

CASTILLA

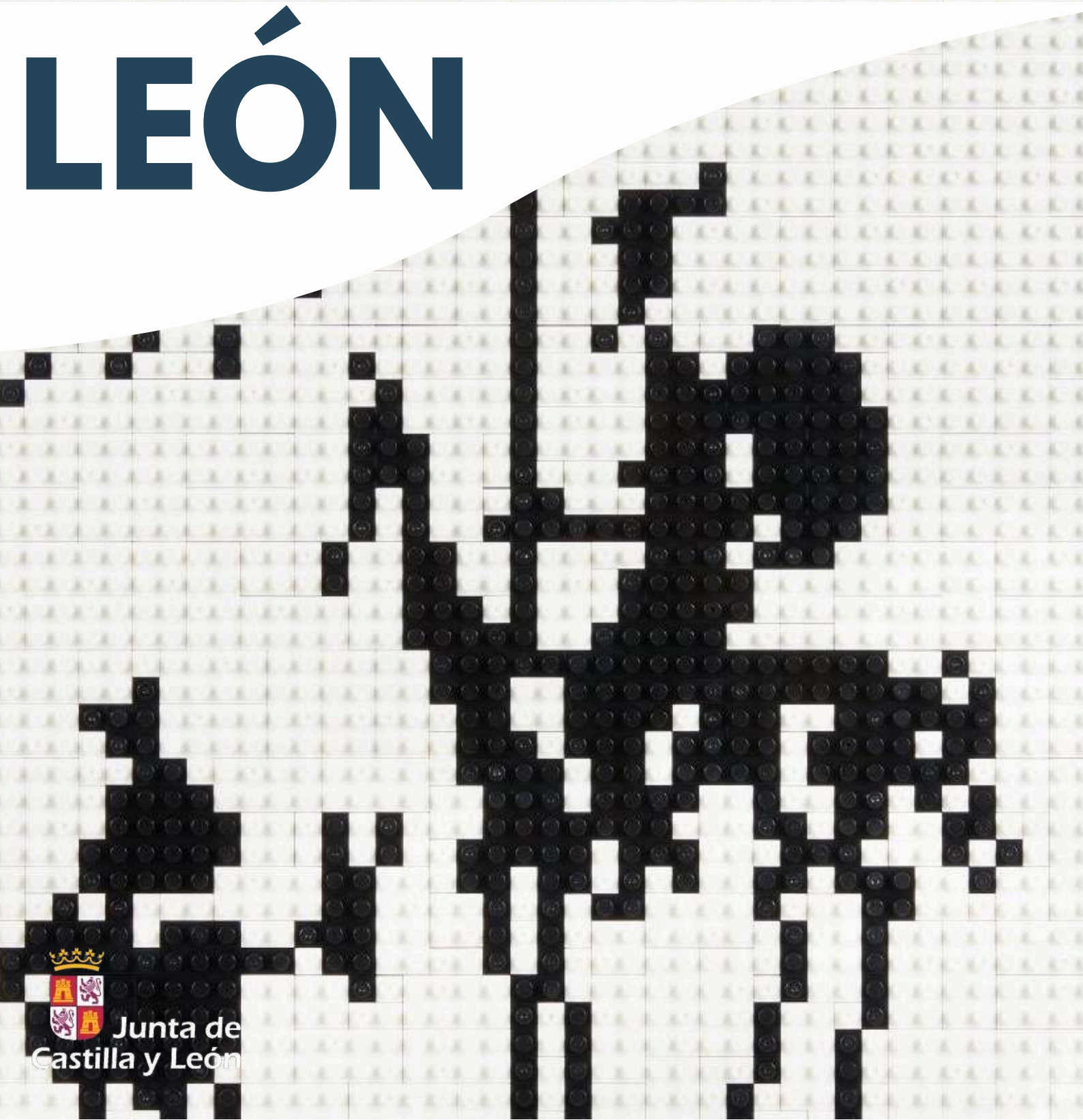
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NADA QUE SE PAREZCA A TI

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

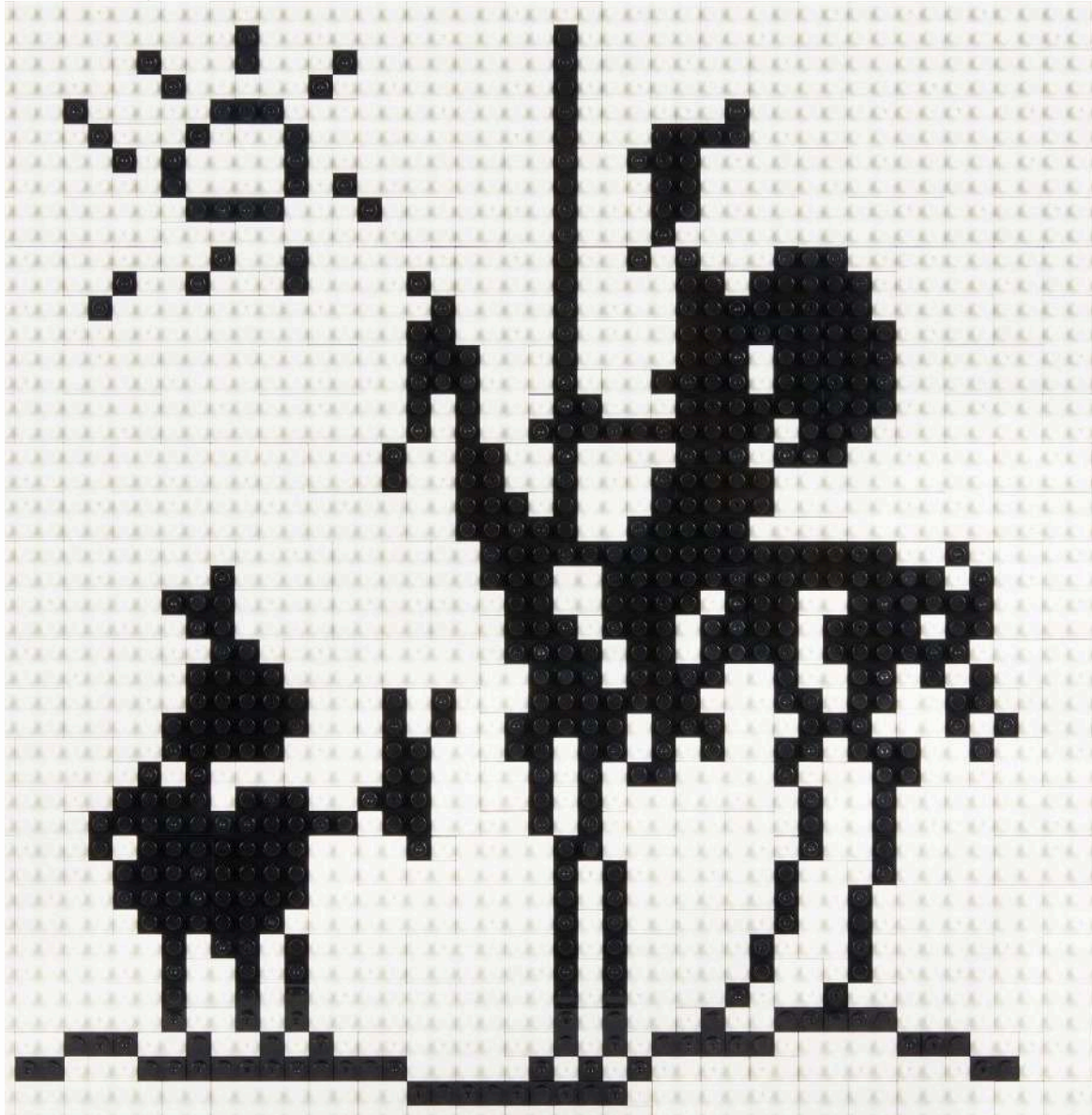
DECEMBER 2024

LEÓN



AI WEIWEI. DON QUIXOTE MUSAC LEÓN

Ai Weiwei, "Don Quixote", 2024. Cortesía Ai Weiwei Studio



Ai Weiwei: Don Quixote is an extensive exhibition featuring pieces produced over the past 20 years of the career of this essential creator in the international art scene, known for his ability to merge art and political activism. It is also the first exhibition to extensively showcase his series of paintings made with LEGO bricks. In reference to these, the artist states: "LEGO, like ancient mosaics, textile and carpet designs, or wooden movable-type printing of the Song Dynasty (ca. 1000 AD), embodies a sense of timelessness."

The project will also feature a selection of installations and monumental works. Among them, if there is one seminal piece that will be on display, it is La Commedia Umana (2017-2021), a chandelier made with 2000 pieces of black Murano glass and standing over eight meters tall, which speaks to us about the cycle of life and death. Its production lasted four years. The exhibition traverses Ai Weiwei's central themes, intertwining autobiographical aspects with issues such as the refugee crisis, international politics, or the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of human development.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Puente Romano sobre el Río Adaja, Ávila



BRIDGE OVER RIVER ADAJA, ÁVILA

The Roman city of Avila needed a bridge to cross the river Adaja. A beautiful bridge near the city walls in the southern part of the city. A bridge capable of connecting the "decuman" gate to the west with the opposite bank of the river. All that remains of the primitive Roman bridge are the abutments hidden at the shore. The bridge you see dates from the 12th century, the city's golden age. It currently has three arches supported by piers with ashlar reused from the Roman necropolis. The cutwaters are of this period, with later consolidation work. It is a bridge that remains a rich architectural work of art for the city and its visitors. It has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in the Monument category.



Cartuja de Miraflores, Burgos



WINTER SOLSTICE AT THE MIRAFLORES CHARTERHOUSE, BURGOS

The monastery of the Carthusian Order is located a few kilometres from the centre of Burgos. In 1442 there was a fire that destroyed the building. The new construction was begun by King Juan II, but the final push came with the accession of Queen Isabel the Catholic. The church, with a single nave, has a large ribbed vault with tiercerons. The original stained glass windows were brought from Flanders in 1484. The high altarpiece by Gil de Siloé, completed in 1499, is one of the best examples of late European Gothic, both for the detail of its carving and the complexity of its iconography. On the winter solstice, around 21 December, at around 5pm, a ray of sunlight enters through the circular window of the main façade of the charterhouse and for a few minutes illuminates the circle of angels surrounding the crucified Christ in the centre of this main altarpiece. In front of the altarpiece is the large tomb of Juan II and Isabel of Portugal, also by Gil de Siloé between 1489 and 1493.



HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENTS, LEÓN

Historical re-enactments in our towns and cities are a fascinating way to relive the past and connect with our rich cultural heritage. These activities not only appeal to history buffs, but also offer a unique experience for the whole family. In León, there are various festivities that allow participants and visitors to immerse themselves in past eras, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. During these festivities, participants dress in period costumes, adding an authentic and visually appealing touch to the experience. León, with its impressive architectural heritage, is the perfect setting for re-enactments such as La Fiesta de Las Cabezadas, Las Cantaderas, El Natalicio del Águila The province also hosts important events, such as the re-enactment of historical battles in places such as La Bañeza or Astorga, Villadangos, the Medieval Jousts of the Passo Honroso in Hospital de Órbigo, the Night of the Templars in Ponferrada, a Night in the Trenches... These activities are not only entertaining but also educational, allowing participants to learn about local history in a fun and interactive way.



Museo Provincial de Palencia



MUSEUM OF PALENCIA

The adventure that leads us to the Museum of Palencia is a wonderful play of contrasts. In the old Casa del Cordón, the only civil Renaissance building left in the city of Palencia, a Brutalist architectural style was chosen, with perfect harmony between the building materials of the 16th century and concrete as a new structural and decorative element. All this to house a magnificent archaeological collection, from prehistoric times, through the Vacces and Cantabrian peoples, the Roman period and the Middle Ages, with Visigothic and Romanesque pieces, and the recent acquisition of a work by Pedro Berruguete. A perfect symbiosis that will not leave anyone unmoved. Polished axes, decorated bones, bowls, bronze sculptures, hospitality teapots, arrowheads, fine pottery, marble busts, mosaics, coins, brooches, corbels, tombs, paintings and much more, to enjoy a spectacular time touring the art and history of this impressive Museum of Palencia.





FILM ARCHIVE OF CASTILLA AND LEÓN: GADGETS TO FASCINATE YOU, SALAMANCA

Since 1999, the Film Archive of Castilla y León has been hosting the permanent exhibition 'Artilugios para fascinar' (Gadgets to fascinate you), with pre-cinematographic devices from the collection of Salamanca filmmaker Basilio Martín Patino. The contributions of the heirs of Luis González de la Huebra, Fernando López Heptener, José Núñez Larraz and the collaboration of the Spanish Film Archive, the Girona Film Museum and the National Library are also worthy of mention. The exhibition brings together more than two hundred items from before and after the advent of cinema (magic lanterns, zoetropes, praxinoscopes, cameras, projectors, etc.), with their images and accessories, as well as contemporary reproductions that visitors can interact with. Includes a short magic lantern session in the traditional style.



MONASTERY OF SANTA MARÍA DE SACRAMENIA, SEGOVIA

An important Cistercian monastery built between the 12th and 13th centuries and founded by Alfonso VII. In 1674 it burned down and in 1835, with the disentailment of Mendizábal, it was sold at public auction. But the most striking thing about this building is that its new owners, in a move of dubious legality, sold the cloister and other outbuildings to the megalomaniac William Randolph Hearst. After various administrative problems, they ended up in Miami (Florida, USA), where they have been since 1954. Today, in Coto de San Bernardo, 2 kilometres from Sacramenia, we can visit the church that was and is the most important element of the monastery. It is a large church. In fact, it is the third largest in the province, behind the Cathedral and the Church of Villacastín. Its chevet has five semicircular apses, one in the centre and two on either side. The layout of these apses is unusual in European Cistercian monasteries, making it a unique site. We can also visit the cilla, the monastery's old pantry, located on a lower level than the kitchen. In this way, its thermal inertia facilitated the conservation of the food stored.





OSMA CASTLE, SORIA

Osma Castle dates from the 10th and 11th centuries and was later rebuilt between the 14th and 15th centuries. It has the peculiarity of having three walled enclosures adapted to the hill on which they are located. The first of these, the inner enclosure, still has high walls, an entrance gate and two towers, one of which is the keep, and the other from which the second walled enclosure starts. At the northern end of the third walled enclosure, at the foot of the hill next to the river Ucero, is the Water Tower (whose function was to protect both the access to the bridge and to store water). This fortress was surrounded by watchtowers with which it communicated visually. One of the new design features is the shooting chambers with arrow slits in the lower part of the walls with an innovative shooting channel to prevent enemy archers from shooting into them. The castle was built in masonry and rough ashlar, using various elements and materials of Roman origin, such as ashlar, cornices and columns from the nearby town of Uxama.



ROUTE OF MONUMENTAL NATIVITY SCENES IN VALLADOLID

Belen Valledolid (cedida por Asociación Belenista Castellana)



Every year, locals and tourists from Valladolid follow the famous 'Ruta de los Belenes' (Nativity route) in Valladolid, from the Puente de la Constitución on December 6 to the Día de los Reyes (Epiphany) on January 6. The historical legacy of the city is such that many churches, institutions and cultural spaces showcase high quality nativity scenes. This year, thanks to the Spanish Nativity Association, the Palace of Pimentel will host a nativity scene set in the Ribera del Duero, with scenes from the Laguna Negra and the Cañón del Río Lobos (Soria), the Plaza del Viejo Coso (Peñafiel) and other villages in the area. In the Las Francesas room we can see 'Tiempo de Belenes: expresión de un arte colectivo' (Nativity Time: expression of collective art) by the Palermo ceramist Ángela Tripi, a unique sculptural montage of more than 100 figures designed to be walked around on all four sides. Other monumental nativity scenes can be found in the cloister of the Archbishop's Palace, in the grand hallway of the church of Las Angustias, in the school of La Salle, or in the Palace of Villena (headquarters of the National Museum of Sculpture), where the famous Neapolitan nativity scene is exhibited all year round and is open to the public at this time of year.





WINTER TREKKING, SANABRIA GLACIERS, ZAMORA

Ice was the cause of this morphological treasure trove during the Würm glaciation. About 10,000 years ago, three great tongues of ice descended from the Sanabria plateau, the largest of which was 300 metres thick and almost 20 kilometres long, occupying the present valley of the river Tera. Traces of the erosion can still be seen today. Although there is not as much snow as in the cold days of yore, it is still possible to go snowshoeing in the geological remains during the winter, which are one of the Park's greatest treasures, a true testimony to the shaping of the glaciers. With a company specialising in active tourism, we will visit part of the Kingdom of the Lagoons, the second largest in Spain, made up of 35 lagoons at an average altitude of 1,600 metres. It passes through unspoilt areas and fascinating landscapes, surrounded by a unique white environment. A frozen forest that offers the best views of the mountains every 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 de la Mesta, Molinos de Duero, 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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informacion@lasmayas.es

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RUTAS DEL VINO PROPOSALS



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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.

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- **TOP RIBERA DEL DUERO**

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- **VITORSALAMANCA**

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www.wellbeds.es
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- **THEWAYTOURS**

Circular tour of the Picos de Europa.
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- **NATURALISTE**

Trips and tours to Arribes del Duero, Sierra de la Culebra, Sanabria, Sierra de Francia...
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