

Riaza

Segovia





Foto: Javier Gamazo

General Introduction. Geography and History

Riaza is a Mountain village nestled on the northern slope of the Massif de Ayllon, 1190 meters. The highest peaks that soar above are: Pico de el Lobo (2273 meters) and La Buitrera (2046 meters). In the Puerto de la Quesera, in the heart of the beech wood of the Pedrosa, we find the source of the River Riaza which then runs about a hundred kilometers before flowing into the Duero, near Roa (Burgos).

The first document that mentioned the existence of Riaza dates from 1235, it referred to the inquiry made by Gonzalo Abad, mayor of King Fernando III, during a disagreement between the councils of Sepúlveda and Fresno Cantespino about issues to do with the ownership of the hills and pastures. But the origins of the Castilian repopulation of Riaza

goes back to the time when people were avoiding the advance of the Muslims, which took place in the late eleventh century after the conquest of Toledo (1085). In the following centuries, between advances and Castilian setbacks, the region was gradually colonized by increasing their livestock and forestry.

By the year 1139, Riaza was passed over to the Cathedral of Segovia, and by 1430, became part of the dominions of Condestable Don Alvaro de Luna.

The Lordship of Riaza belonged to the Dukes of Maqueda from the sixteenth century to the 6th of August 1811, when the Parliament of Cádiz abolished the manors, incorporating the nation..

SQUARE

It is divided into two parts by the City Hall. Its present appearance dates from 1873, in its an elliptical ring shape which had centre, the "roll" or "picota" where the head of the accused was exposed shamefully or executed. By 1850 a cast iron lampost with a stone base was installed that illuminated the night until it disappeared in the 60s. The ring is surrounded to the south and west by stone steps.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

these stands are topped by a balustrade of the same material, joined by wrought iron railings. The area hosts a series of arches manor houses, most of which were built in the eighteenth century, with emblazoned facades (at Church Street, features a house emblazoned XVI century , perfectly preserved it's crest

and inside a baroque) chapel and typically riazana houses, rectangular, two-story, overhanging eaves. Its walls are of whitewashed stone with sloped roofs with the tiles placed with their concave side up.



Foto: José Mª López

TOWN HALL

Built in the eighteenth century. There are three floors plus the attic which houses, its bell tower, where the clock is made of wrought iron which was installed in 1895.

Behind the Town Hall which is the smallest part of the Plaza Mayor, is where the Church is.

CHURCH OF N^A. SRA. DEL MANTO

It was built between the last quarter of the fifteenth century and early XVI century Renaissance style, it is rectangular with three naves and an apse. This was added after two chapels, baptistry, sacristy and a square tower at the foot, which houses the bell tower,



Foto: Javier Maeso

topped by a stone balustrade and flameros giving it is greater finery.

Inside highlights:

Altarpiece (S. XVIII), brought to the church in 1823, from the monastery of the Armedilla in Cogeces del Monte (Valladolid), with paintings attributed to the Master Diego Valentín Díaz, depicting scenes from the life of



St. Jerome .

Christ being Crucified on the cross (possibly the s. XV), in the chapel of "Dulce Nombre".

Piedad (S. XVI ó XVII) in polychromed wood, is in the chapel of the lineages or Hidalgos.

Christ in his tomb (second half of S. XVII), is located at the foot of the nave of the Epistle.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2009

Collection of Sacred Art

(see schedule at the tourist office)

Inside the church, there is an art exhibition, which includes part of the parish heritage Alquité, Burrow, Riaza, Riaza Riofrio, Fresno Sequera and Villacorta..

Located and the sotacoro and part of the bell tower, consisting of three rooms, arranged around three themes:

Room I . Romanesque and Gothic sculpture. Here we highlight the presence of the original image of Our Lady of the Shroud (S. XIII).

Room II. Art of the Renaissance and Baroque. It houses several sculptures, highlighting the "Virgen de la Buena Leche" (S. XVI). St. Joseph with the Child and the Immaculate Conception (S. XVIII and XVII, respectively).

Room III. Spanish silverware and liturgical objects. In this room you can observe from a pelican (S. XVII) to a portaviáticos (Church of San Pedro, Alquité, S. XVII) through tenebrario or seventeenth century.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2010



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2010

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

PARK EL RASERO

Located west of the town, at the main entrance to Riaza from Madrid, it is a large green area that is used as a playground.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2010

It is divided into two parts, a smaller, triangular part where, there is a series of swings for young children, lined with stone benches and metal seats and there is a row of poplar trees bordering the routes into the town.

The wider area is known for its 18 stone crosses, which mark the route along which they carry the Cross on Good Friday morning, the oldest of which dates from 1550. Also in the wide area we find the Chapel of San Roque.

Flanking the park are two ornamental



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2007

fountains recently built, one known as "La Jacinta" in honor of a citizen of the town who donated funds for its construction, and an ornamental fountain in Madrid Avenue, with its jets and lights welcomes visitors.

LA NEVERA

This is where people of Riaza came to wash years ago, next to the Chapel of San Juan Bautista, accessed by a limestone staircase there is a circular pool which filtered the water supplying the wash-house. Surrounding the two wash basins there is a porch covered by a roof of Moorish tiles, with its wooden structure, which stands on perimeter walls of stone and six wooden columns, later replaced by brick pillars, conserved to present day.

The fountain has two wide water pipes. In 1897 it had the last great restoration (dated from 1915).



Foto: Javier Maeso

EL ESCORIAL

It is located just off Riaza, next to the SG-1111 road. It consists of a strong stone wall, with a small spout and was used as a cattle trough. The last major work done on this fountain dates from 1879.

EL CHORRITO



Foto: Javier Maeso

This fountain with a trough is located in the northern part of the village on the left bank of the old N-110 going towards Soria.

EL CUBILLO

Around the old fountain where neighbours collected water for their homes is now known as Parque del Cubillo. There is a small space nestled under trees where you can find wooden tables and benches to be cool in the hot summer evenings.

LA CHARCA

It is a part of the river Riaza as it passes through the town. In the mid-60s of the last century, people used it to bathe in, until 1975 when the current public swimming pool was opened. Today it is as it was before the recreational area was built.

Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza





CHAPEL OF SAN JUAN

It is located in the north of the town, inside a small meadow with several trees, all surrounded by a stone wall with an iron gate. The stone cross which is in the centre of the meadow dates from 1553. On the lintel of a window you can see the date 1783, which is when it was reconstructed, the tombstones that you can see under the porch, remind us that the current chapel is located in an old cemetery.



Inside there are various statues which are used for Riaza Holy Week, as well as images of St. James and St. John the Baptist.

CHAPEL OF SAN ROQUE

It was built after the plague that devastated the country in 1599, in fulfillment of a promise. It is rectangular. On the outside there is a crest of the villa which recalls the important economic contribution granted by the City for its construction.

It was restored in the 1980's, with the addition of a porch at the entrance held up by stone columns. It features some carvings of San Isidro, San Cristóbal and San Roque.



HONTANARES

The chapel is 4.5 km. from Riaza, following the road to Santibanez de Ayllon.



Foto: Javier Gamazo

Nestled at 1400 metres altitude in Mataserrana, amid an oak forest (*Quercus pyrenaica*) and a replanted pine wood.

Where you are at present, was the church of the village of Fontanar, but this place was deserted and all its land became part of Riaza, in the early 15th century. The current chapel replaced the older temple, which was built in 1606 and was financed by funds donated by parishioners. Next to the chapel is a hostel.

Inside you find the altarpiece, with Our Lady of Hontanares, with a beautiful image of Santa Lucia and San Blas at her side.

VIEWPOINT OF PEÑAS LLANAS

You arrive here along the road that runs behind the chapel of Hontanares. It is at an altitude of 1440 metres, looking down upon the Segovia plain.

There are fabulous views from this place where you can see the boundaries of four provinces:

Montejo de la Vega, the border to Burgos.

El Pico del Lobo, bordering Guadalajara.

Somosierra, between Madrid and Segovia.

Picos de Urbión (on clear days) border with Soria.

From the viewpoint at the carpark there is a path which leads to the Fountain of "Three Drops".



Foto: Javier Puertas

ROUTE OF COLOUR RED VILLAGES

Following the SG-1111 road, which runs from Riaza to Santibanez de Ayllon, you will find the eight small villages that make up this route.

YELLOW VILLAGES

Golden quartz predominates in this areas which is used in the construction of the walls and, in some cases, are combined with other materials in the colour area.

Alquité: It's Name is of Arab origin, first mentioned in 1123 as Alchite is in the s. XVIII when changing to its current name



Perched at 1280 metres, stands the Church of

San Pedro, which has an outstanding porch and front door arch surmounted by three beautiful archivolts.

Martín Muñoz de Ayllón: Had old slate quarries where the slate came from for the construction of the roof of the Palace of the Palace of La Granja and for the floor of the Cathedral of Segovia. The Church of San Martin de Tours, who is the saint of the parish, stands out.

In certain locations of the Sierra de Ayllon reddish colour areas are found due to their ferruginous compound. The buildings are made with this material, walls and roofs.

Villacorta: Nestled at 1092 metres altitude in its centre is the church of Santa Catalina, with its Romanesque portal and its ceiling of s. XVI. Surrounding the town there are two pigeon coops, a Roman bridge over the Vadillo river, a restored mill and the hermitage of San Roque.

Madriguera: With an altitude of 1138 metres, was an important commercial and service centre in the area. It had a town hall, casino and a chemist.

Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza



. Its church, dedicated to St. Peter, with an imposing belfry according to its heyday, when it had 750 inhabitants. It retains some beautiful wooden balconies.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

In the surrounding area there is an old kaolin mine.

BLACK VILLAGES

The villages of the Sierra de Ayllón have a unique architecture and rich black colour due to the slate of the place, used in its construction.

Becerra I: Located at an altitude of 1245 metres. We find the outstanding the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, in Romanesque style, with a circular apse which is well preserved and a beautiful Romanesque table. In the surrounding area there were iron mines and ampelita (a type of very soft slate) and a significant wood of holly in which we find yew, rowan and ash trees.

Serracín: Built on the slopes of Mount Pizarra, at an altitude of



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

1230 metres. From its Church of the Nativity only the belfry remains.

At Mount Mingohierro two

silver mines and coal, as well as an important slate mine.

El Muyo: There is reference of its existence since 1587. The Church of the Holy Martyrs Cornelius

and Cyprian, where a Gothic processional cross called "degajos" due to the shape of the arms that look like branches is kept.

El Negro do: The oddest thing about this village is that the Church of Vallehermoso, Romanesque which highlights its Renaissance facade outside the centre of the village the shrine of Nuestra Señora del Rosario is located within the village.

OTHER AREAS OF THE TOWN.

It was because of the "Route of Colour", there are two other districts of Riaza, which is accessed by the N-110, for the deviation from Fresno de Cantespino.

Aldeanueva del Monte:

Constable of Castilla belonged to Don Álvaro de Luna, later passing into the hands of the Conde de Miranda. Its origin Romanesque church is dedicated to San Antonio, in the same style as the hermitage of San Juan, located just outside the nucleus.

Barahona de Fresno: There we can find some adobe houses, typical of the area. Highlighting its Romanesque church

dedicated to St. Kitts, awesome apse highlighting therein the corbels of the cornice and a flared window.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

BEECH OF LA PEDROSA

The beech grove of La Pedrosa, included in the Natural Area Network Natural areas of Castilla y León, it is



Foto: Javier Gamazo

located between the towns of Riofrio de Rianza (Segovia) and Majaelrayo (Guadalajara), on the northern slope of the Massif de Ayllon, at height of 1430 metres, it has an area of 87.175 hectares. It is the remains of what was a stunning rainforest in the Central System, with beech de Tejera Negra (Guadalajara) and Montejo de la Sierra (Madrid).

Beech trees were very abundant in the Central System until the last ice age, but due to climate change, were forced to be relegated to very shady

valleys to survive. La Pedrosa is therefore one of the most important beech wood in the centre of the peninsula, at the same time one of the most southerly in Europe.

One of the biggest attractions of this place is its 1390 beech trees with their corpulent and voluminous shapes. Despite its altitude and great climatic contrasts, dry summers a few days of fog and freezing temperatures during the winter, do not favour the germination of beechnuts, this forest maintains its splendor and slowly regenerates and grows. Next to the beech wood you can find slopes without much vegetation where outcrops of quartzite, giving a great contrast to the areas covered by trees and shrubs, beech, holly and oak are some of the trees that can be found in the area, giving it a chromatic variety difficult to find elsewhere.



Foto: Jesús Muñoz

Inside the Beech wood you will find old trees, some over a hundred years old, they are twisted and full of moss and lichen . Rising about 500 m. the slopes of the beech wood you arrive at the source of the Riaza River, which gives its name to the village of Riaza which 12 Km. away, this river which eventually flows into the Duero runs through the region having been dammed first first in Riofrio de Riaza and later in Maderuelo.

If you come to El Puerto de la Quesera, which is approximately one kilometre from the Beech wood, we can see an unforgettable landscape, if we look towards Segovia, we can see the dam of Riofrio in the valley, you can see the village of Riofrio, Riaza and some other villages of the region, if you look towards the province of Guadalajara, you can see densely populated pine tree valleys.



Foto: Javier Gamazo

SKY RESORT AND MOUNTAIN

LA PINILLA - RIAZA VALLEY 365 DAYS OF SPORT AND ADVENTURE

The Ski and Mountain La Pinilla - Riaza Valley has its started in 1968.

It is located in the "Sierra de Ayllon", in the northeast of the province of Segovia, an hour from Madrid by A 1, thanks to its excellent road access. The area has great natural and heritage resources that complement the enormous potential apre-ski station activity.

La Pinilla is recognized by lovers of winter sports as the best ski resort in the Central System for its variety, quality and length of their ski slopes

It has a snowmaking system with over 184 snowcannons, enables the station to cover 70% of its slopes. Its modern facilities are capable of



Foto: La Pinilla s.a.

transporting over 12,000 skiers / hour, the only station of the Central System which features a cable car giving access to the core of the station.

La Pinilla, thanks to its privileged location, offers its facilities to



Foto: La Pinilla s.a.

several million people being only an hour's drive from Madrid.

In the process of optimization, modernization and improvement of customer service, ski and mountain the Pinilla, has the special qualification in a specific area of customer service, equipment rentals, ski and snowboard a Snow Garden thought for children aged 3-7, Ski School and Mountain La Pinilla, the Tourist Hostel La Pinilla, located on the slopes as well as



Foto: Javier Gamazo

H. Mountain "La Pinilla" which has 21 spacious single and double rooms, and the accommodation in the heart of the ski resort.

But La Pinilla is not only alive in winter, but 365 days a year, in the summer season, the station facilities offer a wide range of sports and very attractive activities for all ages: zip line, monkey bridge, archery, rock climbing, mountain bike routes and as attractive permanent Bike-Park (pioneer in Spain) with nine descent circuits of different difficulties, the station, also has rental service so you can enjoy it to the fullest.

In its quest for improvement and growth, season, year after year commitment to the organization and holding sporting events national and international, in clear focus and tuning union between sport and nature.

As a result, the station is one of the main destinations to consider when wanting to enjoy nature and outdoor sport in any season.

Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza 2008



NATURAL WAYS OF OAK GROVE BY RIAZA

Riaza is framed by an unequalable scenery, the Ayllon mountain range with a wide extension of carpeted ground Pyrenean oak and low bushes of hawthorn, blackberries, wild roses and juniper, in thickets and ferns, there are yew and holly trees and you have or poplar trees along with rivers and streams in the furrowed land.

Among the variety of vegetation a set of old pathways that connected the nearby towns are hidden in the mountains. These old pathways have been recovered recently and together they form a section of pathways of more than 80 Km. of trails that wind through the Waylon mountain range, which we call, Natural Oak Grove Pathways by Riaza.

You can walk along six different routes, which are clearly marked, and that all depart from the village of Riaza, you will discover the diversity of the area, wildlife and vegetation, the traditional architecture and the people, and discover how to enjoy nature in an environment and not too far from important cities like Madrid, Segovia, Soria, Valladolid o Burgos

The wide range of walks offer different levels of difficulty so that you will be able to do the ones which best suit your ability

1.Meadow Path San Benito.- This an easy walk. Distance 11.7 Km. Approximate time 2 hours 30 minutes.

2.Path Hermitage Hontanares.- This an easy walk. Distance 11.7 Km. Approximate time 2 hours 30 minutes.

3.Path of Riaza - Riofrio of Riaza.- This an easy walk. Distance 9.6 km. Approximate time 2 hours..

4.Path Hiruela and Cuerda Degree of medium difficulty. Distance 9 Km. Approximate time 2 hours.

5.Path Red and black villages.-

5.1 Madriguera - Becerril.- Degree of medium difficulty. Distance 13.2 Km. Approximate time 3 hours..

5.2 Madriguera - El Muyo- Serracín.- This an easy walk. Distance 7 Km. Approximate time 1 hour 30 minutes.

5.3 El Muyo-Collado de los Infantes - Serracín.- High difficulty. Distance 15.3 Km. Approximate time 3 hours and 15 minutes.

6.Tejera path.- This an easy walk .
Distance 10.3 Km. Approximate time 2
hours 30 minutes.

**Here are some recommendations
for when you walk through the
countryside.**

- Do not make noise that could disturb wildlife. If you are silent you can see a lot of species.

- The paths can be difficult in times of heavy rain or snowfall. Bring appropriate clothing and footwear and respect the signs.

- Close the gates.

- Camping is not allowed nor campfires.

- Do not uproot plants.

- It is not advisable to drink water from streams or rivers. There are places in the towns and recreational areas to drink potable water.

- If you bring pets you have to keep them under control.

- Keep your rubbish in a bag and throw it in the first bin you find.

(Developed in separate booklet)



Foto: Javier Maeso

OTHER SPORTS

All those who want to enjoy their stay in Riaza and do their favorite sports should keep in mind the offer of the ski resort which is open throughout the year as well as the privileged surroundings of the town, ideal for walking along the paths by the Riaza oak Grove, mountain biking, horseback riding ...

You may also like to use:

- The sports centre with basketball, football, tennis ..As an indoor multipurpose room for small activities such as dance or oriental sports..
- A spectacular public fronton court, to which is attached a smaller one, are located in the "El Rasero", park where we can also find a large open area with goalposts for football practice.

- Public paddle court next to El Rasero.

- Football "Las Delicias".

There is a bicycle and mountain bike circuit which goes around the western part of Riaza.

- Biosalud Outdoor Fitness, petanque and skittles for the enjoyment of the elderly.

- Different courts for hire (check availability and rates in the Riaza Camping), paddle, tennis, soccer and gymnastics circuit and outdoor public pool, which are situated within the Camping Bungalow Park Riaza sports area.



FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

Febrero.

Day 3 San Blas. Mass Hontanares.

Day 5 St. Agatha. Mass and procession in Riaza.

Marzo-Abril. Holy week..

Mayo.

Day 1. Cruz de Mayo. Baile de la Cruz and typical jacks in the Square..

First Sunday. Pilgrimage of Hontanares.

Day 9. San Gregorio. Patron



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

of Riaza. Mass and procession and popular cod stew.

Sheep Shearing Festival.

An exhibition of sheep shearing and handicrafts fair.

Julio.

International Competition of Fast Painting outdoors.

Children's Painting Competition.



Septiembre.

Day 8. Virgen del Manto. Patron of Riaza. Spanish Mass and wreath. Dances in the Square.



Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza

Ninth and procession through the streets of the town.

Pilgrimage of Hontanares. First Sunday (Feast of Cultural Interest) and following the Virgen del Manto second Sunday.

A grand celebration. After the first Sunday of Hontanares, big week with Traditional bulls running through the streets of the town. Afternoon bullfights, popular festivals and brass bands. Playground, popular stew and fireworks.

GASTRONOMY

The dish which the area is most known for is roast lamb. Lately mushroom dishes are becoming more popular in the area. We also recommend their different traditional pastries (biscuits, shortbreads, soplillos, cakes, amarguillos, etc) And its rich honey

Foto: archivo Ayuntamiento de Riaza





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