



Rascafría and The Paular Valley are some of the most beautiful countryside in the Guadarrama mountain range and the Madrid region. The landscape opened before your eyes is the result of the daily hard work which during centuries, allowed to the inhabitants to live, making use of the natural resources respectfully. Due to this work, the valley is surrounded by paths, routes, cattle tracks, and other features that take us deep into the hills, with breathtaking scenery.

As you travel through the paths, you can reach particularly beautiful places like the Oak Forest viewpoint, natural watchtower which allows you to contemplate the magnificence of the Lozoya Valley. On top, Peñalara, the rock massif provides the Alpine feel, incorporating some more areas of Guadarrama, and it is clear to see why it is protected as a National Park.

Historical tracks, such as "El Egido", between Rascafría and Oteruelo, let us understand how meadows have been used, like ashes lands enclosed by endless stone walls, allowing cattle to graze, embracing a rich fauna. Other paths used for ever, will get us into the deep pine forests and very diverse forests, where yews, birches, sorbes, etc. share the area with the wild pine, creating a distinctive forest mass in the Madrid region. Here the black vulture is lord, with a large wingspan, this bird of prey inhabits the Guadarrama mountain range, in the largest colony of Madrid.

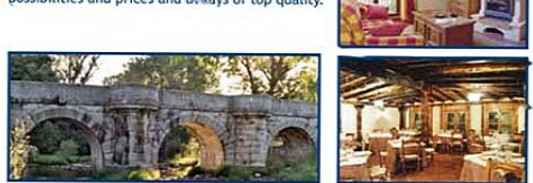
But, with no doubt, water is one of the elements that give a special identity to the valley. Countless streams flow down the steep hillsides, becoming astonishing waterfalls. These currents shape a dense group of watercourses, which join in the Lozoya River. This river is a core of the valley and is undoubtedly, the most important one of the Madrid region. In addition to its value as a water source, it has a one-of-a-kind conservation status, where trout, otters, blackbirds and other countless animals seek shelter.

In this valley snow plays a key role during winter. Summits remain snow-capped for months, and on top of being the essential source of water, let us enjoy like nowhere else in Madrid of sport and contact with the snow. Definitely, Rascafría is a memorable place.

Rascafría is more than just nature. It is art and culture, and owns a rich historic and artistic patrimony, where the most representative example is the Santa María de The Paular Monastery. It is an Architectonic jewel and was an economic driver during past centuries which has left an indelible trace in the valley and beyond. Within the town centre, there are many places to visit like the San Andres Apostol Church built in the 15th century, with its more than 20 meters high tower. But, besides the monumental elements, we must travel through the streets to become immersed in the traditional architecture that takes us back to ages gone-by and remind us the residents way of life, deeply bound with agriculture and cattle farming. As well as, in Oteruelo, you can enjoy of Luis Feito Gallery, where part of the work of this famous contemporary painter, has given up to Rascafría town, is displayed.

But, if the historic patrimony is rich, gastronomy is no less. Numerous restaurant and hotels offer us traditional cuisine, where seasonal products, special Origin meats, local mushrooms, game, etc. are the essence of country fare. Our offer ranges from the most traditional home-made dishes to most innovative high-cuisine dishes with speciality products.

In addition, Rascafría offers a wide and varied accommodation so you can enjoy a fabulous leisure experience. Hotels, hostels and rural accommodation are some of a great range of possibilities and prices and always of top quality.



## Rascafría, events to enjoy

Besides the landscape, the surrounding, its routes, Rascafría is a town to share. Living the parties with its inhabitants is the best way to know them, and for it, nothing like melting in the celebrations or sharing their costumes and cultures.

December - January	Christmas Gastronomic and intercultural festival ( sweets from all around the world made by Rascafría's neighbours), Christmas songs competition, concerts in San Andres Church and The Paular Monastery, The Three Wise men Grand Parade.
January 24th	Virgen de la Paz (Virgin of the Peace). Oteruelo Mass. Procession. Snack. Folk music.
February	Carnival Celebration of Carnival Tuesday with a horse race. Dinner in groups of the same age.
April 25th	Saint Marcos Mass. Family celebration. Typical food with fried young goat and pig-killing products.
May 15th	Saint Isidro Farmer Mass. Procession in honour of the saint with decorated yokes and farmers wearing traditional clothing like ages ago. Dancing. This event is organised by The Rancher and Farmer Association of Rascafría.
From August 15th- 21st	Virgen de Gracia y San Roque (Virgin of Gracia and Saint Roque). Festivities. Children's day with performances and competitions. Giants Parade. Sport competitions, music bands and orchestra. Popular lunch. Culture activities: competitions, exhibitions, paintings.
October 2nd	Virgin of the Rosario (Oteruelo del Valle) Mass. Procession. Traditional dances.
November 30th	Saint Andrew Hot chocolate. Mass. Procession. Traditional lunch.

The Blue Path is an urban track and allows us to discover one of the most peaceful and less visited areas in Rascafría. A pleasant walk next to The Artiñuelo River, which follows its bank.

This circular footpath begins at the "Town square", which must be left through Maria Miñambres side Street, just besides the fronton tennis court, deeply rooted in the people, which also works like a "Summer Open Air Cinema". We will cross over the river by "Manola's Bridge" a recently built pedestrian footbridge that invites to sit down to gaze and admire the babbling stream. All along this section, some of the most characteristic houses look over the river, where the small windows stand out, made to avoid cold and dampness.

The abundant vegetation hides some of the most special elements of this path, such as Pericotón Bridge, the footbridges or the walking cantilever section. This part is illuminated at night, producing a magical ambience, where water murmurs and little bird voices make it one of the most attractive spots in Rascafría.

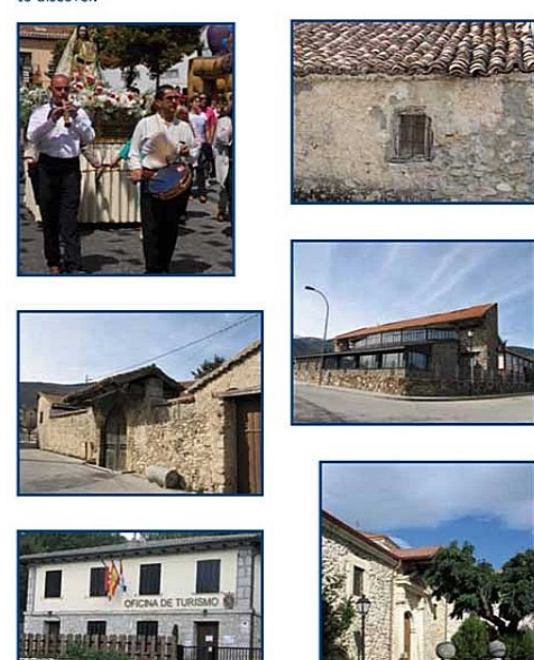
Next, we will go down to the outskirts, where hay lofts, stables, and vegetable gardens are arranged in the Cascajales Area. Here buildings are replaced by fields allowing us to see the majesty of Peñalara, dominating The Paular Valley and its prominence over The Carpetanos Hills. This section has recently been landscaped creating a space for walking and resting.

At the end of The Cascajales Area, we will find The Natural Path, this route goes all along the Lozoya Valley, from The Forgiveness Bridge to El Cuadrón. From here, we can go up the Lozoya river to reach, in a comfortable circular path to The Batanes Meadow, within less than 2 kms of the historic-artistic Santa María de The Paular Monastery.

After crossing the river, we will ascend the Artiñuelo by its other bank to return to the town centre, to reach "The Spain square", where a tilia replaces the legendary Elm, a centenarian tree which held a special place in the heart and soul of the town. A place for meeting, chatting and socialising. It was the protagonist of legends like The Tuerto Pirón. The Elm was crushed by the snow, not many years ago.



In Rascafría there are more things to see. Hay lofts and historic houses combine perfectly with nowadays buildings, drawing a mosaic full of spots to discover.



# Tours in Rascafría

Blue path  
Urban route by the Artiñuelo shore



## How to get

To get to Rascafría there are several choices:

By Car:

- From A1, taking in Lozoyuela (km69) the M-604 road.
- By M-611, Through Miraflores de la Sierra, crossing Morcuera Pass.
- By M-601, to Navacerrada Pass and Cotos Pass (M-604).
- By M-637, From Segovia, crossing Navafria Pass to Lozoya, linking with the M-604.

By Bus: Departing from Plaza de Castilla bus station, you should take the bus 194, that ends in Rascafría, or the shuttle bus 194A, starts in Buitrago del Lozoya and go over the Lozoya Valley.



A privileged  
natural and cultural  
environment



A gastronomic and accommodation offer for every taste, with leisure activities and active-tourism like alpine and cross-country skiing, hiking, equestrian routes, etc.



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[www.rascafría.org](http://www.rascafría.org)  
[www.turismomadrid.es](http://www.turismomadrid.es)

Council of Rascafría

Phone number 91 869 11 17  
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Through a comfortable and nice path, we will find some of unknown places of Rascafría. A tour full of charm, where you can walk enjoying the views of Lozoya river which crosses our town.

Places of interest

1 Rascafría Council

This is the most remarkable and ostentatious building in Rascafría's main Square. It was built at beginning of 20th century over the ruins of the old one. It has a Neo-Mudejar style. Some of the more interesting features of the building's construction are the outer walls made of facing bricks which stand above the tower bell, clock and a rounded arch with a bell. Over time it had different uses, such as a hospital or school for girl and boys at the same time as a Council.



2 Manola's Bridge

This is a small bridge-square with a strange shape and leads us to the river Artiñuelo and continues along the shore, where it crosses Rascafría. Close to it, there is a beautiful bronze sculpture of a woman and benches by the stream where you can take a break whilst listening to the water trickle by. The lush vegetation is home to many small birds and when they sing they are a reminder of the beautiful and natural environment surrounding the town.



3 Pericotón's Bridge

Flowing to the Artiñuelo shore, we will find The Pericotón's Bridge, which has a rounded arch and lush vegetation around it; it is another obligatory stop in this tour. It is one of the oldest bridges and the most special bridge in Rascafría, because it has always saved the fence that the stream supposes.



4 The Paular avenue Footbridge

Strolling on Ibáñez Marín street, parallel to Artiñuelo shore, we will go over to one of the unique footbridges of Rascafría. This area is specially pleasant on sunny days because there are huge trees which provide a lot of shade. The stream is illuminated during the night which creates a special, calm and peaceful environment.



5 The Pilón

After crossing the road we keep following the course of the river, passing by the Pilón. This fountain, alone in a spacious square, is located opposite to the Health Centre, which was the old bull pen, where cattle were kept over the winter years ago. This fountain has only one pipe and a massive basin built with huge stones. Its shape and its location near by hay lofts, remind us the ranch essence of Rascafría, when the basin was used as trough for animals.



6 River Park

Located in Cascajales neighbourhood, at the end of "Riviera de Artiñuelo" street, recently rebuild, offers one of the most relaxing corner of Rascafría, where one may take a rest or enjoys a peaceful break. This small park owns two small squares and a bronze sculpture in honour to a farmer, sitting with his stick and watching the time go by.



7 The Fountain Street

After crossing the Artiñuelo over a bridge, we return to Rascafría centre by The Fountain street. Here the street widens and features old building techniques used centuries ago. These terraces are crossed by one of the many ditches which carrying the water towards .



8 Spain and de la Villa Squares

Our tour finishes in the town centre. The true heart of Rascafría, where inhabitants and visitor enjoy the idyllic setting. A spacious place where The Spain Square (where was the symbolic and centenary elm of Rascafría) joins The Villa Square. This place is more up-to-date, where the pavilion and the wood grandstands fence a warm corner and the oldest and

