

## MUSEUM ROUTE

**History, art and culture are kept alive and, in a way, hidden and expectant, behind the walls of the museums, preserving the treasures and secrets of this land and its dwellers throughout the centuries. This route leads visitors to the most important museums of the city. It proposes a quiet walk along what we once were, in the hope we shall be able to catch a glimpse of what we shall become.**

THE route starts at the Museo de Burgos, formerly known as the Museo Arqueológico Provincial. Its rooms take up two adjacent palaces, the Casa de los Miranda and the Casa de los Angulo. The museum consists of several sections containing the different artistic manifestations produced throughout the area's history. The archaeology section features Palaeolithic artefacts found in the Sierra de Atapuerca and Ojo Guareña, plus other objects found in the Iron Age necropolis of Miracheve, Ubierna and Villanueva de Teba, and the Roman vestiges of the town of Clunia.

The fine arts section features an important collection including items from the Mudejar art until today, such as the Frontal de Silos, an 11th century Spanish-Arabic trunk, or the sepulchre of Juan de Padilla, as well as paintings from the 15th and 16th centuries by Berruguete, Picardo and others. From the Baroque there are works by Rizzi, Palomino and Mateo Cerezo. Other works to be found in this section include medieval enamelled and ivory objects, as well as coins and medallions and other works by Burgos artists dating from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The next stop is the Museo Catedralicio, installed in the Capilla de San Juan Bautista, devoted to silverwork artefacts, and the Capilla de Santiago, featuring paintings and tapestries.

This is an imposing museum, due both to its collection and to the building that contains it. The Capilla de San Juan Bautista, dating from the 14th century and linked to the Capilla de Santiago in 1534 as a sacristy, shows a selection of liturgical silverwork objects: pyxes, processional crosses, reliquaries, silver amphorae and chalices, as well as a golden monstrance made of precious stones, enamel, ivory, etc.

On the other hand, the Capilla de Santiago contains paintings and tapestries, presided by the processional image of the Cristo atado a la columna (Christ tied to the pilaster), by Diego de Siloé. The chapel also contains the most representative paintings of the hundreds of canvasses and boards that have been brought into the cathedral since the Middle Ages until today.

Next to the paintings is a series of tapestries of the Bramante-Bruselas collection, made of wool and silk, dealing with biblical subjects, historical events and the theological and cardinal virtues. Most of them are Renaissance in style, and come from different episcopal donations.

On leaving the Cathedral, visitors walk up the old medieval town and reach the Iglesia de San Esteban, which holds the Museo del Retablo, one of the best altarpiece museums in the world.

It features works from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries brought in from different towns and villages of the province of Burgos, such as Cortiguera, Tosantos, Tañabueyes, Pesquera de Ebro and Castrillo Matajudíos, among others. It also contains important silverwork objects and paintings.

Next to this interesting museum stands the newly built Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos (CAB), holding the collection of this financial entity, consisting of more than 300 works by renowned contemporary

artists. It also features a varied exhibition programme concerned with contemporary art, with a special emphasis on new artistic trends.

The route ends at the Museo Marceliano Santa María, located along the Jacobean Route, in the old Monasterio de San Juan. This museum features an interesting selection of the different genres worked by the Burgos painter after whom the museum has been named, consisting of more than 200 pieces.