

“A World Heritage City with Unique Monuments”
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Segovia Cathedral

Segovia, Spain is a medieval “ship” in the autonomous community of Castile and Leon. On September 24, 2016, our tour group’s journey started at the stern, in the Plaza del Azoguejo where the Roman aqueduct is located – a stroll up to Calle de Cervantes and Calle Juan Bravo to the prickly Gothic masts of the Cathedral Segovia. We continued our journey through the tangle of narrow streets around playful Plaza Mayor and then descended to the Alcazar at the bow.

According to legend, the city of Segovia was founded by Hercules Egipcio, a grandson of Noah, around the year 1076 BC. It was not until the arrival of the Roman armies that the city took its place in history.

Segovia stands on the height of a mountain stretching from east to west, at some one thousand meters above sea level. It is surrounded by two rivers, the Eresma to the north and the Clamores to the south, which meet to the west of the city, at the foot of the Alcázar.

In 1985 the old city of Segovia and its’ Roman aqueduct were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.



Roman Aqueduct/Plaza del Azoguejo

The aqueduct of Segovia, located in Plaza del Azoguejo, is the defining historical feature of the city. The 2000-year-old Roman Aqueduct, which cuts through the very heart of the city, is remarkably well preserved. A feat of engineering, the aqueduct was constructed from approximately 20,400 granite blocks without any cement and contains rows of 167 arches. Our tour group climbed the grand staircase from the base of the aqueduct to the top where it reaches its’ maximum height of 28 meters – offering close-up views of the imposing work. Not far from the Roman Aqueduct, in a number of establishments which Segovia is famous: we enjoyed succulent roast lamb and pig which justified our pilgrimage to this World Heritage site.



Street Vendor



Partial Photo Alcázar - Segovia

From the Plaza Del Azoguejo, our journey continued along the narrow streets along Calle de Cervantes and Calle Juan Bravo to the Segovia Cathedral, known as the “Catedral de Segovia” in Spanish, located in the Plaza Mayor. This beautiful 16th century Cathedral is known for being one of the last Gothic Cathedrals that was built in Europe. Upon entering the Cathedral, we were able to view impressive alter pieces, artwork and numerous chapels with their individual unique architecture.

As we continue our journey from Plaza Mayor through the tiny narrow streets of Calle de Daoiz, we arrive at the Segovia Castle, better known as the Alcázar Segovia. Originally built as a fortress, it was later used as a royal palace and a military academy. It is one of the most famous castles in Spain due to its distinctive architecture. It almost appears as if the Alcazar is sailing toward you, cutting through the arid plains of Spain, perhaps in search of the New World. A visit to the Alcazar is most interesting, allowing the imagination to take flight back over history.

Upon entering the Alcázar, our tour began at the Ajimeces Room decorated with horse armor and knights. On the walls, there are canvases depicting monarchs and battles. Further on, we entered the Fire Place Room with its enormous chimney with decorated paintings of monarchs. In the Monarchs Room, a frieze extends throughout the space as ashlar with 52 polychromatic images of kings and queens. It also has extraordinary wood paneling based on hexagons and gilded rhombus. In addition, there are two interesting Gothic retables.



Partial View of the Monarchs Room

UNESCO World Heritage listed Segovia as a whiff of legend, not least in the myths that the city was founded by Hercules or the son of



Ajimeces Room -Horse Armor and Knight

Noah. It may also have something to do with the fact that nowhere in Spain has such a stunning monument to Romans Grandeur (the soaring aqueduct) surviving in a vibrant modern city. Or maybe it's because, according to our local tour guide, where art really has imitated life Segovia style – Walt Disney is said to have modeled Sleeping Beauty's castle in California on Segovia's Alcazar. Whatever it is, we all agreed the effect is stunning; a magical city of warm terracotta and sandstone hues set amid the rolling hills of Castilla.

Segovia is a picturesque old city with twisting alleyways and pedestrian-only streets that are bordered by a medieval wall and two rivers. The historic ensemble of Segovia constitutes a unique artistic realization -it comprises an array of monuments which in terms of beauty and exemplary historical significance are truly outstanding.