

## **Merindad of Sotoscueva**

### **“History, legend and art in Ojoguareña”**

**Sotoscueva** is one of the seven **Merindades of Castile**, located **in the north of the province of Burgos**, it is characterized by its landscapes of strong contrasts .

In Puentedey we find one of the clearest examples of how water has shaped the landscape through the centuries, to how we know it today.

The water has also been a protagonist in the life of the people. Here, human has been able to adapt their architecture to leverage its strength for his benefit. Good examples are the sources, mills, traditional laundries and wells that for centuries adorn the streets of these villages and, in some cases, are still in use.

Few areas combine history, legend and art as Ojoguareña karst complex.

More than 100 kilometers of simas, sinkholes and caves caused by the passage of the river Guareña have kept inside human settlements since ancient times, giving place to several interesting archaeological sites and cave paintings.

One of the attractions of this underground world is the discovery of several endemic species of cave-dwelling invertebrates.

Located at the entrance of a cave, we can find the chapel of St. Barnabe where to enjoy delicious and simple frescos that detail miracles and martyrdoms of San Tirso and San Bernabe.

As a result of this karst phenomenon, in the exterior of these caves we can find multitude of sources which popular names remind us old popular legends.

Waterfalls, centenary oaks impregnated with pagan airs, small towns full of art and the long “shadow” of “la Engaña” tunnel, speak about the secretes kept by this enclave.

### **Duration**

You choose the length of this route. **The ideal is to make it into a full-time or two days trip**, being able to combine with other walks in the Merindades, Burgos.

You can choose any of the activities that we offer in an independent way.

### **Activities**

- Guided visit to Ojoguareña Karst complex and walk around its natural surroundings
- Walk along the villages and picturesque landscapes of Sotoscueva
- Environmental Walk “the path of the Mea River”
- Ornithological walk