

CASTILLA

Y

UN VIAJE QUE MEREZCA LA PENA

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

LEÓN



Junta de
Castilla y León

STARGAZING IN SEGOVIA



Clear summer nights in Segovia attract astronomy enthusiasts eager to enjoy the stunning spectacle offered by the province's pristine skies, especially the area between the Hoces of the Duratón and Riaza rivers. This area has been certified as a Starlight Tourist Destination - Hoces de Segovia, a recognition that guarantees the quality of its skies for astronomical observation. Here, visitors can admire constellations, planets and meteors in an environment free from light pollution, making for a truly unique experience. Stargazing is not only a fascinating activity but also an engaging astronomy lesson, offering an enjoyable way to learn about the cosmos. An unforgettable experience, it offers a deep connection with the universe, one of the best places in Spain to do so.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Festival Músicos en la naturaleza, Hoyos del Espino, Ávila (cedida agencia Ical)



MÚSICOS EN LA NATURALEZA FESTIVAL

Set in the incomparable surroundings of the Sierra de Gredos, the Músicos en la Naturaleza (Musicians in Nature) Festival has been held annually since 2006. This event has welcomed internationally renowned artists such as Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Sting, Deep Purple, Pet Shop Boys, The Beach Boys, John Fogerty, Rod Stewart, The Waterboys, Dolores O'Riordan, and Maná, among others, as well as major Spanish performers like Joaquín Sabina, Rosendo, Loquillo, Tequila, Manolo García, Fito, Amaral, Los Secretos and Nacha Pop. This festival masterfully combines the magic of music with the unrivalled beauty of the Sierra de Gredos. Acclaimed artists from a wide range of musical genres take to a stage surrounded by nature, delivering unforgettable performances that linger long in the memory. It has become a key event on the international music scene, thanks to its unique location, excellent organisation and the prestigious line-ups it hosts. In 2025, the legendary Bryan Adams will headline, accompanied by the alternative rock/pop band Texas and the classic Spanish rock group Los Zigarros.



QUINTANILLA DE LAS VIÑAS, BURGOS

Ermita Quintanilla de las Viñas, Burgos



The Hermitage of Santa María or Nuestra Señora de las Viñas, located on the outskirts of the small Burgos town of Quintanilla de las Viñas, is one of the most outstanding monumental examples of early medieval Spanish art. Leading historians suggest two main theories regarding its origins: one identifies it as a Visigothic church dating to the late 7th century, while the other sees it as a Mozarabic structure from the late 9th or early 10th century. It features a remarkable collection of epigraphic inscriptions, including one that refers to 'Flammola', thought to be the name of the woman who commissioned the church. The building is striking for its modest size and its richly symbolic low-relief decoration, found both inside and out. These include vegetal motifs with Eastern influence, geometric patterns and exotic birds. Inside, the most notable feature is the apse, reached via a richly decorated horseshoe triumphal arch. It also preserves beautifully crafted and symbolically significant capitals, including one depicting angels holding the sun and moon, interpreted as representing Christ and Mary.



LA CEPEDA, LEÓN

La Cepeda is a small region in north-western Spain, in the heart of the province of León, nestled between La Maragatería, El Bierzo, Omaña and the Ribera del Órbigo. Though not an officially recognised administrative region, it is historically significant and comprises five municipalities: Quintana del Castillo, Magaz de Cepeda, Villagatón, Villamejil and Villaobispo de Otero. The landscape is varied, combining mountains, valleys and farmland. This privileged location not only offers spectacular views but also creates a unique microclimate favourable to farming and livestock rearing. These are activities that have shaped the lives of its inhabitants for centuries. Art and history have left only subtle traces, which must be sought out in the surrounding environment, and the Way of St James also passes through La Cepeda. Its cuisine is a historic legacy, tied to its position at a crossroads where traditions from the Vía de la Plata and the French Way converge. La Cepeda means relaxation and tranquillity. It is the ideal place for introspection and to enjoy the natural setting.



Geoparque Las Loras, Palencia



BIRD SPOTTING IN THE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK LAS LORAS, PALENCIA

The Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark, located in the north of the provinces of Palencia and Burgos, is a truly unique site. Its otherworldly landscapes are only matched by the incredible variety of birdlife that inhabits them. Look up and you'll likely see griffon vultures soaring overhead with awe-inspiring elegance, or even glimpse the regal golden eagle dominating the skies. On the vertical limestone cliffs of gorges and canyons, you'll find Egyptian vultures, falcons and crag martins. In the flatlands of farmland and moor, you'll see Montagu's harriers, booted eagles and short-toed snake eagles. In the lush riverside forests, countless robins, wagtails and, with a bit of luck, the kingfisher or elusive dipper accompany your walks. Every corner of the Geopark is home to its own winged residents, bringing life and movement to the natural landscape. Watching these birds in their natural habitat is a rare privilege and a reminder of the importance of preserving their environment. Las Loras is not just a visual spectacle, but a sanctuary where nature continues to write its story day by day.





CHERRIES FROM THE SIERRA DE FRANCIA, SALAMANCA

Although their origins are unknown, cherry growing in the Sierra de Francia is a long-standing tradition, with some varieties considered native to the area. They are cultivated throughout the Sierra, with notable concentrations in Madroñal, Cepeda, Herguijuela, Sotoserrano and Garcibuey. Their high quality led to the awarding of a Quality Guarantee Mark by the Regional Government of Castile and León in 2007. Traditionally, cherries were grown in small orchards on mountain slopes as a supplementary source of income for families. Today, traditional dry farming methods are still used on terraced land, which limits mechanisation, so most work continues to be done by hand. Larger-scale plantations are now being developed, especially near water sources in Sotoserrano and Herguijuela, featuring more productive commercial varieties. The crop is well adapted to the local ecological conditions, though frost damage remains a cyclical challenge. Farms are generally small, and cherries are usually marketed through cooperatives.



Museo de los Fueros, Sepúlveda, Segovia



THE FUERO OF SEPÚLVEDA, SEGOVIA

During the Reconquista, Sepúlveda lay on the frontier. To encourage settlement, monarchs granted various privileges to its inhabitants, one of which was the Fuero of Sepúlveda. Confirmed by Alfonso VI in 1076, this was the first frontier charter and established a new model for repopulation, with civil, economic and penal privileges, including tax exemptions. Two documents are preserved: the Fuero Breve or Latin Charter, written in Latin and confirmed by Alfonso VI, and the Fuero Extenso or Romance Charter, written later in Old Castilian. In Sepúlveda, you can visit the Museum of the Fueros. Housed in the Church of Saints Justo and Pastor, the museum offers visitors insight into the town's history, its charters, and the medieval Community of Town and Land. On the third weekend of July, this historic charter is commemorated with a festival in honour of its granting by Count Fernán González. The town comes alive with magic, artisans, theatrical performances and entertainment, transporting visitors back to the medieval era in which the Fuero was born.





CASTILFRÍO DE LA SIERRA, DOLMEN AND FORT, SORIA

Castilfrío is a village in the province of Soria, in the highlands region near the Oncala Pass. The village is arranged around a square lined with grand stone houses, most of which date back to the 17th century. The architectural ensemble showcases the restored traditional style of the Mesta sheep lords, stately mountain homes, some of which bear coats of arms. In 1985, a megalithic dolmen was discovered near the village. This prehistoric burial monument, formed by upright stones topped with massive slabs, is estimated to be between 4,000 and 5,000 years old, though only the foundations remain today. Nearby, visitors can also see the ruins of a significant Celtiberian hillfort, which led to the creation of an Interpretation Centre in the village called “Castros y Pelendones”. This centre is part of the Living Museums network and can be visited almost at any time. The centre houses a scale model of a hillfort, 30 archaeological replicas (including bronze objects, fibulae and ceramics), original soundtracks, and a series of interpretive panels and posters.



OLMEDO, THE VILLAGE OF THE SEVEN SEVENS, VALLADOLID

Iglesia Santa María del Castillo, Olmedo, Valladolid



Located in the Tierra de Pinares region, Olmedo is known as the “Village of the Seven Sevens” thanks to the curious coincidence of having seven churches, seven fountains, seven squares, seven convents, seven gates and seven surrounding villages. Its architecture reflects its medieval past, with an imposing town wall and fine examples of Castilian Mudéjar style, such as the churches of San Miguel and San Andrés. Olmedo is home to the Castilla y León Mudéjar Theme Park, which features scale models of twenty emblematic Mudéjar monuments from across the region. The town is also closely linked to literature through Lope de Vega's play El caballero de Olmedo (The Knight of Olmedo). In tribute to this work, the Palacio del Caballero uses innovative exhibition techniques to honour the play, and its courtyard becomes the stage each summer for the town's Classical Theatre Festival. In terms of food and wine, Olmedo offers traditional Castilian dishes such as roast lamb, and its wines include notable examples from the Rueda Designation of Origin. Olmedo is a place where history, art and tradition meet, offering visitors a rich cultural, architectural and gastronomic legacy.



THE BLUE ROCK THRUSH, ZAMORA

The blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) is an emblematic bird of the province of Zamora, especially common in the region's rocky and rugged landscapes. With deep blue plumage in males and subtler brownish tones in females, it is a favourite among birdwatchers and nature lovers. This bird is remarkable for its agility among rocks, hence its name, as it typically inhabits cliffs, hills and stony terrain. In Zamora, it finds an ideal habitat in the rocky formations of areas such as the Arribes del Duero and the Sayago mountains. Its melodious, resonant song echoes through these solitary landscapes, adding to its distinctive appeal. During the breeding season, it becomes more active and visible, offering a spectacular display for those lucky enough to spot it. The blue rock thrush symbolises the natural richness and biodiversity of Zamora, where birds and nature coexist in a unique and precious ecosystem.

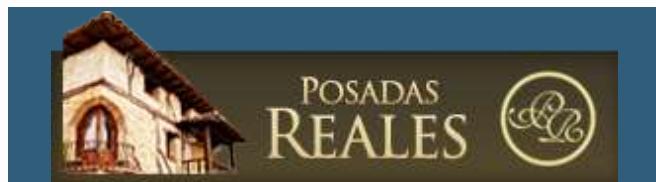


**REMEMBER, IN CASTILLA
Y LEÓN, YOU'LL FIND
EVERYTHING AND
MORE...
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!!!**

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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informacion@lasmayas.es

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ruralmusical@gmail.com

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www.montelareina.es/
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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.

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info@rutadelvinoarlanza.com

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<https://rutavinozamora.com/>

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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

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Wine tourism and family tourism activities.

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Unique Wine & Gastronomy experience in Rueda, Ribera del Duero and Basque Country.

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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

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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

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reservas@binatur.es

• **LA MIRADA CIRCULAR**

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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...
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www.culturviajes.org/escapadas
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