

Detail of the last arch of the Aqueduct at the Plaza del Avendaño.

Where exactly this change occurred is unknown; it is supposed that this area would have housed a "castelum aquae" from which the Aqueduct probably continued underground.

Once it has passed through the *Plaza del Seminario*, the channel reaches the *Plaza de la Reina Doña Juana* [Queen *Doña Juana* square], formerly known as *Plaza de las Arquetas* [*Arquetas* square] probably due to the records which it must have housed. The route then crosses *Ildefonso Rodríguez* street, *Colón*, *Plazuela de la Rubia* and *Cronista Lecea* street, following which we arrive at the Main Square, this being likewise crossed diagonally until continuing down *Marqués del Arco* street. Then it traverses the Plaza de la Merced [La Merced square] and *Daoíz* street and, after passing through the last known sandtrap, at the entrance of the *Alcázar* Gardens, in the *Plaza de Juan Guas* [Juan Guas square], it reaches the *Alcázar,* where the known channel ends.

The signposted itinerary of the subterranean Aqueduct is the result of several preventive archaeological measures related to the renovation of various infrastructures from the year 2002 to the present day.

Arches of the Aqueduct illuminated at night.



Signposting and Restoration of Segovia's Aqueduct

The itineraries named ***"El Acueducto Soterrado"*** [The Subterranean Aqueduct] and ***"SENDA DEL ACUEDUCTO. Trazado extraurbano"*** [The Aqueduct's Path. Outside the walled city] are part of the Project entitled ***Señalización y Acondicionamiento del Trazado del Acueducto de Segovia*** [Signposting and Restoration of the Layout of Segovia's Aqueduct], which covers this hydraulic masterpiece from its very beginning, in the *La Acebeda* Valley until the city of Segovia, and its mother channel until the *Alcázar*. The Project is 50% financed by the EEA (European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and the Town Hall of Segovia.

Apart from these publications, the brochure "***El Acueducto de Segovia, Patrimonio de la Humanidad***" [The Aqueduct of Segovia, World Heritage Monument] focuses on its monumental worth not to mention its overview of this magnificent work of engineering. All the information is available in the Tourism Information Offices of the *Empresa Municipal de Turismo de Segovia* and on the webpage www.turismodesegovia.com.

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SEGOVIA
THE SUBTERRANEAN AQUEDUCT

The water path in the walled city



Twenty four bronze plaques mark the subterranean channel of the Aqueduct between the Plaza del Seminario and the entrance to the Alcázar.

The Subterranean Aqueduct

Segovia's Aqueduct is a magnificent work of Roman engineering which inspires awe in all those who contemplate it.

It was declared a National Monument on the 20th October 1884, and added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on the 6th December 1985.

Its visible layout across the city is well known: its 167 majestic arches are a symbol of the city. However, its hidden route —which supplied the entire city with water through a special "specus" [the covered channel in which water used to flow]— is not such common knowledge. This underground channel was already known in the Middle Ages as the "Madre del Agua" [the mother of water].

With the aim of raising awareness of this subterranean section, an itinerary with other patrimonial attractions has been drawn up.

Twenty four 10x15 cm bronze plaques with the Aqueduct logo, inserted into the pavement and coinciding exactly with the channel will guide tourists along a curious route, a route which will invite them to enhance their knowledge of this impressive piece which, for more than 2,000 years now, has made life possible on this rocky outcrop and has fulfilled until the first third of the 20th century the purpose for which it was created.

Appearance of the interior part of the Aqueduct's subterranean channel as it passes through the Main Square.

The itinerary starts at the *Postigo del Consuelo* [*Consuelo* wicket] and changes course to finish at the *Plaza del Seminario* [Seminary square], where the overground stretch of the Aqueduct ends and the subterranean section starts.



Points of interest around the signposting plaques

Plaque 1. *Seminary* Square / beginning of *Domingo de Soto* Street

In its surroundings we find the *Postigo del Consuelo* [the consolation shutter], from where the visitor can enjoy one of the best views of the monumental part of the Aqueduct.

Church and Convent of *La Compañía de Jesús* (Bishopric and Seminary). End of the 16th century. They follow the Jesuit model which defines the Gesú Church, in Rome.

Plaque 3. - *Reina Doña Juana* Square / beginning of *Cronista Ildefonso Rodríguez* Street

Plaque 4. *Cronista Ildefonso Rodríguez* Street

Plaque 5. *Cronista Ildefonso Rodríguez* Street at the junction with *Dr. Laguna* Square

Plaque 6. At the junction between *Los Huertos* Square and *Dr. Laguna* Square

Dr. Laguna Square, presided over by a statue of the famous figure after whom it takes its name.

Plaque 7. Corner of *Los Huertos* Square and *Colón* Street

Arias Dávila Tower. 15th century. Palace of the *Arias Dávila* family. Tower covered with different sgraffito motifs. Original coffered ceilings conserved.

Plaque 8. *Colón* Street (by the entrance to the Public Tax Administration Office)

Plaque 9. *Colón* Street

Plaque 10. *La Rubia* Street

Plaque 11. *Cronista Lecea* Street at its junction with *Herrería* and *Cabritería* Streets

Plaque 12. End of *Cronista Lecea* Street / beginning of the Main Square

San Miguel Church. 16th century (1558). This temple replaced another which collapsed in 1532 and which used to occupy the centre of the Main Square, in whose gallery Queen Isabella I of Castile was crowned in 1474.

Plaque 13. Main Square

Juan Bravo Theatre. It dates back 1917, but it was inaugurated on the 26th october 1918. In front of the theatre, we can see the statue of Antonio Machado holding in his hands a copy of his work "Fields of Castile".



Plaque 14. Main Square (after the bandstand)

Town Hall. Work by Pedro de Brizuela which follows the Herrerian school characterised by Classicist, Mannerist and Baroque tendencies. In the year 1611 he drafted the design and construction both for this building and the Main Square.

Plaque 15. Main Square

Plaque 16. Beginning of *Marqués del Arco* Street

Cathedral of *Nuestra Señora de La Asunción y de San Frutos*. Building was started in 1525 following Juan Gil de Hontañón's design. It was consecrated in 1768. As the former Santa María Cathedral was destroyed in 1520 during the War of the Communities, and due to its proximity to the *Alcázar*, the cloister, work by Juan Guas, and other elements were transferred here, where the Cathedral currently stands.

Plaque 17. Opposite number 20 on *Marqués del Arco* Street

Plaque 18. *Marqués del Arco* Street (opposite the beginning of *Los Desamparados* Street)

In number 5 at *Los Desamparados* street, the tourist can find the Antonio Machado House-Museum, in the guesthouse in which the poet lived from 1919 to 1931.

Plaque 19. Corner of *La Merced* Square and *Marqués del Arco* Street

San José Convent. 16th-17th centuries. Founded by Santa Teresa de Jesús on the 19th March 1574. Barefoot Carmelite Convent, where Santa Teresa de Jesús wrote her book "Las Moradas".

Plaque 20. Opposite number 2 *Daoíz* Street

San Andrés Church. 12th century. From the 12th century, the canons of the former *Santa María* Cathedral, located opposite the *Alcázar*, had at their disposal their own quarter in which they erected their dwellings, the so called *La Claustra* [the cloister] or *Canonjías* [canonry]. It used to occupy the area formed between the *San Andrés* Church and the *Alcázar* and it was delimited by the city wall on both sides. The houses were arranged along its streets (nowadays *Daoíz* and *Velarde*) and the area could be accessed by three gates of which one may still be seen, the *Puerta de la Claustra*, on *Velarde* street. The channel of the Aqueduct passes under *Daoíz* street on its way to the *Alcázar*, hence why the houses on this street enjoyed running water. The Canonry district is considered one of the most important complexes of Romanesque Civil architecture in Europe.

Plaque 21. *Daoíz* Street (opposite *Las Canonjías* Street)

Plaque 22. Between numbers 19 and 21 of *Daoíz* Street

Plaque 23. *Plazuela de Juan Guas* [*Juan Guas* square]

Plaque 24. *Reina Victoria Eugenia* Square (before the entrance bridge to the *Alcázar*)

Monument to Daoíz and Velarde. In what is like an anteroom to the *Alcázar* we find the monument to the heroes of the 2nd May 1808 situated in the gardens of the *Reina Victoria Eugenia* Square.

Alcázar. The oldest record of the *Alcázar* of Segovia is a document dating from 1122 which mentions the fortress as a fort upon the Eresma. Even though it is possible that some kind of Celtiberian or Roman fortified building existed previously, no significant architectural remains prior to the age of Alphonse VIII have been conserved.

Casa de la Química [Chemistry School]. End of the 18th century. Royal Chemistry Laboratory of Segovia. Louis Proust, its director, developed here the "Law of the Defined Proportions".