Discover the Magic of the Province of Valladolid

A Visitor Guide

www.provinciaevalladolid.com
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The story of the Province of Valladolid is a story of kings, queens, writers and explorers. As a former capital of the Spanish Empire, Valladolid enjoyed great political, economic and cultural importance and, as a result, the Province was left a rich legacy of palaces, castles, monasteries, monuments and traditions. It was here by the banks of the Duero that the lands of the New World were divided between Spain and Portugal in 1494. It was here that Christopher Columbus ended his days and Cervantes is reputed to have written part of Don Quixote. It was here that Philip II was born and his parents Ferdinand I of Aragon and Isabel of Castile were married, uniting the two most powerful kingdoms of the Peninsula.

The Province of Valladolid however is more than just its magnificent architectural heritage. The area is known internationally for its wines, offering visitors a fascinating insight into the world of wine production through visits to wine cellars, wine tastings and special events. Combined with a fabulous gastronomic offer and a variety of leisure activities from golf courses to spas, the Province has the makings of a truly memorable holiday. For those who love the great outdoors, the area provides a landscape perfect for walking as well as nature reserves teeming with local wildlife. An extensive programme of special events and fiestas will also provide the visitor with a true insight into the Province’s culture and traditions.

Valladolid couldn’t be easier to get to either by car or by train. It just under an hour from Madrid by high-speed train and has excellent rail and road networks with the historic cities of Salamanca, Segovia, Ávila and León, making it the ideal base for exploring the region of Castile and Leon. The city has its own airport with national flights.

Come and discover the magic of the Province of Valladolid for yourself.
Get to know Valladolid

Provincial Map

WINE ROUTES

Ribera del Duero Wine Route
Tel. +34 927 10 72 54
www.rutadelvinoriberadelduero.es

Rueda Wine Route
Tel. +34 635 84 69 47
www.rutadelvinoderueda.com

Cigales Wine Route
Tel. +34 652 48 60 22
www.rutadelvinocigales.com

TOURIST OFFICES IN THE PROVINCE OF VALLADOLID

CIGALES
Tel. +34 697 726 198

COGECES DEL MONTE
Tel. +34 983 599 229

ÍSCAR
Tel. +34 983 612 703

LAGUNA DE DUERO
Tel. +34 983 562 350

MEDINA DE RIOSECO
Tel. +34 983 720 319

MEDINA DEL CAMPO
Tel. +34 983 811 357

MUCIENTES
Tel. +34 983 587 623

NAVA DEL REY
Tel. +34 983 647 969

OLMEO
Tel. +34 983 622 222

PEÑAFIEL
Tel. +34 983 981 536

RUEDA
Tel. +34 983 848 119

SERRADA
Tel. +34 983 555 101

SIMANCAS
Tel. +34 983 590 123

TORRESILLAS
Tel. +34 983 771 067

TORRELOBATÓN
Tel. +34 665 834 753

TUDELA DE DUERO
Tel. +34 983 522 038

URUEÑA
Tel. +34 983 717 445

VILLANUEVA DE DUERO
Tel. +34 983 555 509

VALLADOLID
Tel. +34 983 219 310

BOOK VILLAGE
MUSEUM OF BREAD
CANAL OF CASTILE
MATURELLA “NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTRE”
VALLEY OF THE SIX SENSES
PROVINCIAL WINE MUSEUM
MUSEUM OF THE ROMAN VILLAS
CASTLE OF FUENSALDAÑA
Wander through historic, colonnaded streets and discover a new passion for bread and cheese.

**Tierra de Campos** literally means, “Land of the Fields”. Since medieval times the clay-rich soil and flat landscapes were considered ideal for cereal crops and it is these rolling plains of arable land that have given the area both its distinctive appearance and its name.

The clay found on the land also provided the raw material for many of the area’s distinctive buildings. “Adobe” is a natural building material made from sand, clay, water and organic material (such as straw or manure) that can be formed into bricks and dried in the sun. Adobe was often the material used to construct the large dovecots found right across the Tierra de Campos area. Used traditionally for breeding pigeons, many had fallen into disrepair but a resurgence of interest in pigeon in local gastronomy has seen some restored and retaining their original purpose.

Another interesting feature of this area are its “rollos”; elaborately carved stone columns mounted on stepped pedestals and surmounted by an iron cross. Today they are admired as architectural sculptures but originally were important symbols of the autonomous jurisdictional power of the village. Dominating the main square or entrance to the village, they marked the place where petty criminals and dishonest tradesmen would be castigated and publically shamed. The best examples can be seen in the northern part of the Province in Villalón de Campos, Mayorga, Bolaños and Aguilar de Campos and date from the 15th and 16th centuries.

**FIVE THINGS TO DO:**

- **Take a boat trip on the Canal de Castilla**
- **Try the local cheese in Villalón de Campos**
- **Visit the Bread Museum, a truly unique attraction in Spain.**
- **Wander the historic colonnaded streets and squares of Medina de Rioseco and Villalón de Campos**
- **Enjoy the landscapes whilst out walking and birdwatching.**
Medina de Rioseco

Medina de Rioseco, “capital” of the Tierra de Campos area is also known as the “Ciudad de los Almirantes” (City of the Admirals) as it became the admiralty headquarters of the kingdom of Castile in the 15th century. One of the town’s most remarkable features is its Rúa Mayor, an historic, narrow street with long, covered walkways made of wood and stone. Built originally to provide shelter from the elements for merchants and their customers, it now provides the old part of the town with a unique ambience. Other sites of interest include the richly decorated 16th century church of Santa María de Mediavilla (with its ornate Funerary Chapel, spectacular altarpiece and tower), the church of San Francisco (with its museum of sacred art) and the church of Santiago. The church of La Santa Cruz is where most of the “pasos” (religious icons carried during Holy Week) are kept and displayed in the Museo de Semana Santa (a site of International Tourist Interest).

Canal de Castilla

The Canal de Castilla (Canal of Castile) was once an important waterway, both for the transportation of wine, wool and cereals to the ports in the north and as a source of waterpower for the mills built along its banks. Many shipyards, flour and paper mills developed around the canal, including the 19th century San Antonio flourmill that is open to visitors. The Canal de Castilla Visitor Centre should also not be missed as it offers a wide variety of sporting and leisure activities including canoeing, motorboat trips, cycling routes and trekking.

The “Antonio de Ulloa” is a leisure boat that operates all year round, taking visitors on sightseeing cruises along the canal. The boat sails from the wharf in Medina de Rioseco to Tamariz de Campos and covers 7km of the Canal’s 207 km length. It even gives visitors the opportunity to experience the workings of two of the Canal’s 49 locks.

Tourist Information Centre:

Paseo de San Francisco, nº 1 (Museo San Francisco)
For more information visit:
www.medinaderioseco.com
(English option available)
www.provinciadevalladolid.com

For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Villalón de Campos

In Villalón de Campos the visitor should head straight to the historic Plaza Mayor, surrounded by its attractively colonnaded buildings. At its centre is its famous “rollo”, a flamboyant, 16th century Gothic-style column built to signify the place in the town where laws were enforced and widely considered to be one of the most ornate in Spain.

Another delight for the visitor is the local sheep’s cheese with its own “Denomination of Origin” quality mark and museum. An additional place of interest is the Museo del Calzado Ribot, a museum of hand-made shoes.

Mayorga de Campos

Mayorga features many ancient Mudéjar (Moorish) constructions.

A particularly fine example is the church of Santa María de Arbás.
Tordehumos

Tordehumos literally means “tower of smoke” and refers to a time in the Middle Ages when the castle would send smoke signals from its fortified tower. Today, places of interest to visit include the “Mirador de Tierra de Campos” (the hillside viewpoint for the area) and the Ecomuseo. Located in one of the old houses of the village, the “Eco-museum” displays an extensive collection of traditional Castilian artefacts.

For more information visit:
www.tordehumos.com

Becilla de Valderaduey

Here visitors can see evidence of the Roman occupation of the area in the form of the bridge and paved road.

For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com

Villagarcía de Campos

The 16th century collegiate church of San Luis is home to a fascinating art and local history museum. Also located in the village are the remains of the walls of the Quijada’s castle, where Juan de Austria was raised.

For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Tierra de Pinares

THE SOUTH
A land of pine forests and castles where the Golden Age of Spain is brought to life with the technology of today. A place where villages line the streets with sculptures and Romans built grand villas.

**Tierra de Pinares** literally means, “Land of the Pine Forests” and is considered an area of great natural beauty. The area’s other name: “La capital del piñón” (the pine kernel capital), indicates how the natural resources of the area have been exploited here over the centuries.

As well as its millions of hectares of pine forest, the area has a great Mudéjar (Moorish) legacy in its buildings and monuments. Typical brick-built Mudéjar churches can be seen at Alcazárén, Fresno el Viejo, Mojados, Pozaldez and Matapozuelos.

The area around **Rueda** is one of the most important wine growing regions in Spain with denominación de origen (the denomination or ‘appellation’ of origin quality mark). Its wines, made with the Verdejo grape, used to be the wine of choice for the monarchy when the Royal Court was established in Valladolid. Other places in the area that come under this particular denominación de origen include Serrada, La Seca, Pozaldez and Nava del Rey. These villages have prestigious wineries that welcome visitors.

Remember to visit the municipality of **Fresno el Viejo**, which offers all the options of family and nature tourism.

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**FIVE THINGS TO DO:**

- Sample some of the local pastries made with pine kernels
- Be “King of the Castle” in Portillo, Medina del Campo and Íscar
- See how the Romans used to live in Almenara-Puras
- Visit an outdoor art gallery in Serrada
- See the potters at work in Arrabal de Portillo

Explore the province. THE SOUTH • 13
Medina del Campo

During medieval times, Medina del Campo was a major commercial centre in Spain, its great fairs attracting merchants from all over Europe. Its trade forums and fiscal systems are hailed as early precursors to modern banking, a fact that is celebrated in the town’s Museo de las Ferias.

The town is still an important agricultural centre today although visitors to the area come mainly to see its impressive 15th century Castillo de la Mota, a brick Gothic-Mudejár castle with a distinctive square keep. Isabel I and her daughter were known to have stayed here on several occasions before the castle was turned into a prison. Between 1506-1508 it is believed that Cesar Borja was incarcerated within its walls.

Other places of interest include the Palacio Real off the Plaza Mayor where Isabel I died in 1504 and the Renaissance Palacio de las Dueñas. Churches worth visiting in the town include the Colegiata de San Antolin next to the Town Hall and Santiago el Real.

The processions and activities that take place during Semana Santa (Holy Week) in Medina del Campo have been declared of national tourist interest. In recognition of this fact a cultural centre (El Centro Cultural San Vicente Ferrer) has been established in the town, dedicated to promoting research, understanding and awareness of Semana Santa in Spain.

Tourist Information Centre:
Plaza Mayor de la Hispanidad, 48
For more information visit: www.medinadelcampo.es

Olmedo

Most of the town walls at Olmedo are still standing and make an impressive sight. The town is also renowned for being one of the most important centres of Mudéjar or Moorish style architecture in Castile and Leon.

Visit:

PALACIO CABALLERO DE OLMEDO
Olmedo found fame as the setting for El Caballero de Olmedo, one of the works of the famous 17th century Spanish playwright Lope de Vega. The Palacio Caballero de Olmedo is now the setting for a remarkable audio-visual experience that explores the life and times of Lope de Vega and the Golden Age of Spain. Visitors go on an historical journey through a series of theatres that use the very latest technology and atmospheric reconstructions to completely immerse the visitor in a remarkable period in Spanish history.

Plaza San Julián, 3, Olmedo.
For more information visit: www.palaciodelcaballero.com

PARQUE TEMÁTICO DEL MUDÉJAR (Mudéjar Theme Park)
This fascinating park has been specifically designed with families in mind. A trail lined with small-scale replica Mudéjar-style buildings from across the region winds through attractive gardens, providing a good introduction to the architectural styles seen around the Province.

Calle Arco de San Francisco (Parque Temático del Mudéjar)
www.pasionmudejar.com

Tourist Information Centre:
Calle Arco de San Francisco (Parque Temático del Mudéjar)
www.pasionmudejar.com
Iscar

Iscar, like so many towns in the Province, is dominated by the remains of a fortress from the Middle Ages. It has an impressive keep guarded by three towers and its elevated position offers excellent views of the surrounding countryside.

The town is also home to the Museo Mariemma. On November 13th 2002, the dancer and choreographer Mariemma, donates officially her artistic legacy to Iscar, her place of birth, with the aim to create the first ever museum dedicated to Spanish dancing national and internationally, Mariemma Museum, with a clear cultural educational and investigative aim which is the result of the commitment that the town hall promised her.

Visit:

Avda. Juan Carlos Domínguez, 9. Íscar
MUSEO MARIEMMA.
Portillo & Arrabal de Portillo

Portillo, like Íscar, is situated on a raised plateau offering a good vantage point from which to appreciate the local landscape. Its castle, built between the 14th and 15th centuries, is open to visitors and plays host to an annual garlic fair in June. The nearby village of Arrabal de Portillo is also well worth a visit. It is full of small pottery workshops where potters make a range of utilitarian and decorative ware from the distinctive red clay of the area. A great place for an authentic souvenir. The Valladolid Provincial Crafts Centre (ARTIS) is a pioneer centre in Spain for crafts at professional level and facilities include a classroom and shop.

Serrada

Outdoor Art and Sculpture Museum
As well as a reputation for its wines, Serrada is known for its art. The village streets have been transformed into a highly original contemporary art gallery where streets and plazas feature the work of different artists, either in the form of a sculpture or a mural. Most of the works are focused around the “Paseo del Arte”. Even the local restaurants double up as galleries, offering diners not only the chance to enjoy an exhibition but to purchase a unique piece of artwork.

Tourist Information Centre:
Plaza Mayor, 1. Serrada
Duero-Esgueva

THE EAST
It has been two rivers, the Duero and the Esgueva, that have influenced both the geography and economy of the east of the Province of Valladolid. The plains around the Duero are covered in vineyards, producing the grapes that have given the area its international reputation for fine wine. The rivers, and the fertile lands that surround them, have attracted settlers here for centuries.

Near Padilla de Duero archaeological remains of two ancient settlements have been found. The earlier one, Pago de las Quintanas dates from pre-Roman times and has been declared a site of special historical interest. The later one at Pintia is Roman and had an economy based on the cultivation of cereals, wine and sugar beet.

The area also has a great natural beauty with its forests of pine and oak in addition to a rich cultural and religious heritage. The area has many traditional towns worth exploring including Pesquera de Duero, Quintanilla de Onésimo and Quintanilla de Arriba. Some have interesting churches and other religious buildings such as the 12th century Cistercian Abbey of Santa María in San Bernardo or the simple 12th century rural church in Villanueva de los Infantes. In Sardón de Duero, the 12th century Benedictine abbey of Santa María de Retuerta has been converted into a luxury hotel. The Gothic-style Iglesia de San Pelayo is worth visiting in Olivares de Duero to see its magnificent Spanish Renaissance-style altarpiece, one of the most spectacular in the Province.

**FIVE THINGS TO DO:**

- Visit a bodega and take part in a wine tasting session
- Visit the Wine Museum in the spectacular Peñafiel Castle
- Have fun and get active in the Valley of the Six Senses
- See the ancient galleried houses in Peñafiel’s Plaza del Coso
- Discover some of the best preserved monasteries in the whole of Europe
Most visitors head to Peñafiel to see its famous 600-year-old castle, one of Spain’s best medieval fortresses and a monument of national importance. Crowned by eight turrets, it dominates the town and makes an imposing sight situated high on a plateau overlooking three valleys. Today the castle is home to the Museo Provincial del Vino (Provincial Wine Museum).

The town also boasts a unique and remarkable “Plaza del Coso” (bullring) where traditional events and celebrations dating back to medieval times are still held today. One of the most famous is the “Bajada del Ángel” (Descent of the Angel) during Holy Week. Ancient galleried houses, whose balconies provide a good vantage point for the events in the square below, surround the plaza.

Other places of interest include the 14th century Convent of San Pablo, the Convent of Santa Clara (now a hotel), the Church of Santa María (converted into a Museum of Sacred Art) and the Casa de la Ribera that depicts life in the region in 1900.

Visit:

**MUSEO PROVINCIAL DEL VINO (Provincial Wine Museum)**

The Museo Provincial del Vino in Peñafiel’s castle is one of Europe’s most important wine museums. More than a museum, it has become a centre for a range of activities related to the culture, customs and traditions of wine making in the Province. Through a series of interactive displays, the permanent exhibition illustrates the process of wine making from vineyard to cellar as well as exploring the role of wine in popular festivals, customs and regional gastronomy (an audio guide is available in English). The Museum also hosts a range of other wine-related activities including temporary exhibitions, courses and wine tastings that take place every weekend.

**Castillo de Peñafiel, Peñafiel.**

For more information visit:  
www.provinciadevalladolid.com

**Tourist Information Centre:**

Plaza del Coso 2, Peñafiel.

For more information visit:  
www.turismopenafiel.com
San Bernardo (Valbuena de Duero)

**Visit:**
Monasterio de Santa María, San Bernardo.

**MONASTERIO DE SANTA MARÍA DE VALBUENA**
(The Santa Maria de Valbuena Monastery)

Founded in 1143, Santa María de Valbuena has survived the passage of time to become one of the best-preserved Cistercian monasteries in Europe. Declared a monument of national importance in 1931, it offers visitors a unique opportunity to appreciate the purity and simplicity of medieval Cistercian architecture. Located in the tiny village of San Bernardo, it has been described as “a small treasure buried in the heart of Castile”. Today, the monastery is a prestigious spa hotel and is the home of “Fundación Las Edades del Hombre” (The Ages of Man Foundation) that promotes the conservations, development and promotion of culture in the Catholic dioceses of Castile and Leon. For more information visit:

[www.provinciadevalladolid.com](http://www.provinciadevalladolid.com)
El Áramo

Visit:
Near the Ribera del Duero region, south of the River Duero is the plateau de la Churrería. It is rough territory with river valleys of unsuspected natural beauty. This is the case of Valcorba Valley, one of the most unusual and unexpected pine forests in the province of Valladolid.

The local villages include Campaspero, which offers visitors an educational visit to its Stone Museum. In Cogeces del Monte, visitors can enjoy the Museum of Yesterday and the interesting Science and Minerals Museum, as well as the surprising remains of the monastery of La Armellilla, dating from the 12th century.

In Traspinedo, the Resin Interpretation Centre organises environmental visits and activities.

For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com

Renedo de Esgueva

Visit:
EL VALLE DE LOS 6 SENTIDOS
(The Valley of the Six Senses)

Jump….slide….swing….leap….tug…….laugh…. This amazing multi-sensory adventure park is suitable for children of all ages and abilities and has been specifically designed with play equipment that will stimulate and develop the senses. There are sixty different games and activities including music, science and water games, rope bridges and swings and recreational activities related to the landscape and environment. This 18,000 sq. m park boasts a multipurpose amphitheatre for musical events, theatre and outdoor lessons and is fully accessible to those with disabilities.

Renedo de Esgueva.
For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Montes Torozos

THE WEST
Montes Torozos is an area of large plateaus, hills and valleys, partly covered in dense woodland.

The fertile valleys are used to grow cereals and vines, with the grapes grown in the area around Cigales producing outstanding rosé and red wines. Although small, the agricultural villages of the Montes conceal a rich ecclesiastical heritage of churches and monasteries. Each has its own distinctive architectural style: from the 12th century Cistercian monastery of La Santa Espina through to the richly decorated Convento de Santa Clara in Tordesillas. The Mozarabs left behind evidence of their expertise in construction in the form of the magnificent basilica of San Cebrián de Mazote (10th century), one of the Mozarab jewels of Castilla y León, and the church of Santa María in Wamba, which merges with other artistic styles, such as the Romanesque, in its main section. It is also home to one of the biggest ossuaries on the peninsula.

The hills and plateaus of the Montes Torozos area have created good vantage points and thus feature many castles and fortresses that can tell stories of battles and sieges. Castles can be found in Simancas, Fuentesaldaña, Montealegre, Villalba de los Alcores, Trigueros del Valle, Tiedra, Mota del Marqués, Urueña, Villavellid and Torrelobatón.

FIVE THINGS TO DO:

• See the Mudéjar artwork in Tordesilla’s Convento de Santa Clara
• Go on a castle trail and see where El Cid was filmed
• Discover more about the local wildlife at the Matallana Nature Centre
• Experience life as it was in the Middle Ages in Villalba de los Alcores
• Walk the ancient city walls at Urueña and visit Spain’s first book village
Tordesillas

Tordesillas, situated on the banks of the River Duero, is an attractive little town with huge historical significance. It was here where the lands of the New World were divided between Spain and Portugal in a treaty of 1494.

Amongst the town’s attractions are its unusual, porticoed Plaza Mayor and the churches of Santa María, San Pedro and San Antolín (which now houses a religious art museum). The main site of interest to the visitor however is the Convento de Santa Clara, where some of the finest examples of the region’s Mudéjar artwork can be seen. Constructed originally as a palace by Alfonso XI in 1350, it later became a residence for his son’s mistress, María de Padilla, who decorated it with Moorish-style arches and doors, colourful wall tiles and striking carved ceilings. The convent’s most famous resident however was Isabel I’s daughter, Juana I “The Mad”, who was kept here for over 40 years by her son Charles V following her husband’s death.

Simancas

Simancas is a town of great antiquity. Its magnificent fortress was extensively altered in the 16th century to house the Archivo General del Reino (National State Archives). The old part of the town has a special historical ambience with narrow, winding streets and an attractive Plaza Mayor. A fine medieval bridge with seventeen arches illustrates the strategic importance Simancas enjoyed as a crossing point of the River Pisuerga.
Fuensaldaña

Fuensaldaña has an impressive 15th century castle consisting of a mighty keep, enclosure walls crowned with battlements and round defence towers at each corner. Although the interior of this castle cannot be visited, it provides a great vantage point for the countryside around it. The castle offers dramatised guided tours for all members of the public. Closed temporarily from August 2017.

For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com

Villalba de los Alcores

Villalba de los Alcores and its surrounding area offer the visitor the chance to experience life in the Middle Ages. The remains of the 12th century walls and castle are still standing in the village and at its centre can be found the 12th century church of Santa María del Templo. Not far from the village are the remains of a small Castilian medieval village known as the Despoblado Medieval de Fuenteungillo. Now a site of great archaeological interest, it houses an interpretation centre in which a typical house of the period has been recreated. Also close to the village is the 12th century Cistercian monastery of Santa María de Matallana (now home to a Nature Interpretation Centre).

Visit:

Matallana Nature Interpretation Centre
Situated in Villaba de los Alcores, this multi-faceted Nature Interpretation Centre provides an opportunity to discover the rich natural environment of the Torozos Hills and Tierra de Campos region. Visitors can enjoy exhibition galleries, a medicinal and aromatic plant garden, a restored dovecote and an archaeological site with the remains of the monastery. For younger visitors there is a children's theme park relating to the local heritage and environment as well as an exhibit with around 20 different varieties of live sheep. Open-air activities include nature and ornithological trails on foot, by bicycle, by donkey, by pedal cart or in a horse drawn carriage.

Finca Coto Bajo de Matallana, Villalba de los Alcores. For more information visit:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Montealegre

The austere and formidable Montealegre fortress with its stout square corner towers was built between the 13th and 15th centuries. Throughout its long history it has shown remarkable resilience, resisting several long and fierce sieges. In more recent times the interior of the castle has been restored to house an Interpretation Centre of the Medieval Period, open between April and September. In the 1960s the castle was featured in the film “El Cid” with Charlton Heston. The fortress sits high on a plateau offering exceptional views of the surrounding countryside.

Tiedra

Tiedra castle was mentioned in documents dating back to the 11th century and the times of El Cid although the present structure dates from the end of the 13th century. Often embroiled in the frontier disputes between Castile and Leon, it has a rather severe exterior with large rectangular keep used at one time for incarcerating King Juan II’s enemies. Tiedra also has an interesting offer of astronomical tourism thanks to its “Cielo y Tiedra” Astronomy Centre, a project seeking to bring the world of science and astronomy to the general public.

Tourist Information Centre:

Plaza Mayor, 1. Tiedra
Torrelobatón

Above ground the impressive 15th century castle at Torrelobatón has a square keep with eight turrets whilst below are tunnels and secret passages. The most notable event in the castle’s history took place in 1521 when it was besieged and conquered by the troops of the Comuneros. This event is explained in the Comuneros Revolt Interpretation Centre inside the castle. In the 1960s the castle appeared in the film “El Cid” with Charlton Heston and 350 local people participated in the making of the film as extras.

Tourist Information Centre:
Plaza Mayor, 1. Torrelobatón

Urueña
(Villa del Libro)

Amid truly spectacular scenery is the charming medieval walled village of Urueña, famous for being the first “Book Village” in Spain. Inside Urueña’s formidable walls is a labyrinth of ancient streets housing a wealth of second hand bookshops as well as the Centro e-Lea Miguel Delibes. The “Centro” is a space devoted to reading and writing with a specialised library, workshops, garden and permanent exhibition about the history of the book. The village is a focal point for a wide range of book-related activities. For more information visit: www.provinciadevalladolid.com

Other places of interest in the town include the 18th century Casona de la Mayorazga housing the Fundación Joaquín Díaz, a folk music and ethnographic research centre that includes traditional musical instruments, a fascinating collection of bells and a Gramophone Museum. At the village gate is the 12th century shrine of La Anunciada, the only example of Catalan Romanesque-style architecture in the whole of Castile and Leon.

Visit:

| CENTRO E-LEA MIGUEL DELIBES |
| C/ Costanilla, 12 |
| FUNDACIÓN JOAQUÍN DÍAZ |
| C/ Real, 4 |

Tourist Information Centre:
Plaza Mayor, 1, Ayuntamiento. Urueña.
Valladolid

THE CAPITAL
Valladolid’s heyday was between the 15th and 16th centuries when the establishment of the Royal Court in the city transformed it into the capital of the Spanish kingdom. Although the Golden Age has long gone, the city’s buildings, monuments and traditions remain as evidence of its proud history.

The city has been witness to a great number of important historical events including the assemblies of the Royal court, coronations, royal marriages and births. Christopher Columbus died here in 1506 and twelve years later Magellan came to the City before setting off to circumnavigate the globe.

A noble city

Even today, the visitor can clearly see the former splendour of the city in the façades of its great edifices. Not to be missed is the area around the spectacular Iglesia de San Pablo. This is the most majestic part of the city with several palaces erected during the time of the Royal Court including the Palacio de Villena, Palacio de Pimentel, Palacio del Sol and the Palacio Real (residence of Philip III and birthplace of Philip IV). It also includes the beautiful 15th century Colegio de San Gregorio with its richly decorated entrance façade, covered in heraldic ornament.

A city of great ecclesiastical art and architecture

It is difficult not to be impressed by the incredible architecture and artworks of the city’s various churches and cathedral. Perhaps the most remarkable is the Iglesia de San Pablo with its embellished façade. Another important city landmark is the cathedral, begun in 1580 but never actually finished. Among the other noteworthy churches are Santa María la Antigua, Iglesia de Las Angustias and the 13th century San Benito.

Visit:

**MUSEO NACIONAL DE ESCULTURA**
(National Museum of San Gregorio)

This collection of religious sculptures is one of the most important in Europe and reflects one of the richest periods in Spanish art history. The collection of polychrome (painted) wooden sculptures (dating from 13th - 18th centuries), includes works by some of the greatest Spanish sculptors of the age. It includes remarkably life-like proces-sional images, many of which are still carried today.

[http://museoescultura.mcu.es](http://museoescultura.mcu.es)

(Download information leaflet in English)

Cadenas de San Gregorio, 1, 2 & 3, Valladolid.
**A city of great writers and explorers**

**Visit:**

**CASA MUSEO DE COLÓN (Columbus House Museum)**
This Museum provides an historical context to the times in which Columbus lived as well as looking at the man himself as admiral, explorer, diplomat and businessman. The explorer died in the city in 1506.

[www.info.valladolid.es](http://www.info.valladolid.es) (English option available)
Calle Colón, Valladolid

**CASA MUSEO DE CERVANTES (Cervantes’ House Museum)**
The author of Don Quixote lived in this modest house between 1603 and 1606 and wrote many of his distinguished works here. Each room has been furnished to reflect the home of a typical 17th century nobleman and includes some of the writer’s original furnishings.

[http://museocasaromanciadores.mcu.es](http://museocasaromanciadores.mcu.es) (English option available)
Calle del Rastro, Valladolid

**CASA MUSEO ZORILLA (Zorrilla’s House Museum)**
The Romantic poet and dramatist José Zorrilla, creator of the infamous character Don Juan Tenorio, was born, and spent his early childhood, in this house.

Typical of many 19th century town houses, it has been furnished with objects that belonged to the family. A delightful garden surrounds it.

[www.info.valladolid.es](http://www.info.valladolid.es) (English option available)
Fray Luis de Granada, 2. Valladolid

**An artistic and cultural city**

One of the distinguishing features of Valladolid is its remarkable collection of public sculptures. They range from the more traditional monuments to charming life-sized bronze sculptures and cutting edge public art. The city is also full of attractive fountains, many illuminated at night.

The faded elegance of the Pasaje Gutiérrez, a 19th century shopping arcade, is a real artistic treasure worth finding. Its cool marble floors, ornately painted ceilings and decorative sculptures create a peaceful haven in the heart of the city.

**Visit:**

**MUSEO ORIENTAL (Oriental Museum)**
The convent of Los Agustinos Filipinos is now home to the finest collection of Far Eastern Art in Spain. Eighteen exhibition galleries display works of decorative and fine art from China, The Philippines and Japan with its earliest exhibits dating from the 2nd century BC.

[www.museo-oriental.es](http://www.museo-oriental.es) (English option available)
Paseo Filipinos, 7. Valladolid

**MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO ESPAÑOL - PATIO HERRERIANO (Patio Herreriano – Museum of Spanish Contemporary Art)**
As well as the impressive collection of Spanish contemporary art, the Patio Herreriano is worth visiting to see how its design incorporates one of the 16th century cloisters of the former Monastery of San Benito. The sensitive combination of the old with the new has created beautiful light-filled gallery spaces for exhibitions. For details of the temporary exhibition programme visit

[www.museopatioherreriano.org](http://www.museopatioherreriano.org)
Calle Jorge Guillen, 6.

**MUSEO DE LA CIENCIA (Science Museum)**
Through the doors of this great architectural complex discover a world of science and technology that is fun and interactive. Make a virtual flight around the region, visit the remarkable digital Planetarium, learn about wine, raise water with an Archimedes screw or travel through the “corridor of the senses”. For information visit:

[www.museocienaviacvalladolid.es](http://www.museocienaviacvalladolid.es)
Avenida de Salamanca, 59, Valladolid

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A Green City

Right in the heart of the city can be found the Campo Grande, a green space with over 90 varieties of trees and shrubs and around 30 species of birds. The park’s main attractions are its boat trips on the lake, its resident community of peacocks and red squirrels and an outdoor café.

Another delight for nature lovers is the River Pisuerga that cuts through the city. A riverbank trail highlights the flora and fauna of the river starting at the “beach” or Playa Moreras, a large area of sand ideal for enjoying the sun. If you can’t summon up the energy for a walk, a more relaxing way of enjoying the river is by taking a trip on the leisure boat “La Leyenda del Pisuerga”.

Visit:

CASA DEL RÍO

Across the river from the Science Museum is the Casa del Río. No ordinary museum of flora and fauna, this centre has an aquarium featuring all the species of fish that live in the river as well as hands-on exhibits to bring the river and its banks to life.

Calle Juan Altisent, 2, Valladolid.

Want to know more? Why not follow one of the free self-guided trails around the city to discover more about its historical buildings, royal connections or flora and fauna. Download trails from www.info.valladolid.es or pick them up from the main Tourist Information Centre near the Campo Grande:

Tourist Information Centre:

Tourist Information Centre
Pabellón de Cristal. Campo Grande
Acera de Recoletos, s/n
Valladolid
Tel. +34 983 21 93 10
A special place for nature lovers

The Province of Valladolid is a haven for nature lovers and outdoors enthusiasts. It offers some remarkable and varied landscapes: the rolling fields of arable land to the north, the pine forests in the south, the vineyards and rivers in the east and the plateaus, valleys and wetlands of the west. Each distinctive area provides habitats for a variety of flora and fauna and refuges for threatened species.

Nature Reserves

Las Riberas de Castronuño - Vega del Duero

This natural park and bird sanctuary, located around the San José reservoir, is considered to be an important European Special Protection Area (SPA) for bird life. It accommodates both non-migratory and migratory birds with colonies of Purple Herons in the summer and Great Cormorants in the winter. The reserve is home to a number of endangered species such as the Blue Heron, the Marsh Harrier and the Black-crowned Night Heron, many of which make their nests in the reed beds along the River Duero. With over 270 different species of wildlife to see we recommend you don’t forget your binoculars!

The park includes La Casa de la Reserva, a visitor centre that provides a fascinating introduction to the reserve. Park rangers are on hand to help you gain familiarity with the aquatic birds and their habitats.

For more information visit:
www.patrimonionatural.org

ALSO NOT TO BE MISSED:
• El Embalse Del Bajoz - a wetland of special interest supporting a variety of wildlife located in the lower valley of the Bajoz River. In the Nature Centre located in La Santa Espina, the flora and fauna of the area are recreated through displays that include dioramas and models.

For more information visit:
www.lasantaespinas.es or the tourist information office opposite the monastery in La Santa Espina.

• The reservoir in Encinas de Esgueva - an important natural reserve of great ornithological interest.
Birdwatching

The popularity of the Province (particularly in the north and west) among international bird watchers has grown considerably in recent years. A range of birdwatching activities are well supported in the Montes Torozos and Tierra de Campos areas including ornithological trails, illustrated guides to local bird species, hides and look-out towers.

Special places to visit include Matallana, Lagunas de Boada, Laguna de Tamariz de Campos and Las Ribera de Castronuño - Vega del Duero.

Without doubt the best time to come is towards the end of winter and in spring. This is when the Great Bustard (the heaviest flying bird) performs its spectacular mating ritual. The display attracts bird lovers from across the globe, all hoping catch sight of one of Europe’s most threatened bird species. The Tierra de Campos area with its large open plains of cultivated land is a favourite habitat for this particular bird as well as Montagu’s Harriers, Hazel Grouse and flocks of Little Bustards.

The great variety of birds that can be found in the area can be seen in the Interpretation Centres at Monasterio de Vega and Saelices de Mayorga, right in the very heart of the Tierra de Campos region.

In the area around Pedraja de Portillo, a town in the south of the province, is the place known as Lagunas del Raso de Portillo, a large plain with six bird observatories strategically located to dominate all the points of interest of the wetland and its surroundings.

For more information about birdwatching in the area visit:

www.birdwatchinginspain.com (English option available)
www.naturcampos.com (English option available)
Hiking, walking and biking

Right across the region the keen walker or rambler will discover marked footpaths and tracks designed to take them through areas of special natural beauty or environmental interest. Many are also suitable for mountain bikes. Around 150 different footpaths cross a variety of landscapes from wetlands, oak woods, valleys and plains.

As well as opportunities for bird watching, walkers can see examples of traditional agricultural structures such as “chozos” (beehive-shaped stone refuges for sheep flocks), “palomares” (dovecots) and “bodegas” (subterranean wine cellars). There are routes suitable for both amateur walkers and experienced hikers. The longest (and most demanding) walks cross the Province and include sections of the Camino de Santiago, the Canal de Castilla and various ancient drovers tracks (once used by shepherds for taking sheep from Extramadura to Leon). The local walks are much shorter, often taking just a few hours, and limited to just one Provincial area.

For more detailed information on the 150 walks available go to:

www.provinciadevalladolid.com (Ocio y Naturaleza) and select the “Guía de Senderismo y Naturaleza”.

Consult the official trails of the province of Valladolid (approved by the Mountaineering, Climbing and Hiking Federation of Castilla y León) at:

www.provinciadevalladolid.com/es/naturaleza-aire-libre/rutas-senderismo

Sendero Verde (The Green Way)

One way to enjoy the Esgueva Valley is to take the Sendero Verde (The Green Way). This foot and cycle path goes as far as Villarmentero and offers remarkable scenic views.

The Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago is an 800km pilgrimage to the tomb of St James in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia). There are a number of traditional pilgrimage routes that have been used to reach Santiago, three of which (the Madrid, Southeast and East routes) cross the Province of Valladolid.

For more detailed information go to:

www.provinciadevalladolid.com/es/caminos-santiago
Fresh air and fun

For the outdoor sports enthusiast and those who like thrills and adventure, the Province can provide opportunities for canoeing, orienteering, mountaineering, horse and pony riding, go-carts and quad bikes, mountain biking, trekking, archery, paintballing, paragliding, hang gliding, abseiling, climbing, ultralight flying and hot air balloon trips.

Golfing breaks

The Province’s remarkable scenery will give an extra dimension to any game of golf. The golf courses in the Province offer a full range of services including club hire and golf schools as well as clubhouses, restaurants and other leisure facilities.

Health Spas and Resorts

Unwind and pamper yourself in one of the magnificent health spas in the Province, some located in former convents or palaces and surrounded by beautiful gardens. A fabulous combination of the natural thermal spring and saline waters of the area, health and beauty treatments, exercise facilities, gastronomic delights and luxury hotels all combine to ensure total relaxation, indulgence and rejuvenation.
Learning breaks

Learn Spanish in Valladolid

Valladolid is considered to be the cradle of the Spanish language, famed as being the place where the purest “Castilian” is spoken. Unsurprisingly the city has become a specialist centre for the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language and attracts thousands of “language tourists” each year from all corners of the globe.

Intensive language courses taken at one of the many specialist academies in the city will enable you completely immerse yourself in Spanish. You’ll have lots of opportunities to put what you’ve learnt into practice as you do a bit of sightseeing, shopping or just making conversation in a local bar.

For details of individual academies visit:

www.valladolid-lenguayturismo.org and www.spanishvalladolid.com
## Event Calendar

Throughout the year the Province of Valladolid has a busy calendar of events and festivals, some with local traditions dating back to medieval times and others with international significance. Although events in this listing do not have specific dates, they can be provided by one of the tourist information centres or visit: www.provinciadevalladolid.com (Fiestas y Tradiciones).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td><strong>Pingüinos - International Motorcycle Rally</strong>. This popular rally, nicknamed “The Penguins”, has been held for over 30 years in Valladolid and annually attracts between 20-30,000 bikers from across the globe. The event includes freestyle bike shows, live music, parades and displays, parties, torchlight processions, firework displays and trade stalls. The camaraderie found at the event is second to none, not least because visiting bikers camp out in the surrounding pine forests in freezing temperatures! <strong>International Bikers Rally “Motauros” - Tordesillas</strong> Since 2001, this rally has been held in the Valdegalindo area in Tordesillas. It has an activity programme for bikers and the general public.</td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td><strong>Carnival</strong> - Enjoy the magic and colour of Valladolid’s Carnival week. Activities, parades and shows are centred around the Plaza Mayor but every evening the streets are filled with revellers, many in fancy dress. The fun culminates in a “burial ceremony” of a sardine that marks the end of Carnival and its festivities. (NB: Although Carnival week is normally in February, in some years it is held in March)</td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td><strong>Medina del Campo International Film Festival</strong>. Considered as one of the most prestigious short film festivals in Spain, the Semana de Cine has a programme that includes dramas, experimental works, inspired animation and provocative documentaries from all over the world.</td>
<td>Medina del Campo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td><strong>Holy Week</strong> - International Tourist Attraction The processions of pasos (religious sculptures carried on platforms) in Valladolid during Holy Week are considered to be some of the most spectacular in Spain. The pasos depict various scenes from the Passion and are carried through the streets during Holy Week. <strong>Holy Week</strong> - International Tourist Attraction. Medina de Rioseco has an outstanding collection of pasos that during Holy Week are taken into the historic streets and carried in procession. <strong>Holy Week</strong> - International Tourist Attraction. Medina del Campo has the oldest penitential processions in Spain, the most important being the Procesión de la Vera Cruz, the Procesión del Encuentro and the Procesión del Silencio. <strong>Holy Week</strong> - The main religious processions in Tordesillas during Holy Week take place on Wednesday (in the Plaza Mayor) and Good Friday. <strong>Bajada Del Ángel</strong> (Descent of the Angel) - National Tourist Attraction. The week of religious processions and acts of worship in Peñafiel conclude on Easter Sunday in the Plaza del Coso with the Bajada del Ángel. In this ancient tradition a child (crowned and dressed in white to represent an angel) descends to the Plaza to symbolize the revelation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the Virgin. Besides those declared of tourist interest, Holy Week in the province of Valladolid has others whose emotional content and rites surprise visitors: Alaejos, Cuenga de Campos, Nava del Rey, Olmedo, Villanueva de Duero and Villavicencio de los Caballeros.</td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td><strong>World Book Day</strong> - To celebrate this international festival, special literary events and activities are arranged in Urueña.</td>
<td>Urueña. Valladolid</td>
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### MOTH EVENT LOCATION

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<th>MOTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Circolmedo</strong> - For three days in May Olmedo claims to become the biggest circus in the world. Everyone is invited to enjoy the performances of acrobats, jugglers, tightrope walkers, clowns and other professionals from the world of the circus. For more information visit the website at <a href="http://www.olmedo.es/espaciojoven">www.olmedo.es/espaciojoven</a></td>
<td>Olmedo</td>
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<td>Mid May</td>
<td><strong>Valladolid International Festival of Street Theatre</strong> - At the end of May the streets of Valladolid come alive and become the stage for around 60 acting companies from over 17 different countries. Actors and their props transform all the city’s parks, pedestrian shopping streets, historic plazas and gardens, transporting the audience into a world of fantasy and imagination. In this free festival, visitors can stroll around by day or night and enjoy a varied programme of outdoor theatre performances. For more information visit the website at <a href="http://www.info.valladolid.es">www.info.valladolid.es</a></td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of May</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td><strong>Regional Tapas Competition</strong> - Valladolid is one of the best cities in Spain to try “tapas” and hosts a regional tapas competition every June. Anyone can try the competition entries in the participating bars and restaurants. Pick up a map from one of the bars or the tourism office and sample some of the best tapas the Province of Valladolid has to offer. For more information visit the website <a href="http://www.info.valladolid.es">www.info.valladolid.es</a></td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<td>23 June</td>
<td><strong>Noche de San Juan</strong> - This huge “beach” party takes place on the Playa de las Moreras beside the River Pisuerga. The focal point for the festivities is a huge bonfire.</td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td><strong>Veladas Musicales en los Castillos</strong> - Throughout July a series of evening concerts are staged in some of the Province’s historic castles. Participating venues include the castles at Torrelobatón, Portillo, Íscar, Trigueros del Valle, Villafuerte, Tiedra, Simancas and Montealegre de Campos. <a href="http://www.diputaciondevalladolid.es">www.diputaciondevalladolid.es</a></td>
<td>Various sites around the Province</td>
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<td>1st weekend of the month</td>
<td><strong>Re-creation of History</strong> - During the spring and summer months, there are numerous festivals and re-creations of historical events that took place in times gone by and which represent a unique opportunity to learn about the province of Valladolid, enjoy a special experience and remember and learn from the past. For more information visit the website <a href="http://www.provinciadevalladolid.com">www.provinciadevalladolid.com</a></td>
<td>Various sites around the Province</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Festival de Teatro Clásico de Olmedo</strong> (Festival of Classical Theatre). During this two-week festival different companies perform classical dramas in various locations around the town. The programme includes works by Shakespeare, Moliere and Lope de Vega amongst others. For more information visit <a href="http://www.olmedoclasico.es">www.olmedoclasico.es</a></td>
<td>Olmedo</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td><strong>Fiestas de Nuestra Señora y San Roque</strong> - Between the 14th and 18th August, Peñafiel hosts one of the most popular festivals in the region. The festival includes bull running and amateur bullfights but what makes the event famous is the “Chúndara”. crowds of fiesta-goers make their way from the Plaza España to the Plaza del Coso, accompanied by the music of the pasadoble. On route, spectators “refresh” those celebrating in the streets below with buckets of water thrown from the balconies. <strong>Festival de Teatro Alternativo</strong> - This two-week festival features a range of different theatrical companies and an innovative programme of performances including theatre on stage, street theatre, dance, music and exhibitions. For more information visit <a href="http://www.teatro-fetal.com">www.teatro-fetal.com</a></td>
<td>Peñafiel</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td><strong>Toro de la Vega</strong> - The “Lancing of the Bull” is one of the oldest and most unique bull festivals in Spain. A large bull is released to run free in the streets of Tordesillas until it crosses the bridge over the River Duero to the “vega” or open plain. There lane men, both on foot and on horseback, await its arrival and try to bring it down. Tradition has it that if the bull leaves the “vega” alive it is let off. <strong>Running of the Bulls</strong> - During the Fiesta of San Antolin, three special bull-running events are held. One is done on horseback in the open countryside, another on foot in the streets of the town and finally there are amateur bullfights using young bulls and “cortes” (acrobatics performed with bulls) in the bullring. <strong>Ferias</strong> – Valladolid’s main festival honours the Virgin of San Lorenzo. It includes street stalls full of tapas created by the city’s bars and restaurants, a large craft market, firework displays, concerts and a huge funfair just outside the city centre. Of particular interest are the processions of enormous carnival-style figures called Cabezudos or Gigantes carried around the Plaza Mayor: <strong>La Vaca Enmaromada</strong> – In this fiesta a cow, rather than a bull, is released into the village streets at the end of a long rope. Festival participants run with the cow around the village. <strong>Fiesta de la Vendimia</strong> (Wine Harvest Festival) – This week long festival includes a range of activities relating to wine making: conferences, wine tasting and competitions as well as a parade of wine makers and grape pickers. The fiesta opens with the traditional treading of the grapes by Master Winemakers dressed in traditional costume. Everyone is then invited to taste the wine whilst being entertained by folk dancers and musicians: <strong>El Vítor</strong> – National Tourist Attraction - In 1737 Mayorga celebrated the arrival of Santo Toribio’s relics in the town. The event is still celebrated today every 27th September with a torchlight procession and a ceremonial burning of 1,000 wine skins to honour the Saint. The procession includes musicians and dancers who perform by the light of the torches, making it a wonderfully atmospheric experience. <strong>Encierros Tradicionales al Estilo de la Villa</strong> – This fiesta has a long tradition and was even mentioned in Lope de Vega’s 17th century play “El Caballero de Olmedo”. As part of the festivities, horsemen drive bulls from the fields toward the town. Once the bulls arrive at the town’s outskirts, the runners take over and guide the bull towards the bullring.</td>
<td>Tordesillas</td>
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<td>2nd Tuesday in September</td>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td>Medina del campo</td>
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<td>Beginning of September</td>
<td><strong>End of September</strong></td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<td>First and second weeks of September</td>
<td><strong>Weekend closest to 21st September</strong></td>
<td>Palazuelo de Vedija</td>
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<td>27th September</td>
<td><strong>29th &amp; 30th September</strong></td>
<td>Cigales</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td><strong>SEMINCI International Film Festival</strong> - Valladolid’s annual film festival has gained an international reputation for being the testing ground for innovative and controversial films as well as the Spanish launch pad for filmmakers such as Fellini, Rossellini and Ken Loach. The Festival features an intensive week of cinema going from morning to night with programmes of international feature films, shorts and documentaries. For more information visit the website at <a href="http://www.seminci.es">www.seminci.es</a></td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td><strong>Concurso Nacional de Pinchos y Tapas</strong> (National Tapas and Pinchos Competition). Valladolid is one of the best cities in Spain to try “tapas” and hosts a national tapas competition every November. Around 40 bars take part in the competition and “host” chefs from other Spanish cities who offer customers the chance to try their competition entries. Pick up a map from one of the bars or the tourism office and sample some of the best tapas the country has to offer. For more information visit the website <a href="http://www.info.valladolid.es">www.info.valladolid.es</a></td>
<td>Valladolid</td>
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<td>30th November 8th December</td>
<td><strong>Virgen de los Pegotes</strong> – During the 18th century the authorities in Nava del Rey agreed to hold a permanent celebration of the Virgin in the village between the 30th November and 1st December. Moments before the first celebration was held, a storm forced the villagers to postpone the event until the evening. Torches were used to light the route of the Virgin’s procession from the hermitage (where she was normally kept) to the village church. The result was so impressive that from that day forward the tradition has been to hold the procession at night by torchlight.</td>
<td>Nava del Rey</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td><strong>El Belén Viviente</strong> (Living Nativity) – The Christmas story is retold in the form of a play with 100 local people taking the roles of the Holy Family, Romans, shepherds, angels, innkeepers and kings. Even the animals take part with a donkey at the manger and sheep in the stable. The town of Bethlehem is authentically created with working tradesmen including potters, bakers and carpenters, all using tools authentic to the period. Living nativities are also celebrated at Christmas in Laguna del Duero, Fuensaldaña, Nava del Rey, Fresno del Rey, Fresno el Viejo and Rueda.</td>
<td>Cabezón de Pisuerga</td>
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FOOD AND WINE
A TASTE OF HISTORY
Visit the Province of Valladolid and what you’ll find on any table will be a reflection of the produce of the area.

**Local gastronomy - A mouth-watering mix of the old with the new**

Each geographical area in the Province has its gastronomic specialties. Many restaurants will offer a taste of old Castile with traditionally cooked dishes, prepared as they have been for centuries. Others use traditional ingredients as the inspiration for new dishes, adapted to contemporary tastes and fused with new styles of cuisine. Perhaps the best example of this new culinary approach is tapas or “cooking in miniature” where just one mouthful of food is a feast of different textures and flavours.

**World-famous, award-winning wines**

The Province of Valladolid is one of Spain’s most distinguished wine-producing regions. The area is full of vineyards and bodegas (wine cellars) just waiting to be discovered.

The region of Castile and Leon holds five denominaciones de origen (denomination or ‘appellation’ of origin). This means the wines from five of its wine producing areas are of a superior quality and carry specific and distinctive characteristics. They include:

- **Rueda**
- **Ribera Del Duero**
- **Cigales**
- **Toro**
- **Tierra de León**

All five of these denominaciones de origen can be found in the Province of Valladolid. To the south is Rueda, one of the most important wine-growing regions with denominación de origen (D.O) in Spain. **Rueda**, famous for its white wines using the Verdejo grape, used to be the wine of choice for royalty during the reign of the Catholic monarchs. To the East is **Ribera Del Duero** that uses the Tinta del País grape. The area has achieved a worldwide reputation for quality wines amongst sommeliers and wine connoisseurs, winning many international accolades.

To the west is **Cigales** where the main grape variety is the Tinta del País. The area has a reputation for outstanding rosé wines as well as quality reds since the **Toro D.O.** can also be found here. Wines with the **Tierra de León D.O.** are found in the north of the Province.
WINE
a multi-sensory experience

Wine is one of the Province’s main tourist attractions. As well as the Museo Provincial del Vino (Provincial Wine Museum), many towns and individual bodegas host different wine events and activities throughout the year.

Visit wine cellars and sample local wines.

Following a boom in wine tourism in recent years there are now over 140 bodegas that you can visit. They range from small, traditional family-run concerns where the son or daughter gives a personal guided tour to large modern wineries with top quality restaurants. Visitors can sample and buy wines or take a guided tour of the vineyards and production areas to see how the wine is made.

Visit the Museo Provincial del Vino (Provincial Wine Museum)

Visitors interested in learning more about the fascinating culture, customs and traditions of wine production in the area should head for the spectacular Peñafiel Castle, host to the Museo Provincial del Vino.

The Museo Provincial del Vino is one of Europe’s most important wine museums. It illustrates the process of wine making from vineyard to cellar through a series of interactive exhibits and displays, complimented by individual audio tours (available in English). The Museum also offers visitors a full programme of events and activities including:

• Wine tasting and other specialised courses
• Special wine weekends
• Organised tours
• Temporary exhibitions

Wine tastings are organised at the Museum every weekend and national holiday when visitors get the opportunity to try local wines with denominación de origen.

For information on opening times, directions, contact details and activities at each of the bodegas open to the public visit:

www.provinciadevalladolid.com/Enoturismo/Bodegas visitables

For directions, opening times and further information on special events and activities visit:

www.provinciadevalladolid.com/Centros Turísticos Provinciales/Museo del Vino
Wine Visitor Centres

Those visitors interested in seeing traditional wine cellars and finding out more about the wine making process should visit:

- The Bodega Aula de Interpretación in Mucientes www.bodega.edu.es
- The Centro de Interpretación Vitivinícola in Emina (Valbuena de Duero) www.emina.es
- Bodega Tradicional Cigaleña (Cigales) www.turismocigales.com

Also of interest is the Tonelería Burgos (Nava del Rey), a cooperage where the traditional art of barrel making is demonstrated in the workshop. It also has an underground bodega and museum with displays of vintage wine presses, wine making and grape harvesting equipment. www.toneleriaburgos.com

Wine Routes

The Wine Routes of Spain Products Club is a tourism product designed to help travellers discover a “different” Spain and enjoy unique experiences. It is an essential route for those looking to explore new emotions, always focused on wine and the wine world.

The province of Valladolid has three certified Wine Routes: The Ribera del Duero Wine Route, the Rueda Wine Route and the Cigales Wine Route.

In the Ribera del Duero region, visitors can take in the culture of wine in a land whose history has been closely linked to the union of the vineyard and wine, the fruit of the vines that mark its landscape, the personality of its people and its culture; the Rueda Wine Route, birthplace of the Verdejo variety, offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in its wonderful wine culture, take a trip in time to centuries past and enjoy the region’s extensive heritage and culture. Cigales, land of rosé wines, offers a journey through history, beautiful locations and rich gastronomy.
## Special wine-related events and festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>First Wine Festival. Celebration in which the wineries offer a taste of their first rosé wines of the harvest.</td>
<td>Mucientes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Fiesta del Verdejo - Join in the celebrations and try the white wine made with the Verdejo grapes typically grown in this area. Other activities are also staged as part of the festival.</td>
<td>La Seca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td><strong>Fiesta de Nuestra Señora y San Roque</strong> Following a tradition that dates back to the 16th century a communal meal with wine is organised in the Main Square. Visitors are made welcome and invited to join in.</td>
<td>Peñafiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>September marks the start of the grape harvest and visitors can take part in a number of “<strong>Fiestas de la Vendimia</strong>” (Wine Harvest Festivals) that happen throughout the Province towards the end of the month. Fiestas vary from village to village but can include parades of Master Winemakers in traditional dress, invitations to try the first “mosto” (non-alcoholic grape juice) of the season, wine tastings, treading of the grapes and other ceremonies, medieval-style markets, food stalls, folk music and folk dancing.</td>
<td>Quintanilla de Onésimo, Serrada, Cigales, Rueda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td><strong>Fiesta de la Vendimia</strong> (Wine Harvest Festival). This is a popular fiesta celebrating the grape harvest in the area. After the treading of the grapes, the first mosto (non-alcoholic grape juice) of the season is tried. Visitors can also see how wine was made in the past. Running concurrently is <strong>Riberjoven</strong>, a festival that celebrates the “young” wine as well as regional foods. <strong>El Vendimiario</strong> - This takes place during the last few days of the grape harvest. Visitors are invited to appreciate the wine “from the vineyard to the cellar”.</td>
<td>Peñafiel, Mucientes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOCAL FOOD
Enjoy the distinctive flavours of the land

The Province of Valladolid grows a wide range of natural produce, much of it now bearing a denominación de origen quality mark (similar to that of wine). The land and the forests, as well as the livestock and game that live from them, have all provided the inspiration for many distinctive dishes. The towns and villages of the Province are full of restaurants that specialise in regional cuisine, giving visitors the opportunity to try quality produce from the area.

The ALIMENTOS DE VALLADOLID mark, A GUSTO DE TODOS is a seal of quality owned by the Provincial Council of Valladolid and applies to the farm produce of the province of Valladolid.

Local specialities.

The main speciality of the Province is “lechazo”, a suckling lamb slowly roasted in a wood-burning oven and served with a salad of locally grown lettuce, onions and tomatoes. Many of the Province’s other traditional dishes feature game or locally grown pulses (such as lentils or chickpeas). Quail, rabbit, hare, pigeon and partridge would have been slowly cooked in an earthenware pot along with local vegetables. Although these dishes are less common today, the culinary traditions associated with pigeon-based dishes are still celebrated annually in the area around Medina de Rioseco.

If there is one product that identifies Valladolid, it is its bread. It accompanies every meal and can be found on every table. The bread from Valladolid is nationally famous for its texture and whiteness and carries its own quality mark. Its numerous varieties even merit celebration in their own museum.

Another local speciality worth trying is the local sheep’s cheese. The sheep that graze on the land of the Tierra de Campos area produce a cheese with a rich and distinctive flavour; particularly famous is that from Villalón. Many local dishes and delicacies feature the products of the local forests, including wild mushrooms and pine kernels. These, and other local produce such as asparagus or garlic, are often celebrated with their own local fairs and fiestas.

Delicious sweets and pastries

For those with a sweet tooth, there is a wide choice of local pastries and biscuits to choose from, many using pine kernels. They are often made in local convents and monasteries such as the “bizcocho” (sponge cake) from Santa Clara. Particularly typical are the “Rosquillas Ciegas” from Iscar, and “Mantecados” from Portillo.

A truly unique way to get to know the culture and traditions of the area would be to follow a special “pastry route”. The Guía Ruta del Dulce is a guide to all the different “pastelerías” or pastry shops in the Province with descriptions of the speciality of each one.

To more information:
www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Tapas - A small mouthful of food, a huge feast for the palate

Traditionally tapas would have been a slice of cold meat or tortilla on a slice of bread but today it has become an art form, a way of cooking in miniature that gives the chef the freedom to express their creativity. The new tapas features a huge range of flavours, textures, and food combinations and Valladolid is one of the best cities in Spain to enjoy it.

Tapas Routes around Valladolid

Visitors can enjoy various tapas routes around different areas of the city. Downloadable maps include information about the specialities of each bar making it a bit easier to choose from the mouth-watering selections available.

Provincial and National - Pinchos and Tapas Competitions

Every year Valladolid hosts one provincial and one national pinchos* and tapas competition. Around 40 of the bars and restaurants take part and offer patrons the chance to sample the competition entries for themselves. Bars who create winning entries will serve them all year round – just look for the posters and banners around the walls.

*(pinchos are a type of tapas or snack served on a plate with a toothpick through it to hold the food together)

To more information:

www.info.valladolid.es
### Special Food-related events and festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td><strong>Gastronomic Festival of the Slaughter Ritual</strong> - Castilian folklore celebrates the traditional slaughtering of the pig. <strong>Suckling Pig Days of Ribera del Duero</strong>. Suckling pig is the protagonist of these days and can be enjoyed in many different ways: traditional dishes and tapas, etc.</td>
<td>Palazuelo de Vediaja, Across the Ribera del Duero region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td><strong>Feria del Pan</strong> – Master bakers and pastry-makers from across the Province set up stalls in Mayorga to display and sell their produce. <strong>Suckling Pig Gastronomy Days in Tierra de Medina</strong>. Several restaurants in Medina del Campo serve a special menu based on this Castilian delicacy.</td>
<td>Mayorga (Museo del Pan), Medina del Campo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Last Sunday of the month</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fiesta de Exaltación del Espárrago</strong> (Asparagus Festival) — In this fiesta the streets of Tudela are full of stalls where you can taste and buy asparagus as well as other locally grown produce.</td>
<td>Tudela de Duero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>2nd weekend of month</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Feria Agroalimentaria</strong> - This local produce fair and medieval market takes place in the main streets and squares of Villalón and includes stalls of local cheeses, cold meats, wines, cider, preserves, honey, locally made pastries and sweets as well as ceramics. Visitors will also be able to enjoy street entertainers, exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops <strong>Concurso Provincial de Pinchos y Tapas</strong> (Provincial Pinchos and Tapas Competition). Around 40 tapas bars take part in this competition and offer customers the chance to try their competition entries. Pick up a map from one of the participating bars or the tourism office and sample some of the city’s best tapas.</td>
<td>Villalón de Campos, Valladolid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Feria del Ajo y la Artesanía</strong> (Garlic and Craft Fair) - At this local fair stalls are arranged around the castle displaying locally made produce and wares including pottery, preserves and garlic. There are also exhibitions, folk music and dancing.</td>
<td>Portillo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fiesta de la Patata y Encuentro Gastronómico</strong> - A celebration of the traditions and produce of the countryside in which menus and tapas are created using the humble potato as the key ingredient.</td>
<td>Medina del Campo, Carpio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1st weekend of month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Certamen del Pincho Piñonero</strong> (Pine kernel Pincho Competition) The essential ingredient of any pincho created for this competition is pine kernels, one of the most important gastronomic products of the south of the Province. This area produces and sells the most pine kernels in Spain. <strong>Cata Popular de Quesos de Castilla y León</strong> - The focus of this popular fair is cheese tasting. Regional sheep and goat’s cheeses can all be enjoyed with a glass of wine and a local pastry. <strong>Home-made Beer Festival</strong>. Montemayor de Pilla plays host to a large number of home breweries that offer visitors the opportunity to taste their products during the fair.</td>
<td>Pedrajas de San Esteban, Sardón del Duero, Montemayor de Pilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>12th October</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Visado Gastronómico de Íscar</strong> - Tapas and pinchos competition where visitors can sample some of the best cuisine of the local bars and restaurants in Íscar. <strong>Feria de los Productos de la Tierra</strong> - In this local festival visitors get the chance to try various types of locally made produce and gastronomic specialities of the area. <strong>“All Saints” Tapas Competition</strong> - Coinciding with All Saints’ Feats Day, several bars and restaurants in Tordesillas make delicious tapas to celebrate.</td>
<td>Íscar, Medina del Campo, Tordesillas</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2nd November</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jornadas Gastronómicas del Pichón en Tierra de Campos</strong> Bars and restaurants prepare pigeon-based tapas and dishes to celebrate the distinctive flavours of this traditional food. <strong>Fiesta de la Salchicha</strong> - A Festival to celebrate the sausages traditionally made in Zaratán. As well as stalls of tapas and wine, a huge paella is made. <strong>Concurso Nacional de Pinchos y Tapas</strong> (National Pinchos and Tapas Competition). Around 40 bars take part in this competition and “host” chefs from other Spanish cities who offer customers the chance to try their competition entries. Pick up a map from one of the bars or the tourism office and sample some of the best tapas the country has to offer.</td>
<td>Across the Tierra de Campos region (especially Medina de Rioseco), Zaratán, Valladolid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td><strong>Jornadas Gastronómicas de las setas de Castilla y León</strong>. Bars and restaurants prepare mushroom-based dishes to celebrate the variety and distinctive tastes of the wild mushrooms found in the region</td>
<td>Various restaurants across the Province</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explore the province. LOCAL FOOD 51
Where to Stay

A

THE ACCOMMODATION THAT YOU NEED
Where to stay

Whatever level of comfort or flexibility you are looking for, the Province has plenty of accommodation to suit your needs. Further information on the full range of accommodation options can be found at [www.provinciadevalladolid.com](http://www.provinciadevalladolid.com)

**The choice includes:**

- **Hotels** (from Budget to luxury)
- **Pensiones or hostales** (guest house-style accommodation)
- **Casas Rurales** (Rural houses)
- **Hoteles Rurales** (Rural hotels)
- **Posadas** (rural hotels with architectural or historic merit) and **posadas reales** (luxury rural hotels)
- **The Parador at Tordesillas** (a luxury hotel housed in a Castilian-style mansion house surrounded by gardens and pine trees).

**RURAL TOURISM**

Rural tourism has become one of the biggest attractions in the province of Valladolid and brings in increasing numbers of travellers. At its centres (Casas Rurales, Hoteles y Posadas) you will discover more than just quality installations.

All these accommodation options offer visitors the chance to enjoy the peace and quiet this land offers, as well as the chance to discover the people and their customs, and the wealth of gastronomy and magnificent cultural and environmental heritage of Castilla y León.

“**Casa Rural**” which literally means “rural house”, and **“Hotel Rural”** are usually traditional houses found in a rural setting or small village and comfortably furnished with a mix of Antique or simple rustic-style furniture, in keeping with the character and charm of the building. They are heated (some open fires) and have the modern conveniences that today we take for granted.

They offer the visitor a truly authentic experience with the opportunity to try regional food and wine and meet local people. Prices can be very reasonable and vary according to the type of lodging and season.

A **Posada** is a rural hotel, located in the countryside and based in restored historic or traditional buildings.

**Posadas Reales** (or royal posadas) is the quality seal for rural tourism accommodation in Castilla y León.

Each accommodation option is located on sites of monumental and historical value or in natural settings of outstanding beauty, and their architecture and design blends in perfectly with the backdrop. These accommodation options are housed in unique buildings such as stately homes, mills, castles, monasteries or traditional houses, etc. Furthermore, the décor is characterised by impeccable attention to detail, offering guests superb quality, warm and friendly service, direct contact with nature and a truly delightful stay.
Useful Information
For the visitor

General Tourist Information 1:

General visitor enquiries relating to the Province of Valladolid

Provincial Tourist Information Board
Palacio de Pimentel
C/ Augustias, 44
Valladolid

Email: turismo@dip-valladolid.es
Website: www.provinciadevalladolid.com
Tel: (+34) 983 427 259

General Tourist Information 2:

Main Tourist Information Centre (Valladolid)

Pabellón de Cristal
Acera de Recoletos (near the Campo Grande)
Valladolid

Email: informacion@valladolidturismo.com
Website: www.info.valladolid.es
Tel: (+34) 983 21 93 10
Getting Around:

Air

Villanubla Airport
Route N-601 (towards Léon) 13km from Valladolid
Tel: (+34) 983 415 500

Rail

RENFE Railway Station
C/ Recondo
Valladolid
Tel: (+34) 983 210 928

Coach

Valladolid: Coach station: C/ Puente Colgante, 2
To check the timetables of buses running between Valladolid city centre and outlying towns and villages, consult the following websites:
www.alsa.es
www.linecar.es
www.empresacabrer.com
www.laregionalvsa.com

Bus

AUVASA
Valladolid Bus Information Centre: Acera de Recoletos, Valladolid
www.auvasa.es

Road

Rental Car Companies
AVIS C/ Recondo (at the railway station in Valladolid)
HERTZ (Villanubla Airport)
EUROPCAR C/ Recondo (at the railway station in Valladolid or at Villanubla Airport)

Taxis

Available from the station and at various locations around Valladolid.

Emergency contact numbers:

Emergency Services — Tel: 112

Police Emergency Number — Tel: 091

Consular Services
France : Plaza del Poniente, 5, Valladolid
(Tel: (+34) 983 339 666)
Germany : German-Hispanic Society - Acera de Recoletos, 9,
Valladolid (Tel: (+34) 983 210 037)

General Useful Information:

Main post office: Plaza de la Rinconada, Valladolid.