

Location

Boadilla is located on the Eastern edge of **Tierra de Campos**; the great Castilian steppe, with its cereal fields and its gentle unevenness's, here it is produced an interesting cross between the ways of faith and reason. The former ones are **Saint Jacques way** and the **Lebaniego way** and the latter one is the **Castile channel**, a huge project of the Enlightenment era that tears in two Castilian landscape and it is starting to be properly valued.



History

The first historical event in Boadilla is the **Fuero de Melgar de Suso** (6-IX-950) after being repopulated by **Fernán Armentález**, vassal of Fernán González, the legendary count that achieved the Independence of Castile from the kingdom of León.



The best epoch happens in the XV-XVI centuries, when "el Rollo", the current Church and the Pilgrims' hospital were built.

At the end of the 15th century outstands the figure of **Antonio de Rojas**, Bishop of Mallorca, Palencia and León stands out; Archbishop of Granada, The first Patriarch of the Indies and President of the Royal Council of Castile during the reign of Carlos I.

Another important man from the 16th century, was **Nicolás de Bobadilla**, who was one of the main founders of Jesuits Order and stood out for his defense of the ideas of the Counter-Reformation about the propriety of lands that came from Germany and Italy.

El Rollo

It was erected in the **fifteenth century** as a symbol of the jurisdictional autonomy that was awarded to the village by King Henry IV through an exemption letter (1467) and as a sign of the prosperity that the people enjoyed.



It was saved from the demolition decreed by Cádiz government in 1813, since it was not a symbol of vassalage but quite the opposite.

Pilgrim shells are included in its decoration and undoubtedly, it's the best representative of this kind of monuments.

The Old Hospital

It was founded by **Antonio de Rojas** at the beginning of the 16th century to provide shelter and refuge for pilgrims to Compostela. Nowadays it is a private property

Church

Dedicated to Santa María de la Asunción, the current church was rebuilt from an older one, Romanesque, and from which there are some remains left at the base of the bell tower and in a **baptismal font** decorated with ten columns.



In the **main altarpiece** there are pieces of art by **Juan de Cambray**, **Pedro de Flandes** and **Juan de Villoldo**, all of them belong to **Berruguete School**.

There are also examples of this school on a side altar, with heads to an Ecce homo, a beautiful artwork of a Christ tied to the column, that was moved to this church when the other ones that the village owned, were abandoned. The same happened with the **Christ of St. Michael**, a magnificent calvary sculpture in Gothic style.

The road to Santiago



Since the 10th century, when the Christian-Muslim border was fixed at the river Duero, pilgrims stopped using the northern paths to go to Santiago, and took a more comfortable route: the French way.

The path spreads from Itero de la Vega, through the old fountain and the Justice Rollo, to Frómista, along the Main Street.

The Lebaniego way



In 1512 Pope Julius II established a jubilee on the years when Sto. Toribio festivity is on Sundays. Then a lot of pilgrims came to Sto. Toribio de Liébana, in order to contemplate the biggest fragment of Lignum Crucis in Christian World. The way goes next to Castile Channel from Frómista towards Requena de Campos.

Eurovelo routes



Routes 1 of the Atlantic Coast and 3 of the Pilgrims of this European cyclotourist network pass through Boadilla del Camino following the same route as the Camino de Santiago.

The Castile Canal

In the XVI century it was thought to provide Castile with a navigable waterway, its construction began, under the lead of Ensenada Marquis, in 1753; navigation started on December 14th, 1849. It is divided in three branches: Campos, southern and northern one, the latter was built between 1759 and 1804 and goes along Boadilla.

From Boadilla to Frómista, several of the typical infrastructures of the canal, can be seen: locks to save the unevenness (there are 49 on the whole, from which 24 are in this branch, and Boadilla's branch is the number 16); there are also bridges; aqueducts that save other



channels; coffers, booths that were used to regulate the flow of irrigation water and, of course, houses and warehouses. In the past there were also mills that are in ruins in this branch and even a hydroelectric plant that has been reconstructed.

We can also find a Site of Community importance (SCI). Where all the lagoons associated are also considered SCI, besides, they are also considered special interest areas for birds. In all these areas we can find a lot of ducks, herons, birds raptors, and even great bustards.

It is possible to sail on the boat Juan de Homar that travels from Boadilla to Frómista

Other places of interest

Old Fountain. This covered well is the first thing pilgrims see when they arrive; water is taken from the well by a wheel mechanism. Next to it, there is a statue devoted to pilgrims, made by the local sculptor Carlos Mediavilla. There is also a rest area surrounding the place.

Laundry rooms. There are some laundry rooms next to the Old Fountain, They have been recently built but they are still a true ethnographic example of the ways of life of older times. They are decorated with wall paintings from *Espacio Matrioska*.

Dovecotes. Typical building from Tierra de Campos, they are as useful as curious. In Boadilla there are generally square floor dovecotes. The internal structure can be seen in some of them, which unfortunately are in ruins.

Surroundings

A few kilometres away we can find Frómista, Santoyo and Támara de Campos. Their churches deserve to pay a visit.