

CASTILLA Y LEÓN



Esclusa del Canal de Castilla, Ribas de Campos, Palencia

CANAL DE CASTILLA

This impressive piece of hydraulic engineering was built in the 18th and 19th century to get rid of surplus grain.

Initially designed as a means of transporting goods, the canal eventually closed to traffic in the mid 20th century. Today an Asset of Cultural Interest, since 1959 its principal function has been that of irrigation, although it is also one of Castilla y León's most popular tourist routes, admired for its stunning natural landscapes, and the wealth of artistic and historic heritage to be found in the cities that stand on its banks.

150 years later, this artificial river which flows 205km along the Meseta between the province of Palencia and Valladolid, has become an interesting cultural trail, offering the architectural diversity of its three branch roads which take tourists along the Ramal del Norte, the Ramal del Sur and the Ramal de Campos. The route combines the natural environment found along the riverbanks with the history and tradition of the towns.

The Northern Branch begins in Alar del Rey and ends in Ribas de Campos, where begins the so called Campos Branch, reaching Medina de Rioseco. The Southern Branch begins at the bifurcation of the aforementioned Campos Branch in El Serron and continues to the Pisuerga city, Valladolid.



TOURISM IDEAS IN CASTILLA Y LEÓN



Palacio de los Serrano, Ávila

SERRANO PALACE, ÁVILA

On a visit to the beautiful city of Ávila, you will find numerous Renaissance palaces, including the 16th century Serrano Palace. It belonged to the noble Serrano family and over time has been used by various institutions. Currently, it houses the “Cultural Space” of the Ávila Foundation. The door and main facade connect two squares: Italy and Navillos squares, joined by the Romanesque church of Santo Tomé el Viejo, where the Palace of the Deans is located. The main entrance features the family coats of arms on either side of a central medallion, whilst the porticoed courtyard inside dominates. The palace has three floors and uses a changing combination of granite, masonry, and natural stonework in the corners and bays. Make sure to take in the large balconies flanked by pilasters and crowned with cornices on the lower and main floors and the small windows in the attic, which also have pilasters. The house also maintains an internal garden or “orchard”, called the “Mediodía”

(midday) garden and a magnificent half barrel vault which used to be the wine cellars and is now one of the exhibition rooms. The palace was renovated at the start of the century. In this project, the old structures were combined with new ones using materials such as concrete, glass, and wood. It has recently been declared an official Asset of Cultural Interest in the Monument category.



CASCADAS DE FUENTEODRA TRAIL, BURGOS

When it rains heavily, especially in the winter and spring, a wide variety of waterfalls can easily be enjoyed. These make for the biggest tourist attraction in the hamlet of Fuenteodra, nestled in the Las Loras Geopark. As this is a limestone area, the water filters through the rock looking for cracks to flow out through as a “stream”, waterfall, or spring. On this short 1,500 metre trail following sheep paths that trace the hill westwards up to 4 waterfalls are to be found, each more interesting than the last: the Odra waterfall, the Manapita spring, and Los Aceites and Corral pools. The most famous and impressive of all, as it boasts the most water, is the Yeguamea waterfall.



Cascada de Fuenteodra, Burgos



Grajal de Campos, León

GRAJAL DE CAMPOS, LEÓN. HISTORIC TOWN IN THE SOUTH OF LEÓN

The town of Grajal de Campos, just 5km from Sahagún, is located right on the Camino de Madrid trail to Santiago. This historic-artistic site rose to prominence in the late 15th century with Don Hernando de Vega, 5th Lord of Grajal and Master of the Order of Santiago. The Castle, Palatial Home, and part of the Church of San Miguel were built in the 16th century. Grajal Castle was the first full artillery castle in Spain. The Palace of the Counts of Grajal stands as an example of the Palatial Homes of Renaissance-era Spain. The internal courtyard shapes the different areas of the palace and the cloister-style staircase is another of the treasures this home contains. The slender tower of the church,

dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel, is the subject of a saying that translates roughly as “it has five corners and if it had one more it would have four”. Other notable buildings in the town include the 12th century Shrine of the Virgen de las Puertas, housed in the arch that remains of the town walls, the Convent of the Virgen de la Antigua de San Francisco, and the Hospital de Nuestra Señora de la Antigua. The cuisine of Grajal is similar to that in “Tierra de Campos”. Legumes, freshwater crabs, game, and sacrificial pork sausages feature prominently, as do suckling lamb and free-range chicken and sweets such as canutillo cream-filled pastries, rosquilla doughnuts, and the leche frita dessert.



MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S STORIES AND SCIENCE, PALENCIA

Children and grownups can enjoy this wonderful museum that looks at children's stories from a different science-based point of view. How much science is there in children's stories? A lot more than we might think. In Paredes de Nava, in the beautiful 15th century Late Gothic Church of San Martín the "Jardin de Delicias" (Garden of Delights) has been brought to life. Here the magic of numbers meets the excitement of classic tales, such as "Alice in Wonderland", "Pinocchio", "Thumbelina", "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp", "The Three Little Pigs", and "Cinderella". Outstanding artist Rosana Largo has recreated a dreamlike world by hand, fashioning each and every detail in this wonderful fantasy that makes for a really joyful experience as you learn and have fun at the same time. What's more, this dog-friendly place allows dogs to come in with you.

For enquires about opening hours, prices, and more information:



Museo de los Cuentos y la Ciencia, Paredes de Nava, Palencia



Puentes de Ledesma, Salamanca

THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF LEDESMA, SALAMANCA.

Ledesma, declared a "Historic Site" in 1975, is located 35km from Salamanca. Its strategic location, defended by the River Tormes, means that there have been settlements here all the way back to prehistoric times, as shown by the menhir and verraco in the area. The Romans named it Bletisama after consul Bleto, who was in command here in 93 CE. The beautiful Puente Mocho bridge from this time is still standing. The town was repopulated in 1161 when work on the walls and the fortress began. The small Romanesque Church of Santa Elena, located beyond the town walls, is also from this period. In 1462, Henry IV of Trastámara gave the lordship of Ledesma to Don Beltrán de la Cueva, who became its first count and rebuilt the fortress. The 15th century was its golden age and several interesting civil buildings were built then, such as the Casa Consistorial town hall, the Palace of Don Beltrán, and the Church of Santa María la Mayor.



CUÉLLAR, SEGOVIA

Capital of a large region of Towns and Lands, this town is located in the northeast of Segovia province, practically an equal distance from both the provincial capital and Valladolid. Situated in "Tierra de Pinares", this town saw the three cultures of the Iberian Peninsula, "Jews, Muslims, and Christians", live alongside one another, as we can see in its Jewish Quarter, Morería (Moorish Quarter) street, the Muslim Santa Clara necropolis, and its churches. Cuéllar is an important centre of Mudéjar architecture with churches such as the Churches of San Andrés, San Pedro, San Esteban, and San Martín. Moreover, the town walls are one of the most important in Castille and Leon. Some thirteen hundred metres of the original two thousand metres are preserved. It also has tanneries, palaces, mansions, and the Castle of Alburquerque. This was first recorded in 1306 and it has an internal courtyard with a double gallery of 16th century segmented arches, halls with decorated ceilings, crafted from stucco and carved beams. An interesting detail is that the first recorded windmill in Castille and Leon, dated to around 1496, is found at the back of the "La Heurta del Duque" park. The celebrations for Our Lady of the Rosario and the bull runnings are of particular note, and have been declared International Tourist Attractions.



Castillo de Cuellar, Segovia





Almazán, Soria

THE TOWN OF ALMAZÁN, SORIA

A quintessential Castilian square, the Plaza Mayor de Almazán is surrounded by extraordinary spectacular buildings. Situated at the summit of a vantage point next to the River Duero, this is an exceptional public space that shares the limelight with the 12th century walls, the 12th century Church of San Miguel, and the 15th century Palace of Los Hurtado de Mendoza. The Almazán Visitor Reception Centre, located on the ground floor of the Palace of Los Hurtado de Mendoza, houses the Tourist Office and the rest of the site is given over to two halls converted into museum spaces, which contain a permanent collection of four 15th Flemish panels and explanatory audiovisual resources that recount the history of the town. A tour around the rest of the town includes: the gates of the town walls (12th and 13th century), the Royo de las Monjas (Nuns' Pillory), and the Ronda promenade (medieval tower along the Duero riverside), the Shrine of Jesus, the Church of Nuestra Señora del Campanario, the San Vicente Cultural Centre, the Arboleda Park, the Convent de la Merced, and a lovely panoramic view from the Cinto area.



EL CAMPO GRANDE, VALLADOLID

Just like Central Park in New York and the Retiro in Madrid, Valladolid has the Campo Grande, the 10 hectare lungs of the city at its very centre. It is home to over one hundred species and a wide variety of trees, the most numerous of which are the Slender Lady Palm, the Chestnut, and the Cypress. The most typical animal to be seen are the peacocks. Isabel Arangure gave the first two specimens to the Town Council as a gift in 1930. The Campo Grande currently has more than 40 of them. You can also find squirrels and other types of water bird. After strolling through the park, a trip in a rowing boat on the pond is a great treat for children.



Campo Grande, Valladolid



Los Carochos de Riofrío de Aliste, Zamora
(cedida por el Patronato de Turismo de la Diputación de Zamora)

LOS CAROCHOS DE RIOFRÍO DE ALISTE, ZAMORA

Los Carochos de Riofrío de Aliste, Zamora, is a winter masque that takes place on 1 January. It is also known as the "Obisparra". 11 people perform the spectacle. One main group features the devils, the big one and the small one. A second group is made up of Roma people, filandorros (spinners) or empapelados, who are covered in strips of paper. There is a third troupe, known as the blind, which includes the Ciego (the Blind Man) and the Molacillo (a soldier). The parade is rounded off by the Madama (Lady), the Galán (the Handsome Man), the man wearing a Cerrón (Leather Pouch), the Tamboril (Tabor player), and the Lino (Man in Linen). After performing complex activities heavy in tradition, they make their way to the Church square, which is called the Sagrado (Sacred). There is also a traditional meal on this day, which comprises a chanfaina stew, botillo pork intestine stuffed with potatoes and collard greens, and various products from the traditional slaughtering of pigs. At some point in the Neolithic period, agricultural



peoples switched from worshipping their ancestors to venerating fertility demons. We can only say that some of those old fertility spirits and demons live on today in a small place in the Sierra de la Culebra mountains thousands of years later. In the tradition of Los Carochos, some magical elements (ashes, flagellations, vine branches, hammer) play out that we can consider utterly fascinating fertility rites. (Encyclopedia of Zamora and its province" by Javier Saiz Saiz)

**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



Posada Real El Indiano, Cidones, Soria



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@posadadelinfante.es

- **POSADA REAL QUINTA DE SAN JOSÉ**

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posadaquintasanjose@hotmail.com

- **POSADA REAL EL LINAR DEL ZAIRE**

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info@ellinardelzaire.com

- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA DEL MUDÉJAR**

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info@hosteriadelmudejar.com

Burgos

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informacion@elrincondebabia.com

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- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA CAMINO**

<https://www.hosteriacamino.com>
informacion@hosteriacamino.com

Palencia

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<https://www.posadasantamarialareal.com>
reservas@alojamientosconhistoria.com

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castillo@buenamor.net

- **HOTEL RURAL MUSICAL**

www.ruralmusical.es
ruralmusical@gmail.com

- **HOTEL RURAL FAENAS CAMPERAS**

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www.realposada.com
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- **POSADA REAL LOS TEMPLARIOS**

www.posadalostemplarios.com
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- **POSADA REAL DON MARCOS**

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hoteldonmarcos.sl@gmail.com

Valladolid

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reservas@montelareina.es

RUTAS DEL VINO DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN PROPOSALS



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<https://rutavinozamora.com/>

info@rutavinozamora.com

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**

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.

www.destino-divino.com/experiencias-en-familia/

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- **NIS-NORTH INCOMING SERVICE SL**

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.topriberadelduero.com

info@topriberadelduero.com

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- **RESERVASLEON.COM**

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www.alacarta.es

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Receptive tour operator for all pilgrimage routes on the Iberian Peninsula.

www.mundicamino.com

travel@mundicamino.com

- **WELLBEDS**

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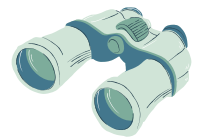


- **CAMINANDOCAMINANDO**

Itineraries for the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago on foot or by bike; hiking and cycling in Spain.

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- **THEWAYTOURS**

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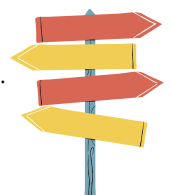
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www.viajesalbur.net

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