



WALL

The town of Laguardia was fortified in the 13th century during King Sancho VII the Strong's reign. The wall was built out of sandstone blocks and

different kinds of landfill. Four gates opened out onto the outer world: Páganos, Mercadal, San Juan and Santa Engracia. The New or Butchers Gate was not erected until the 15th century. Today, despite the damage suffered during various wars, the wall retains its original layout, with a good number of towers, two of which were adapted to their new roles as campaniles.

PLAZA MAYOR / TOWN HALL



The heart of the town, this arcaded square is presided over by the 19th-century Town Hall.

The façade features Laguardia's coat of arms and a chiming clock with mechanical dancers that move to the parade tune typical of town fiestas perform at 12 noon, 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.. We recommend arriving four minutes before the hour.

On one side of the square stands the old 16th-century Town Hall, bearing Charles V's coat of arms on the first floor. A plaque on the façade indicates the ancient official measurement units of the "vara", "half-vara", "teja" (tile) and "ladrillo" (brick), used to prevent merchants from shorting their customers.

PLAZA DEL GAITERO

This square features the "Viajeros" (Travellers) series of sculptures by artist Koko Rico: two bronze plaques with a set of bags and suitcases on one and shoes on the other, in homage to travellers.



ABAÇIAU TOWER

Of military origin, this tower dates from the 13th century and was connected to the church by a drawbridge until the 19th century. Today it is the campanile of the Church of Santa María de los Reyes.



CHURCH OF SANTA MARÍA DE LOS REYES



This church is situated in the northern part of town. Although construction began in a 12th-century, Lombard Romanesque style, the building was not completed until the early 16th century and this mixture of styles is evident in every corner. The building is rectangular and has three naves, a transept and polygonal apse.

The foot of the transept is medieval (12th to 15th centuries) and the transept and altar end are Renaissance (16th century).

The altarpiece, one of Juan de Bascardo's finest works, dates from the 17th century.

The church's real jewel is the 14th-century Gothic stone portal, with its perfectly preserved 17th-century polychromes. The jambs feature the figures of the Twelve Apostles, with a magnificent sculpture of Santa María de los Reyes in the mullion. The tympanum is filled with statues from the Madonna's life and the archivolt is decorated with plant motifs and imagery. The closure of the portico in the 16th century preserved this magnificent work.



SAMANIEGO'S BIRTHPLACE

Located in Plazuela de San Juan, this seventeenth-century palatial home was laid out around an inner courtyard.

Its façade boasts the coat of arms of the Ramírez de la Piscina y Acedo family and it was the birthplace of fabulist Félix M^o Sánchez Samaniego.



CASA DE LA PRIMIÇIA

Located on Calle Páganos, this is the town's oldest civil building (late 14th or early 15th century).

Built in the Gothic style, it was the storehouse for the "first fruits" from vineyards, which were paid as a tribute.

CHURCH OF SAN JUAN

To the south of the town is a church-fortress whose southern portal, known as the "Grandparents' Portal", dates from Gothic times and is decorated with columns depicting the Annunciation. It is laid out as a Latin cross with three apses and a transcript. The baroque altarpiece is dedicated to St. John the Baptist.



At the foot of the church is the late Baroque Chapel of El Pilar, which was constructed by tearing down a Gothic portal from which the statue and pillar remain. The Gothic tower was one of the gates in the wall that were reformed in the 16th century to turn them into today's belfries.

PASEO DEL COLLADO



Paseo del Collado runs between the gates of Santa Engracia and Páganos outside the walls to the north of the hill on which Laguardia stands.

At the foot, a panoramic view opens up over towns and villages in the Rioja Alavesa, crowned to the north by the Cantabrian Mountains. In the centre of the Paseo is a metal gazebo that houses a bronze bust of fabulist Samaniego.

THE EL PRAO DAM AND LAÇOONS



A sign-posted path allows visitors to tour the area.

This protected biotype is located near Laguardia in the heart of La Rioja Alavesa. It encompasses three small wetlands, two of which (Carrallogroño and Carravalseca) are endorheic natural seasonal lagoons, while the third (El Prao de la Paul) is a small basin created in an ancient zone of pools.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The settlement of La Hoya was discovered in 1935 and it is situated one kilometre away from Laguardia.

This site was first settled around 3.400 years ago during the Middle Bronze Age. La Hoya became a bustling centre of trade and territorial organisation.

The settlement's remains and the museum are open for visits. When La Hoya's people left the site, they moved to the hill where Laguardia now stands. In 1998 a water pond was discovered on the south of the hill. It was used during the 2nd and the 3rd century before Christ to supply water to the population. Nowadays the pond remains and the Interpretation Centre are open for visits.

There are also burial sites in the vicinity, such as the dolmen of San Martin, el Sotillo, el Alto de la Huesera and la Chabola de la Hechicera.

WINE CELLARS



Wine culture is closely linked to Laguardia, whose houses contain "caves" or wine cellars dug underneath them.

In the vicinity of the town are wineries that boast cutting-edge architecture. The Tourism Office has a list of wineries that offer tours of their facilities.

THE FIESTAS OF SAN JUAN AND SAN PEDRO (June 23-29)



These fiestas are celebrated in honour of the town's patron saints with a symbolic act: a flag ceremony that which takes place in the Chapel of El Pilar and is repeated in front of the statue of St. John the Baptist on the main altar.

The fiestas are also the setting for entertaining popular events (jai alai, yearling bulls and more) and performances by colourfully-dressed typical local dancers around their central figure, Cachimorro.



PIPERS DAY (May)



If music permeates all the events and festivities celebrated in this town, the bagpipe or dulzaina is its most typical instrument. A long-standing tradition that features local melodies, this event is a day of fraternity among all the minstrels-musicians who perform on the finest stage imaginable: the town's narrow streets.

THE MECHANICAL NATIVITY SCENE OF STA. M^a DE LOS REYES (Christmas)

This eighteenth-century nativity scene contains approximately 70 figures, many of which are mechanical and enact various scenes from the Baby Jesus' life. Performances take place on Christmas, New Year's Day, Epiphany and after High Mass on the first Sunday in February (around 1:00 p.m.).



EASTER WEEK

One of the most emotion-filled moments of Holy Week in the town takes place on Good Friday: The Descent. A seventeenth-century Christ with mechanical arms on a cross presides over the church altar that boasts this honour. A guild member climbs up to the cross to release him and other members gather round to place him in a tomb that will be carried around town later during a procession.

OTHER TOWNS

Other towns in Laguardia are Laserna, where the Mantible Bridge can be seen stretching across the Ebro; El Campillar, with its a striking thousand-year-old Holm oak tree, and Páganos, which is famed for its Town Hall, Church of La Asunción and a house with a coat of arms bearing the inscription "El mundo es así", the title of a Pio Baroja novel.





LAGUARDIA



Tourist Office - Casa Garcetas. Calle Mayor, 52
01300 Laguardia (Álava) · Tel. 945 60 08 45
turismo@laguardia-alava.com · www.laguardia-alava.com



AYUNTAMIENTO DE LAGUARDIA
GUARDIAKO UDALA

Arabako Foru Aldundia
Diputación Foral de Álava

ARABA | ALAVA
GOZAMENA | DA GUSTO!



BASQUE
COUNTRY



PLAZA MAYOR

- 1 Butchers Gate or New Gate. Built in the 15th century.
- 2 Old Town Hall from the 16th century. Charles V's royal coat of arms. Next to the arch: the ancient vara, half-vara, teja and ladrillo units of measurement.
- 3 Today's 19th-century Town Hall. The dancing clock known as Reloj de carillón.

CALE SANTA ENGRACIA

- 4 Nº 41. Old Inn.
- 5 Nº 25. 18th-century palatial mansion, Cobblestone portal.
- 6 Nº 19. Two 17th-century coats of arms on a small cross-shaped shield, sword and feathers.
- 7 Nº 15. 16th-century Renaissance building.
- 8 Nº 9. 17th-century Baroque coat of arms bearing the OROBIO surname.
- 9 Gate of Santa Engracia and Gardens of Doña Blanca.

CALE DEL CASTILLO

- 10 Small 16th-century shield with an anagram of Jesus Christ and the inscription: LAUS TIBI. Nº 17.
- 11 Public primary school site where the ancient castle used to stand.

PLAZA DE LA TORRE

- 12 Abacial Tower.

CALE MAYOR

- 13 Church of Santa María de los Reyes. (For tours: Tel. 945 60 08 45)
- 14 "Viajeros", a sculpture by Koko Rico. (Paza del Gaitero)
- 15 Nº 4. Early 16th century, very archaic.
- 16 Nº 3. 17th-century building.
- 17 Nº 13. 17th-century, archaic-style building.
- 18 Nº 14. One of the town's oldest coats of arms, featuring a 15th-century spread eagle.
- 19 Nº 18 and Nº 20. The SÁNCHEZ y LARA coat of arms. The two houses were originally one building in the 17th-century.
- 20 Nº 25. The LAZCANO coat of arms.
- 21 Nº 27. 18th-century, pebbled entryway.
- 22 Nº 28. The 17th-century PATERNINA-SAMANIEGO coat of arms.
- 23 Nº 29. Entrance door with ogee arch.
- 24 Nº 34 and Nº 36. 16th-century balcony with a three-lobed plaster moulding, the only one of its kind in La Rioja Alavesa.
- 25 Nº 52. Tourist Office. Casa Garcetas. 17th-century palatial home that preserves decorated eaves, wrought-iron balconies and railings and a cobblestone portal.
- 26 Nº 54. Built in the 17th century. The coat of arms features the SOLAR DE LA PISCINA family heraldry.

- 27 Nº 61. 16th-century building, former hospital.
- 28 Nº 70. 16th-century building with Gothic features in its arch.
- 29 Early 17th-century palatial home in which fabulist Samaniego was born. Its coat of arms features the arms of his last names RAMÍREZ DE LA PISCINA y ACEDO.
- 30 Chapel of La Virgen del Pilar and Church of San Juan Bautista.
- 31 Former Convent of the Capuchins, built over the razed Jewish Quarter.
- 32 Celtiberian pond.
- 33 Mercadal Gate.
- 34 La Rachuela, a typical square.

CALE PÁGANOS

- 35 San Nicolás' Corner. The local patron saint was venerated in a vaulted niche here.
- 36 Nº 86. 18th-century building.
- 37 Nº 78. Casa de la Primicia, the town's oldest civil building in which the first fruits paid as tributes were stored. Gothic portal.
- 38 Nº 72. Late 16th century.
- 39 Nº 60. Vaulted niche with a Gothic statue of St. Anthony the Abbott.
- 40 Nº 33. Building with Gothic remains in its entry arch.
- 41 Nº 29. 18th-century building. The modern coat of arms belongs to the house of SOLAR DE TEJADA.
- 42 Páganos Gate.
- 43 Nº 46 and Nº 48. Baroque.
- 44 Nº 44. 18th-century palatial home. Coat of arms of the SAENZ DE SAN PEDRO family.
- 45 Nº 30 to Nº 42. Old stately homes. Nº 34 bears the OLANO family coat of arms.
- 46 Nº 9. Baroque building that preserves decorated eaves.

CALE CUATRO CANTONES

- 47 Nº 12. 18th-century building. Cobblestone portal, Baroque staircase.

OUTSIDE THE TOWN WALLS

- 48 Tower-Fortress. Gate of San Juan
- 49 Paseo del Collado
- 50 Monument to the fabulist Samaniego
- 51 Paseo de los Siete Castillos
- 52 Paseo de la Barbacana
- 53 Paseo de la Plaza Nueva or Sancho Abarca
- 54 Old jai alai court
- 55 Sports centre
- 56 Municipal swimming pools



There are two key dates in the history of the town of Laguardia, 1164 when Sancho el Sabio (Sancho the Wise) of Navarra gave it a Royal Charter by which its boundaries were extended and 1486 when the borough and the lands of Laguardia were incorporated into the Brotherhood of Alava by order of the Catholic Monarchs.

The mediaeval quarter and the town walls were constructed in the 13th Century. Six hundred years later they suffered serious damage as a result of the war waged by the Carlists and in the war for Independence. Nowadays, restored, they fill the town with splendour and a sense of history, although there are other well kept treasures to surprise the visitor.

And one of the most valuable treasures comes about as a direct result of its geographical location, the climate and the labour of its people: The Wine.

DISTANCES FROM LAGUARDIA

VITORIA-GASTEIZ	by Peñacerrada 52 Km. by Labastida 65 Km.
PAMPLONA-IRUÑA	103 Km.
BILBAO	150 Km.
DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIAN	165 Km.
LOGROÑO	15 Km.

