



WORD **HERITAGE CITY**

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PROVINCIA DE
Segovia
Naturalmente!

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INTRODUCTION

Segovia is a beautiful city situated between the Eresma and Clamores rivers one thousand meters (3,300 feet) above sea level and twelve kilometers (7 miles) from the Sierra de Guadarrama. The city is 90 kilometers from Madrid. The main access routes are by way of the A-6 toll motorway through the tunnel that crosses the Guadarrama Mountains and then either the N-603 road or the AP-61 toll motorway.

Segovia is often referred to as the Stone Ship. This is because the outline of the Alcázar castle perched on the rocky outcrop resembles the prow of a ship while the Cathedral tower suggests a mast. It is considered one of the loveliest cities in Spain, with the largest number of monuments and cultural traditions in Spain. It was recognized as a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1985.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Originally, a series of indigenous villages, it was conquered by the Romans in the first century and became a military emporium. With the fall of the Roman Empire, Barbarians settled in the city until the Arabs subsequently overpowered them. While under Arab domination, Segovia became the capital of various Moorish kingdoms.

In 1088, Segovia was conquered by Alfonso VI, King of Castile. The city became the court residence for the Trastámara dynasty, the center of the Diocese and a prosperous trading center with northern Europe due to its wealth of livestock and burgeoning textile industry. As a result, the city enjoyed a time of political power.

During this period, most of the abundant Romanesque monuments were built, making Segovia the city center with the largest number of Romanesque constructions in all of Europe. In the 15th century, Segovia rose to prominence with the Trastámaras and became the center of the royal court. In 1474, as the culminating point of this era, Isabel la Católica was proclaimed queen of the kingdom of Castile in the Church of San Miguel.

With the rise of Carlos V to the throne and the birth of the new imperial government, Segovia refused to accept the loss of its standing and retaliated by leading an uprising known as the Revolt of the Comuneros. The revolt was stifled in 1521 and subsequently the city assumed a secondary role in the political arena although it maintained its economic power, which focused primarily on textile manufacturing achieving its highest peak during the 16th century.

In the 17th century, the textile industry collapsed, destroying much of the city's activity. In the 18th century, it regained some support from the Bourbon monarchs, especially with the building of the royal palaces at La Granja and Riofrío.



ITINERARIES IN THE CITY



ITINERARY I

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

The Romanesque Church of San Millán **1** is situated near the start of the pedestrian street Avenida del Aqueducto. It was built in the 12th century and is considered by many to be the best example of Segovian Romanesque architecture. The Moorish tower is dated earlier than the rest of the church, and together with the porch and the four vaulted apses is considered to be of special interest. Moving further along the Avenida del Aqueducto, the Church of San Clemente **2**, also Romanesque, appears on the right. The building boasts an external apse and blind arches.

A little further along, the pedestrian street opens up into the Plaza del Azoquejo. Here the Roman Aqueduct **3** rises in all its splendor to a height of 29 meters (95 ft.) This remarkable work of engineering, possibly the only remnant of Roman architecture, dates from the first century and transported water from more than fifteen kilometers away. Its huge unmortared blocks of granite are held together by an ingenious system of opposing forces. It has become the city's universal landmark and is one of the best-conserved Roman monuments today.

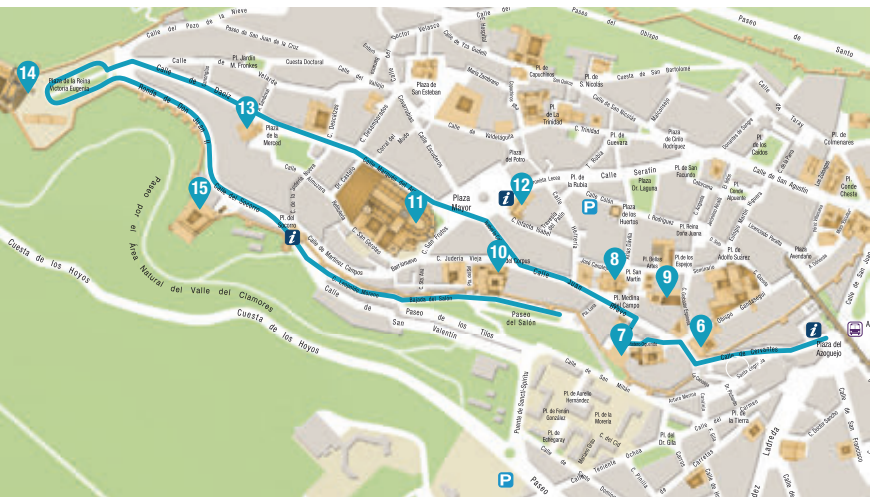
Moving away from the Aqueduct and the walled enclosure, we can make a detour via Ochoa Ondátegui Street until we reach the Plaza de San Justo



and the Church of San Justo 4. This simple 17th century church was built in honor of the sculpture of Christ of the Gascons (Cristo de los Gascones) and houses exceptional Romanesque frescos inside.

We then cross the square to Plaza de Díaz Sanz. From this perspective, the Aqueduct appears gigantic in size. In the same square, we find the Artillery Academy, a former Franciscan Convent. Following the Aqueduct to the place where it first becomes visible, we make a right turn along the walls of the Saint Rita Convent and into San Antonio Street, which leads to the Monastery of San Antonio el Real 5. The monastery was the former summer residence of King Enrique IV and has the finest Mudejar coffered ceiling in Segovia. It also hosts some Flemish paintings from the 15th century, furniture, books, clothing and sculpture from the period.





ITINERARY II

SEGOVIA, A WORLD HERITAGE CITY

Starting at the Plaza del Azoguejo, we take the Cervantes Street. The first stretch of this street is referred to by Segovians as the “Calle Real” (Royal Street). It is a pedestrian walk that connects to Juan Bravo Street, Plaza del Corpus, and Isabel la Católica Street that finally takes us into the Plaza Mayor (Main Square).

The first sight that captures the visitor’s attention is the Casa de los Picos **6**, a 15th century mansion that is currently being used as a Secondary School of Art and Design. It is famous for its facade, which is covered in diamond-shaped granite blocks. Further along on the left, we arrive at the Palacio del Conde Alpuente, which is decorated with interesting plaster pargetting or “esgrafiado” work (obtained by raking over smooth plaster to create a design in relief) on the facade and flamboyant Gothic windows. On a nearby street is the old Alhóndiga **7**, a public granary in the Late Gothic style now used as the Municipal Archives and exhibit hall.

Returning to the Royal Street, to the left we see the late Gothic style Casa del Siglo XV. Soon after we reach one of the loveliest spots in the city, the Plaza de Medina del Campo. In this square, we find the statue of Juan Bravo, celebrated “comunero” in the revolt against Carlos V, which occupies the center of the open space, the Church of San Martín **8**. This magnificent Romanesque church has elements from different architectural styles; Mozarab remains in the interior, a Romanesque–Mudejar tower with a Baroque spire, splendid porches, and a parish museum.

The Torreón de los Lozoya **9** is a tall 14th century defensive construction where exhibits are held throughout the year. In the Plaza de Bellas Artes we arrive at the Esteban Vicente Museum of Contemporary Art, formerly the palace of Enrique IV. The anthological collection of Esteban Vicente's work is extraordinary, which houses an extraordinary anthological collection of Esteban Vicente's work (1903). Vicente was the only Spaniard to belong to the New York School of Abstract Expressionism.

After leaving the Church of San Martín, to the right we come upon the former Royal Jail, a medieval building which now houses the public library also known as Casa de la Lectura - Biblioteca Municipal.

Shortly after, we arrive at the Plaza del Corpus where we find the Convent of Corpus Christi **10**, a former Jewish synagogue transformed into a church in 1410. Continuing along Isabel la Católica Street, we reach the Plaza Mayor (Main Square), vital center of the walled enclosure. To the left of the porticoed plaza stands the imposing Cathedral **11**. Its construction was initiated in 1525 under the direction of Juan Gil de Hontañón in the Late Gothic style, taking advantage of the remains of the Old Cathedral that was erected in front of the Alcázar castle and destroyed by fire during the Revolt of the Comuneros.

In the Cathedral, various elements, saved from the Old Cathedral, stand out including a Hispano-Flemish Gothic cloister by Juan Guas, a set of magnificent choir stalls, and the main facade. The noteworthy aspects from the original 16th century structure are the San Frutos doorway facing the Plaza Mayor, the tower, now 12 meters lower than its original height (100 m), the apse and corresponding buttresses and pinnacles, a Baroque high altarpiece by Sabatini, the neoclassical back-choir designed by Ventura Rodríguez, and numerous smaller chapels housing works by Pereira, Guas, Juan de Juni, Gregorio Hernández, among others. The Cathedral Museum houses Hispano-Flemish panels and 16th century paintings. It also inclu-





des Romanesque and Gothic sculpture, silver and gold works, tapestries, and a collection of incunabula, including the Synod of Aguilafuente, the first non-literary book printed in Spain.

Also, in the Plaza Mayor, we have the Ayuntamiento (Town Hall), dating from 1610, and the Juan Bravo Theater. Very close to the square, on Infanta Isabel Street, we find the Church of San Miguel [12](#), today mostly Gothic in style, but with some Romanesque elements from the original temple where Isabel la Católica was crowned Queen of Castile. The simple sculptures of the doorway are an example of this. We continue our tour and take Marqués del Arco Street turning right onto Desamparados Street. Here we find Antonio Machado's house which is now a museum. The house aims to recreate the home of the author and many of his personal objects are on display. Continuing on the same street, we reach the house of the Marqués del Arco, which was built in the second half of the 16th century.

Shortly after, we reach the Plaza de la Merced, laid out with gardens, where the Romanesque Church of San Andrés [13](#) stands. It dates from the 12th century and has a brick tower with a slate spire. The last stretch of our walk before arriving at the Alcázar castle is part of the Canonjías quarter. It was named after the large number of Church clergy that resided here at one time. It is one of the best examples of civil Romanesque architecture in all of Europe. When it was built, it was separated from the rest of the city by walls and gates but today only one remains, La Claustro, situated on the neighboring street of Velarde Street.

At the end of the Daoiz Street, continuing on from Marqués del Arco, we come to the Alcázar [14](#), preceded by the gardens of Queen Victoria Eugenia, a green oasis where the Old Cathedral once stood. To the left, we find the Casa de la Química, in which Louis Proust formulated his famous laws.

The majestic fortress (Alcázar) is positioned strategically on the rocky outcrop between the rivers Eresma and Clamores rivers, and at first glance, we focus on the impressive tower of Juan II, 80 meters (260 feet) high with 12 turrets on the upper part, the tower of Alfonso X the Wise to the north, and the spectacular defensive moat. In the interior, we discover the courtyards called Patio de Armas and Patio del Reloj; the Hall of Kings for a frieze featuring different monarchs, the Throne Room, Hall of the Arched Windows, and the Chimney Room, to cite a few. We can also visit the rooms dedicated to the Royal Artillery Academy, and others where diverse military objects are exhibited.

We now take the Ronda Don Juan II until a small street to our right, almost a little square, leads us to the Casa del Sol [15](#). Here we arrive at the Provincial Museum of Segovia houses archeological remains, glass from La Granja, painting, sculpture, etc.

Continuing on Ronda Don Juan II, we pass beneath the Puerta de San Andrés, a gateway that leads to the former Jewish quarter of Segovia which now houses the Centro didático de la Judería (Center for Education on the Jewish Quarter). Staying close to the walls, we proceed along Calle Leopoldo Moreno until we reach Paseo del Salón; a pleasant garden and a nice place to rest.





ITINERARY III

LOS CABALLEROS QUARTER

Starting again at the Aqueduct, we now take San Juan Street. At the end of the wall, on the right, we can take a selfie with the figure of the devil, the main character on the Aqueduct. Just before entering the walled sector, on the left we see the 15th century Casa de las Cadenas **16**. The Plaza del Conde Cheste is a lovely square enclosed by splendid old homes and mansions belonging to noble families, including the Palaces of La Floresta, Count Cheste, and Uceda-Peralta.

To the right, on Luis Felipe Peñalosa Street, we come to the garden where the Church of San Juan de los Caballeros **17** now houses the Zuloaga Museum. Returning to the Plaza del Conde Cheste, we take the San Sebastián Street until we reach the Church of San Sebastián **18** which has a Romanesque exterior and Baroque interior. Returning to the Plaza once again, this time we take the San Agustín Street.

Afterwards, we proceed on San Nicolás Street, and at once to the right, we see the 12th century Romanesque of San Nicolás **19**, now a Municipal Theater Workshop.

Continuing on San Quirce Street, passing by the Convent of Las Oblatas (now a five star hotel), we come to a square and encounter the Church of San Quirce **20**, also built in the Romanesque style during the 12th century, presently serving as a meeting place for the Academy of History and Art of San Quirce, as well as the Convent of Madres Dominicas, where ancient carvings are reproduced.



San Juan de los Caballeros Church

We continue on Travesía de los Capuchinos, arriving at the Plaza de San Esteban to admire the Church of San Esteban [21](#) and the Episcopal Palace [22](#). The church is Late Romanesque in style from the 13th century and has one of the highest and best Romanesque towers in all of Spain, in addition to a magnificent porch. The palace, on the other hand, is a Plateresque building from the 16th century and houses religious painting and sculpture from different periods.

In Calle de Valdeláguila we come to Convent of Madres Dominicas and alongside it the Torre de Hércules [23](#), a good example of medieval military architecture from the 13th century. We also find the Church of La Trinidad [24](#), one of the best-preserved Romanesque churches. Deserving special mention in the interior is the "Santa Faz" (Holy Face) by the artist, Ambrosius Benson, as well as the chapel with a lovely doorway by Juan Guas. Turning afterwards to the right, we come to Plaza del Doctor Laguna where we encounter Torreón de Arias Dávila [25](#), a tower decorated with Islamic geometric designs, dating from the 15th century.

[21](#) *San Esteban Church*





ITINERARY IV

SCENIC CITY ROUTE

This itinerary goes outside the city center and is perfect for a nice long walk. Starting at the Aqueduct, we take the street called Vía Roma until we turn left at Santa Catalina Street and soon arrive at the Romanesque Church of San Lorenzo, which has a Mudejar tower and stands on a medieval-looking square.

We then take Puente de San Lorenzo Street and subsequently continue along Calle de San Vicente and come to the Convent of San Vicente, the oldest one in the city. In the year 140, a temple dedicated to Jupiter was located on this site. This was later destroyed by fire. Continuing along the San Vicente Street we arrive at the Paseo de la Alameda where, if we verge left, we will see the Monastery of Santa Cruz la Real **26**. Now the headquarters of IE University, it is a Gothic-Isabelline structure boasting an interesting doorway by Juan Guas. Nearby, we find the Cave of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, a secluded and mysterious spot.

Retracing our steps and verging to the right, we arrive at the Monastery of El Parral **27**, a flamboyant Gothic construction started in 1447. Juan Guas participated in its design, and the exceptional high altarpiece, the alabaster tombs of the Marquis of Villena, and cloisters of the monastery are all worth visiting. On Sunday mornings a Gregorian Mass is held at the Monastery.

Taking the Moneda Street and crossing the bridge, to the right we find the building that was once the Casa de la Moneda (old Mint) by Juan de Herrera. Today it is the Aqueduct Observation Center. Taking the Paseo del San-



to Domingo again, we turn to the right and walk among groves of trees to the foot of the walls. Here we can view the Puerta de Santiago gate and gardens of the Alcázar until we reach the small parish Church of San Marcos. Turning to the right, we find the Church of La Vera Cruz **28**, one the most original churches in Spain. Its unusual polygonal ground plan has twelve sides. The church is late Romanesque from the 13th century and was founded by the Knights Templars. Using the Church of San Marcos as a reference point, the Alameda woods of La Fuencisla begin to the right. This is an exceptional spot to admire the outline of the Alcázar castle and the walls of the city, where the Convent of the Padres Carmelitas Descalzos **29** stands.

The church and the lavish tomb of St. John of the Cross can be admired. Also, in the Alameda we find the Sanctuary of La Fuencisla **30**, patron Saint of Segovia. The statue of the Virgin, which was started in the 16th century, is displayed in the Baroque high altar of the Sanctuary. Going up the Cuesta de los Hoyos, we enjoy a superb view of the Alcázar that reminds us of the prow of a ship. From the walls, we can also admire some noteworthy buildings. Among them the Casa de la Química within the gardens of the Alcázar and the Casa del Sol, a defensive house constructed using three portions of the walls. We can also see the Puerta de San Andrés, a gate restored in the 16th century and flanked by two towers, one round and the other square, and the entrance to the Jewish quarter, also called Socorro Arch because of the statue of the Virgin with the same name.

28 La Vera Cruz Church



ITINERARIES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE



Palace of La Granja

THE ROYAL PALACES AND VALSAÍN

Eleven kilometers from Segovia on the N-601, in an unparalleled setting at the foot of the mountains, lies the elegant Palacio de La Granja de San Ildefonso. Felipe V commissioned this grandiose palace in 1721 and various architects, including Teodoro Ardemans and Juan Bautista Sachetti, participated in the design. The result was a beautiful blend of Spanish Baroque and French neoclassical styles with subtle Italian touches. Most of the original decoration can still be seen. Some 17th century Flemish paintings and an excellent collection of tapestries are also on display.

There are impressive formal gardens surrounding the palace, adorned with statues and enhanced by a large variety of plants as well as 26 monumental fountains. These offer an elaborate display of light and color. Some of the fountains are activated from Easter until the end of summer.

The Royal Glass Factory of La Granja is another memorable visit. This industrial building dates from the 18th century and holds a permanent exhibition as well as other temporary ones devoted to the delicate art of glasswork. Other buildings such as the Casa de los Oficios, Casa de Canónigos, the Guardia de Corps Barracks and Casa de los Infantes, now used as a National Parador Hotel, are often booked for conferences and conventions.



Fifteen kilometers from La Granja, we pass through Valsain, where we recommend a visit to the magnificent forest, Nature Center and recreational areas. Further on, we arrive at the Palace of Riofrío, a regal country mansion which was commissioned by the widow of Felipe V, Isabel de Farnesino and is bordered by an extensive holm oak grove that abounds with wildlife. This Italianate building houses works by Ribera, Houasse, Pereda and other artists. Part of the building is used as a Hunting Museum. Here trophies, as well as paintings by Velázquez and Rubens, and weaponry from the past three centuries can be seen.

After visiting La Granja and Riofrío, we proceed on the N-603 for 30 kilometers until we come to San Rafael and El Espinar, near the Chapel of Cristo del Caloco. The two towns are located in the middle of the mountains. After taking the N-VI motorway for 21 kilometers, we arrive at Villacastín where we can admire its huge church. Construction began in 1529, led by Friar Antonio de Villacastín.





EASTERN VILLAGES ROUTE: SOTOSALBOS, PEDRAZA AND NAVAFRÍA

In Sotosalbos, we find the exceptional Romanesque Church of San Miguel Arcangel, where the Archpriest of Hita once lived. The church has a beautiful portico gallery and an odd museum inside which houses a 12th century image of Our Lady of the Mountain Range. The image originally belonged to the monastery of Santa María de la Sierra (Our Lady of the Mountain Range) which was destroyed. The ruins can be seen below the Collado Hermoso Hill.

Travelling on to Requijada, we reach the porticoed Church of Santa María de las Vegas (Our Lady of the Meadows) which is on the right. The church was constructed on a Roman site that was then transformed into an Early Christian mausoleum, after which it became a Visigoth temple and later a Romanesque church with three naves.

We drive on to Pedraza, which is believed to be the birthplace of the emperor Trajan. As we arrive, we cross the original rampart layout, which is still visible. We pass through the gate and into the streets lined with ancient blazoned homes that allude to the splendor enjoyed in the 16th and 17th centuries. During the first fortnight of July Pedraza organizes candle-lit concerts on Saturday evenings. Over 25,000 tea lights are used to decorate the town. The old prison, the churches of San Juan, Santo Domingo and Santa María del Castillo (Our Lady of the Castle) are all interesting sites to visit. Santa María del Castillo houses paintings by Ignacio Zuloaga. The Casa del Águila Imperial is a fascinating observation center which is based in the old church of San Miguel on the outskirts of the town.

Navafría is in a hilly area, dense with wild pines. It boasts an ancient hammer that was used for bashing copper. Two kilometers outside the village, we arrive at a spot known as "El Chorro" which is famous for the waterfall further up the river. Here we can enjoy nature by walking along some of the beautiful marked paths.

THROUGH THE PINE FORESTS

Aguilafuente was an important roman crossroads so it is hardly surprising that a magnificent second century villa was discovered there. The Santa Lucía Archeological Center, based in the Moorish church of San Juan, is researching the villa. Few people know that the first book printed in Spain in 1472 recounted the crucial synod proceedings that took in the town's church of Santa Maria. The church is an example of Romanesque brickwork adorned with beautiful Gothic facades.

We now head to Samboal, which has one of the most characteristic Romanesque brickwork churches in the province.

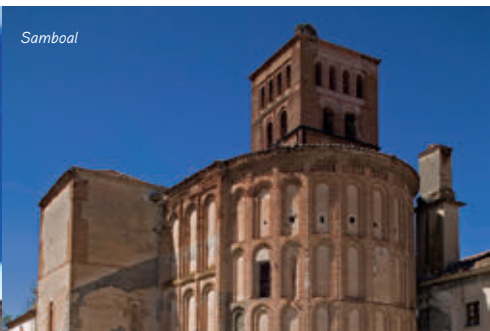
Cuéllar has a rich collection of monuments and a strong cultural heritage. This emblematic walled town is the culmination of Mudejar architecture and has two defensive enclosures. The first is a fortress-palace, seat to the Dukes of Albuquerque, and offers theatrical visits to the public. The second enclosure contains various palaces and stately homes as well as the Estudio de Gramática and the hospital. Also in Cuéllar we find the Capilla de la Magdalena (Magdalene Chapel) and various churches; San Esteban (St. Stephen), San Andrés (St. Andrew) or San Martín (St. Martin) which is now used as a Moorish Art research center. The inhabitants of Cuéllar pray to their patron Saint, a 7th century Black Madonna, at the nearby sanctuary of El Henar.

Sacramenia, built on the lower side of a hill, has Romanesque churches, one of which is Santa Marina (St. Marina) where we can find 15th century frescoes. San Martín de Tours Church is situated in the highest part of the village and has picturesque cellars carved out of the chalkstone.

Aguilafuente



Samboal



Cuéllar



Next, we take a detour towards Coto de San Bernardo, and continue on to a Cistercian monastery, Santa María la Real. In this captivating natural environment, bordered by dense trees, stands the solitary round church and some of the remaining monastic living quarters. The cloister, refectory and chapterhouse were dismantled after their controversial sale to W. R. Hearst who acquired the buildings and reassembled them in Miami.

The village of Fuentidueña was repopulated by Alfonso VII and still conserves the ramparts as well as the Church of San Martín although the apse and the valuable Romanesque paintings it contained were shipped to New York. Near the temple, a group of 11th century tombs with a charnel house, carved from the rock, were discovered. However, we can enjoy Romanesque art at its best in the Church of San Miguel. In the palace square, we find the 15th century Palacio de los Condes and the Chapel of Pilar, that now houses a Posada Real (state-run lodge).

Cantalejo was renowned for its commercial activity and was awarded the title of city by Alfonso XIII himself in recognition for its production of famous threshing boards that were sold nation-wide. The traders developed a special vocabulary, using a mixture of Basque and Arab terms that are still preserved with great pride.

From here, we can take a 6 kilometer walk circling around the famous Cantalejo Lagoons (wetlands), which were declared a Site of Community Importance and where a great variety of birds can be spotted.

In Turégano, we are welcomed with an imposing view of the castle, a rose-colored fortress with turrets and a bell gable which were constructed over the original medieval ramparts. The fortress was built in the 15th century and encloses the Romanesque Church of San Miguel. It also houses the Forestry Museum and the Casa del Ingeniero (House of the Engineer).





THROUGH THE SEGOVIAN COUNTRYSIDE

We drive along the CL-605 to Santa María la Real. In the very heart of the village we will find the magnificent Dominican monastery established by Catalina de Lancaster, grand-daughter to Isabel I of Castile. The cloister, which was built between 1395 and 1437, is an extraordinary example of Gothic sculpture. The carved scenes on the 87 capitals range from life-like depictions of everyday scenes to portrayals of good and evil, more reminiscent of an earlier Romanesque style.

As we approach the monastic Our Lady of Soterraña Church, we can admire the flamboyant Gothic facade as we enter. Inside we find intricate 15th century moldings, in the choir area, and the tomb of Blanca de Navarra, Juan II of Aragon's first wife. We then travel on Mount San Isidro to visit the Upper Paleolithic petroglyphs that depict dancers, riders and animals.

Following the SG-3411 towards Bernardos, we take a left turn at Domingo García until we reach a sign indicating "Domingo García. Grabados rupes-tres". Sitting on top of one of the hills, we find the Ermita de San Isidro, encircled by eleven anthropomorphic tombs that were carved from the rock and probably date to the Visigoths.





We continue to Coca, site of Cauca, a Pre-Roman settlement where the emperor Theodosios the Great was born. Just before arriving at the village, we find the site of an opulent Roman villa near Lavadero los Cinco Caños (washing site) which is free to enter. Once in the village, we can visit the elegant Moorish/Gothic brickwork castle built by the Fonseca family. Some parts of the ramparts still remain and together with the Puerta de la Villa (town gate), they suggest that the Celtiberians (Hispano-Celtics) once inhabited the village. The Fonseca family tombs, made of Carrara marble, can be admired in Santa María la Mayor Parish Church. Walking along the streets we can also see a high Moorish turret which was originally used as a watchtower, the last evidence of Romanesque architecture in the church of San Nicolás.

Continuing along the N-601 we arrive at Martín Muñoz de las Posadas, named after one of El Cid's captains who was responsible for repopulating the village in the 11th century. Ancient buildings such as the Renaissance palace commissioned by Cardinal Diego Espinosa and designed by Gaspar la Vega still stand in the semi-porticoed main square. The parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, built on the foundations of an earlier 13th century church, houses a beautiful painting of the Virgin of Disdain attributed to the school of Raphael, Cardinal Espinosa's tomb by the artist Pompeyo Leoni and other valuable works. However, the most outstanding piece is a work by El Greco "El Calvario" (The Agony) which has an interesting history.



Martín Muñoz de las Posadas



Hoces del río Duratón National Reserve

SEPÚLVEDA AND HOCES DEL RÍO DURATÓN NATURAL RESERVE

This route is full of natural and cultural heritage.

Visitors to Hoces del río Duratón National Reserve will enjoy amazing sights: high cliffs, worn down by water and wind over time with spectacular vultures flying overhead, the ruins of the monastery of Ntra. Sra. de los Ángeles de la Hoz, a Benedictine priory, the Visigoth Cave of the Seven Altars and a Benedictine chapel dedicated to San Frutos.

Sepúlveda has a variety of visits, ranging from gastronomy to nature. Visitors should not miss the main square, the various churches such as San Bartolomé, Salvador, Virgen de la Peña (patron Saint of Sepúlveda) or the church of Santiago, which houses the Casa del Parque Hoces del río Duratón. The Museo de los Fueros is located in the church of Santos Justo y Pastor.

We continue to Castilnovo, a Muslim fortress hidden by a dense forest of poplars, oaks and junipers.



Sepúlveda



Sepúlveda



RIAZA, AYLLÓN AND THE YELLOW, RED AND BLACK VILLAGES

Leaving Segovia on route N-110, we travel straight to Riaza where we will arrive at the porticoed main square. Here we find the Church of Santa María del Manto (Our Lady of the Shroud). From here, we recommend a detour to Riofrío de Riaza to enjoy a relaxing walk through Hayedo de la Pedrosa, a protected beech Wood.

Following along the SG-V-1111, we reach the eight villages that make up the Ruta del Color (Colour Route). Alquité and Martín Muñoz de Ayllón, also known as Yellow Villages, get their name from the quartzes that the walls are built with. Villacorta and Madriguera, the Red Villages, use vibrant red clay and sand, a result of the iron ore found in the materials used to build the houses. The Black Villages, El Muyo, Serracín, Becerril and El Negrodo, are built mainly with slate.

Houses in all three colors can be seen in Santibáñez de Ayllón, a picturesque village set on a hill near the Aguijejo River.

Ayllón is a beautiful medieval walled village built using reddish tones. Following the old rampart wall, we reach Puerta del Arco, which takes us straight to the Isabelline styled Palacio de Contreras. We continue to the Castilian main square that has wooden porticoes and encloses the Palacio de Villena and Church of San Miguel. The latter has a Romanesque apse and façade, and previously served as an old synagogue. A walk through the streets will allow us to view the Bishop of Vellosillo's 16th century palace, the Torre de la Martina and various other stately homes.

The village of Prádena has a marvelous holly and juniper forest that we can enjoy as we take a leisurely walk. The spectacular Cueva de los Enbrazales invites us to travel into the center of the Earth and relive Prehistoric times.



Maderuelo

MADERUELO AND HOCES DEL RÍO RIAZA NATURAL RESERVE

Maderuelo is an imposing fortified villa on the shore of Pantano de Linares (Linares Reservoir).

Originally, the fortress had ten churches. Now only a few remain such as the Romanesque Church of Santa María that displays intriguing masonry and brickwork, the chapels of San Miguel, Castroboda as well as Vera Cruz, which situated near the Riaza River. Vera Cruz is one of the thirteen renowned temples that guarded fragments of the True Cross brought over by the Knights Templar. The church once had beautiful Romanesque paintings which were later transported to the Prado Museum to avoid water damage from the rising waters of the reservoir.

Maderuelo, Valdevacas de Montejo and Montejo de la Vega de la Serrezuela are part of Hoces del río Riaza Natural Reserve. The Reserve has deep gorges (150 m-492 feet), some as wide as 200 to 300 meters (656-984 feet). The visitor's reception office can be found in Casa del Parque Hoces del río Riaza, which is situated in the widest gorge.



Castilnovo

MUDEJAR

Towers such as San Martín, San Lorenzo and San Andrés, in Segovia town, are considered highlights of Mudéjar art, together with the coffered ceilings in San Antonio el Real and Parral monastery. Examples of Mudéjar workmanship can be found in the western part of the province: the tower and fortress of San Nicolás de Coca, the village of Cuéllar, San Salvador in Sepúlveda, San Baudilio in Samboal, San Esteban in Nieva, Nuestra Señora de la Antigua in Melque de Cercos, San Miguel in Montuenga, San Pedro in Tolocirio, San Andrés in Montejo de Arévalo, San Sebastián in Villaverde de Íscar, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción in Pinarejos, El Salvador in Fuentepelayo and Santa María in Aguilafuente. San Vicente Mártir in Zarzuela del Monte is the southernmost Mudéjar building in the province.

CASTLES AND WALLED VILLAGES

Segovia has exceptional walled settlements in both the capital and the province: Pedraza, Sepúlveda (which includes Castillo de Castilnovo), Cuéllar, Maderuelo, Fuentidueña, Coca, Ayllón, and the less preserved Fresno de Cantespino and Montejo de la Vega. Castillo de Turégano is an exceptional example of bishopric fortification. The castles (Alcázar) in Segovia, Coca, Cuéllar, Castilnovo, Pedraza and Turégano are all examples of fortresses that underwent restoration during the 15th century.



CUISINE AND HANDICRAFTS

Segovian cooking is the leading industry in the province with its numerous restaurants, especially those with typical brick roasting ovens. The secret to their success is the excellent quality of the products used and the expert hands of the master chefs who have made the region a mandatory gathering place for discriminating palates. Typical dishes include “judiones de La Granja” (a stew made with large broad white beans), “sopa castellana” (soup with eggs, bread and garlic), roast suckling pig, roast lamb, “caldereta” (stewed lamb), veal, trout, tench, partridge, and quail. The abundant forests are an ideal habitat for all kinds of mushrooms. Traditional sweets are “ponche segoviano” (a liqueur-dipped, custard-filled cake frosted with marzipan). There are three D.O. wines produced in the region: Ribera del Duero famous for young clarets and exceptional red wines, Rueda’s magnificent white wines and Quality D.O.P wines from Valtiendas.

Handicrafts are skillfully produced by over a hundred workshops in the province and include textiles, glass blowing, ceramics, as well as metal, leather, flint and woodwork.





ENTERTAINMENT AND FESTIVALS

There are numerous cultural activities in both the capital and the surrounding province. The annual program has a large variety of events that cover all four seasons.

The best-known events are the national and international festivals such as:

Folk Segovia, Hay Festival, MUCES, Titirimundi, the Noches Mágicas de La Granja, Huercasa Country Festival or the Candles Concert in Pedraza. There are also gastronomic, handicraft, book and antique fairs all year round as well as concerts (all types of music), plays and talks.

Surrounding areas of the province also offer a variety of entertainment such as the Castilla and León Open "Villa de El Espinar", water games in the fountains of the Royal Gardens of La Granja Palace, traditional bull running events in different towns, the oldest and most famous of which take place in Cuéllar. Other very interesting traditional festivals are celebrated such as Diablillo in Sepúlveda, Gabarreros in the town of El Espinar, or Sinodal in Aguilafuente. Pilgrimages such as the Cristo del Caloco in El Espinar, the Hontanares in Riaza or the Henar in Cuéllar are also popular.

The Feast of Santa Águeda is celebrated throughout the province on the Sunday closest to February 5th, although it is most famous in the town of Zamarramala.

In the city of Segovia, the most popular festivals, on the 23rd and 29th of June respectively, are those dedicated to San Juan and San Pedro and include one of the oldest Spanish traditions: a troupe of giants and big-headed figures. San Frutos, patron Saint of the city is celebrated on the 25th of October. Holy Week is also a traditional celebration.

For sports enthusiasts, the province offers a host of possibilities to enjoy all types of sports related to nature, including hiking, horseback riding, golf, canoeing, cycling or skiing at La Pinilla winter resort and The Navarria Nordic Skiing and Mountain Center. Also worth remembering are the hot air balloon trips that offer unique views of the city from the air at dawn.

For more information we recommend our website:

www.segoviaturismo.es



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
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








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
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- Carbonero el Mayor
- Coca 
- Cuéllar 
- El Espinar 
- Fuentidueña 
- La Granja de San Ildefonso 
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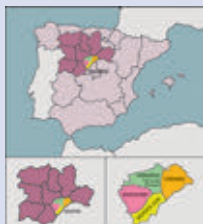
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