

Thematic Tours

“A walk with the hermits”

A hermit is an ascetic who lives in loneliness. Asceticism is the progressive purification and constant effort to achieve a moral ideal and please God. They were Christians who since the beginning of Christianity retreated to isolated places to engage in contemplation, it is the first known religious lifestyle and its origin dates from S. III in Egypt, then spread to Europe and had its followers in the Roman Spain during centuries III, IV and V.

These hermits lived in small cavities excavated in soft rock. Some of these caves were used as cells or oratories and with the spread of Christianity they took dimensions and forms of more or less elaborate churches. These places would be the focal point of small hermit communities established around the ninth and tenth centuries

From Olleros de Pisuegra, in Palencia, up to “Alfoz de Bricia” in Burgos, following the road that connects Valderredible’s Valley, passing through Merindades and the Alfoz de Bricia, the traveler will discover the most varied set of cave churches of the whole Iberian Peninsula.

Probably the most memorable of the High Middle Ages is San Miguel de Presillas, an authentic unknown jewel of the art of Burgos. Hidden between an oak wood, it emerges an immense mass of sandstone where a prodigious hermitage was perforated. It has three naves and a beautiful central column. We must suppose that in this epoch the Christian worship was practised under the Mozarabic rite up to the 11th century in which the Roman rite was imposed.

Duration

Due to the impressive of these mountains and valleys located in the limits between Cantabria and Burgos, the ideal for the correct accomplishment of this visit is to spend in these lands **a minimum of a complete day**. If the visit is combined with other activities in Merindades , the stay can get longer. It is better if you let us know the time you have, we will offer you a visit that suites your requirements.

Activities

- Walk along the most representative stone caves of the Cantabrian Mountains