

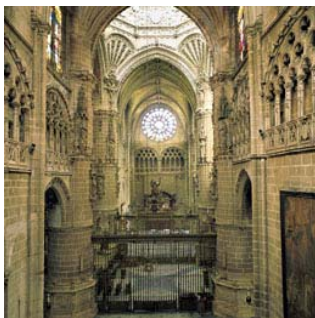
Burgos

The Castile-Leon town of Burgos, located on the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela, preserves important vestiges of its medieval splendour. The town was the capital of the unified kingdom of Castile and Leon for five centuries, boasts one of the finest works of the Spanish Gothic, its Cathedral, declared a World Heritage building. Apart from visiting the historic quarter of Burgos, we can get to know its province by means of the interesting routes along the banks of the Rivers Duero and Arlanza. These are good places for learning about a rich and varied gastronomy.

The town of Burgos, situated on the River Arlanzón, is but a few kilometres from the prehistoric site of Atapuerca, declared a World Heritage Site. It was founded as a military hamlet, and during the Middle Ages slowly became a trading town with great economic power. The fact that it was the capital of the unified kingdom of Castile and León (between the 10th and 15th centuries) privileged location on the **Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela** and its monopoly of the merino wool trade all helped this development. All of this splendour has left a deep mark in Burgos today.

The old medieval quarter spreads out at the foot of the walled **cerro del Castillo**, whose remains offer one of the best views of the town. Here the Arch of San Esteban, in the Mudejar style, and the Gothic church of the same name which houses the Reredos Museum, both stand out. San Nicolás is another important temple where we can marvel at the magnificent polychromatic alabaster reredos.

World Heritage



But without doubt, the star of the architecture of Burgos is its **Cathedral**, which UNESCO has declared to be a **World Heritage** building. Built on a Romanesque structure, the current building was erected following the Franco-Norman Gothic model. The filigree work on the tower spires and the exterior of the Chapel of the High Constable are some of its masterpieces. Such constructive beauty and genius is an introduction to its interior, which contains a long list of exceptional works: the star-shaped dome that covers the tombs of El Cid and Doña Jimena, the choir, the tombs, and the Golden Staircase by the Burgos architect and sculptor Diego de Siloé, one of the most representative figures of the Spanish Renaissance.

The town's civic architecture also boasts beautiful buildings such as the Casa de Miranda and the Casa de Angulo, which house the Burgos Museum, home to important archaeological and Fine Art collections. But the most remarkable house in Burgos is the **Casa Del Cordón**, where the Catholic Monarchs received Christopher Columbus after his second voyage to America.

Both sides of Burgos' historic quarter have important buildings. To the west we have the **Royal Monastery of the Huelgas Reales**, with its remarkable Gothic cloister and Chapel of the Apóstol Santiago. Next to it, the Museum of Precious

Fabrics exhibits, among other things, the historic standard captured from the Arabs at the Battle of Navas de Tolosa (year 1212). To the east of the capital, we find the **Miraflores Carthusian monastery** with an amazing polychromatic reredos, among other works of art. According to local tradition, it is said to have been gilded with the first gold that arrived in Spain following the Discovery of America.

All of Burgos



The privileged location of the capital of Burgos means that the visitor has many interesting routes around the province to choose from, which bring us closer to the heart of Castile-Leon. One of these is the one that leaves Burgos and follows the bank of the **River Arlanza**, showing us medieval churches and convents as well as feudal castles and Renaissance palaces. Such jewels of Burgos architecture are located in the towns of Lerma, **Santo Domingo de Silos** and Quintanilla de las Viñas.

The province of Burgos is crossed by the **Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela**, a route of pilgrimage that has been declared World Heritage. It is an artistic and cultural itinerary full of churches, hermitages and pilgrim's hospitals, situated in towns such as Belorado, Villafranca Montes de Oca or Castrogeriz.

The **Ribera del Duero**, cradle of one of the most famous wine Denominations of Origin, surprises is with towns with a strong historic air. Aranda del Duero, Peñaranda del Duero and Roa del Duero offer us Gothic reliefs, Renaissance coffering and interesting wine cellars.

The traditional architecture is tucked away in **dense valleys**, high plateaux and uplands. A multitude of towns and villages that apart from the artistic and cultural heritage they exhibit, also offer the possibility of practising sports that have a low environmental impact. Miranda del Ebro, Treviño or Villasana de Mena, are good examples.

One thing that all these places have in common is their strong **gastronomic character**. In Burgos, the dinner table is supplied with a wide variety of local products such as pulses, cured sausages, game... Suckling lamb roast in a wood oven, trout in pickling brine, or cod casserole, make up the main courses. And for dessert, 'yemas' (made from sugar and egg yolk), cottage cheese with walnuts and honey, or 'almendras garrapiñadas' (caramel-covered almonds). All of this is washed down with the famous wines of the Ribera del Duero Denomination.