



Somewhere in paradise  
Under the brilliant sky  
Traveller, stop your journey  
In Cacabelos you have arrived!  
Poetess Dña. Manolita

Cacabelos is located in the heart of El Bierzo, in a picturesque valley in the province of León on the banks of the Cúa River, surrounded by mountains and a sea of vineyards.

Each one of its boroughs: **Arbobuena, Pieros, Quilos, San Clemente and Villabuena** has its own charm and appeal.

It is a territory steeped in history, as attested to by the Palaeolithic remains and its well-known forts, most notably **the Castro Ventosa**. The Jacobean Route runs along one of the most beautiful stretches in the Northwest.

### Civil Architecture

#### Cacabelos Bridge:

The bridge over the Cúa River dates back to Roman times. However, technical restrictions, the development of the town's urban fabric, the ravages of time and the actions of humans, and most especially the floods, all took their toll on the original structure. The bridge as we know it today, with its six ashlar vaults, is from the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries and one of the province's best preserved and most impressive monuments.



The famous battle of Cacabelos between the French and English troops took place in the vicinity of the bridge on 3 January 1809.

### Historical and Archaeological Heritage

#### The Archaeological Museum of Cacabelos M.AR.CA:



The Museum is located in the heart of Cacabelos and in the middle of the Way of St. James.

The facade of the building is characteristic of the architecture of the period, with a splendid wooden gallery in the upper part. It was built in 1892 as a home and converted to a winery in 1936. It was renovated in 2004 and converted to a museum in 2008. The Museum's permanent collection was created thanks to the initiative of a group of antique enthusiasts in 1964, with other important pieces coming from archaeological excavations of the Castro Ventosa and La Edrada sites.

It also conducts research and hosts temporary exhibitions and educational activities.



#### Castro Ventosa Archaeological Site:



Located in Pieros on a hill formed by the Cúa River at an altitude of 638 metres, it overlooks the vineyards of the El Bierzo valley. This site has traditionally been associated with the pre-Roman and Roman settlement of Bergida and the medieval city of Bergido or Ventosa.

The most monumental vestige of the Castro Ventosa site is the magnificent wall from the Low Roman Empire period, comparable to those of León, Lugo, Astorga or Braga. It was declared a Historic Monument in 1931, and a Cultural Heritage Asset (BIC) in 2006.

#### La Edrada Archaeological Site:

This Roman settlement, identified as Bergidum Flavium, a Roman mansion, is important not only because of its extension but precisely because it is the perfect historical-archaeological complement to Castro Ventosa, Cacabelos, and ultimately the history of the El Bierzo region. It was declared a Cultural Heritage Asset in 1994.



### The Way of St. James



The Way of St. James on the Via Augusta runs through the municipality for five kilometres. Along the way, travellers, tourists and pilgrims can enjoy one of the most charming and picturesque landscapes on the entire route.

Cacabelos was a way station in the Modern Age, known for the hospitality of its people and the services offered by the town, which is why Cacabelos is a fundamental point of reference on the modern-day French Way.

#### Municipal Pilgrims' Hostel:



A magnificent, modern hostel has been built near the place where the Santiago Hospital stood for many centuries and around the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows. Minimalist in style, with a capacity for 70 pilgrims, each room has 2 beds, making it one of the most luxurious on this section of the route, balancing the functionality of the guest rooms and other areas of the

hostel with respect for the natural environment and architecture.

Plaza del Santuario S/N Phone: 987 547 167

#### Hermitage of St. Roch:

The Hermitage of Vera Cruz was rebuilt in 1590 and following the deadly plague of 1599, the renovated structure was dedicated to St. Roch, the patron saint invoked against the plague. It currently houses a religious art collection.



#### Church of St. Martin of Pieros:



To visit this Romanesque church consecrated in 1086 by Bishop Osundo and linked to the Order of the Temple, we must exit the Way of St. James and enter Pieros. Much of the temple is from the 16th and 17th centuries, although parts of the perimeter walls, the north portal and the foundation stone are from the 11th century.

Some of the most interesting aspects include its altarpieces, imagery and paintings, especially the "Child Jesus playing

#### St. Mary's Church:

The Romanesque apse is the only thing that remains from the ancient St. Mary's Church built in the year 1108, having been almost entirely rebuilt in the 16th century. Subsequently, it underwent major renovations such as the construction of a new neo-Romanesque tower in 1904.



#### Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows:

You'll find the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows as you leave the town, just after the Puente Mayor and the Puente de los Molinos. It was built in the 18th century in honour of Our Lady of the Fifth Sorrow, the patron saint of the municipality.



Some of the most interesting aspects include its altarpieces, imagery and paintings, especially the "Child Jesus playing



### Festivals and Gastronomy

If there is anything that defines Cacabelos it is the hardworking, hospitable and festive nature of its people, who can always find a reason to celebrate.



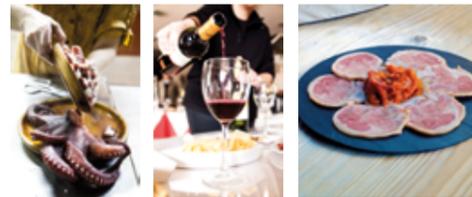
The festivities in honour of the patron saint, Our Lady of the Fifth Sorrow, takes place at Easter.

The annual wine festivals, the May Cross festival and the Feast of St. Michael all draw large crowds, as do the historical recreations of the Roman "Ludus Bergidum Flavium" and the Battle of Cacabelos.

Cacabelos offers a vast assortment of high-quality regional products bearing the Denomination of Origin, Protected Geographical Indication and Guarantee Mark, including roasted peppers, botillo (pork sausage) Reineta apples, Conference pears, Bierzo chestnuts, Bierzo cherries, and of course, the wines of Bierzo made from the Mencía grape variety.



We recommend you try the Galician style octopus (pulpo a feira) an immensely popular and traditional dish served in restaurants, taverns and at the monthly fairs on the 9th and 26th, where the octopus vendors sell irresistible octopus tapas from their stalls.



At the cafes, bars, wine cellars and taverns in town you can sample all kinds of snacks and tapas. Here, the "wine crawl" is a local, time-honoured tradition.

### Wine Culture



Winemaking was already an important part of life in Cacabelos 2000 years ago. The Romans cultivated grapes and the expansion of this practice was linked to the development of the medieval monasteries, so wine has played a key role in the economic and cultural life of the municipality for centuries.

Cacabelos is the birthplace of the most renowned wineries in Bierzo. The first and largest of the Bierzo wine cooperatives started here. Cacabelos has been the headquarters of the Bierzo Denomination of Origin Regulatory Council since 1989.

It is also a founding member of Enoturismo en el Bierzo (Bierzo Wine Tourism) <https://bierzoenoturismo.com/> and has been a member of Acevin (Association of Spanish Wine Cities) for more than 20 years.



#### Where to buy wine:



**Bodegas Cuatro Pasos**  
Phone: 987 548 089  
Website: [www.cuatropasos.es](http://www.cuatropasos.es)  
Wine tourism: 987548089

**Bodegas y viñedos Luna Beberide, S.L**  
Phone: 987 549 002 / 605 723 551  
Website: [www.lunabeberide.es](http://www.lunabeberide.es)

**Ribas del Cúa, S.A**  
Phone: 987 971 017  
Website: [www.ribasdelcua.com](http://www.ribasdelcua.com)

**Vinos Guerra- Vinos del Bierzo, S.COOP**  
Phone: 987 546 150  
Website: [www.vinosguerra.com](http://www.vinosguerra.com)

**Bodegas y viñedos Gancedo, S.L**  
Phone: 987 134 980 / 673 265 953  
Website: [www.bodegasgancedo.com](http://www.bodegasgancedo.com)  
Wine tourism: 987134980

**Soto del Vicario**  
Phone: 670 983 534  
Website: [www.pagodelvicario.com/sotodelvicario](http://www.pagodelvicario.com/sotodelvicario)

**Moncloa de San Lázaro (tienda)**  
Phone: 987546101  
Website: [www.moncloadesanlazaro.com/pallosa-tienda/](http://www.moncloadesanlazaro.com/pallosa-tienda/)

**Bodegas Godelia, SL**  
Phone: 987 546 279  
Website: [www.godelia.es](http://www.godelia.es)  
Wine tourism: 987546279

**Bodegas y viñedos Bergidenses, S.A.T**  
Phone: 987 546 725 / 606 503 203  
Website: [www.bergidenses.com](http://www.bergidenses.com)

**Losada vinos de finca S.A**  
Phone: 987 548 053  
Website: [www.losadavinosenfinca.com](http://www.losadavinosenfinca.com)  
Wine tourism: 987548053

**Teijón San Miguel, S.I**  
Phone: 641 230 901 / 676 169 539  
Website: [www.primusbergidum.com](http://www.primusbergidum.com)

#### Helpful Telephone Numbers

Cacabelos Town Hall	<b>987546011</b>
Municipal Tourism Office	<b>987546993</b>
Municipal Pilgrims Hostel	<b>987547167</b>
Call Centre	<b>987107676</b>
Health Centre	<b>987549262</b>
Post Office	<b>987546228</b>
Taxi	<b>987546300</b>
Local Police	<b>670809263 - 987546011</b>
Civil Guard	<b>987546014</b>



AYUNTAMIENTO DE CACABELOS  
CONCEJALÍA DE TURISMO

