

CASTILLA

Y

NADA QUE SE PAREZCA A TI

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

LEÓN



Junta de
Castilla y León

LA ROBLA COAL TRAIN

Tren Hullero de La Robla, León



The La Robla train was built in 1894 to transport coal production from the mining basins of Leon and Palencia to the powerful steel industry of Vizcaya. In addition to coal, it also transported passengers. This railway line suffered several crises and abandonments over the years and, finally, in 2009 Renfe recovered it for tourist use with a four-day route.

This route passes through many towns where the Old Camino de Santiago or Camino Olvidado also passes, an ancient Jacobean route, today in the recovery phase.

TOURIST PROPOSALS

Palacio de la Mosquera, en Arenas de San Pedro (cedida agencia Ical)



PALACE OF THE INFANTE DON LUIS DE BORBÓN, ARENAS DE SAN PEDRO, ÁVILA

This neoclassical palace stands out for its monumentality and for its splendid main portico of classical proportions conceived as a triumphal arch, as well as its balcony with balustrade, all made of granite. The Infante Don Luis Antonio de Borbón had it built in 1780 by the court architect Ventura Rodríguez on the Arenas hill, which offers beautiful views. Due to the death of the Infante, only the east wing was built, where he lived. Owing to the Infante's enlightened character, he possessed a magnificent library, a cabinet of Natural Sciences and a valuable art gallery, and had Francisco de Goya come to paint portraits of the members of the family. A passionate lover of music, he had a chamber orchestra led by Luigi Boccherini, as well as other illustrious personalities such as Gaspar and Luigi Boccherini. It currently houses the Museo de los Premios Gredos de Pintura on the main floor, which boasts a vast and varied collection of municipal paintings. Some of the prize-winners are renowned painters on the national art scene.



San Juan de Ortega, Burgos



EQUINOX AT SAN JUAN DE ORTEGA, BURGOS

The small village of San Juan de Ortega, a significant landmark on the Camino de Santiago in the province of Burgos, takes its name from the monastery founded in the 11th century by Juan de Velázquez, better known as San Juan de Ortega. Inside the church of the monastic complex, which dates back to the 12th century and features Romanesque architecture, you will find the founder saint's tomb-baldachin, created in the 15th century. The church also contains stunning Romanesque elements, including a sepulchre and the renowned Annunciation Capital, which is especially notable. The illumination process of the capital follows the biblical narrative, as depicted in stone by an anonymous medieval stonemason who skilfully reproduced scenes from the childhood of Jesus. The phenomenon occurs at around 5 p.m. solar time on 21st March (at 6 p.m.) and on 22nd September (at 7 p.m.), but it can be observed throughout the two days before and after.



DECORATED CARTS AND PENNANTS, SAN FROILÁN FESTIVITIES, LEÓN

From 5th to 9th October, the city comes alive with an atmosphere inspired by ancient and medieval times, with period markets where visitors can enjoy falconry displays, traditional craft workshops, hundreds of attractive stalls, and numerous theatrical performances. Our programme also includes fairs dedicated to flowers, pottery, and ceramics. The streets are filled with Pennant parades, tastings of local produce, musical processions, decorated carts, and exhibitions of traditional sports. But San Froilán is also a time for imagination, where children can discover the Enchanted Garden, or young people can enjoy the latest music at the numerous concerts that enliven our squares. During San Froilán, our city takes on a distinctive character, enhancing its personality and making these dates the perfect occasion for first-time visitors to León to discover a welcoming, beautiful place rich in history and tradition.



Monumento Natural de Las Tuerces, Palencia



THE LAS TUERCES ROUTE, PALENCIA

The Las Tuercas Route offers a unique experience within the UNESCO Global Geopark of Las Loras, located in the Palencia Mountain region. This magical place is full of impressive rock formations that have been shaped over 200 million years of geological activity. The wind and water gradually erode the limestone rocks, creating whimsical and original shapes. These karst landscapes resemble an enchanted city, which could well be inhabited by goblins and fairies hidden among the labyrinths of large stone blocks that nature itself has sculpted. The route begins in the village of Villaescusa de las Torres, from where you can ascend to Peña Mesa, the highest and most representative point of the Las Tuercas Natural Monument. For nature and ecotourism enthusiasts, this route is perfect due to its rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, with some species unique to this spectacular location. Additionally, if you enjoy geocaching, there are special routes that make the experience even more enjoyable - a treasure hunt with clues hidden in nature.



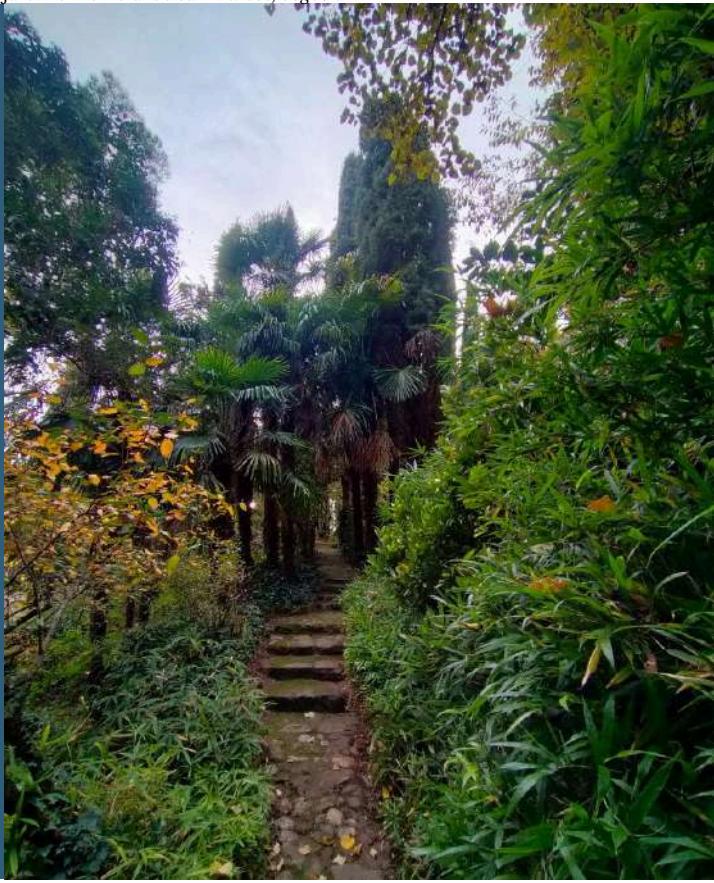


FOSSIL FOOTPRINTS ROUTE, MONSAGRO, SALAMANCA

The village of Monsagro, located at the foot of the Peña de Francia, offers the Fossil Footprints Route: an urban itinerary that reveals and explains to visitors the traces of various organisms from 450 million years ago, visible in the rocks that adorn the houses, streets, and fountains of this village. At that time, a frozen ocean covered much of the Iberian Peninsula, which was situated very close to the South Pole. In these shallow waters, various organisms lived, such as trilobites (now extinct), worms, and other species, whose tracks were imprinted on the sandy seabeds, later transformed into quartzite. Visitors can learn more about these fossils by visiting the Ancient Seas Interpretation Centre.



Jardín el Romeral de San Marcos, Segovia



ROMERAL DE SAN MARCOS, SEGOVIA

Leandro Silva, an important Uruguayan landscape architect, had a fascinating encounter with the city of Segovia in 1971, which led him to purchase a house in San Marcos. In 1973, he began the creation of this garden, introducing species from around the world, carefully considering the climate and the limestone terrain. He utilised the structure of terraces, typical of a medieval garden, and traditional methods for managing water, with canals and pools. Over three hundred species have been recorded here, including some exotic ones like palm trees, which thrive in this area thanks to its microclimate and the richness of its soil. In Leandro's concept of landscape, there is room for subjective elements. He placed great importance on the influence of literature, art, and philosophy in perceiving the landscape. In the gardens he designed, he sought to create a setting that would resonate with human emotions. To him, landscapes could evoke sensory experiences, whether that may be olfactory, auditory, or tactile. Believing that each person carries a garden within themselves, El Romeral embodies the inner garden of Leandro Silva.





CALIPHAL FORTRESS OF GORMAZ, SORIA

The Caliphal Fortress is visible from many kilometres away and is considered the largest fortress of its kind built in its time. Located on the banks of the River Duero, it was a highly contested stronghold throughout the 9th to 11th centuries, frequently changing hands between Christians and Muslims. The castle has an irregular, elongated shape, adapted to the platform of the hill on which it stands. Its walls boast 27 towers. Much of the castle shows evidence of an earlier fortress, though little remains of this initial structure. The main gate of the castle, which has a horseshoe shape, opens on the southern side. Separated by a now-covered moat from the walled enclosure is the alcazar. Here, one finds the Tower of Almanzor, the armoury, the Keep, and the remains of a cistern. On the hillside below the castle lies the pre-Romanesque Hermitage of San Miguel, which houses Romanesque frescoes from the early 12th century, in a relatively good state of preservation.



DOVECOTES IN THE VALLISOLETAN TIERRA DE CAMPOS

Palomar Cuenca de Campos, Valladolid



The dovecote is a distinctive element of vernacular architecture in the well-known region of Tierra de Campos. Its origins date back to Roman times, but it wasn't until the late 18th century that a true culture of dovecotes developed. The most commonly used construction materials are rammed earth and adobe, and their typology varies (square, circular, polygonal, etc.). In the province of Valladolid, notable dovecotes can be found in villages such as Barcial, Bolaños, Villarrín, and Montealegre. Many of them are no longer in use, and some have been converted into interpretation centres, such as the one in Villalón de Campos, now known as the "Palomar del Abuelo". Other dovecotes that can be visited include those in Matapozuelos and the Matallana Estate in Villalba de los Alcores. The region also boasts a vast civil and religious heritage, including castles (Montealegre and Villalba de los Alcores), jurisdictional pillars (Mayorga, Aguilar de Campos), museums (the Bread Museum in Mayorga, the Cheese Museum in Villalón), and churches (Santa María in Villavicencio de los Caballeros).



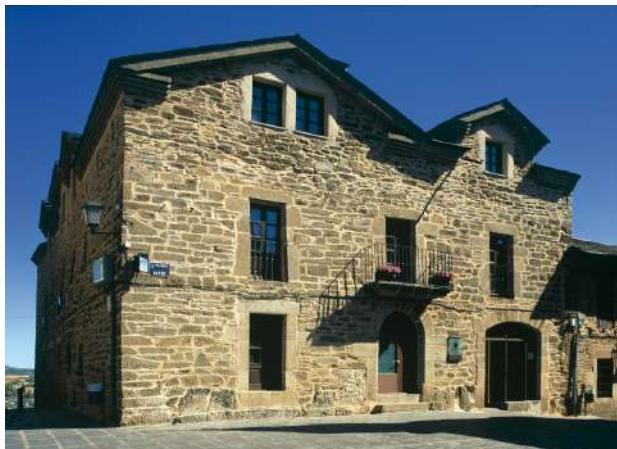
VIRGIN OF THE CONCHA, ZAMORA

This is the popular name for Our Lady of San Antolín, the patroness of the city of Zamora. According to legend, this sculpture was discovered by King Sancho III the Great in 1032 during a wild boar hunt. One of the boars, pursued by the pack of hounds, disappeared into a hole in the underbrush. The king, spear in hand, followed and found that the animal had taken refuge beneath a sarcophagus, and the dogs did not attack it. The king realised that the tomb belonged to Saint Antolín and that the cavity was the ruins of a 7th-century temple that had been abandoned. He ordered the re-establishment of what is now the thriving capital of Palencia on those remnants. Next to the saint's tomb was an image of the Virgin, which was brought to Zamora by weavers from Palencia who came to our city to repopulate what is now the Barrio de la Lana, where she was worshipped in the Church of San Antolín, from which she took her name. The title "Virgin of the Concha" comes from the fact that the current figure, dating from the 19th century, holds a striking silver shell in her lap. Today, she is venerated in the Church of San Vicente. She plays a central role in various traditional and festive events in Zamora, especially during the pilgrimage on the Day of La Hiniesta.



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

LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



Posada Real de Las Misas, Puebla de Sanabria, 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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info@hosteriadelmudejar.com

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hospederia@conventosanfrancisco.es

- **POSADA REAL HOSPEDERIA JARAMILLO**

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info@hospederiajaramillo.com

- **POSADA REAL LAS MAYAS**

www.lasmayas.es
informacion@lasmayas.es

LEÓN

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informacion@elrincondebabia.com

- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA CAMINO**

www.hosteriacamino.com
informacion@hosteriacamino.com

- **POSADA CASA DE TEPA**

www.casadetepa.com
casadetepa@casadetepa.com

PALENCIA

- **POSADA REAL SANTA MARÍA LA REAL**

www.posadasantamarialareal.com
reservas@alojamientosconhistoria.com

SALAMANCA

- **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

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www.casabrasilero.com
reservascasabrasilero@gmail.com

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info@lobones.com

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SORIA

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info@laviejachimenea.com

- **POSADA REAL LA ALMAZUELA**

www.almazuela.net
info@almazuela.es

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ZAMORA

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info@posadaloscondestables.com

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reservas@layensula.es

- **POSADA REAL LA POSADA DEL BUEN CAMINO**

www.laposadadelbuencamino.com
info@laponadadelbuencamino.com

- **POSADA REAL CASTILLO MONTE LA REINA**

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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Feel the essence of Castile with the Arlanza Wine Route. Heart of a land where the history of wine travel through time

<https://www.rutadelvinoarlanza.com/es/>
info@rutadelvinoarlanza.com

• ARRIBES WINE ROUTE

A paradise sheltered between granite canyons and metamorphic rocks, known as arribes, arribas or arribanzos, the banks which outline the Douro River.

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

• BIERZO WINE ROUTE

Wines with their own personality, Nature, Medieval architecture, Major towns, Way of Saint James. We have plans for you!!!!

<http://www.bierzoenoturismo.com>
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• RIBERA DEL DUERO WINE ROUTE

Enjoy your freedom in the Wine Route of Sensations with Origin Denomination.

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info@riberate.com

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

info@rutadelvinoderueda.com

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<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

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

<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.
www.caminandocaminando.com
info@caminandocaminando.com

• **SPANISH G EXPERIENCE**

Customised, cuisine-oriented trips through the north of Spain.
www.spanishgexperience.com/es
travel@spanishgexperience.com

• **SPAIN IS MORE**

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viajesturiscar@hotmail.com

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Break away in the Ribera de Duero area with transportation.
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Experts in Getaways, Cultural Routes, Food Routes, for individuals, groups, events and incentives in Palencia city and province.
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info@spaciolibre.com

• **INCOMING SALAMANCA**

Specialised in cultural, wine and food tourism in Salamanca and in Castilla y León.
www.incomingsalamanca.com
info@incomingsalamanca.com

• **MUNDILEON**

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direccion@mundileon.com

• **ISABEL BOUTIQUE TUR**

Эксклюзивные VIP и MICE путешествия по всей Испании. Культура, виноделие, гастрономия.
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Pioneer agency, specialized and accredited on the Camino de Santiago at Spain.
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Excellently situated in Benavente, a crossroads point, we offer our knowledge in the field of tourism.
www.viajesalbur.net
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