

CASTILLA

Y

NADA QUE SE PAREZCA A TI

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

LEÓN



Junta de
Castilla y León

ROUTE OF NAPOLEÓN AND THE ENGLISHMAN'S RUN



Palacio Episcopal, Astorga, León

After the Battle of Bailén, King Joseph fled Madrid to seek safety north of the Ebro River. Napoleon, with his imperial pride wounded, gathered an enormous army and marched into Spain on 4 November 1808 to put his brother back on the throne: a month later he would enter Madrid. Yet his plans to subdue the rest of the Iberian Peninsula were upset by the presence of British troops under General Moore in Salamanca. The French set out to meet them in the middle of winter at the same time as the British decided to withdraw to the north-east in what is known as the Englishman's Run.

Napoleon and his tour of Castile and Leon in pursuit of his British enemies are the central aspects of the Napoleon and Englishman's Run Trail. His mark is clear in the places he passed through, such as Tordesillas, where he named the leader of the Santa Clara monastery Abbess Empress, Medina de Rioseco, in a visit to the 1808 battlefield, and Astorga, where he delegated control of the troops before returning to Valladolid. General Moor, aware of the dangers of facing the Emperor, left Salamanca through Toro and Zamora and reached the area between Sahagún and Benavente, where he engaged the French vanguard. It was only the greater French numbers that forced a retreat that was close to ending in disaster.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

La procesión de los romances, Ávila



PROCESSION OF THE ROMANCES IN NAVALUENGA, ÁVILA

The Procession of the Romances takes place in the town of Navalunga, on the afternoon of Maundy Thursday. It dates back to the 17th century, and the verses that make up the romances were published in the book “Rimas Sacras”. The procession departs from the Virgen de los Villares parish church and passes through the streets of the town, the hermitage of La Merced, and back to the church, taking about an hour. Along the route, two groups of “Romanceros” sing the 300 verses that make up the 14 romances written by Lope de Vega (1 to 12) and his friend Valdivieso (13 and 14). On arrival at the church door, while still singing, the so-called “El Pique” starts. This is when the intensity and speed of the singing increases defiantly from one group to the other, until one of the two groups sings a non-sequential verse, and the other is forced to answer with the next. Failure to do so means that the group has lost. In 2009, it was declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castile and León.



LA CECINA FESTIVAL - CÁTEDRA DE SAN PEDRO, BURGOS

Fiesta de la cecina, barrio de San Pedro de la Fuente, Burgos (cedida agencia Ical)

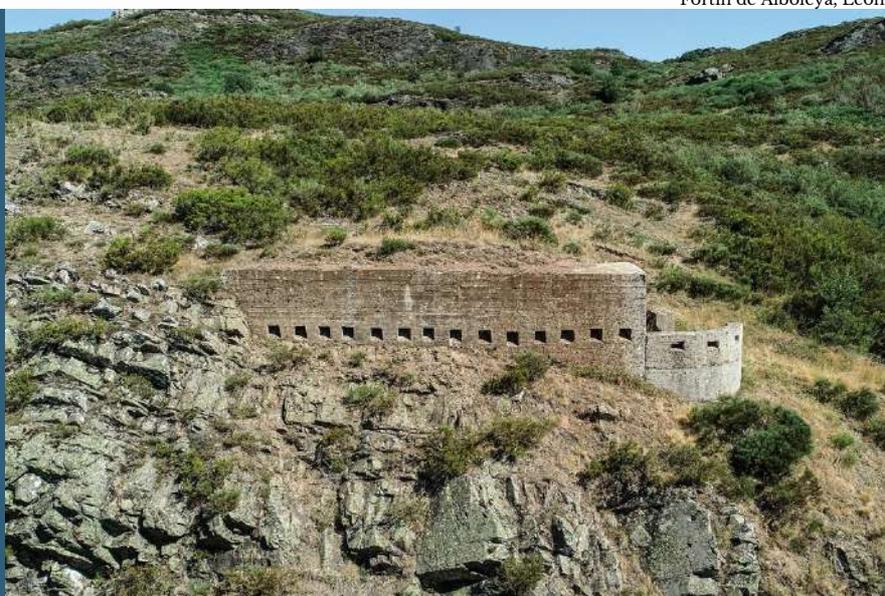


In 2024, the neighbourhood of San Pedro de la Fuente in Burgos will inaugurate the declaration of its celebration on 22 February as a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castile and León: the La Cecina Festival - Cátedra de San Pedro (Chair of St. Peter). The events begin with an official welcome from the authorities and a Mass in the local church. This is followed by the popular tasting of “cecina” (dry-cured smoked beef) and a parade, traditional games championships, and musical performances.... The origins of this unique tradition that consists of distributing cecina are unknown, although it was mentioned in the first publications of the Diario de Burgos newspaper in 1891, and there are also very old records, found in the parish register, of expenses related to the distribution of food, pastries, bread, wine and meat on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. Cecina is undoubtedly the most typical product of the San Pedro de la Fuente neighbourhood and attracts a large number of people who come to enjoy it every year on the 22nd of February. It is also customary for the locals to prepare cecina at home: they marinate, dry and cook the meat; the preparation process is long and begins months before the tasting.



TRENCHES AND FORTS OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, LEÓN

The province of León has hundreds of material remains related to the Spanish Civil War. These are trenches, parapets, forts and other structures that were used for strategic purposes between July 1936 and October 1937. In general, the two sides fought in the towns located in the north of the province, which became part of what was known as the Northern Front or the ports front. The towns around which the front stabilised were the following: Riaño, Lillo, Boñar, La Vecilla, La Robla, La Magdalena, San Pedro de Luna, San Emiliano and Puerto de Leitariegos. Today, there are dozens of hiking routes that allow you to discover this military heritage, most of which are in medium and high mountain areas. Some of the most famous places are Fontañán, Alboleya, Vegarada, Las Fanas and Peña Morquera.



Camino Lebaniego, Frómista, Palencia (cedida agencia Ical)



CAMINO LEBANIEGO CASTELLANO JUBILEE YEAR, PALENCIA

On 16 April 2024, the Door of Forgiveness of the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana will symbolically close, bringing the 74th Lebaniego Jubilee Year to an end. A pilgrimage route that recovers its ancient path for pilgrims who want to live the experience of walking calmly, without haste, without crowds, enjoying the landscape and the scenery of old Castile. The route starts from the Cathedral of Palencia towards the Canal de Castilla and marks the first steps in Tierra de Campos, until it reaches the Montaña Palentina Natural Park, with its valleys and mountains. This path of contrasts will transform our days into a visual spectacle of nature and heritage, while we regain our strength with the rich gastronomy of the whole area, from the suckling lamb of the fields to the steaks and trout of the north, without forgetting the delicious pastries that will accompany us throughout the route and will always cheer up body and soul. There is a Spanish saying that goes "bread and wine shall pave the Camino". We are waiting for you! You can request a pilgrim accreditation or "credencial" by email: oficinadeturismodepalencia@jcyl.es



WINE TOURISM IN SIERRA DE FRANCIA, SALAMANCA

Sierra de Francia, in the province of Salamanca, is the birthplace of the Sierra de Salamanca D.O., a name chosen to avoid any confusion with the wines of France. The vines in this area are cultivated on terraces built into the mountains, in keeping with tradition and adapted to the scarce terrain, on granite and slate soils. The humid Mediterranean microclimate, with dry summers and cold nights, favours the ripening of the native white grapes varieties, Rufete and Rufete Serrana Blanca. We can also find other varieties, such as Garnacha tinta, Tempranillo, Viura, Moscatel de grano menudo and Palomino. The end result is a light, elegant wine with fruity and floral aromas. You can get to know the area by following the Sierra de Francia Wine Route, with its beautiful landscapes, picturesque villages and nature trails.



El Gabarreno. Pedro Klak, El Espinar, Segovia (cedida Ayuntamiento de El Espinar)



THE FESTIVAL OF LOS GABARREROS, SEGOVIA

In the month of March, the festival of “Los Gabarreros” is held, which was declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castile and León in 2003. The festival consists of a parade of carts, axemen, horses and the dragging of pine trees. There is also an exhibition of firewood cutting, where axemen demonstrate the great skill they have developed and must maintain throughout the year. This spectacle is accompanied by music and dancing to the sound of the “dulzaina” (a double-reed wind instrument) and the “tamboril” (a portable snare drum). In short, it is a tribute to the people who made their living from the wood and firewood of the mountains. The “Gabarreros” developed a special technique for chopping up buried stumps, climbing pines and cutting dry branches, unprotected, even at the risk of falling into the void. Many of these “espinariegos” (locals from El Espinar) have won national log-cutting competitions. A number of “hachadores” (axemen) from Guipúzcoa, Navarra and El Espinar take part in these competitions. The first competitions are said to have begun in the 16th century, when the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial was built. During the weekend when these celebrations are held, several restaurants get together to prepare a typical “gabarrero” menu.





MUSEUM OF TAPESTRIES OF ONCALA, SORIA

Oncala is a lovely mountain village located in the highlands of Soria. The village is divided into two districts, separated by a stream and a stone bridge. The parish church of San Millán, in the upper part of the village, houses one of the most impressive collections of Flemish tapestries. Don Juan Francisco Ximénez del Río, Bishop of Segovia and Archbishop of Valencia, originally from Oncala, ordered the construction of the 18th-century church and donated the collection tapestries around 1800. The tapestries are based on the cartoons commissioned by the Infanta Isabel Clara Eugenia from Pedro Pablo Rubens in 1625, for an original set destined for the Convent of the Descalzas Reales in Madrid. The set of tapestries comprises two series: The Apotheosis of the Eucharist (composed of eight tapestries) and the Seria Galante (composed of two tapestries), all made in Brussels and woven in wool and silk.



UNDERGROUND HERITAGE, VALLADOLID

The province of Valladolid has a surprising underground heritage that is becoming a tourist attraction. In Villalón de Campos, the Underground Heritage Interpretation Centre features excavations from the 16th and 17th centuries that were used for trade and smuggling centuries later. Today they are wine cellars where visitors can discover the wealth hidden beneath their feet. The province is full of passages, cellars and wineries. In Trigueros del Valle, the cave houses reveal what life was like between the 18th and mid-20th centuries. Mucientes has more than 200 wineries, grouped in the districts of San Antón and San Pedro, whose first written reference dates back to the 16th century. You can visit the winery's Aula de Interpretación (interpretation room), where you can learn about the traditional production of rosé wine. The wine routes also take you to wineries of this type in La Seca, Nava del Rey, Rueda and Cigales, as well as others that have been converted into restaurants in Peñafiel, Cabezón, Fuensaldaña and many more. In short, our province hides an immense underground heritage that leaves no one unimpressed.





LAGOONS OF VILLAFÁFILA, ZAMORA

Pilgrims travelling along the Vía de la Plata (the Silver Way) pass very close to the Nature Reserve of the Lagoons of Villafáfila. They form one of the most important wetlands in the north of the peninsula and the most important enclave for aquatic, steppe and migratory birds in Castile and León. The Nature Reserve has several wildlife observatories in the natural lagoons, in Villafáfila, Villarrín and in the abandoned village of Otero de Sariegos. In addition, the Park House explains the entire ecosystem in great detail using a variety of media. Villafáfila is where thousands of birds choose to spend the harshest part of the winter, or they use it as a stopover on their journey south. These lands are home to the highest concentration of great bustards in the world, around 2,000 birds, and a large concentration of greylag geese, as well as many other birds. Something that not everyone seems to know is that the Lagoons of Villafáfila are saltwater. Since prehistoric times, this type of soil has facilitated the extraction of salt in this area, which was important and coveted, as there was no other place nearby where this mineral could be extracted, so throughout history the salt marshes were controlled by nobles, kings and the Church. So, come as a pilgrim and discover its riches, especially in winter.



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



LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



Posada Real La Posada del Pinar, Pozal de Gallinas, Valladolid



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.



ÁVILA

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www.loscincolinajes.com
info@loscincolinajes.es

- **POSADA REAL QUINTA DE SAN JOSÉ**

www.posadaquintasanjose.es
posadaquintasanjose@hotmail.com

- **POSADA REAL DEL INFANTE**

www.posadadelinfante.es
info@posadadelinfante.es

- **POSADA REAL EL LINAR DEL ZAIRE**

www.ellinardelzaire.com
info@ellinardelzaire.com

- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA DEL MUDÉJAR**

www.hosteriadelmudejar.com
info@hosteriadelmudejar.com

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- **POSADA REAL HOSPEDERÍA CONVENTO SAN FRANCISCO**

www.conventosanfrancisco.es
hospederia@conventosanfrancisco.es

- **POSADA REAL HOSPEDERÍA JARAMILLO**

www.hospederiajaramillo.com
info@hospederiajaramillo.com

LEÓN

- **HOTEL RURAL EL RINCÓN DE BABIA**

www.elrincondebabia.com
informacion@elrincondebabia.com

- **POSADA CASA DE TEPA**

www.casadetepa.com
casadetepa@casadetepa.com

- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA CAMINO**

www.hosteriacamino.com
informacion@hosteriacamino.com

PALENCIA

- **POSADA REAL SANTA MARIA LA REAL**

www.posadasantamarialareal.com
reservas@alojamientosconhistoria.com

SALAMANCA

- **HOTEL RURAL QUINTA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN**

www.quintadelaconcepcion.es
info@quintadelaconcepcion.es

- **HOTEL RURAL RURAL MUSICAL**

www.ruralmusical.es
ruralmusical@gmail.com

- **POSADA REAL CASTILLO DEL BUEN AMOR**

www.buenamor.net
castillo@buenamor.net

- **POSADA REAL CASA DEL BRASILEIRO**

www.casabrasilero.com
reservascasabrasilero@gmail.com

SEGOVIA

- **POSADA REAL MINGASEDA**

www.posadamingaseda.com
reservas@posadamingaseda.es

- **POSADA REAL EL SEÑORÍO DE LA SERREZUELA**

www.elseñoriodelaserrezuela.com
elsenoriodelaserrezuela@hotmail.com

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www.lobones.com
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SORIA

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ZAMORA

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info@laposadadelbuencamino.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.



- **ARLANZA WINE ROUTE**

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**

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<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>
info@enoturismoenelbierzo.com

- **CIGALES WINE ROUTE**

Do wine tourism in the Campiña del Pisuerga, with our underground cellars, wine castles, Castilla Waterway (Eurovelo 1) and the [GR296 Trail](#)

<https://www.rutadelvinocigales.com>
info@rutadelvinocigales.com



- **RIBERA DEL DUERO WINE ROUTE**

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info@riberate.com

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

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

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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

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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.topriberadelduero.com
info@topriberadelduero.com

- **VITORSALAMANCA**

Discover the province of Salamanca through half-day or full-day experiences.
www.vitorsalamanca.com
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- **RESERVASLEON.COM**

Specialised in romantic, cultural and adventure getaways in the city and province of León.
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- **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/contactarcontacto@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-picos-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

- **SPANISHG G EXPERIENCE**

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

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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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- **INCOMING SALAMANCA**

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www.incomingsalamanca.com

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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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www.viajesalbur.net

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