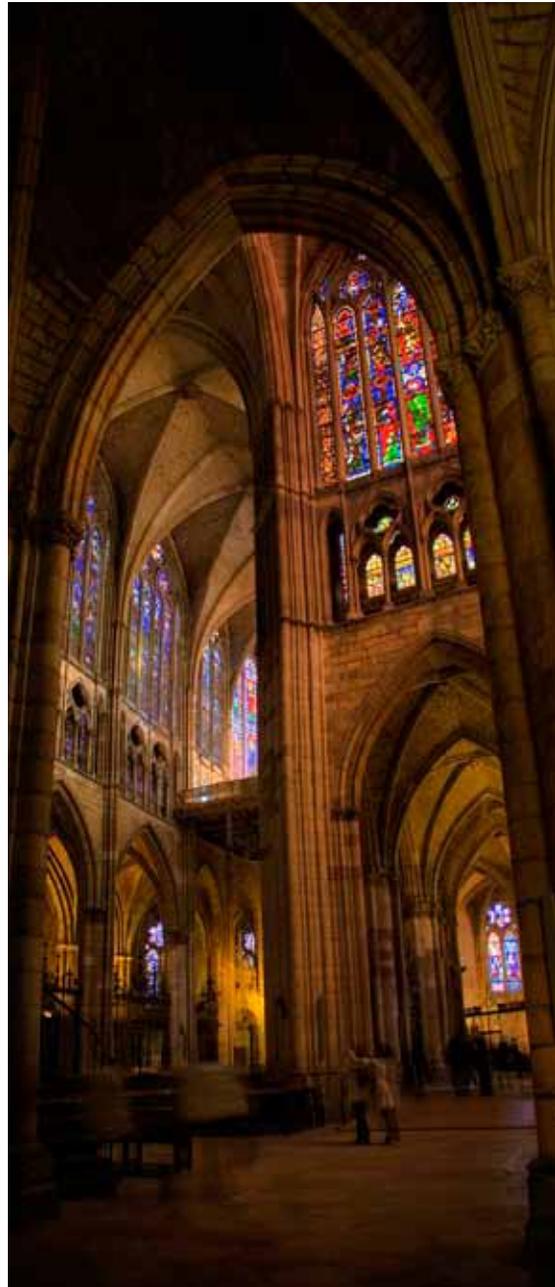
### Places of interest

- **León Museum.** Housed on two sites in the Pallarés Building and San Marcos, this museum tells the history of the province from the Palaeolithic Age to the Modern Era.
- **Museum of the Royal Collegiate Church of San Isidoro.** Known as the Sistine Chapel of Romanesque art due to its magnificent fresco paintings.
- **León Diocese Cathedral Museum.** Housing works from the Prehistoric Age to the Neo-Classical period.
- **Sierra-Pambley Museum.** A fascinating insight into the everyday life of an enlightened family living in the 19th century.
- **Castilla y León Iron, Steel and Mining Museum.** Situated in Sabero (some 50 km away) at the San Blas Ironworks.

### Not to be missed

**MUSAC.** Winner of the European Union Mies Van der Rohe Award for Contemporary Architecture (2007). The MUSAC has rapidly become a leading international reference for modern day art and architecture, offering an extensive programme of activities and free admission all year round. [www.musac.es](http://www.musac.es)

**The Cathedral.** Built in the Gothic style with 1,800 sq. m of stained glass; the current restoration work can be observed from a platform. [www.catedraldeleon.org](http://www.catedraldeleon.org)





# PALENCIA

[www.palenciaturismo.es](http://www.palenciaturismo.es)

[www.palencia-turismo.com](http://www.palencia-turismo.com)

This city nestles amongst the vast plains known as Tierra de Campos. On a nearby hilltop, the imposing 20 metre high figure of the 'Cristo del Otero' welcomes us to the city whose magnificent Cathedral is known as 'the Unknown Beauty'.

Palencia boasts a superb monumental heritage including numerous churches, palaces and convents.

## Landmarks

- **Plaza Mayor.** Built In the 17th century. Particularly worthy of note is the Town Hall, a 19th century Neo-classical building.
- **The Cathedral.** Nicknamed 'the Unknown Beauty', it conceals a Visigoth crypt, known as the Crypt of San Antolín.
- **Modernist Architecture.** Highlights include the Estela Building, the Food Market, the Iron Bridge and the Post Office.

- **Palencia Provincial Council.** House A Neo-Renaissance building by the renowned architect Jerónimo Arroyo.
- **Calle Mayor.** The backbone of the city, site of the busiest shopping areas and civil monuments.

## Cultural Spaces

- **Díaz Caneja Foundation.** The two-fold function of this Foundation is to promote the

work of this Palencia-born artist through the permanent exhibition which ranges from his early Cubist works to his highly original studies of the Castilian landscape, as well as to promote contemporary art through a programme of temporary exhibitions and other activities. [www.diaz-caneja.org](http://www.diaz-caneja.org)

## Events

- **Palencia International Film Festival.** February.
- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of National Tourist Interest.
- **Procession of Santo Toribio.** April. This festival of regional tourist interest includes a bread and cheese fight that takes place on the site of the Cristo del Otero.
- **'Sunset' Concert Season.** June, July and August. Held in the Courtyard of the Provincial Council House.
- **San Francisco Nights.** July. A season of outdoor concerts held in the Square facing the Church of San Francisco.
- **Ciudad de Palencia.** Theatre Festival September.
- **Ahora Music Festival.** October. Groups and artists gather at this event offering performances covering a wide range of contemporary music styles and trends.
- **'Rutas de la Luz'.** Dramatised guided tours of the city. Summer weekends. Historical characters show visitors round the city.

## Places of interest

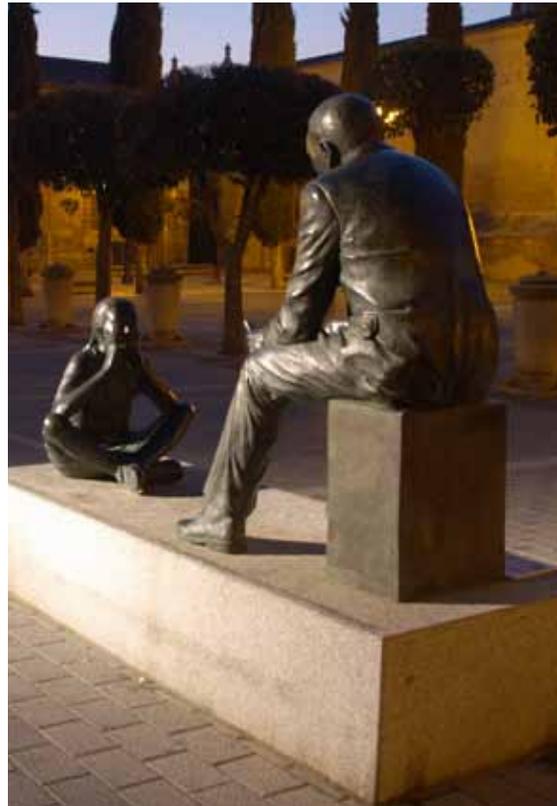
- **Cathedral Museum.** Home to a collection of Romanesque images and figures as well as a superb collection of Flemish and Renaissance tapestries.
- **Palencia Museum.** Situated in the 'Casa del Cordon', it houses a fine collection showing the archaeological wealth of this province.
- **Jerónimo Arroyo Museum.** A display of projects designed by this architect.

- **Diocese Museum of Art.** Housed in the Episcopal Palace. A collection of paintings, sculptures, religious archaeological objects, fabrics, etc.

## Not to be missed

**Cristo del Otero.** Standing on a hilltop, this is the world's second tallest figure of Christ after the statue in Rio de Janeiro.

**The Cathedral.** One of the most spectacular in Castilla y León. It's well worth taking the time to admire the many artistic treasures it houses, including works by the master Renaissance sculptors Gregorio Fernández and Aleja de Vahía and works by the great Flemish artist.





# SALAMANCA

[www.salamanca.es](http://www.salamanca.es)

[www.dipsanet.es/turismo](http://www.dipsanet.es/turismo)

Salamanca is a World Heritage City. Its monuments are built in the characteristic Villamayor sandstone, giving them a unique golden tone. No tour of the city is complete without a visit to the Plaza Mayor, the University and the Cathedrals, as well as many other buildings, including palaces, convents, university halls and churches. Visitors to Salamanca are also captivated by its lively, open and cosmopolitan atmosphere, earning it a reputation as an internationally renowned university city.

## Landmarks

- **Plaza Mayor.** Built in the Baroque style The hub of Salamanca's city life.
- **Casa de las Conchas or 'House of Shells'.** The most outstanding example of Spanish civil architecture built during the reign of the Catholic Monarchs.
- **The University.** Founded in 1218, it is the oldest in Spain and is noted for its Plateresque façade.
- **The Old Cathedral.** Work began in the second third of the 12th century, and continued until the 13th century. It is built in the Romanesque style.
- **The New Cathedral.** Constructed between 1513 and 1733 in a number of styles - Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque.  
[www.catedralsalamanca.org](http://www.catedralsalamanca.org)



## Cultural Spaces

- **Domus Artium 2002.** A Centre of Contemporary Art housed in the former prison. 2,600 sq. m of new exhibition space. [www.salamancaciudaddecultura.org](http://www.salamancaciudaddecultura.org)
- **'Casa Lis'.** Art Nouveau and Art Deco Museum A space for Modernist art, housing interesting collections that date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [www.museocasalis.org](http://www.museocasalis.org)
- **'Ieronimus Exhibition'.** A rooftop tour to discover the ins and outs of Salamanca's cathedrals, plus a climb up to the top of the towers to admire the magnificent Gallo Tower. [www.ieronimus.com](http://www.ieronimus.com)

## Events

- **Japanese Culture Week.** March. Held at the Hispanic-Japanese Cultural Centre Holy Week Declared to be of International Tourist Interest.
- **Jazz in the Street.** Last weekend in June and every weekend in July. Summer evening jazz concerts in magical outdoor venues such as the Patio Chico, Plaza de Anaya or Patio de Escuelas.



- **Fonseca Nights.** A season of theatre, music and dance.
- **La Sal Sounds** July-August. Live classical music performances in the Courtyard of La Salina Palace.
- **Vidas y ficciones.** July and August. Dramatic works reflecting some of the legends surrounding Salamanca performed in emblematic locations.
- **Art Salamanca.** Spain's leading art galleries bring the latest contemporary trends in art to the city.

## Places of interest

- **Salamanca Museum.** Patio de Escuelas A history and fine arts museum
- **Hospedería Fonseca** Temporary Exhibitions.
- **Casa de las Conchas.** A range of cultural events.
- **Unamuno House Museum.** Built in the 18th century, this was once the home of the famous writer and philosopher who was also Vice-Chancellor of Salamanca University for 14 years. The museum houses a large collection of personal items and books that belonged to Unamuno.
- **The Automation History Museum.** The only museum in Castilla y León dedicated entirely to the history of the motorcar.

## Not to be missed

**Castilla y León International Arts Festival.** May-June This festival has something for everyone. The city's cosmopolitan atmosphere becomes even more intense during this Festival, a key event on the contemporary dramatic art scene featuring performances by some of the world's most outstanding companies, major concerts and plays.

[www.facyl-festival.com](http://www.facyl-festival.com)



# SEGOVIA

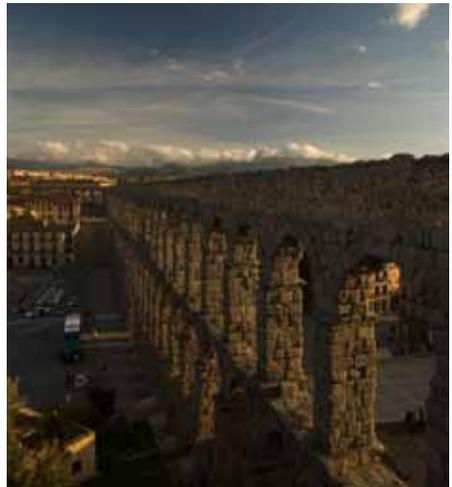
[www.turismodesegovia.com](http://www.turismodesegovia.com)

[www.segoviaturismo.es](http://www.segoviaturismo.es)

Segovia has cleverly managed to preserve its vast cultural wealth, highlights of which include the Aqueduct, the Cathedral – known as the ‘Queen’ of Spain’s cathedrals. Also not to be missed is a visit to the Royal Fortress, not only because of its monumental interest but also the spectacular views it offers visitors. Visitors to Segovia will also enjoy touring its many churches, monasteries, towers and the Jewish Quarter.

## Landmarks

- **The Aqueduct.** Spain’s finest example of Roman civil engineering.
- **The Royal Fortress.** This fortress palace was once home to the court of the Kingdom of Castile.
- **The Cathedral.** A late Gothic basilica that stands out for its graceful tower.
- **City Walls.** Completely surrounding the historic quarter, the walls still conserve three of the original gates.
- **Romanesque churches.** Highlights include San Esteban, San Millán, San Martín, La Santísima Trinidad, etc. and especially
- **La Veracruz.** The Jewish Quarter Not to be missed is the synagogue, teaching centre and El Pinarillo Jewish cemetery.





### Cultural Spaces

- **Juan Bravo Theatre.** Since 1918 this theatre has organised an ongoing programme of concerts and plays, and also plays host to one of the city's most important festivals.
- **Esteban Vicente Museum.** Housed in the former Palace of Henry IV, it is home to the extraordinary Esteban Vicente collection. In addition to the permanent collection, the museum also organises temporary exhibitions, concerts, courses and other activities.
- **Segovia.** International Festival Divided into three sections, the guest artists perform at a series of magical venues such as the Royal Fortress, San Juan de los Caballeros or Plaza de San Martín.
- **Concerts by Candlelight.** Held in Pedraza (37 km outside the city). during the first two Saturdays in July. The lights are turned off in the Plaza Mayor, whilst the audience delights to the sounds of live music by candlelight.

### Events

- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of Regional Tourist Interest.
- **Titirimundi.** May A week-long international puppet theatre festival that fills the city's streets with artists from all over the world.
- **Hay Festival.** A major literary festival held in late September that attracts some of Europe and Latin America's finest writers.
- **Ciudad de Segovia European Film Festival.** November.

### Places of interest

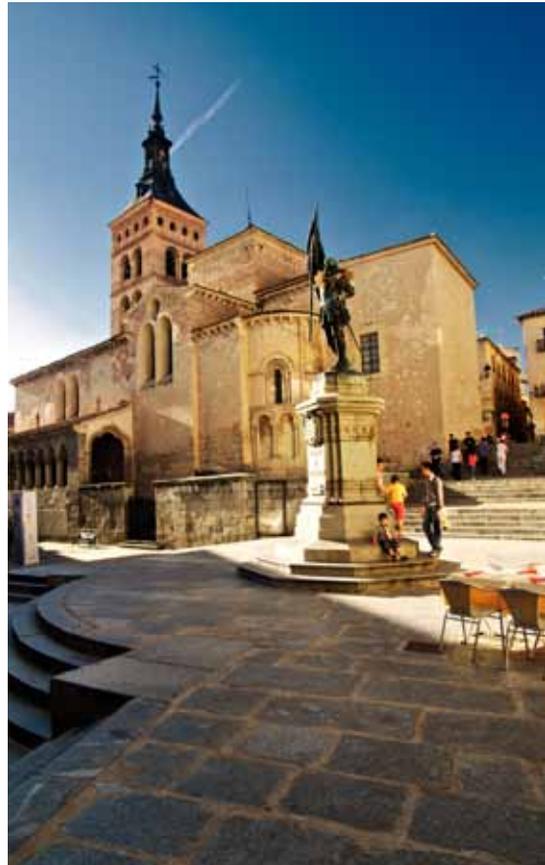
- **Monasteries of Segovia.** San Antonio el Real and the Monastery of El Parral are two magnificent buildings that are well worth a closer look.
- **Antonio Machado House Museum.** Visitors will be transported back in time to the days of this writer and have the opportunity to admire the collection of portraits.
- **Cathedral Museum.** A collection of religious exhibits.
- **Torreón de Lozoya Gallery.** Temporary exhibitions.

- **Zuloaga Museum.** Centred on the works of Daniel Zuloaga, this museum is situated in the Romanesque Church of San Juan de los Caballeros.

### Not to be missed

**Titirimundi Festival.** The Titirimundi fills every corner of the city with puppets, marionettes, circus acts and acrobats. Every delightful palace, square, alleyway and flight of steps becomes a possible backdrop for a performance by puppet shows from around the world.

[www.titirimundi.com](http://www.titirimundi.com)





# SORIA

[www.sorianitelaimaginas.es](http://www.sorianitelaimaginas.es)

Soria is a beautiful city standing on the banks of the River Duero. Highlights of the historic quarter include the Plaza Mayor, a number of religious buildings such as the Churches of Santo Domingo or San Juan de Rabanera, as well as several palaces. Visitors should also take the time to stroll around its green areas and explore the Numantia Museum. The outskirts of Soria boast other sites of exceptional beauty such as San Juan de Duero, San Polo and San Saturio.

## Landmarks

- **Plaza Mayor.** Lined with spectacular buildings such as the Palace of Doce Linajes, the Audience Palace, etc.
- **Alameda de Cervantes ('La Dehesa').** A large park nestling in the centre of the city.
- **Concathedral of San Pedro.** Its many treasures include the magnificent altarpieces, as well as the superb Romanesque cloister.
- **Palace of the Counts of Gomara.** This is the finest example of Renaissance civil architecture.
- **The Church of Santo Domingo.** A temple dating back to the 12th century.
- **Shrine of San Saturio.** The spectacular setting makes this one of the city's most outstanding beauty spots.

### Cultural Spaces

- **Numantia Museum.** Houses a large collection of exhibits dating from the Palaeolithic Age to the Modern Era. Highlights include the objects dating back to the Roman-Celtiberic period discovered at the sites of the ancient cities of Uxama, Tiermes and Numancia. The Romanesque Church of San Juan de Duero forms an annex for the Numantia Museum.
- **Tirso de Molina Lecture Hall.** The former Convent of La Merced has today been converted into a lecture hall that hosts concerts and talks.

### Events

- **Guided city tours.** 'Soria and its Poets' and 'The Duero and Meditation'.
- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of Regional Tourist Interest.
- **Intermagia Street Festival.** June.
- **'Enclave de Agua' Festival Contest.** July. Jazz, soul, Afro music performances, etc.
- **Street Theatre Festival.** August. Numerous artists perform on the city centre streets.
- **Soria's Musical Autumn.** September. A prestigious event offering the city an outstanding programme of performances.
- **Buscasetas** November. Mycology is the central theme of this event.

- **Ciudad de Soria International Short Film Festival.** November.

### Places of interest

- **Church of San Juan de Duero Museum.** Works and objects from the Hebrew, Muslim and Christian cultures.
- **Cathedral Museum.** Tapestries, rugs, paintings, gold and silver work, manuscripts, etc.
- **Adrián Martínez Tierno Fossil Museum.** A private museum offering free admission to schools and students.
- **Palacio de la Audiencia Cultural.** Centre Various exhibition rooms
- **Gaya Nuño Cultural Centre.** Various rooms housing temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

### Not to be missed

**Soria's Autumn Music Festival.** Noted for the excellent standard of its participants, commissioned works and world premieres. Since the first edition was held back in 1993, this festival has steadily consolidated its position as one of the leading events in Castilla y León. Under the expert guidance of maestro Odón Alonso, words and music converge in the verses dedicated to Soria by truly great poets.





# VALLADOLID

[www.valladolidturismo.com](http://www.valladolidturismo.com)

[www.diputaciondevalladolid.es/turismo](http://www.diputaciondevalladolid.es/turismo)

Valladolid is a compendium of modernity and antiquity. Today the region's administrative capital, during the reign of Philip III it was also the capital of the Kingdom of Spain. It offers the full range of modern services expected from a large city yet also boasts a rich monumental and cultural heritage. Its most outstanding buildings include the Church of San Pablo, the National Sculpture Museum, the Palace of Santa Cruz and the University façade. Visitors should also take the time to visit the Church of San Benito, whose cloister houses the Patio Herreriano Contemporary Art Museum.

## Landmarks

- **Plaza Mayor.** One of the largest in Spain and the first regular-shaped enclosed square with colonnades.
- **Campo Grande.** A 19th century park right in the centre of the city, one of the few remaining Romantic parks in Spain.
- **The Cathedral.** Begun by Juan de Herrera with later Baroque additions.
- **Church of San Pablo.** A superb late Gothic façade.
- **Church of La Antigua.** Noted for its 12th century Romanesque tower.
- **Palace of Santa Cruz.** Completed in 1491, it is the first example of Renaissance art in Spain.
- **Church of San Benito.** One of the oldest churches in Valladolid.

## Cultural Spaces

- **Calderón Theatre.** A major cultural venue standing in Valladolid city centre offering several consolidated seasons and a wide range of theatre, opera and dance events programmed throughout the year.
- **Zorrilla Theatre.** Restoration work carried out on this magnificent theatre has recovered a space that formed a crucial part of the city's historical, social and cultural background.
- **Casa de la India.** Casa de la India en España, based in Valladolid, is an innovative platform that organises cultural activities, workshops, courses and exchanges aimed at boosting dialogue between the peoples of India and Spain.



### Events

- **'Pinguinos' Winter Bikers' Meeting.** Playa de Puenteduro. Declared a festival of regional tourist interest.
- **Holy Week.** Declared to be of International Tourist Interest.
- **Valladolid Latino Concert.** May. Performances by leading international artists.
- **Valladolid International Street Theatre and Arts Festival (TAC).** May. Companies and troupes from all over the world turn the streets of Valladolid into outdoor theatres.
- **Guided tours: 'A stroll around the city'** .July-August. Tours of the historic quarter, museum visits, river trips, etc.
- **SEMINCI The Valladolid International Film Week.** October. Signature film festival.

### Places of interest

- **Science Museum.** A magnificent example of scientific dissemination, this museum features permanent exhibitions such as the map and neuron rooms, as well as the digital planetarium. Facing the museum is the Casa del Río, a river aquarium.
- **Monasterio del Prado Exhibition Hall.**



- **Colegio San Gregorio National Museum.** A magnificent collection of sculptures and paintings ranging from the 13th to the 18th centuries, including works by Gregorio Fernández, Juan de Juni and Alonso Beruguete.
- **Las Francesas Exhibition Hall** A venue for large exhibitions.
- **Patio Herreriano Contemporary Art Museum.**
- **Calderón Theatre Exhibition Hall.** Paintings, sculptures and photography.
- **La Pasión Exhibition Hall.** Contemporary art.
- **San Benito Exhibition Hall.** Photography.
- **Casa Revilla Exhibition Hall.** Temporary exhibitions.

### Not to be missed

**Miguel Delibes Cultural Centre.** This building, designed by Ricardo Bofill, enjoys an international reputation. It features a large auditorium chamber music room and an experimental theatre. Visitors should consult the magnificent programme of musical events, one of the finest in Spain, featuring symphonic orchestras, chamber orchestras, world famous soloists performing classical, jazz, flamenco and contemporary music. Tel: 983 38 56 04 [www.fundacionsiglo.com](http://www.fundacionsiglo.com)





## ZAMORA

[www.zamora.es/lang/](http://www.zamora.es/lang/)

[www.helcom.es/patronato](http://www.helcom.es/patronato)

Some call this 'the city of Romanesque Art'. The river affords stunning panoramic views of this city bathed by the Duero. Highlights include the Cathedral, known as the 'Pearl of the 12th century and the cathedral museum, as well as the fine examples of religious architecture, the wall, castle and a number of palaces. It's impossible to refer to Zamora without mentioning its famous Easter processions, declared to be of International Tourist Interest and that date back as far as the 12th century. Zamora is also known as Castilla y León's 'Modernist City'.

### Landmarks

- **The Romanesque Cathedral.** Known as 'the Pearl of the Romanesque, this cathedral dates back to the 12th century and is the finest example of Romanesque architecture in Zamora.
- **Church of San Claudio de Olivares** Zamora's oldest Romanesque Church.
- **Aceñas de Olivares** Historic restored mills that provide a fascinating insight into the industries traditionally associated with water.
- **Walls.** Around 3 km of the walls are still standing and in good condition.
- **Counts of Alba and Aliste Palace** Today a Parador Nacional.

- **Bridge over the River Duero** Boasting a total of 16 arches, this bridge was built in the 17th century.

### Cultural Spaces

- **Castilla y León Ethnography Museum**  
The relationship between man and his surrounding forms the central theme of this museum in which the study of time, rituals, festivals and artistic and cultural expressions of provide an insight into mankind and his way of life.
- **Zamora Holy Week Museum** One of the few museums dedicated to this religious theme and which in Zamora is of great historical and sentimental significance.

### Events

- **Zamora Portico Festival** An international festival of ancient music held approximately two weeks before Easter.

- **Holy Week** Declared to be of International Tourist Interest.
- **TE-VEO Event.** May Theatre for children and young people.
- **International Puppet and Marionette Festival.** May.
- **Zamora Spanish-Portuguese Fados Festival** July The Rei Afonso Henriques Foundation. [www.frah.es](http://www.frah.es)
- **Ciudad de Zamora Jazz Festival** July-August
- **Music of the World Festival** July-August
- **Cerco de Zamora** July-August. Medieval tours of the city
- **International Magic Workshops** September
- **International Giant and Giant-headed Figures Festival** September Held every two years.

### Places of interest

- **Zamora Museum** Situated in the Córdón



Palace, it includes a section dedicated to archaeology and another to fine arts.

- **Alhóndiga Exhibition Hall** Temporary exhibitions.
- **Church of La Encarnación Gallery** Temporary exhibitions.
- **Zamora Museum Exhibition Hall** Temporary Exhibitions.
- **Medieval Cities Interpretation Centre** This centre provides an insight into the origins and evolution of medieval cities. It also boasts a magnificent viewpoint overlooking the Duero.

### Not to be missed

**The Castle** Fully restored, it offers spectacular panoramic views of the city. The castle grounds and gardens are the site of various works by sculptor Balatasar Lobo. Zamora's Modernist Trail boasts 19 Modernist buildings and has been included in the European Modernist Cities network. Zamora's Romanesque Trail Twenty-two of the 70 Romanesque churches Zamora once boasted are still standing today. Visitors should not miss the chance to admire the churches of La Magdalena, San Cipriano, Santiago del Burgo, San Juan and Santiago de los Caballeros.



# Language Tourism

# 11

[www.micastellano.com](http://www.micastellano.com) or [www.spanishcyl.es](http://www.spanishcyl.es)



Photo courtesy of *Salamanca Ciudad del Español*

Spanish is all the rage, and more and more citizens of the world are deciding to add our language to their accomplishments and knowledge. Learning Spanish in Castilla y León is a real guarantee of quality that convinces thousands of students each year, from every corner of the globe, to choose our region as the place to learn Spanish.

Castilla y León boasts four prestigious public universities, the universities of Salamanca, Valladolid, León and Burgos, whose magnificent reputation is the result of their ongoing specialisation in the Spanish language. There are also more than a score of schools of Spanish as a foreign language, all of which hold the Instituto Cervantes quality seal. The list of Spanish schools is available at

[www.spanishcyl.es](http://www.spanishcyl.es).

**Salamanca** [www.usal.es](http://www.usal.es)



**Valladolid** [www.uva.es](http://www.uva.es)



**Burgos** [www.ubu.es](http://www.ubu.es)



**León** [www.unileon.es](http://www.unileon.es)

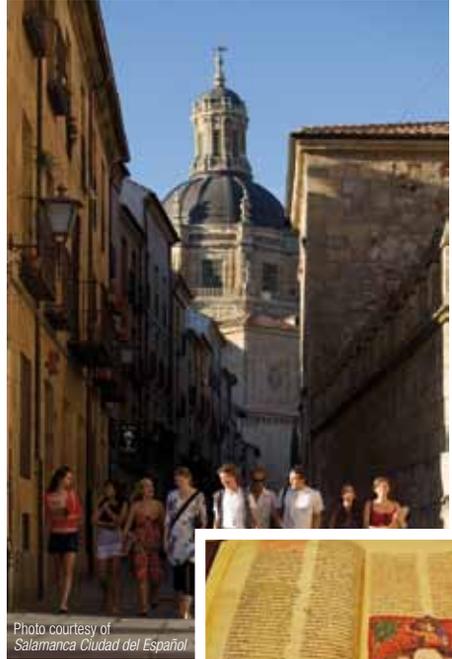


Photo courtesy of Salamanca Ciudad del Español.



The excellent reputation of these internationally renowned universities and schools is also due to the fact that learning Spanish in Castilla y León offers students the chance to learn or perfect their skills in one of the world's most important languages in the very region in which that language was born, more than 11 centuries ago. Here students will be able to learn Spanish in its purest form, unaltered by local accents and expressions. Indeed, Castilla y León has become one of Spain's most popular destinations for language tourism.

These universities also offer students the chance to combine Spanish language courses with degree programmes (ERASMUS). In addition, there is a wide range of cultural activities targeting all age groups, and especially the young. There are numerous entertainment and leisure options in a highly cosmopolitan setting, characterised by its youthful university environment. 'Learn Spanish by having fun and have fun learning Spanish'.

# Additional Information

for Tourism Professionals

[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

# 12



## *Ley de Turismo (Tourism Law)*

Under the terms of article 25.5 of the Statute of Autonomy of Castilla y León, the Parliament of Castilla y León has passed LAW 14/2010 of Castilla y León of 9 December on Tourism.

## *Plan estratégico de Turismo 2009-2013 (Strategic Plan on Tourism for 2009-2013)*



The tourism sector in Castilla y León is to be regarded as a strategic whole within the regional economy and as a sector that raises the quality of life of cities and towns and of the persons who belong to this autonomous community.



## *Cursos de formación Turística 2010 (2010 Tourism Sector Training Courses)*

List of courses scheduled for 2010 in the Tourism Sector Training Programme.



## *Datos Turísticos oficiales (Official Information on the Tourist Sector)*

The most important information on the tourist sector in our community (a series of publications entitled Boletín de Coyuntura Turística) can be accessed from here. The information covers the number of travellers, number of nights spent, number and types of accommodations, restaurants and average expenditure. Data are available in comparative and province-by-province formats.



## *Albergues (Lodgings)*

Legislation regulating lodgings in the Community of Castilla y León. DE-CREE 52/2008 of 10 July.



## *Posadas Reales*

The regulation on use of the 'Posadas Reales' seal of quality and the application form for authorisation to use the seal can be accessed from here.



### ***Turismo activo (Active Tourism)***

DECREE 96/2007 of 27 September regulating active tourism companies of the Community of Castilla y León. ORDER CYT/1865/2007 of 15 November implementing Decree 96/2007 of 27 September.



### ***Marca natural. Red de espacios naturales Castilla y León (Marca Natural. Castilla y León Network of Natural Areas)***

Order establishing the process for applying for/renewing the 'Marca Natural' insignia for certain tourist services in areas within the socioeconomic influence of the Network of Natural Areas.



### ***Pruebas de Guías de Turismo 2009 (2009 Tourist Guide Tests)***

Amendment of the order announcing Castilla y León tourist guide qualification tests for 2009.



### ***Central de Reservas Booking Centre***

For more information, contact: SOTUR, S.A. Paseo de Filipinos, nº1 1º. Telephone: 98 336 05 56.

# Services

# 13

## Where to Stay

- Hotels or <http://bit.ly/ib9x0B>
- Rural Tourism (Booking Centre) or <http://bit.ly/fWwADX>
- Posadas Reales or <http://bit.ly/dEhz3a>
- Lodgings or <http://bit.ly/idKJVf>
- Holiday Flats or <http://bit.ly/hQLCAT>
- Campgrounds or <http://bit.ly/gidpg3>
- Spas or <http://bit.ly/ejyHqj>

## Where to Eat

### Restaurants

There is a wide range of restaurants (4,810) offering a taste of our community's cooking. A list by provinces is available at the following addresses:

- Restaurants or <http://bit.ly/ijal0s>
- Coffee shops or <http://bit.ly/hcYjlv>
- Professional associations
- Meal Times

In Castilla y León, as in the rest of Spain, we eat our meals several hours later than in the rest of Europe. We normally eat our midday meal sometime between 14:00 and 15:00 and our evening meal after 21:00. This is the established custom, although schedules are now changing to suit business hours.

## How to Get Here

There are daily connections between the international airports in Madrid and Barcelona and the airports in Castilla y León.

All the companies of the world fly into and out of the international airports.

**International Airports** <http://bit.ly/dWVFgQ> or [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

### Madrid Airport

Barajas. Madrid  
Telephone +34 913 93 60 00  
/ 65 40 / 65 30

### Barcelona Airport

Prat de Llobregat. Barcelona  
Telephone +34 93 298 38 38 / 37 20 / 37 /21.  
Fax +34 93 298 3737  
[www.barcelona-airport.com](http://www.barcelona-airport.com)

### Castilla y León Airports

Daily connections with Spanish international airports are available.

#### **"Virgen del Camino" Airport. León**

Ctra. de la Ermita, s/n  
24198 Virgen del Camino (León)  
Tel. +34 987 877 700  
Air Nostrum (Iberia)

#### **Matacán Airport. Salamanca**

Ctra. Madrid, km 14  
37181 Matacán (Salamanca)  
Tel. +34 923 32 96 00

#### **Villafraía Airport. Burgos**

N-I. Ctra. Madrid-Irún, km 245  
Villafraía (Burgos)  
Tel. +34 947 47 10 10

#### **Villanubla Airport. Valladolid**

Ctra. de León, km 9  
47620 Villanubla (Valladolid)  
Tel. +34 983 41 55 00  
Iberia, Ryan Air

Web Airlines operating in our community

**IBERIA:** [www.iberia.com](http://www.iberia.com)

**RYAN AIR:** [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

### Train Stations [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

There is a wide variety of train types and schedules available, for easy travel between the community's main cities and the rest of the country.

RENFE Stations Information: 902 24 02 02

#### **Ávila**

Plaza Estación, s/n  
05001 Ávila

#### **Palencia**

Plaza de los Jardinillos, s/n  
34003 Palencia

#### **Valladolid**

Recondo, s/n  
47007 Valladolid

#### **Burgos**

Plaza de la Estación, s/n  
09001 Burgos

#### **Salamanca**

Paseo de la Estación, s/n  
37004 Salamanca

#### **Zamora**

Ctra. de la Estación, s/n  
49029 Zamora

#### **León**

Avda. Astorga, s/n  
24009 León

#### **Segovia**

Obispo Quesada, 1  
40006 Segovia

#### **Astorga**

Plaza de la Estación, s/n  
24700 Astorga (León)

#### **Soria**

Carretera Madrid, s/n  
42005 Soria

## Bus Stations

Another way to get around is to take a bus or coach. There is a huge network of stations for easy connections to anywhere in the community or the rest of the country

### ÁVILA

Avda. de Madrid, 2  
Tel. 920 22 01 54

### BURGOS

**Miranda**, 4 (oficinas)  
Tel. 947 50 99 51

**Aranda de Duero (Burgos)**

Avda. de Valladolid, s/n  
Tel. 947 50 99 51

### LEÓN

Avda. Sáenz de Miera, s/n  
Tel. 987 21 10 00

**Astorga (León)**

Avda. de las Murallas, 52  
Tel. 987 61 91 00

**Ponferrada (León)**

Avda. de la Libertad, s/n  
Tel. 987 40 10 65

**Villablino (León)**

Avda. Constitución, 16  
Tel. 987 47 03 95

**La Bañeza (León)**

Gral. Benavides, 2  
Tel. 987 64 13 38

### PALENCIA

Jardinillos de la Estación,  
s/n

Tel. 979 74 32 22

**Guardo (Palencia)**

Jorge Manrique, s/n  
Tel. 979 85 05 39

### SALAMANCA

Filiberto Villalobos, 71-83  
Tel. 923 23 67 17

**Béjar (Salamanca)**

Ctra. Salamanca, 10  
Tel. 923 40 34 10  
/ 923 40 43 66

**Ciudad Rodrigo (Salamanca)**

Campo de Toledo, s/n  
Tel. 923 46 01 49

### SEGOVIA

Ezequiel González, 14  
Tel. 921 42 77 05

/ 921 42 77 06

**Cuéllar (Segovia)**

Bartolomé de  
la Cueva, 1  
Tel. 921 14 00 26

### SORIA

Avda. Valladolid, 40  
Tel. 975 22 51 60 /

975 23 03 14

### VALLADOLID

Puente Colgante, 2  
Tel. 983 23 63 08 /  
983 27 14 41

### ZAMORA

Avda. Alfonso Peña, s/n  
Tel. 980 52 12 81 / 82

**Benavente (Zamora)**

Avda. Primo de Rivera,  
s/n  
Tel. 980 63 27 11

**Roads**

Castilla y León is near the country's capital, so it is easy and fast to get from Madrid to any city in any of the provinces of Castilla y

León. The network of motorways and dual carriageways crossing the community connect it with all European cities as well.

**Conducción**

On main roads the speed limit is 100 kilometres/hour, and on motorways and dual carriageways it is 120 kilometres/hour.

**Distancias kilométricas entre capitales de provincia**  
**Distances in Kilometres between provincial capitals**

	Ávila	Burgos	León	Palencia	Salamanca	Segovia	Soria	Valladolid	Zamora
Ávila		243	255	168	97	67	261	212	159
Burgos	243		201	86	237	197	141	122	218
León	255	201		130	197	245	342	134	136
Palencia	168	86	130		162	158	213	47	143
Salamanca	97	237	197	162		164	325	115	62
Segovia	67	197	245	158	164		194	111	182
Soria	252	147	336	226	323	190		204	302
Valladolid	212	122	134	47	115	111	210		96
Zamora	159	218	136	143	62	182	306	96	
Madrid	108	242	319	228	208	91	229	184	245

There are several different speed limits in the autonomous community, depending on the type of road. Roads may be dual carriageways, motorways, main roads, district roads, provincial roads or local roads.



To find out about driving conditions, the authority to contact is the Directorate-General of Traffic in Madrid. Telephone 902 123 505 [www.dgt.es](http://www.dgt.es)

Each province contains its own Provincial Directorate of Traffic and Provincial Traffic Department. They are open from 9:00 to 14:00.

### Ávila

Plaza Claudio Sánchez  
Albornoz, 2  
Tel. 920 213 848  
Fax 920 212 753

### Burgos

Segovia, 10  
Tel. 947 272 827  
Fax 947 204 800

### León

Ordoño II, 17  
Tel. 987 254 055  
Fax 987 212 760

### Palencia

Jacinto Benavente, 5 Bajo  
Tel. 979 700 505.  
Fax 979 700 924

### Salamanca

Avda. Villamayor, 16 y 22  
Tel. 923 267 908.  
Fax 923 262 052

### Segovia

San Agustín, 1  
Tel. 921 463 636  
/ 921 461 907  
Fax 921 461 964

### Soria

Ronda Eloy Sanz Villa, 2  
Tel. 975 225 900  
Fax 975 227 470

### Valladolid

Verbena, 9  
Tel. 983 302 555  
Fax 983 303970

### Zamora

Avda Príncipe de Asturias,  
35. Bajo  
Tel. 980 521 562  
Fax 980 529 161

For information on dual carriageways, contact:

### Autopistas A-6

San Rafael (Segovia)  
Tel. 921 17 28 07. Fax 921 17 23 78  
A6informacion@iberpistas.es

### Castellana de autopistas

San Rafael (Segovia)  
Tel. 921 17 28 13. Fax 921 17 23 78

### Europistas

Príncipe de Vergara, 132 - 10<sup>a</sup> Planta  
Madrid  
Tel. 91 515 87 50. Fax 921 17 23 65

### Aucalsa

Gil de Jaz, 10, 5<sup>o</sup> Planta  
Oviedo  
Tel. 985 240 026. Fax 985 254 622

## Taxis

### Ávila

Autotaxis. (Ávila)

### Burgos

Asociación Burgalesa del  
Taxi (ABUTAXI). (Burgos)

### Burgos

Radio taxi. (Burgos)

### Palencia

Taxis.(Palencia)

### León

Radio taxi. (León)

### Salamanca

Radio taxi.(Salamanca)

### Segovia

Radio taxi. (Segovia)

### Soria

Taxis. (Soria)

### Valladolid

Agrupación de Taxistas.  
(Valladolid)

### Valladolid

Radio taxi.(Valladolid)

### Zamora

Tele taxis – (Zamora)

## Other services

### Information Offices

- Madrid Castilla y León Tourism Office in Madrid - **MADRID**
- Ávila Tourist Information Office - **ÁVILA**
- Burgos Tourist Information Office - **BURGOS**
- Ciudad Rodrigo Tourist Information Office - **CIUDAD RODRIGO**
- León Tourist Information Office - **LEÓN**
- Palencia Tourist Information Office - **PALENCIA**
- Salamanca Tourist Information Office - **SALAMANCA**
- Segovia Tourist Information Office - **SEGOVIA**
- Soria Tourist Information Office - **SORIA**
- Valladolid Tourist Information Office - **VALLADOLID**
- Zamora Tourist Information Office - **ZAMORA**

There is a general directory of all our community's tourist offices. This directory can be obtained from <http://bit.ly/e9hs4d>.

### Climate

The climate is continental, which means cold winters and warm summers, with abundant rainfall. Because of these conditions, the landscape is always changing, from the cold green of winter (February) to the golden and

sometimes burnt tones of sunny summer (August). For more detailed weather information, weather forecasts can be obtained from the following official weather authorities:

### National Meteorological Institute

<http://www.aemet.es>

### Territorial Weather Centre of Castilla y León

Orión, 1. Valladolid.

Telephone 983 33 51 92 / 807 170 347

### Casinos

Tormes Casino  
**SALAMANCA**

Conde Luna Casino  
**LEON**

Condes de Gamazo Palace.  
**BOECILLO**

### Recreational Areas

These are landscaped, signposted rest areas strategically located along the roads. The colossal mountains, valleys, lakes, plains, rivers, canyons and ravines of Castilla y León, the largest region in Europe, contradict the typical

idea of this land as one arid plain, although the plains too have their charm and do account for a large part of the region.

### Professional Convention Organisers

<http://www.opcy.l.es/>

### Convention Bureaus

- Ávila Convention Bureau - **ÁVILA**
- León Convention Bureau - **LEÓN**
- Salamanca Convention Bureau - **SALAMANCA**
- Valladolid Convention Bureau - **VALLADOLID**
- Zamora Convention Bureau - **ZAMORA**
- Burgos Convention Bureau - **BURGOS**

### Shopping Centres

#### Business Hours

Shops generally keep longer or shorter business hours according to their size. The regular hours for small shops are 9:00 to 14:00 (closing for lunch) and 16:00 to 20:00. Large department stores and similar establishments are generally open all day from 9:00 to 21:30. Banks observe business hours of 8:00

to 15:00. Most bank branch offices have cash machines.

Chemists keep special hours, open all day from 9:00 to 21:00. After 21:00 there is a duty chemist which changes every day (The rota is posted on all chemists' doors).

**Tourism Agencies** <http://bit.ly/ewbpVO>

**Tourist Guides** <http://bit.ly/glgaoF>

**Marketing Support Guide for  
Castilla y León's Tourism Sector**





CASTILLA Y LEÓN

es vida



**Junta de  
Castilla y León**