











Globos en vuelo

<u>ACTIVE TOURISM</u> <u>Enjoy your favourite sport in a natural setting</u>

The community of **Castilla y León** is one of the largest in Europe, has a protected natural wealth in many Natural Areas, enjoying remarkable landscape diversity, making this region an ideal place to enjoy the most a wide range of Active Tourism.

Outdoors, enjoying the water or snow, there are many activities to do in Castilla y León.

Interesting suggestions for climbing, canoeing, archery, encourage doing equestrian trails, hiking and biking, in addition to embark on the adventure fun parks or surprised by the stunning landscape of Castilla y Leon that can be seen from above, in a hot-air balloon flight.



Semana Santa (Holy Week) in **Castilla y León** is one of the cultural and popular manifestations that attract the highest number of tourists. During the week Castilla y León becomes transformed into a contemplative and devout place, only interrupted by the sound of drums and trumpets.

As varied as the cultural diversity that attends it, the manifestation itself is demonstrative of the devotion of all the people who celebrate the event in their different ways, although always driven by the same sentiments: passion, fervour and silence. Such is the history, custom and sentiment in these religious manifestations, that many of **the Holy Week festivals in Castilla y León** have been declared festivals of International, national and of Castilla y León tourist interest.





Aranda de Duero has been awarded the title of European Wine City 2020 by RECEVIN, competing with incredible places like Haro, Rueda or La Palma del Condado. Due to the exceptional situation that happened in 2020, it has been extended during the years 2021 and 2022.



In the centre of the extensive fertile plain irrigated by the river Duero, lies the capital of the no less extensive riparian region: **Aranda de Duero**.

Repopulated in the 9th century, the name of this Castilian city appears for the first time in the Council of Husillos held in 1088. However, it already had very ancient settlements from whose languages it takes its name, Aranda, which means "wide plain", while Duero comes from the river's name. In the 13th century, Sancho IV and Pedro I had already granted the town the privilege of royal status, a status that the people of Aranda never wished to relinquish. Proof of this was demonstrated when, during the reign of Fernando IV, Diego López de Haro wanted to take over the town. The tower of the church of Santa María, built in the 12th century as a defensive feature of the town, bears witness to such courtly intrigues.

Court in the reign of Henry IV, where Archbishop Alfonso Carrillo convened a Council in 1473, held in the church of San Juan. Loyal to the cause of Princess Isabella for the succession to the crown, at the end of the 15th century, beginning of the 16th century, the façade of the church of Santa Maria, on which the royal coats of arms can be seen, among other works, was built.

The church, built in the 15th century in the Gothic style, is home to a 17th century altarpiece and a beautiful Renaissance pulpit, carved by Miguel Espinosa and Juan de Cambray, among other works of art.

Also Gothic, although earlier than Santa María, is the church of San Juan. The façade is adorned with a portal of pointed arches supported by delicate spires, and a later image of Saint John the Baptist. In the chapel of the Calderonas you can see a Plateresque altarpiece, with paintings by an unknown artist from the early 16th century.

TOURISM IDEAS IN CASTILLA Y LEÓN

Laguna Duque, Sierra de Gredos, Ávila

PIORNO BLOOM IN GREDOS

Piorno (or Broom in English) plants covers vast swathes of countryside in North Gredos creating a beautiful landscape of yellow mostly during the months of May, June, and July. The many species in the piorno covering in Gredos make an absolutely stunning sight, draping the mountains in beautiful colours and unique fragrances. The variety of piornos and the diversity of habitats ensure the piorno bloom lasts around five months and changes appearance depending on which species are in bloom at each particular time. The Piorno Festival is an annual event that aims to raise the profile of this natural wonder. It includes a programme featuring various tourist attractions: botany and landscapes, the associated wildlife, traditional architecture, uses and customs, folklore, food, crafts, and artistic performances, and much more.







CADERECHAS VALLEY IN BLOOM

The valley of Cadrechas lies between Poza de la Sal y Oña. This small valley is traversed by the Cantabrana and Homino rivers flowing from the limestone peaks to the north and east of the valley which shelter it from the cold of winter and make it a good place to grow fruit, especially apples and cherries. It is expected that the more than 50,000 cherry trees in the valley will bloom together at the end of April and the apple trees will follow suit between ten to fifteen days later. When the fruit trees are in bloom the valley is a "sight like no other" with the orchards covered in a blanket of white flowers. In addition to the fields of fruit trees, the wild forests of Portuguese oaks, holly oaks, and pines, we would recommend the traditional architecture of the area.



Cerezos en flor, Aguas Cándidas, Burgos (cedida agencia Ical)







de Valporquero, León





A STROLL THROUGH THE CENTRAL LEONESE MOUNTAINS

The Hoces de Vegacervera natural area, in the Los Argüellos Biosphere Reserve, sits at the headwaters of the River Torío in the heart of the Central Leonese Mountains. The flow of the water there has carved out a landscape of steep walls over 100 metres high. There are also caves, such as Valporquero which offers us a wonderful collection of stalagmites, stalactites, and columns. It is a spectacular place to visit and the best time of year to do so would be in spring and autumn-winter, when the ice melts and the rains swell the Valporquero river to produce a deafening noise as the water rushes through the chambers of the cave. This route can be taken by following the spectacular gorges carved out by the flow of the River Curueño as it passes through Valdeteja or the fabulous Nocedo collection of waterfalls. The nearby town of La Vecilla offers us pleasant strolls through its historic streets where the Keep and the 16th century Mansion Palace of the Otrero family still stand. Likewise, the local cuisine includes tempting dishes such as the famous cecina de chivo cured young goat meat.

CAMPOS DEL RENACIMIENTO

The Campos del Renacimiento (Renaissance Fields) tour takes in the towns of Becerril de Campos, Paredes de Nava, Cisneros, and Fuentes de Nava. They are found in the southeast of the province of Palencia in the Tierra de Campos county, an area of endless plains where fields of grain form a spectacular landscape where you can take in beautiful sunsets and lose track of time. These picturesque towns are home to towering churches housing breathtaking Mudéjar art. The cradle of the Renaissance of the Iberian Peninsula is also found here in the great artists of the time such as Pedro y Alonso Berruguete who, together with other famous authors such as Jorge Manrique, Alejo de Vahía, o Francisco Giralte, to name just a few, make the Campos de Renacimiento Regional Museum a real treat for anyone with an interest in artistic cultural heritage.



esia Sta Fulalia, Paredes de Nava, Pa





Filigrana Charra, Salamanca

"CHARRA" FILIGREE

Filigree is a form of metalwork on precious metals, usually silver or gold. "Charra filigree" is the name given to the making of certain pieces of goldsmithery that are typical of Salamanca, usually connected with the region's traditional dress. These handcrafted jewels involve a complex production process as the extremely fine threads of metal are woven to create the traditional motifs that make tremendously beautiful and light pieces. The most well-known motif is the "charro" button, made on a frame in the shape of a flower with a central bead from which interwoven threads that create a concentric spiral stem that eight other beads are added to.



SEGOVIA SEMANA SANTA

Declared a National Tourist Attraction, Semana Santa (Holy Week) in Segovia is a great excuse to pay this wonderful city a visit. From Friday of Sorrows to Easter Sunday, in Segovia we have a mix of devotion, tradition, and cultural events which make this an important celebration for many people, whether they are from Segovia or simply wanting to soak up this traditional celebration. Blessed with a wide range of celebrations, it has Stations of the Cross, particularly the one held on Holy Wednesday in Huerta de Los Carmelitas, and numerous processions. These include the main one which could be thought of as split into two parts: from Maundy Thursday afternoon to Good Friday morning, every icon goes on a procession from its church to the Cathedral, where they remain until they all go on a joint processions known as the "Procesión de Los Pasos". This takes place on Good Friday afternoon, they all travel through the old town to the Aqueduct where they are once again split up to return to their respective churches. Make sure to catch the "Santo Entierro" procession on Good Friday at 11 pm. The Knights Templar guard the floats in the torchlight procession from Zamarramala, which includes a 14th century Recumbent Christ.



ión del Domingo de Ramos, s (cedida agencia Ical)



Museo del Traje de Morón de Almazán, Soria (cedida agencia Ical)







PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF TRADITIONAL DRESS. MORÓN DE ALMAZÁN

The Provincial Museum of Traditional Dess was founded in 2021 and is home to a wide selection of collections which include objects and clothing from the past, which were tailored to the needs of a long gone society. Everyday clothes, clothes for balls, wedding gifts, jewellery, and accessories, in addition to the materials and tools needed to make the fabrics. The museum's collections comprise pieces from private collections and are growing in number and variety. Guided tours are available. The museum is housed in the Palace of Los Hurtado de Mendoza and is located in the centre of the Plaza Mayor, which is held to be one of the most beautiful architectural sites from the Spanish Renaissance. The lower part of the square contains the unique Town Hall built during the reign of the Catholic Monarchs whilst the Renaissance Church of Our Lady of the Assumption stands at the top end of the square with a Plateresque steeple. This area is also the site of the Rollo Jursidcional, a column symbolising the administrative status of the region.

VALLADOLID SEMANA SANTA

Declared an International Tourist Attraction in 1980, this is the biggest cultural and religious event in the city, and one of the main attractions for tourists. According to several documents, the first processions date back to the 15th century. However, it was in the early 20th century, thanks to the efforts of the archbishop of Valladolid, Remigio Gandásegui, that the processions would be restored, the procession brotherhoods would reclaim their former leading role, and the National Museum of Sculpture would provide 42 carved icons in polychrome wood, including some of the finest religious iconography by Juan de Juni and Gregorio Fernández. Holy Week starts on Friday of Sorrows and finishes on Easter Sunday. Over this period of religious celebration, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection are commemorated. The numerous processions making their way through the

period of religious celebration, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection are commemorated. The numerous processions making their way through the city faithfully depict these events as they stir the deepest devotion amongst both the locals and the numerous visitors who get caught up in the sound of the music in the deep silence. It would be a tremendous oversight not to mention the Holy Week celebrations in Medina de Rioseco and Medina del Campo, which were also declared international tourist attractions. The descent of the angel in Peñafiel, a National Tourist Attraction, and in Tordesillas, a Castilla y León Tourist Attraction, are also well worthy of mention.



Plaza Mayor de Valladol



Cartel Semana Santa Zamora (cedida José Antonio Pascual Salvador)

ZAMORA SEMANA SANTA

Semana Santa (Holy Week) is the biggest social and religious event in Zamora. The entire city is drawn enthusiastically and austerely into this feeling, which peaks in several intense moments over the ten days in which processions fill the city. Sixteen procession associations turn the streets into a living museum with over forty processions. It was declared a Festival of International Tourist Interest in 1986 and a Site of Cultural Interest in 2015, making it the first Semana Santa in Spain to hold such a distinction. A real gem.

Photo: Semana Santa Advertising poster from the Town Council. Photography by José Antonio Pascual Salvador. An impressive vertical panoramic shot taken from the top of the Palace of Doña Urraca during the procession of the Penance Brotherhood of the Holy Christ of the Good Death. Pick up your copy for free in the Zamora Tourist Information Offices.

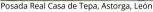




Remember, in Castilla y León, you'll find everything and more... WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!!

LAS POSADAS REALES DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN PROPOSALS







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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RUTAS DEL VINO DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN PROPOSALS





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CASTILLA Y LEÓN 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

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