

ORIGINS OF THE CITY

Before the city of Estella-Lizarra was founded, there was a small Vascon settlement known as Lizarra (ash tree). Its inhabitants were country folk who paid allegiance to the King of Pamplona and Navarre, and they spoke a language known as Vascuence.

At the end of the 11th century, the Royal Pilgrim's Way to Santiago was being established, also known as the French Way, and the

new city of Estella-Lizarra was born, 20 km from Puente la Reina and the same distance from Los Arcos, to provide overnight shelter for the pilgrims. In 1090, King Sancho Ramírez granted the city on the banks of the river Ega the 'Fuero de Estella' (a 'Fuero' is a Charter) to encourage Frankish traders to settle there, exempting them from paying taxes

Ever since its origins, the section of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago where it crosses Estella-Lizarra has been flanked by shops and inns opened by the recently-arrived bourgeoisie, most of whom were from outside the Kingdom of Navarre. This economic boom was immediately reflected in the surge of building activity, which transformed the early commercial hub into a well-defined urban structure in a short space of time. In the early bourgeois centre and along the Rúa (street) of shops, religious buildings were constructed throughout the 12th century.

Thus during the 11th and 12th centuries, San Pedro de la Rúa was the embryo of the Estella-Lizarra of today. On the other bank of the river Ega more shops, inns and exchange bureaux were opened, as well as hospitals with their brotherhoods to assist pilgrims, which led to two new neighbourhoods clustered around the parish churches of San Miguel and San Juan. The Fuero de Estella was applied equally to the inhabitants of all three neighbourhoods.

Until the last century, the three neighbourhoods jealously guarded their territorial limits and historical privileges, despite the fact that from 1266 the city was administered by a single Mayor and Regiment.

FESTIVALS AND FOLKLORE

The Friday before the first Sunday in August -'Giant's Friday'- marks the beginning of the festivities in honour of the Virgin del Puy and the apostle St. Andrew (Estella-Lizarra's two patron saints). On the Sunday, all the men dress in white to join the Saint's procession, with coloured espadrilles, sashes and neckerchiefs. The religious parade ends with the pañuelada: from the church of San Pedro de la Rúa, the men dance in an organised fashion to the rhythm of a Wagner march and head for the Town Hall greet the Mayor by waving their neckerchiefs.



Every morning a bull run is held with young bulls. At one in the morning, the Baile de la Era, the most characteristic dance of Estella-Lizarra, is danced in the Plaza de los

The Festival of San Andrés (Saint Andrew) is celebrated on the weeken November 30th

EATING AND DRINKING

Gorrín asado (roast suckling pig) is Estellar arra's most typical dish.

A salad is the best possible accompanime the latest lat washed down with tasty red or white wines from

To round off the meal you could select a cheese from Urbasa-Andia and finally, to help you digest, a glass of pacharán (sloe anise) is defi-

The best dish for cold winter days is the calvotes (red kidney beans with belly pork). And it's in this season when the black truffle is searched and collected. In spring, we recommend sampling the fresh asparagus and menestra (mixed vegetable stew), featuring artichokes and asparagus among other fresh seasonal vegetables.

At any time of the year you can choose succulent Piquillo red peppers. They can be filled with either meat or fish, eaten as a garnish to meat or fish dishes or in a salad; wild **mushrooms** with scrambled eggs in season (end of September through to end of November); wild mushrooms, also seasonal, either stir fried or baked in the oven with garlic. Lamb chilindrón (lamb, red peppers, onion and garlic); ajoarriero (salt cod with peppers, onions, garlic and tomato) and alubias pochas (haricot beans) in season (end of August through to October).



A Tour of the city

- 1. FOUNTAIN OF LOS CHORROS (16th century).
- 2. PALACE OF THE KINGS OF NAVARRE. This 12th century building now houses the Gustavo de Maeztu Museum. Porticoed façade: on the left-hand column: capital featuring the battle between Roland and the Islamic giant Ferragut. On the main floor: double-paned windows with capitals of oriental influence. The towers and the brick gallery topping of the building are from the 17th century.
- 3. FORMER CITY HALL (in the building is located the Tourist Office). The three-storey Baroque façade features classic columns and pilasters with elaborate capitals. The first floor features two of the city's coats of arms. Inside is the tourist office.
- 4. CHURCH OF SAN PEDRO DE LA RÚA. The steps. built in 1968, lead to a multi-lobed arched door of Arabic influence (13th century). On the left-hand corbel there are some griffons, while on the right is a Sagittarius with a bow and arrow pointing at the biform body of a mermaid. Inside the church, on the right side of the entrance, there is a baptismal font from the 12th century, representing the four rivers that irrigated the Paradise. The apse of the central nave features a combination of Romanesque in the main body of the church and Cistercian in the three small radial chapels and the vault. The three serpents, the symbol of wisdom, were added at the end of the 19th century. Evangelist nave: in the apse is a Baroque altarpiece with a Romanesque crucifix; the Baroque chapel of St. Andrew, the patron saint of the city. The silver Mudéjar reliquary is a copy of the original, which was stolen. Epistle nave: Gothic image of St. Nicholas of Bari and tomb of the Dukes of Granada de Ega in the style of the Catholic Monarchs (Ferdinand and Isabella). The demolition of the Castle of Zalatambor in 1572, which stood on the rock that dominates the parish, caused tremendous damage to the roof of the church and destroyed two of the cloister's galleries. The north and west galleries are still preserved today. Capital 14 is a double one and consists of twisted columns, the same as in the cloister of Santo Domingo de Silos (Burgos), the portico of the church of Caracena (Soria), San Andrés de Arroyo in Palencia and the cloister of the Cathedral of Burgo de Osma.
- 5. FRAY DIEGO DE ESTELLA CULTURAL CENTRE. A Plateresque palace built in the 16th century. On the façade of the



first floor are two balconies flanked by balustraded columns and topped with circular pediments. Moving along the Calle de la Rúa you will find numerous Gothic arches that used to give access to the shops and inns along the Pilgrim's Way.

- 6. GOVERNOR'S PALACE. CARLISM MUSEUM. This was built at the beginning of the 17th century. On the lintel of the main balcony you can see the date of construction (1613). The ashlar and brick façade is structured following strict rules of symmetry and classicist simplicity. Inside, there is a Renaissance patio and a Museum to commemorate the
- 7. CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. Begun at the end of the 12th century, the church was finished during the 14th century. Looking at the entrance door you can see angels carrying elements of the Passion in the keystones of the archivolts. Crowning the keystones of the archivolts is a carving of the Resuscitated Christ. If you look at the tympanum from top to bottom, you will find various episodes: I. Scene from the Crucifixion of Christ, II. The central part features the Resurrection of Christ and Christ's descent to Hell. III. Underneath is the Last Supper. Flanking the upper part of the façade is a row of the apostles from left to right.
- **8. THE PRISON BRIDGE.** Built in 1973, the bridge has a span of 26 metres. The early Romanesque bridge, was blown up by the Liberals in 1873 during a blockade of the town in the
- 9. LIBRARY. Reinassance palace. On the façade we can see the coat of arms of the Eguia. The original structure is still
- 10. CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL. From the Old Market Square a staircase leads to the north door of the church where you will find an important sculptural structure belonging to the Late Romanesque period. The real artistic treasure is the North facade with wonderful capitals. In the tympanum you can make out image of Christ in Majesty. The archivolts, corbels and relieves are really beautiful. Inside you can see an altarpiece of St. Helena dated at 1416. It belongs to the Aragonese school. On the main altarpiece (18th century) is a carving of St. Michael in the Gothic-Flemish style.
- 11. CHAPITEL STREET. This picturesque street, emerges onto a small square on the banks of the river Ega.
- 12. BAROQUE PALACE. An 18th century noble house at No. 41 on Calle Mayor.
- 13. PLAZA DE LOS FUEROS. This is the town's main meeting place. The reconstruction of the square was designed



by Patxi Mangado, an architect from Estella, at the end of the 20th century. Thursday market: fruits and vegetables. On the 2nd Saturday of the month, morning market with local

- 14. CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. The façade was completed in 1902 following the plans of local architect Anselmo de Vicuña. The original façade subsided with part of the central vault in 1846. Proof of the age of this parish church are the southern side door, in Gothic style, and the north door, in Romanesque, Inside you can find a Romanist altarpiece from the beginning of the 16th century and is a Gothic crucifix at the bottom of the nave of the Epistle.
- 15. PLAZA DE SANTIAGO. In a triangular shape with colonnades, the plaza closes off at the point where the Gate of Santiago used to stand. The livestock fair takes place on the weekend that falls closest to San Andrés (30th November). Thursday market: shoes and clothing.
- 16. RECOLETAS CONVENT. Built to a design Santiago Raón. it was opened in 1731. The Baroque façade of the church is in ashlar stone, while masonry predominates the rest of the building. In 1983, the funerary crypt in the presbytery was discovered by chance.
- 17. PASEO DE LOS LLANOS. A delightful walk under the shade of chestnuts, plane trees, acacias, pines, poplars and maples with the freshness of the nearby river Ega. The Rock of Arieta, to the west, marks the end of the promenade.

Secondary Itinerary

- 18. CASTILLA GATE. The only gate still standing of the walls of medieval Estella. Once you have crossed through it you have left the city boundaries.
- 19. CONVENT OF SANTO DOMINGO. Founded by King Teobaldo II in 1259. It has since been rehabilitated and restored as an old people's home. The initial Gothic-style church has a single nave, with a simple apse and buttresses. Many of the monastery's rooms still remain: the sacristy, the cloister, the capitular hall, the refectory and the dormitory. It is not open to visitors.
- 20. SANTA MARÍA JUS DEL CASTILLO. The core of the Jewish Quarter of Estella, the third most important in the Kingdom of Navarre after those of Tudela and Pamplona, was here in the neighbourhood of Elgacena. Its prosperity was shattered in an attack on 6 March 1328. In 1145, the synagogue was transformed into a church dedicated to All Saints; later on it was called Santa María Jus del Castillo due to its position at

the foot of the fortress castle of Belmecher. With the exception of the Baroque facade, the Romanesque building has been conserved intact. You can visit the romanic interpretation center where you can see a mockup of the castle of Zalatambor and Sant Peter's neighbourhood.

FORMER CITY HALL

- 21. CASTLE OF ZALATAMBOR. Between the 11th and 13th centuries, the castle of Zalatambor was built to protect the new settlements from the Franks. You can see the remains dug out in the castle.
- 22. CHURCH OF SAN PEDRO DE LIZARRA. The apse dates back to the 14th century. There is a Baroque tower from the 18th century and you can still see a Roman stele (funeral stone) on the southern wall. At present the church is in ruins apart from the tower, which has been restored but cannot be visited.
- 23. BASILICA DEL PUY. The French word 'puy' means a volcanic rock outcrop in the form of a hill or ridge, and very much relates to this spot where, according to tradition, some shepherds, led by the stars, discovered the image of the Virgin del Puv in 1085. State made it necessary to build the current basilica, the work of Navarrese architect Victor Eúsa, which was inaugurated in 1951. Inside, the decoration revolves around the eight-pointed star that alerted the shepherds to the existence of the image of the Virgin del Puy, and forms part of the city's coat of arms. The lighting is very bright and comes from the lantern 20 metres up and the frieze of windows at the top, whose stained glass, depicting texts from the Litany of Mary, are the work of Maumejean in Madrid. Virgin del Puy: The carving of one of the two Patron Saints of Estella is Gothic, in silver plated wood. The moon and the crowns are Baroque.
- 24. STATION BUILDING. Finished in 1927, this was the terminal station of the narrow-gauge Estella-Vergara railway line that operated until 1967. Inspired by Romanesque architecture, the twin-fronted windows recall those of the Palace of the Kings of Navarre (Estella). Today it contains the bus station.
- 25. CONVENT OF SANTA CLARA. The current building was started in 1635 under the direction of Juan de Larrañaga, a master stonemason and resident of Estella-Lizarra. It is not open to visitors.
- LLANOS CULTURAL SPACE. Built on top of an abandoned building that used to house the Convent of San Benito. In 1971 the 17th century building was abandoned by the Benedictine nuns, who installed themselves in another new red-brick building next to the Basilica of Puy. Today it contains de music school and the city cinema.

© Government of Navarra · National Book Catalogue: NA 549-2020 P202N









