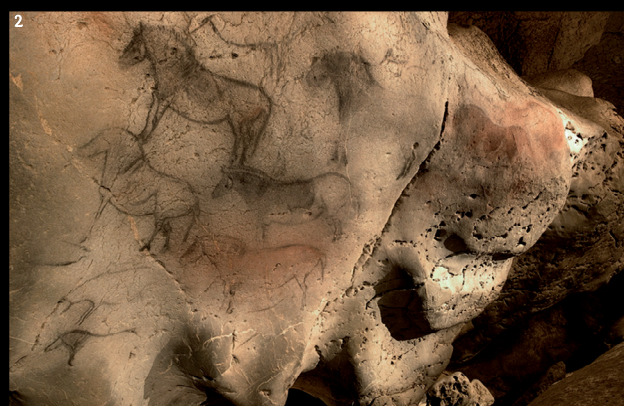
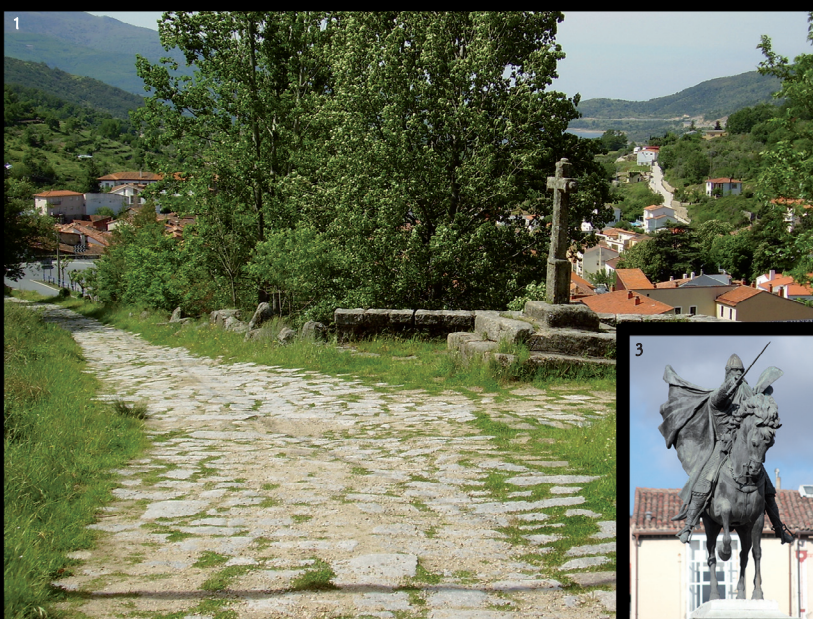


Cultural Routes of Spain



Cultural Routes in Spain



1. Baños de Montemayor. Roman road / 2. Zestoa. Ekain Cave. / 3. Burgos. El Cid Campeador / 4. Yuste Monastery / 5. Lucena. Easter Procession

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Spain & Portugal*

2021 **VERONIA** Tours
Since 1998...
Your expectations, our passion

Discover the heart of Andalucía and understand the Andalusian Lent and Easter along the CAMINOS de PASIÓN Route



The 40 days that precede the Easter festivities, a period known as Cuaresma/Lent -where focus is on preparing for Easter Week- are celebrated differently in the eight towns that we are going to discover during this tour: the towns belonging to the Caminos de Pasión Route are located in the heart of Andalusia and are emblematic for their rich history legacy and beauty.

For one week a year the towns recreate the birth, life, passion and death of Christ in its own way, displaying the artistic wealth of its images, the quality of its musical compositions and the individuality of its most deep-rooted customs.



Cabra, Plaza Vieja

DAY 01 MÁLAGA AIRPORT / Arrival - OSUNA

After arriving at the Málaga Airport we will travel to Osuna for overnight.

DAY 02 OSUNA

In the morning we will visit Osuna -seat of the Duchy of the same name- and will stroll through the its magnificent Old Quarter with a vast monumental heritage.

Come relish the colours, scents and sensations of this city nestling in Seville's lush green "campiña" countryside.

Among others we will have the chance to visit the Collegiate Church, the Monastery of La Encarnación, and the Archaeological and Municipal Museums as well as its artistic form of leathercraft steeped in history and tradition: Cordovan.

Osuna's geographical location, halfway between Seville and Granada, marked the genesis and evolution of the town's Easter Week, in which traditions from east and west Andalusia come together.

Overnight in Osuna.



Priego de Córdoba, Barrio de la Villa

DAY 03 OSUNA / Excursion CARMONA - SEVILLA

After breakfast we will departure to the alluring Sevillian town of Carmona which stands overlooking the fertile plains of the province of Seville. A tour of its historic centre, taking in its imposing heritage, provides ample evidence of the different peoples who have in the past made the city their home.

We will learn more of its history as we visit some of the most emblematic historic sites such as the Roman Necropolis, the Alcázar de la Puerta de Sevilla, the Alcázar de Rey Don Pedro and the Priory of Santa María.

Easter Week in Carmona is recognised for its imagery, given that it includes some unique icons of incalculable value, such as the oldest sculpture in Andalusia that continues to be part of the Easter Week procession, created in 1521.

We will have the chance to visit a Brotherhood house where we can admire the accessories that accompany the floats in admirable, such as the embroidery, the wooden sculptures and silverware, which form part of the town's cultural heritage.

In the afternoon we will continue to Sevilla where we will strolling through the historic centre of Andalusia's capital and visiting its marvellous attractions, including the Cathedral and the Reales Alcázares.

Return to Osuna for overnight.

DAY 04 OSUNA - PUENTE GENIL - BAENA - PRIEGO DE CORDOBA

Enroute to Priego de Córdoba we will stop in Puente Genil and Baena.

Puente Genil it is a small cosmopolitan town with a rich heritage of archaeological treasures and industrial architecture.

Many important traditions have survived here, most of them associated with the Easter Week.

A visit to the Easter Week permanent exhibition, promoted by the organisation of brotherhoods and biblical groups which presents a simulation of life in the Easter Week "cuarteles", will give us the opportunity to discover the most representative moments during Easter and Lent.

We will have the chance to taste the Montilla-Moriles excellent wines while visiting one of its wineries such as "Bodegas Delgado", a wine company which still occupies its original premises in the historic town centre.

In Baena, a town which still retains the aura of its venerable past, ancient traditions have been conserved down through the centuries as a living testimony to the history, art and culture just waiting to engulf visitors.

The historic quarter of the city is on the slope of a hill crowned with a castle, which formerly belonged to the famous captain Gonzalo de Cordoba. Baena is also known for producing high quality olive oil, which is the basis of the town economy.





Osuna. Good Friday

The Association of Easter Week brotherhoods from Baena has created a permanent exhibition on the local Easter Week traditions, declared as being of national touristic interest.

The exhibition can be found in the Casa de la Condesa, the association's headquarters.

Today we will discover the olive oil culture while visiting its Olive Oil Museum. Overnight in Priego de Córdoba

DAY 05 PRIEGO DE CORDOBA / Excursion ALCALA LA REAL

After breakfast we will discover Priego de Córdoba, a town that invites to feast the senses and wander through backstreets full of numerous emblematic monuments and Museums, such the Brotherhood / Cofrade Museum. During a relaxed stroll we will admire Baroque art in all its splendour and will explore the narrow, winding alleys of La Villa, the old Moorish quarter.

In the afternoon we will visit of Alcalá la Real, an outstanding town marked by the legacy of its long history, its gastronomy, its craftsmanship and its folklore.

We will visit the impressive Fortress of la Mota and the Museum as well as the Ecce-Homo and Jesús en la Columna Brotherhood's House which will allow

us to become better acquainted with the emblematic characteristic of Alcalá's Easter Week.

Overnight in Priego de Córdoba .

DAY 06 PRIEGO DE CORDOBA / Excursion LUCENA – CABRA

Departure to the the bustling, iconic city of Lucena, the "Pearl of Sepharad" and "City of the Three Cultures" which is and has always been renowned as a paragon of peaceful coexistence.

It is also the cradle of Andalusia's famous brand of romantic banditry known as "bandolerismo".

We will get to know the Exhibition Religious Imagery from Lucena, a museum that gives us the chance to delve into the world of religious imagery.

We continue to Cabra, located in the heart of the Natural Park of Sierra Subbéticas, surrounded by mountains, springs and stunning landscapes.

Cabra has an extensive heritage of mainly Baroque monuments. We will visit the Los Estudiantes Brotherhood Sacred Art Museum, a highly interesting display of Andalusian baroque sculptures as well as areas that

show the brotherhood's Easter Week paraphernalia.

Overnight in Priego de Córdoba.

DAY 07 PRIEGO DE CORDOBA - MÁLAGA AIRPORT/ Departure

Today we will transferred to the Málaga Airport for our return flight.



Carmona. Alcazar Puerta de Sevilla

Discover the heart of Andalucía and understand the Andalusian Lent and Easter along the CAMINOS de PASION Route	
7 days	
Day 1	✈️ MÁLAGA AIRPORT / Arrival - OSUNA
Day 2	OSUNA
Day 3	OSUNA / Excursion CARMONA - SEVILLA
Day 4	OSUNA - PUENTE GENIL - BAENA - PRIEGO DE CORDOBA
Day 5	PRIEGO DE CORDOBA / Excursion ALCALA LA REAL
Day 6	PRIEGO DE CORDOBA / Excursion LUCENA - CABRA
Day 7	PRIEGO DE CORDOBA - MÁLAGA AIRPORT / Departure ✈️

ROUTE OF CHARLES V: THE JOURNEY OF AN EMPEROR

Charles V, (born February 24, 1500, Ghent, and died September 21, 1558, San Jerónimo de Yuste, Spain), Holy Roman emperor (1519-56), king of Spain (as Charles I; 1516-56), and archduke of Austria (as Charles I; 1519-21), who inherited a Spanish and Habsburg empire extending across Europe from Spain and the Netherlands to Austria and the Kingdom of Naples and reaching overseas to Spanish America. He struggled to hold his empire together against the growing forces of Protestantism, increasing Ottoman and French pressure, and even hostility from the pope.

At last he yielded, abdicating his claims to the Netherlands and Spain in favour of his son Philip II and the title of emperor to his brother Ferdinand I and retiring to the Royal Monastery of Yuste.

The route offers the chance to visit villages and areas of extraordinary natural beauty, the deep-rooted culture of the people, reflected by their traditions, legends and lifestyle.



DAY 01 BILBAO AIRPORT / Arrival - VILLAVICIOSA

Arrival in Bilbao and departure to Villaviciosa.

We will discover Villaviciosa where the Emperor Charles I of Spain, V of Germany landed -for first time in Spain- and hosted in the town, being this one of the most important events of the history of the Villaviciosa. Overnight in Villaviciosa.

DAY 02 VILLAVICIOSA - TAZONES - LLANES - LAREDO

In the morning we will departure to Tazones.

Tazones maintains the feel of a typical Asturian town, but in this case the town is open to the sea making it one of the most beautiful villages in the area. Everything in the village links to the port and reflects a romantic sea where the depth of the horizon merges with reality.

Charles V arrived to the port of Tazones by because of a storm that changed the course of the whole court to Santander, we can imagine that this disembarkation was not really important at first but the main aim of this trip was to take charge of his crown and from Tazones he started his discovery of the Iberian reign.

Continue to Llanes and stroll in historic town, declared a Historic-Artistic Site and it preserves major examples of civil, religious and military architecture. Among other historic structures, it has more than 300 metres of pre-Romanesque wall from the 13th century; the Castle Tower, the basilica of Santa María del Conceyu, which was started in the mid-12th century; the palaces of Gaztañaga and of the Dukes of Estrada and the old house of Posada Herrera, today made into a Municipal Arts Centre.

Possibility to enjoy a seafood lunch in Llanes.

In the afternoon we will discover Laredo, one of the main tourist towns on the Cantabrian coast. It has one of the biggest and most beautiful beaches in the region: La Salvé.

The town is structured into three very different zones: the old village and its neighbourhood, the area of the newer suburbs and the extension of this towards El Puntal.

The first of these was declared to be a Historic-Artistic Site in 1970.

Overnight in Laredo.



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DAY 03 LAREDO - MEDINA DE POMAR - BURGOS

After breakfast departure to Medina de Pomar, where the emperor entered on October 9th, 1556. There is a milestone that reminds of the Emperor's passing through the town. Amongst the nobiliary houses, it is the North gate of the town, where we can find the tower-house of the old governor and where the emperor stayed for the night.

Continue to Burgos, where Charles V stayed here for three days, from October 13th to the 16th, a visit that was reflected in the arch of Santa María, dating from the second third of the 16th century. This arch was the main gate of the wall that surrounded the city, restored and adorned with small towers during that same century, and dedicated to Charles V. It includes representations of the emperor and other distinguished figures of the by that time infant kingdom of Castilla. This was the last journey that the son of Juana la Loca (Joanna the Mad) made to the city of Burgos.

Overnight in Burgos.

DAY 04 BURGOS - VALLADOLID - PLASENCIA

Departure to Valladolid, one of the cities where the emperor stayed the longest during his last journey. He decided to stay there from October 22nd until November 4th, the day when he left for Valdestillas, a town located in the same province. The records show that on the 4th of November the king's entourage headed for Extremadura, and Carlos V ate in public. A bit afterwards he bid his daughter, grandson and sisters a very warm farewell. At about three thirty in the afternoon he left the city, but did not allow the noblemen, prelates or any of the many people that tried to accompany him, to go farther than the Puerta del Campo.

During his stay in the city, Carlos V accommodated himself in the old Palacio Real, nowadays Capitanía General. A magnificent building, across from the convent church of San Pablo which was constructed following orders given by the emperor's secretary, Francisco de los Cobos.

Continue to Tordesillas where we can enjoy a regional lunch.

A city of great historical importance, there are many reasons why it is worth getting to know. Stately homes and palaces bear witness to the importance once held by the court in the life of the town. Tordesillas is a fascinating town whose place in history is secure for two reasons: firstly, because after a series



Laredo. Santa María de La Asunción Church



of difficult negotiations, Spain and Portugal met here to sign the Treaty of Tordesillas. This agreement drew a line in the Atlantic Ocean dividing the new lands which were being discovered in Africa and America between the two powers. The second reason is rather more romantic: after the death of her husband, Queen Juana I, known as "Juana la Loca" (Mad Juana) because she was said to have been driven crazy by love, retired to Tordesillas in 1509. She remained there in a palace-fortress until her death in 1555.

When Charles V was informed of his mother's death, the tidings induced his melancholy and thoughts of death. It made him advance the date of his abdication. Crippled with gout, he retired to prepare for his own departure from life.

Overnight in Plasencia.

DAY 05 PLASENCIA - JERTE VALLEY - JARANDILLA DE LA VERA

Plasencia has a historic quarter that is a consequence of the city's strategic location. This town was inhabited by Romans and Arabs until the 12th century, when King Alfonso VIII reconquered it. Since the 15th century, the noblemen of the region began to move to Plasencia, defining its current appearance. Palaces, ancestral homes and significant religious buildings make up a unique old quarter.

Departure to the beautiful Jerte valley famous for its cherry liqueurs and its villages with interesting popular architecture in a setting of cherry orchards and fruit trees. Jerte itself is the gateway to the Garganta de los Infernos nature reserve. This is one of the numerous nature areas in the region, and has an abundance of streams, waterfalls, natural pools and wetland forests.

We then come to Tornavacas, the last of the villages in the valley we will enjoy a traditional lunch.

In the afternoon continue to Jarandilla de la Vera for overnight.



Tazones.

DAY 06 JARANDILLA DE LA VERA / Excursion CUACOS DE YUSTE - REAL MONASTERIO YUSTE

In the morning we will stroll in Jarandilla de la Vera where Charles V stayed at the palace of Jarandilla, built in the 15th century, while Yuste was being readied. At present, the palace houses the town's Parador de Turismo, this castle/palace once hosted Emperor Charles V for a period of several months before his retirement to the Monasterio de Yuste. Jarandilla's civil architecture includes remarkable buildings, we can also see several medieval bridges of Roman design, in whose construction they used ashlar stones from a nearby Roman mausoleum.

Visit the monumental site of Cuacos was declared a Historic-Artistic Site in 1959. There are three squares that we must visit in Cuacos de Yuste: the Plaza de Don Juan de Austria, shaped like an oval and lined with houses that have wooden balconies and porches; Plaza de España; and Plaza de los Chorros, with a harmonious popular atmosphere. The parish church of Nuestra Señora de Asunción, from the 15th century, is one of the most elaborate and interesting temples in the region.

The monastery of Yuste deserves special attention.

During the 15th century, the church and its first Gothic cloister were built. In the 16th century, a Renaissance cloister was erected east of the other one. Its international fame, however, is due to the fact that this was the dwelling place of emperor Charles V, when he left the crown to his son, Phillip II. A small and austere palace was erected for him, in the southern flank of the convent. The order of Hieronymite inhabits the monastery. Overnight in Jarandilla de la Vera.

DAY 07 JARANDILLA DE LA VERA - TOLEDO

Departure to Toledo.

In the afternoon we will enjoy a visit Toledo, a marvellous city that was already the capital of Spain under the Visigoths and would become so again when the Christians reclaimed the city. It is the enclave that best expresses the religious avatars of the Middle Ages. From the Visigoth period which emanated the idea of a united, independent and Catholic Iberian Peninsula, to the medieval cohabitation of three religions -the Cristo de la Luz Mosque, the Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca Synagogues, and the Cathedral - we arrive at the controversial Spanish Renaissance: the Santa Cruz hospital and El Greco. Despite the overlapping of cultures, wandering the narrow streets of Toledo continues to evoke the Mediterranean and Semitic origin of so many Spanish cities. Overnight in Toledo.

DAY 08 TOLEDO - MADRID AIRPORT / Departure

Transfer to the Airport of Madrid for return flight.

ROUTE OF CHARLES V: THE JOURNEY OF AN EMPEROR	
8 days	
Day 1	✈️ BILBAO AIRPORT / Arrival - VILLAVICIOSA
Day 2	VILLAVICIOSA - TAZONES - LLANES - LAREDO
Day 3	LAREDO - MEDINA DE POMAR - BURGOS
Day 4	BURGOS - VALLADOLID - PLASENCIA
Day 5	PLASENCIA - JERTE VALLEY - JARANDILLA DE LA VERA
Day 6	JARANDILLA DE LA VERA / Excursion CUACOS DE YUSTE - REAL MONASTERIO DE YUSTE
Day 7	JARANDILLA DE LA VERA - TOLEDO
Day 8	TOLEDO - MADRID AIRPORT / Departure ✈️

PREHISTORIC ROCK ART TRAILS

Prehistoric Rock Art is the art of the first Europeans. It is the first major cultural, social and symbolic expression that we possess of Humankind. It appeared in Europe 42,000 years ago and developed throughout the Upper Palaeolithic, Neolithic, the Copper Age and the Bronze Age, until the Early Iron Age in some regions. Through this Route we will discover some of the place where the first inhabitants of Europe produced their transcendental rock art, an art full of symbolism motivated by religious belief and full of references to Nature, forming the first Cultural Landscapes of Europe.

The vast majority of these places have a great symbolic value and are part of the European Cultural Heritage, but also they are elements that support the local identity. This symbolic value has been recognized in the World Heritage List of UNESCO.



Cantabria. El Pendo Cave

DAY 01 MADRID AIRPORT / Arrival ARANDA DE DUERO - BURGOS

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 02 BURGOS / Excursion ATAPUERCA

Breakfast.

The city of Burgos, crossed by the Arlanzón River, was a military hamlet in its origins and it slowly became a powerful commercial city in the Middle Ages. A critical factor in this development was that Burgos was the capital of the unified kingdom of Castilla-Leon between the tenth and fifteenth centuries, its privileged location on the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela and the monopoly it held over the trade of merino wool, also contributed. Some of the remarkable buildings of this place include the Mudéjar Arch and Gothic church of San Esteban, which houses the Reredos Museum.

But beyond all doubt, the architectural masterpiece of Burgos is the cathedral, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Erected on top a Romanesque temple, the cathedral was built following a Norman French Gothic model.

Travel to Atapuerca Declared a World Heritage by UNESCO on November 30th, 2000, the Archaeological Sites of Sierra de Atapuerca are the only ones in Europe where it is possible to follow the evolution of the first human beings to inhabit the Old Continent, from approximately a million years ago to very recent periods.

In Burgos we will have the chance to visit the Museum of Human Evolution (MEH), whose inauguration foreseen for 2010 will make of Burgos the seat of the world's largest museum dedicated to human evolution and probably the best endowed due to the quality of the the findings of the Atapuerca archaeological site.

Overnight in Burgos.



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DAY 03 BURGOS - EKAINBERRI-ZESTOA - SANTANDER

Breakfast and departure to Ekainberri near Zestoa.

The Ekain Cave is one of the most important prehistoric sanctuaries in Europe and was designated World Heritage in 2008. It was discovered in 1969 and contains one of the most beautiful representations of horses in Franco-Cantabrian cave art. It runs for 150 metres and is home to 70 rock art figures: 64 are painted and 6 are engraved.

The colours ochre and black predominate. Besides horses, there are also other animals such as bison, deers and goats.

After a walk through the fascinating Sastarrain Valley we will visit the replica of Ekain Cave.

Continue to Santander.

In the afternoon we will visit Museum of Prehistory and Archaeology of Cantabria (MUPAC), an institution specializing in Prehistoric Archaeology located in the city of Santander. The strength of the MUPAC is its collection of Upper Palaeolithic portable art, one of the richest in the world.

Located in the basement of El Este Market, the MUPAC shows valuable objects, as a ceremonial staff found in El Pendo Cave with refined engravings of hinds and a horse, or a spatula with a relief of a Mountain goat from La Garma Cave (both sites are World Heritage), replicas of rock paintings, utensils from the Roman era and giant Cantabrian steles.

The collections of stone and Palaeolithic portable art utensils, carved in bones and horns, turn it into a reference museum among the European museums. Overnight in Santander .

DAY 04 SANTANDER / Excursion EL PENDO - EL CASTILLO - LAS MONEDAS

After breakfast we will depart to Camargo where the cave of monumental proportions and designated World Heritage in 2008 is located: El Pendo. The first part of the cave measures up to 40 metres in width and 22 metres in height. Special mention should be made of its entrance, which contained up to 600 square metres dedicated to human settlement.

It contains a major ensemble of ornamental items associated with early occupation by *Homo sapiens*. Furthermore, its "Frieze of Paintings" is outstanding. It is a panel measuring 25 metres in length visible from any point in the main hall, containing some twenty figures painted in red.

It shows 12 hinds, a Mountain goat, a horse and various other symbols, all drawn using the contour technique. It dates from around 24,000 B.C. Continue to Puente Viesgo, where the Cave El Castillo and Las Monedas are located, both were designated World Heritage in 2008.

The Cave of El Castillo contains paintings of a great many animals, including drawings of bison, deers, hinds, horses, aurochs, Mountain goats, even mammoths.

Archaeological remains from the Acheulean period (more than 150.000 years) to the Bronze Age are found along its 18 metres depth. The most primitive paintings are the dots/discs and some non-figurative symbols in red. There are also more than 700 symbols and depictions of animals, especially red deers, bisons and horses as well as Mountain goats and a mammoth.

The most common technics are painting and engraving. Ochre (red and yellow) paintings are, generally, the oldest (from Aurignacian and Gravetian periods), while black paintings are principally from the last Palaeolithic period, the Magdalenian. The Cave of Las Monedas with its impressive labyrinth of stalactites is the longest cave in the Monte del Castillo area. Its name comes from a cache of coins ("monedas") from the time of the Catholic Monarchs that was discovered inside the cave, one dating from 1563. It runs for 800 metres, although only 160 metres can be visited, and the route provides a wonderful spectacle of stalactites, stalagmites, columns and coloured karst formations. The images are concentrated in a small side hall and comprise groups of different symbols as well as 17 animal figures (horses, reindeers, Mountain goats, a bison and a bear), dating from around 10,000 B.C.. Overnight in Santander.

DAY 05 SANTANDER - SANTILLANA DEL MAR - RIBADESELLA

We will departure to Santillana del Mar where the grand tour of prehistoric archaeology to interpret what life was like in the days of Altamira.

The reproduction of the cave, the Neocave, presents Altamira as a Palaeolithic venue, a habitation site and a sanctuary.

This meticulous and exact reproduction, made in full scale, reconstructs the cave of Altamira as it was between 37,000 and 13,000 years ago, when it was inhabited by groups of hunter gatherers. The remains of the everyday life of its inhabitants can be found in the hall area, where there are large collections of fauna, shells, charcoals, and utensils made out of flint stone, antler and bone, as well as the remains of pigments and objects of furniture that provide information about their way of life.

The art surprises the visitor, especially the colourful roof with its bison, horses, Red deers, Mountains goats, and different painted and engraved symbols. It is in this part of the cave, scarcely penetrated by daylight, where the spaces of ritual and myth begin. This collection of animals and symbols represents a worldview, the spirituality of the hunters of the Upper Palaeolithic age and the start of our history.

The art of Altamira stands out on account of the quality of its paintings and engravings, as well as for the diversity of techniques and styles, and the collection of art spanning a period of more than twenty thousand years. It is the most spectacular embodiment of cave art, masterpiece of brilliant painters.

The afternoon will be dedicated to Santillana del Mar, a town slightly inland, where the best preserved palaces of Cantabria are situated: the Merino and Don Borja Towers, the Barreda Palace, as well as the Collegiate -the heart of this medieval-like town in whose cloister we find one of the exemplary works of the peninsular Romanesque style-.

Continue to Ribadesella for the overnight.

DAY 06 RIBADESELLA - SALAMANCA

In the morning we will get to know one of the treasures of European Caver Art; Cave Tito Bustillo with its geological value, its original inhabitants and their artistic expressions.

Tito Bustillo Cave Art Centre helps visitors gain an understanding of the artistic creations of our ancestors through a modern exhibition including top innovative and appealing techniques for all publics.

Tito Bustillo Cave is one of the best examples of Palaeolithic cave art in all Europe. The hard-to-reach location of several of the artistic groups and the need to preserve this exceptional heritage motivated the creation of the Tito Bustillo Cave Art Centre. The Tito Bustillo cave was declared Heritage of Humanity in 2008. Special mention to the main panel of paintings, with awesome figures of horses and reindeers in red ochre, black and violet colours. The difficulty in visiting several of its artistic sets and the need to conserve the exceptional heritage it contains led to the opening of the Tito Bustillo Rupestrian Art Centre in March 2011. Throughout their passage along the

permanent exposition, visitors can get to know when the cave was discovered, its geological value, who it was inhabited by and what the samples of rupestrian art preserved inside it are like.

Departure to Salamanca.

The beautiful city of Salamanca, with its magnificent 26-arch Puente Romano (Roman Bridge), which was built in the first century and is attributed to Emperor Trajano. We will explore its 15 original arches of Roman construction. The rest of the bridge was rebuilt during Philip IV's reign in the seventeenth century. Salamanca is known as the city of thought and knowledge but there is also art and beauty to be found here.

Its old quarter, declared an UNESCO Patrimony of Humanity site, has a wonderfully significant legacy with noteworthy architectural examples indistinct styles: Roman, Gothic, Baroque, and Plateresco.

Overnight in Salamanca.

DAY 07 SALAMANCA / Excursion SIEGA VERDE - YECLA LA VIEJA

After breakfast departure in the direction of Castro de Yecla la Vieja, located in the Ciudad Rodrigo region in the province of Salamanca.

This fortified settlement is located in the joining of the Huebra River and the Varlaña stream on large boulders. It takes up almost five hectares and is surrounded by a thick dry granite masonry wall.

The defense of the premises was completed with the presence of two sharp stone fields facing the main doors. The fort's foundation was built in the fifth century B.C. The presence of one hundred insculptures is emphasized on both the inside and the outside of the compound. These are sculpted works of art engraved in the rock. The necropolis found here matches the work of the Roman era as well as various funeral stelae that are reused today as decorative items on walls and facades in the Yecla area.

We will continue to the bridge near of Villar de la Yegua where we will have the opportunity to visit the Siega Verde Archaeological Area, the main site of Palaeolithic Rock Art at open air of Spain. It was discovered by Manuel Santoja at the end of the 1980s. All the engravings are outdoors next to the Agueda River's left shore around the bridge and mill. Ninety-four panels have been catalogued in which more than 500 animals are represented, primarily horses, aurochs, red deers, as well as some schematic symbols. The engravings were created by chipping them into the rock. The Siega Verde Didactic Hall brings us closer to the primitive world that is the origin of one of the most important archaeological centres in all of Europe, with a thought provoking audio-visual showing.

Return to Salamanca for overnight.

DAY 08 SALAMANCA - MADRID AIRPORT / Departure

Transfer to the Airport of Madrid for return flight.



PREHISTORIC ROCK ART TRAILS	
8 days	
Day 1	✈️ MADRID AIRPORT / Arrival - ARANDA DE DUERO - BURGOS
Day 2	BURGOS / Excursion ATAPUERCA
Day 3	BURGOS - EKAINBERRI-ZESTOA - SANTANDER
Day 4	SANTANDER / Excursion EL PENDO - EL CASTILLO - LAS MONEDAS
Day 5	SANTANDER - SANTILLANA DEL MAR - RIBADESELLA
Day 6	RIBADESELLA - SALAMANCA
Day 7	SALAMANCA / Excursion SIEGA VERDE - YECLA LA VIEJA
Day 8	SALAMANCA - MADRID AIRPORT / Departure ✈️

RUTA VIA DE LA PLATA: FROM SEVILLE TO GIJON

Ruta Via de la Plata, a commercial path that joins the northwest of Spain with the Mediterranean by way of Andalusia, thus avoiding the winding Atlantic coast. The Carthaginian general Hannibal trod this route as did the Romans who left their mark in the form of bridges and other wonders of engineering. Here is where their culture had the most impact, influencing their urban design, their language, their laws and the Christian religion.

The Arabs would arrive later, but throughout the Middle Ages the northern Christian kingdoms would make their way back down imposing definitively their power. During the Reconquest there emerged great Spanish noble families whose countless palaces span the cities and towns along this road.



DAY 01 SEVILLE AIRPORT / Arrival

Of the three capitals that the Muslims had in Andalucía, it was Seville that the Christian kings chose for themselves. Peter I had the Royal Palaces built, one of the prominent works of the Mudéjar style art. Here too the Gothic Cathedral occupies the grounds of the former mosque, leaving only the Patio de los Naranjos and the ancient minaret, the Giralda bell tower from which one can enjoy a panoramic view of all Seville. A stroll through the center of the town with its palaces, churches and parks takes us to quarters such as Santa Cruz with its singular courtyards, iron gates and balconies.

Possibility of organizing a special tapas lunch

Overnight in Seville.

DAY 02 SEVILLE

The city formerly known as Hispalis has an important Roman history and even traces of Tartesian origins. But it is in the neighboring Roman city of Itálica where we can best contemplate this aspect of history. Having been the cradle of the Roman Emperors Trajan and Hadrian, we get an idea of the importance of this municipality. The excavations have brought to light the

typical Roman reticule, the amphitheatre, remains of the baths, and mosaic-decorated homes.

Overnight in Seville.

DAY 03 SEVILLE - ZAFRA

The village of Zafra played an important role as a border town between Andalusia and Extremadura.

Over the castle of Arab origin rises the Gothic-Renaissance fortress and ancient palace -nowadays a Parador- of one of the great figures of Spain, the Duke of Feria. The urban framework centers on the beautiful gated squares, side streets, old hospitals and convents, one of which is today the town hall.

Overnight in Zafra.

DAY 04 ZAFRA - PLASENCIA

After breakfast, we will travel down the Vía de la Plata to Plasencia, where the number of estates and palaces huddled around the Plaza Mayor and its



Ruta Vía de la Plata

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adjacent streets is so abundant that the visitor feels transported to times gone past. Towers, beautiful facades and unique windows adorn the palaces of the families Golfines, Toledo Moctezuma, Godoy and Carvajal among others. The walled village of Plasencia features narrow side streets centering around a lively Main Square. Notable palaces include the Mirabel and the Carvajal. The most interesting of all are the two Cathedrals, hidden within each other. Overnight in Plasencia.

DAY 05 PLASENCIA - BEJAR - ZAMORA

The best kept stretches of Vía de la Plata are found in the mountain passes, here in the section of the sierra that separates Extremadura from Castile. Possibility of hiking from Baños de Montemayor to the Magdalena bridge. Our route will take us to Zamora in the morning and we will have the chance to discover its charming medieval quarter visiting the Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral with its beautiful Byzantine dome and the castle's park. More than twenty Romanesque churches are scattered throughout the city -notable among them are San Ildefonso, La Magdalena, San Juan and Santa María la Nueva-. Overnight in Zamora.

DAY 06 ZAMORA - LEON

In the morning we will departure to León, the capital city of the kingdom that encompassed the Vía de la Plata almost in its entirety, offers masterful works of art from various eras. Just as the Romanesque style of the Collegiate of San Isidoro was pioneering in both architecture and painting, and the Gothic Cathedral houses one of the best kept treasures of stained glass, so does the ancient pilgrims hospital Hostel de San Marcos possess one of the most beautiful Plateresque façades of 16th century. Overnight in León.

DAY 07 LEON – GIJON

Today we cross the central mountain range of Asturias to reach this region. The Christians took 524 years to arrive to Seville from here. It was in these valleys that the first kingdom was formed against the invading Muslims and Oviedo soon became its capital. Before we reach Oviedo we will stop in Lena to admire its Pre-Romanesque jewel church of Santa Cristina de Lena.

In Oviedo's historical district there still remain vestiges of 9th century Asturian art: the Foncalada, the apse of San Tirso, and the Cámara Santa. The late-Gothic Cathedral dominates the city center that with its palaces, university, bourgeoisie homes, convents, and small plazas, recounts tales of a prosperous past that still exists today. In the beautiful Gijón we reach the Cantabrian coast where we find one of the most important maritime ports that used to join the country with the north of Europe. The historical district is located behind a small peninsula flanked by loading docks and San Lorenzo beach. Possibility of organizing a farewell dinner. Overnight in Gijón.

DAY 08 GIJON - ASTURIAS AIRPORT / Departure

Transfer to the Asturias Airport for the return flight.



RUTA VIA DE LA PLATA: FROM SEVILLE TO GIJON	
8 days	
Day 1	✈️ SEVILLE AIRPORT / Arrival
Day 2	SEVILLE
Day 3	SEVILLE - ZAFRA
Day 4	ZAFRA - PLASENCIA
Day 5	PLASENCIA - BEJAR - ZAMORA
Day 6	ZAMORA - LEON
Day 7	LEON - GIJON
Day 8	GIJON - ASTURIAS AIRPORT / Departure ✈️



THE WAY OF EL CID: FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS of EL CID CAMPEADOR

The Way of el Cid is a cultural route that crosses Spain from the North-west to the South-east, following the footsteps of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, El Cid, the famous 11th century mediaeval knight.

This route is based on “El Cantar de mio Cid”, the great Hispanic mediaeval epic poem written at the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century.

Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (1040? - July 1099), was a Castilian military and political leader in medieval Spain nicknamed El Cid Campeador: El Cid –the Lordy- by the Moors, and El Campeador –the Outstanding Warrior- by Christians. Rodrigo Díaz was educated in the royal court of the Kingdom of Castile and became an important general and administrator, fighting against the Moors in the early Reconquista. Later exiled by Afonso VI, El Cid left service in Castile and found work fighting for the Muslim rulers of Zaragoza, further bolstering his military record and reputation as a leader. After his death, he became the legendary national hero of Castile, and the protagonist of “Cantar de Mio Cid”.

“El Cid” was described as the “most famous Spaniard of all time”.

DAY 01 MADRID AIRPORT / Arrival - ARANDA DE DUERO - BURGOS

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 02 BURGOS - MONASTERIO DE SAN PEDRO DE CARDEÑA - SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS

In the morning we will devote our time to Burgos, capital of the medieval Kingdom of Castile and León and the city that is most associated with El Cid. There we will be able to admire its magnificent Gothic cathedral, a World Heritage site and burial place of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar El Cid and his wife Doña Jimena.

Departure to the Monasterio de San Pedro de Cardeña, the resting place of El Cid for centuries.

This monastery houses the pantheon where the remains of El Cid and Doña Jimena laid. It was founded by the Benedictines and houses, in the church, the Renaissance-style pantheon, where El Cid and his wife Doña Jimena were buried. Their remains were later transferred to the capital.

Continue to Santo Domingo de Silos for overnight.



Santo Domingo de Silos. Cloister

DAY 03 SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS - EL BURGO DE OSMA - ATIENZA

The most celebrated monument in Santo Domingo de Silos is the monastery, which has become a centre of spiritual and artistic pilgrimage.

Its Romanesque cloister formed by large, historical relieves, meticulous capitals, and the cypress famously sung by poet Gerardo Diego. In life Rodrigo and his wife Jimena donated some of their lands to the monastery. Possibility of listening to the famous Gregorian chants in the Abbey of Silos. Continue to El Burgo de Osma, an ancient and monumental episcopal city, located at the end of the river Ucero and offers one of the best preserved medieval precincts in the entire province of Soria. Not in vain has the city been declared a Historic-Artistic Site. Its old medieval structure is centred around the Cathedral, one of the most important religious buildings in the province. On the way to Atienza we will visit the Castle of Gormaz.

This Moslem, Calif-style fortress was built in the X century to defend the lands of the Duero from Christian attacks during the Reconquest.

In the fortress there were seven towers out of which the Almanzor and the Keep are the most noteworthy. It also had an underground reservoir and an important armoury. This castle is mentioned in the “Cantar de Mio Cid”. El Cid Campeador was mayor of the fortress once taken by the Christians.

It is the longest Calif-style fortification in Europe.

Overnight in Atienza.

DAY 04 ATIENZA - SIGÜENZA - MOLINA DE ARAGON

In the morning we will stroll in Atienza, this medieval village conserves the urban structure and architectural flavour from the times when it was a strategic frontier site between the Christian and Muslim holdings. Its historic quarter has the Property of Cultural Interest designation. Its castle is mentioned in the “cantar de Mio Cid”

Departure to Sigüenza, a lovely city in the north of the province of Guadalajara. It houses an standout architectural heritage, and in 1965 was declared a

Historic-Artistic site. The castle, the cathedral and the Plaza Mayor square are the three sights you can't afford to miss, although the streets of Sigüenza are full of numerous exceptionally beautiful civil and religious buildings.

Possibility to organise a lunch at the Parador of Sigüenza, an imposing medieval castle situated in an Arab fortress built atop a Roman settlement.





Albaracín



Gormaz



Molina de Aragón

Continue to Molina de Aragon for Overnight.

DAY 05 MOLINA DE ARAGON / Excursion CALATAYUD

Today we will discover Molina de Aragón and Calatayud both very related to El Cid.

In the morning we will visit this important city, capital of the old Lordship of Molina and one of the most important in the Castilian Middle Ages. Moorish governor named Abengalbón was friendly towards El Cid, played as host of the Campeador's family.

The village of Molina de Aragón keeps its urban layout and medieval neighbourhoods enclosed by imposing walls. Its historic quarter has the Property of Cultural Interest designation.

In the afternoon we will enjoy an excursion to Calatayud. Its most important historical antecedent in the founding is Bilbilis Augusta, a Roman city that was the birthplace of illustrious personages, such as the poet Martial.

The arrival of the Arabs in the area, at the beginning of the 8th century, led to settlement in the city's current location around the Castle of Ayub (Qal'atAyyub), which gave rise to the placename. Calatayud is situated at the foot of a site formed by five castles from the Arab era, considered one of the oldest defensive systems in Muslim Spain. Calatayud preserves outstanding examples of Mudejar art architecture, declared World Heritage in 2001.

The Mudejar style is the art executed by the Moslems who decided to remain in Spain after the Christian conquest, conserving their religion and customs and working for the Christians.

Overnight in Molina de Aragon.

DAY 06 MOLINA DE ARAGON - ALBARRACIN - TERUEL

Departure to the medieval village of Albarracín, the former capital of a Moorish kingdom (Taifa), which has preserved all its Islamic and medieval flavour. Albarracín has the Property of Cultural Interest designation and it is usually named as one of the most lovely places in Spain.

The main things that surprises visitors who arrives at the town of Albarracín is its imposing fortified enclosure, whose perimeter is far larger than the area of the urban centre, and the reddish color of its facades.

Continue to Teruel, declared a Historic-Artistic Site, where we will discover an important medieval legacy in its historic centre. The cathedral tower, along with those of San Salvador, San Martín and San Pedro are the jewels of a group of Mudejar monuments declared a World Heritage Site.

A city of legends thanks to the famous and tragic story of the Lovers of Teruel, it retains charming corners like the central Plaza del Torico, the aqueduct of the arches and the popular Paseo del Oval.

Overnight in Teruel.

DIA 07 TERUEL - SAGUNTO - VALENCIA

Departure to Sagunto, "Arse" for the Iberians, "Saguntum" for the Romans, it still preserves many archaeological remains and monuments in the old town, which bear witness of its importance in the ancient world.

Sagunto old town has been declared a Property of Cultural Interest. Its Roman theatre, built in the 1st century, has been declared a National Monument.

It was built making use of the concave shape of the mountain and has exceptional acoustics, with two semicircular seating areas dug out of the rock, with room for 6,000 spectators; the stage was about 54 m long by 6.5 m wide, and the façade of the building was about 90 m long. Hannibal's siege of the Iberian town of Arse moved the city of Rome to give it favoured status.

In the early 8th century, the Muslim Arabs came and the city became part of the Caliphate of Cordoba. In 1098, the city was conquered by El Cid but the Muslims recovered it shortly thereafter.

Continue to Valencia.

In the afternoon we will discover Valencia, Valencia was one of the great Mediterranean capitals during the Middle Ages, producing such notable historical figures as the Cid and the Borgia family. Valencia is still today one of the most fertile agricultural lands in all of Europe. There are few cities like Valencia able to harmoniously combine the remnants of its farthest past, dating to the year 138 B. C. with the most innovative and avant-garde buildings from the new millennium. Its historic centre houses, among others stand out monuments, the Silk Exchange, and elegant Gothic building built at the end of the 15th century which has been declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

Overnight in Valencia.

DAY 08 VALENCIA - VALENCIA AIRPORT / Departure



Atienza. Square

THE WAY OF THE CID: FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE EL CID CAMPEADOR

8 days

Day 1	✈️ MADRID AIRPORT / Arrival - ARANDA DE DUERO - BURGOS
Day 2	BURGOS - MONASTERIO DE SAN PEDRO DE CARDEÑA - STO. DOMINGO DE SILOS
Day 3	STO. DOMINGO DE SILOS - EL BURGO DE OSMÁ - ATIENZA
Day 4	ATIENZA - SIGÜENZA - MOLINA DE ARAGON
Day 5	MOLINA DE ARAGON / Excursion CALATAYUD
Day 6	MOLINA DE ARAGON - ALBARRACIN - TERUEL
Day 7	TERUEL - SAGUNTO - VALENCIA
Day 8	VALENCIA - VALENCIA AIRPORT / Departure ✈️



1. Puente Genil, Easter / 2. Gormaz Castle / 3. Burgos, Las Huelgas Monastery / 4. León, Cathedral. Author: Sergio Reyes Pérez

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1. Carmona, Alcázar / 2. El Faedo de Cifera. Author: Miguel Aguilar / 3. Abbey of Silos / 4. Burgos

