

CASTILLA

Y

UN VIAJE QUE MEREZCA LA PENA

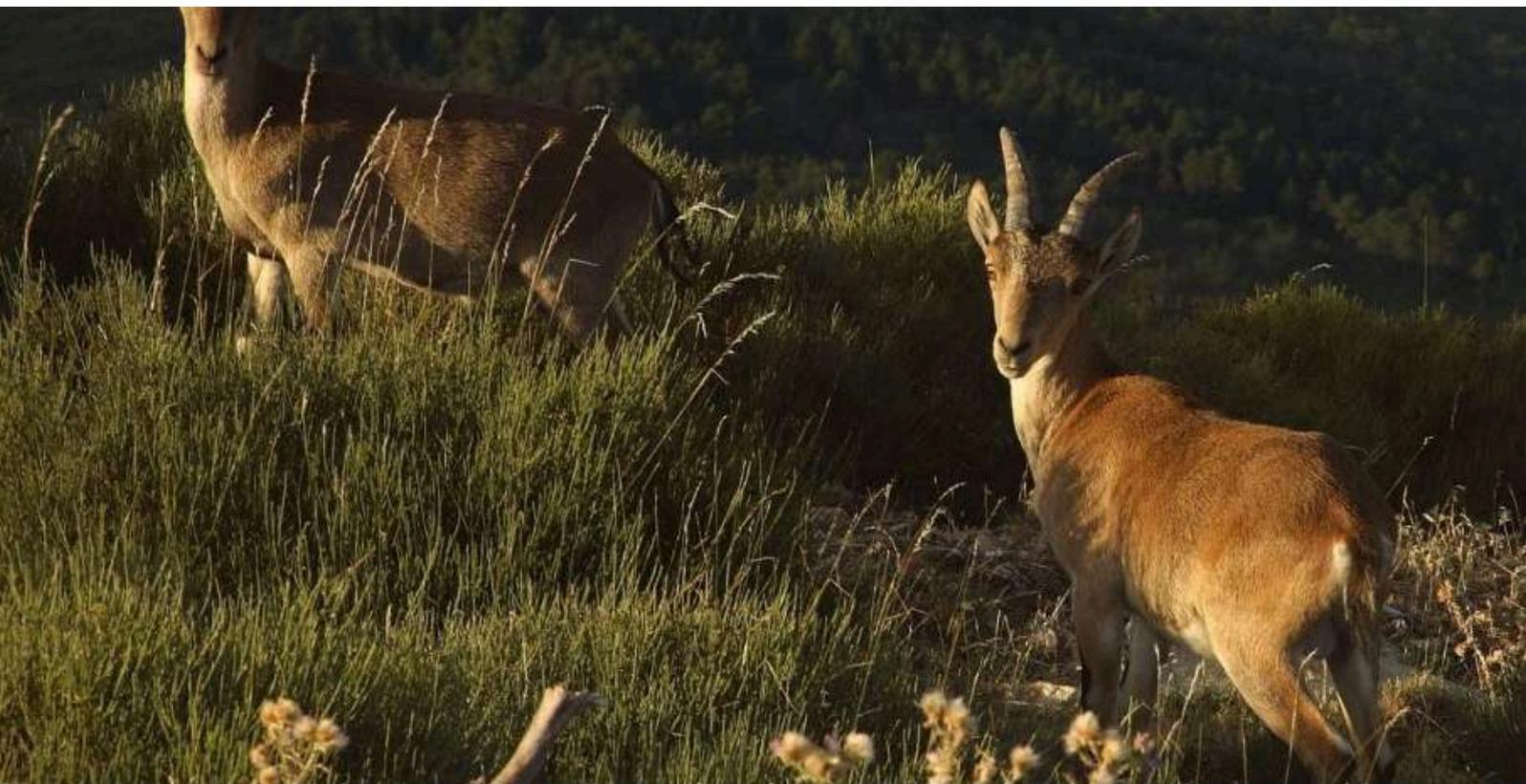
TOURIST NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

LEÓN



BATUECAS AND SIERRA DE FRANCIA NATURAL PARK



In Salamanca, on the border with Extremadura, discover a natural treasure. A space that protects in its caves and in the shelter of the valley an artistic legacy that whispers of human history. Explore caves such as La Batueca, Castañar, Caballos, Monedas and Risca, which house unique cave paintings from the Neolithic. Delve into vast forests of oak, chestnut and cork oaks, and explore valleys crisscrossed by streams and rivers. Observe deer, foxes, the elusive Iberian lynx among cistus and broom and the ibex, which, considered the emblematic species of Spanish hunting fauna, has its habitat on the slopes of the Peña de Francia.

Located in the south of the province of Salamanca, very close to La Alberca, the Las Batuecas Valley is a magical place, a refuge for local fauna and a place chosen by some hermits for their retirement. Discover the Carmelite monastery of the San José Desert, founded at the end of the 17th century and recently restored and an ideal place for those seeking moments of meditation and serenity thanks to its inn.

Visit notable towns such as La Alberca, Miranda del Castañar, Mogarraz or San Martín del Castañar, with cobblestone streets, traditional stone architecture and an atmosphere that transports you to times gone by.

Whether exploring ancient paintings, walking trails that connect with the essence of the land or immersing yourself in charming towns, every corner invites you to discover the unique magic of this place.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Feria Goyesca, Piedrahita, Ávila



GOYESQUE FAIR, PIEDRAHÍTA, ÁVILA

Piedrahíta is a charming town nestled in the Corneja Valley. It is closely linked to the Dukes of Alba, also known as the Lords of ValdeCorneja. This historic town, set between the valley and the mountains, is home to their beautiful palace which forms part of its rich architectural and cultural heritage. Among the notable figures to have stayed at the palace is Goya, who is thought to have painted various portraits of the ducal family during his visit, along with initial sketches for tapestries such as 'The Grape Harvest' and 'Summer'. On the last weekend of June, Piedrahíta hosts the Goyesque Fair, a nationally recognised event. This traditional market, set in the 18th century, features handcrafted goods ranging from local foodstuffs to woodwork, wrought iron, glass, textiles, silver and more. The town is adorned for the occasion, with locals dressing in period costume, offering visitors a taste of the culture and traditions of the Goya era. The town square becomes the focal point, with characters such as the court of Cayetana, Goya himself, and others from the time taking centre stage.



SAN JUAN DEL MONTE FESTIVITIES, MIRANDA DE EBRO, BURGOS

San Juan del Monte, Miranda de Ebro, Burgos

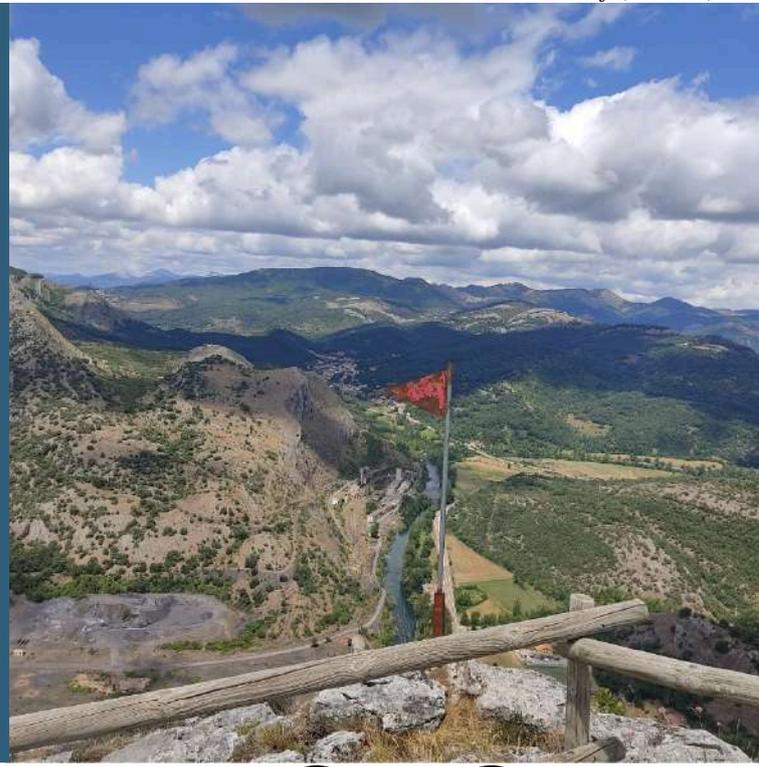


One of the most popular and well-attended festivals in the province of Burgos is San Juan del Monte in Miranda de Ebro, recognised as a Festival of National Tourist Interest. The dates vary each year between May and June, depending on the timing of Easter, with the main day falling on Whit Monday and the preceding weekend, 9 June in 2025. Over 70 groups form Sanjuaneras de Cofrades, each donning traditional outfits of blouse, trousers or skirt, sash, scarf, beret and espadrilles. Lively street bands fill the town with music and colour throughout the celebrations. One of the most anticipated moments is the "resurrection of the drum" on Saturday afternoon. The main event takes place on Whit Monday, when the celebration moves to the Monte de Miranda, home to the hermitage of the saintly hermit who gives the festival its name: San Juan del Monte, whose image is carried in a pilgrimage on foot from the town. At the hermitage, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in northern Spain, a Mass is held in honour of the saint, offerings of candles are made, and traditional dishes such as cod and delgadillas (local sausages) are enjoyed.



VIEWPOINTS AND SWINGS, LEÓN

León is full of magical spots where nature offers truly unforgettable views. Particularly noteworthy are its viewpoints and panoramic swings, which offer perfect vantage points from which to admire the province's striking landscapes. The viewpoints dotted throughout León offer spectacular panoramas, such as the Mirador de Orellán in El Bierzo, overlooking a former Roman gold mine, or the Mirador de Pandetrave in the Picos de Europa, from where you can gaze upon the Western and Central Massifs. Another captivating way to enjoy the natural beauty of León is via its panoramic swings, which not only add visual charm but also promote sustainable tourism and environmental respect. Some of the most popular include the Swing of Lario, on Pico Caleo; the Swing of Librán, the tallest in Spain at 9 metres, located in El Bierzo; and the Swing of Riaño, offering a stunning view of the reservoir.



Danzantes de Cevico de la Torre, Palencia (cedida Adri Cerrato)



THE DANCERS OF CEVICO DE LA TORRE, PALENCIA

In Cevico de la Torre, a corner of Cerrato in Palencia where tradition still thrives, the Danzantes lead one of the most vibrant cultural expressions in the province. Every year, during the Corpus Christi celebrations, they dress in their handcrafted, symbolically rich costumes and perform a dance that is not merely a spectacle but a legacy passed down through the centuries. One of the most moving moments is the ascent to the Church of San Martín. One by one, with flawless precision, they climb the 96 steps, accompanied by the sound of dulzaina and tamboril, forcefully playing their castanets as if each step were awakening the memories of their predecessors. The emotion builds with every step, watched in reverence by the entire village and visitors on this special day. This is more than just a dance; it is a challenge, an act of devotion and dedication symbolising the deep connection between tradition, faith, and the community's ancestors.





THE ACEÑAS TRAIL, ALBA DE TORMES, SALAMANCA

This trail was created in 2013 through a volunteer programme funded by the Provincial Council and led by the University of Salamanca and the City Council of Alba de Tormes. The 4-kilometre circular trail aims to revive and celebrate a traditional route once commonly used to travel between aceñas along the right bank of the River Tormes. It is a self-guided and accessible route that allows visitors to enjoy the town's natural, ethnographic and cultural assets, with the ruins of two former watermills, Quique's Mill and the Bridge Mill, serving as key features. The word aceña comes from the Arabic al-saniya (waterwheel), referring to water-powered flour mills situated on riverbanks, which were more productive than windmills. Along the route, panels and interpretive boards provide information on the area's ethnography, flora, fauna and landscape. Of special note is a stretch of riverside woodland of high environmental value, part of the Natura 2000 Network, featuring poplars, alders, ashes, willows and rushes. The diverse local wildlife includes mallards, moorhens and kingfishers.



Grupo de Danzas de San Pedro de Gáillos (cedida Museo del Paloteo)



STICK DANCE, SEGOVIA

Stick dances (paloteos) are a widespread form of traditional folk expression across the Iberian Peninsula. In the province of Segovia, a rich tradition of written and musical contributions to this form of dance has been preserved. The dance involves short choreographed routines in which performers rhythmically strike sticks together, either their own or those of their partners, in time with the music. These routines, known as lazos or calles, are typically accompanied by dulzainas (a traditional Spanish double-reed instrument) and tamboril (a small drum). A colourful character called "el zorra" adds comic relief, carrying a command staff from which hangs an inflated pig's bladder used to playfully strike any dancer who makes a mistake, or any spectator who gets too close. The dancers' costumes are a defining element of each local tradition, examples include enaguillas, Napoleonic-style outfits, and red-and-black checked scarves. In San Pedro de Gáillos, visitors can explore the Stick Dance Museum, which showcases the history and tradition of these dances in the local area.



ANTONIO MACHADO IN SORIA

The 150th anniversary of Machado's birth will be celebrated on 26 July 2025. Soria is part of the Network of Machadian Cities. Antonio Machado arrived in the city in October 1907, aged 32, after passing the competitive exams to become a French teacher at the Secondary Education Institute that today bears his name. The classroom where Machado taught has been preserved as it was at the time, complete with academic documents he left behind as a teacher. Reading, walks along the River Duero where he found inspiration for his verses, and evenings spent at the Círculo Amistad Numancia, of which he was a member, defined his time in Soria. It was at the boarding house where he lived that Machado met his wife Leonor, and they married on 30 July 1909. The wedding took place in the Church of La Mayor, where just three years and three days later, Leonor's funeral would also be held. She is buried in the Espino Cemetery in Soria. After her death, Machado left the city and only returned once, when the people of Soria honoured him by naming him an honorary citizen on 5 October 1932.



Desembocadura del Río Esgueva en el Río Pisuerga, Valladolid (cedida agencia Ical)



A TOUR THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF VALLADOLID

The city of Valladolid boasts a rich industrial heritage that reflects its economic development since the 19th century. Its two main driving forces were the Canal of Castile and the railway. Around these arose an entire network of factories and industry: flour mills, foundries, workshops, and more. Our journey begins at the Canal of Castile dock which, today, is a popular spot for leisure and nature. Nearby are notable examples of the city's industrial legacy, such as the La Perla flour mill, and further along the River Pisuerga, where the River Esgueva meets it, the "Factory of Light" features a stepped waterfall. We continue to the Electra Popular Vallisoletana and arrive at the North Station (1895), a key site in the city's railway and industrial connection. Not far away lie the La Rosa flour mill (1905) and the Ariza Station complex. We finish at the Parque de las Norias, the former site of the Santa Victoria sugar factory. This route invites visitors to connect past and present, blending history, architecture, and nature into an accessible walk full of memory.





ROMERÍA DE LOS PENDONES, FARIZA, ZAMORA

Also known as the “Pilgrimage of the Viriatos”, this celebration, declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León, takes place in Fariza, a village in the Arribes del Duero Natural Park. In addition to Fariza, the event involves the towns of Mámoles, Badilla, Zafara, Tudera, Cozcurrita, and Palazuelo – and it’s not uncommon for nearby Portuguese villages to take part too. The term “Viriatos” possibly derives from the Lusitanian shepherd Viriatus, who fought the Romans in the 2nd century BC and is believed to have originated from Sayago – with the House of Viriatus located in nearby Torrefrades. The pendón is a type of tall, brightly coloured banner that, over time, has shifted from a martial emblem to a symbol representing each village. These banners stand about nine metres tall and are crowned with a rounded bouquet of vivid green made from rusco or “devil’s holly”. Festivities begin on a Saturday with a mass in honour of Saint Julian. During the pilgrimage, participants can enjoy walking trails, explore natural viewpoints with stunning vistas of the Arribes del Duero, or simply relax along the shores of the Almendra Reservoir.



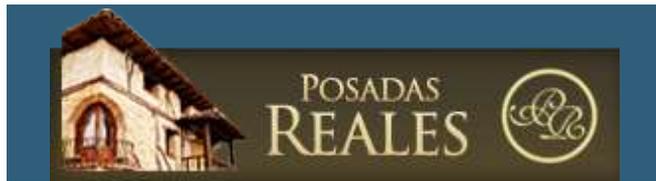
**REMEMBER, IN CASTILLA
Y LEÓN, YOU’LL FIND
EVERYTHING AND
MORE...
WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!!!**



LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



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INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS PROPOSALS

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- **PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO OPTIONS**

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