



train2eupilgrimage

Manual of Cultures

Recommended Pilgrim Routes in Spain



Erasmus+

Recommended Pilgrim Routes in Spain

Although Spain is a secular country, it has great variety of religious traditions and liturgical celebrations. The Spanish streets are full of culture, legends and monuments of inestimable value. Religious tourism in Spain is a growing phenomenon that attracts a large number of visitors at regional and international level. In total, there are about 447 pilgrimage routes to discover in the region of Spain.

In the following we present the most famous pilgrim routes and their sanctuaries. Further pilgrim routes in Spain can be selected and planned on the interactive internet portal for the Camino de Santiago/Saint James Way: www.pilgrim.es

Maps of all Spanish pilgrimage routes: www.outdooractive.com

Camino de Santiago

The way of St. James (Santiago de Compostela)



History

The Way of Saint James is one of the most famous pilgrim routes in the world and is the generic name given to a number of different routes leading to the city of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia that have been followed by European pilgrims for almost 1000 years. During the Middle Ages, a period in which religious pilgrimages were of great importance, these routes played a significant part in the cultural exchanges between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe. Currently, the continued popularity of these routes is testimony to the influence the Christian faith still has on millions of Europeans.

The Way came about with the discovery of the Apostle Saint James the Greater's sepulchre in the 9th century, becoming one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages, as its culmination guaranteed the gaining of a plenary indulgence. Throughout history it has become an important pilgrimage destination and a world-renowned religious and cultural centre, keeping its extraordinary appeal alive today.

The way of Saint James has received numerous international awards in recent decades for the incalculable value of its cultural heritage for humanity. In 1987 the route was declared the first European Cultural Route by the European Commission (Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/the-santiago-de-compostela-pilgrim-routes>). The Routes of Santiago de Compostela: Camino Francés and Routes of Northern Spain were recognised as a World Heritage site by UNESCO due to its Outstanding Universal Value (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/669/>).

Path and landscape description

In the following link <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways> you will find detailed information related to the ways of the Way of Saint James, including steps, length and level of difficulty of each way and useful information.

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The ways:

The French Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/french-way>

The Fisterra and Muxía Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/the-fisterra-and-muxia-way>

Vía de la Plata (the Silver Way) <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/via-de-la-plata>

The English Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/english-way>

The Primitive Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/primitive-way>

The Northern Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/northern-way>

The Route of the Sea of Arousa and River

Ulla <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/the-mar-de-arousa-and-río-ulla-route>

The Winter Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/winter-way>

The Portuguese Way <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/portuguese-way>

The Portuguese Way of the Coast <https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/make-plans/the-ways/portuguese-coastal-way>

In general, the different roads to Santiago are sufficiently signposted and any deficiencies can be overcome by using the maps included in all practical guides. You can find out the signposting on The Way of St. James here <https://www.pilgrim.es/en/plan-your-way/markers-on-the-way/>

Websites

<https://www.caminodesantiago.gal/en/inicio>

<https://www.santiagoturismo.com/info-xeral>

<http://www.saintjamesway.eu/en/>

<https://consejacobeo21.es/en/>

<https://oficinadelperegrino.com/en/>

E-Mail

012@xunta.es

Nuestra Señora del Rocío

Santuario Nuestra Señora del Rocío, en Andalucía



History

The pilgrimage to the Virgen del Rocío (Almonte, Huelva) has its origins in the reign of Alfonso XI, who recorded the appearance of the image of the Virgen del Rocío in the Libro de la Montería. The first reference to the Sanctuary of the Virgen del Rocío appears in the 14th century.

The El Rocío pilgrimage is the most famous in the region, attracting nearly a million people from across Andalucía and the entire country, and beyond. Every Andalusian city, town and village has its own pilgrimages, for its patron saint, virgin or other much-loved local figure, but the El Rocío has cult status, and is the most important and most colourful. It follows on from Semana Santa (March/April), and the various spring ferias, of which Seville's Feria de Abril (April) is the biggest.

Path and landscape description

The most typical way of doing the pilgrimage is on horseback, in one of the carretas (decorated wagons) or on foot, journeying through the marshlands and sleeping out in the open air. On Sunday night no-one sleeps in anticipation of being able to enter the church and join in the procession of the Blanca Paloma (White Dove), by which the Virgin of El Rocío is known. The most exciting moment of all is the salto (leap), when the people of the nearby town of Almonte enter the shrine, leaping over the railings, and lead their Virgin in procession through the village.

Although all roads lead to El Rocío at Whitsuntide, there are several routes to choose from (<https://www.andalucia.org/en/discover-us/art-culture-and-traditions/el-rocio/making-journey>):

- The Sanlúcar Route: crosses the Doñana Nature Reserve and runs from the mouth of the Guadalquivir River, at Bajo de Guía in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, all the way to the village El Rocío. This is a beautiful route for nature lovers to enjoy. An added highlight is watching the simpecados (banners), carts and horsemen and women across the estuary in the boats ferry.
- The Moguer Route: taken by pilgrims from Huelva on their way to El Rocío.
- Los Llanos Route: the oldest of all the routes, it starts in Almonte.
- The Sevillano Route: runs through Gelo, Marlo, el Quema, Villamanrique de la Condesa, La Raya Real, Palacio and El Ajolí, at the entrance to the village. Landmarks that are imbued with tradition, evocations, memories, hopes and intensity.

Websites

<https://www.andalucia.org/en/el-rocio>

<https://www.andalucia.com/festival/rocio.htm>

E-Mail

turismo.almonte@gmail.com

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Starting location

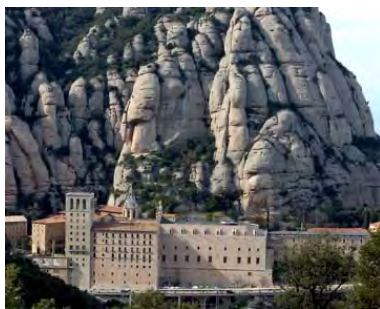
Doñana Nature Reserve/ Huelva/ Almonte/ Sevilla

Final destination

El Rocío

Monasterio de Montserrat

Monasterio de Montserrat, en Cataluna



History

This monastery is a Marian title associated with a statue of the Madonna and Child, which is venerated in the Santa Maria de Montserrat monastery on the Montserrat Mountain in Catalonia. She is the Patron Saint of Catalonia, The image of Our Lady of Montserrat, popularly known as La Moreneta (the Dark One), because of the dark colour of her skin, is a really beautiful Romanesque polychrome carving from the 12th

century. In 1881 Pope Leo XIII proclaimed Our Lady of Montserrat Patron Saint of Catalonia in 1881.

The Monastery of Montserrat is on the Marian Route.

Path and landscape description

In the heart of Catalonia, there is an unusually-shaped mountain made from huge slabs of grey rock. At the top of this spectacular massif stands a statue of the Virgin of Montserrat. You can get there on foot.

Several pilgrim routes: <https://www.montserratvisita.com/en/organize-the-visit/how-to-get-here/on-foot>

Websites

<https://www.montserratvisita.com/en/index.html>

<https://abadiamontserrat.cat/en/>

<https://rutamariana.com/montserrat/>

<https://www.spain.info/en/destination/montserrat/>

E-Mail

informacio@larsa-montserrat.com

Basilica de la Virgen del Pilar

Cathedral-Basilica de la Virgen del Pilar



History

The Basilica venerates [Blessed Virgin Mary](#), under her title [Our Lady of the Pillar](#) praised as "Mother of the Hispanic Peoples" by [Pope John Paul II](#). It is reputed to be the first [church dedicated to Mary](#) in history. Local traditions take the history of this basilica to the dawn of [Christianity](#) in Spain attributing to an [apparition](#) to [Saint James the Great](#), the [apostle](#) who is believed by tradition to have brought Christianity to the country. Many of the kings of Spain, many other foreign rulers and saints have paid their devotion before this statue of Mary. Saint [John of the Cross](#), Saint [Teresa of Ávila](#), Saint [Ignatius of Loyola](#), and Blessed [William Joseph Chaminade](#) are among the foremost ones. The Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar is one of two minor [basilicas](#) in the city of Zaragoza.

Pilgrimages to the Basilica began in the 13th century. The 12th October is the feast of the Virgen del Pilar. Together with Torreciudad, Montserrat, Meritxell and Lourdes, the Basilica del Pilar forms part of the Marian Route.

Path and landscape description

The Basilica is located in Zaragoza. Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/6xkb2aupMQ5nc3sQ6>
You can find more information on Zaragoza here <https://www.spain.info/en/destination/zaragoza/>

Websites

<https://www.spain.info/en/places-of-interest/nuestra-senora-pilar-basilica/>
<http://www.archizaragoza.org/el-pilar>

<http://www.basilicadelpilar.es/inicio.htm>
<https://www.turismodearagon.com/ficha/basilica-de-nuestra-senora-del-pilar-zaragoza/>
<https://rutamariana.com/el-pilar/>

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basilicadelpilar@gmail.com

Santuario Covadonga

Santuario de Covadonga



History

The Holy Cave of Our Lady of Covadonga is a [Catholic sanctuary](#) located in [Asturias](#), northern [Spain](#). Covadonga is the heart of Asturias in a number of ways. Covadonga's Holy Cave holds the tomb of Pelayo, who in 722 won the Battle of Covadonga against the Muslim Moors, and later became the first King of Asturias. The victory of Covadonga started the so called Reconquest, a fight of some 800 years between the Muslims and Christians. During the first 200 years after the battle, Asturias was the Christian stronghold in the Iberian Peninsula.

In addition to the Holy Cave, the sanctuary is made up of a 19th century basilica, the Collegiate Church of San Fernando (from the 16th century), the pilgrims' inn (a large house built in 1763) and other outbuildings used as a hostel and retreat house.

Path and landscape description

Many are the roads leading to Covadonga, and one of the most outstanding is the Ruta de las Peregrinaciones, which runs from Oviedo to the Royal Site and passes through Bendición, el Alto del Espinadal, Miera, Espinaréu, Villamayor and Cangas de Onís, and ends in Covadonga. This route also has a branch from Mieres del Camín that rejoins the road from Oviedo in a place known as La Grandota (the Big One). You can find more information here: <https://www.turismoasturias.es/en/cultura/itinerarios-culturales/ruta-peregrinaciones>

Other routes to Covadonga: <https://www.turismoasturias.es/en/cultura/itinerarios-culturales/caminos-peregrinacion;jsessionid=F304AB8C30F64FDD965D06F632B45C33>

Websites

<https://www.spain.info/en/places-of-interest/covadonga-shrine/>

<https://www.pilgrim-info.com/sanctuary-lady-covadonga/>

<https://www.turismoasturias.es/en/covadonga>

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covadonga@iglesiadeasturias.org

Santo Toribo de Liébana

Santo Toribio de Liébana



History

The monastery is located in the [Cantabrian Mountains](#) in northern Spain, the monastery is one of the five places in Christianity that, together with [Rome](#), [Jerusalem](#), [Santiago de Compostela](#) and [Caravaca de la Cruz](#), has the privilege of issuing perpetual [indulgences](#). The monastery was founded prior to the 6th century. According to tradition, the monastery venerates that largest piece of the [Lignum Crucis](#) discovered in Jerusalem by Saint [Helena of Constantinople](#). Brought from the [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#) by [Saint Turibius of Astorga](#), the left arm of the True Cross is kept on a gilded silver reliquary. The monastery was initially dedicated to [St. Martin of Tours](#) but its name was changed in the 12th century. In 1961, the [Franciscan](#) friars, Custodians of the Holy Places, were entrusted with the relic's safekeeping and with the promotion of the devotion to the Holy Cross.

The [Camino Lebaniego](#), a branch that connects the Camino with the [Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana](#) and the [Camino del Norte](#) or Camino de la Costa in Cantabria has been considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2015

(<https://www.caminolebaniego.com/camino-lebaniego/patrimonio-de-la-humanidad>).

Path and landscape description

The monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana is located in Camaleño (Cantabria).

The stages of the Camino Lebaniego are:

- 1 San Vicente de la Barquera - Cades
- 2 Cades - Cabañes
- 3 Cabañes - Santo Toribio

You can get a map here: <https://caminolebaniego.com/documentos/mapa.pdf>

Websites

<https://www.santotoribiodeliebana.es/>

<https://caminolebaniego.com/camino-lebaniego#>

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Monasterio de Guadalupe

Monasterio de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe



History

The Royal Monastery of Santa Maria of Guadalupe is located at the foot of the eastern side of the [Sierra de las Villuercas](#) (Cáceres) and was one of the most important and fine [monasteries](#) in the country for more than four centuries. [UNESCO](#) declared it a [World Heritage Site](#) in 1993 (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/665/>). The monastery had its origins in the late 13th century, when a shepherd from [Cáceres](#), named Gil Cordero, discovered on the bank of the [Guadalupe River](#) a statue of the [Blessed Virgin](#), which had been apparently hidden by local inhabitants from [Moorish](#) invaders in 714. On the site of his discovery a chapel was built, dedicated under the title of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#). The Virgin of Guadalupe is the patron saint of the region of Extremadura and her feast day is celebrated on 8 September.

Path and landscape description

Since the construction of the monastery in 1337, a network of paths was established which, starting from the main towns in the centre of the peninsula, led to Guadalupe. Twelve of these paths are still preserved today and continue to be an important pilgrimage route. To find out more about these routes to Guadalupe, please visit: <http://caminosaguadalupe.com/caminos-a-guadalupe/>

Location of the monastery

https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/665/multiple=1&unique_number=786

Websites

<http://monasterioguadalupe.com/>

<http://caminosaguadalupe.com/>

E-Mail

<https://monasterioguadalupe.com/contacto/>

Santuario de Torreciudad

Santuario de Torreciudad



History

Torreciudad is the name of a Marian [shrine](#) in [Aragon](#). The Santuario de Torreciudad was built by [Josemaría Escrivá](#), the founder of [Opus Dei](#). It was consecrated on July 7, 1975, under the title of Our Lady of Torreciudad.

This sanctuary, together with El Pilar, Montserrat, Meritxell and Lourdes make up the Marian Route, a pilgrimage route that unites devotion and tradition through these five sanctuaries, and which is one of the most important religious tourism destinations in Europe. The feast of the Virgin of Torreciudad is celebrated on the Sunday following 15th August.

Path and landscape description

The Sanctuary of Torreciudad is located near the town of Barbastro, in the Huesca province. It belongs to the Aragonese Ribagorza county, but it is located very close to other two important counties: “Somontano” and “Sobrarbe”. This modern sanctuary, placed just a few meters away from the antique shrine, is a meeting point for many groups and families. It is known as the Sanctuary of the Families.

Location

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Torreciudad/@42.1703169,0.2349736,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xa318a45f483da8c7!8m2!3d42.1702575!4d0.2344103>

Websites

<https://torreciudad.org/en/>

<https://rutamariana.com/en/torreciudad/>

E-Mail

info@torreciudad.org

Caravaca de la Cruz

Caravaca de la Cruz



History

Is a town located on the border of Murcia and Granada. The Iberians, Romans and Muslims all passed through this town, which has developed around its Castle, built in the 15th century and commissioned by the Knights Templar. However, Caravaca is essentially the holy town, the town of the cross that carries its name. According to legend, in 1232 the Moorish King Abu Zeid was converted to Christianity when he saw how two angels brought a cross down from heaven to a priest held prisoner in the castle in order for him to give mass. This legend led to the construction, as from 1617 and on the site of the fortress itself, of the main monument of this town in the north-east of Murcia, the Chapel of La Vera Cruz. The most important feature of this building is its luxurious façade, made from red marble excavated in Cehegín and which offers a complete exaltation to the Holy Cross. As with Santo Toribio de Liébana, the pilgrimage to Caravaca has its centre in the Lignum Crucis. In 1998 the Holy See granted a Jubilee to the Holy and True Cross of Caravaca, to be celebrated every seven years, the first Jubilee year being 2003.

Path and landscape description

The pilgrimage to Caravaca has several historic routes, which link the region of Murcia and the Vega Baja del Segura with Caravaca de la Cruz. You can find information related to the pilgrim routes and stages here:

https://www.murciaturistica.es/camino_eng/pilgrimage_roads/

https://www.murciaturistica.es/camino_eng/stages/

Websites

https://www.murciaturistica.es/en/caravaca_de_la_cruz/

https://www.murciaturistica.es/camino_eng/home/

E-Mail

turismo@caravacadelacruz.es

Santuario de Javier

Santuario de Javier



History

A silhouette of crenelated towers cuts the horizon, welcoming your arrival at the Castle of Javier, the birthplace of San Francisco Javier (Saint Francis Xavier) in 1506, patron saint of Navarre, religious missions and tourism in Spain.

The origin of this pilgrimage dates back to 1886, when the Provincial Council of Navarre organised a pilgrimage in thanksgiving to Saint Francis Xavier for not suffering from the cholera epidemic. In 1941, the first official Javierada was held on the second Sunday in March. The so-called "Javieradas" are a tradition of Navarra that consists of walking from all the villages, towns and cities of Navarre to the Castle of Javier.

Path and landscape description

You can find information on the religious routes

here: <https://www.javier.es/en/Turismo/religious-tourism.html>

Furthermore, you can explore the Javier area with these nature

trails: <https://www.javier.es/Turismo/paseos-y-senderos.html>

Websites

<https://guiailustradadenavarra.com/castillo-de-javier/>

<https://www.javier.es/en/Turismo/the-castle.html>

<http://turismo.navarra.com/event/las-javieradas-javier/>

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castillodejavier@jesuitas.es

Santuario de Loyola

Santuario de Loyola



History

The Santuario de Loyola (Sanctuary of Loyola) consists of a series of edifices built in Churrigueresque Baroque style around the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus.

Two events make Loyola a centre for pilgrimage: the birth of Inigo Lopez de Loyola in 1491 and his conversion in 1521.

Path and landscape description

The sanctuary is situated in the Urola valley and is built around the tower house of the Loyola family.

Location <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Santuario+de+Loyola/@43.1744919,-2.2823503,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x7572c16335d5a363!8m2!3d43.1744919!4d-2.2823503>

Websites

<https://loyola.global/en/>

<https://www.disfrutabilbao.com/santuario-loyola>

E-mail

<https://loyola.global/en/sanctuary#> (contact section)