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8 walks  
through **Burgos**

These routes through Burgos are designed to be taken on foot. Passing entirely through pedestrianised areas, visitors can adapt them to their pace, interests and the time they have available. As well as incorporating the most important monuments, walkers can discover the well-loved and peaceful corners which are the real heart of the city.



**Burgos can be found** on the banks of the River Arlanzón and is watched over by the late ninth-century castle that the city was built around. A historic city, which in medieval times was the capital of the most important kingdom in Spain, it has managed to preserve the essence and splendour of former times. Visitors to Burgos will discover an outstanding artistic and monumental heritage, including the cathedral, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site; the monastery of Las Huelgas; and the Carthusian monastery of Miraflores.

The cathedral of Burgos is contrasted by the modern and unique Museum of Human Evolution

These three emblematic buildings, which showcase the passage of history, are contrasted by the modern and unique Museum of Human Evolution (MEH) where original fossils found in the famous archaeological sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca are displayed.





In July 1221, the first stone of one of the most important Gothic cathedrals in Europe was laid. Bishop Don Mauricio had become familiar with the French style on his trip through Europe searching for Princess Beatrice, the future wife of King Ferdinand III.

He proposed that the Romanesque cathedral of Santa María be rebuilt in line with the Gothic architectural trends of the time.

Burgos became an epicentre for artists, who filled every corner of the cathedral with a rich variety of sculptures. This diversity earned it the protection of UNESCO World Heritage in 1984.

In 2021, the eighth centenary of the cathedral will be marked with a series of activities, organised by the city of Burgos, celebrating cultural activity and the exchange of artistic trends, just like 800 years ago.

**Burgos is a modern city,** but one that is relaxed and stress-free with its many walks, parks and gardens. It places great importance in culture and retains the walkable small scale of the past. Strongly present in the city are El Cid Campeador, the most famous character in the history of Burgos, and the Route to Santiago, the principal pilgrimage route in Europe, which passes through the city.

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**1** The cathedral of Burgos is considered to be one of the most spectacular examples of European Gothic art. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its construction follows the artistic models of the French cathedrals of Reims, Amiens and Notre-Dame de Paris.



# The Cathedral and its Surroundings



**From wherever you are** in the old town there is a different view of this harmoniously built, well-restored monument, striking with its elegant spires and unique construction on a hillside. To enter the cathedral, visitors will have to buy a ticket from the ticket office. A guided tour with an audio-guide is also available, providing a brief description of the main chapels.

The cathedral is accessed by the staircase leading to the **Sarmental Gate**. Work on this gate started around 1230. It is the oldest gate in the cathedral and is one of the finest examples of thirteenth-century stone sculpture in Spain. Worthy of special mention are Christ the Pantocrator surrounded by the evangelists and, in the upper sections of the gable, a rose window with original Gothic stained glass windows and the openwork gallery found above.

**Entering the cathedral** is an impressive and aesthetically pleasing experience for visitors. Thanks to the restorations of the last few years, the cathedral makes a magnificent impact with its harmonious combination of architectural structures and the decorative elements which have been added over time to the original Gothic building.

With so many beautiful details it is difficult to focus on one single feature

The cathedral has a Latin-cross layout with three naves, a marked transept and an ambulatory at the apse. To this original early thirteenth-century Gothic design, with its clear French influence, a series of funerary chapels, financed by clergy and nobles, have gradually been added.

On visiting the cathedral in the indicated direction, the first essential stopping point is the **chapel of La Presentación**. Built by Juan de Matienzo in the early sixteenth century, it is covered with a striking star-shaped vault.

On arrival at the foot of the cathedral, make sure to look up and watch the mouth of the old **Papamoscas** clock opening with the striking of the hour.



## The Royal Façade

The basic structure is inspired by the purest and most classic French Gothic art: a model of three sections topped with two square towers on the sides, each crowned with bold mid-fifteenth-century spires, designed by Juan de Colonia.

## Chapel of El Condestable

Down the Gospel nave we find one of the cathedral's gems: the **chapel of Santa Ana**. It was built in the late Gothic period by Juan de Colonia. Inside, the late Gothic altarpiece, by the great Gil de Siloé, is simply exquisite. A couple of metres further on we reach the cathedral's transept, where a view of the **Golden Staircase** should not be missed. Designed by the Renaissance architect Diego de Siloé in 1519, the staircase is an attractive solution to the difference in levels between the Coronería Gate and the transept.

Next, we find ourselves being drawn towards the vast, aesthetic beauty of the openwork vault of the **dome** rising above us. This is the cathedral's beating heart, under which lies the tomb of El Cid and his wife, Jimena. Make sure to admire the Renaissance choir stalls, Roman-style Mannerist main altarpiece, and the artistic grilles that separate the different areas of the naves.

Stopping a moment in front of the spellbinding Mannerist **chapel of la Natividad** we arrive at the ambulatory and what is, without a doubt, one of the structural highlights of the cathedral: the chapel of El Condestable. The visit takes us past notable Renaissance reliefs, sculpted in the **retrochoir** by Felipe de Vigarny. We then leave through the rococo **sacristy**.

The visit continues through the **cloister** – with two stories, adapted to the slope the cathedral is built upon – which is filled with sepulchres and chapels. One of these chapels houses the legendary 'El Cid's Chest'. The next place to visit is the **Cathedral Museum** with its rich collection of sculptures, paintings and precious metalwork. The highlight is a fifteenth-century chalice that comes from the chapel of El Condestable.

Before leaving the cathedral, we can visit an interesting **interpretation centre** in the lower cloister. Here, visitors are provided with a didactic explanation, in the form of models, panels and audio-visual projections, about the architectural, historical and religious evolution of the cathedral.



- Built between 1482 and 1494
- on a magnificent scale, it is
- truly a cathedral within the
- cathedral. Its style combines
- Gothic elements with
- early expressions of the
- Renaissance. It has a
- polygonal floor plan and
- a daring vault, with an
- openwork star-shape at its
- centre. It houses valuable
- artistic treasures, outstanding
- examples of which are the
- Carrara marble sepulchre
- of the Condestables (the
- Constable of Castile and his
- wife) and the main altarpiece
- by Felipe de Vigarny and
- Diego de Siloé.

Once outside, to gain the best view of the cathedral's exterior, we should head to the **Plaza de Santa María**. We are standing in front of the **Royal Façade**, one of the iconic images of European Gothic architecture. Through the Santa María Gate we can access the interior of the cathedral again to discover two chapels, open only for worship: the Baroque chapel of Santa Tecla and the chapel of Cristo de Burgos.

In order to contemplate and photograph the immense building and continue our route, the best option is to take the steps up to the **church of San Nicolás**. Inside, we find a unique gem of Burgos art: an early sixteenth-century stone altarpiece by Francisco de Colonia. It also has an exemplary collection of Hispano-Flemish paintings, among which is an imposing painting of Judgement Day, attributed to Alonso de Sedano.

We continue along the evocative **Calle de Fernán González**, walking in the opposite direction to the Route to Santiago, and very soon reach the **Coronería façade**, opposite the **Palace of Castilfalé**. Although it has been developed to a lesser extent due to the slope, this façade also has three sections topped with an openwork gallery, decorated with statues. The gate, with its elegant representation of the Final Judgement, dates from around 1250. Flanked by mansions emblazoned with coats of arms, the old street of Fernán González leads us to an exceptional viewpoint from which the different levels of the east end of the cathedral can be contemplated. Out of all of them, the magnificent exterior of the chapel of El Condestable stands out with its large coats of arms of the Velasco family.

Descending towards the medieval **Calle Llana de Afuera**, we then join Calle de la Paloma and find ourselves once again in the **Plaza del Rey San Fernando**.



## • Magic Lantern • • • • •

Supported by four large pillars, the cathedral's spectacular octagonal dome rises above us. Its incredible, openwork, star-shaped vault, dating from the mid-sixteenth century, is a technical wonder of Renaissance art with Plateresque and Mudejar attributes.



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# Paseo del Espolón and Lower Town

**2** In the shadow of the castle hill and on the fertile plain of the River Arlanzón, lies the lower town of Burgos. The different neighbourhoods and streets, with their alternating medieval, Renaissance and bourgeois attributes, stem from the Plaza Mayor and Paseo del Espolón. The latter, stretching between the bridges of San Pablo and Santa María, is one of the most well-known and beautiful promenades in Spain.

**This route starts** at the Gate of Santa María. Built around 1540 by Juan de Vallejo and Francisco de Colonia, it was the city's tribute to the emperor Charles V. Inside, we can visit the Mudejar Sala de Poridad and see an outstanding mural by Vela Zanetti.

The Paseo del Espolón is an eighteenth-century architectural garden with hints of the French Romantic

Having shown reverence to the Castilian heroes depicted on its façade, it is just a few steps to the renovated **bridge of Santa María** where we can gaze into the crystal-clear waters of the **River Arlanzón**. A surprising wealth of flora and fauna lives on the banks of the river. Mallard ducks, herons, trout and even some otters make it a natural paradise.

## Consulate of Merchants

From the thirteenth century until well into the sixteenth century, Burgos merchants held a monopoly over the Spanish wool trade with Flanders, France, England and Germany.

These intense international transactions, which made the fortunes of many families and turned Burgos into a capital of trade, were overseen from the Overseas Consulate.

**The best way to feel like a Burgos local** is to take a walk down the **Paseo del Espolón** promenade. The trick is to linger in the shade of the rows of interwoven plane trees that line the main walkway; to observe and be observed. This practice has been taking place uninterrupted throughout the Paseo del Espolón's 200 years of history.

Passing beautiful Modernist houses and the Classical architecture of the **Overseas Consulate** building, we arrive at the Four Kings. In the centre of the promenade, on the upper walkway, we find these four stone sculptures, donated by Charles III that represent figures associated with Burgos.



Just opposite, is the Neoclassical **City Hall** building from the late eighteenth century. Passing through its elegant arches we can access **Plaza Mayor**. This large square, with its porticoes and irregular shape, which is presided over by a bronze statue of King Charles III, is still the nerve centre of the city. Walking towards **Plaza de Santo Domingo** – it is worth making a short detour to visit the interesting **Book Museum** – we take the long and narrow Calle del Almirante Bonifaz and Calle de la Moneda. Both streets are filled with elegant, nineteenth-century houses adorned with glazed balconies, a typical feature of the bourgeois houses.

Taking Calle de Santander and passing the well-loved porticoes of Soportales de Antón we arrive at Plaza de la Libertad. Here, we find the **Casa del Cordón**, an authentic gem of Burgos's civil architecture. It was designed in the late fifteenth century by Simón de Colonia and was the abode of the powerful Constables of Castile.

The route continues to the nearby **Plaza del Cid**, another of the entrances to the Paseo del Espolón, where we find the magnificent nineteenth-century buildings of the Provincial Government and the Teatro Principal. In the centre of the square is a bronze statue by Juan Cristóbal de El Cid Campeador on horseback, which has become the most iconic portrayal of this famous local hero.

From here, after crossing the **bridge of San Pablo**, which also pays tribute to El Cid, we arrive at the **Human Evolution Complex**.

## A Building with History

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- The Casa del Cordón is steeped in history. The Catholic Kings received Christopher Columbus in its luxurious rooms when he returned from his second trip to the Americas; Philip I 'the Handsome' died here, the trigger for the descent of his wife Joanna of Castile into madness; and importantly, in 1512, the Laws of Burgos were written here: the first attempt to grant rights to the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and govern with more fairness.
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# Across the River



## The MEH

**3** The Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos has become a reference point for science and tourism at an international level. Anyone who is interested in the origins and evolution of humankind must visit this innovative and aesthetically pleasing space, designed by the prestigious architect John Navarro Baldeweg, to admire and be amazed by original fossils of the first Europeans found in the archaeological sites of Sierra de Atapuerca.

**The route through the Museum** of Human Evolution (MEH) starts next to the striking fountain at the beginning of Paseo de la Sierra de Atapuerca.

From here, there is a panoramic view of the whole of the Human Evolution Complex. Flanked by the National Research Centre for Human Evolution **CENIEH** and the **Burgos Conference Centre** and **Auditorium**, the **MEH** stands out with its well-defined, glass-fronted, cubic forms, joined with a giant, red, intersecting, metal structure.

Two pedestrian ramps – lined with a garden recreating the natural ecosystems of the Sierra de Atapuerca – provide access to the museum's entrance. From the top, there is a unique panoramic view of the leafy banks of the River Arlanzón and the historic city centre, presided over by the unmistakable cathedral.

**The first thing that comes as a surprise** in the Museum of Human Evolution is its enormous, open-plan interior. Fast becoming an icon of Spanish contemporary architecture, Juan Navarro Baldeweg's project succeeds in scaling up the space to immerse the visitor in a vast and carefully planned museum environment.



**The visit of the MCH** starts on the lower ground floor. Here, there are four large capsules that recreate the atmosphere and forestry ecosystem of the Sierra de Atapuerca over the four seasons of the year. Inside two of these large structures, original fossils of hominids discovered over the years at the archaeological sites of Atapuerca are exhibited in an evocative and dimly lit environment especially created for this purpose. There is also an outstanding red quartzite biface stone tool, which is almost half a million years old and is known as 'Excalibur'. This tool is considered to be part of the first funerary offering in the history of humankind.

In the MCH we can find the remains of our earliest-known European ancestors

On the higher floors of the museum, visitors can discover, in a fun and didactic way, how humankind's presence in Europe has been traced back over one million years. Also, visitors are invited to reflect upon the processes of evolution and the future of humankind as a species.

## The MCH's Treasures

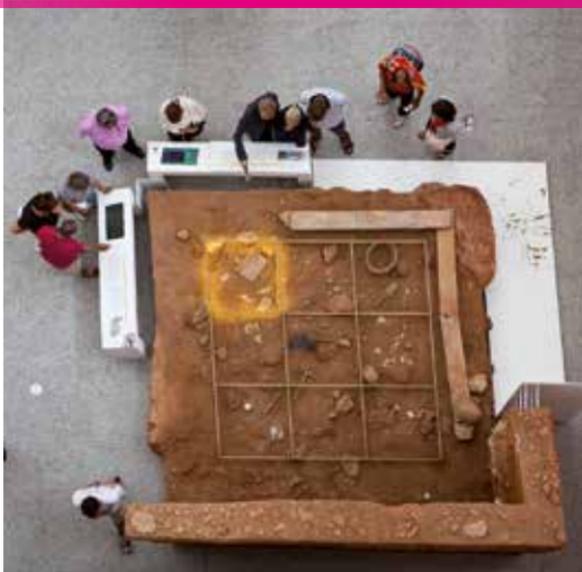


In pride of place in the museum, original hominid fossils from the Sierra de Atapuerca are exhibited that recreate the magic of the archaeological sites. These include the remains of the *Homo antecessor*, a recently discovered species, which is over one million years old and considered to be the first European; and numerous discoveries of *Homo heidelbergensis* found at Sima de los Huesos, among which skull No 5, known as 'Miguelón', is particularly noteworthy.

## Tribute to Darwin

The MEH has paid tribute to scientific reason and research in its efforts to discover the origins and evolution of the human species.

This appreciation is personified in Charles Darwin, father of the theories of evolution, but we must not forget other researchers like the Spanish scientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal who established the foundations of neuroscience and the study of the human brain.



The MEH's collections include, along with many other fascinating objects: a meticulous replica of the HMS Beagle in which Charles Darwin made his scientific journey to establish the foundations of his theory of evolution; an innovative brain installation, made with electric cables by the renowned artist Daniel Canogar; and some striking sculptures of the main hominids throughout evolution, made by the French sculptor Elisabeth Daynès, which are so realistic that you almost expect them to start talking.



## Shuttle bus to the Sierra de Atapuerca

It is also possible to do a combined visit of the MEH and the archaeological sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca using the shuttle buses from the museum, especially provided for this purpose. On certain days the visit to the Archaeological Park of Atapuerca is also included.

Information and booking: 902 024 246 and [www.museoevolucionhumana.com](http://www.museoevolucionhumana.com)



# The Route to Santiago

## Church of San Gil

Surrounded by walls and with modest-looking façades, the interior of this church holds an exquisite and refined artistic wealth. A series of funerary chapels, financed by wealthy merchants, open off the three naves and transept of the church.

A real architectural gem is the chapel of La Natividad, built in the mid-sixteenth century by Juan de Matienzo which, as well as being covered by a spectacular openwork, octagonal, star-shaped vault, also has a beautiful altarpiece by Felipe de Vigarny.

- 4 Burgos is one of the key locations for gaining an understanding of the Route to Santiago as it makes its way through the Iberian Peninsula. This pilgrimage route shaped Burgos's history and urban development for several hundreds of years. All the religious centres, including the cathedral, revolved around the activities of the pilgrims. Furthermore, its 35 hospitals turned Burgos into a hospital city par excellence in Europe.



Without the need to go all the way to Santiago de Compostela, you can walk one of the most interesting urban stretches of the route. The best place to start is in the **Plaza de San Juan**, a wide, urban space and the location of the **monastery of San Juan**, which houses the museum of the painter Marceliano Santamaría; the former hospital of San Juan, currently a cultural centre; and the **church of San Lesmes**, a notable example of late fifteenth-century Burgos Gothic architecture.

On completing the previous route, the best way to access Plaza de San Juan from the MEH is to cross the River Alanzón over the modern Evolution footbridge and then take the pedestrianised Calle de San Lesmes which follows the River Vena.



After crossing the medieval bridge over the River Vena, we pass through the **Gate of San Juan** and reach the long **Calle San Juan**. Following the scallop shells that mark the Route to Santiago, we pass very close to the Baroque **church of San Lorenzo** which lends its name to one of the main gastronomic streets of the historic city centre. Also nearby is the **Palace of Capitanía**, nowadays the **Military History Museum**.

Taking **Calle Avellanos** – down which there are many examples of the typical white-framed, glazed, wooden balconies – we reach **Calle de San Gil**. Taking a right, it leads us to the church of the same name. If we take a left, we will reach **Plaza de Huerto del Rey**, which is popularly known as **Plaza de la Flora**, because of the statue of this pagan goddess who presides over the elongated square from the top of a fountain. A unique view of the cathedral can be enjoyed from this square.



Burgos municipality pilgrims' hostel is one of the best hostels in Europe

The Route to Santiago continues straight along **Calle Fernán González**. There are still a few traces of the medieval splendour that once characterised this stately street, for example, the Renaissance manor house **Casa del Cubo**, which today is a pilgrims' hostel. After passing Plaza de los Castaños, the route takes us towards the cathedral, providing us with another unique view.

## The Rest of the Route

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- After leaving the
- cathedral and the
- church of San Nicolás
- behind, the Route
- to Santiago passes
- close to the Gate of
- Fernán González,
- the monument
- to El Empecinado
- (the 'Undaunted', a
- military leader in the
- Peninsular War) and El
- Solar del Cid. We then
- reach the Mudéjar Gate
- of San Martín, which
- marks the boundaries
- of the historic and
- walled city centre.
- By taking Calle del
- Emperador and Calle
- de Villalón we can walk
- down to the bridge
- of Malatos to cross
- the River Arlanzón.
- In the shaded park
- of El Parral, it is easy
- to find the chapel of
- San Amaro and the
- hospital of El Rey, with
- its Renaissance façades
- that house various
- departments of the
- University of Burgos.



# The Castle and High Town



## An Architectural Contrast

In a very short space of time, Burgos's Contemporary Art Centre (CAB) has become both a contrast to and an important part of the architectural heritage of Burgos's historic centre. Next to the church of San Esteban and at the foot of the castle hill, the CAB's innovative three structures look out over the city and create a bold viewpoint. The Contemporary Art Centre specialises in the most up-to-date art from both national and international artists. There is a varied programme of cultural activities and a remarkable collection of contemporary art.



**5** According to medieval historical records, the Castle of Burgos was founded in 884 by the Count Diego Porcelos to strengthen the defensive line of the Arlanzón. Over subsequent centuries, it became an important fortress, but numerous sieges reduced it to ruins. Following a successful restoration, it is now an attractive and educational place that cannot be missed.

**We start this walk** by retaking the Route to Santiago next to the restored pilgrims' hostel on Calle Fernán González. We can first take the public lift from the courtyard of the pilgrims' hostel to save ourselves the steep climb to Calle Hospital del los Ciegos. In front of us are ramps and two escalators that take us up to the **CAB**.



**Our next visit** is to the **church of San Esteban**, an interesting Gothic church built in the thirteenth century with a beautiful façade which is characteristic of this period. Inside, it has three narrow naves decorated by the best artists of the period, and it also houses the **Altarpiece Museum**. In the museum, altarpieces and other artistic gems from different parts of the province can be admired. The sixteenth-century altarpiece from the town of Castrillo Mota de Judíos is particularly exceptional.

Before taking the steps that lead up to the castle, we can take a look at the nearby fourteenth-century **Gate of San Esteban** which forms part of the old Burgos walls and was built in a Mudejar style. Walking up through the dense mass of trees covering the slopes of **castle hill** and enjoying the spectacular views of the historic city centre, presided over by the cathedral, we arrive at the **castle viewpoint** without too much effort. It is worth stopping a moment here to enjoy some of the best views of the city and the landscape that surrounds it. The cathedral and the church of San Esteban dominate the foreground, while in the background it is possible to make out the peaks (almost always snowy) of the Sierra de la Demanda, where the source of the River Arlanzón is located.

An unforgettable experience is visiting the castle's deep medieval well

A bit higher up, we come across the ruins of the former **castle**, founded by Count Diego Porcelos in 884, around which the city of Burgos was built. There is a **museum** that narrates the castle's powerful story, with optional visits to mysterious **tunnels** and a 62-m-deep medieval **well**. Built from limestone and flanked by a spiral staircase which was used for access, the well is considered to be one of the most significant feats of medieval Spanish engineering. Built between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, its purpose was to supply the castle's occupants with water, especially during the frequent sieges.

## The Walled City

**In former times, Burgos was completely surrounded by walls. The best-preserved remains date from between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and can be found in the neighbourhood of San Esteban with its majestic Mudejar-style Gate of San Esteban, and on Paseo de los Cubos, where a large section of the wall is still standing, as is the Mudejar Gate of San Martín, which is built out of stone and bricks**





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# From Las Huelgas to Miraflores

## Museum of Medieval Cloth

This is one of the most significant and unique museums of cloth in the world. Its significance lies in its magnificent collection of twelfth and fourteenth-century clothing, conserved in the tombs of the royal pantheon. Taffetas and silk brocades adorned with rich gold and silver silk threads are the main composing elements of the aljubas (a Moorish garment with long sleeves, tied at the waist), robes and cloaks for both men and women.

6 Joined together by the leafy parks of La Isla, La Quinta and Fuente del Prior that line the River Arlanzón as it crosses the city, stand the other two monuments that are crucial to an understanding of the art and history of Burgos: the monastery of Las Huelgas Reales and the Carthusian monastery of Miraflores. Although they are a bit further away from the city centre, they are easily accessed on foot or by bus.

**The monastery of Las Huelgas Reales** was founded in 1187 by King Alfonso VIII as a royal pantheon for his illustrious lineage. The originality of this Cistercian monastery lies in the fact that inside, typical elements from Christian art are to be found alongside, and in perfect harmony with, some of the best-preserved structures of Muslim origin found in Spain. The main places of artistic interest are the church, the chapter room, the two cloisters (Romanesque and Gothic) and the **Mudejar chapel of Santiago**.

Before entering the monastery, we should contemplate the façade which provides a clear idea of the usual interior layout of Cistercian monasteries. The juxtaposition of the different volumes of the three long naves, the transept with its gables and the tower that presides over the monastery creates a striking impression.



After going to the ticket office, run by Patrimonio Nacional, the national heritage body that maintains the monastery, we can make our way through the different parts of the guided tour: **the church and royal pantheon**, with its highlight of the double sarcophagus in which the monastery's founders are buried; **the chapter room**, considered a gem of Spanish Cistercian art; and the **Romanesque cloister**, known as '**Claustrillas**' with its chapels of **La Asunción and Santiago**, containing striking elements of Hispano-Muslim art.

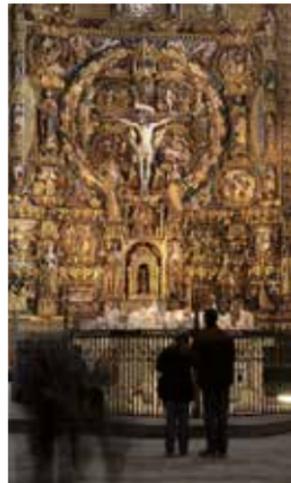
**The Carthusian monastery of Miraflores** is one of the most significant late Gothic monuments in Europe. Its church was built as a pantheon by King John II of Castile. In 1454, Juan de Colonia started work on this masterpiece building, financed by Queen Isabella 'the Catholic', which contains the work of the most important artists of the period: Simón de Colonia, Gil de Siloé, Juan de Flandes and Pedro Berruguete, among others.



After admiring the narrow and modest exterior, we can enter inside. Here, there is a single, elongated nave covered with a ribbed vault. It is laid out according to the usual architectural model of a Carthusian church.

When Gil de Siloé finished the monastery's **altarpiece** in 1499, this sumptuous space was complete, and it became a reference point for late-Gothic architecture in Europe. The main theme of the altarpiece – decorated with gold brought back from Christopher Columbus's second trip to the Americas – is an imposing crucifixion.

Also of exceptional artistic quality are the **alabaster sepulchres** of the monarchs John II of Castile, Isabella of Portugal and the brother of Isabella 'the Catholic', Prince Don Alfonso. These were also sculpted by Siloé and can be found in the centre of the apse of the Carthusian church.



**7** In Burgos, traces of El Cid Campeador, the most famous character from the city's history, are still just as present and the city is one of the key landmarks of the Route of El Cid, along with the nearby Vivar del Cid and the monastery of San Pedro de Cardeña. Each day there are more and more visitors who decide to embark on this innovative and adventurous cultural itinerary that reaches the east coast of Spain.



# Route of El Cid

## Vivar del Cid

- The start of the Route of El Cid, this village has a former monastery of Saint Clare's nuns and a monument paying tribute to Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar.
- Vivar del Cid is located on the banks of the River Ubierna and well-known for being the birthplace of this legendary Castilian hero in the mid-eleventh century.

Burgos is full of El Cid landmarks that remind us of the presence, whether mythical or real, of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar. The highlights of the walk are **El Solar del Cid** (where legend has it El Cid's family house was located), the **church of Santa Águeda**, the **cathedral** (in which his remains are buried), the **Gate of Santa María**, the **monument** on the banks of the River Arlanzón, the **bridge of San Pablo** and the **statue of El Cid** on horseback that presides over **Plaza del Cid**.

The **monastery of Cardeña** will be associated with the legendary figure of El Cid forever. Located a dozen kilometres from Burgos and also of legendary fame, the monastery was restored in 899. A short time afterwards, favoured by the first Counts of Castile, it was converted into an influential and stately religious centre. El Cid is evoked in the tower of Doña Jimena; in the assumed resting place of Babiéca, El Cid's most famous steed; and in the Baroque chapel that housed the mortal remains of the hero, until they were transferred to Burgos in the nineteenth century.

[www.caminodelcid.org](http://www.caminodelcid.org)



# Archaeological Sites of Atapuerca

**8** Burgos is extremely fortunate because of the fact that a mere 15 kilometres from the city centre lies one of the most famous and significant prehistoric archaeological sites in the world. Thanks to the work of a select group of researchers, the Sierra de Atapuerca – designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site – has become an international reference point for the study of human evolution. Furthermore, the fossils that have been found can also be visited in the Museum of Human Evolution, in Burgos.



**The Sierra de Atapuerca** is a hill formation covered with a dense holm oak forest that can be found 15 kilometres to the north-east of Burgos and upstream along the River Arlanzón. Under the surface, it has an endless number of cavities in which a number of archaeological sites have been identified, filled with many archaeological and paleontological remains. Today these can be visited in the three main sites of Atapuerca that are open to the public: Sima del Elefante, Galería and Gran Dolina.

In Sima de los Huesos, numerous remains of *Homo Heidelbergensis*, have been found, from 500,000 years ago, just like in Gran Dolina and Sima del Elefante, where fossils of *Homo antecessor*, a species that lived one million years ago and can be considered as the first European, have also been discovered.

**The guided tour** of the Sierra de Atapuerca focuses on the archaeological sites of Trinchera del Ferrocarril. To take the tour, make sure to book in advance and go to the meeting point at the Archaeological Site Access Centre (CAYAC) in Ibeas de Juarros, or at the Experimental Archaeological Centre (CAREX) in Atapuerca. The scientific importance of the settlement and the professional manner of the guides provide an unforgettable experience.

It is possible to do a combined visit of the MCH and the archaeological sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca

## Visits to the archaeological Sites of Atapuerca

Sierra de Atapuerca can be accessed from two towns that share the administration of the area: Ibeas de Juarros and Atapuerca. Ibeas de Juarros can be accessed from Burgos by the Logroño road (N-120), while to reach Atapuerca we leave the city on the N-1, towards Vitoria/Irún, and take the road for Olmos de Atapuerca.

Book in advance: 902 024 246

# Festivals and Gastronomy

Besides its wealth of historical and artistic heritage, Burgos has also conserved its local customs and traditional festivals, among which a highlight is the festival of Curpillos. It also has an authentic gastronomy that strives to maintain its strong identity, with nurtured natural products such as suckling lamb, rice black pudding, pulses and the famous Burgos fresh cheese.



**Curpillos** is the festival with the longest tradition in Burgos. It is celebrated on the Friday after **Corpus Christi** around the monastery of Las Huelgas and ends with a bustling picnic in the park of **El Parral**. The festivals in honour of **Saint Peter and Saint Paul**, the popular and participative **'Sampedros'**, are a highlight of Burgos festive culture. Also, there is the festival of **Saint Adelelmus**, the patron saint of the city and the **Obispillo** (boy-bishop) festival, when a child is chosen to wear the robes of the bishop for a day. Moreover, each spring, the city streets echo with sounds of the solemn processions of **Holy Week**, which has been declared to be of **National Tourist Interest**.

**Eating and going for tapas in Burgos is a must.** It is hard to find a regional Spanish gastronomy that is quite so faithful to traditional gastronomy products as Burgos. The city's restaurants serve up **black pudding, suckling lamb** and a typical stew called **'olla podrida'**, but there is also a new signature cuisine that reinterprets these classic recipes with a touch of creativity.

It is worth mentioning the original Burgos tapas and pinchos – genuine and innovative gastronomic delights – that are stocked on the bars of many establishments and consumed at the popular tapas festival which is celebrated during 'Sampedros'. To drink, there are **Ribera del Duero and Arlanza wines**.

## The King of Gastronomy

Burgos suckling lamb is without a doubt among the best in the world. The meat is so exceptional that, with a little skill and a traditional oven fired with oak wood, the result is an unparalleled sensation for the senses: juicy, tender and aromatic meat wrapped in a crispy, golden, glistening skin.



# Practical Information

## CATHEDRAL

🕒 Open from Monday to Sunday .  
From 1 November to 18 March:  
10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (last entrance)  
From 19 March to 31 October: 9.30 a.m. to  
6.30 p.m. (last entrance) Combined tickets to  
the churches of San Nicolás, San Gil and San  
Esteban (Altarpiece Museum) are available

☎ 947 204 712

🌐 [www.catedraldeburgos.es](http://www.catedraldeburgos.es)

## MONASTERY OF LAS HUELGAS REALES

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.  
and 4.00 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Sundays and public  
holidays: 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

🌐 [www.patrimonionacional.es](http://www.patrimonionacional.es)

## CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY OF MIRAFLORES

🕒 Open Monday to Sunday.  
Monday to Saturday: 10.15 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.  
and 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sundays and public  
holidays: 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.  
to 6.00 p.m.

## BURGOS CASTLE

☎ 947 288 874

🌐 <http://www.aytoburgos.es/turismo>

## GATE OF SANTA MARÍA

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
Tuesday to Saturday: 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
and 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.  
Sundays: 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

## MUSEUM OF HUMAN EVOLUTION (MEH)

🕒 Tuesday to Friday: 10.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.  
and 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday  
and public holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. July,  
August and September: Tuesday to Sunday:  
10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

🌐 [www.museoevolucionhumana.com](http://www.museoevolucionhumana.com)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF ATAPUERCA

☎ 902 024 246

🌐 [www.atapuerca.org/es/atapuerca/Visitas](http://www.atapuerca.org/es/atapuerca/Visitas)

## MUSEUM OF BURGOS

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
October to June: Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00  
a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. July,  
August and September: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Sundays and public  
holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

## CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE (CAB)

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
Monday to Saturday: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
and 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

🌐 [www.cabdeburgos.com](http://www.cabdeburgos.com)

## BOOK MUSEUM

🕒 Monday to Saturday: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
and 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

🌐 [www.museofdb.es/elmuseo](http://www.museofdb.es/elmuseo)

## MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM

Palace of Capitanía

🕒 Sundays and Mondays: closed  
Tuesday to Friday: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.  
and 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.  
Saturdays: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

## MUSEUM OF MARCELIANO SANTAMARÍA

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
Tuesday to Saturday: 11.00 a.m. to 1.50 p.m.  
and 5.00 p.m. to 8.50 p.m.  
Sundays: 11.00 a.m. to 1.50 p.m.

## CASA DEL CORDÓN

🕒 Closed on Mondays.  
Exhibitions: Tuesday to Saturday: 12.00 p.m. to  
2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Sundays:  
12.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.



BUR  
GOS

Sonríe,  
es Burgos.

## Tourist Offices

Tourist Information Centre (CITUR)

☎ 947 288 874

🌐 [infoturismo@aytoburgos.es](mailto:infoturismo@aytoburgos.es)  
[www.aytoburgos.es/turismo](http://www.aytoburgos.es/turismo)

Castile and León Tourist Office

☎ 947 203 125

🌐 [oficinadeturismodeburgos@jcyl.es](mailto:oficinadeturismodeburgos@jcyl.es)  
[www.turismocastillayleon.com](http://www.turismocastillayleon.com)



Ayuntamiento  
de Burgos



Burgos 2021

Sociedad para la Promoción y Desarrollo de la Ciudad de Burgos