



Las Merindades

La Bureba

La Demanda and Pinares

Amaya - Camino de Santiago

The Valley of Arlanza

La Ribera del Duero

Burgos:

a colour kaleidoscope



Peñaranda de Duero.



Peñaladros Waterfall.
Foto portada: Salto de La Salceda.
Autor: Rubén Perez Llarena.
Foto contraportada: Viñedos.
Autor: Miguel Angel Muñoz Romero.



More information:



www.turismoburgos.org

The province of Burgos, one in nine provinces making up the autonomous community of Castile and Leon, offers its visitors a territory of contrasting components: colourful landscapes and a rich legacy, which transports us through time.

History and nature, art and culture, leisure and gastronomy come together at each corner of this beautiful and unique province. Its magical natural places, monumental buildings and picturesque rural settings are part of a visit to be made in no hurry. The province offers, moreover, culinary excellence, quality wines, charm and comfortable accommodation, town and country walks and contact with its friendly people, all of which are an ideal complement to ensure an unforgettable getaway.

Burgos is universally known for its three UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, which include the pilgrim trail of the Camino de Santiago, the caves of the Sierra de Atapuerca and St. Mary's Cathedral of Burgos.

Burgos is, however, a province which waits to be discovered. Across the length and breadth of its territory, there is a succession of small green valleys, high peaks, silent paramos, gorges with vertical descents, spectacular waterfalls as well as endless woods whose colours change from season to season.

This natural landscape is inextricably bound to an important cultural heritage, a legacy of past settlers which is seen in the large amount of Heritage of Cultural Interest Goods that the province hosts around its territory. The list includes archaeological deposits, caves, dolmens, roads, castles, hermitages, bridges, necropolis, defense towers, chapels, palaces, churches, mansions, museums and picturesque towns, all of which retain their original flavour and are waiting for you.



Ebro Canyon.



Church at Jaramillo de la Fuente.



Vineyard.



Lerma.



Burgos' black pudding.

Burgos:

a landscape of changing colours



Camino del San Millán.



Traditional cabins of the Pasiego region. El Bernacho.

The landscape of Burgos breaks away from the cliché that says that Castile is a vast expanse of arid, flat land. As a matter of fact, its geographical features also include the mountain ranges known as Cordillera Cantábrica and the Sistema Ibérico as well as the Ebro and Duero valleys.

The relief of the province of Burgos, which stands out by the contrast of its elements, is made up of a continuous succession of mountains, valleys and plains. The province is likewise characterised by: vast expansions of fertile land, where crops and fruits are grown; riverbank woods, marked off both by big rivers and by small streams; green stockbreeder meadows, covering steep hillsides; holm-oak woods, oakwoods, pine woods and beech fir woods, some of which conceal in their midst striking waterfalls; mountains and mountain ranges with a good number of natural curiosities. That's Burgos!

Burgos is made of a kaleidoscope of colourful ecosystems: a group of sites, in some cases modelled by humans, where a wide range of animals and birds live

In Burgos, there are currently seven natural protected areas: Parques Naturales de las Lagunas Glaciares de Neila [The glacial lakes of Neila], el Cañón del Río Lobos [Natural Park River Canyon Lobos], las Hoces del Alto Ebro y Rudrón [Hoces del Alto Ebro and Rudrón Natural Park], los Montes Obarenes - San Zadornil [Obarenes Mountains – San Zadornil Natural Park], los Monumentos Naturales de Ojo Guareña [Ojo Guareña Natural Monument], el Monte Santiago [The Natural Park of Monte Santiago] and el Espacio Natural La Yecla and los Sabinars del Arlanza [La Yecla Natural Park and Arlanza's Sabinaries Trees].

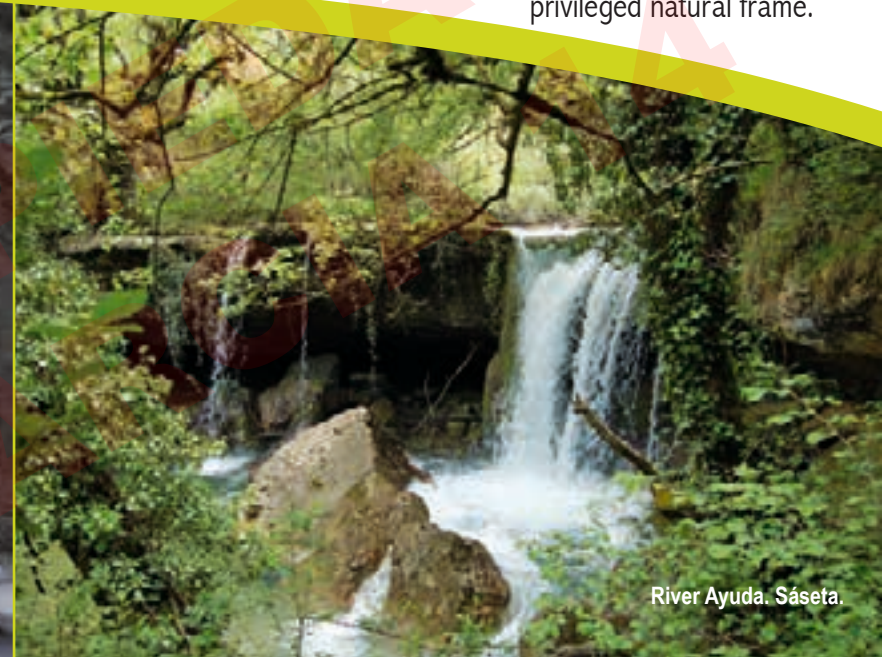
The Casas del Parque are public facilities that show the visitor the values of these natural areas, creating awareness of the need of environmental preservation. In addition, a good number of spaces of natural interest such as forests of pine, yew, holly, cork oak and beech spread all over the province. These places can be easily discovered thanks to the extensive network of walking routes radiating from the territory of Burgos. These walking routes and hiking trails, ranging in difficulty, allow the visitor penetrating into such a privileged natural frame.



Orbaneja del Castillo.



Yecla gorge.



River Ayuda. Sáseta.



Beech wood.



Cereal fields.



Monte de Santiago.



Deers in Tierra de Pinares.

Burgos: a history of legend



Covarrubias.



Roman theatre at Clunia.

Ever since the first Europeans walked over the Sierra de Atapuerca, different peoples have lived in this geographical site, leaving their mark: its potholes, small caves and caves hide secrets of prehistoric times.

Arévacos, autrigones, cántabros, turmogos and vacceos settled in these valleys and paramos before the Roman conquest. Under Roman rule, the political, economic and cultural structures of the Romans were assimilated: from the model of municipal organization to elements such as law, currency, agricultural development, handicraft, Latin, religion and building systems.

It was the Middle Ages, however, that had the greatest impact on the history of the province. Following the years of Visigoth rule, the first Muslim settlers arrived, at the beginning of the 8th century. The settlers that established in the valleys of the north organized themselves in order to initiate a repopulating effort towards the plateau.

The historical origins of a primitive county, which would over the years transform itself into an important Kingdom, Castile, were laid during these years of conflict. The kingdom can also boast to have contributed to establishing the foundations of a universal language, Spanish.

The province of Burgos, whose current limits can be traced back to the middle of the 19th century, has historically been a vital site for communications between the north and the centre of mainland Spain, a factor which has encouraged commercial and cultural exchange with other territories. In a different order of things, we must not forget the numerous and distinguished personalities that are part of its history: from earls, kings and princesses to the legendary Cid Campeador, the most famous and internationally well-known mediaeval hero.



Burgos.



Necropolis of Cuyacabras.



Atapuerca.



Valpuedra.



Castrojeriz.
Camino de Santiago.

Burgos: an artistic outlook on the past



Monastery of La Vid.



Villaverde - Mogina.

The province of Burgos offers visitors a rich artistic legacy, which is unique in its quantity and quality. Indeed, in Burgos it is possible to find traces of all ages and cultures: from the very remote Paleolithic up to our contemporary world.

The archaeological sites of Sierra de Atapuerca, where the remains of the first humans in Europe were found, hold the most outstanding deposit of archeological heritage in Burgos. The region has other significant archaeological deposits such as the the cave paintings in Ojo Guareña, the megalithic art in Masa and las Loras, abundant Iron Age settlements, the Roman city of Clunia, high mediaeval necropolis and hermitages and important dinosaur footprints deposits.

No wonder Burgos can be considered a museum-like province. It is a vast territory where both Castile and the international language we know as Spanish were born. It is thus a place where each valley, each town and each corner treasures an important patrimonial legacy.

Religion expresses itself in art, which is why in Burgos there are abundant religious buildings: both numerous and enigmatic Roman churches and magnificent and splendid Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque temples and monasteries. Their interior treasures magnificent altarpieces, sculptures and paintings.

The solid towers, castles and forts in Burgos testify to the battles of the past. Existing cattle routes and Roman roads witnessed the path of flocks, armed forces, trades and pilgrims. The palaces and mansions are a symbol of centuries of economic splendour.

Some towns, which have been declared Historic-Artistic sites, have a mediaeval outline, whereas other places have a more modest and varied traditional architecture.

Both museums and interpretation centres are intent on disseminating knowledge about the value of the heritage of the region.



Santo Domingo de Silos.



Dolmen.
Porquera de Butrón.



Sasamón.



Frías.



Las Gobas.
Laño.

Burgos: land of food and drink



Wine of the Ribera del Duero.



Oven-roasted milk-fed baby lamb.

In terms of gastronomy, Burgos has won deserved fame, on account of which it was chosen as the “Spanish Capital of Gastronomy for 2013”.

The natural environment is the site where several healthy raw materials are produced, including potatoes, vegetables, garlic, onion, mushrooms, fruits, legume, lamb, red meat and large and small wild game. Among its most outstanding food products, it is possible to mention morcillas de arroz [black pudding], meat and sausages from freshly-slaughtered pig, cured and fresh cheese, honey, handmade bread and conventual sweets and pastry.

The combination of good raw materials and skilled-restaurateurs results in quality traditional dishes such as roasted milk-fed baby lamb or olla podrida. These traditional dishes live side-by-side with other specialties and modern and innovative cuisine, where elaboration and presentation are taken care for.

In addition to the above-mentioned gastronomical selection, the region is also famous for its cuisine in miniature prepared by restaurants, bars, cafeterias, pubs and taverns, all of which offer on the counter an assortment of tapas, bites, portions or stews. In group, all this provides a tasty justification to escape for a gastronomic adventure.

These delicious dishes may well be paired with excellent and renowned red wines from the Ribera del Duero or the Arlanza, which are two consolidated wine-making regions at national and international level. It needs to be noted that both of them have been granted a protected designation of origin, ensuring the origin and control of their wine. These two “Wine Routes” offer a specialized touristic wine route, which includes and makes easier visiting wineries.



Mushrooms.



Pinchos [Bites].



Arlanza Wine Route.



Cuisine with traditional products.



Cherries.



Burgos cheese.

Burgos: a place of festival and tradition



Festival of El Capitán. Frías.



Cart driver from the sierra.

The towns that make up the province of Burgos treasure a rich ethnological heritage, which is obvious in the region's architecture, old trades, customs and popular festivals. This patrimony is the accumulated heritage of the lifestyle of the region's inhabitants.

Agriculture and stockbreeding represent the main source of income for the people living in the countryside. Farmers and cart drivers, stockbreeders and innkeepers, craftsmen and blacksmith, resin collectors and shepherds have for long time dwelled in housing adapted to the weather of each place and to the needs of their work duties.

However, there is also time for festivals, that is, "fiesta", which involves celebration, game, acknowledgement and brotherhood. These festivals are scheduled so as to make them compatible with agricultural duties as well as with the Catholic ritual cycle.



El Colacho. Castrillo de Murcia.

During summer months many towns pay homage to their religious patrons. To this intent and purpose, lively festivals are organized, bringing together both inhabitants and visitors, who gather at mass, dances, sports and the dining table. There are also localities that organize markets, romerías and stockbreeding fairs, all of which are a good chance to buy local products.

In addition to Easter, the Festivals of El Colacho de Castrillo in Murcia, El Capitán in Frías, Las Nieves in Las Machorras, Los Danzantes in Fuentelcésped, La Tabera in Briviesca, Los Jefes in Santo Domingo de Silos, el Desjarrete in Poza de la Sal and El Curpilllos in Burgos as well as the romerías celebrated on occasion of San Bernabé in Ojo Guareña, of El Santito in Caleruega and of San Juan del Monte in Miranda de Ebro have been declared regionally tourist interesting festivals. The section on parties and celebrations includes, moreover, historical representations, gastronomic days and events.



Festival of Las Nieves. Las Machorras.



Baroque festival. Lerma.



El Cronicón. Oña.



Wine harvest.



Slope of the angel. Aranda de Duero.



El Escarrete. Poza de la Sal.

Burgos: a site for leisure



Nature tourism.



Cross-country skiing.

The diversity that characterizes the province of Burgos suits practicing many activities in contact with this privileged natural environment. Sports and nature and leisure and culture come together, offering the visitor a wide range of possibilities to enjoy free time.

Burgos has one of the largest way-marked walking routes in Spain. Throughout its territory there are paths and old walking routes, which allow the visitor penetrating deep into magic and dark beech woods. Walking along the region's Roman roads, it is possible to come close to spectacular waterfalls or stroll along the narrow paths of the banks of the river Ebro or Duero.

Burgos is, indeed, a paradise for mountaineers, hill walkers and hikers, as well as for lovers of geology, landscape, ornithology, etc.



Boat trip up the Castilla Canal.

Those who prefer to discover the natural environment riding a bicycle may choose between the marked tours in the Valle de Mena or the Cuatro Villas de Amaya. Sport clubs and leisure and active tourism companies offer a wide range of activities, including canoeing, caving, white-water rafting, balloon flights and kite-surf.

Golf courses, ski resorts, nautical clubs or horse-riding centres make the sport offer even more suggestive. There are other interesting facilities such as the boat trip of the Castilla Canal, a good number of museums, archetypal buildings, modern interpretation centres or wineries, all of which have an educational function. The leisure offer, which is adapted to all tastes and possibilities, is completed with comfortable and cozy hotels, rural accommodation, health resorts, restaurants, grill houses and wineries.



Mountain-bike.



Kite-surfing
in the Ebro reservoir.



Visit to a
mining site.



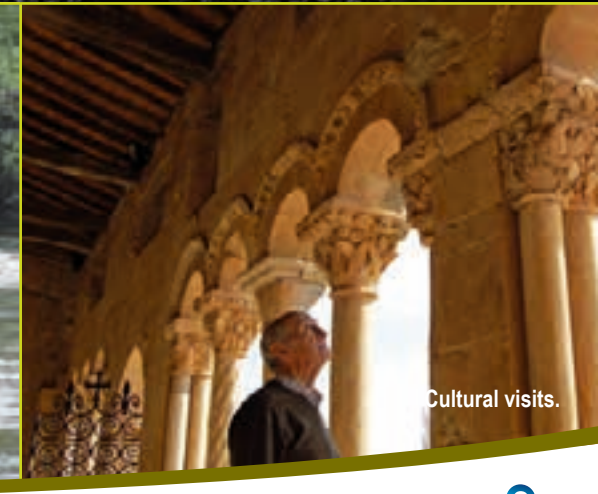
Charming accommodation.



Hiking.



Active tourism.
White-water rafting.



Cultural visits.

Atapuerca:

a million years waiting
for your visit



Excavation in the Gran Dolina.



Laguna de Atapuerca.



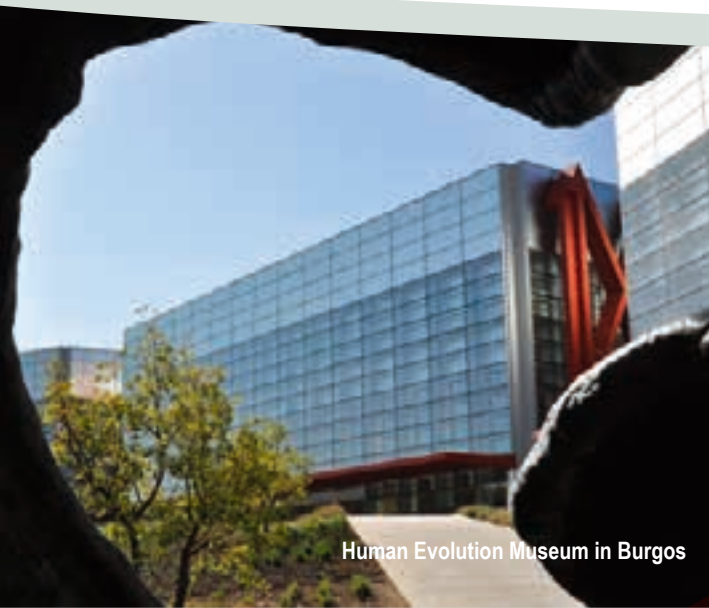
www.atapuerca.org

The Sierra de Atapuerca, at a short distance from the capital, is located in the midst of the province of Burgos, in a place where a rich diversity of ecosystems merge. In the late 19th century, a mine train project, which involved a deep cut into the land, uncovered the cavities where the deposits were found. These deposits have provided highly valuable information about prehistoric life.

The sites of the Sierra de Atapueca, which were declared a World Heritage by the UNESCO in the year 2000, have become a worldwide referent in the study of human evolution both for the quality and amount of fossil remains that have been found. These remains prove that humans have been present in the region for more than one million years. The excavations have brought to light human and animal remains and a spectacular fossil record has been made. Remains of "Homo Antecessor", which lived one million years ago and is thus the oldest species in Europe, have been found as well as numerous Homo Heidelbergensis fossils, which is a species that lived in the Middle Pleistoceno Medio, that is, 400.000 years ago

Nowadays, Atapuerca is a living deposit, to the extent that excavations are still going on. New findings, which are detected every season, contribute to unveiling unanswered questions about our origins. More specifically, they provide key information to answer what these antecessors looked like and how they lived.

Individual or group guided tours to the Sierra de Atapuerca sites start at the towns of Atapuerca or Ibeas de Juarros. Such visits may be completed with a more didactic experience to be encountered in the nearby Parque Arqueológico [Archaeological Park] or with the visit to the Museo de la Evolución Humana [Human Evolution Museum] in Burgos. Information and booking: 947 42 1000 / 902 024 246. Visits must be booked time in advance.



Human Evolution Museum in Burgos



Portrait of the Homo heidelbergensis family found in the Sima de los Huesos.



Visitor Reception Centre. Ibeas de Juarros.



Guided tour to the archaeological site in Atapuerca.



Skull 5 de Homo heidelbergensis.



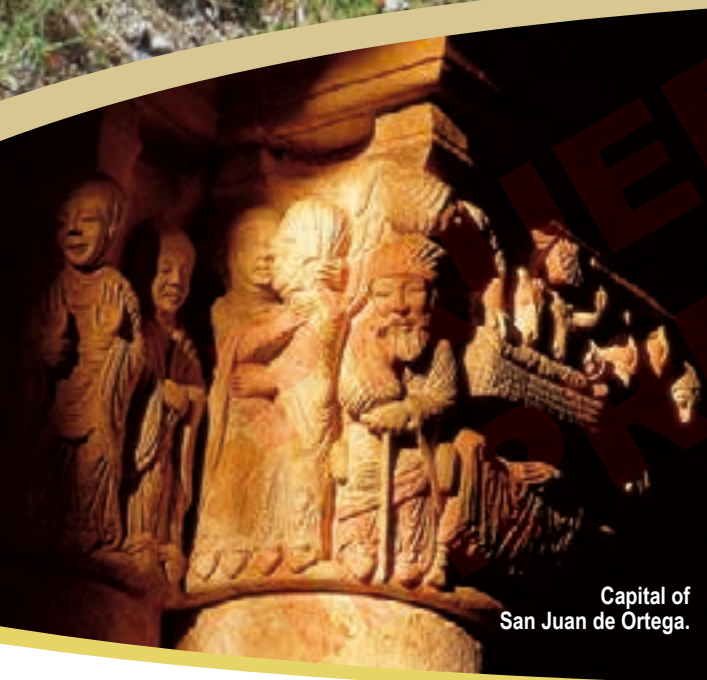
Archaeological Park at Atapuerca.

Camino de Santiago:

Europe's Main Road



Pilgrims at the Riopico Valley.



Capital of San Juan de Ortega.

From the 11th century onwards, the Camino de Santiago has become one of the most important pilgrimage routes for Christian Europeans. Coming from France and heading themselves towards Santiago de Compostela, pilgrims that choose the “French Way” walk along the provinces of Navarra, La Rioja, Burgos, Palencia and León, before reaching Galicia.

The route has left its mark on the towns it crosses through: at times it even constraints its trajectory, whose form is modelled according to a town-route shape. In this sense, its artistic legacy is enriched with the construction of hospitals, hostels, hermitages, churches, monasteries and numerous facilities related to the route itself, as for example bridges, roads or fountains.

The province of Burgos is crossed from east to west by the Jacobean Way. Such route, which is 114 kilometres long, is joined to La Rioja, the city of Burgos and the province of Palencia, leaving behind attractive natural landscapes and a rich monumental heritage. Throughout history, this itinerary has favoured an economical, artistic and cultural exchange between mainland Spain and the rest of Europe.

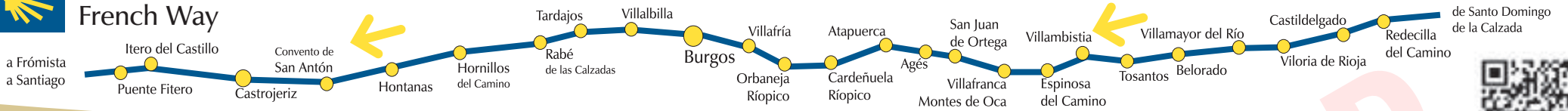
For many years, other pilgrims have used the Bayona Way, which departs from the Basque Country and reaches the Condado de Treviño and Miranda de Ebro before crossing through La Bureba and joining the French Way at the capital, Burgos.



The Camino de Santiago

French Way

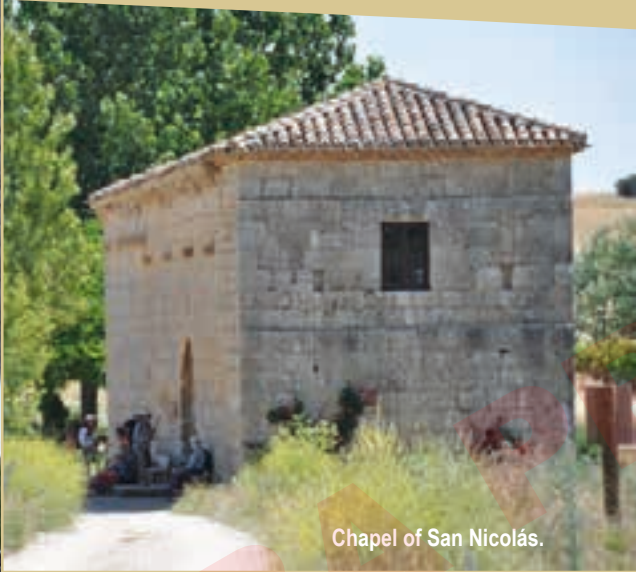
The UNESCO declared the Camino de Santiago the First European Cultural Itinerary (1987) and a World Heritage (1993).



There is a mobile app which will lead you through the Camino de Santiago.



Convent of San Antón.



Chapel of San Nicolás.



Bayona Way. Pancorbo gorge.



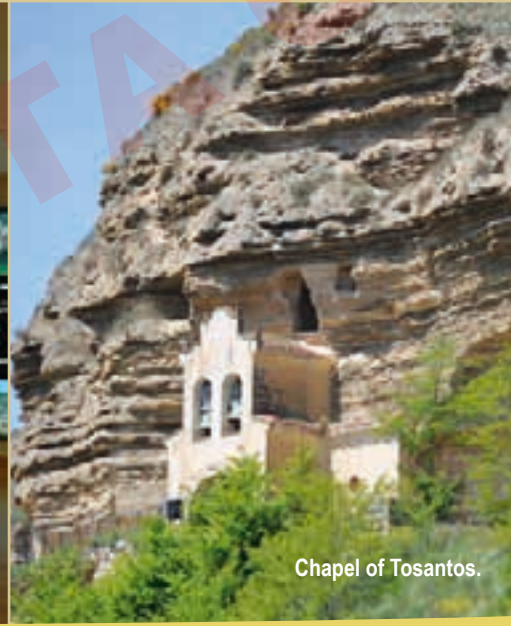
Pilgrims walking along the streets of Castrojeriz.



Villafranca Montes de Oca.



Information Centre for the Jacobean Way. Belorado.



Chapel of Tosantos.



Burgos: a city in evolution

View of the city from the castle.



Museum of Human Evolution.



www.aytoburgos.es

In the year 884, count Diego Porcelos founded a prosperous city which in time would become the capital of the kingdom of Castile. This city started its expansion on the shadow of a protective castle located in between the hill of San Miguel and the green Banks of the river Arlanzón.

The only way for pilgrims to gain access to Santiago, Burgos is at a crucial crossroads of communication; hence, commercial activity favoured the social, economic and urban development of this city.

Economic strength made possible the construction of some of the most monumental buildings in Burgos, among which it is possible to highlight St. Mary's Cathedral—one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture occurring across Spain. The construction of the Cathedral, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984, started at the beginning of the 13th century. The best artists and workshops of each time made their mark on the base of the dome, façade, spires, chapels, grills, altarpiece, sepulchre, etc., transforming the cathedral into Burgos' icon.

Although they are located at a remote spot from the city, visitors should not leave Burgos without visiting the Abbey of Santa María la Real de Las Huelgas and the Cartuja de Miraflores. These two archetypal buildings enclose a superb collection of sepulchres, altarpieces, sculptures and paintings.

Walking along the streets of the city centre, one comes across monumental religious and civil buildings which mix with pedestrian streets and green spaces devoted to leisure, as for example the Paseo del Espolón. The cluster of buildings made up by the Centro Nacional de Investigación [National Research Centre], the Palacio de Congresos [Conference Centre] and the Museo de la Evolución Humana [Museum of Human Evolution], which houses fossils found in the Sierra de Atapuerca, is an investment to modernize the city. In addition, gastronomy in Burgos has made a name for itself



Interior of the Cartuja de Miraflores.



The Cid.



St. Mary's Cathedral.



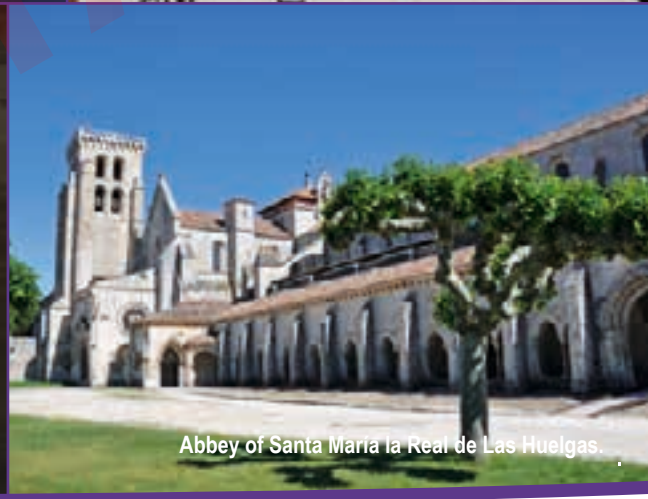
Arch of Santa María.



Casa del Cordón.



University of Burgos.



Abbey of Santa María la Real de Las Huelgas.



Gastronomic offer.

Las Merindades: true northern character



Hermitage of San Bernabé.



Las Merindades

More information.



www.lasmerindades.com

The nearby provinces of Cantabria, Álava and Vizcaya mark off the limits of this northern region. The river Ebro, the peaks of the Cordillera Cantábrica and a part of the Meseta Castellana are the main elements of this territory of contrasts; its natural environment stands out because of its great vegetal diversity, characterized by very different seasonal colours.

In short, the Merindades region is a daydream landscape. A continuous succession of depressions, colourful paramos, glacier valleys, steep mountains, great cavities, challenging gorges, spectacular waterfalls, fast-flowing rivers, steep meadows and fresh beech woods.

It is a region where its diverse settlers have left an important legacy: starting with the man of the Paleolithic period, who lived in Ojo Guareña, up to those who witnessed the record at the Monastery of Valpuesta of the earliest words written in Castilian, one of the birthplaces of one of the most important languages in the world. In the Middle Ages the region played a crucial role, for it was the origin of the Primitivo Condado de Castilla [Primitive County of Castile].

The map of the region is speckled with enigmatic megalithic tombs, hermitages from the high mediaeval period and several archaeological deposits. Throughout history, Roman and mediaeval roads and bridges have witnessed continuous crossing of armed forces, traders, mule drivers as well as pilgrims heading for Santiago. In this region, Romanic art, which is represented by a good number of small and stylistically unified churches and chapels, has a name of itself. Gothic style churches and monasteries are, however, no less important.

The region's past belligerent status is seen in the numerous castles, defensive towers and forts and its palaces and emblazoned mansions are a symbol of centuries of economic splendour. Its picturesque towns and monumental buildings give way to a unique popular architecture. Other of the reasons to come and visit

Las Merindades are its festivals, gastronomy, museums and sport activities.



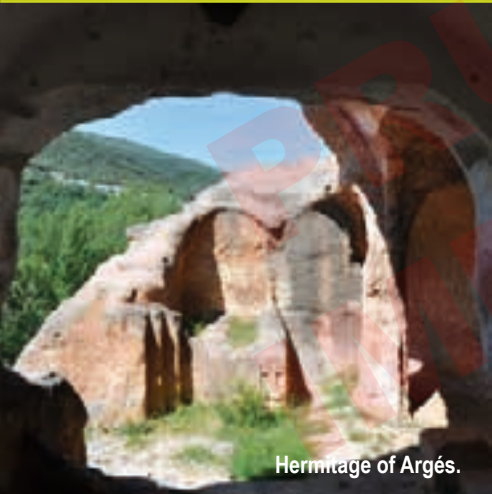
Las Pisas Waterfall.



Monastery of San Salvador de Oña.



Romanic church of San Pedro de Tejada.



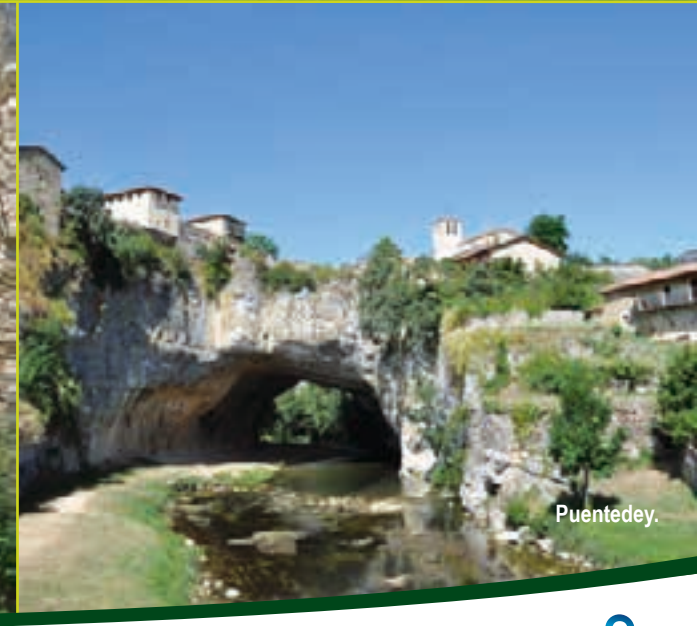
Hermitage of Argés.



Alcazar de los Condestables.
Medina de Pomar.



Gorge of Herrán.



Puente de Arlanza.

La Bureba:

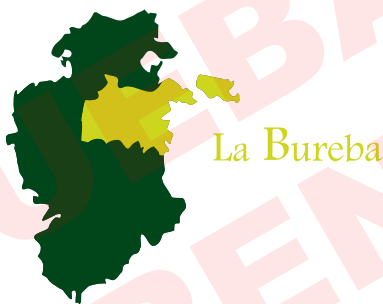
more than you can imagine



Poza de la Sal.



Sotopalacios.



La Bureba

More information:



www.adecobureba.com

This unique region of contrasts is located at the eastern part of the province, in close proximity to Álava and La Rioja and it is characterised by a large and even hollow plot of land, known as La Bureba. The Condado de Treviño, the pastoral Valle de Las Caderechas, the diapir of Poza de la Sal, the first Castilian paramos of the Merindad de río Ubierna and the valleys Oca and Tirón are all located at sites around this region.

The last section of the river Ebro, where it passes through the province of Burgos, has shaped the impressive gorges of the Montes Obarenes Natural Park. It is an area of bioclimatic and vegetal transition: cereal fields in the fertile plains, dense riverbank woods and hills covered by rich vegetation.

The only way for people moving between the north and the centre of mainland Spain, this territory has an enormous cultural and historical legacy. It has been a crossing point for the Celts, Romans, Goths, Muslims and Christians as well as for pilgrims heading for Santiago, both those walking along the French Way and the Bayona Way. Other relevant personages who have left a mark in this region are the legendary Cid Campeador and the emperor Carlos V.

This is the reason why it is currently possible to find a continuous succession of interesting heritage assets, some of which have been declared Heritage of Cultural Interest goods. Archaeological deposits, Roman roads, necropolis, hermitages, mediaeval bridges, castles, forts, palaces, mansions, monasteries as well as a long list of slender Romanic churches and chapels are scattered around the region. Some of its towns preserve unique examples of popular architecture, the basics of which are materials such as stone, wood and sun-dried bricks. In addition, these towns have known how to keep alive their popular festivals, traditions and gastronomy, which is based on local products.

This privileged natural environment is an ideal site to practice different activities such as mountain-bike, caving, bird watching or hiking along a signposted pathway.



Miranda de Ebro.



Fort of Santa Engracia.
Pancorbo.



Monasterio de Rodilla.



Villanueva Sopotilla.



La Puebla de Arganzón.



Briviesca.



Gorge of Sobrón.

Amaya - Camino de Santiago:

the essence of Castile



Canal de Castilla.



Sasamón.

Amaya
Camino
de Santiago



More information:



www.adeco-camino.org

Paramos and crop production dominate the western part of the province of Burgos. The topography of the region is very smooth, to the extent that the sole mountain range that breaks the line in the horizon is the Peña Amaya. Common riverbank vegetation grows along the course of the river basin of the Ebro and the Duero.

The steepest part of the region is to be found at the north. In this site, the Páramo de Las Loras, la Peña Amaya and the spectacular canyons of the rivers Ebro and Rudrón, which have been declared nature parks, mark off the border with the provinces of Palencia and Cantabria and with Las Merindades.

Towards the west, the river Pisuerga and the Canal de Castilla, one of the most outstanding hydraulic engineering works of all times, mark off the limits with the nearby Tierra de Campos Palentina [Land of Fields of Palencia].

This region, which is now characterized by its quietness, was an intense economic exchange region due to commerce and wool trade. Such intense economic boom fostered the construction of great temples.

The large number of goods that have been declared Heritage of Cultural Interest is a proof of the extensive artistic and monumental heritage. In this geographical region, there are megalithic art pieces, as for example dolmens; beautiful and solid Romanic churches, which transfer visitors to the beginning of the second millenium; solid Gothic and Renaissance temples built in the most splendidous centuries; castles and defensive towers, which are a testimony of the region's belligerent past; justice rolls exhibited in its squares; architectural ensembles preserving their mediaeval outline; palaces and stately mansions linked to noble families; bridges, roads and aqueducts used by people in transit and by thousands of pilgrims. The Camino de Santiago, which in 1987 was declared the First European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe, stands out among this region's extensive artistic legacy.



Dolmen in Las Arnillas.



Moradillo de Sedano.



Grijalba.



Villasandino.



Valdelateja.



Castrojeriz.



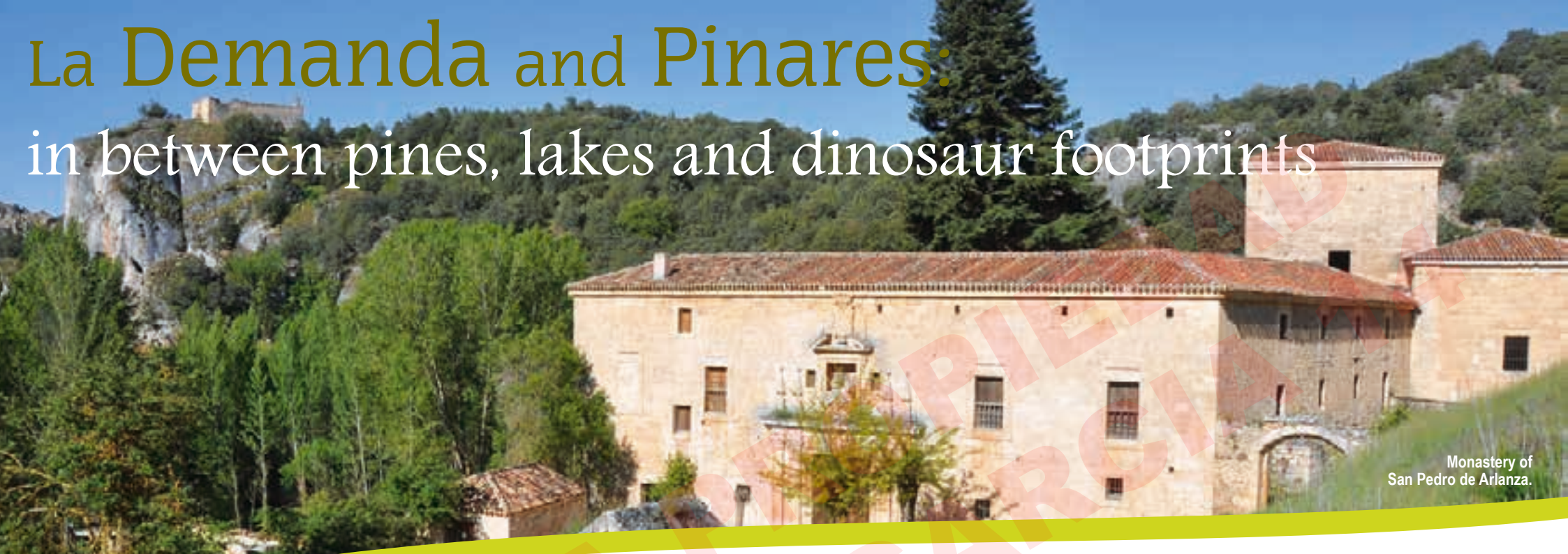
Camino de Santiago.



Olmillos de Sasamón.

La Demanda and Pinares:

in between pines, lakes and dinosaur footprints



Monastery of San Pedro de Arlanza.



Dinosaur reconstruction in Mambriillas de Lara.



La Demanda
y Pinares

More information:



www.sierradelademanda.com

The highland region called “Pinares”, which is closely linked to the nearby provinces of Soria and La Rioja, has a character of its own. Its unique landscape as well as its population’s lifestyle has been determined by the mountain range and the pines. This peculiar natural environment has given way to a huge ethnographic reality. Traditions, customs, festivals, architecture, etc. are inextricably bound to activities such as transhumance or forest exploitation.

Magical and shady beech woods, never-ending Pyrenean oak woods, oak woods, holly and birch trees, pastures and meadows grow next to a thick and extensive Scott pine forest mass. This region is dominated by the peaks of the mountain ranges in San Millán, Mencilla and Neila, with their glacial cirques and lakes.

This great mass of pines encloses an unexpected archeological treasure: one of the greatest architectural ensembles of the high mediaeval period in Europe, including towns, necropolis and hermitages. Some of these ensembles, dated from the 10th century, have more than one hundred and fifty anthropomorphic tombs.

Around 160 years ago, in the Jurassic period, different dinosaur species lived in this area and left their footprint marks on rocks. Several fossil trees, of considerable size and more than 130 million years old, have also been found in the region. Nowadays, these findings are clearly signposted. In the shadow of the Visigoth church of Quintanilla de Las Viñas and, especially, of the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, there are examples of magnificent Romanic temples: the ones in Jaramillo de la Fuente, Vizcaínos and Pineda de la Sierra, which are characterized by their original 12th-century galleries, are singularly relevant. Popular architecture is constructed in line with severe winter conditions and the necessities of shepherds, cart drivers, resin experts and blacksmiths.



Covarrubias.



Scaling in ice.



Glacial lakes in Neila.



Mansion in the road.
Aldea del Pinar.



Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos.



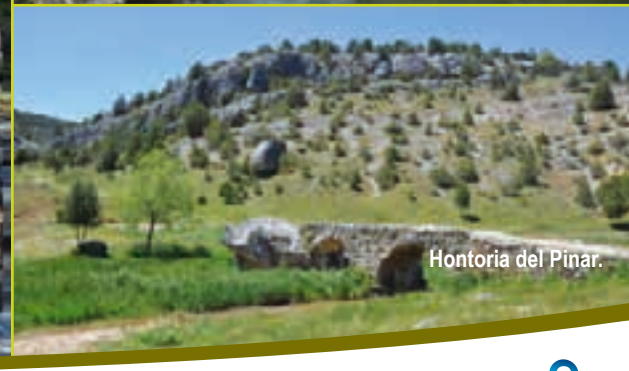
Romanic church in Pineda de la Sierra.



Necropolis in Revenga.



Gorge of the river Pedroso.



Hontoria del Pinar.

The valley of Arlanza:

scenery through time



Sabinares del Arlanza.



Mazuelo de Muñó.

El Valle del Arlanza

More information.



www.adecoar.com

Over the centuries, the water of the river Arlanza has sculptured a wide valley, which spreads between the Ribera del Duero and the capital, Burgos. From its spring in Fuente Sanza, the river Arlanza has drawn up a long and sinuous itinerary towards the western part of the province of Burgos.

Crossing along the Tierra de Pinares [Pine Land], the river reaches the protected natural space of La Yecla and the Sabinares del Arlanza. It is at this site where, side by side with the typical riverbank vegetation (gall-oak and holm oak woods and savins), the first vineyards grow. They add a touch of colour to this pleasant landscape, which has a character of its own. The river meanders its way and comes in contact with the large Castilian paramos, before merging with the river Arlanzón, at a point close to the Cerrato Palentino [a region in the province of Palencia].

There are testimonies dating back to the first settlers of these valleys, who established themselves in this region before the Roman occupation. The arrival of Visigoths, the Muslim conquest, the depopulation drift of the Duero valley frontier area, the repopulation of the Meseta and the birth of Castile occurred at different stages in the history of this territory.

The river Arlanza and its tributary network, among which the river Mataviejas stands out, water places where a highly historical activity has resulted in an interesting artistic and cultural legacy. Nowadays, in the Arlanza Valley it is possible to find Roman deposits, as for example the ones in Tordomar or Solarana. There are also important monasteries such as San Pedro de Cardeña or Villamayor de los Montes as well as the outstanding Villa Ducal de Lerma and unique rural ensembles such as the ones in Puentedura or Santa María del Campo with its slender church. The list includes chapels, churches and temples of a wide range of artistic styles, bridges, palaces, towers, mansions, law rolls and other buildings scattered around the valley. The inhabitants of the Arlanza region, who have historically lived by growing crops and engaging in sheep farming, should take advantage of the promising future offered by winemaking.

The wines from Arlanza and roasted milk-fed baby lamb are a perfect match.



Vineyards in the Arlanza region.



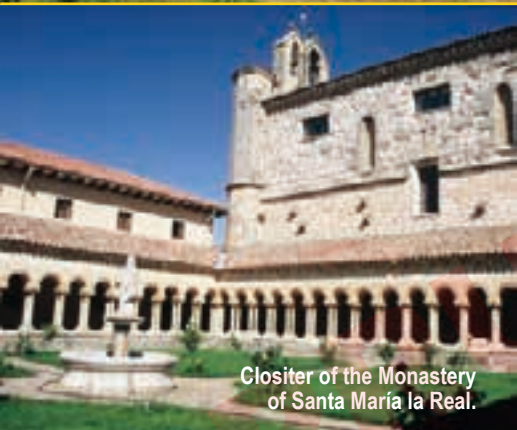
Vineyards in the Arlanza region.



Santa María del Campo.



Chapel of Santa Cecilia.



Cloister of the Monastery of Santa María la Real.



Villamayor de los Montes.



Lerma.



Gorge of the river Mataviejas.



Mahamud.

The Ribera del Duero: a land with the taste of wine



Roman city of Clunia. .



Aranda de Duero.



Ribera del Duero

More information.



www.riberadeldueroburgalesa.com

In the most southern part of the province of Burgos, the river Duero and its main tributaries have created the essential structure of a large hollow, where undulating hillsides, fertile meadows, terraces and large paramos draw a landscape of unexpected contrasts. It is rich in nuances, allowing the visitor to enjoy amazing views. It is the Ribera del Duero, a land famous for its old, fine and well-known wines.

As it penetrates deep into the region of Burgos, the river Duero soothes, gets bigger and shapes a large meadow, flowing in between sown fields, slopes and hills covered with vineyards. The Ribera de Duero in Burgos is a geographically well-defined region, marked off by the provinces of Palencia, Valladolid, Segovia and Soria, the Tierra de Pinares and the Valley of Arlanza.

This riverside region is a clear example of a domesticated cultural landscape. Wine and its culture, whose tradition has been passed down from generation to generation for over 2,000 years, has left an important mark on the landscape, as it is possible to see in the Roman city of Clunia.

The river Duero region, which acted as a natural border in the long time gone days of the Reconquest of Spain between the Christian kingdoms of the north and the Muslims, is a territory that possesses a long history as well as rich artistic legacy. The riverside surroundings are peopled by deposits, bridges, roads, castles, chapels, churches, monasteries, palaces and monumental ensembles, which live side by side with the humble and expressive popular architecture. In the Ribera del Duero there is, in addition, a differentiating element: a rich architecture linked to wine, which is made up by wineries and wine cellars with doors directed towards the north and which were used as a place to prepare and store wine. Nowadays, some of these wine cellars are open to visitors. In short, the Ribera del Duero is a structural framework which encloses past secrets, majestic monuments and beautiful surroundings and which invites visitors to enjoy the warmth of its people and to taste wine, roasted milk-fed baby lamb and excellent wines.



Roa.



Vineyards.



Caleruega.



Coruña del Conde.



Hontangas.



Vadocondes.



Gumiel de Izán.



Underground wine cellars.

Burgos: practical guide

Casa de la Madera.
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