

Odra-Pisuerga Zone

“Walking around the land of fields ”

In this region dominates a landscape defined by three unique and distinctive geographic features: fertile plain, high plateau and fields.

Tertiary materials have been dismantled by strong Quaternary fluvial erosion, resulting in extensive plains, the fields, in which the only prominent relief are the moors. Las vegas are at the bottom of the valleys watered by large rivers. These riparian areas are the only ones that have preserved their original vegetation cover with riparian species, as the thick forest of oaks and gall oaks that millennia ago were covering this area, has been reduced due to the pressure of human activities, and only a few clumps are concentrated in marginal spaces.

Except the steep slopes and edges of the moors, where it has grown bushes of gorse and thyme, the remaining area is occupied by a cereal monoculture. This desolate landscape has a high environmental value and here a large number of steppe birds lives : Stands out stone curlew, Sky lark, great bustard, calandra lark, black-bellied sandgrouse, Little bustard...

Other areas of high ecological value are concentrated along the banks of the rivers, especially some parts of the Odra, where is easy to see a number of rare and valuable species of birds: Little bittern, zitting cisticola, penduline tit, marsh harrier and many species of ducks. In the scanty wooded zones and with some rocky relief live Iberian wolves, wild boar, roe-deer, badgers, wildcats, foxes, griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture, peregrine falcon and golden eagles.

Human has lived in this area from the earliest prehistoric times as well witnesses a Middle Paleolithic site with remains of Neanderthal. Many centuries later, two Roman nations, Cantabrian and autrigones, share the territory.

These people of Celtiberian origins, succumbed under the pressure of intense Roman conquest which has left its fingerprint in bridges, aqueducts, mansions, villas ...

Years later, the area begin to be repopulated by the highlanders of the north, towards the end of S. IX the consolidation of the Christian presence supposed the birth of new localities and the restoration of the existing ones.

The increase of the population and the presence of the feudal structures favored the development of a new rural economy crystallized in numerous military and religious constructions. St Jaques pilgrims way, which crosses the region from East to West, contributed to this important patrimonial valuation.

Duration

The ideal for any visitor is spend **at least a day in this area**. We can adjust your visit by removing some of the activities. If you want to extend the visit, we recommend combining this route with other activities offered in the region of Loras.

Activities

- Environmental and cultural tour, visiting the most important villages of the land of fields.
- Ornithologic walk



- Aves en las graveras de Olmillos y Grijalva
- **Paseo para descubrir el Camino de Santiago:** historia y naturaleza