

SEGOVIA DESTINATION GUIDE



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Introduction

Located just an hour from Madrid, Segovia is one of Spain's most enchanting cities, known for its rich history, impressive monuments, and picturesque setting. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Segovia offers visitors a glimpse into Spain's medieval past, with Romanesque churches, a stunning Gothic cathedral, and a fairy-tale-like castle. Here's everything you need to know to plan your trip to Segovia.

Top Attractions: What to See in Segovia

Roman Aqueduct

Description: This awe-inspiring structure is the most recognizable symbol of Segovia and one of the best-preserved Roman aqueducts in the

world. Built in the 1st century AD, it stretches for over 800 meters and stands up to 28 meters tall at its highest point.

What to Do: Walk along the aqueduct's length and admire its stone arches. The aqueduct is best viewed from Plaza del Azoguejo, the city's main square.

Location: Plaza del Azoguejo

Alcázar of Segovia

Description: This fairy-tale castle, said to have inspired Disney's Cinderella Castle, sits atop a rocky outcrop and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Originally built as a fortress, it later became a royal residence and military academy.

What to Do: Explore its towers, rooms, and battlements. Don't miss the Hall of Kings and the breathtaking views from the Torre de Juan II (the main tower).

Location: Plaza Reina Victoria Eugenia, s/n

Segovia Cathedral

Description: Known as the "Lady of Cathedrals," this impressive Gothic cathedral is the last Gothic cathedral built in Spain. Its construction began in the 16th century, and it features towering spires and stunning stained-glass windows.

What to Do: Visit the interior to admire its chapels, cloisters, and religious art. Climb the bell tower for panoramic views of the city.

Location: Plaza Mayor, s/n

Plaza Mayor

Description: The heart of Segovia's old town, Plaza Mayor is surrounded by charming cafes, restaurants, and historic buildings. It's the perfect place to relax after exploring the city's landmarks.

What to Do: Enjoy a coffee at one of the outdoor terraces and soak up the atmosphere. The town hall and the Iglesia de San Miguel, where Queen Isabella I was crowned, are also located here.

Location: Old Town Segovia

Monastery of San Antonio el Real

Description: A beautiful example of Spanish Gothic architecture with Mudejar influences. The monastery, founded in the 15th century, features intricate wood carvings and a peaceful cloister.

What to Do: Take a tour of the monastery and appreciate its ornate details, especially the impressive coffered ceilings in the church and cloister.

Location: Calle San Antonio El Real, 6

Jewish Quarter

Description: Segovia's Jewish Quarter is a quiet area filled with narrow, winding streets, historical houses, and centuries-old synagogues. It's a window into the history of Spain's Jewish community before the expulsion in 1492.

What to Do: Wander through the quarter's streets and visit the Jewish cemetery on the outskirts of the city. The Old Synagogue, now a convent, is also worth a visit.

Location: Near the Alcázar

Cultural Experiences in Segovia

Casa de los Picos

Description: A 15th-century palace with a unique façade decorated with pyramid-shaped granite blocks. The building now houses an art school and exhibits.

What to Do: Take photos of the unusual exterior, and if you're interested in local art, visit the exhibitions inside.

Location: Calle Juan Bravo, 33

The Walls of Segovia

Description: The ancient city walls date back to the 11th century and still encircle much of the old town. These walls once served as protection against invaders.

What to Do: Walk along the walls for stunning views of the city and the surrounding landscape. You can start from the Gate of San Andrés.

Location: Surrounding the Old Town

Segovia Museum

Description: Located in the House of Solier, this museum offers a deep dive into Segovia's history, art, and archaeology, showcasing artifacts from different periods.

What to Do: Spend an hour exploring the exhibits, including Roman artifacts, medieval coins, and Renaissance paintings.

Location: Calle del Socorro, 11

Food & Drink: What to Eat in Segovia

Cochinillo Asado (Roast Suckling Pig)

The city's most famous dish, cochinillo is a tender, flavorful roast piglet, often cut with a plate to demonstrate its tenderness.

Where to Try: Try it at Mesón de Cándido, a restaurant near the Roman aqueduct, or José María, a renowned spot for this dish.

Judiones de La Granja

A hearty bean stew made with large white beans, chorizo, and pork, it's a traditional dish from the nearby village of La Granja.

Where to Try: Many traditional taverns in the Old Town serve this dish, especially during cooler months.

Ponche Segoviano

A classic dessert from Segovia, Ponche is a sponge cake layered with marzipan and cream, topped with sugar and burnt to give a caramelized crust.

Where to Try: Look for this treat in local bakeries, particularly at Pastelería Limon y Menta.

Ribera del Duero Wine

The nearby Ribera del Duero wine region produces some of Spain's best red wines. Be sure to pair a glass with your meal.

Day Trips from Segovia

La Granja de San Ildefonso

Just a short drive from Segovia, La Granja is home to the Royal Palace of La Granja, a stunning Baroque palace with vast gardens reminiscent of Versailles. The palace was a summer residence for Spanish royalty.

What to Do: Explore the beautifully landscaped gardens, admire the palace's grand interiors, and visit the nearby Glass Factory Museum.

Distance: 15 minutes by car or bus

Pedraza

A charming medieval village about 40 minutes from Segovia, Pedraza is known for its well-preserved architecture, cobblestone streets, and traditional Spanish atmosphere.

What to Do: Visit the Castle of Pedraza, stroll through the town's picturesque streets, and enjoy a meal at a local tavern.

Shopping in Segovia

Local Crafts

Segovia is famous for its artisanal crafts, particularly pottery, leather goods, and textiles. Look for unique souvenirs in small shops around the Plaza Mayor and along Calle Real.

Food Markets

Visit Mercado de San Juan, a traditional market where you can find local products such as cho-

rizo, ham, and Segovian sweets.

Nightlife in Segovia

While Segovia is quieter than larger cities like Madrid, it still has a vibrant nightlife scene, especially around Calle Infanta Isabel and Plaza Mayor. There are plenty of tapas bars and wine bars to enjoy a relaxed evening.

Practical Tips

Best Time to Visit: Spring (April to June) and Fall (September to November) are ideal times to visit Segovia. The weather is mild, and the city is less crowded than in the summer.

Getting There: Segovia is easily accessible from Madrid by high-speed train (Renfe AVE), which takes about 30 minutes. Buses are also available but take a bit longer.

Getting Around: Segovia is a very walkable city, with most major attractions located close to each other in the old town.

Language: Spanish is the primary language, but many people in tourist areas speak basic English.



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