

Greetings from the Mayor of Palencia



The city of Palencia, whose City Council I have the pride and honour to preside, is located in the heart of the Autonomous Community of Castile an Leon and is the capital of the province of the same name.

With a population of 81200, it lies 235 Km north from Madrid and 47 Km from Valladolid. It is linked to both cities by motorway and high-speed train.

Due to its strategic location in the centre of the Spanish northern plateau, next to the Atlantic Railway Corridor and the European Route E-80, it makes the perfect site both for national and international logistics.

I like to think that Palencia is a pleasant, environmentally friendly city, with plenty of pedestrian and green areas. Actually, it is the Spanish city with the largest extent of parks and green zones in relation to the total area.

We are also one of the Spanish cities which invest more in the promotion of sports (€ 63 per capita over the past year). In 2006, we have been recognised as a Child Friendly City by UNICEF and in 2012 we were awarded the Digital City Google Award. In 2011 we achieved a Sustainable City Award, granted by the Environmental Forum Foundation and we are currently deeply involved in everything related to smart cities.

Palencia can boast of being one of the places where best Castilian Spanish is spoken. Besides, Palencia is a very safe city, one of the safest in Spain. For these reasons and the others I have mentioned before, I think that we have a great potential to host overseas students who are keen on learning Spanish. Thus, we are presently working on a project called ***Learn Spanish in Palencia***. We would be more than happy if in a short future, students would come to Palencia to learn our language and a bit of our culture and traditions.

While looking into the future, Palentinians also cherish our traditions, like the Easter processions, which have been recently declared of *International Interest*.

It can be said that one of the greatest assets of Palencia is its good level of quality of life and I do hope that those who visit us can enjoy and share it with us.

Alfonso Polanco, Mayor of Palencia

PALENCIA



The city and province of Palencia is located on the northern plateau of Spain, in the Autonomous Community of Castile and Leon.

The capital, Palencia, lies in the south of the province, 240 Km north from Madrid.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Population:** 170,713. The Capital: 81,198 (42,837 Women- 38,361 Men).
Density of population: 855.2 (Capital), 8.89 (Province)
- **Area:** 94.71 Km² (the Capital) 7,957.54 (the Province)
- **Industries:** The Capital - Services 53 %, Industry 13%, Construction 10.66 %, Agriculture 6 %. The Province & the Capital: Services 57.57 %, Industry 19.28 %, Agriculture 14.38 %, Construction: 8.77 %.
- **Industry Network in the Province of Palencia:** According to the INE (National Institute of Statistics) in January 2013 the province of Palencia had 4,743 businesses in the Services Sector, 671 in the Construction Sector, 543 in the Industrial Sector and 460 in Agriculture. Most businesses in Palencia are small, exception made of the FASA-RENAULT car factory and a few others. Thus, there are just three companies which employ more than 500 workers, 53 companies which have between 101 and 500 workers, 76 with 51 to 100, 159 with 26 to 50, 971 with 6 to 25 and finally 4,307 companies which have 1 to 5 workers.

- **Road and Railway Communication Network:**

The southern part of the province of Palencia is located in one of the most dynamic economic areas of the north of Spain. Several features make it one of the most attractive areas of the north of Spain, as far as logistics and industry are concerned.



Its strategic geographic situation gives Palencia a pre-eminent role as a road and railway junction. The European Route E-80, which connects France with Portugal, crosses the province from east to west. To the south, the motorway A-62 connects Palencia with Valladolid and then Madrid through the A-6. To the east, the A-62 connects Palencia with Burgos and the Basque Country. To the north, it takes just 1h and 45 m to reach Santander city and its harbour through the motorway A-67.

Railway connections: The AVE train (Spanish High Speed) allows passengers to get to Madrid via Valladolid in just 1 hour and 15 minutes. Also, Palencia is linked to Burgos and León by conventional trains, although the High



Speed railway to León is scheduled to be operating in 2014. As for goods transport, the neighbouring town of Venta de Baños is one of the most important railway junctions in the Spanish north and west.

Airports: Valladolid Airport is just 30 minutes by car and getting to Madrid Airport takes barely a 2 hour drive.

- **Number of tourists:** 330,018 (2011)
- **Twin cities:** Bourges (France), Ponce de León (Puerto Rico) and Palencia (Guatemala).

A FEW INTERESTING FEATURES

- **Saint James's Way** (also known as *The Road to Compostela*), one of the oldest routes of pilgrimage in the world, crosses the province from east to west.
- Palencia is one of the Spanish provinces with the highest number of Romanesque churches. **San Martín de Frómista** is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Spain.
- The **Cathedral**, also called "The Unknown Beauty", is a superb example of Gothic religious architecture.



- **Language: Castilian Spanish.** The people of Palencia have a reputation for speaking the purest form of Spanish. At the moment, we are interested in hosting overseas students who want to learn Spanish and improve their skills at sports such as football at the same time.
- The **first University in Spain** was established here 8 centuries ago. Nowadays its lively University Campus receives students from all over Spain and also from

overseas, who come to Palencia to study Agriculture Engineering, among other available degrees.

- **The Diputación of Palencia** (the Government of the Province) established in 2005 a quality brand called “**Alimentos de Palencia Club de Calidad**” (Food from Palencia Quality Club), to promote and



foster the agri-food industry by means of a quality and identity sign. This brand embodies 130 companies already: 86 producers, (which account for 46 % of all Palentinian agri-food industries), 28 restaurants and 16 grocery shops. There are producers from eleven sectors: AGRICULTURE: Fruit and vegetables (2)– Legumes (2) – Mushrooms (1), BEEKEEPING : Honey and its derivatives (4), DRINKS : Water (2)- Spirits (2)- Wine (8)- Beer (1), MEAT: Fresh meat (3)– Cured meat (3)- Ham and other kind of Cold Meat (5)- Blood sausage (6), PRESERVES: Meat (2) – Fish (2) – Vegetables (1), BISCUITS AND PASTA (2), FLOUR (1), DAIRY PRODUCTS: Milk (2)- Cheese (16), BAKERY PRODUCTS (5), FISH FARMS: Shellfish (2) – Trout (1), PASTRY (13). All the products under the denomination “Alimentos de Palencia” are top-quality guaranteed. Thus, many of them have been awarded a great deal of prizes and honourable mentions in and out of Spain since the Diputación has a program for the promotion of these products in national and international food fairs.

- As for **Palentinian Cuisine**, *Menestra*, a typical dish made with vegetables and ham and *Lechazo* (suckling lamb slowly roasted in traditional, clay made ovens)



are our most well-known dishes. Palencia has a great number of restaurants, most of them specialized in Castilian and Spanish food, but there are also quite a few international restaurants.



- Those who come to Palencia will have the opportunity to stroll along our **Calle Mayor** (Main Street). It is a one-kilometre-long street with a lively atmosphere and plenty of shops and bars, where visitors can relax while enjoying a great variety of *tapas*



- Finally, Palencia has some excellent sports facilities: 2 indoor swimming pools and a few more outdoors. The new, state-of-the-art football stadium, “La Balastera”, as well as many other facilities for every sport: basketball, handball, golf, tennis, paddle tennis, canoeing, and so on, make Palencia an alluring destination for people who like sports. Also, there are a lot of hiking routes both in the capital and the province. Actually, the northern part of the province, called *La Montaña*, is particularly renowned for the beauty of its landscape, making a top destination for hikers.



USEFUL LINKS

www.aytopalencia.es

www.palenciaturismo.es

FURTHER INFORMATION

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