

CASTILLA

Y

UN VIAJE QUE MEREZCA LA PENA

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

LEÓN



MYCO-TOURISM



The area between the high mountain ranges and the river plains is home to a variety of individual ecosystems, landscapes and important forestry resources capable of defining, as is the case with mushrooms, signs of identity.

More than 1500 species of mushroom, many edible, grow each year in the mountains and forests of Castilla y León. A unique attraction that comes from picking mushrooms, enjoying the countryside and tasting products of excellent quality.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Las Toras en el Fresno, Ávila (cedida agencia Ical)



‘LAS TORAS’ AT EL FRESNO, ÁVILA

At El Fresno, this ancestral tradition has been passed down from generation to generation and since 1931 has been considered an Asset of Cultural Interest. The festival is held every year on the weekend closest to St Anthony’s day and is commonly considered to be a celebration in honour of this saint, who is the patron saint of animals. ‘Las Toras’ are the main characters of this tradition and their main purpose is to scare and ‘gore’ anyone who crosses their path. Their costume consists of a burlap sack covering their head and trunk, legs covered with paper sacks held in place with strings, and cow horns carried in their hands. They walk down the streets in silence, communicating by gestures, so as not to be recognised. On the night of 16 January, a large bonfire is lit in the village square and the young people gather around it to celebrate. Throughout the night, processions set off from the bonfire, ringing cowbells through the streets.



Cartel Belén Briviesca



‘DÍA DE LA O’ IN BRIVIESCA, BURGOS

One of the most distinctive traditions found in the province of Burgos in December is one of the most cherished and popular festivities in the city of Briviesca, the capital of the Bureba region, celebrated every year on 18 December. Its origin is linked to the seven antiphons that begin with the Latin interjection O (Oh!), which were formerly sung during the seven days prior to the Nativity of the Lord, when children would go out into the streets singing and carrying a very thin, long lit candle called a cerilla. The tradition has endured to this day, with new generations of children walking through the streets with candles, singing the tune of the ‘Virgen de la O’ as a prelude to the Christmas carols. In recent years, the date has also coincided with the switching on of the Christmas lights. As the children walk by, the streets of Briviesca gradually light up, creating a festive atmosphere that draws people of all ages to enjoy this deeply rooted tradition.





THE 'RAMO TRADICIONAL' IN LEON

The 'ramo tradicional' (traditional branch) is one of the most recognisable symbols of folk art in León. Originally, its creation was linked to the belief that trees had a spirit that had to be respected—and even venerated—by the society. That which began as a pagan tradition soon took shape as a wooden structure with branches, exposed in public spaces at specific moments of the year to bring joy to the villages where it was displayed. Because the 'ramo' has been part of many different celebrations over the centuries, traces of this heritage can still be found today in festivities such as the 'menadas', popular feasts and local pilgrimages. While in the past the structure was a natural evergreen branch, today it is commonly represented as a wooden frame that may take various forms: triangular, cup-shaped, circular like a wheel, and more. Each region in León has developed its own variation, yet they all share several defining elements: community celebration, music and a strong appreciation for local gastronomy.



Ruta belenes, Palencia



ROUTE OF NATIVITY SCENES IN PALENCIA

A Christmas journey full of tradition and art. If you are looking for a unique Christmas experience: 'Belén a Belén' is a journey through the essence of Christmas. This route connects the various nativity scenes created in churches, cultural centres and public spaces. From traditional nativity scenes to the most innovative ones, each stop is a showcase of the talent and dedication of local artists and craftsmen. Outstanding destinations on the route are Cofradías de Palencia, Centro Cultural Provincial, Palacio Provincial de la Diputación, Ayuntamiento de Palencia, Villa Romana La Olmeda. Every year the Provincial Council organises a Nativity Scene Competition at the provincial level, which rewards originality, manual work, lighting and creativity. This event encourages the participation of both individuals and associations in this tradition. The route is available from the beginning of December until Epiphany.



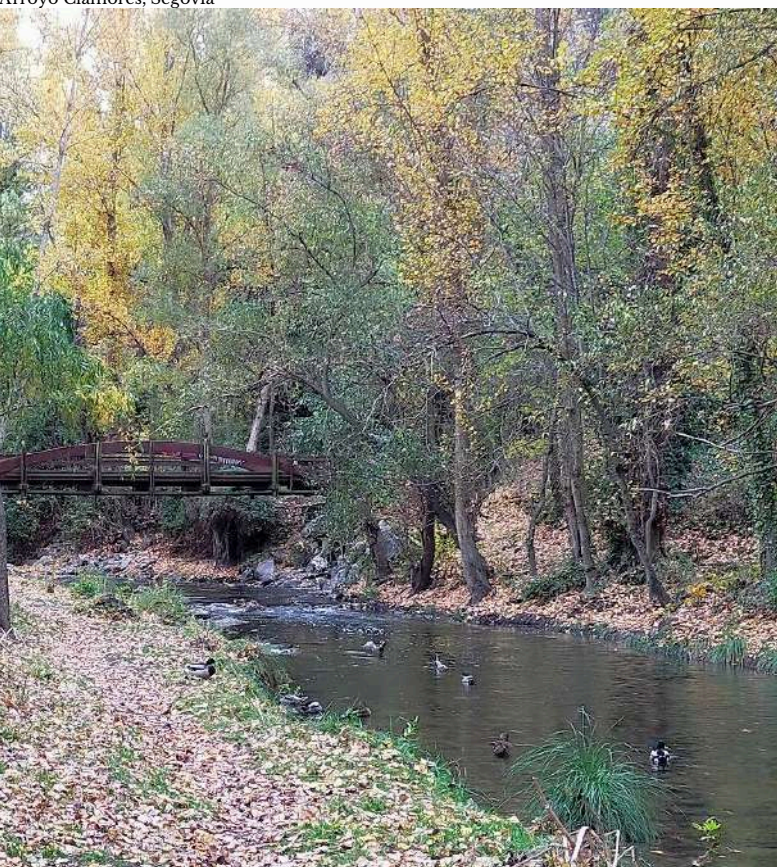


MUSEO VALERIANO SALAS IN BÉJAR, SALAMANCA

Located in the former Convent of San Francisco, the museum houses a collection of around 250 pieces of art — including miniatures, porcelain, engravings, paintings, sculptures and codices by various authors — donated by Doña María Antonia Tellechea, widow of Valeriano Salas, to the City Council of Béjar in 1966. Valeriano Salas, director of the *Revista Geográfica Española* of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, travelled extensively throughout the world, which enabled him to acquire an important and diverse artistic collection. The museum is arranged into three rooms: one dedicated to painting, featuring an excellent selection of 19th-century Spanish works as well as Dutch, Flemish and German pieces from the 16th to the 19th centuries; another designed as a collector's study; and a third that recreates a 19th-century apothecary.



Arroyo Clamores, Segovia



A WALK ALONG THE CLAMORES RIVER, SEGOVIA

If there is one image that defines the city of Segovia, it is the ship-like shape of its silhouette, outlined by its two rivers: the Eresma — a tributary of the Duero — and the Clamores, whose exact source remains uncertain but which flows into the Eresma at the foot of the Alcázar. The Clamores runs beneath the modern part of the city, as it has been channelled, yet shortly before resurfacing, it offers visitors the chance to enjoy a walk along Segovia's green belt, providing a panoramic perspective of the city. Along the route, make sure to look up to admire the western stretch of the city walls crowned by the Cathedral, the Segovia Museum perched on one of the wall's projections, and the Alcázar rising at the end of the river. This walk is a wonderful way to pause your visit and experience art and nature coming together.





CONVENT OF LA CONCEPCIÓN AND SOR MARÍA JESÚS DE ÁGREDA, SORIA

The first Conceptionist convent in Ágreda was founded by Catalina Arana, mother of Sor María de Jesús, after she had a vision in 1615 instructing her to take religious vows and transform her home into a convent. The present Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Ágreda began construction in 1627, when Sor María de Jesús — only 25 years old at the time — was elected abbess. María Coronel y Arana, better known as María de Jesús de Ágreda, La Venerable, Sor María, or Mother Ágreda, was a Spanish Conceptionist nun, a writer and an important spiritual figure of the Baroque period. She is regarded by Catholics as one of the greatest mystics in the history of the Church. She maintained an extensive correspondence with King Philip IV for more than twenty years. She is also said to have possessed the gift of bilocation, with contemporary Franciscans and Indigenous peoples identifying her as a preacher in New Mexico, despite the fact that she never left her cloister. The convent houses a small museum dedicated to her life and works. Visitors can also enter the Baroque church, where the incorrupt body of Sor María de Jesús rests in a sealed, glass-covered coffin.



Belén Palacio Pimentel, Valladolid



ROUTE THROUGH THE LIVING NATIVITY SCENES IN VALLADOLID

Valladolid is filled with magic at Christmas thanks to one of its most endearing traditions: the living nativity scenes. More than 500 residents from 13 towns and villages become actors to bring to life biblical scenes, traditional crafts and moments filled with emotion. The performances take place between 16 December and 5 January, with dates and times varying by town. The Nativity scene in Cabezón de Pisuerga stands out above all: with more than 40 years of history, it has been declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León. Also remarkable are those in Fresno el Viejo, which stages a Christmas tale; Laguna de Duero, also recognised as a Festival of Tourist Interest, with its artisan stalls, and Villanubla, featuring traditional dances. Other towns, including Wamba, Arroyo de la Encomienda, Bobadilla del Campo, Medina del Campo, Rueda, Simancas, Tordehumos, Urueña and Velascálvaro, offer unique performances with handcrafted sets and live music. This is a perfect opportunity to experience the most authentic Christmas as a family, surrounded by history, culture and the warm hospitality of the villages of Valladolid.





THE MIRACLE OF EMPEL, ZAMORA

On 7 December 1585, on the Bommel island, between the Meuse and Waal Rivers, the soldiers of the Tercio Viejo de Zamora infantry regiment found themselves in a desperate situation. Surrounded by Admiral Holak's squadron and with little food, they seemed doomed to surrender or perish. Faced with the Spanish refusal to surrender their weapons, the enemy opened the river dykes to flood the camp. Only one small hill, Empel, remained free of water, and the Zamorans held out there. It was then that a soldier, while digging a trench, found a tablet with the image of the Immaculate Conception. Master Bobadilla, seeing this as a divine sign, entrusted his men to the Virgin. That same night, an unexpected icy wind froze the waters of the Meuse River. At dawn, the Spaniards marched over the ice, surprised the enemy with an attack and won such an absolute victory that Admiral Holak himself exclaimed: "It seems that God is Spanish to work such a great miracle". This episode, known as the Miracle of Empel, forever marked the history of the Tercio Viejo de Zamora. Since then, the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed Patron Saint of the Spanish Infantry, and is celebrated every 8th December throughout the country. Come to Zamora and discover the land where one of the most brilliant and miraculous pages of our history was forged.



**REMEMBER, IN CASTILLA
Y LEÓN, YOU'LL FIND
EVERYTHING AND
MORE...
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!!!**



LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



Posada Real Los Condestables, Villalpando, Zamora



For a fully immersive experience involving the nature and authenticity of Castilla y León, we recommend Las Posadas Reales, our high-quality rural tourism brand! Not only will you stay in singular buildings, but excellent accommodations and service are guaranteed! They are the perfect place to stay for an unforgettable experience, immersing yourself in all the activities, heritage and nature of Castilla y León.



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info@loscincolinajes.es

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posadaquintasanjose@hotmail.com

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info@hosteriadelmudejar.com

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- **POSADA REAL HOSPEDERÍA CONVENTO SAN FRANCISCO**

www.conventosanfrancisco.es

hospederia@conventosanfrancisco.es

- **POSADA REAL LAS MAYAS**

www.lasmayas.es

informacion@lasmayas.es

- **POSADA REAL LA SINAGOGA**

<https://lasinagoga.com/>

info@lasinagoga.com

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info@elconventodemave.com

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- **HOTEL RURAL QUINTA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN**

www.quintadelaconcepcion.es
info@quintadelaconcepcion.es

- **HOTEL RURAL RURAL MUSICAL**

www.ruralmusical.es
ruralmusical@gmail.com

- **POSADA REAL CASTILLO DEL BUEN AMOR**

www.buenamor.net
castillo@buenamor.net

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www.casabrasilero.com
reservascasabrasilero@gmail.com

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info@rutavinozamora.com



INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS PROPOSALS

In this newsletter, we would also like to share the proposals of some incoming tour operators in Castilla y León that organise different activities based on their thorough knowledge of the area and extensive experience.

- **PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO OPTIONS**

Specialised in the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.
www.rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com/historia-del-camino
miguelangel@rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com

- **DESTINO DIVINO**

Wine tourism and family tourism activities.
www.destino-divino.com/experiencias-en-familia/
Info@destino-divino.com

- **NIS-NORTH INCOMING SERVICE SL**

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- **TOP RIBERA DEL DUERO**

Receptive tour operator in Ribera del Duero: tourism packs, accommodations, wineries, restaurants, recreational options...
www.topriberadelduero.com
info@topriberadelduero.com

- **VITORSALAMANCA**

Discover the province of Salamanca through half-day or full-day experiences.
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info@vitorsalamanca.com

- **RESERVASLEON.COM**

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- **VERONIA TOURS SL**

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veroniatours@veroniatours.com

- **ALACARTA WINE & GOURMET TOURS**

Specialised in exclusive trips and experiences focused on wine and cuisine.
www.alacarta.es
info@alacarta.es

- **BINATUR**

Summer in Bierzo with children. Holidays with kids.
<https://binatur.es/vacaciones-con-ninos-en-el-bierzo/reservas@binatur.es>

- **LA MIRADA CIRCULAR**

Circular route on mountain bikes and running in El Bierzo. 4, 5, 6 and 7-day routes.
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- **MUNDICAMINO**

Receptive tour operator for all pilgrimage routes on the Iberian Peninsula.
www.mundicamino.com
travel@mundicamino.com

- **WELLBEDS**

Reservation portal specialized in health and well-being.
www.wellbeds.es
info@wellbeds.es

- **THEWAYTOURS**

Circular tour of the Picos de Europa.
<https://www.thewaytours.com/packages/circular-tour-picos-de-europa-2/info@thewaytours.com>

- **NATURALISTE**

Trips and tours to Arribes del Duero, Sierra de la Culebra, Sanabria, Sierra de Francia...
<https://naturaliste.es/>
info@naturaliste.es

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