Castilla y León

live

Castilla y León

Junta de Castilla y León
The information contained in this guide cannot encompass all Castilla y León's vast cultural, historical, environmental, gastronomic and festive heritage. Readers wishing to obtain further information are therefore advised to visit the website at www.turismocastillayleon.com.

www.turismocastillayleon.com

The Autonomous Community of Castilla y León is the result of the modern-day union of some of the historic territories that made up the ancient kingdoms of León and Castile. Over the centuries, it has played a decisive role in forging the nation that Spain is today. Furthermore, it has provided a vital link between Europe and America, as Castile and León would embark together on the voyage that would lead to the discovery of America in 1492. Myriad cultures have settled in Castilla y León, leaving a wide diversity of traces behind them. However, its finest landmarks are without doubt its numerous castles, from which Castile takes its name.
CASTILLA Y LEÓN. THE REAL LIFE

Introduction

Castilla y León is one of Spain’s 17 Autonomous Communities and is situated in the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula in the upper region of the central plateau. Anyone travelling from Portugal to the rest of Europe must pass through this region. It is made up of nine provinces: Ávila, Burgos, León, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia, Soria, Valladolid and Zamora.

The entire region is surrounded by magnificent mountain ranges: to the north, the Cantabrian Mountains and the Picos de Europa; to the north-west, the Mountains of León; to the east, the Iberian System; and to the south, the Central System.

Our autonomous community nestles in the basin of the Douro, the largest river that flows through Castilla y León. Of its 900 km, almost 600 km of the Douro cross our region from east to west, stretching out from its source in the Urbión mountains, in the province of Soria, as far as the Arribes del Duero region in Portugal.

Castilla y León boasts a large number of reservoirs, allowing for the rational use of its water resources, several of which also provide excellent opportunities for tourist activities. Castilla y León’s climate is characterised by its cold winters and hot summers, as well as brief spring and autumn seasons.

600 km

the River Douro

94,193 km²

One of Europe’s largest regions

8

World Heritage Sites

The Great Plateau

Castilla y León rises up 830 metres above sea level, although our loftiest peaks reach heights of more than 2,500 metres.

Temperature Variations

Maximum temperatures range from around 39ºC in the hottest months of the year to -12ºC in winter months. The average annual temperature is almost 12ºC.
Over the centuries, Castilla y León, birthplace and home of illustrious historical figures, has set an example for Spain and Europe in terms of respect, coexistence, dialogue within diversity and its rich cultural melting pot.

Castilla y León boasts modern communication infrastructures. A rapidly expanding network of highways and motorways link the region quickly and easily with the principal cities of Spain and Europe. It is a major hub for the national railway network as most of the lines that connect the northern half of Spain run through the region. Castilla y León also has more cities connected to Madrid via high speed trains than any other region in Spain.

Four airports and easy access to Adolfo Suárez-Barajas Airport complete the infrastructures of a region that is well connected with its surroundings. The hospitality and friendliness for which its residents are renowned have opened up Castilla y León to the rest of the world both in the past and present. Visitors to these lands will always receive a warm welcome and will find countless reasons to form part of the dynamic, friendly and prosperous society.
Castilla y León is Spain’s leading rural tourism destination. Posadas Reales is the quality seal for the accommodation options included in this type of tourism.

**INFORMATION**

Spain: [www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)
Castilla y León: [www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)

**PROVINCIAL WEBSITES**

Province of Ávila: [www.diputacionavila.es](http://www.diputacionavila.es)
Province of Burgos: [www.turismoburgos.org](http://www.turismoburgos.org)
Province of León: [www.leon.es](http://www.leon.es)
Province of Palencia: [www.palenciaturismo.es](http://www.palenciaturismo.es)
Province of Salamanca: [www.salamancaemocion.es](http://www.salamancaemocion.es)
Province of Segovia: [www.segoviaturismo.es](http://www.segoviaturismo.es)
Province of Soria: [www.turismosoria.es](http://www.turismosoria.es)
Province of Valladolid: [www.provinciadevalladolid.com](http://www.provinciadevalladolid.com)
Province of Zamora: [www.turismoen zamora.es](http://www.turismoen zamora.es)
El Bierzo Regional Council: [www.ccbierzo.com](http://www.ccbierzo.com)

**LOCAL WEBSITES**

City of Ávila: [www.avilaturismo.com](http://www.avilaturismo.com)
City of Burgos: [www.aytoburgos.es](http://www.aytoburgos.es)
City of León: [www.aytoleon.es](http://www.aytoleon.es)
City of Palencia: [www.aytopalencia.es](http://www.aytopalencia.es)
City of Salamanca: [www.salamanca.es](http://www.salamanca.es)
City of Segovia: [www.turismodesegovia.com](http://www.turismodesegovia.com)
City of Soria: [www.ayto-soria.org](http://www.ayto-soria.org)
City of Valladolid: [www.info.valladolid.es](http://www.info.valladolid.es)

**MILLIONS OF VISITORS**

Castilla y León is Spain’s leading rural tourism destination. Posadas Reales is the quality seal for the accommodation options included in this type of tourism.

Plaza Mayor, Salamanca
Throughout its history, Castilla y León has been a place of settlement, as reflected in countless examples of art and archaeology: magnificent prehistoric remains, Celtiberian villages, Roman monuments and superb examples of the Romanesque, Mozarabic, Gothic, Baroque, Plateresque and Neoclassical styles, etc.

A thousand places to wander
Castilla y León is home to an unrivalled historical, cultural and artistic heritage. Eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, amazing monuments, a treasure trove of castles, fortresses and strongholds, monasteries and religious buildings that are all unique. Centuries of history carved into its walls, façades, cathedrals and ancient Jewish quarters.

THE CITY OF ÁVILA
Ávila was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. This city, traditionally known as a ‘land of chants and saints’, is enclosed within almost three kilometres of walls that safeguard a wealth of monumental treasures that includes the cathedral and a considerable number of fine churches, convents, palaces and stately homes that transmit a profound, almost magical essence. The city is imbued with the air of spirituality of its most illustrious personality: Saint Teresa of Ávila. Throughout the year, Ávila plays host to a large number of events. Highlights include Holy Week, declared an event of international tourist interest, and the International Circus Festival, which takes place in September.

AN IMPRESSIVE CITY WALL
Ávila boasts 2.5 kilometres of walls, 9 gates, 88 fortified towers and more than 2,000 battlements. The main section that is open to visitors, measuring 1,200 m, links the Casa de las Carnicerías with Adaja Bridge.

THE AQUEDUCT
It measures 15 kilometres in length and 29 m at its highest point. It was built from 20,400 ashlar stones of granite, assembled without mortar using an ingenious method to balance the forces. This sturdy construction has stood for more 2,000 years.

THE CITY OF SEGOVIA
Segovia, declared a UNESCO World Heritage City in 1985, is presided over by a magnificent aqueduct, one of the finest feats of Roman engineering. The Cathedral – known as ‘the Queen’ of Spain’s cathedrals – the Royal Fortress and its many religious and civil constructions confer not only an aesthetic appeal but also an undisputable cultural value on this city. In some of the streets it is still possible to observe traces of the coexistence of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian cultures. Each year the streets of Segovia provide the backdrop for a wide range of interesting cultural and tourist activities that draw large numbers of visitors.
THE CITY OF SALAMANCA
Salamanca, an outstanding university city, has managed to find the a clever balance between old and new. It has managed to respect its superb heritage and even add to it with more recent constructions that have renewed its appearance and further enhanced its beauty. Salamanca stands out for its historic past, the Vía de la Plata Trail left by the Romans, its university (one of the oldest in Spain), and also as the focal point for the Golden Age of Spanish literature. In addition to the bustling and well-known Plaza Mayor, its cathedrals and numerous palaces and stately homes, the city is also the site of more recent and renovated buildings such as the Conference Centre, the Centre for Scenic Arts and Music (CAEM) and the DA2 Contemporary Art Centre, etc. A wealth of monumental sites that in 1988 earned it the title of UNESCO World Heritage City.

BURGOS CATHEDRAL
The Cathedral of Santa María de Burgos is the only cathedral in Spain to be individually declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is one of the finest examples of 13th century Gothic architecture. In addition to the slender
towers, the dome and the Constables Chapel, it offers a fascinating collection of reredos, choir stalls, chapels, stained glass windows, tombs – such as those of El Cid and his wife – and the famous Golden Staircase by Diego de Siloé. Work on the cathedral continued for nearly 550 years, making it a unique monument that reflects the artistic, religious, social and economic identity of each era.

LAS MÉDULAS

Las Médulas Natural Monument in León was declared a World Heritage Site in 1997. Nature and man came together to form an extraordinary archaeological and cultural site. Located in the region of El Bierzo, Las Médulas is considered to be the largest Roman open gold mine. From the Orellán viewpoint, we can marvel at the immense ravine rising up over 100 metres and admire the capricious reddish earth figures that have been shaped by time and erosion. Before beginning the tour of this natural monument, it is well worth taking the time to stop off at the Archaeology Information Centre and Visitor Centre to obtain a greater insight into the area which will undoubtedly make the visit even more enjoyable.

BURGOS, AN ANCIENT CITY

The earliest records of Burgos as a city date back to 884, the year it was believed to have been founded by Count Diego Rodríguez Porcelos on the orders of King Alphonse III.

CUTTING-EDGE MINING

The gold extraction techniques used in Las Médulas were so efficient that the mines ranked amongst the most productive in the world during the days of the Roman Empire.
CARVING TECHNIQUE
At Siega Verde the figures were carved out of the rock using techniques that included chip carving, fine incisions, abrasion and rasping. Chip carving essentially consists of tracing the outlines of the figures with fine dots, chipping the stone away with a sufficiently hard object.

MUSEUM OF HUMAN EVOLUTION
Situated in Burgos, a tour of this museum is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in archaeology. The only exhibition of its kind in Spain, it offers an insight into the origins and evolution of humankind based on the archaeological findings uncovered to date.

SIEGA VERDE
The Siega Verde Rock Art Site, situated in the province of Salamanca, dates back to between 20,000 and 11,000 BCE and boasts an exceptional number of Palaeolithic stone engravings on the banks of the River Águeda. There are 645 outlines of animals and signs made using the rock carving technique, which depicts the figure using dots or incisions that trace fine lines. The site was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010. Siega Verde has an Archaeological Information Centre that helps visitors interpret and understand the rock carvings. A unique backdrop for a remarkable collection of open air rock art, now considered to be one of the most important in Europe, together with the Côa Valley in Portugal.

ATAPUERCA MOUNTAIN RANGE
The archaeological site in the Atapuerca Mountain Range was discovered quite by chance in the late 19th century during work on a trench that was being dug along the route of a new mine railway. No one could imagine at the time the riches that the soil concealed. It was in 1978 that the first systematic excavations began at the site, and in the year 2000 UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site, subsequently reasserting its universal value. A total of 40 caves house an endless number of fossils, small...
bones or natural materials, providing a precise vision of human evolution. The Museum of Human Evolution opened in Burgos in 2010, with the mission to promote and disseminate the most important discoveries made at the site and offer an insight into the evolution of humankind.

THE FRENCH WAY OF THE PILGRIMS’ ROUTE TO SANTIAGO
In addition to its inclusion on the World Heritage List in 1993, the French Way of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago was also declared the First European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe in 1987. Stretching out for 750 kilometres between Roncesvalles and Santiago de Compostela, more than half of the route runs through Castilla y León, leaving myriad traces on these lands that have withstood the test of time. This ancient route crosses through the provinces of Burgos, Palencia and León.

USEFUL WEBSITES:
- Heritage Cities: www.ciudadespatrimonio.org
- City of Ávila: www.avilaturismo.com
- City of Salamanca: www.salamanca.es
- City of Segovia: www.turismodesegovia.com
- Burgos Cathedral: www.catedraldeburgos.es
- Las Médulas: www.fundacionlasmedulas.info
- Siega Verde Prehistoric Rock Art Sites: www.siegaverde.es
- Atapuerca Mountain Range Archaeological Sites: www.atapuerca.com

CASTLES
Castilla y León is a land of castles. Perched on rocky peaks overlooking the surrounding countryside, there are more than 200 of these medieval landmarks strategically positioned around the region. In their day, these military constructions served as imposing fortifications, always on the lookout for the enemy. They acted as symbols of the power of the Crown, bearing witness to a past immortalised in works such as the Poem of The Cid. The sight of these magnificent castles transports us back to long-forgotten eras, customs and ways of life. Initially built as defensive towers from the 8th century onwards, their construction continued until the 15th century, symbolising to perfection the power of the Crown.

Many of the castles used as defensive constructions centuries ago have been renovated in line with modern uses and needs. As a result, they are now being restored to their former glory, and their names are once again featured in guides, lists of places to visit and the media.
CASTILLA Y LEÓN. THE REAL LIFE

HAVENS OF TRANQUILLITY
The convents and monasteries that in days gone by offered shelter to pilgrims have today been converted into spaces where travellers can rediscover the sense of spirituality for which they were created.

MONASTERIES
Over the centuries, much of the history of Castilla y León has been written behind these walls. They are holy sites of worship, places for retreat and prayer, spiritual hideaways and authentic miniature cathedrals. The convents and monasteries are artistic and cultural testimonies to the religious orders that inhabited them, a reminder of the economic, social, cultural and religious splendour that made these orders powerful, and which today have become centres for meditation, some of them open to tourists in search of inner peace and respite.

The monasteries, hidden away in the heart of the cities or perched on seemingly inaccessible crags, were also centres that proved essential for the spread of culture as well as political and economic might. Visitors to these religious communities dotted around Castilla y León will discover the development of the principal artistic movements and the first murmurings of Spanish, a language born out of Latin and originating in the County of Castile itself.

A number of the monasteries in Castilla y León offer accommodation. In most cases the number of beds is limited, and the religious communities are quick to stress that monastic accommodation should not be seen as a novel holiday experience, but rather a place of shared spirituality in which to find oneself again.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
Throughout its history, Castilla y León has been a place of settlement, as reflected in countless examples of art and archaeology: magnificent prehistoric remains, Celtiberian villages, Roman monuments and superb examples of the Romanesque, Mozarabic, Gothic, Baroque, Plateresque and Neoclassical styles, etc.

CASTLE ROUTES
There are now intriguing trails that help uncover their history, architecture and the power they enjoyed centuries ago.
MUSEUMS
History, art and traditions are jealously guarded in the more than 400 museums to be found in Castilla y León, providing an endless source of wealth and knowledge. The collections include traces of the past (archaeology, numismatics, etc.), superb examples of ancient, modern and contemporary art (painting, sculpture and imagery, etc.), as well as the traditions and ways of life of the people that have lived there (ethnography, music, etc.).
Yet Castilla y León is in itself an authentic living museum, boasting more than a hundred historic sites and over a thousand monuments declared to be of cultural interest and therefore the object of official protection.
The Autonomous Community of Castilla y León currently has four museums run by the regional authorities: the Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos (MEH), the León Contemporary Art Museum (MUSAC), the Sabero Metallurgy and Mining Museum in the province of León and the Castilla y León Ethnography Museum in Zamora. There are also two regional cultural centres: the Centre for Artistic Creation and Innovation housed in Segovia’s Quintanar Palace and the Miguel Delibes Cultural Centre in Valladolid.
Castilla y León boasts a wealth of cultural treasures of immense historic and artistic value. They can be admired throughout the region thanks to the extensive network of provincial museums as well as local, diocesan and private collections and exhibitions.

THE AGES OF MAN
Also worthy of mention is the vast historic and artistic heritage conserved by the Church in Castilla y León. Furthermore, for more than 25 years, the Ages of Man Foundation, made up of the autonomous community’s eleven Catholic dioceses, has organised over twenty exhibitions that have attracted more than eleven million visitors, providing a magnificent showcase for Castilla y León’s rich cultural heritage and Spain’s most outstanding collection of religious art.

USEFUL WEBSITES:
Fundación Siglo para el Turismo y las Artes de Castilla y León: www.fundacionsiglo.es
Museums in Castilla y León: www.museoscastillayleon.jcyl.es
Museum of Human Evolution: www.museoevolucionhumana.com
León Contemporary Art Museum: www.musac.es
Castilla y León Metallurgy and Mining Museum: www.museosm.com
Castilla y León Ethnography Museum: www.museo-etnografico.com
Historical Heritage Foundation: www.fundacionpatrimoniojcyyl.es
The Ages of Man Foundation: www.lasedades.es
Cultural heritage: www.patrimoniojcyyl.es
The rich diversity of Castilla y León's natural areas and its wealth of environmental heritage have made it a favourite destination. Nature constitutes an outstanding tourism offer comprising countless natural treasures that can be found throughout the territory: mountain ranges, breathtaking valleys, ravines, peaks, spectacular caves, rivers and lakes with a history dating back millions of years. This wealth of ecosystems, landscapes and natural formations have earned Castilla y León widespread recognition as one of Europe’s most valuable regions due to its immense biodiversity and rich environmental heritage.

Feel the breeze on your face
Castilla y León is rich in terms of nature and scenery and due to its outstanding environmental wealth, much of the region is protected by the Junta de Castilla y Léon Network of Natural Areas.

The highlights of the natural areas include the following:

**ÁVILA**
Sierra de Gredos Regional Park and Valle de Iruelas Nature Reserve.

**BURGOS**

**LEÓN**
Picos de Europa National Park and Regional Park, Lago de la Baña Natural Monument, Lago de Truchillas Natural Monument, Las Médulas Natural Monument and Babia y de Luna Nature Park.

**PALENCIA**

**SALAMANCA**
Arribes del Duero Nature Park and Las Batuecas - Sierra de Francia Nature Park.

**SEGOVIA**

**SORIA**

**VALLADOLID**
Riberas de Castronuño - Vega del Duero Nature Reserve.

**ZAMORA**
**WATER FEATURES**
Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark Castilla y León’s first Geopark, it extends through the northern sections of the provinces of Burgos and Palencia. Its unique geological heritage, together with its wealth of cultural and environmental assets, has earned it this distinction.

**HEALTH TOURISM**
Castilla y León has made the most of the excellent properties of the waters of its natural springs and today is an ideal destination for health and wellness tourism. The treatments available at the spa resorts are essentially designed for wellness. However, these centres also focus on the recreational and leisure benefits of water.

Castilla y León offers fabulous accommodation and spa options that are perfect for putting aside the stresses and strains of everyday life, turning your holiday and leisure time into an opportunity to unwind and enjoy the water circuits, showers, saunas and Jacuzzis, as well as therapies that include massages and beauty treatments such as wine-based therapies, etc.

**BIOSPHERE RESERVE**
The Autonomous Region of Castilla y León has 10 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Picos de Europa, Alto Bernesga, Los Ancares Leoneses, Babia, Los Argüellos, Laciana Valley and the Omaña and Luna valleys in León; the Béjar and Francia mountain ranges in Salamanca; the Central Plateau in Salamanca and Zamora; and the Real Sitio de San Ildefonso – El Espinar in Segovia.

**RURAL TOURISM**
With more than 3,900 accommodation options, Castilla y León is Spain’s leading autonomous community for rural tourism. Castilla y León has a rural tourism accommodation quality seal known as ‘Posadas Reales’ which has been awarded to just under fifty establishments peppered around some of the region’s most breathtaking scenery.
IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH
Castilla y León has a large number of caves, making this region a paradise for underground cavern enthusiasts. The photograph shows La Galiana Cave, Río Lobos Canyon, Soria.

NATURE AND RURAL TOURISM WEBSITES
- Environmental heritage: www.patrimonionatural.org
- Natural Areas: www.miespacionatural.es
- National Parks: www.magrama.gob.es
- Rural tourism: www.ecoturismocastillayleon.com
- Bird watching: www.birdwatchinginspain.com
- Iberian Wolf Centre: www.centrodellobo.es
- Hiking: www.fclm.com

HEALTH TOURISM WEBSITES
- Corconte Spa-Hotel: www.balneariodescorconde.es
- Caldas de Luna Spa-Hotel: www.balneariocaldasdeluna.com
- Ledesma Spa-Hotel: www.balnearioledesma.com
- Retortillo Spa-Hotel: www.balnearioretortillo.com
- El Burgo de Osma Spa-Hotel, Olmedo and Valbuena Monastery: www.castillatermal.com
- Medina del Campo Spa-Hotel: www.palaciodelassalinas.es
- Almeida Spa-Hotel: www.ladamaverde.com

FAMILY TOURISM WEBSITES
- Young people: www.juventud.jcyl.es
- Camping: www.asecal.es
- Hostels: www.infoalbergues.com
- Hostels: www.alberguescastillayleon.com

Fuente la Aceña Posada Real. Quintanilla de Onésimo, Valladolid
Castilla y León’s ancient sites offer a fun-filled mix of sport, nature and culture. The region has reinvented nature tourism thanks to its modern ski resorts, golf courses and specially adapted bathing areas in its reservoirs, rivers and channels that have provided alternative uses for the region’s water resources. A host of facilities guaranteed to surprise and delight lovers of all kinds of outdoor sports.
GOLF COURSES
The increase in the number of golf professionals and enthusiasts in Castilla y León has led to a rise in the number of courses and tourist complexes built around them. Golf is much more than just a hobby and region offers a wide range of leisure and tourism activities in contact with nature that enables all members of the family to enjoy this sport.

ACTIVE TOURISM
The sheer size of Castilla y León, one of Europe's largest regions, combined with its wealth of natural resources protected in forty Natural Areas, make our region the ideal choice for active tourism. It is a different, fun and often thrilling way of experiencing more dynamic contact with nature through a series of outdoor activities such as hiking, trekking, mountaineering, climbing, mountain biking, routes on horseback, canoeing, high rope centres, hot air balloon flights, paintball, archery as well as quad and 4x4 routes.

MOUNTAIN BIKE ROUTES
The main mountain bike routes offer visitors the chance to explore the Vía de la Plata Trail or the Route of El Cid, as well as Castilla y León's mining areas and the routes that cross the provinces of Salamanca, Zamora or the Gredos mountains in Ávila and the Cuatro Villas de Amaya in the province of Burgos. Routes that make their way through a wealth of scenery featuring moorlands and green fields, as well as valleys and mountainous landscapes. There are more than 250 mountain bike routes in Castilla y León, offering countless options for practising this popular sport.

RESERVOIRS
Reservoirs and dams comprise an important part of Castilla y León's water resources. In addition to a cooling dip or an enjoyable day's fishing, these areas are also ideal for fun-filled activities in sailing and motor boats, or experiencing the thrills of activities such as skysurfing, kitesurfing or canoeing, etc.

In the summer months in particular, the reservoirs are a favourite bathing spot for many tourists.

PRIME LOCATIONS
Castilla y León's spectacular relief, its rivers, green areas and climate all converge to create the ideal conditions for all types of adventure activities, cycling, climbing, high rope courses, etc. Above, La Cuerda del Pozo Reservoir, Vinuesa. Soria.

SPORTS AND ACTIVE TOURISM WEBSITES
Winter sports resorts:
www.turismocastillayleon.com/es/rural-naturaleza/estaciones-invernales
Golf: www.federaciondegolfdecastillayleon.org
Activity centres: www.puntosactivos.es
Active tourism: www.turismoactivocastillayleon.es
Active Tourism Association: www.atacyl.org
Mountain bike routes: www.turismocastillayleon.com/es/rural-naturaleza/rutas-btt
Boat trips:
www.turismocastillayleon.com/es/rural-naturaleza/recorridos-barco
Hiking: www.fclm.com
The gastronomy of Castilla y León boasts a cultural and ethnographic heritage of immense value. The region's nine provinces share countless dishes and recipes, yet also retain their own unique touches. Wine lovers visiting the towns and villages that pepper the landscape throughout Castilla y León have the perfect excuse to explore this land's deeply-rooted love for its ancient traditions and explore the possibilities of wine tourism.
Gastronomy in Castilla y León is currently enjoying one of its finest moments due to the outstanding skill and know-how of its chefs, the superb quality and diversity of its products, as well as a rich gastronomic legacy.

The nine provinces that make up the autonomous community share tastes and flavours yet also boast their own unique gastronomic diversity. This culinary and gastronomic wealth is in evidence every day thanks to the large network of food and beverage professionals that make up the teams working in over 5,000 restaurants. Some of these restaurants hold prestigious awards and are featured in the most important and best-known gastronomy guides, including the Michelin or Repsol guides. A further contributing factor to the region’s culinary offer is the packed calendar of gastronomic celebrations, shows and events.

More than 400 dates including the Buscasetas event, dedicated to mycology, the roast suckling lamb event, or those dedicated to the traditional pig-slaughter, as well as tapas days and competition. In this sense, mention must be made of the quality and originality of Castilla y León’s miniature culinary creations and tapas. Indeed, in November each year, Valladolid hosts a National Pinchos and Tapas Competition. The List of popular recipes of Castilla y León features a collection of almost 12,000 recipes.

OUR PRODUCTS

When it comes to meat, pork is one of the hallmarks of Castilla y León. Today, Segovia is renowned for its roast suckling pig. Poultry has traditionally formed an essential part of the family economy and has given rise to a wealth of recipes, several of which are highly appreciated, such as ‘Gallo Turresilano’ – chicken casseroled in white wine, famous in Tordesillas, Valladolid, or ‘Gallina en pepitoria’ – chicken fricassee. Kid meat roasted in a wood-fired oven is considered a particular delicacy.

Castilla y León has more beef cattle than any other region in Spain and is home to a number of specifically

- Zamora-style rice, a dish that is unique to this province.
AN ANCIENT TRADITION
The passion for winemaking is not new to the region. Indeed, evidence points to the existence of vineyards planted on the lands that today form the DO Ribera del Duero before the arrival of the Romans.

WHITE WINES
Most of Castilla y León’s Designations of Origin produce excellent white wines, but the most specialised production of this type of wine is to be found in the DO Rueda, where Verdejo is the principal grape variety. A characteristic that has shaped the destiny of these wines, which rank amongst the most highly-acclaimed not only in Spain, but also in the world.

identified breeds. Our lands also boast a tradition of ox breeding, producing juicy red meats that are much appreciated.

Lamb also features predominantly in the region’s gastronomy, thanks to its famous roast suckling lamb. The region is also Spain’s biggest sheep’s cheese producer.

In addition to its highly-acclaimed pulses, the Castilla y León Food and Agriculture List includes more than 90 products, including breads, biscuits, cakes and sweets. The region also boasts a long-standing tradition in the baking of crusty country bread.

The region’s wealth of mycology resources and the introduction in recent years of a series of innovative initiatives such as black truffle growing in Soria, has led to the creation of a mycological tourism offer unlike any other in Spain. It boasts around 1,500 documented species, more than 50 of which are of outstanding culinary interest. Major events in this sector include the annual Buscasetas Gastronomy Event and the International Mycology Congress, Soria Gastrónomica, which takes place every two years.

CASTILLA Y LEÓN AND WINE CULTURE
Castilla y León has 75,000 hectares dedicated to wine production (6% of the national total). It ranks fourth in terms of grape production in Spain and is home to more than 500 wineries that are flourishing thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of 18,500 producers of fine wines.

The autonomous community boasts 15 quality seals. 10 Designations of Origin, 4 Quality Wines, a Protected Designation of Origin and a Vino de la Tierra regional seal.

Our region comprises a vast agricultural space dotted with vineyards, mainly grouped around the basin of its principal river, the Douro, where some of the world’s best-known wines are produced. The earliest traces of vine growing and winemaking date back to the days before the Romans and the Celtic tribes that settled in the Douro basin.

WINE TOURISM
Wine tourism is enjoying exponential growth in Castilla y León, based on winemaking, gastronomy and cultural activities and services related directly to wine and its culture. Castilla y León has more wine tourism destinations than any other region in Spain. It currently has six wine trails certified by ACEVIN (the Association of Spanish Wine-Producing Cities), backed by the Secretary of State for Tourism.

Tourists can explore the Arlanza Wine Trail (running south from the city
of Burgos to the east of Palencia; El Bierzo Wine Trail (situated in the area of the same name in the province of León); the Cigales Wine Trail (Palencia and Valladolid); the Ribera del Duero Wine Trail (Burgos, Segovia, Soria and Valladolid); the Rueda Wine Trail (Ávila, Segovia and Valladolid) and the Sierra de Francia Wine Trail (Salamanca).

There is also an international wine trail between Arribes del Duero and its neighbouring winemaking regions in Portugal known as Vinduero-Vindouro.

**FOOD TOURISM WEBSITES**


Tierra de Sabor: [www.tierradesabor.es](http://www.tierradesabor.es)

Suckling Lamb Roasters Association: [www.asadoresdelechazo.com](http://www.asadoresdelechazo.com)

Association of Master Chefs: [www.maestresdecocina.es](http://www.maestresdecocina.es)

Eurotoques Association: [www.euro-toques.es](http://www.euro-toques.es)

Soria Gastronómica Congress: [www.congresosoriaagronomicos.com](http://www.congresosoriaagronomicos.com)

Ávila Catering Association: [www.avilaempresarial.com](http://www.avilaempresarial.com)

León Catering Association: [www.hostelerialeon.com](http://www.hostelerialeon.com)

Salamanca Catering Association: [www.hosteleriasalamanca.es](http://www.hosteleriasalamanca.es)

Segovia Catering Association: [www.hosteleriasegoviana.com](http://www.hosteleriasegoviana.com)

Soria Catering Association: [www.asohtur.com](http://www.asohtur.com)

Valladolid Catering Association: [www.valladolidhosteleria.com](http://www.valladolidhosteleria.com)

Zamora Catering Association: [www.azehos.com](http://www.azehos.com)

Fernando Pérez International School of Culinary Arts: [www.escuelainternacionaldecocina.com](http://www.escuelainternacionaldecocina.com)

Castilla y León Academy of Food and Gastronomy: [www.gastronomiacyl.com](http://www.gastronomiacyl.com)

Mycological Tourism: [www.micocyl.es](http://www.micocyl.es)

**PDO WEBSITES:**

PDO Valles de Benavente: [www.vallesdebenavente.org](http://www.vallesdebenavente.org)

PDO Sierra de Salamanca: [www.dosierradesalamanca.es](http://www.dosierradesalamanca.es)

**WINE TRAIL WEBSITES:**

Arlanza Wine Trail: [www.rutadelvinolarlanza.com](http://www.rutadelvinolarlanza.com)

El Bierzo Wine Trail: [www.bierzoenoturismo.com](http://www.bierzoenoturismo.com)

Cigales Wine Trail: [www.rutadelvinocigales.com](http://www.rutadelvinocigales.com)

Ribera del Duero Wine Trail: [www.rutadelvinoriberadelduero.es](http://www.rutadelvinoriberadelduero.es)

Rueda Wine Trail: [www.rutadelvinoderueda.com](http://www.rutadelvinoderueda.com)

Sierra de Francia Wine Trail: [www.rutadelvinosierradefrancia.com](http://www.rutadelvinosierradefrancia.com)
Castilla y León’s Holy Week celebrations are of great interest. It is a time of intense devotion in the region, when sculpted figures of immense heritage value are taken out in procession around the cities, towns and villages.

Over the course of the year, the region stages a host of cultural and artistic festivals and events that share the same strong appeal for tourists, ranging from music and theatre to dance, films, magic and circus performances. Nor must we forget the traditional festivals and celebrations of each town and village, each with their own unique characteristics.

A region that knows how to celebrate
Traditional festivities and avant-garde festivals

Castilla y León celebrates almost a hundred festivals declared to be of regional, national and international tourist interest.

HOLY WEEK
This is a time of myriad ceremonies and rituals. The air is filled with the aroma of wood, palm leaves, branches and candle wax. The atmosphere is sombre, silent and the fervent religious sentiment can be sensed as the processions pass by. Holy Week in Castilla y León is one of the most deeply-rooted religious, cultural and popular attractions, drawing large numbers of tourists. Castilla y León has more Holy Week celebrations declared to be of international tourist interest than any other region in Spain. They are held in Ávila, León, Medina del Campo, Medina de Rioseco, Palencia, Salamanca, Valladolid and Zamora.

POPULAR FESTIVITIES
Traditions and customs from the past, yet which are also well worth celebrating and enjoying today. Grape harvest festivals, bullfighting, processions and parades, carnivals and masked balls, medieval jousting, music and dancing to the sounds of the reed instrument known as the 'dulzaina', drums and other traditional modern musical instruments are held throughout the region.

FESTIVALS
Castilla y León has managed to conserve the finest traditions of its popular festivals, whilst at the same time creating new events and celebrations that fill the region with energy, modernity and an explosion of colour.

Indeed, each year Castilla y León plays host to major events based on a diversity of themes ranging from the dramatic arts to classic, modern and jazz music, as well as film, dance, theatre, puppets and magic. Many of these festivals are now firmly consolidated and boast an international reputation.
SAVE THE DATE IN MAY
The Titirimundi festival is held during May, taking advantage of the wonderful weather at this time of the year.

MUCH MORE THAN MUSIC
The venues of Facyl host a wide range of performances, including pop music, break dance, contemporary dance, circus acts, theatre and poetry readings. Every artistic discipline has its space at the Festival.

VALLADOLID STREET THEATRE AND ARTS FESTIVAL (TAC)
Each May, theatre companies from around the world travel to perform in the streets of Valladolid, which for several days are transformed into a makeshift stage for myriad art forms.

TITIRIMUNDI
More than 30 years have passed since the first edition of Titirimundi was held in the theatres of Segovia, bringing the puppets and marionettes to life. Ever since, these diminutive stars of the stage are brought out each spring, turning this centuries-old art form into the perfect opportunity to fill the theatres, courtyards and streets of Segovia. Each edition of this event brings more than 50,000 spectators to this UNESCO World Heritage City. A stunning setting that also plays its part. Indeed, the delightful city of Segovia forms the perfect backdrop for the magic of puppetry. Titirimundi provides the perfect excuse to spend a fabulous weekend in a city that is the site of the best-preserved aqueduct of the Roman era.

FACYL
The International Arts Festival of Castilla y León was founded more than a decade ago. An event where art and music take centre stage, Salamanca provides the setting and the audience play a starring role. Facyl encourages the audiences to create their own adventures based on the Festival events.

CIR&CO
The international Circus Festival of Castilla y León takes place over several days, during which more than a hundred performances are staged. CIR&CO is unique, not only in providing a setting for the circus arts, but because of the way Ávila has managed each year to attract the leading companies from the national and international scene. CIR&CO is an invitation to discover the city in a highly-entertaining way. Visitors stroll from show to show, captivated by the acrobatics as they explore the landmarks of this UNESCO World Heritage City.

SEMINCI
Valladolid International Film Festival. Each October Valladolid hosts an event that has become one of Spain’s leading international film festivals. Specialising in experimental and independent films, it has evolved since the first edition of the Valladolid Religious Film Festival, held during the Holy Week of 1956.
An evening performance in front of Ávila’s city wall during the Cir&Co festival.

HOLY WEEKS OF INTERNATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST:
Ávila: www.juntasemanasanta-avila.com
León: www.semanasantaleon.org
Medina del Campo: www.semanasantamedina.com
Medina de Rioseco: www.semanasantaenrioseco.com
Palencia: www.semanasantapalencia.com
Salamanca: www.semanasantasalamanca.es
Valladolid: www.jcssva.org
Zamora: www.ssantazamora.es

HOLY WEEKS OF NATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST:
Astorga: www.semanasanta-astorga.com
Burgos: www.semanasantaburgos.com
Peñafiel: www.semanasanta.turismopenafiel.com
Ponferrada: www.ponferrada.org
Segovia: www.semanasantasegovia.com

HOLY WEEKS OF REGIONAL TOURIST INTEREST:
Ágreda: www.veracruzagreda.com
Aranda de Duero: www.cofradiasdearanda.org
Bercianos de Aliste: www.turismoenzamora.es/index.php/es/semana-santa/bercianos-de-aliste
El Burgo de Osma: www.cofradiasantoentierro.es
Sahagún: www.sahagun.org
Soria: www.semanasantasororia.com
Tordesillas: www.semanasantatordesillas.es
Toro: www.toroayto.es

CULTURAL EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS:
Fundación Siglo para el Turismo y las Artes de Castilla y León: www.fundacionsiglo.es
Titirimundi International Puppet Festival in Segovia: www.titirimundi.es
Circus: www.turismocastillayleon.com/cir&co
Castilla y León International Arts Festival: www.facyl-festival.com
Castilla y León Theatre Fair: www.feriadeteatro.es
León International Magic Festival: www.leonvivelamagia.es
SEMINCI, Valladolid International Film Festival: www.seminci.es
Valladolid Street Theatre and Arts Festival (TAC): www.tacva.org

FROM ÁVILA TO THE WORLD
The show created by the young people selected for the Schools Meeting is premiered first in Ávila before moving to the Price Circus in Madrid. A unique opportunity for those wishing to embark on a circus career.

SOCIAL CIR&CO
The festival also focuses on the contribution the circus can make to society. Comedy in the guise of a clown brings fun and laughter to older audiences thanks to the social programme that includes performances at old people’s homes in Ávila.
Ten major routes run through Castilla y León, offering visitors the chance to experience a truly memorable trip. Trails that follow the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago as it makes its way through the region, or provide an insight into the reigns of Isabelle the Catholic Monarch and Charles V, as well as the lives of historical figures such as El Cid and Saint Teresa, or the evolution of the River Douro and Castilla Canal, a magnificent feat of hydraulic engineering, and the history of Spanish as a universal language that provides a connection for the whole of Castilla y León.

A journey of inner exploration and discovery.
Major routes

Castilla y León, a vast region with a rich history dating back many centuries, has traditionally attracted a wealth of cultures and people that have followed the ancient paths and routes that crisscross this land.

THE FRENCH WAY OF THE PILGRIMS’ ROUTE TO SANTIAGO

The French Way, declared the First European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe and included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, is one of the region’s best-known and most popular routes.

It begins in Roncesvalles (Navarra) and ends in Santiago de Compostela. More than half of its 750 kilometres run through Castilla y León.

From East to West, crossing the provinces of Burgos, Palencia and León for just under 400 km, pilgrims share and receive the hospitality of the local people, marvel at the matchless artistic treasures they come across on their way and revel in the unspoilt diversity of the landscapes. Castilla y León is proud to form part of this ancient route, one of the hallmarks of European identity that over the centuries has provided a channel for the communication of ideas, customs and experiences.

THE DUERO ROUTE

The River Douro forms one of the principal arteries of Castilla y León, crossing the region from East to West through the provinces of Soria, Burgos, Valladolid, Zamora and Salamanca. This route offers truly breathtaking scenery from its starting point in the Picos de Urbión as far as the Portuguese border on the majestic Arribes riverbanks.

The River Douro has played a major role in the Iberian Peninsula’s complex history. It formed a natural boundary during the Reconquest, resulting in the construction of castles, monasteries and many other historic sites in the towns and villages that line its banks.

This river route conjures up immediate associations with a delicious and varied gastronomy, as well as an unparalleled selection of wines unlike any other in Spain, produced under the Ribera del Duero, Rueda, Toro, Tierras del Vino de Zamora and Arribes Designations of Origin. The town of Peñafiel (Valladolid) is home to the Provincial Wine Museum, where

UNMISTAKEABLY GAUDÍ

The Bishop’s Palace in Astorga was designed by the Modernist architect Antoni Gaudí. Only three of Gaudí’s works can be seen outside Catalonia. Since 1962 the palace has housed a museum dedicated to the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago.

THE FRENCH WAY OF THE PILGRIMS’ ROUTE TO SANTIAGO

Countless examples of history, traditions, culture, art and dedication to pilgrims that continue to play a major role in the evolution of the towns and cities that stand along this route.

THE DUERO ROUTE

The Duero Route is one of southern Europe’s most outstanding cultural axes. A route that enables travellers to cross through natural areas that today have become reserves for flora and fauna.
visitors can learn all about the region's winemaking culture and tradition.

THE VÍA DE LA PLATA TRAIL

This route, which crosses Castilla y León for 383 km through the provinces of Salamanca, Zamora and León, provides a fascinating insight into the major civilisations and periods that have shaped the history of Spain, from the Romans to the Moors and including the medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods, etc. Starting in the Béjar mountain range (the site of one of Spain's most outstanding examples of a Roman road due to its length and excellent state of conservation), and stretching as far as the Pajares Pass, this route takes in some of the region's most spectacular and emblematic towns and villages marked by milestones formed by carved stone columns measuring some two metres in height and featuring inscriptions that refer to the emperor and the miles separating the various points on the route. Indeed, the King chose the lands of Castilla y León to make his final journey. Today this route of geographical and historical interest retraces his steps through 24 of the region's towns and cities. Sites through which the Emperor travelled on a pilgrimage that would take a month and three days, and which visitors can discover on this thrilling adventure.

The route leads from the north of the province of Burgos to the south of Ávila, passing through many towns and villages in the provinces of Burgos, Palencia, Valladolid, Salamanca and Ávila, where the Emperor had the opportunity to experience at first hand the affection he was held in by his subjects. Along the way he stayed in magnificent palaces but also in humble inns and savoured the delicious gastronomy for which these lands are renowned.

THE ROUTE OF SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA

An association of Teresian cities was formed in Ávila under the name ‘The Footsteps of Saint Teresa of Ávila’ to commemorate the 5th Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Ávila. A tourist or pilgrimage route created to promote her work and legacy based on the various convents she founded.

In Castilla y León, the Route of Saint Teresa of Ávila includes the 9 sites in...
Visitors can enjoy a host of active tourism activities such as canoeing, routes on horseback, cycling and hiking, etc. The constructions associated with the canal – locks, aqueducts, bridges, dams, wharfs and warehouses – used for loading and unloading the goods, reveal all the beauty and harmony with which they were designed.

Castilla Canal stretches out for 207 kilometres and has three branches: North, South and Campos. The North branch starts at Alar del Rey and ends in Ribas de Campos, where the branch of the same name begins, extending as far as Medina de Rioseco. In turn, the South branch starts at the fork formed by the Campos branch in El Serrón and continues as far as Valladolid, where it meets the River Pisuerga.

CASTILLA CANAL
Although this magnificent feat of engineering, which flows through the provinces of Palencia, Burgos and Valladolid, is no longer used for its original purpose of transporting cereals and other goods, today it is truly delightful route.

LOCKS ALONG THE CANAL
As they make their way along the Canal, tourists will come across no fewer than 69 locks through which the barges used to pass, which at one time totalled more than 300. Today visitors can enjoy a choice of boat trips along Castilla Canal, departing from Medina de Rioseco (Valladolid), Herrera de Pisuerga or Villaumbrales (Palencia).
THE SPANISH LANGUAGE TRAIL

Castilla y León, known as the birthplace of the Spanish language, is also home to its Language Trail. A route that offers travellers the chance to explore the milestones and sights associated with one of the world’s most important languages.

It is a magnificent opportunity to delve into history, art and culture, discovering the birth and development of a universal language that today is spoken by more than 400 million people around the world. Valpuesta is the route’s first stopping place in Castilla y León, where there are four places not to be missed: Santo Domingo de Silos, in whose monastery the Silos Glosses (the first examples of written Spanish) were discovered; Valladolid, which as capital of the Spanish Empire played a major role in the dissemination of the language; Salamanca, the university city that in 1492 witnessed the publication of the first Spanish Language Grammar, the work of Antonio de Nebrija; and lastly Ávila, birthplace of the finest mystics in Spanish literature: Saint Teresa of Ávila and Saint John of the Cross.

THE PILGRIMS’ ROUTE TO SANTIAGO FROM MADRID

The Madrid Way starts in the Spanish capital and enters Castilla y León via the Fuenfría Pass before heading to the plateau lands of Segovia, the cereal fields of Valladolid and eventually joining the French Way in Sahagún, in the province of León. Truly breathtaking scenery for an alternative to the major routes that is guaranteed to surprise and delight pilgrims.

In all, the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago from the Spanish capital as far as Sahagún, where it joins the French Way, runs for 325.3 kilometres, 241.5 kilometres of which are in Castilla y León. Those following this route will come across stretches of a Roman road before eventually joining the classic itinerary that begins in Spain at Roncesvalles or Somport.

THE ROUTE OF EL CID

This route retraces the steps of the knight Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar on his way into exile, decreed by King Alphonse VI in the 11th century. Legend and history merge into one on a route which, crossing the provinces of Burgos and Soria, follows the journey made by the warrior, according to the famous Poem of The Cid. The Cid came across towns and villages, castles and fortresses, churches and monasteries that are still standing today, steeped in the medieval atmosphere that accompanied this hero of Castile. Zamora also played a part in the life of The Cid, as related in various episodes of the poem.

THE MADRID WAY

The first hostel on this branch of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago opened in Cuenca de Campos (Valladolid) during the 1999 Holy Year.

MYSTICAL LITERATURE

This is one of the most important types of literature in the history of Spanish writing. During the 16th and 17th centuries more than 3,000 books were published on this topic.

THE SILOS GLOSSES

Santo Domingo de Silos is directly linked to the history of the Spanish language as it was here that the Silos Glosses were written, one of the earliest documents in Spanish.
THE ROUTE OF ISABELLE

This route visits the sites associated with Queen Isabelle I of Castile, who was born in 1451 in Madrigal de las Altas Torres (Ávila). On the death of King John II, Henry IV ascended to the throne and Isabelle retired to Arévalo (Ávila) with her mother. Disputes between Isabelle and her brother Henry IV led to the convening of the ‘Treaty of Guisando’ in El Tiemblo (Ávila), whereby Isabelle was granted the title of Princess of Asturias.

In 1469 Isabelle married King Ferdinand of Aragón at the Palace of the Vivero family in Valladolid. On the death of Henry IV in 1474, Isabelle was proclaimed Queen of Castile in the city of Segovia. The reign of Isabelle I of Castile was filled with many momentous events (the Reconquest, the founding of the Spanish Inquisition, the discovery of the New World, the signing of peace with Portugal, etc.).

Throughout the course of her reign, Isabelle travelled extensively around her dominions, and many of these places still conserve elements that recall her visit (Almazán, Burgos, Zamora, Toro and Villalonso). During the final years of her life she moved to Medina del Campo where she died in the Royal Palace in 1504.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

THE MADRID WAY: Segovia Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminodesantiagosegovia.es Valladolid and province, AJOVA – the Valladolid Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.ajova.es

THE LEVANTE AND SOUTH-EAST WAY: Ávila Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.amigosdelcaminoenavila.org Friends of the South-East Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association in Valladolid, ACASSEVA: caminodelsuresteporvalladolid.com

THE MADRID WAY: Segovia Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminodesantiagosegovia.es Valladolid and province, AJOVA – the Valladolid Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.ajova.es

THE LEVANTE AND SOUTH-EAST WAY: Ávila Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.amigosdelcaminoenavila.org Friends of the South-East Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association in Valladolid, ACASSEVA: caminodelsuresteporvalladolid.com

THE POEM OF THE CID

Since its origins, this route has traditionally been identified with the journey of The Cid told in the poem, the principal source of information used in the design of the various stages included on this trail.

THE MADRID WAY: Segovia Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminodesantiagosegovia.es Valladolid and province, AJOVA – the Valladolid Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.ajova.es

THE LEVANTE AND SOUTH-EAST WAY: Ávila Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.amigosdelcaminoenavila.org Friends of the South-East Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association in Valladolid, ACASSEVA: caminodelsuresteporvalladolid.com

THE WOOL TRAIL: Soria Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminosantiaigosoria.com

MAJOR ROUTES

THE BAYONNE WAY: Miranda de Ebro Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminosantiaviadebayona.com Santiago de Briviesca Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: viaboyonabureba.blogspot.com.es


THE BAYONNE WAY: Miranda de Ebro Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminosantiaviadebayona.com Santiago de Briviesca Friends of the Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: viaboyonabureba.blogspot.com.es

EL SALVADOR WAY: San Salvador Way Pilgrims’ Route to Santiago Association: www.caminodesansalvador.es
Castilla y León’s excellent situation, fast and efficient communications with the rest of Spain and the tourist attractions to be found in each province converge to make our region a strategic location for holding events, trade fairs and congresses.
MICE TOURISM

Castilla y León is the ideal choice for holding a convention, trade fair, corporate event or incentive trip. Not only does it offer excellent communications with the rest of Spain thanks to its four airports, extensive high speed rail network and modern highways, but it also boasts a large number of venues and facilities including convention centres, auditoriums, halls, theatres, chapels, lounges and exhibition sites, as well as external catering and transport services, translators, entertainment and a full range of amenities. Together with the quality accommodation and restaurant options, the region can cater to the majority of the demand in this sector under optimal conditions.

Moreover, Castilla y León also boasts a vast cultural, monumental, natural and gastronomic wealth, offering visitors and convention delegates added value, as they can combine their work sessions with activities of interest such as museum and monument tours, food and wine tasting sessions in historic wineries, or exploring unique natural areas, etc.

Castilla y León’s major cities offer public and private infrastructures as well as convention bureaus that will provide all the information necessary in order to organise any event.

A WIDE CHOICE OF OPTIONS

Castilla y León offers a consolidated range of facilities and infrastructures for hosting major events. The options include convention centres, auditoriums, unique venues, hotels, monasteries, wineries, universities, rural centres or castles, setting it apart from other destinations.
Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and more and more people are showing an interest in learning it. Thriving trade relations with Central and South America are one of the reasons why knowledge of this language is considered to offer excellent opportunities for business and corporate expansion. Learning Spanish in Spain offers all the necessary guarantees, yet those seeking proven quality should look to the birthplace of the Spanish language. Our region is home to four prestigious public universities and more than twenty schools of Spanish for foreign learners, all of which hold the Instituto Cervantes quality seal. Learning Spanish in Castilla y León is therefore a guarantee for acquiring the highly prestigious variant of this magnificent language spoken in the lands that witnessed its birth and development, characterised by impeccable grammar structures and an extensive vocabulary.

**LANGUAGE TOURISM**

**WORKING TOGETHER**

In 2006 our autonomous community embarked on a collaboration project with the Instituto Cervantes. The Junta de Castilla y León and the Instituto signed a framework agreement that laid the foundations for the Castilla y León Spanish Language Plan for foreigners, a pioneering initiative in this field.
SHOPPING TOURISM

Castilla y León is a dynamic, modern society that is open to the rest of the world. It is also an ideal destination for shopping tourism; not only in the small stores and boutiques to be found in the city centres, but also in the state-of-the-art shopping malls and small craft workshops that can be found in the various provinces.

Shopping tourism in Castilla y León focuses particularly on the acquisition of handcrafted products including pottery, leather goods, textiles, jewellery or embroidered items, to name but a few. Yet visitors to Castilla y León are also advised to purchase some of the region’s local produce, ranging from its delicious and highly acclaimed wines and liqueurs belonging to the various Designations of Origin, to culinary delicacies such as cured meats, cheeses, tinned goods, wild mushrooms, sweets and pastries or pulses, etc.

MICE WEBSITES:
- Ávila Convention Bureau: www.lienzonorte.es
- Burgos Convention Bureau: www.congresosburgos.com
- León Convention Bureau: www.leon.es
- Salamanca Convention Bureau: www.salamancaconventionbureau.com
- Segovia Convention Bureau: segoviacongresos.turismodesegovia.com
- Valladolid Convention Bureau: www.valladolidcongresos.com
- Zamora Convention Bureau: www.zamora.es
- Castilla y León Association of Professional Convention Organisers: www.opcyl.es

WEBSITES FOR LANGUAGE TOURISM AND LEARNING SPANISH:
- www.micastellano.com
- www.spanishcyl.es

CRAFT WORKSHOP WEBSITES:
- www.empresasartesanascyl.es/cearcal
- Castilla y León Federation of Craft Organisations: www.foacal.org
- Castilla y León Craft Centre: www.cearcal.com
- Castilla y León Craft Portal: www.artesania.jcyl.es
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