Logroño its history and heritage

Perhaps the best way to discover the history and heritage of Logroño is to take a quiet stroll to discover the importance and transcend of the Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago) over its development along the centuries, or to evoke the siege of the French troops of General Asparrot on the city in 1521.

Mount Cantabria, with its archaeological remains from the 2nd century B.C., is an unbeatable viewpoint over the city. From the top, you can see the towers of the churches. The church of San Bartolomé (13th century), originally attached to the ancient wall that has now disappeared in this part of the city, stands out for its façade, an extraordinary example of Gothic sculpture. Also, the extraordinary tower of the Imperial Church of Santa María de la Fuensanta, which enhances the Plaza del Mercado (Market Square). Inside, the main altarpiece, which bears the signature of Arnao de Bruxelles, stands out. And the towers - known as the twin towers - of the Concatedral de La Redonda (La Redonda Cathedral), built between 1285 and 1286, when it was occupied by the Carmelite nuns. Coinciding with the presence of the Riojan Práxedes Mateo Sagasta in the Presidency of the Government, the procedures for its reconversion into a tobacco factory began, boosting the city’s economy. Today the old convent is divided into three different areas: the Parliament of La Rioja in its central part, the Library in the east, and the Exhibition Hall Amos Salvador, on the west side.

The Bridges

Iron Bridge. 1882. It substantially improved Logroño’s commercial connections with northern Spain. The initiative for its construction must be attributed to Práxedes Mateo Sagasta. The design was the work of engineer Fermín Manso de Zúñiga. It is 160 metres long and rises eight metres above the level of the lowest waters.

Stone Bridge. Built between 1882 and 1884 on the structure of the existing one, known as San Juan de Ortega, which had already been seriously deteriorated and ended up being demolished. The Stone Bridge is one of the symbols of Logroño, appearing reflected in its coat of arms as early as 1285.

The other bridges. The so-called ‘third bridge’ was built in 1985 and connects the city’s ring road with the Pamplona road.

The fourth bridge or ‘Práxedes Mateo Sagasta Bridge’ was built in 2003 and its suspension, arch-shaped cable-stayed structure offers a spectacular image. It has a length of 183 meters and two pedestrian walkways on either side.

Did you know that…?
In La Redonda is the painting ‘The Crucifixion’, attributed to Michelangelo. It is one of the fourteen paintings that the artist made on the frame.

Cultural Logroño

The capital city of La Rioja has an intense cultural activity promoted by both the public and private sectors. A cultural dynamism that encompasses all artistic disciplines and makes Logroño a place where there is always a theatrical, musical, cinematographic or literary event to attend.

“The Breton De los Herreros” theatre and the “Palacio de Congresos” (Conference Centre) are the venues for the large-format shows that are staged in the city, while plastic expression has its reference spaces in the Sala Amós Salvador, the Museum of La Rioja and the Würth Museum, supported by an interesting network of galleries and exhibition halls.

Art Galleries and Exhibition centres

City Hall Exhibition Hall, Caja Rioja Cultural Centres (La Merced and Gran Vía), Ibercaja Cultural Centre (Portales, 30), Colegio de Arquitectos Exhibition Hall, Escuela de Arte Exhibition Hall, La Rioja Library Exhibition Hall, Casa de los Periodistas, Casa de la Imagen, Sala de Columnas Edificio de la Bence, Centro de Escuelas de Artes Visuales, Galería de Arte Aguado, Estudio 22, Galería Pedro Torres, Planta Baja (Calle Cigüeña).

The cinema, through the Rafael Azcona Film Library, has found its place in the Sala Gonzalo de Berceo, which organizes cycles throughout the year, trying to bring the history of the seventh art and the new creators closer to the spectators.

The House of Science (La Casa de las Ciencias).
It is a thematic centre dedicated to the dissemination of culture, science and technology. Located on the north bank of the river Ebro, between the Iron and Stone bridges, science is the protagonist inside through its exhibitions, informative days and outside, along the science garden that surrounds the main building.

The Drop of Milk (La Gota de Leche).
It is the place where young people from Logroño find their creative space and the necessary resources to begin their journey in film, music, photography, plastic arts or literature.

Actual Festival.
As its name suggests, this festival is a setting for contemporary cultures. Thus, Logroño opens the country’s cultural scenes every year, through a programme that brings together music, cinema, theatre, plastic arts, comics, literature and photography.
Logroño, a city that plays sports

Logroño is a city that invites you to practice sports, either outdoors or through its network of sports facilities. Thus, the parks and recreation areas are joined by the municipal sports centres of:

Las Norias (swimming pools, tennis and paddle courts, pelota court and multi-sports court), La Ribera (swimming pool, gym and sports centre), Lobete (swimming pools, ice rink, sports centre, gym and spa), Las Gaunas (swimming pool, sports centre, pelota court and gymnasium), Las Gaunas Stadium (municipal football pitch), Pradoviejo (football pitches), Logroño Golf Course and the Sports Palace.

The private offer also allows other activities such as hot air balloon, horse riding and karting.

And, of course, the bicycle, a more and more common companion in the daily life of the people of Logroñoses, as a meaning of transport - following the bicycle lane that connects different points of the city - or as a sports practice.

Discovering Logroño is also knowing its parks. A green ring that allows you to walk, run or cycle alongside about eight uninterrupted kilometres of parks and green areas, without crossing a single road.

The Cube Park (Parque del Cubo), located next to the Práxedes Mateo Sagasta Bridge (also known as the fourth bridge).

The Park of El Ebro, located next to the Old Town of the city and crossed in height by the stone and iron bridges, as well as by the pedestrian walkway.

La Ribera Park, which follows the course of the river Ebro as it borders Monte Cantabria.

The Iregua Park, natural park that accompanies the course of the river Iregua to its mouth in the river Ebro.

Just ten minutes from the city centre is the La Grajera Park, a spectacular natural environment of 427 hectares of surface area, presided over by a reservoir. The environment of La Grajera is a rich habitat for many plant and animal species. It has a didactic classroom and a bird observatory.

Logroño Green belt

Logroño and the culture of Rioja

Logroño is largely explained by its relationship with wine. The construction of caves (underground cellars) under the houses that formed the city and that today delimit the Old Town was a common practice as early as the sixteenth century. There, the families made their own wines for consumption. The winemaking activity has played a leading role in the development of the Riojan capital.

El Calado de San Gregorio (St Gregory’s Cellar) (Calle Ruavieja 29)

It is an extraordinary example of a traditional underground winery. Known as the long draught (30 meters), it was built in ashlar stone and presents the peculiarity of having a well of seven meters deep. It dates from the 16th century.

Its rehabilitation allows to know how the people of Logroño at the time, elaborated and stored the wine, without hardly any chemical treatments and using the suitable conditions that offered the stone and the subsoil of the city.

What is a “Calado”? (underground cellars)

They are underground cellars built in ashlar stone. Its importance lies in its ability to maintain the ideal temperature for wine production.

El Calado Centre (Calle Ruavieja)

Today you can visit eight underground cellars, which are preserved in perfect condition. In the winery La Reja Dorada (Intersection of Ruavieja and Mercaderes streets), Casa de la Danza (Ruavieja 25, entrance through San Gregorio), Colegio de Arquitectos (Barriocepo 40), UNED (Barriocepo 34), College of Engineers (Plaza Amós Salvador), Centre for the Culture of Rioja (Calle Mercaderes), Centre for the Culture of Rioja (Calle Sagasta 10) and El Calado Centre (Calle Ruavieja).

Other underground cellars

Today you can visit eight underground cellars, which are preserved in perfect condition. In the winery La Reja Dorada (Intersection of Ruavieja and Mercaderes streets), Casa de la Danza (Ruavieja 25, entrance through San Gregorio), Colegio de Arquitectos (Barriocepo 40), UNED (Barriocepo 34), College of Engineers (Plaza Amós Salvador), Centre for the Culture of Rioja (Calle Mercaderes), Electra Gran Casino (Calle Sagasta 10) and El Calado Centre (Calle Ruavieja).

Rioja wines, carefully aged and modern at the same time

It was in one of these ancient underground cellars, in La Reja Dorada, where the first “Rioja” (of this kind) were made, aged and modernised.

Ancient storage rooms, presses and silos.

A stroll through the Old Quarter also allows you to discover other old wine infrastructures such as ancient specialty designed storage rooms, presses and silos. For example, inside the ‘Espacio Lagares’, a cultural and informative centre of a municipal nature, on the ground floor of which an extraordinary sample of ancient structures is conserved.

Did you know that…?

The municipal regulations themselves were reformed at the end of the 16th century to prevent the passage of wagons through the wine cellar area and thus prevent the vibrations of the wheels from affecting the final quality of the wine.
Discovering this city is as easy as it has never been...don’t miss out this visits;

1. Sala de Exposiciones Amós Salvador
   Amós Salvador Hall
   C/ Once de Junio, 10

2. Centro Cultural La gota de leche
   Cultural centre
   C/ Once de Junio, 2

3. Centro cultural Ibercaja La Rioja
   Cultural centre
   C/ Marqués de San Nicolás, 103

4. Murallas del Revellín
   Walls
   C/ Once de Junio, 6

5. Parlamento de La Rioja
   Parliament
   Marqués de San Nicolás, 111

6. Centro Cultural Caja Rioja La Merced
   Cultural centre
   C/ Marqués de San Nicolás, 109

7. Biblioteca de La Rioja
   Public library
   C/ Once de Junio, 10

8. Sala de Exposiciones Ibercaja
   Ibercaja exhibition hall
   C/ San Antón, 3

9. Palacio Legarda
   Palace of Legarda
   Avda. De la Paz, 9

10. Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de La Rioja
    College of Architects
    C/ Barriocepo, 34

11. Edificio UNED
    UNED building
    C/ Barriocepo, 34

12. Museo de La Rioja
    Museum of La Rioja
    C/ Once de Junio, 26

13. Edificio UNED
    UNED building
    C/ Barriocepo, 34

14. Instituto Sagasta
    Sagasta Institute
    Glorieta del Doctor Zubía

15. Casa de los periodistas
    House of the Journalists
    C/ San Blas

16. Escuela de Artes y Superior de Diseño de La Rioja
    School of Art and Higher Design of La Rioja
    Avda. De la Paz, 9

17. Ayuntamiento de Logroño y Auditorio
    City Hall and Auditorium
    Avda. De la Paz, 11

18. Instituto Sagasta
    Sagasta Institute
    Glorieta del Doctor Zubía

19. Casa de la imagen
    House of the Image
    C/ San Blas

20. Casa del Inquisidor. Fundación Dialnet
    Inquisitor’s House. Dialnet Foundation
    C/ Barriocepo, 10

21. Calado de San Gregorio
    Wine Cellar
    Plaza de San Bartolomé, 1

22. Casa de las Ciencias
    Science Museum
    Avda. De la Paz, 9

23. Calado del siglo XVI
    Wine Cellar
    C/ Mercaderes, 10
Wineries that embrace the city

The development and growth of the city caused the wineries to leave their original surroundings in search of larger spaces to continue their activity. Today, the nine wineries belonging to the Rioja Qualified Designation of Origin (D.O.C), located in the municipality, embrace the city, reminding it of its origins.

Control Board of the Rioja Qualified Designation of Origin

Located in the district of Cascajos, it is the body in charge of regulating grape production and wine production, according to the rules and canons of the Rioja Qualified Denomination of Origin. The first document on production standards dates from 1650 and it was in 1926 that the Regulatory Council was created.

Logroño commercial city

Portales Street and the Market Square are the symbol of a city with an enormous commercial tradition. In a way, that was the reason why this road - today a pedestrian road - was known as calle (and plaza) de la Herventía (boiling place).

Today, Portales Street - renamed after the arcades built in the 19th century - offers an attractive pedestrian walkway between traditional and modern shops, cafés and restaurants. The historic commercial character of the city is confirmed by the name of some of the streets of the Old Town, “carnicerías” (butchers), “caballerías” (horses), “herrerías” (ironworks) and “ollerías” (pottery).

Nowadays, next to the Old Town, commerce is the protagonist in Paseo de las Cien Tiendas, Calle San Antón, Gran Vía, Avenida Portugal, García Morato, Avenida de la Paz or Hermanos Moroy, to them are added the ‘neighbourhood’ shops - those ones our grandparents used to go to-, incredible and unique spaces to discover.

Logroño is an open-air shopping centre. Walking through the Old Town you can discover the coexistence between traditional shops and new establishments, in a harmony that makes up a catalogue that ranges from food to fashion, from music to beauty centres, from the usual hardware stores to the most daring shoe shops.

But Logroño also has an excellent “neighbourhood” business, where there is a perfect symbiosis between traditional trade and the most modern one.

Quality, modernity and professionalism.... Shopping in Logroño is undoubtedly part of the purpose of getting to know this town. It is not for nothing that many citizens of the bordering provinces choose our city for their purchases.

Did you know that…?

In 1997, the Ministry of Finance awarded Logroño as the best commercial town in Spain.
Let’s go for “tapas”

One of the hallmarks of Logroño is its gastronomy. Logroño’s kitchen, whether you are sitting at the table in one of its spectacular restaurants or enjoying the small snacks called “pinchos”, the Rioja’s version of “tapas”. There, the streets of Laurel and San Juan emerge as essential protagonists.

Laurel Street

“La Laurel” is a collection of streets and intersections that bring together tapas bars and restaurants in an infinite gastronomic range. Pinchos Morunos (skewers), montaditos (small sandwiches), champis (mushrooms), migas (bread casserole), embuchados (tripes), orejas (pigs ears), morros (pigs face), aubergines with cheese, rotos (filled small sandwiches), mushrooms or zorropitos, are delicacies that can be tasted in small bites.

San Juan Street

Parallel to Portales Street, ‘La Sanjuan’ has historically had a more local audience. For some years now, it has been discovered by visitors interested in the atmosphere of the “tapas” of Logroño. In ‘La Sanjuan’, it is possible to enjoy from a traditional baked potato to the most elaborate pinchos, accompanied by a spectacular wine list.

San Agustín Street

Emerging under the protection of Calle Laurel, the new premises on Calle San Agustín have directed their way to differentiated specialities, creating a singular and tasty menu to discover.

New tapas areas

The snacking atmosphere also continues across the Gran Vía, especially on República Argentina and María Teresa Gil de Gárate streets, which have their own tapas areas, where you can find different tapas and snacks.

The gastronomic center of the city is located in the San Blas Market. A building built in 1927 by the architect Fermín Alamo on the site of the old church of San Blas. The temple was demolished in 1837 to create the Plaza de la Verdura. Today, the San Blas Market offers the best products of the Rioja vegetable garden, and the meat of the cattle raised in the mountains. An unbeatable pantry for the hundred or so restaurants - of every variety and style imaginable - that welcomes Logroño.

The city’s festivals

Virgin of Hope (Virgen de la Esperanza)
Patroness of the city of Logroño, a title she shares with that of mayoress. The festival is celebrated on 18 December.

Easter (Semana Santa)
The Easter Week in Logroño stands out for the quality and artistic value of its religious processions and saints images, which makes it one of the most important in the north of Spain. It has been declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest.

Did you know that…?

The demolition in 1978 of the building through which the Travesía de Laurel runs today, to facilitate access for suppliers and neighbours, led to the creation of the “Blanco y Negro”, now the oldest bar in “La Laurel”, a competition in longevity that shares with the centenary ‘Gurugú’, located at the intersection of Avenida Navarra and Los Yerros street.

Did you know that…?
The origin of the Festivities of San Mateo and the Rioja’s Grape Harvest are dating from the so called “Feria Franca” a Tax-Free Fair, granted to Logroño in 1314 and held in September.

San Bernabé

(June 11th)
The city commemorates the victory in 1521 over the siege of the French army. The feast of San Bernabé is the occasion for the distribution of fish, bread and wine, which recreates - as the legend tells - how, at night, the people of Logroño mocked the vigilance of the French troops and went to the river Ebro in search of sustenance to support the siege of the city. San Bernabé has been declared a Festivity of National Tourist Interest.

San Mateo and the Rioja’s Grape Harvest

(September 21st)
The traditional treading of the grapes and the offering of the first must to the Virgin of Valvanera, are the protagonists of the festivity. San Mateo and the Rioja grape harvest have been declared Festivals of National Tourist Interest.

San Blas Market

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How to arrive to Logroño

Oficina de Turismo de Logroño - La Rioja
Logroño - La Rioja Tourist Office
Office du Tourisme de Logroño - La Rioja
C/ Portales 50. (Escuelas Daniel Trevijano)
26001 Logroño - La Rioja
Tel. +34 941 291 260
info@lariojaturismo.com
www.lariojaturismo.com

Punto de Información Turística “Espacio Lagares”
Tourist Information Point “Espacio Lagares”
Point d’Information Touristique “Espacio Lagares”
C/ Ruavieja 18. (Espacio Lagares)
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