



Designed by teachers and students IES FUENTESAUÇO. ERASMUS+ Project "TRIPPS"

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Architectural Heritage of Zamora

Zamora is located in the **northwest** of the Iberian Peninsula. Its strategic geographical location as a crossroads on the historic **Vía de la Plata Route** and the quality of its touristic and cultural opportunities make it a perfect place to set up camp and visit some of the most beautiful Spanish landmarks.

It is a **splendid city**: quiet and lovely to stroll around. With **66,000** inhabitants, it boasts of being a small city with great historical and cultural heritage. For example,

Zamora is known as the Pearl of the Duero with its cathedral towering over the Duero River.

It is also known as “La Bien Cercada” (The Well-Fenced) as it had two large walls surrounding it.



It has a great medieval heritage consisting of its castle, its bridge, its walls and its churches, especially the cathedral.

Zamora is the European city with the most Romanesque churches, 23 in total.

Zamora also offers examples of other artistic styles such as modernism, which can be seen in its most important street, Santa Clara. It takes part of the European Modernist route.

It is also noticeable for its houses with viewpoints, the best example of which is Calle Balborraz.

Therefore, it is a historic city: safe, cozy and open to the experience of visitors, but with totally up-to-date atmosphere and services.

SANTIAGO EL BURGO

One of the best-preserved Romanesque churches in Zamora. It stands out for its southern door. It is a twin door with archivolt. It stands out because it lacks a column to support the tympanum. The northern door imitates that of the Cathedral.

SANTA CLARA STREET

Examples of modernism such as the Casino and the house of the caryatids. Palacio de los Momos, a Renaissance building unique in Zamora with Gothic influence. We see a sculpture by a great sculptor from Zamora, Baltasar Lobo, who worked in Paris and was a friend of Pablo Picasso.

PLAZA MAYOR

The main square of Zamora (Plaza Mayor) is the heart of the city. Now you will discover the old city hall, built by the Catholic Kings in the 15th century, and some other interesting churches like San Juan de Puerta Nueva and San Vicente.

SAN JUAN DE PUERTA NUEVA

This church is called like this because it is where the wall used to go and it was a gate was built to access medieval Zamora. The most outstanding feature of this church is the south doorway, which has archivolts decorated with flowers. Above the door there is a magnificent rose window, the best preserved in Zamora.



SCULPTURE OF “EL MERLÚ”

Holy Week in Zamora is very important. There are 17 processions from Sunday to Sunday that go through all the streets with thousands of brotherhoods and beautiful religious sculptures, being especially attractive to outsiders those of **Ash Wednesday**, “El Silencio” -under oat hand “Las Capas” -members of the Brotherhood lighting the way with lanterns-, and that of the “Nazareno” in the early hours of Good Friday morning (to the sound of the Thalberg “March”). Easter week in Zamora even has its own snack, “Dosa Pingada”, consisting of two fried eggs with rashers of bacon and toast, which is eaten on Easter Sunday.



This image of “El Merlú” is a tribute to the Holy Week in Zamora. It represents two brothers of Jesus of Nazareth who go through the streets playing at five o'clock in the morning on Good Friday every year to wake the rest of the people up to come to the procession.

CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA LA NUEVA

"The Trout Mutiny"

Built in the 12th century. It maintains the Romanesque structure of the apse and the south wall. The rest was rebuilt in different styles. 13th-century font, made of "Zamorana" stone with lowered arches on columns with bass-reliefs representing the baptism of Christ. One of the most famous and terrible legends of Zamora took place in this square.

The church was burnt down with the nobles of the city inside in the so-called Trout Mutiny. Legend has it that on a market day 900 years ago a nobleman wanted to take a fish (trout) from a commoner, they fought and the commoner won. The proud nobles gathered in this church to punish the commoner and the people of Zamora burnt the church with the nobles inside. The king forgave the people of Zamora and ordered them to rebuild the church. Since the 12th century it has been called Santa María la Nueva.

PORTILLO DE LA LEALTAD, ANCIENT TREASON GATE

This small gate was one of the oldest entrances to the city and the castle in the 11th century. It is a simple semicircular arch, with historical significance. It is an opening in the first curtain wall of the city of Zamora found very near the church of San Isidoro.

Today it is called the Gate of Loyalty, but it used to be known as the Gate of Treason. This is where Zamora's most famous legend took place. In this legend there are three brothers, Don Sancho, Doña Urraca, Queen of Zamora and Don Alfonso King of Castile.

... King Sancho II wanted to conquer Zamora and surrounded it with his soldiers for seven months. The Queen of Zamora Doña Urraca and her brother Alfonso, King of Castile ordered his assassination. A citizen from Zamora named Vellido Dolfos assassinated King Sancho with a spear right here.

El Cid chased after him, but he escaped into the castle through this gate. Though no real documented proof exists of this event, an oral tradition supports this and other prodigious tales were created in the form of ballads which changed throughout the Romantic era. In 2010, Traitor's Gate became Loyalty Gate for, while Vellido betrayed a king, he was loyal to his queen, Urraca.

Vellido Dolfos saved Zamora from being conquered and is therefore a hero today...



CAMPO DE LA VERDAD AND SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

-viewpoint from the castle park-

In this field right in front of us, next to the river Duero, there were important battles during the Middle Ages. Over there, there is the Church of Santiago el Viejo or Santiago de los Caballeros, one of the oldest in Zamora.

A small church built in the 12th century, tradition has it that El Cid Campeador was made a knight here, and that this is the place where he forced king Alfonso VI to swear he had not taken part in the assassination of his brother.

CATHEDRAL AND BISHOP'S GATE



The cathedral is exceptional for its majestic dome, which is unique in Europe and has Byzantine and oriental influences. It is one of the most original creations of Hispanic medieval art and would influence the style of the “Colegiata de Toro” (Zamora) and the “Catedral Vieja de Salamanca”. This famous dome built with sheets of stone is one of the most breathtaking constructions of Spanish and European Romanism and has oriental influences.

The synchronism of styles (Romanesque, Byzantine and Herreran) of the Cathedral is evident in every corner. Named the Perla del Duero, this Romanesque building was built in the 12th century and preserves a Romanesque door of great importance, the Puerta del Obispo, which has impressive sculptured ornaments.

It was founded by Alfonso VII and consecrated in 1175 after 25 years work. The church is dedicated to the Transfiguration and has an important cathedral museum.



The Bishop's Gate faces south.

It is highly decorated with a lot of sculptural decoration. The bust or head on the right is particularly noteworthy. There are two legends about its origin. The first legend says that it is the head of a thief who came in to steal and when he went out of the window, the window narrowed, cut off his head and turned into stone. The second legend says that it is the head of a Moorish prince who wanted to conquer the city and was taken prisoner and hung there and his head turned to stone.

CHURCH OF THE MAGDALENE / CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA MAGDALENA

This is a small 12th century church in Romanesque style. On its south wall there is a door with archivolt decorated with plant motifs and inside there is a sepulchre of the 13th century covered by a baldachin. The church held public justice trials. In this church during the Middle Ages there were trials.

The people of Zamora say that if you don't see the figure of a bishop when you look at the door, you won't get married.

VIRIATO SQUARE



This is a small square with a nice sculpture of Viriato, a soldier that fought the Romans. The sculpture was designed in the 19th century.

The square holds different regional events and markets.

In this square you can see one of the oldest churches, San Cipriano Church, which has undergone many reconstructions since medieval times.

Its square chevet and the decoration of the exterior reliefs, which belong to an older church, stand out.

DOÑA HURRACA GATE / DOORS OF MS. URRACA

Entrance gate to the city of Zamora in the Middle Ages. It is one of the oldest gates. (11th century) It is called like this because it is said that a queen of Zamora called Doña Urraca lived here in her palace. The sculpture above the arch depicts Doña Urraca leaning over a balcony. Legend has it that Urraca is driving a hero named El Cid out of Zamora, with whom she was in love, but he preferred to marry another woman, Jimena. It is also said that the sculpture represents the head of a Moorish king imprisoned by a Castilian king.

Built in the 12th century it conserves two ruined turrets supporting a semi-circular arch that extends to part of the adjacent wall.

SAN PEDRO DE LA NAVE



One of the oldest churches in Spain, called San Pedro de la Nave.

It dates back to the 7th century and was built by the Visigoths.

The Visigoths were a people of Germanic origin who invaded the peninsula, Spain, in the 6th century and created an important kingdom. The Visigothic kingdom disappeared in the 8th century with the invasion of the Muslims.

Very few monuments remain from the Visigothic period and this is the most important one. This church is pre-Romanesque in style and the interior is outstanding.

On the outside we can see that it is built with thick walls and has very few windows, which are also very narrow. It is a very solid construction. But the most important thing about this church is the inside.

Inside, the architecture stands out, but above all, we may notice its decoration.

From an architectural point of view, the horseshoe arches, which are a contribution from the Visigoths, stand out. The horseshoe arch is combined with other semicircular arches.

Two rooms also stand out in the apse. It is believed that monks lived in these rooms. Therefore, San Pedro de la Nave was both a church and a monastery. The sculptural decoration is very important, especially on the columns, capitals and friezes.

Two capitals stand out, one depicting the sacrifice of Isaac, the other depicting Daniel in the lions' den.



Natural Heritage of Zamora

ARRIBES DEL DUERO

Arribes del Duero Natural Park occupies a narrow strip of just over 1,000 km² of surface that it extends along the western border of Zamora and Salamanca, where both provinces delimit the border between Spain and Portugal. It is a territory of great beauty and landscape value, with enormous contrasts between the peneplain and the “Arribes”, which are configured by the deep embedding of the Duero River and its tributaries.

This Natural Area is characterized by its special topography that corresponds to a valley protected from the winds and with a lot of sun, what creates a microclimate that allows the presence of a rich plant community. The cliffs that reach up to 400 meters of height and the rock formations constitute the habitat of the most important group of fauna in the Natural Park: birds.

The canyons that make up the international section of the Duero, along 100 kilometers, are the ones that create a unique landscape, keeping the continuation in the “Arribes”, which are excavated by the final sections of the different tributaries.

The geological reality of the region determines the natural and cultural landscape, especially the structural typology, which finds in granite the basic material of its popular architecture.

Its geomorphology is one of the main signs of identity of this territory. The landscape is characterized by a soft peneplain in which erosion has allowed the outcropping of the oldest materials of the Peninsula (more than 300 million years old), which are granitic and belong to Paleozoic era. In this geomorphology, the rivers, through their erosive action, have been generating deep valleys and steep walls with slopes of more than 200 meters, until forming the “Arribes”, embedded river valleys with a total of almost 180 kilometers of distance



FAUNA

Arribes del Duero has an extraordinary wealth of fauna represented in all zoological groups, being vertebrates the most known ones with more than 300 species. Among birds, which exceed 200 species, the large birds which live in the rocks stand out.

Among them, the most outstanding ones are black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and Bonelli's eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), whose protection requires the conservation of their breeding and wintering territories. Other species such as Egyptian vulture

(*Neophron percnopterus*) has here one of its best populations of all Spain. Associated to rocky outcrops, there are large populations of Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*). Among steppe birds, the aloof Dupon's lark (*Chersophilus duponti*) has here the most western reproductive nucleus of the Iberian Peninsula.

The great amount of sun favours the presence of reptiles with more than 18 species, among which the Ocellated lizard (*Timon lepidus*) and Algerian sand racer (*Psammotriton algirus*) stand out. Moreover, it is significant the presence of the genet (*Genetta genetta*), the abundance of wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) and the sporadic passage of roe deers (*Capreolus capreolus*). Among fish -more than 20 species- cyprinids are abundant, such as common barbels (*Barbus barbus*), bogues (*Boops boops*) and the bermejuelas (*Achondrostoma arcasii*).



VEGETATION AND FLORA

Associated to the canyons, it exists a good amount of species, such as the terebinth (*Pistacia terebinthus*), the strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), the shrubby germander (*Teucrium fruticans*), the Montpellier maple (*Acer monspessulanum*), the Sicilian sumac (*Rhus coriaria*), the laurustinus or laurestine (*Viburnum tinus*), the Bute's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), the flax-leaved daphne (*Daphne gnidium*) and different species of honeysuckle (*Lonicera*).

In the meadow, the 6 species of daffodil and the foxgloves (*Digitalis thapsi* y *D. purpurea*) are very remarkable.

During spring, the meadows of the penepain are full of colours and fragrances due to the appearance of lavenders, Spanish gorses, thymes, etc., a party for your senses.

In the most hidden places of the canyons, some endemic species of great interest take refuge such as *Scrophularia valdesii* and *Antirrhinum lopesianum*.

The topographic singularity of the Arribes del Duero Natural Park permits the existence of a vegetable diversity characterized by the great abundance of typical Mediterranean species. A place where in the past was common the abundance of unusual crops in these altitudes, such as olive trees, vines, almond trees, and others fruit trees.

The stock exploitation has transformed in many cases the original structure of the arboreal mass until form the current pastures (dehesas).

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