

## The Romanesque of Oja

Follow the course of the Oja river and you will discover the other great concentration of the Riojan Romanesque. You can begin in **Casalarreina**, seeing the chapel of **San Román de Ajugarte**. It is worthwhile to stop and see the Romanesque triumphal arch of the **Magdalene of Baños de Rioja**, and the parish church of **Villalobar de Rioja**.



Chapel of the Asunción in Santasensio de los Cantos

Very nearby we have **Santa María de la Antigua in Bañares**, with a precious façade from the 13th century, where we see an epiphany in the tympanum and a monogram of Christ in the lintel, which is a motif that is seen extensively along the St. James's Way.

After **Santo Domingo** is **Santasensio de los Cantos**, which is where the chapel of the Asunción and its polygonal apse are located. We follow the road to **Ojacastro** and **Ezcaray**, where you will see the original Romanesque towers attached to the churches. In **Zorraquín**, be sure to see the magnificent capitals. We finish the route with this jewel, the church of **Tres Fuentes in Valgañón**. In this same town, you can contemplate the Romanesque Christ, called "Christ of Bañares".



Santa María de la Antigua in Bañares



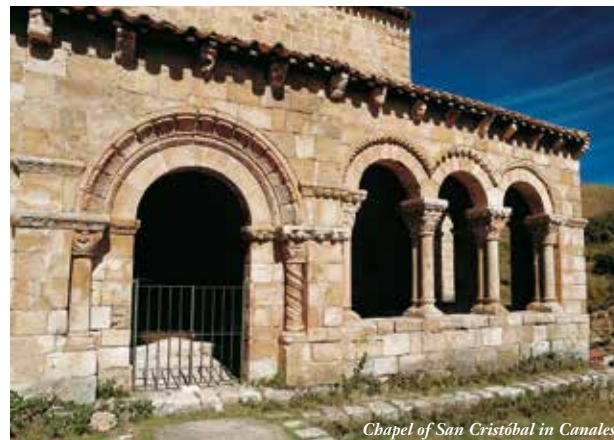
Decorated modillions in Bañares



Fresco mural paintings in Tricio

Many temples were decorated with **fresco mural paintings**, such as the ones that you can see at San Esteban de Viguera or **Santa María de Arcos in Tricio**.

In **San Millán de la Cogolla**, you will see a Romanesque expansion of the original Mozarabic **Monastery of Suso**, covered with barrel vaults and separated by thick columns with capitals of a very original Romanesque style. The **grave of Saint Emilianus**, made out of alabaster, is an exceptional Spanish Romanesque work. Two chests are kept at the **Monastery of Yuso**: the Saint Emilianus chest is decorated with ivory plates with scenes of the saint's life, and that of **Saint Felices** holds relics of this saint from Bilibio, who was a master from San Millán.



Chapel of San Cristóbal in Canales

Our route ends in the high Najerilla, where you can see the magnificent sculpture of the **Virgin of Valvanera**, the patroness of La Rioja, the **Church of the Asunción** with horseshoe arches from **Villavelayo**, and the precious chapel of San Cristóbal in **Canales de la Sierra**, set deep in beautiful scenery, with a closed portico decorated with capitals.



[www.lariojatourismo.com](http://www.lariojatourismo.com)

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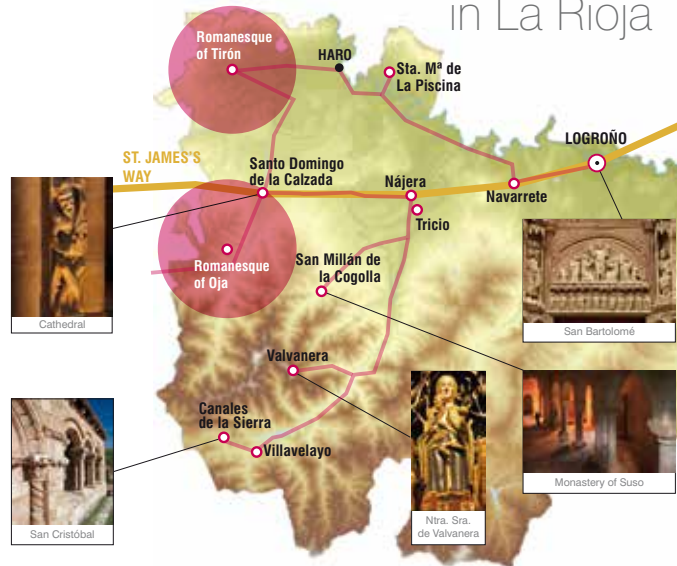
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# Romanesque Routes in La Rioja



In the 10th century, the kings of Pamplona established their court in Nájera and channeled the **St. James's Way** through Riojan territory. From then on, the Romanesque flourished in the area: monasteries, churches, chapels, sculptures... Visit them!

We will begin our route in the old town area of **Logroño**, visiting the late-Romanesque church of **San Bartolomé**. Its chancel is decorated with



Romanesque façade of San Bartolomé. Logroño



Romanesque façade of San Juan de Acre in Navarre



The Chapel of Holy Mary of the Pool (Santa María de la Piscina) in Peciña

a checkerboard, which is typical of Jacobean churches. We follow the St. James's Way until arriving in **Navarrete**, where you will see a good Romanesque façade, which is on the **pilgrim hospital of San Juan de Acre**, currently the cemetery gate. In its arches, you can observe the carving of saw teeth that have Norman influence, and precious historiated capitals with quite peculiar scenes, such as the lunch of the pilgrims on a hill on the road to Compostela, or Saint George killing the dragon.

Continuing towards the north and the other side of the Ebro, in **Peciña**, near San Vicente de la Sonsierra, you will see a Romanesque jewel: **The Chapel of Holy Mary of the Pool**, built in 1136 by the Infante, Sr. Ramiro, the grandson of the Navarre king, García of Nájera, in remembrance of her participation in the Crusades and her entrance into Jerusalem through the Healing Pool. Next to the temple, you can observe a medieval burial ground with anthropomorphic tombs dug out in rock.

## The Romanesque of Tirón

From **Haro**, it is worthwhile to visit the different towns of the Tirón River where there is a remarkable amount of preserved Romanesque monuments. They are structures with a flat or semicircular chancel, large windows and façades with semicircular arches and bell towers attached to the structure.

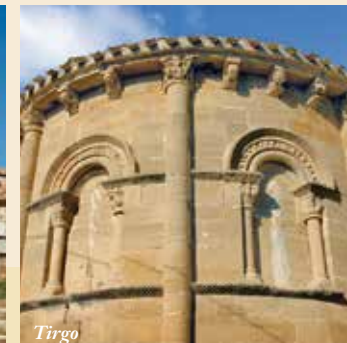
You can begin the route in **Ciburi**, with its Roman bridge that was redone in the Middle Ages. Very nearby is **Tirgo** and its beautiful Church of El Salvador, with a semicircular apse and a façade decorated with geometric and plant motifs. We continue our route visiting Our Lady of Sorejana in **Cuzcurruta** and in **Ochánduri**, the beautiful bell gable of the Legarda chapel and the parish church.

We continue toward the north to see the Concepción ruins and the lovely capitals of the Chapel of Our Lady of Junquera in **Treviana**, the semicircular apse with three windows of the Church of San Martín de **Fonzaleche** and the remains of the Romanesque temple of Arcefoncea in **Foncea**.

You will enjoy extraordinary views at the foot of the Obarenes mountains in **Cellorigo**, where the Church and Chapel of Holy Mary of the Barrio are located. In **Galbarruli**, you will see the Church of San Esteban, from the late Romanesque period of the 12th and 13th centuries, and in **Villaseca** and **Castilseco**, the churches with precious corbels and capitals. In **Sajazarra**, you can finish the route by visiting the Church of the Ascensión and the Chapel of Holy Mary of Cillas, which is 13th century Romanesque.



Castilseco



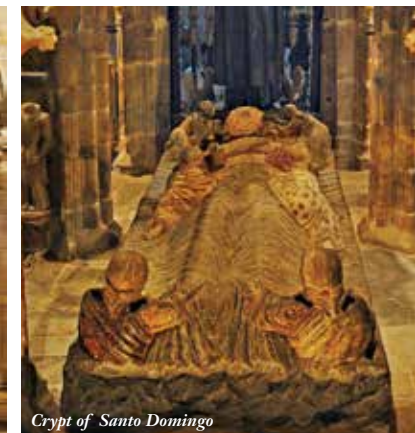
Tirgo



The greatest example of Romanesque architecture in La Rioja can be found at the **Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada**, which is a pilgrimage church with an ambulatory and Latin cross design. The semicircular apse and the capitals in the chancel area, along with the recent sculptural discoveries in the main altar, comprise the best Romanesque models. The **grave of Saint Dominic** is also preserved, which is a good example of Romanesque funerary art.



Romanesque chapel in the Cathedral



Crypt of Santo Domingo

In **Santa María la Real de Nájera**, be sure to see the graves of Garcilaso de la Vega and **Lady Blanca de Navarra** in which evangelical motifs are depicted, as well as the queen's funeral. **The image of Holy Mary** is the object of great devotion, having been found by King García in a cave, which is still preserved today in the monastery.



Grave of Lady Blanca de Navarra in Nájera