

CASTILE AND LEÓN: HISTORY, ART AND LANDSCAPE

Castile and León welcomes us: one of the most extensive regions in Europe, a land rich in history and artistic legacy, contrasting landscapes of high mountains and vast plains, tilled by centuries old paths such as the Route of Santiago de Compostela and the Silver Route. We will discover three of its World Heritage sites, its people, its towns and its rich and varied gastronomy.



Day 1 Arrival in Madrid and departure towards Aranda de Duero, located in the wine-growing region Ribera de Duero, where we will have the opportunity to taste its high quality wines.

Possibility of visiting a cellar for wine tasting

We will spend time in the picturesque historical district of Aranda de Duero, where we will be able to gaze upon its churches -Santa María and San Juan-, palaces and estates -the Verdugo and the Colmenares Palaces- as well as the Romanesque bridge. Continue to Burgos for overnight.

Day 2 In the morning we will visit the archeological area of Sierra de Atapuerca, located in the province of Burgos and declared World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2000 as it is the only place in Europe where the evolution of the lifestyle of primitive man to settle in our continent can be studied.

In the afternoon we will devote our time to Burgos, capital of the medieval Kingdom of Castile and León. There we will be able to admire its magnificent Gothic cathedral, a World Heritage site, as well as nearby estates -including the Casa del Cordón- and the Royal Monastery of the Huelgas Reales with its prominent Gothic cloister and Santiago Chapel. Overnight in Burgos.

Day 3 Today we continue in the footsteps of the pilgrimages along the Route of Santiago between Burgos and León.

Frómista has the beautiful church of San Martín where we will find an intrinsically pure Romanesque style. Next to San Martín we find the churches of San Pedro and Santa María.

Carrión de los Condes is a site of great importance along the Ruta Jacobea and presents the Church of Santiago with its splendid Pantocrator. Other worthy sites in the area are the Santa María del Camino

church, the Santa Clara Convent and the San Zoilo Monastery. Continue to León for overnight.

Day 4 León, the former Roman Legio VII Gemina Pia Felix has an ample legacy of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance styles which we will appreciate during our visit.

We will pass through the historical district with the charming Plaza Mayor, the Gothic cathedral with its incomparable stained glass windows, and the San Isidoro Basilica known as the "Sistine Chapel" of the Spanish Romanesque style where the Royal Pantheon and magnificent 12th century frescoes are housed.

During our visit we will discover palaces -the Conde Luna, the Guzmanes-, churches such as San Salvador de Palat del Rey and the modernist Casa de los Botines by architect Antonio Gaudí.

Overnight in León.

Day 5 Departure to Astorga, capital of the Maragatería Region. A point of intersection between such notable routes as the Path to Santiago de Compostela and the Silver Route, the old Roman city of Asturica Augusta offers the visitor interesting Roman ruins, an enchanting Plaza Mayor with the notable Town Hall building, Cathedral, and a Modernist structure of particular interest: the Episcopal Palace by architect Antonio Gaudí, that holds the Museum of the Pilgrimages. Today's route takes us to Zamora.

Possibility of visiting a local producer for a cheese tasting. The Romanesque City awaits us on the banks of the Duero River: Zamora and its characteristic Romanesque cathedral with the Byzantine style cupola. During our visit we will enjoy an impressive assembly of Romanesque churches: San Ildefonso, La Magdalena or San Cipriano, as well as the Plaza Mayor.

Continue to Salamanca for overnight.



Salamanca. Detalle Catedral Vieja . Foto cedida por: Carlos Sánchez

Day 6 Salamanca, this beautiful university city invites us to discover its rich historical past, wander through its lively streets and experience the festive atmosphere. Among its notable monuments are the Baroque style Plaza Mayor, the House of Shells, the two cathedrals, the University, the San Esteban Convent and the Casa Lis that houses the interesting Art Nouveau and Art Déco Museum. Overnight in Salamanca.

Day 7 At the end of our journey will get to know two monumental cities, both declared World Heritage sites. Ávila, birthplace to the famous Spanish mystics Santa Teresa de Jesús and Saint John of the Cross, welcomes us with its impressive walls, its cathedral, the San Vincent Basilica, palaces and family estates -the Veladas, Valderrábanos, Núñez Velas and Torreón de los Guzmanes-, as well as the Monastery of the Incarnation.

In the afternoon we will visit Segovia with its spectacular Roman Aqueduct, a jewel of Roman engineering built in the 1st century. As we walk through the Jewish Quarter, we will have the opportunity to behold the Casa de los Picos, the Alhóndiga and the Torreón de los Lozoya fortress.

We will visit the Gothic cathedral known as the "Lady of Cathedrals" as well as the defensive Alcázar fortress. Possibility of organizing a special farewell dinner. Overnight in Segovia.

Day 8 Transfer to the Madrid Airport.

Salamanca. Vista Catedrales. Foto cedida por: Turismo de Salamanca



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8 days

Day 1	✈️ MADRID - ARANDA DE DUERO - BURGOS
Day 2	BURGOS and ATAPUERCA
Day 3	BURGOS - FRÓMISTA - CARRIÓN - LEÓN
Day 4	LEÓN
Day 5	LEÓN - ASTORGA - ZAMORA - SALAMANCA
Day 6	SALAMANCA
Day 7	SALAMANCA - ÁVILA - SEGOVIA
Day 8	SEGOVIA - MADRID ✈️