

CASTILLA

Y

UN VIAJE QUE MEREZCA LA PENA

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

LEÓN



Junta de
Castilla y León

THE SIERRA DE GREDOS FROM ABOVE



Experiencing the vast expanse of the Sierra de Gredos from the air is a breathtaking adventure that offers unparalleled views. The iconic Almanzor Peak, the highest in the range, rises majestically, its silhouette cutting sharply against the horizon.

Piedrahita, a picturesque village nestled in a prime location, has become a premier European destination for hang gliding and paragliding. The village has established itself as a leading European destination for aerial sports, attracting thrill-seekers and nature lovers alike.

The best time to fly is in July, when atmospheric conditions are most favourable, though the flying season runs from April to October. During these months, pilots can enjoy an unparalleled natural setting as they soar over the Gredos mountains, surrounded by valleys and spectacular scenery.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Casillas Museo La Resina, Ávila



LA RESINA ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM, CASILLAS, ÁVILA

Nestled in the heart of the forest, La Resina Ethnographic Museum features two traditional resin collectors' huts (chozos resineros) and various elements that recreate the way of life and work of those engaged in resin extraction—an industry of great economic and social significance for the people of Casillas until the 1980s. Informative panels with period images provide insight into the construction of the huts, the tools and techniques used in resin collection, and the materials required for this trade. The first hut houses original tools and objects donated by local residents, offering a glimpse into the hardships of this profession. The second hut is dedicated to preserving the historical and ethnographic memory of the municipality through temporary exhibitions. La Resina Ethnographic Museum offers guided tours of its permanent exhibition, educational workshops on traditional rural life, and guided walks through the surrounding natural landscape—an environment intrinsically linked to the economy, culture, and identity of Casillas.



Pasión Viviente Covarrubias, Coronación de Espinas, Burgos



LIVING PASSION IN COVARRUBIAS, BURGOS

Good Friday evening is an intense and moving experience in the Burgos town of Covarrubias, one of Spain's most picturesque villages. Since 1972, the town—known as the Villa Rachela—has hosted one of the most unique Holy Week celebrations in Castilla y León: a Living Passion play in which over 100 local residents come together to enact the final hours of Christ's life, from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion and Descent from the Cross. In a striking display, amateur actors stand motionless across different locations in the medieval town, recreating key moments of Christ's Passion. Spectators follow a solemn procession through the village, witnessing these powerful, lifelike scenes in this extraordinary living Via Crucis.



ALFONSO VI AND THE WAY OF ST JAMES THROUGH LEÓN

One of the most significant figures in the history of the French Way of St James is King Alfonso VI, whose influence was crucial in the rise of this pilgrimage route. During his reign, he recognised the spiritual and political importance of the Way of St James—not just as a religious pilgrimage, but as a unifying route for the Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula. He worked to protect the route, ensuring the safe passage of pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela. The province of León became a key crossroads on the pilgrimage route, not only for those journeying to Santiago but also as a meeting point between Christian and Muslim cultures. Alfonso VI's vision of the Way as both a spiritual and strategic route strengthened ties between the Christian kingdoms and placed the Apostle James at the heart of the peninsula's identity.



Festividad de Santo Toribio, Palencia



THE FESTIVAL OF SANTO TORIBIO IN PALENCIA

Every year, on the Sunday closest to 16 April, Palencia celebrates the festival of Santo Toribio. This year, due to the late Easter dates, the festival will take place on 27 April. The festival commemorates Santo Toribio, who was stoned to death in the 5th century AD for preaching against the Priscillianist heresy. According to tradition, after being stoned, he took refuge in the caves of the Santa María hill. At that moment, a torrential downpour flooded the city. The people of Palencia interpreted this as divine punishment for following the heresy and, in fear, begged Santo Toribio to stop the flood—after which the waters receded. In gratitude, he was declared the city's second patron saint. The festival includes a procession from the Church of San Ignacio to the Hermitage of Santo Toribio, where thousands of small bags filled with bread and cheese are thrown to the crowd. Declared a Festival of Touristic Interest in Castilla y León in 2005, it remains a cherished tradition in the city.





THE CASTRO OF LAS MERCHANTAS, LUMBRALES, SALAMANCA

Near Lumbrales, perched on a rocky promontory above the River Camaces, stands this pre-Roman castro (fortified settlement), although remains of buildings and statues from the later Roman Empire have also been discovered here. The site covers an area of around five hectares and has two main entrances: the Vetton gate, funnel-shaped with curved walls and protected by a field of embedded stones, and the more monumental Roman gate, recently excavated and adapted for visitor access. Visitors can park at the designated area and follow a signposted trail to the castro. A viewpoint offers panoramic views of the settlement, while an interpretative station provides insights into the castro's history and the Vetton culture. In Lumbrales, the Casa del Conde houses the Visitor Centre for the Vetton Territory, along with other facilities dedicated to the castro and the region's prehistoric heritage.



Garbanzo segoviano (cedida Tierra de Sabor)



CHICKPEAS IN SEGOVIA

A staple ingredient in traditional stews, chickpeas provide slow-release carbohydrates, protein, fibre, and essential minerals such as magnesium. Segovia has a long tradition of chickpea cultivation, with two recognised collective brands in the province: Valseca and Labajos chickpeas. The Valseca region lies west of the city of Segovia. Chickpeas from this area are large, flat, and have a milky-brown colour, with deep ridges and a pronounced beak. They have a buttery texture and a pleasant flavour. Labajos chickpeas, grown in the southwest of the province for over 150 years, are medium-sized with a delicate taste. They cook easily, remaining tender without losing their skins. They have also been recognised for their excellent organoleptic qualities. Whichever variety you choose, both offer a delicious and affordable culinary experience.





PALACE OF THE COUNTS OF GÓMARA, SORIA

Declared a Cultural Heritage Site in 2000, this grand palace, built between 1577 and 1592 by the Río and Salcedo families, is a testament to Soria's wool trade wealth. Standing out among the city's architecture, the palace boasts a façade over 100 metres long and 20 metres high. Today, it houses the Court of Justice (Palacio de Justicia). The façade is divided into two distinct sections. The left side features large windows topped with Herrerian-style pediments and a doorway adorned with the owner's coat of arms, flanked by two mace-bearers and supported by angels. The right side is more dynamic, with a continuous gallery of 12 Tuscan columns on the first floor and an open gallery with 24 Ionic columns on the upper level. A striking three-tiered tower stands beside the palace, enclosing a central courtyard characteristic of traditional Castilian architecture.



HOLY WEEK IN PEÑAFIEL & THE DESCENT OF THE ANGEL, VALLADOLID

Bajada del Angel, Peñafiel, Valladolid



Peñafiel's Holy Week celebrations were declared of Regional Tourist Interest in Castilla y León in 2023. One of its most striking moments is the Descent from the Cross on Good Friday at the Church of San Pablo. However, the highlight takes place on Easter Sunday in Plaza del Coso with the Descent of the Angel, a festival of National Tourist Interest. In this emotional spectacle, a child dressed as an angel descends to remove the mourning veil from the Virgin Mary, symbolising the Resurrection. Peñafiel, in the heart of the Ribera del Duero wine region, is home to iconic landmarks such as its medieval castle, now the Provincial Wine Museum, and the historic Plaza del Coso. The Casa Museo de la Ribera, a beautifully preserved example of traditional architecture, offers a theatrical tour transporting visitors back to the early 20th century. The Ribera del Duero Wine Route includes visits to wineries and tastings, offering a unique oenological experience. The culinary highlight is lechazo asado (roast suckling lamb), cooked in a wood-fired oven.





HOLY WEEK IN BENAVENTE, ZAMORA

Benavente's Holy Week blends tradition, religious devotion, and cultural heritage in a unique setting. Its origins date back to the arrival of the Franciscan and Dominican friars in the 13th century, who introduced the first penitential processions. The Cofradía de la Santa Vera Cruz, founded in 1482, testifies to the enduring religious fervour that has lasted for over 500 years. Marked by solemnity and austerity, the processions take place against the backdrop of Benavente's rich architectural heritage, where Romanesque churches, Renaissance façades, and medieval squares create an unparalleled setting. Each procession becomes an expression of faith and fervour, bringing together cofrades (brotherhood members) and spectators in a deeply reflective atmosphere. The Miserere, the chant to the reclining Christ, and the Via Crucis reinforce the solemnity and spirituality of these days. The religious sculptures, processional floats, and brotherhood artefacts merge with the historical surroundings, where Romanesque churches, Renaissance façades and medieval squares provide an incomparable backdrop for the processional parades.



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

LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



Posada Real Hosteria del Mudéjar, Velayos, Avila



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@hospederiajaramillo.com

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informacion@lasmayas.es

LEÓN

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casadetepa@casadetepa.com

- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA CAMINO**

www.hosteriacamino.com

informacion@hosteriacamino.com

PALENCIA

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www.posadasantamarialareal.com

reservas@alojamientosconhistoria.com

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- **HOTEL RURAL QUINTA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN**

www.quintadelaconcepcion.es

info@quintadelaconcepcion.es

- **POSADA REAL CASTILLO DEL BUEN AMOR**

www.buenamor.net

castillo@buenamor.net

- **HOTEL RURAL RURAL MUSICAL**

www.ruralmusical.es

ruralmusical@gmail.com

- **POSADA REAL CASA DEL BRASILEIRO**

www.casabrasilero.com

reservascasabrasilero@gmail.com

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www.posadamingaseda.com

reservas@posadamingaseda.es

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www.lobones.com

info@lobones.com

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www.elseñoriodelaserreuela.com

elsenoriodelaserreuela@hotmail.com

- **HOTEL RURAL FINCA FUENTE TECHADA**

www.fincafuentetechada.com

hotel@hotelfincafuentetechada.com

SORIA

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- **POSADA REAL LA ALMAZUELA**

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info@almazuela.es

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VALLADOLID

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www.laposadadelpinar.com
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info@laponadadelbuencamino.com

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www.montelareina.es/
reservas@montelareina.es

RUTAS DEL VINO PROPOSALS



Nature is certainly one of the biggest attractions of Las Rutas del Vino de Castilla y León. Hundred year-old vineyards are surrounded by fairytale scenery where flora and fauna coexist in perfect harmony, creating a magical horizon full of contrasts.

Natural, warm and welcoming spaces give our wine and people a unique personality. Nature parks, protected spaces, rivers, tracks and trails will allow you to leave your worries behind and reconnect with yourself. It's nature in its purest form.



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info@rutadelvinoarlanza.com

• ARRIBES WINE ROUTE

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<https://www.rutadelvinoarribes.com/>
hola@rutadelvinoarribes.com

• BIERZO WINE ROUTE

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• RIBERA DEL DUERO WINE ROUTE

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

info@riberate.com

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<https://www.rutadelvinoderueda.com/es/>

info@rutadelvinoderueda.com

• SIERRA DE FRANCIA WINE ROUTE

Integrated within the Biosphere Reserve of the Sierras de Béjar y Francia and the Natural Park of the Sierra de Francia Batuecas.

<https://rutadelvinosierradefrancia.com/>

info@rutadelvinosierradefrancia.com

• TORO WINE ROUTE

Our countless heritage, our wines, our gastronomy, and our people who welcome you with open arms, an experience that leaves its mark.

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

info@rutavinotoro.com

• ZAMORA WINE ROUTE

The ideal place to enjoy perfectly preserved spaces that maintain the essence of the past. It is much more than wine. It is wine tourism.

<https://rutavinozamora.com/>

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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<https://nis.es/from-madrid-to-bilbao.html>
cyl@nis-dmc.com or hello@nis-dmc.com

• TOP RIBERA DEL DUERO

Receptive tour operator in Ribera del Duero: tourism packs, accommodations, wineries, restaurants, recreational options...

www.topriberaleduero.com
info@topriberaleduero.com

• VITORSALAMANCA

Discover the province of Salamanca through half-day or full-day experiences.

www.vitorsalamanca.com
info@vitorsalamanca.com

• RESERVASLEON.COM

Specialised in romantic, cultural and adventure getaways in the city and province of León.

www.reservasleon.com/zona/1/leon
reservas@reservasleon.com

• VERONIA TOURS SL

Customized special interest tours: cultural, pilgrimages, choir, wine and gourmet...

<https://www.veroniatours.com/tours>
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.
<https://lamiradacircular.es/> and <https://lamiradacircular.es/contactar>
contacto@lamiradacircular.es

• **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-picosp-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

• **CULTUR VIAJES**

Cultural getaways for adults focused on Palencia's Romanesque jewels.
www.culturviajes.org/escapadas
info@culturviajes.org

• **CAMINANDOCAMINANDO**

Itineraries for the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on foot or by bike; hiking and cycling in Spain.
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• **SPANISH G EXPERIENCE**

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• **MUNDILEON**

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Pioneer agency, specialized and accredited on the Camino de Santiago at Spain.
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• **ALBUR VIAJES BENAVENTE**

Excellently situated in Benavente, a crossroads point, we offer our knowledge in the field of tourism.
www.viajesalbur.net
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