

Palencia

Castile and León · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Palencia is a quiet provincial capital in Castilla y León, about 45 km north of Valladolid, on the Carrión river. Its main sight is the cathedral, known as "La Bella Desconocida" (the unknown beauty) because few visitors know it, with Gothic architecture and a rich interior.

On a hill above the city, a 30-meter statue of Cristo del Otero looks over the plain. The city is compact and walkable, and a base for the Romanesque churches and the Canal de Castilla of the province.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best times. Summers are hot and dry, and winters are cold with frost. The Fiestas de San Antolín, in early September, are the main festival, with bulls, concerts and fairs.

Semana Santa processions are held in spring.

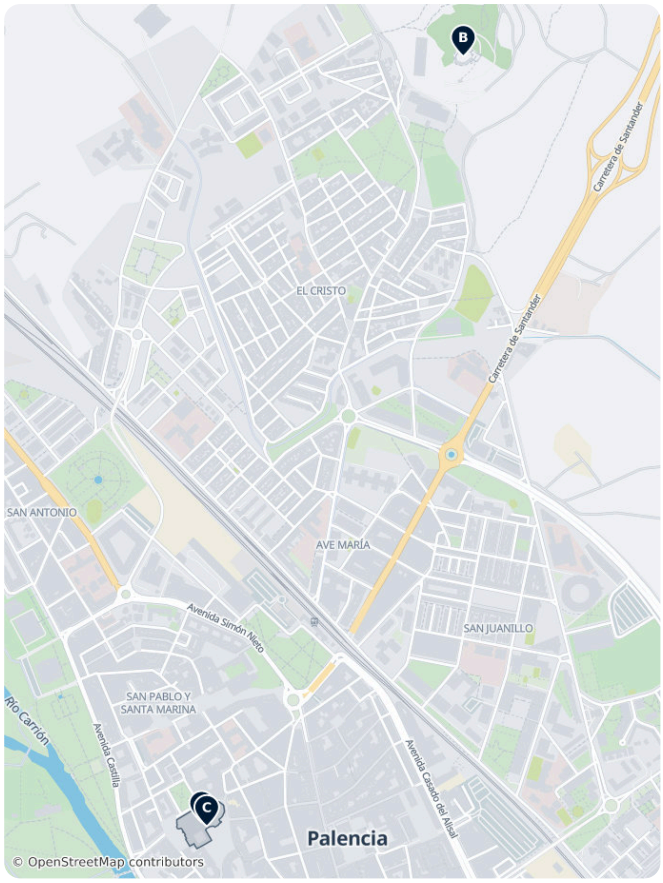
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 14° Feels like 4°	0° / -4°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 17° Feels like 6°	1° / -4°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 21° Feels like 10°	2° / -3°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 24° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28° Feels like 18°	8° / 3°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 34°	12° / 6°	Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 35°	14° / 9°	24 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 36°	14° / 10°	23 sunny days · Dry air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	11° / 7°	Dry air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27° Feels like 16°	8° / 3°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 19° Feels like 8°	4° / -2°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 14° Feels like 5°	1° / -3°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights

- A Catedral de San Antolín is a 14th-16th century cathedral with a Visigothic crypt, a rich altarpiece and a museum.
- B Cristo del Otero is a 30-meter statue of Christ on a hill above the city, with a small museum in the base.
- C Museo Catedralicio is the cathedral museum, with tapestries and paintings.
- The Iglesia de San Miguel is a Gothic church, where El Cid is said to have married.
- The Iglesia de San Francisco and the Iglesia de San Lázaro are old churches in the center.
- The Museo Díaz Caneja is a museum of a local painter.
- The Calle Mayor is a long pedestrian street with arcades, shops and cafés.



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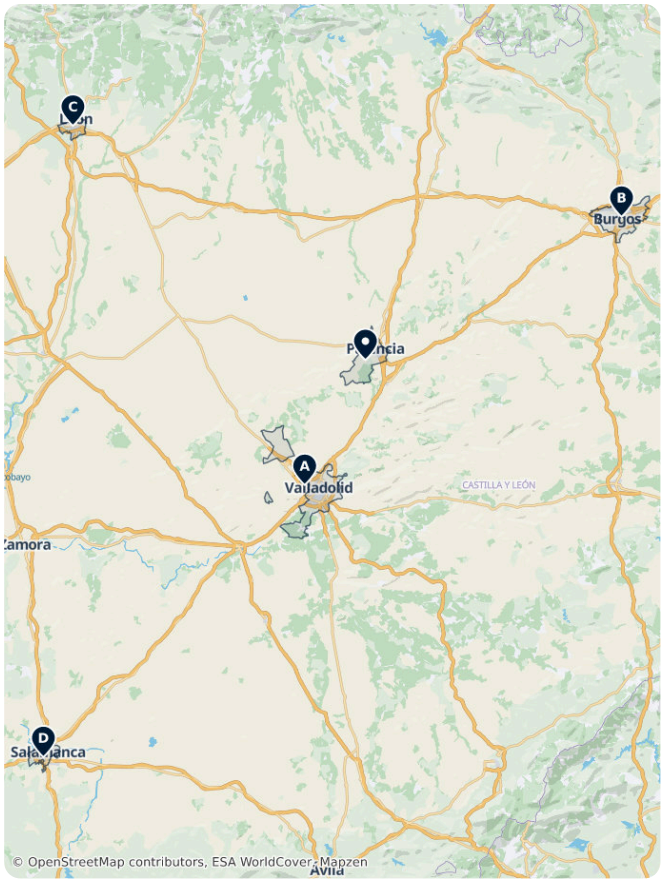
What to experience

- Visit the cathedral and its crypt.
- Walk up to the Cristo del Otero for the views.
- Stroll along the Calle Mayor and have tapas.
- Cycle or walk on the Canal de Castilla.
- Visit a Romanesque church in the province.

Day trips

- A Valladolid (about 45 km): the regional capital.
- B Burgos (about 90 km): a Gothic cathedral.
- C León (about 120 km): a cathedral with stained glass.
- **Baños de Cerrato** (about 20 km): a Visigothic church dated 661.
- **Canal de Castilla**: a historic canal with walking and cycling paths.
- D Salamanca (about 170 km): a university city.



Where to explore

Other places nearby:

- **Castilla y León**: Valladolid, Burgos, León and Salamanca.
- **Madrid region**: Madrid and Segovia.

Getting there

- **By train**: High-speed AVE and Alvia trains link Palencia with Madrid in about 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours, and with León, Valladolid and Burgos. Book on Renfe.
- **By air**: Valladolid airport is about 45 km away. Madrid-Barajas is about 250 km.
- **By bus**: Buses connect to nearby cities.
- **By car**: The A-62 and A-67 motorways.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The center is flat and compact, and all main sights are walkable.
- **Cycling**: Flat, with bike paths along the river.
- **Taxi and bus**: Local buses and taxis are available.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The center is flat and compact, with the main sights close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat terrain and bike paths along the river.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city, but useful for the province's churches and the canal.
- **Parking**: Paid parking in the center, with free options on the edge.
- **Roads**: Roads are good and traffic is light.

Food & drink

Palencia's food is hearty Castilian cooking. Try *lechazo asado* (roast lamb), *morcilla* (blood sausage), *cordero*, *pimientos rellenos* and the *quesos* (cheese) of the region. The Cerrato area makes *rosados* (rosé wines), and the typical sweet is the *rosquilla* and *mantecados*.

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

Palencia is a safe city. Winter can be cold with ice, so dress warmly. The steps at the Cristo del Otero can be wet and slippery.

History

Palencia was a Celtiberian and Roman town, and in 1208 the first university of Spain was founded here, though it later moved to Salamanca. The Visigothic crypt of San Antolín dates to the 7th century.

The cathedral was built from the 14th to the 16th century, and the Canal de Castilla, built in the 18th and 19th centuries, brought trade to the area.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

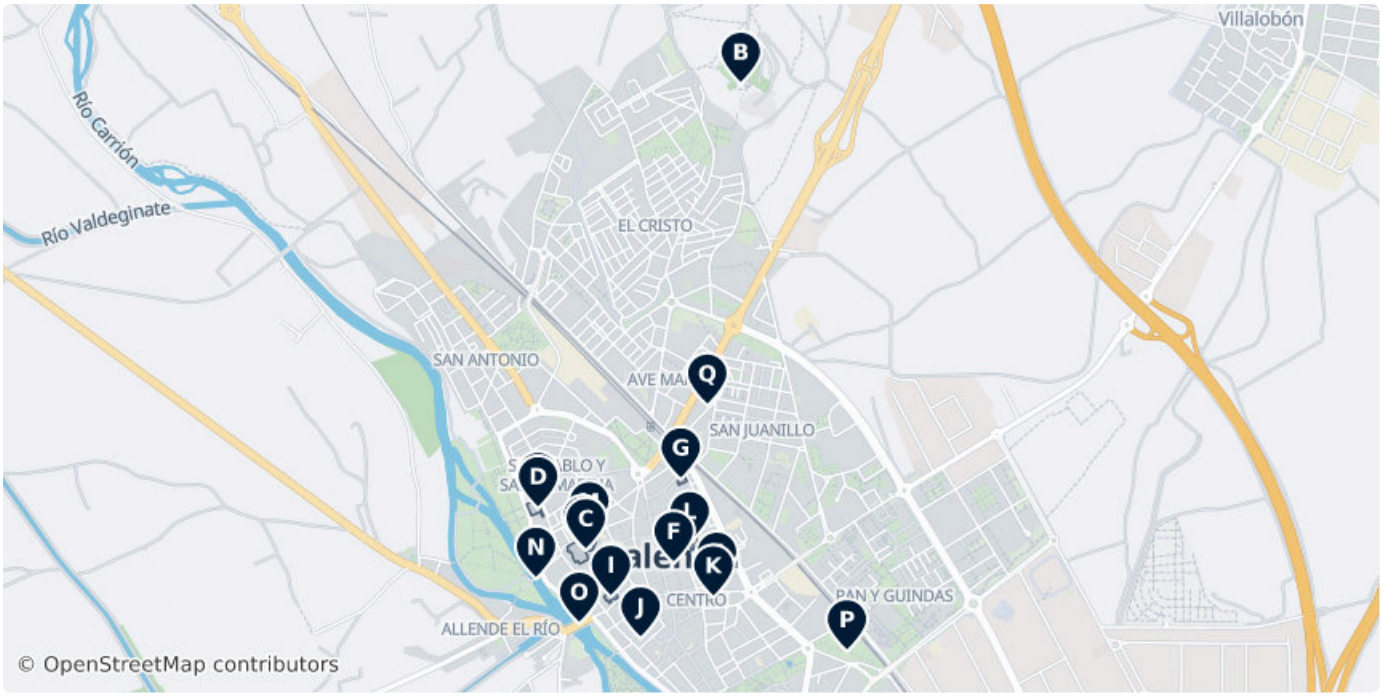
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Palencia Highlights

The cathedral known as "the unknown beauty", the monumental Cristo del Otero and the museums, churches and bridges of Castile's quiet provincial capital.





A Palencia Cathedral

Also known as the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Antoninus, this Roman Catholic cathedral stands in Plaza de la Inmaculada and serves as Palencia's principal place of worship.

Plaza de la Inmaculada (42.01127, -4.53724)

catedraldepalencia.org



B Cristo del Otero

Perched on a knoll on the outskirts of the city, this massive sculpture serves as an enduring symbol of Palencia.

(Unnamed Road), 34003, Spain (42.02831, -4.52941)



C Palencia Cathedral

Located inside the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Antoninus on Plaza de la Inmaculada Concepción, this cathedral museum displays collections tied to the historic Roman Catholic church.

1 Plaza de la Inmaculada Concepción, Palencia 34001, Spain (42.01117, -4.53709)

D Palacio Episcopal

(42.01272, -4.53944)

diocesispalencia.org, +34979706913

E Teatro Principal

(42.00994, -4.53059)

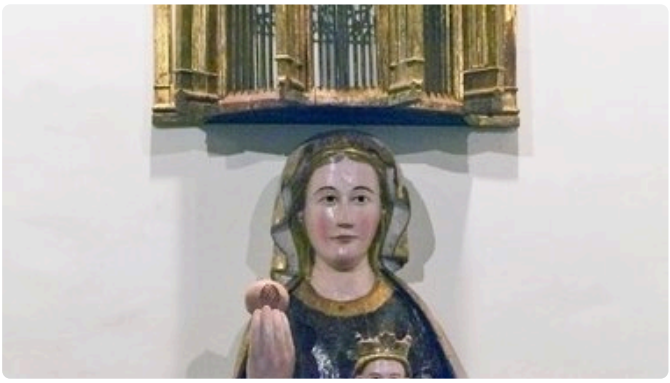
F Monumento al Genial Imaginero Alonso Berruguete

Standing in Plaza Mayor, this public sculpture honors the celebrated Castilian sculptor Alonso Berruguete.

16 Plaza Mayor, Palencia 34001, Spain (42.01070, -4.53273)

G Fundación Díaz Caneja (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo)

(42.01378, -4.53239)



H Museo Diocesano

Operated by the Bishopric of Palencia, this museum on Calle Mayor Antigua is dedicated to the preservation and study of sacred art.

34 Calle Mayor Antigua, Palencia 34005, Spain (42.01288, -4.53945)

diocesispalencia.org/index.php/compone... , +34979706913



I Museo Arqueológico

Housed within the historic Casa del Cordón, this accessible archaeological museum displays artifacts illustrating the region's heritage.

6 Plaza del Cordón, Palencia 34001, Spain (42.00946, -4.53584)



J Iglesia de San Miguel

Set on Plaza de San Miguel, this Roman Catholic parish church showcases a transitional architectural blend of late Romanesque and proto-Gothic styles.

1 Plaza de San Miguel, Palencia 34005, Spain (42.00794, -4.53437)



K Monasterio de Santa Clara

Commonly known as the Monasterio de las Claras, this historic religious complex is located on Calle de Burgos.

6 Calle de Burgos, Palencia 34001, Spain (42.00944, -4.53077)



L Iglesia de San Francisco

Built primarily in the 13th century, this Roman Catholic church highlights classic Gothic architecture.

4 Calle de Ignacio Martínez de Azcoitia, Palencia 34001, Spain (42.01143, -4.53194)

M Museo de Farmacia y Medicina de Palencia

(42.01180, -4.53690)



N Puentecillas

Crossing by Avenida de Castilla, this pedestrian bridge is one of Palencia's most distinctive historic urban landmarks.

41 Avenida de Castilla, Palencia 34005, Spain (42.01013, -4.53955)

O Puente Mayor

Spanning the Carrión River along Avenida de Castilla, this 16th-century stone bridge is a key historical crossing in Palencia.

53 Avenida de Castilla, Palencia 34005, Spain (42.00847, -4.53741)



P Parque Huerta de Guadián

Situated on Paseo de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, this is one of Palencia's largest and most characteristic urban parks.

10 Paseo de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, Palencia 34002, Spain (42.00746, -4.52415)

Q Plaza de Abastos La Castellana

(42.01649, -4.53107)

DATA SOURCES

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