

# SALAMANCA TRIP

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## PUEBLA DE SANABRIA



## ZAMORA

Zamora is a Spanish council and city located between the center and the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula. It is the capital of the province with the same name in the autonomous region of Castilla y León, near the border with Portugal, and it is 652 meters above sea level. The old town in Zamora has been acknowledged as a historic-artistic site since 1973. Its center –long and enclosed with walls– lies on a wide, rocky high land at an altitude of 26 to 32 meters, near the border with Portugal and at the Duero river bank.

If something in Zamora is to be highlighted, that is its set of monumental buildings, one of the most important of the Iberian peninsula and even of Europe. It has been requested for it to be acknowledged as an European heritage site. This Romanesque



ensemble consists of the cathedral (with a dome whose decoration resembles scales), 24 churches, a castle, walls, a bridge, two palaces and nine houses. Because of these monumental buildings, Zamora is considered the “city of the Romanesque”. 15 of the temples are listed as a “Property of Cultural Interest”, including some of later architectural styles. Furthermore, its set of 19 modernist buildings is significant, as it makes Zamora the only city with this kind of buildings in the Spanish countryside apart from Teruel. Among its festivities we can stand out the celebration of Holy Week, declared of International Tourist Interest.

Zamora was the first city in the world with overall WiFi coverage. The project, called “Zamora Hot City”, has received the “Computerworld Honors”, the Nobel Prize for Computer Science.



The Zamora cathedral has a Romanesque style typical of the Duero region. Singularly, it is the smallest and oldest cathedral of the 11 cathedrals in the autonomous region Castilla y León. It was declared a national monument in 1889.

The main characteristic of the cathedral is its impressive dome. It is a structure with 16 windows of stained glass with two more domes over it: one of them semicircular and the another one is exterior and has a slight spike.

Another important feature of the cathedral is the *torre del Salvador* ("Saviour tower"). It measures 45 meters and was built during the 13th century, though its style is Romanesque. Together with the dome, *Puerta del Obispo* ("Bishop door"), located in the south facade, is the most valuable part of the cathedral, as well as the only one which is still intact.



The cathedral has a latin cross with three naves, a transept and three semicircular apses.

## The castle in Zamora

The origin of the building itself sets out the first problem. According to the chronicles, it was commissioned by Alfonso II of Asturias, although the studies carried out by different historians show that it has probably been ordered by Ferdinand I of Castilla y León. Therefore, the building appears to date approximately from the mid 11th century, though there are only a few remains from this time.

The perimeter of the castle still survives, surrounded by an almost perfectly preserved moat. The most important walls, the parade ground and the keep have also lasted up to our days. In 1985 was declared a National Heritage Site. Currently, it belongs to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, which is the responsible for its preservation.



It dealt as the headquarters of the Escuela de Arte y Superior de Diseño (School of Art and Superior School of Design of Zamora) and until 2007 it was the Official Language School.



After four years, in 2009 the works of recovery and consolidation of the defensive structures ended, and the castle in Zamora could be opened to the public, with a totally renewed image of the adjoining gardens. Once the defensive precincts were integrated, the exhibition area Baltasar Lobo, Castillo Centro de Arte –dedicated to the work of this sculptor from Zamora– was installed here as a part of the ensemble and its structure .

There is an area with gardens and a lookout point, known as “**Castle park**”, adhered to the castle.

## Puerta de la Lealtad (“Door of the Loyalty”)

According to chronicles, through this door passed Vellido Dolfos, a 11th century nobleman from Leon, when he was chased by the Cid. He was being chased for killing Sancho II of Castilla y León, who was the responsible for the army that besieged the city, which in that moment was under the government of the Kingdom of León.

As tradition goes, Sir Sancho –son of Ferdinand I of León–, who didn't accept the testamentary distribution of his father's goods, besieged the city of Zamora, which her sister, the infanta Urraca of Zamora, had inherited. Vellido Dolfos went out from Zamora towards the Castilian camp and arranged a private meeting with Sancho, telling him that he was going to desert Urraca and that he would show him a door to access the city. Suddenly, Dolfos killed Sancho.

Chronicles tell that, after the murder, the Cid, shocked by the hurried flight but without knowing what he had just done, he chased Dolfos while he fled towards the walls of Zamora and crossed them through a little door.





In the mid 20th century, a door was found in the North-West side of the Zamora castle, and it was called *Portillo de la Traición* ("Door of the treason"). In 2009, the city council changed its name to *Portillo de la Lealtad* ("Door of the Loyalty"), changing the interpretation of the legend of Vellido Dolfos from a Castilian perspective to a Leonese one.

## Episcopal Palace

The Episcopal palace of Zamora is an Episcopal building situated in the old town of the city. The city got the bishopric on the 10th century, creating in this way the diocese of Zamora during Alfonso III of León's kingdom. The first bishop was Atilano. The building that we see nowadays is the result of a very strong renewal made in the 17th century during Cavanillas' bishopric. The last restoration dates from 20th century, when the roof was put over the patio. In the indoor space, the Romanesque religious picture of the Virgin of the Cerecina is very important.



## Stone Bridge



The Stone Bridge of Zamora is one of the five bridges that cross the Douro river inside the city. It was built in the 12th century, and it was improved in several occasions. Nowadays it's one of the most representative symbols of the city.

For centuries it was the only way to cross the river in the city. Due to its location in the *Vía de la Plata*, it was





an important place for people, goods and migrating flocks to cross the Douro River. This bridge connects the city centre with the neighborhoods located at the opposite river bank, between the Avenida de Vigo (right bank) and Plaza de Belén (left bank).

## Plaza de Viriato (Viriato square)

Its current name comes from the statue of the sculptor Eduardo Barrón dedicated to Viriato, a Portuguese shepherd who fought against the Roman Empire. It's located close to the Main Square (connected by Ramos Carrión street) and it appears to be an urban centre because it is surrounded by the building of the Provincial Council (the old *Hospital de la Encarnación* [*Encarnación hospital*]), the state-run hotel of Zamora (the old Palacio de los Condes de Alba y Aliste [*Palace of the Alba and Aliste Counts*]) and the Information and Tourism Office, in the modern Las Arcadas building. During Holy Week celebrations in Zamora, several processions pass through this place.



## SALAMANCA

The city of Salamanca has one of the most interesting histories in Spain. In its beginnings, the romans substituted the first populations, the *vaceos* and *vetones*. The story we tell begins in the 3rd century B.C.

Located in Vetonia, a region of Lusitania, it was poblated by Salmantine aborigine who came from the North with the last Celtic migration. Classical authors tell that Anibal came to Helmantica and seized the site, making an agreement with the locals consisting of granting them freedom in exchange for letting the soldiers loot the site. Women, however, took weapons from under their clothes and fought the soldiers.

In the 1st century B.C. the Roman invasion took place, its vestiges being the Roman Bridge, funeral steles and milestones which signaled territorial limits. The calzada de la Plata, which linked the cities of Astorga and Mérida, went through Salamanca.

Muza conquered Salamanca and Alfonso I reconquered it. The Arabs came 4 centuries later and Ordoño I regained the city, then Alfonso III after him. In the year 873, the city was taken by the Moors, then repopulated by Ramiro II, though in the 977 Almanzor came back. Fernando I rescued the city in 1055, but it was taken by the Moors again.

Alfonso VI commissioned the count Raimundo Burgundy, married to the kings's daughter, to repopulate the city. The Salamanca council was born. Franks, Castilians, Mozarabs and other peoples came to the city, dwelling different neighbourhoods and building new ones. This was the time when the cathedral began being built.

In the 13th century, members of the military and the clergy came to the city. There were 33 parishes which later grew into 46. The year 1218 was decisive for the city history: the University was created during the reign of Alfonso IX. Studies were consolidated with Alfonso X, a fact that caused the city to have its first university professors.

Alfonso XI was born in the 14th century in Salamanca and gave the University new powers. In this period there were a number of conflicts which lasted more than a century among the members of the Salmantine nobility, which was divided in two groups (St. Tomé and St. Benito). The first fights took place between Sir Álvaro de Luna and the Aragón Infantes, later even between those who were in favour of Juana la





Beltraneja and those who were for Isabel, until Ferdinand the Catholic inclined the public opinion for Isabel, defeating Juana's supporters.

In Salamanca, the basis for the discovery of America were set. In the St. Esteban monastery the Dominican fathers achieved support for Christopher Columbus' undertaking.

During the War of the Spanish Succession the Salmantines declared to be in favour of Felipe V, being so persecuted by the Portuguese troops and the Archduke of Austria. In 1729 the main square began being constructed. The effects of the Independence War were dreadful for the city because of the to and fro of the French troops, who destroyed a big share of the monuments in Salamanca. After the Republic was proclaimed in 1873 the Salmantines established the Salamanca canton.

Owing to the Civil War, Franco established his headquarters in the city, living in the Episcopal Palace. In this way, Salamanca was the scenario for military formalities and intrigues.

After that, the city expanded around the main square, where the university life can be best felt. In 1988, Salamanca was declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO.

## Plaza Mayor (Main square)

Plaza Mayor is an urban space built as a Castilian main square that, with the time, became the center of the social life in Salamanca. It was built in a baroque style between the years 1729 and 1756.



It was designed by the architect Alberto Churriguera ("Real" and "de San Martín" buildings) and subsequently continued by others with little changes from the initial project. At the beginning of the 19th century, it underwent several urban development remodelings, until the mid 20th century, when its gardens, central music kiosk and public toilets were taken away to make it clear and



open. It has been declared a Heritage of Cultural Interest.

## New Cathedral

*Catedral Nueva de la Asunción de la Virgen* is, together with the Old Cathedral, one of the two cathedrals of the city of Salamanca. It's the seat of the Salamanca diocese. It was built between the 16th and the 18th centuries, basically in two styles: late Gothic and baroque.

The new cathedral was built between 1513 and 1733, preserving the old one. At first, they thought about demolishing it, although the criterion of keeping it open for worship while the new one was been built was imposed. When the works finished in the 18th century, the idea of destroying it was reconsidered and that's why it's preserved nowadays. Nonetheless, the right wall of the New Cathedral is leaning on the left wall of the Old



one that was partially reduced with the new building, so it had to be reinforced towards the interior of the old temple. The tower of the new cathedral, which had to be reinforced in the 18th century after the Lisbon Earthquake, had been built over the bell tower of the old one.

During almost the whole 17th century, the works were stopped and they were taken up again on the 18th century until their completion in 1733. Towards 1810, the French occupation army demolished the block of houses situated at the North of the cathedral, creating the current Anaya square and highlighting the North front, not prepared for the exhibition and not very pretty. This fact provoked the most popular pictures of the cathedral to be taken from this side, forgetting the main front, much more interesting but situated in a narrow street and without enough width to take good photographs.



## Old Cathedral

*Catedral Vieja de Santa María* is one of the two cathedrals of Salamanca.

Founded by the bishop Jerónimo de Perigord, the works to build it started on the first third of the 12th century and they finished at the end of the 14th century, in Romanesque and Gothic style. It was finished thanks to the boost that Alfonso Barasaque gave to the works. It's dedicated to Santa María de la Sede.

Its building started some time before the diocese of Salamanca was reinstated, after the reconquest, by the initiative of its first bishop, Jerónimo de Perigord, at the moment when the Romanesque was giving way to the Gothic, something that can be seen in the difference present between the pillars and the bases of the ribbed vault. There's not a constructive continuity between them, as the first ones were thought to hold a barrel vault. The works finished in 1236. It was about to be destroyed, as when the New Cathedral was designed, they thought about demolishing it, but the time between the beginning of the works of the New Cathedral (around 1520) and the late date of its completion (towards 1733), and also the necessity of a space to hold the worship while the building was finished, made them to finally reject the initial decision. The plan of the left nave appears to be more narrow, and a part of the arm of the transept is missing, consequences of the building of the New Cathedral.

## Calisto and Melibea gardens

Calisto and Melibea gardens are a 2,500 square metres green space, situated in the old town. It receives this name because it was the scenery chosen by Fernando de Rojas to recreate the novel *Tragicomedia de Calisto y Melibea* (Calisto and Melibea's tragicomedy) (published in 1502). It's



located on the hillside of the old Salamanca's wall, close to the river Tormes.

Nowadays it's a visitable park with a romantic environment because of the love story of the characters from Fernando de Rojas' work: Calisto and Melibea. It was inaugurated on the 12th of June, 1981.

## University of Salamanca

The Salamanca University (in Latin, Universitas Studii Salmanticensis) is the oldest university in Spain existing nowadays and one of the four eldest universities in Europe which keep working, as the ones from Bologna, Oxford and Paris (today, the Studium Generale, seeds of the university, instituted in 1218, was in that moment the second oldest in Spain, after the one in Palencia (founded between 1208 and 1214) and was Oxford y París (hoy La Sorbona).



El Estudio General, germen de la universidad, instituido en 1218, era en also the first Spanish and European education institution which got the title of University through the papal bull from Alejandro IV, in the year 1255. On the present academic year (2011-2012) the number of students in this university is 32,406.

The senate of the University discussed the viability of Christopher Columbus' project and the consequences its affirmations may bring. Once America was discovered, they discussed the natives' rights to be recognized as owners of all the rights, a revolutionary fact in that time; economic processes were analyzed for the first time, Law was developed and it became a humanist focus, a period when some of its most brilliant members lived together and that was known as the School of Salamanca. The members of the School renewed technology, laid the bases for the modern law of nations, for the international law and for the modern economic science, and they actively participated on the Council of Trent. Mathematicians from this School studied the calendar's reform, as an order from Pope Gregory XIII, and they proposed the solution that was later instituted.



Towards 1580, around 6,500 new students arrived to Salamanca every year, and the administration of the Spanish monarchy received nourishment from the graduates, who worked as government employees. At that time it probably also had the first girl students in the world: Beatriz Galindo and Lucía de Medrano. This one was also the first woman giving lessons in a University.

In the 17th century it fell into decline. As a degree in Salamanca or having been a member of the School was the key to get important positions in the Administration, children from nobility started to dominate the University Colleges, which stopped fulfilling its original function: to teach poor young people who were valuable. They could take control because colleges worked as a democratic institution where the schoolboys and schoolgirls decided all the aspects of the government, including the admission of new School members; as soon as they formed a quite big group, they closed the admission for the ones who didn't belong to nobility, among other things which demanded an evidence of cleanliness of blood, what only noblemen could prove, as they had ordered records.



However, in the 18th century, although it tends to be forgotten, the University of Salamanca became one of the main focus of the Spanish Enlightenment. Many of the students, teachers and intellectuals related to this erudite circle played a fundamental role at the Cádiz Cortes, drawing the first Spanish Constitution, i.e., the Constitution of 1812, called La Pepa, the liberalism and the progressive thought development in Spain and the introduction of the incipient social sciences. The reign of Ferdinand VII of Spain and the restoration of the absolutism, after the brief three-year period between 1820 and 1823, lead to the frustration of this renewal and lengthy intellectual movement.

Some of the most important figures on Arts and Politics in Spain studied in this University. Some of them are the distinguished writers Luis de Góngora, Fernando de Rojas, Pedro Calderón de la Barca or Miguel de Unamuno; or important figures as the Count-Duke of Olivares (royal favorite of Philip IV and the most powerful man in the world at that time) or the ex-president of Spain, Adolfo Suárez.



## Pontifical University of Salamanca

The Pontifical University of Salamanca, known also by the acronym UPSA (or UPSAM in the case of the campus in Madrid), is a catholic private university, founded in 1940 and situated in Salamanca, but with campus in Salamanca and Madrid.

Liberal governments from the 19th century made the studies of Theology and Canonical Law were excluded of the University of Salamanca. Pope Pio XII created, in 1940, a new university to restore these two faculties at the same city, and he conferred it the category of Pontifical University. That's how the Pontical University of Salamanca was born.

Nowadays the university has several buildings, not only in Salamanca but also in Madrid. Its headquarters is the old Real Colegio del Espíritu Santo of the Jesuits, better known as La Clerecía.

## La Patio de escuelas (Yard between the university colleges)

Patio de escuelas is the name of the small square which is in front of the plateresque front of the building of the Escuelas Mayores (main colleges) of the University of Salamanca.

The square was built between 1609 and 1611, by the royal authorization by Filip III and in accordance with the plan presented by Juan Gallo de Andrada, which allowed a better vision of the monuments.



It's a quadrangular square where the fronts of the historical Buildings of the University are: *Escuelas Mayores*, *Escuelas Menores* and the *Hospital del Estudio*. Other buildings in





the square are Casa de los Doctores de la Reina (House of the Queen's Doctors), where the Museum of Salamanca is located, and *Casa de los Gatos* (Cats House).

In the centre there is a statue of Fray Luis de León, by Nicasio Sevilla, erected in 1869 by popular signing.

At the walls of this square you can still see the piece of graffiti which, with a red Víctor, celebrated the doctorate of the students.

## Torre del Clavero (Clavero Tower)

The Torre del Clavero represents one of the most typical and well-known monuments of Salamanca. It is the remain of the clavero's stately mansion of the Orden de Alcántara (Alcántara's Order). It has a particular interest for its military fortress and the constructive beauty from the 15th century. The tower has a square plan and 28 meters high. At approximately 20 meters, the tower acquires an octagonal shape, decorated on both sides with a semicilindric tholobate coronated by a coat of arms.



The Torre del Clavero is beautiful, with its bevels loaded with sentry boxes, its irregular holes, its cornice of archs and modillions and his coats of the Sotomayors and Anayas raises the doubt about if it was built by order of Mr. Francisco de Sotomayor, Clavero of the Orden de Alcántara, in 1470, or of Mr. Fray Diego de Anaya. The tower was declared monument on 3rd June 1931.

## Palacio de Anaya (Anaya Palace)

The former Colegio Mayor de San Bartolomé (Saint Bartolomew's Hall of Residence), funded in 1401 by Mr. Diego de Anaya, today is the Facultad de Filología (Philology Faculty).



The current building is one of the few neoclassic constructions of Salamanca. Its works started in 1760, probably due to the destruction or a great damage to the original Hall caused by the Lisbon's earthquake. Its creators were José Hermosilla and Juan de Sagarvinaga. Its more characteristic elements are the façade, the cloister and the imperial stairs of the inside, where there is a bust of Mr. Miguel de Unamuno, made by Victorio Macho in 1930. It stopped working as a Hall of Residence in 1798.

The main façade has a big front with staircase and four columns crowned by a fronton; a great coat of arms stands out in the highest part of the building; the ten windows of the ground floor show off beautiful grilles and there are also ten balconies in the upper floor.



Next to the Hall, in El Tostado street, we can find the **Hospice** which provided accommodation for the students who paid their studies serving other noble and rich students. Nowadays, it is used for classrooms and offices, and its old stables house the canteen of the Faculty. The Hospice dates from 1715 and its architect was Joaquín de Churriguera.

On the left side of the façade it is the Iglesia de San Sebastián (Saint Sebastian's Church), former chapel of the Hall. On 6th October 2011 the historical monuments of the Hall of Residence, the Hospice and the Church were declared **Bien de Interés Cultural** with the category of Monument.

## Casa de las Conchas (Shell House)

The Casa de las Conchas of Salamanca is a Gothic-style building with Plateresque elements. It was started to build circa 1493 and its construction ended in 1517.

Circa 1701 the house was repaired and enlarged, and the façade which faces the street was built. Afterwards, it became jail of the study, in other words, the jail of the University. In 1929 it was declared National Monument. In 1967 it is transferred to the Salamanca's city council, by means of a lease to the symbolic value of one peseta (former Spanish unit of currency) per year for 99 years. In 1970 the Ministerio de



Cultura (Ministry of Culture) subrogates the agreement and continues the lease. Since 1993 and after a long restoration, houses a National Public Library. In 1997 its owner, the Conde de Santa Coloma (Santa Coloma's Count), hands it over to the Junta de Andalucía (Andalucía's autonomous government) as a tax payment. In 2005 the Junta de Andalucía exchanges it for other building of the State, its current owner.



There is a legend which tells that under one of its shells on the façade it could be found an ounce of gold. This wouldn't be really strange, because it was customary in the construction to put a gold coin in the foundations, to bring good luck on the building. Another folk tale, much more spread among the citizens, is that the owners of the building hid their jewels under one of these shells that decorate the façade, leaving documented the hidden quantity but not in which shell is placed. Anyone that wants to venture to find this treasure has to contribute with the stipulated quantity beforehand as a deposit. If he/she found the treasure, he/she would take it and get back his/her contribution. Otherwise, he/she would lose the money left as surety.

## Casa Lis (Lis house)

Casa Lis is a modernist palace of Salamanca which was built on the ancient wall of the city wall, where the Museum of Art Nouveau and Art Deco is located.

The north front, the entrance through the calle Gibraltar, is the only sample of Modernism in the city. The historical monuments, formed by a façade of 2 sections, a courtyard and a wrought-iron gate, are really simply. The first floor and the gates are decorated according to the influences of the Belgic Art Nouveau, while the wood door, in a low arch, has floral and aquatic motives and relieves.



The south façade, which faces the river and receives light during the whole day, is a spectacular combination of Classicism and modernity. Over the stone wall there are two galleries of iron and crystal, in the center of a staircase which diverges to a big open terrace.

## Tormes river

The Tormes is a Spanish river, that starts in the Prado Tormejón, the Mountain range of Gredos, Navarredonda de Gredos, province of Ávila. It crosses the provinces of Ávila and Salamanca, ending at the Duero river. In Salamanca, the Tormes River is crossed by a bridge of 150 m long, built on 26 arches, fifteen of which are of Roman origin, while the remainder date from the 16th-century reconstruction after a flood. It is always a great pleasure to walk along the banks of the Tormes in Salamanca. It has several bridges and parks, all well-kept.

## Nightlife in Salamanca

Salamanca is famous for having a very lively night atmosphere, thanks to the thousand of students who stay every year in the city. It is said that in Salamanca there is a party every day of the year.

The nightlife area is around the Plaza Mayor, which is a quite small place, so it is possible to go to all the places by foot. First thing in the night it is common to see young people at the “litres” areas, places such as Plaza de San Juan Bautista, Calle del Grillo or Calle Varillas, where litres of beer, kalimotxo or mixed drinks are sold at reasonable prices. Going out in Salamanca means to go for some tapas, as a lot of bars offer a free tapa with any drink. The night in Salamanca is long, and many bars are open until 3 or 4 in the morning. Afterwards, people go to clubs, which open at 7am in many cases, and after this, they even go to an after.





## PUEBLA DE SANABRIA

Puebla de Sanabria is a municipality in the province of Zamora (Castilla y León). It has 2000 inhabitants and it is located on the banks of the rivers Tera and Castro. Known as Urbs Sanabrie in the time of the Visigoths, it suffered at least two Portuguese occupations: during the Guerra da Restauração (Portuguese Restoration War), which brought Spain and Portugal to arms in the mid-seventeenth century, and during the War of the Spanish Succession, in the early 18th century.

Apart from being a strategic point for the transport of goods from ports such as Vigo, it has been a place of passage for pilgrims throughout history. In fact, it is known that many pilgrims already stopped here at a hospital in the 16th century, as documented by historians of that time. Besides, there is a plaque citing the Via de la Plata (the pilgrimage route to Santiago that goes through Mérida, Cáceres, Salamanca, Astorga) that reads:

"Walker: may you, in every wave of your story, leave memories of your passing through your good deeds. Love is the way."

### What to see

The current **castle of Puebla de Sanabria** (entrance: 3€, closed from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM) was built on the ruins of a medieval fortress. The Duke of Benavente ordered its construction around the middle of the 15th century. One of its gates was referred to as "Galician Gate" (officially "Arrabal Gate"). The Keep, which itself had a drawbridge, is popularly known as The Main Square (Plaza Mayor), where the town hall is located, dates from the time of the Catholic Monarchs.



Santa Maria del Azogue, a Romanesque church, dates from the 12th century and houses a remarkable organ and baptismal font. Nearby is the chapel of San Cayetano, a 18th-century architectonic set.

The **Museum of Gigantes y Cabezudos** (Giants and Big Heads) is integrated into the historical part of the town that keeps inside one of the best parades of Spain about this tradition, it dates back to 1848.

They go through the streets of the town on September 7th, cheering and encouraging young and old with his characteristic incessant dance (rotating 180 degrees from left to right) and they accompany the patron in procession the following day.



The Giants are always guarded by smaller figures, the Cabezudos (big heads). In the museum 26 cabezudos can be observed, depicting mythological beings (witches, goblins), literary characters (Don Quixote, Pinocchio) and many more.

