

INTERESTING TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Pozo Viejo (Old Well) Square



According to the legend, this is the most ancient place in town, that is, the Pozoblanco origin. There is no existence of true facts regarding to the birth of Pozoblanco. However, one of the most accepted hypothesis says that at the beginning of the XIVth century a group of sepherds were set up at this environment.. The abundance of pastures and an exceptional setting gave rise to the fact that this people built huts around the Las Casas stream and near the well. Another legend, less feasible, refers to the epidmic which took place around 1435 in the little town called Pedroche. Sepherds running away from it, were established in this place, a quiet place with good weather and pastures. They built their houses around a place called the "white well", (pozoblanco). In the little square we may see represented the shield of the town. Close to this square it is located the "Casa de la Viga"(the house of the beam), which it is supposed to be, accordig to the same legend, the oldest house in town.

Pozo Viejo House (old well house)



The building behind the old well, which belongs to the Pozoblanco Town Hall, is now the headquarters of the Pozoblanco Flamenco Social Club. In its facade, it is striking the worked lintel which frames the door. This lets us to recall the history of the Spanish Inquisition, whose great height took place during the Modern Ages. In this region villages, the Saint Service had commissioners who watched over the control and population faith. Commissioners were Spanish Inquisition representatives, that is, their reporters. To emphasize their work, they embodied their rank and social quality in their houses' lintels, in such a way that whoever passes by may recognize that the house was devoted to this service. This is the case of this lintel, in which we can see Church and Saint Service Arms: the keys in "Sotuer" are crowned with an ecclesiastical mortarboard.

House of the Beam



This building houses in the ground floor the Tourist Office. And in the first floor it is located Marcos Redondo Museum. In the house we may also see Word furniture and forge made by the workshop school young students.

The name of this house it is due to the fact of the location of a big oak log originally positioned to support the building structure. This bulding is considered the most ancient in Pozoblanco, because of its position very close to the "old well".

In the courtyard the tourist may see the tradicional granite sink and the well, made of clay.

Town Hall



The ancient City Hall was erected in the XIXth century upon the ruins of an older building pulled down.

The front of the building made of granite is of the Neoclassical style, reflection of the artistic style which prevailed in the XIXth century.

The building is held by four marble columns with Roman archs. Also the façade is crowned by a bronze clock of great value made in 1889, whose inward clockwork may be seen from the attic after a restoration fulfilled in 2004.

In this façade it also stands out together with the granite use, some peculiar elements such as the lions which flank the central balcony of the older building. It has to be said that these two old lions have been substituted by a couple of newer ones, and the original lions may be seen inside the old Town Hall building.

Also in the façade we can appreciate the marble columns, as well as the letter box made also of marble, which represents the face of a fierce lion

The Town Hall was enlarged with an adjoined building, inaugurated in 1990. Both buildings are joined by a granite arch upon which is the city shield.

“El Silo” Theatre



It was inaugurated in September 2006. It was thought as a big space which could permit different cultural activities in Pozoblanco. The Execution Project looks up the making of a building of new ground, close to the old Silo building. This building was made by the middle of the XXth Century by the Nacional Wheat Service, to store the cereals.

Taking into account some cultural associations sensibility who were opposit to the demolition of such a historical building called El Silo, and given the architectural typology of great

proportions and its cathedral air and the fact that it would suppose a great impact in the total urban landscape of the town, it is then carried out its integration in the Scenic Space with a very original and correct restoration.

The result is an articulated set in three main volumes where the tower with a fountain acts as a vertical counterpoint to the evident horizontality of the other volumes where they are integrated a huge auditorium, the stage, technical spaces and so on.

From the old Silo, there remains some elements, among others, the machinery, which may be seen through big methacrylate sheets, and the huge warehouse, with more than 15m. height.

Bull Ring



It is known as the “Coso de los Llanos” (meaning “coso”, “bullring”, and “Llanos” is the name of the area where this is located...).

It was opened in August 1912.

Unfortunately, the Pozoblanco Bull Fighting Arena went down in history because of being the place where the very popular “matador”, *Francisco Rivera Paquirri*, was deadly injured.

In 2001, this “bullring” was redesigned, though being absolutely respectful with the original ancient architectural

elements. These are the terraces made, of course, of the characteristic granite, the original material of the area which gives a unique personality to this “arena”.

Another distinguishing element retrieved after the restoration is the set of pillars which sustain the bullring boards. These are also made of granite like the top terraces columns.

During the “*Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes*” Feria, in September, it is also celebrated the Bullfighting Feria which gathers the greatest celebrities.

Pozoblanco Bullfighting Feria is one of the most important events in the region.

Outside the bull ring, in front of one of the main doors, it can be admired the sculpture “*La Gran Corná*”. This is a work made by the region artist Aurelio Teno, in which he pays tribute to the bull, instead of the man, victorious, upon the “matador”.

Fairground



The Pozoblanco Fairground was officially opened in 1996. The surface has more than 90.000 square metres with an all-purpose use.

It is equipped with Municipal Stand with office work place, which at the same time is used for the different cultural events. Another Municipal Stand is also used as a sport centre. There is also an auditorium perfectly equipped for congresses and all type of events; office area, and so on...

All this, makes possible to celebrate all type of events in the very town centre. A space with every advantage for the professionals, which also has very good accesses, wide and comfortable areas.

In September it is celebrated the Pozoblanco Fair. Activities and funfair as well as all type of cultural activities are within the framework of this modern fairground space.

Another fairs are also celebrated here like “San Gregorio Fair”, or the “Agricultural and Livestock Trade Fair”.

At the main entry it can be seen one of the numerous “Quijotes” works made by the local artist Aurelio Teno.

MUSEUMS

Marcos Redondo Museum



It is located in the building known as "Casa de la Viga" (*house of the beam*) since November 2007.

Marcos Redondo Museum houses all type of documents, pictures and decorations which belonged to this great artist.

Marcos Redondo is one of the greatest celebrities in this town. He was born in 1893 and his musical vocation was noticed when he was very young. He started as a "seise" (little singer boy in Cathedral chorus) in the Ciudad Real Cathedral, where he was living after the early death of his father. After that, he studied

piano, violin, and singing. Even when he was providing military service he was part of the Reus Hunters Battalion Music Band. There he met his wife Maria Dolores Bosch y Nogué.

His extraordinary baritone voice took him to make his debut in the Madrid Great Theatre performing Verdi's *La Traviata* in 1919. Five years later he was initiated in the *Zarzuela* genre where he got a clamorous success long time.

Pedrique



The *Pedrique Monastery* was since XIIIrd century a meditation and spiritual retreat place for hermits.

In the XVIIIth century this place was acquired. At this time it was just an old olive grove and an orchard.

The investment to reforest the olive grove and to work the land, made the monastery a thriving and self-sufficient place.

Nowadays, Pedrique is the very popular artist Aurelio Teno, who was born in this area. It is his work and rest place. Here in Pedrique it may be seen a full art exhibition of his work.

Art in Aurelio Teno's work is joined with nature and architecture, due to the outdoors exhibition which splashes the grounds of this beautiful place with the "Insects" production, or the "Goats". Dominating the yards it is located the great "Quijote", as a symbol of the Spanish language and also as a symbol of the incessant man's fight.

There may be seen in the "Grey Lounge", the "sculpto-paintings". Sculpture and painting are linked to create a unique and mystique work of art. An example of this is the "Ofrenda a San Onofre" (*Saint Onofre Offer*).

The "chamanes" and witches also recreate the magic world of Pedrique.

The very famous Teno's eagles are located in the first floor. They are made of bronze, quartz and crystal rocks.

At the ground floor of the *Pink Lounge* it is located the Aurelio Teno's chronological work: from the scale models of the monuments he made for different international institutions to his Paris days during the 60s sculptures. Upstairs, the series "*Tauromaquia*" is exposed as a homage to the bull pain and ferocity.

Círculo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Society)



It was created in 1965. Its objective was to promote art, not only in all mediums of expression, but also to preserve and recover the costumes and traditions of our region.

Inside it may be visited the museum-lounge and the exhibition lounge, where they are exhibited the National Art Contest awarded works, which is summoned by this Society every year.

In the *Customs Lounge* it might be seen part of the objects and tools collection: since minerals and domestic belongings, to farming stuff.

You are invited to come in and enjoy.

In May, this Society takes part in the *Crosses* festivity, which is celebrated in this town as well as in all Andalusia. The cross located in the area called "*El Cerro*" is decorated with floral designs, altogether by the neighbourhood and the members of the society. That day, in every street and square, they are shared the typical wine and *migas* (a dish made basically of crumbs bread). The good spring weather favours social life outdoors in the streets.

POPULAR ARQUITECTURE

Granite Crosses



Pozoblanco is full of different granite crosses which in origin marked the geographical border of the town. These crosses were reference marks for those who came to the town. Some were places to pray for pilgrims, and other crosses were used as the place to pay the tribute to get into town.

The thing is that all of them symbolize our historical past and they are all part of a monumental historical heritage.

Fernández Franco Street



This street shows a variation in the façades architecture. At the top of this street we may see clearly examples of the typical XVIth century facades, this is, single floor buildings, with vains decorated in granite. Doors lintels are dressed with mouldings or sculptures imitating Gothic archs.

Down the street are located the astonishing burgeoise houses of the XVIIIth, XIXth, and beginning of the XXth centuries. These are distinguished by having three floors and an ostentatious granite decoration where the balconies are emphasized by

themselves.

Benedicto XV Street



This street has great XVIIIth and XIXth centuries medium and high burgeoise buildings.

This buildings show some kind of palace style. In them, the main floor is the first floor, where there may be seen riots of balconies, quite often the central balcony is closed with glasses.

CHURCHES CHAPEL AND HERMITAGES

Santa Catalina Parish Church



Pozoblanco major church. It was erected in the XVIth century but definitely finished in the XIXth century with the building of a huge dome and the raising of a new tower substituting the previous one which was fallen.

This temple is one of the biggest in the area. It shows a structure of Latin Cross with barrel vaults.

The Spanish Civil War had terrible consequences for this church as it was plundered during the conflict and the altars, images, and altarpieces were destroyed. After that, the building was used as a garage.

The end of the war brought its restitution as a church again.

The altarpieces which take in the different side chapels were made between 1942 and 1960. At the right of the transept it is located the tomb of the distinguished chronicler Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda. He was the personal Carlos the 1st confessor and chronicler. He was also Felipe the IIInd councillor, together with Fray Bartolome de las Casas.

San Gregorio Hermitage



This hermitage is dated in the XVIIth century and it is placed on the road to the village of Añora . It has a square-floor plan and it has three warehouses separated by Roman archs which rest upon columns made of granite. The roof is made of wood and the cover in double slope. The central nave is larger and taller than the side ones.

The main façade has a Roman arch, right-angled section, formed by seven dovelas and flanked by two columns adjacent to the wall.

"Jesús De La Columna" Hermitage



It might be stressed by its façade worked in granite stone in the "Manierista" style of 1704. No doubt, we are talking about the best Baroque representative in Pozoblanco.

The inside of the building also follows the architectural Baroque work guidelines, with a unique nave covered with barrel vault.

San Bartolomé Parish Church



The oldest hermitage in Pozoblanco but the newest parish church. It was changed into parish in 1954. Actually, this new situation modified widely the building church physiognomy.

The building dates back to the XIVth century. Its inside is of unique nave and it is composed of five granite archs which are slightly pointed archs upon pillars made of the same material.

The original hermitage was, like all of them, with the altar facing East. However, when it was changed into parish church, the first priest, D. Francisco de Paula Ruiz, pointed out that it

was not suitable a parish church looking back to the town. This was the reason why the church was turned around. The half circle arch which is located at the entrance is the original access to presbytery triumphant arch.

San Antonio Hermitage



It is located at one side of town. This hermitage was called previously *Santa Marta Hermitage*. Two centuries later was restored. This was the time when it was placed the little porch cobbled which protects the façade.

The best sunsets in the area can be seen from this place.

Virgen de Luna Hermitage



It is located 14kms away from Pozoblanco, in the "*Dehesa de la Jara*"spot, and it was built in the XIXth century to venerate the city Patron, the Virgen de Luna.

This hermitage contains lots of traces of the rural architecture of the area. It is divided in three naves with a transept finished in a dome. The outside part of the building shows the entrance with granite arcade pillars.

The Sixtieth Sunday it is celebrated a great pilgrimage which shows a ceremonial that goes back to several centuries ago.

Capilla de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno (*Father Jesús Chapel*)



This chapel was erected in 1606. Its Baroque style is still maintained after the enhancements carried out in 1931. Inside there is the oldest Jesus image in Pozoblanco. Besides, it houses an important collection of works of art dated in the XVIIIth century, such as a *Dolorosa*, *Virgen de Belen...*

San Sebastián Parish Church



Ancient hermitage built in the XVIth century, it was converted into parish church in 1888. Despite of the XIXth century changes, the inside still preserves the original structure. This is a unique nave with Roman archs raised upon adjacent pillars. The altarpiece which dominates the stay is of the Neobaroque style, and it is of three ways. This receives the image of the church holder "Saint Sebastian".

Inside this church it stands out the painting with the "Perpetuo Socorro" image, work of Byzantine influence, which contrasts with the popular imagery of the area, characterized by a greater realism

Salesian Church



This church was blessed in 1931 and devoted to Saint Joseph, in honour of the Pozuelo y Herrero Bishop.. There are no rests of the original decoration. All was lost in the Civil War. The facade made of granite, resembles to the Manierist Style. The church structure is that of one nave with a little wing chapel, which was paid by the founders and devoted to María Auxiliadora, nowadays called of the tabernacle.

The altarpiece of the main altar, as well as the lateral ones, were made in 1942. These are decorated with a lot of elements of Baroque reminiscence. The lateral canvas and the the left ones are devoted to Saint Joseph, the right t one to San Juan Bosco, the Salesian Order Founder. The main altarpiece gives place to the polychrome sculpture of the Maria Auxiliadora Virgin, and this is crowned with the order shield.