León

Castile and León · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

León is a city in northwest Spain, in the region of Castile and León. It is famous for its Gothic cathedral with huge stained glass windows, and it is a major stop on the Camino de Santiago pilgrim route.

The old town is compact and lively, with the Barrio Húmedo (Damp Quarter) known for free tapas. León suits one or two days of sights and food.

When to visit

Late spring and summer are the best seasons, with warm, sunny days and cool nights. Winters are cold, with frost and some snow, and autumn is wet.

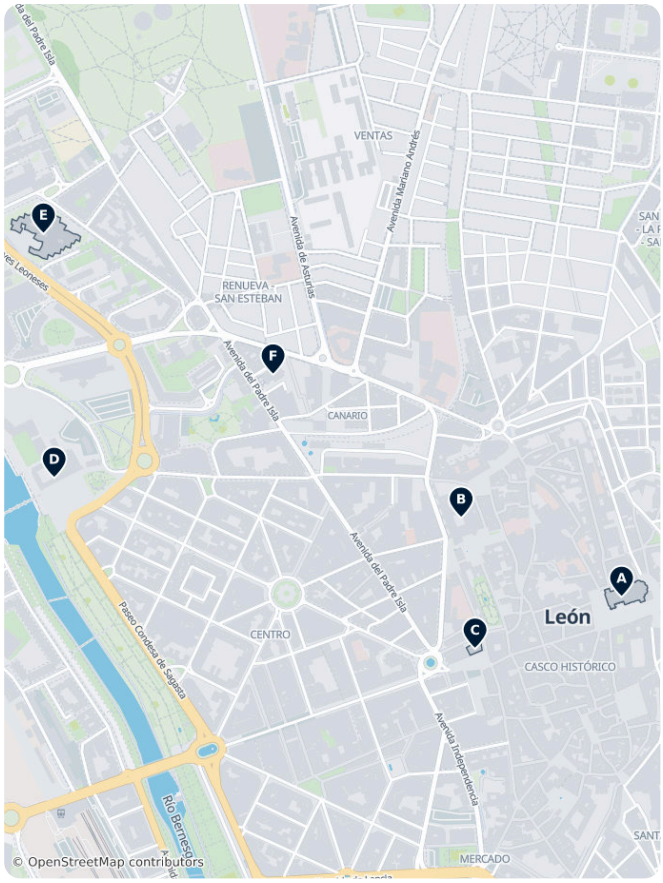
Holy Week and the festival of San Juan and San Pedro in late June are the main events.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 13° Feels like 4°	0° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	0° / -4°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 20° Feels like 9°	2° / -3°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 23° Feels like 12°	4° / -1°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27° Feels like 17°	7° / 1°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	11° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 35°	13° / 8°	25 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 36°	13° / 8°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	10° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26° Feels like 16°	7° / 2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 18° Feels like 8°	3° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 13° Feels like 4°	1° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Catedral de León is a 13th-century Gothic cathedral known for its stained glass, which covers a very large area. The light is best on a sunny day.
- B Basílica de San Isidoro y Panteón Real is a Romanesque basilica with a royal burial chamber, decorated with 12th-century frescoes.
- C Casa Botines is a modernist building by Antoni Gaudí from the 1890s, on the Plaza de San Marcelo.
- D Convento de San Marcos is a grand Renaissance monastery, now a luxury hotel with a museum. It was a stop for pilgrims.
- E MUSAC is a museum of contemporary art with a colorful glass façade.
- F Iglesia de San Juan y San Pedro de Renueva is a church on the Camino de Santiago route.
- The Barrio Húmedo is the old quarter of narrow streets, bars and tapas.

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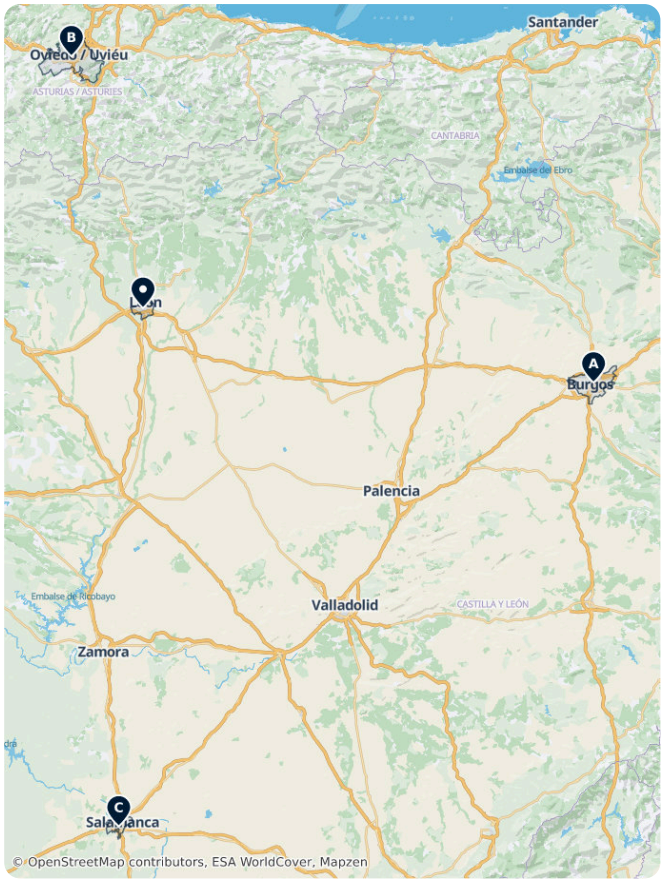
What to experience

- Go on a tapas crawl in the Barrio Húmedo, where many bars give a free tapa with each drink.
- Walk part of the Camino de Santiago, following the scallop shell marks through the city.

Day trips

- **Astorga** (about 50 km, 40 minutes by car or train): a town with a Gaudí palace and a cathedral.
- A Burgos (about 180 km, 2 hours by car): a city with a grand Gothic cathedral.
- B Oviedo (about 120 km, 1.5 hours by car): the capital of Asturias across the mountains.
- C Salamanca (about 200 km, 2 hours by car): a university city with a golden old town.



Where to explore

Other places in northern Spain:

- **Castile**: Burgos and Salamanca.
- **Asturias**: Oviedo is reached by a mountain road or train.

Getting there

- **By air**: León airport has limited service. Most visitors use Asturias airport (about 110 km) or Valladolid airport (about 130 km).
- **By train**: High-speed trains run from Madrid and Valladolid. Regional trains link León with Oviedo and Burgos. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: Coaches run to Madrid, Oviedo, Burgos and other cities.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is compact and flat, and everything is within a 15 minute walk.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat, but cycling is mainly for the outskirts.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and flat, and everything is within a 15 minute walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is flat, but cycling is mainly for the outskirts.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. A car helps for villages and mountain areas.
- **Parking**: Use an underground car park near the edge of the old town.
- **Restrictions**: The old town is closed to most traffic.

Food & drink

León is known for its free tapas with a drink, a custom in the Barrio Húmedo. Try *cecina* (cured, smoked beef), *morcilla* (blood sausage) from the region, *cocido leonés* (a hearty chickpea stew) and *botillo* from the nearby Bierzo area. The local wines include Prieto Picudo and wines from Bierzo.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

León is a very safe city. Winters are cold, so bring warm clothes, and sun is strong in summer at this altitude.

History

León began as a Roman military camp for the Seventh Legion, and the name comes from the word *legio*. It became the capital of the Kingdom of León in the 10th century, one of the first kingdoms of Christian Spain.

The city grew in the Middle Ages as a stop on the Camino de Santiago. The Gothic cathedral was built in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

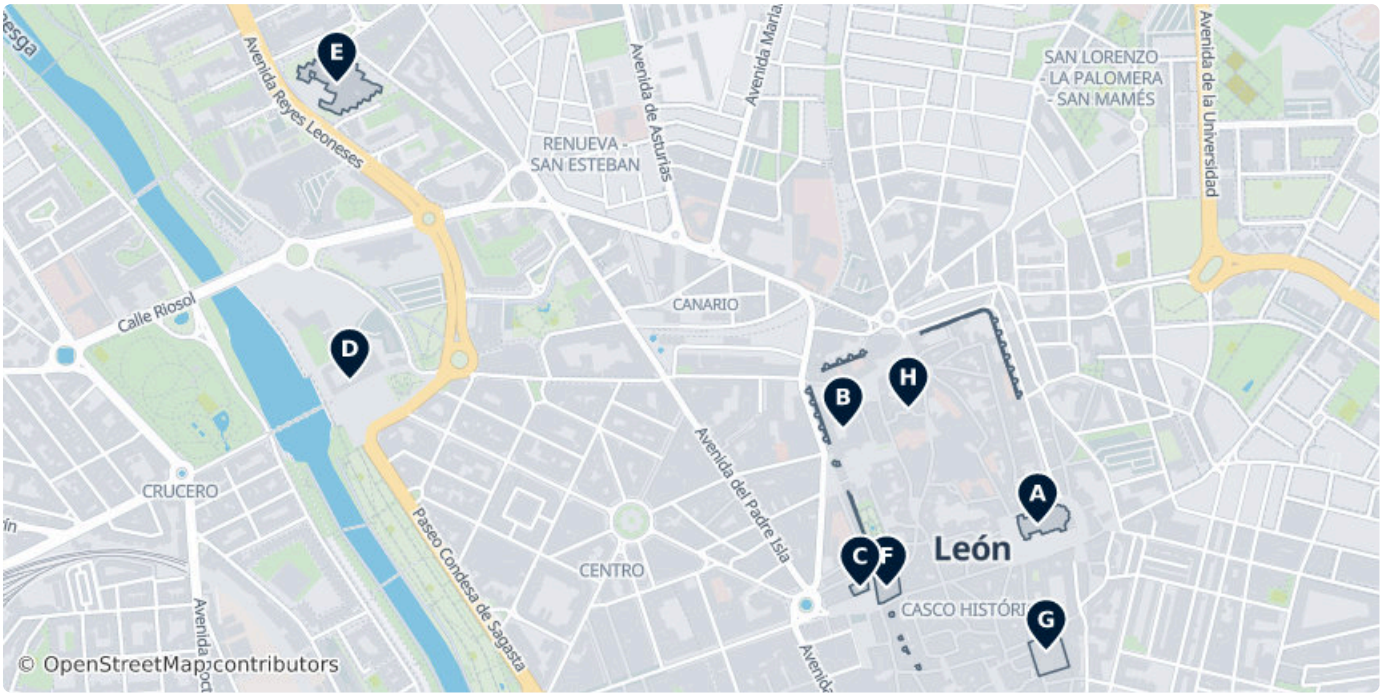
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

León Essentials

León's architectural heritage spans from Roman fortifications to contemporary art. The 13th-century Gothic Cathedral features over 1,700 square meters of stained glass, while the Basilica of San Isidoro houses the Royal Pantheon's 12th-century frescoes. Antoni Gaudí's Casa Botines and the Plateresque facade of San Marcos represent the city's later evolution. Modern additions like the MUSAC museum complement historic landmarks like the 16th-century Guzmanes' Palace and the arcaded Plaza Mayor, all framed by ancient Roman walls.





A León Cathedral

Santa María de Regla de León Cathedral is a Catholic church, the episcopal see of the diocese of León in the city of León, Castile and León...

Plaza de la Regla, 24003 León (42.59941, -5.56677)

Mo–Sa	09:30–13:30
Su	09:30–11:30

catedraldeleon.org, +34 987875770

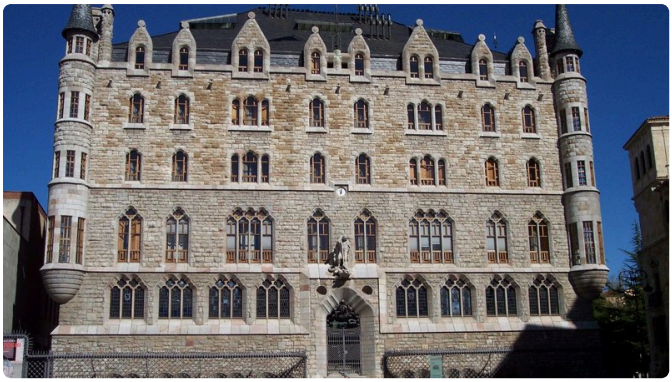


B San Isidoro Royal Collegiate Church

St. Isidore's Basilica is a Catholic church in the city of León, Castile and León, Spain, located on the site of an ancient Roman temple.

Plaza de San Isidoro, 4, 24003 Leon, Spain (42.60099, -5.57112)

museosanisidorodeleon.com, +34 987 22 96 08



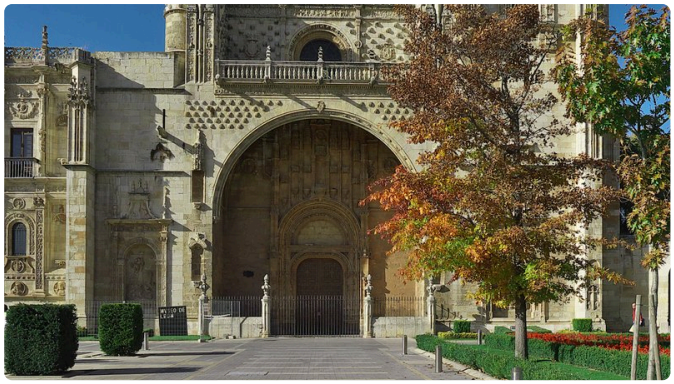
C Casa de los Botines

The Casa Botines is a modernista building in León, Spain designed by Antoni Gaudí.

Plaza San Marcelo, 5, 24002 León, Spain (42.59838, -5.57074)

Mo	10:00–19:00
Tu	Closed
We	15:00–19:00
Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–20:00
Su	10:00–19:00

casabotines.es, +34 987 353 247



D Convento de San Marcos

The Convento de San Marcos was a convent in the city of León, Castile and León, Spain, that is today an operating luxury parador hotel.

Plaza de San Marcos 7, 24001 León (42.60178, -5.58213)

es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convento_de_San..., +34 987 23 73 00



E Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León

The Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, better known as the MUSAC, is a contemporary art museum in the city of León, Spain.

Calle Padre Llorente, 24008 León, Spain (42.60666, -5.58242)

musac.es



F Guzmanes' Palace

16th-century Renaissance palace designed by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón. It features a Plateresque facade, an interior courtyard with Ionic columns, and serves as the seat of the Provincial Council of León.

Plaza de San Marcelo 6, 24002 León (42.59839, -5.57014)

G Plaza Mayor

17th-century Baroque square in the Old Town characterized by arcaded buildings and the Consistorio Viejo. It hosts traditional markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Plaza Mayor, 24003 León, Spain (42.59734, -5.56658)



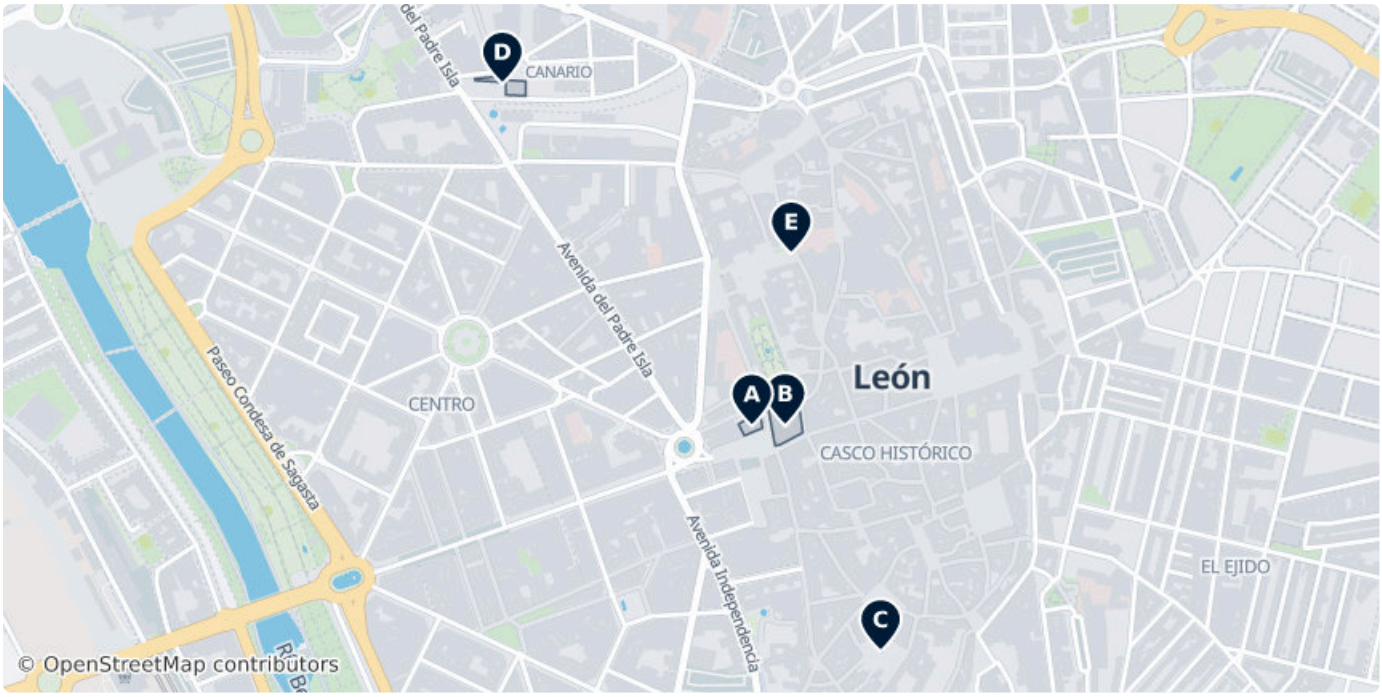
H Murallas de León

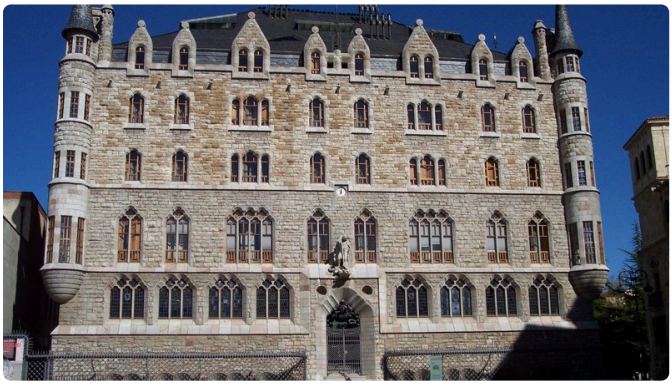
Ancient Roman fortifications dating from the 1st to the 4th century AD. Built with stone and mortar, these walls define the historic quarter's boundaries and feature several well-preserved defensive towers.

Corral de San Guisán, 24002 León, Spain (42.60132, -5.56966)

Architectural Gems of León

León's architectural landscape spans from Roman military foundations to modernist innovation. This selection features Antoni Gaudí's neo-Gothic Casa Botines and the 16th-century Palacio de los Guzmanes, a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance design. The city's history is further reflected in the medieval cobblestones of Plaza del Grano and the Roman legacy preserved in the Columna Trajana. Completing the list is Espacio Vías, an industrial railway building transformed into a contemporary cultural hub.





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Mo	10:00–19:00
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We	15:00–19:00
Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–20:00
Su	10:00–19:00

casabotines.es, +34 987 353 247



B Guzmanes' Palace

A 16th-century Renaissance palace designed by Rodrigo Gil de Hontañón. It features a Plateresque facade, corner towers, and a large interior courtyard with semicircular arches. It currently serves as the headquarters for the Diputación de León.

Plaza de San Marcelo 6, 24002 León (42.59839, -5.57014)

C Plaza del Grano

A medieval square that retains its original 15th-century cobblestone paving. It contains the 18th-century Fountain of the Lions, representing the confluence of the Bernesga and Torío rivers, and the Romanesque Church of Santa María del Camino.

(42.59542, -5.56844)

D Espacio Vías

A contemporary cultural and youth center housed in the repurposed industrial workshops of the FEVE railway station. The venue hosts exhibitions, concerts, and artistic workshops within its preserved metallic structure.

Avenida del Padre Isla 48, 24002 León (42.60288, -5.57519)



E columna trajana

A bronze commemorative monument replicating a section of Trajan's Column in Rome. It was erected in 1968 to mark the 1900th anniversary of the founding of the Legio VII Gemina, the Roman legion that established the city.

14 Calle de Fernando González Regueral, León 24003, Spain (42.60064, -5.57003)

Parks & Squares

León's urban landscape is defined by its historic squares and expansive green corridors. This collection features the 17th-century arcaded Plaza Mayor and the cathedral-fronting Plaza de Regla. Natural spaces include the riverside paths of Papalaguinda and La Condesa along the Bernesga River, alongside the botanical variety of Parque de Quevedo. These locations showcase Roman fortifications, neoclassical fountains, and traditional Spanish plaza architecture across the city's old town and modern districts.



A Plaza Mayor

A 17th-century arcaded square in the Barrio Húmedo, designed by Francisco del Piñal. It traditionally hosts local markets and public events.

1 Plaza Mayor, León 24003, Spain (42.59731, -5.56652)



B Parque de Quevedo

A 48,042 m² urban park in the El Crucero district featuring diverse tree species and a resident population of peacocks.

10D Avenida de la Magdalena, León 24009, Spain (42.60161, -5.58599)

C Plaza de Regla

The pedestrian space directly facing the Gothic Cathedral of León, characterized by its wide cobblestone area and views of the ornate facade.

7 Plaza de Regla, León 24003, Spain (42.59908, -5.56700)

D Plaza de San Isidoro

Located next to the Romanesque Basilica of San Isidoro, this square features a monument to the 11th-century scholar and saint.

4 Plaza de San Isidoro, León 24003, Spain (42.60046, -5.57061)

E Plaza Santo Martino

Situated near the Roman walls and the Basilica of San Isidoro, this cobblestone square marks the entrance to the historic Jewish quarter.

1 Plaza del Santo Martino, León 24003, Spain (42.60164, -5.57060)

F Parque del Cid

A central green space located between the Old Town and the modern city, often used for outdoor exhibitions and cultural gatherings.

(42.59932, -5.57043)

G Jardines de San Francisco

One of León's oldest public gardens, home to the 18th-century Neptune Fountain and several monuments dedicated to local figures.

(42.59327, -5.57153)

H Plaza de la Inmaculada

A circular plaza in the city's commercial center featuring a large central fountain and seasonal floral displays.

11 Plaza de la Inmaculada, León 24001, Spain (42.59946, -5.57584)

I Parque del paseo de Papalaguinda

A long riverside park along the Bernesga River, equipped with walking trails, playgrounds, and an outdoor fitness area.

(42.59147, -5.57626)

J Parque del paseo de la condesa

A scenic park running parallel to the Bernesga River, known for its botanical collection and proximity to the historic San Marcos bridge.

(42.59858, -5.58048)

K Plaza del Espolón

Located at the northern edge of the old town, this square sits adjacent to the Roman walls and the medieval Arch of the Jail.

(42.60283, -5.57011)

DATA SOURCES

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