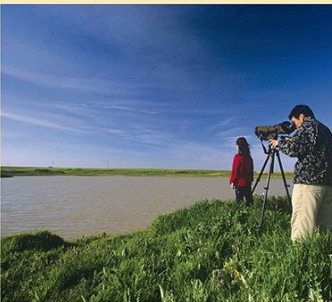


OPeN HoRiZoNS, CeReAL FieLdS aND MuDeJaR ARChITeCTuRe

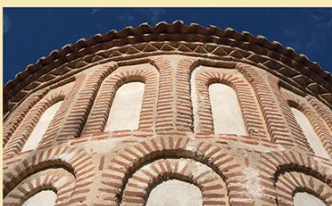
The Tierra de Peñaranda shire shares with its neighbours many distinguishing traits. Its landscape is generally dominated by the smooth hills and clay soils that are typical of the fields south of River Duero. A mostly plain terrain, barely interrupted by small rises, soft hillocks, lonely knolls... or small depressions that become puddles as soon as the rain becomes more persistent than usual.



Among these temporary wetlands, the most important is the **Azud de Riobos**, an artificial reservoir with a surface of 387 hectares built in 1998 to provide irrigation for the crops. With the passing of time, it has become the home of a number of birds and an excellent spot for birdwatching.

In this area, which production is mainly cereal, Peñaranda profited from its crossroads location, its calls as the much-awaited place for a stopover for travellers and merchants. Certainly not far from Salamanca nor Alba de Tormes, it shares with the latter the main traits in the landscape and also the care given by dukes and counts to embellish them both.

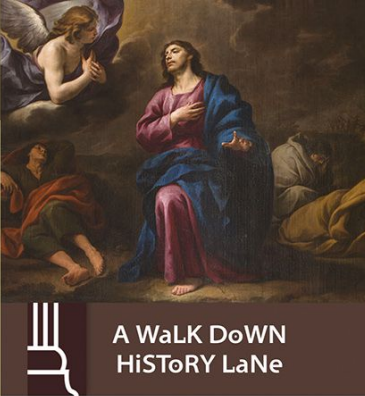
A slow tour around the surrounding villages will enable the visitor to discover a string of **surprising little temples**. These are the buildings erected by the hand and the art of the Mudejar artisans, who could work brick and wood with a sort of magic, thus creating those complex, cosmic geometrical ceilings. Coca de Alba, Gallandilla, Aldeaseca de la Frontera or Villar de Gallimazo have apses and structures built in this style.



Temples such as those in Macotera, Cantaracillo, Villoria or Rágama add to the tour their **Mudejar ceilings**, which we guarantee will not leave any visitor feeling indifferent. These are the solutions that those master builders found to cover buildings that could not support much weight. Built in brick, they needed light covers, wooden ceilings instead of stone, flat roofs that became these beautiful puzzles, decorated with the typical Islamic motifs.

The **patronage** of a long list of noble lineages related to the Counts of Peñaranda made this small string of striking temples in this corner of the Salamanca province possible, as well as admirable works of art and altarpieces such as the one in Santiago de la Puebla.

You can also go deeper in to this territory by following the **"From cradle to grave"** pilgrimage route, which is signposted and joins the two cities most related to Saint Teresa, Ávila and Alba de Tormes.



One of the most decisive events in the history of Peñaranda was the **granting by King Juan I**, of a license for a weekly market, in 1370. For some time, the village even reflected this in its name: **Peñaranda del Mercado**.

The other key event, which also eventually was reflected in its name, was its link with the **Bracamonte lineage**, in the 15th century. Since then, and until it was passed on to the Frias House in 1703, most, if not all things, had to do with them. In fact, Gaspar de Bracamonte, who was a key statesman during the kingships of Felipe IV and Carlos II, was also one of the most relevant characters in the history of Peñaranda. He founded the Carmelite Mothers convent and the important artistic legacy it treasures was also the result of his patronage.

LiViNG NaTuRe

The horizons around Peñaranda are quite on the flat side, without many mounds or hills. These are the most obvious cereal plains in the Salamanca province. Throughout this colourful countryside, with its ochres, greens and yellows, always vivid and always changing with the seasons, run many a water course with marked dry seasons, such as the Almar and Margañán, tributaries of River Tormes -which isn't far away - or River Guareña, which itself goes into the Duero. When the aquifers are full, some small marshes appear, like an oasis, to enlarge the bigger wetlands, with their great ecological value, such as Azud de Riobos or the Los Lavajares steppe lagoon.

And in the autumn, in these open, wide horizons unhindered by any obstacles, hare hunting becomes the sport of choice, with the help of lurchers.



ReNeWeD TRaDiTiONs

Peñaranda's most traditional dish is as simple as slicing a suckling pork open in half, and baking it in the oven with some water, salt, and a bay leaf. This is called **"tostón"**, a filling, tasty meal whose fame has a lot to do with the number and quality of the cheap restaurants. The sweets of Peñaranda also have a much-deserved good reputation, and the list of products changes with the festivals throughout the year: "flores" and "huesillos" for Carnival; "bartolillos", for Lent or "buñuelos de viento" and "huesillos de santo" for All Saints. And all through the year, aniseed doughnuts and "hornazo".



Peñaranda's main festival is in the third week of August, with the hustle and bustle of popular dances, music shows and the bulls.

WHeRe To eaT aND SLeeP

TOURIST INFORMATION		
VISITOR RECEPTION CENTRE	Plaza de España, 14 www.bracamonte.org turismo@bracamonte.org	923 540 001 605 942 142

RESTAURANTS		
Ál	C/ Ricardo Soriano, 73	923 540 524
BAR LOS ÁLAMOS	Avda. Salamanca, 20	923 540 222
BAR PEPE	C/ Ricardo Soriano, 1	923 541 724
EL CANDIL	C/ San Francisco, 7	923 540 122
EL OSO Y EL MADROÑO II	C/ Honda, 2 www.elosoyelmadrono.com restaurant@elosoyelmadrono.com	923 542 202
LA ENCINA	Avda. Salamanca, s/n	923 542 040
LA POSADA	Plaza España, 7 www.elporticohotel.es info@elporticohotel.es	923 540 175
LAS CABAÑAS	C/ Carmen, 16 www.lascabanas.es info@lascabanas.es	923 540 203
PIZZERÍA CASTILLA VÍCTOR	C/ Ricardo Soriano, 27 C/ Elisa Muñoz, 16	659 127 069 923 540 229

WHERE TO SLEEP		
HOTEL*** LAS CABAÑAS	C/ Carmen, 16 www.lascabanas.es info@lascabanas.es	923 540 203
HOTEL** EL PÓRTICO	Plaza España, 7 www.elporticohotel.es info@elporticohotel.es	923 540 175
HOSTAL* MONSERRAT	Paseo de la Estación, 2 juanpedro@htalameda.com www.hotelrestaurantalameda.com	697 972 885
APTOS. PLAZA DE ESPAÑA	Pz. España, 5	923 541 797
APTO. EL RINCÓN DE SALAMANCA	C/ Medina, 16	923 568 312
APTO. LA CASITA DEL TATO	C/ Medina, 22	699 299 755
ALBERGUE JUVENIL DIEGO TORRES Y VILLARROEL*	C/ Severo Ochoa, 4	923 540 888

The HeaRTBeaT of RoaDS aND MaRKeTs

Peñaranda was lucky to be located in the middle of a tangle of roads, of comings and goings that ended up turning it, with the passing of time, in to the place where arranged or casual meetings happened and nobody wanted to miss them.

But it wasn't always that way. In fact, Peñaranda de Bracamonte would have been left out of the way of mule drivers, travellers and nomads, which made of it what it is nowadays, had it not been for the determination of its first lords, the Bracamonte lineage.



It was this family who turned this place in to a first-class commercial centre where everything could be found, in particular, skins and fabrics.

Located in the midst of the cereal plains on the east of Salamanca, Peñaranda happened to be a good stopping place for the millions of livestock heads going from north to south down the Royal Path and for the travellers and merchants that went from Zamora and Salamanca to Ávila and Madrid.

And that's why the heart of Peñaranda is, even today, a great square with three distinct spaces. Or three large squares joined together by the weight of history and the passing of time. Both are valid ways to see them. And the Thursday market, the main event that has marked, week after week since 1370, the rhythm of life in this meeting point. Its heart beat.



URBaN Route

Squares, nooks and crannies while walking through Peñaranda

First a village, then a city, Peñaranda was originally a crossroads that grew large over time. Encouraged by the markets, a thriving craft business grew there and a number of inns and lodges opened to provide shelter for foreigners and travellers. Meanwhile, its squares never ceased to be the true heart of this town, making it grow.

That's why this route, among the most intimate parts of Peñaranda, begins in one of them, the oldest of the three, stringing them together like pearls. This is just the start of a route packed full of interesting points, which is also a walk through its history.



PeÑaRaNdà de BRaCaMoNte

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Urban Route | Three Squares Historic Area | | |
| Tourist Information | Bakery | 1 Agustín Martínez Soler Square and Church of San Miguel | 5 Carmelite Convent and Museum |
| Local Police Station | Baker's Workshop | 2 Constitución Square | 6 Humilladero Chapel |
| Guardia Civil Police Station | Restaurant | 3 España Square | 7 Calderón de la Barca Theatre Casino |
| Pharmacy | Hotel | 4 CITA (International Center for Advanced Technologies) | 8 San Luis Chapel |
| Bank / Cash Point | Post Office | | |