

Its natural heritage is one of the hallmarks of **Castilla y León**. Its diverse landscapes, extending over more than 94,000 km², are home to some of the highest biodiversity rates in Europe. The presence of **360 species of vertebrates** is a good indicator for an area with around 26% of its natural area under protection, ensuring its long-term conservation.

Castilla y León is a leader in rural tourism in Spain and a benchmark for the sector. This prominent po-

sition allows new tourism offers to be embarked upon that satisfy the interests of those who visit our rural environment. It is in this way that this ornithological tourism project has developed, enabling the visitor to get close to the region's birdlife, natural landscapes and other species of wildlife.

You can enjoy bird watching activities in complete peace and comfort, as there are many hides and other types of infrastructure in place for this purpose.

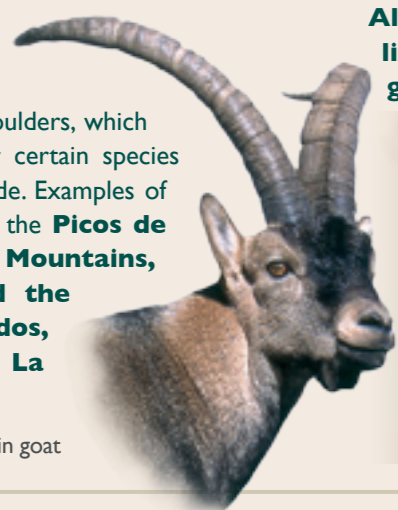
Highlands



Aquilanos Mountains, León

The extreme climatic conditions result in a landscape with little woodland, characterised by open spaces. The landscape is mostly covered with thickets and low-lying bushes, interspersed with alpine wasteland, rocks and boulders, which provides adequate shelter for certain species adapted to living at high altitude. Examples of this environment are found in the **Picos de Europa, León-Sanabria Mountains, Montaña Palentina, and the mountain ranges of Gredos, Urbión, Guadarrama and La Demanda.**

Some typical species found in these areas are: **wallcreepers, yellow-billed chough, snowfinch, Alpine accentor, brown partridge, Iberian rock lizard, snow vole, Iberian wolf and mountain goat.**



Mountain goat

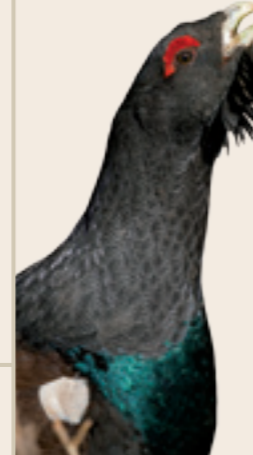


Alpine Accentor



Picos de Europa in Castilla y León Regional Park, León

Atlantic forest



Capercaillie

The typical landscape of the Cantabrian Mountains, and the northernmost part of Castilla y León includes beech, birch, oak and deciduous forests. **Ancares, Babia, Picos de Europa, La Demanda and Montaña Palentina** are some of the Natural Areas home to a magnificent range of these forests.

Some of the typical species are: **honey buzzard, Cantabrian wood grouse, black woodpecker, red-backed shrike, Bocage's wall lizard, Iberian cross adder, pine marten, brown bear and grey dormouse.**



Brown Bear



Arribes del Duero Natural Park, Zamora

Rocks and hillsides

Rocks and crags, close to rivers or not, rocky hillsides, pits and scree; living rocky habitats. The different stretches of river in the Region are deep-set, forming long canyons. **Hoces del Riaza, Duratón, Río Lobos, Huebra, Rudrón, Ebro,** and **Arribes del Duero** are stunning places of natural beauty, home to a large number of species.

Typical species include: **black stork, Egyptian vulture, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Alpine swift, rock lizard, mountain bat and mountain goat.**



Bonelli's Eagle

Mediterranean forest



La Moraña region, Ávila

Historically large, extending right across Castilla y León, today this habitat has been reduced by human occupation. Nevertheless, there some significant areas remain of this star of Iberian forests. There are considerable pine forests in the countryside of **Salamanca, Las Batuecas, Tábara, Montes Torozos and Sayago.**

Typical species include: **black-winged kite, black vulture, short-toed eagle, booted eagle, European roller, Western orphee warbler, ladder snake, Iberian midwife toad, Mediterranean horseshoe bat, stone marten, small spotted genet and Iberian lynx.**



Genet



Castilla y León *is life*



Junta de Castilla y León



Black Vulture

Rivers and riversides

Rivers flow through the Region like arteries, providing a rich and diverse habitat for a large number of animal and plant species. The coppices alongside this network of rivers and streams is a privileged habitat for local fauna. **Elm, poplar, willow, ash...** these trees provide a heavenly gallery forest, particularly attractive for birds.

Typical species include: **black-crowned night heron, turtle dove, eurasian penduline tit, golden oriole, white-throated dipper, little egret, Iberian desman, otter and European mink.**



Carrión river, Palencia



Little Egrette



Otter

Castilla y León



The vast and highly diverse, region of **Castilla y León** is an exceptional location for bird watching in the Iberian Peninsula. From the vast plains of the interior to its high mountain peaks, a multitude of different habitats can be found with a rich and varied birdlife. Around **361 species of birds** have been recorded and of the 266 species that nest in Spain, 218 can be found in this region.

Castilla y León is the Spanish region with the greatest representation in the European ecological network Natura 2000 Network, with 18,94% of the total.

Singular lakes

Lakes, lagoons, ponds, pools and watering holes are known as singular lakes, characterised as shallow, seasonal closed bodies of water, often with high salinity. **La Laguna de la Nava** or the **Lagunas de Villafáfila** are key examples of this type of ecosystem.



Cranes



Lagunas de Villafáfila Natural Reserve, Zamora

Typical species include: **common greylag goose, Eurasian teal, shoveler, crane, black-winged stilt, pied avocet and natterjack toad.**

Common Toad



Villages and towns

Throughout Castilla y León there is an infinity of urban areas, of differing sizes, which provide interesting habitats for birds and other animals. **Buildings, walls, towers, lofts and rooftops** are the ideal place for a large number of species

Typical species include: **white stork, common kestrel, barn owl, common swift, black redstart, Iberian wall lizard, gecko, common pipitrelle and grey long-eared bat.**



Sierra de Gata, Salamanca



CASTILLA Y LEÓN



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