

Good enjoyment of Navarrete, its services and its people
A striking stop on the Way of St James

Navarrete is much more than its precious old town. Its quality services, cultural, historic and gastronomy offer, its peculiar cellars and pottery workshops, and special events such as Easter, la Virgen y San Roque summer festival, in August, or NACE -Pottery and Ceramic National Fair, in July, are some evidences of the dynamism and attractiveness of Navarrete.

Walking around the place means getting to live the phenomenon of Jubilee pilgrimage, and enjoying the country houses set on the hillside, with concentric streets and perpendicular alleys, as well as the monuments we find at the old town, which was declared a spot of cultural interest in 1970. Calle Mayor Alta -Higher Main Street-, the remains of San Juan de Acre hospital or the Assumption church are some of the main landmarks that shouldn't be missed.

Navarrete is adapted to the modern times, is preserved nowadays. Arts and crafts have been the base of their economy and a way of life this land, lovely producing its more precious goods: wine and pottery. back then as it is now. Along history, its inhabitants have worked wisely of Tedeón hill is related to the Way of Saint James, which was as lively close to Logroño, capital of La Rioja. Its origin in the 12th century on top of Ebro Valley, a village set in the middle of Ebro Valley, very



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Church and hospital of pilgrims. 12th-13th centuries

The quality and beauty of this church is preserved in its facade, which was moved to the cemetery and turned into the portal.

At her death, her rests were buried in the temple and the hospital was given to San Juan de Acre, a military order that administered it until its extinction in the 19th century.

Along with the Jacobean Way we find the reminders of this little central floor plant church. It was part of a pilgrims hospital built at the end of 12th century, thanks to the personal and economic effort of an exceptional woman, María Ramírez.

3 THE REMAINS OF THE HOSPITAL OF MARÍA RAMÍREZ CHURCH (SAN JUAN DE ACRE)



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Navarrete: Jacobean landmark, Ignatian landmark

Navarrete and the Way of Saint James are completely bound. The birth of the village inside a fortress on top of Tedeón hill was important to the Jacobean Way, because it set the route as it is now. Its urbanism, economy and daily activity still take its strength from the source of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

Navarrete is also on the Way of St. Ignatius, route that recreates the way he walked from Loyola to Manresa in 1522, as the first stage of his rite to the Holy Land.

2 ST. JAMES WAY AND ST. IGNATIUS WAY



Wine, cultural heritage from Navarrete

Wine history and Culture emanate from its ancient walls and modern wineries, which are an attractive touristic resource.

Wine culture is in the atmosphere, in the people and in the architecture of the old town. Its cellars are full of hundred-year-old cellars, dugged in stone, called calas or caves, where people have made and kept the famous wines of Navarrete for centuries.

Navarrete means also wine. As a result of the gently care and respect to the vines, tradition and modernity, a quality wine is made at its wineries.



Pottery, tradition and innovation

Pottery is an emblem of Navarrete: it represents its history, its arts and crafts and the remains in the village through several pottery workshops, which work to adapt to new styles and fashions, but always with a strong basis: the land and the wisdom of the tradition of Navarrete.

By hand and turned it into recognised quality ceramic pieces.

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POTTERY

1

PARISH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY

EXTERIOR

The building that stands up among the houses of Navarrete is its parish church, which is dedicated to Assumption virgin. Its building, started in the 16th century, shows the strength of a village on the top of its economic, population and urban development.

Built along ninety years by recognised masters, it is one of the most important Classicist ensembles of the region. The temple was built not only as a religious reference, but as the nerve centre of the village, central axis of its main street and square, to whom it shows its double façade, resembling an altarpiece. The magnificent of the church is clear from the outside, where the high strong walls are crowned by a robust 17th century tower, topped with a dressed stone pyramid shaped spire.

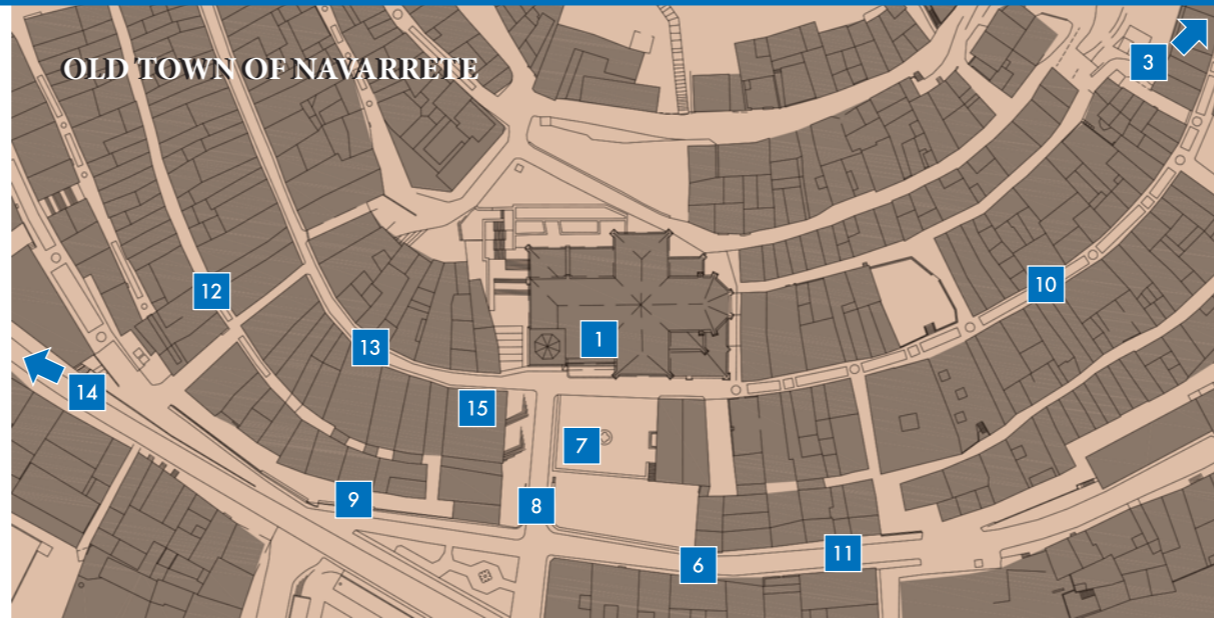
INTERIOR

Walking into the temple, we observe the great magnitude of this stone building. Six powerful columns with Toscan pilasters support the rib vaults over round arches; while, in the last section of the side naves, there are small domes. This great space consist of three naves, transept and chevet.

If something stands out in this church, despite of its size, it is the stunning major altarpiece, spectacular Riojan Baroque piece from the late 17th century. Its hugeness, profuse decoration, opulence and gold abundance make it outstanding.

The sacristy, south of the altar, hosts an important collection of precious objects, such as goldsmithing items and liturgical clothes. As well as an exceptional Flemish Assumption triptych by Ambrosius Benson -early 16th century-, with a majestic Virgin on the centre, surrounded by angels over a beautiful landscape; and the apostles St Peter and St John with the donors on the side panels.

16th - 17th centuries. Renaissance and Baroque



- 1 Parish Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady
- 2 Caño 'pipe' Slope
- 3 Ruins of the church of María Ramírez Hospital
- 4 The Count's cellar
- 5 Town wall (La Cruz Street)
- 6 Lower Main Street
- 7 Main Square
- 8 Los Certijos
- 9 Cal Nueva 'New Street'
- 10 Higher Main Street
- 11 Cemetery (Burgos Road)
- 12 Culture House and Library

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NAVARRETE
~ A STRIKING STOP ON THE WAY ~



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6 TOWN WALL (LA CRUZ STREET)

As the village was expanding down the hill, new streets like La Cruz, a exterior round, or La Carrera showed up. This was a wide road full of carriages, cars, horses and people, which accessed into the village through open gates like San Juan or Santiago ones.

By the beginning of Las Pilas square, in the rampart, we find a nice detail: a Romanesque capital representing the battle between Roldán and Ferragut the giant, a well known legend along the way of St. James.

Medieval wall burgh.



7 PLAZA MAYOR 'MAIN SQUARE'

Open space in front of the church portal and lively Main Street. It became the neuralgic centre of Navarre since 16th century.

In this square there was the only public fountain within the village walls, which stands nowadays next to a sculpture that represents a woman carrying a jug on her head: *la cantarera*. It is a tribute to this traditional task and to the women who used to do it, using a special pottery piece typical from the village: *el cántaro navarretano*. They have done this job for the domestic provision until 1960. For that reason, the square and the fountain were the centre of the social life of the village, full of conversations, jokes and courtship.

Public square and fountain, urban and social centre.



8 CAÑO 'PIPE' SLOPE

Right here used to be the main entrance to the village: Caño door. This access communicated the exterior round, the suburbs, fields and St. Francis monastery with the old town centre, the church, the Town Square and the Town Hall.

The Tourism Office is here, in front of a costumbrist sculpture representing a potter on his wheel, a traditional trade of Navarre.

A perspective: from the bottom of the slope there is a great view of the parish church, and specially of its tower.

Former gateway to the village



9 THE COUNT'S CELLAR

Old wine cellar, one of the most rooted constructions of the region, which was lately restored as a gallery. Its door was built in the village walls.

It has three great cellars which were extended and remodeled through the centuries, according to the wine production necessities. Those were excavated in natural clay, its architecture being solved with dressed stone and brick barrel vaults. An attractive place dedicated to exhibitions and cultural events.

Traditional architecture. 16th-18th centuries.



10 CALLE MAYOR BAJA 'LOWER MAIN STREET'

Navarre preserves an extense and peculiar variety of streets. The most common type, Main Street, is divided into Higher and Lower, with Assumption church right in the middle.

Traditional artery of the local life, always being crossed by pilgrims, full of aristocratic houses decorated with stone coats of arms.

An example: this dressed stone palace (nº 6) crowned by a great emblem.

Civil architecture. 16th-17th centuries.



11 LOS CERTIJOS

Buildings on top of the village walls. This houses were built using the fort as foundations. They used to have the main entrance in the north, while in the south a round arches portico was built, and there is a noteworthy traditional pavement made of river stones. Through this covered street, picked grapes were carried to be poured into the stone cellars inside the houses through holes digged in the walls.

17th century ensemble over an older wall. Dressed stone and brick façade dominated by coats of arms.

A singularity: the coat of arms is similar to the one that dominates the palace on 6, Calle Mayor.

Civil architecture on the wall.



12 CAL NUEVA 'NEW STREET'

Narrow alley between Upper Main street and El Coso, open space over the walls where, during Modern age, upper class built large stone and brick houses with great emblems. A curious passage that invites you to come in.

Natives call Cal Nueva 'Los Cocinos', because it used to be a butchers zone where the scraps were thrown into a canal named the same way.

Singular Street. 17th century.



13 CALLE MAYOR ALTA 'HIGHER MAIN STREET'

Walking down this street is getting into the principal way of the old town, between mansions and palaces rised up in the splendour this town lived during Modern age.

Stone and brick constructions, beautiful ironwork balconies and coats of arms of distinguished families stand up in a lot of façades. Through them, its owners showed their wealth and excellent taste.

Urbanism and architecture. 16th-17th centuries.



14 CEMETERY

EXTERIOR

Out of the walls of Navarre, right in the Way of St. James, Nuestra Señora del Prado hermitage and the town cemetery stand. Its façade is only a portion of what it was the hospital of San Juan de Acre church, fallen down in the late 19th century.

Some of its elements -the portal, the windows- were moved to build the new cemetery of the village, following the architect design, Luis Barrón. Thank to this intervention, this great architecture and sculpture remains, owned by the church of Ms. María Ramírez foundation, have been preserved. Wonderful.

Romanesque and Gothic. Early 13th century.

INTERIOR

It is a two faces façade. We have to go inside the cemetery to continue enjoying this exceptional art piece. The profusion of details of the sculptures stands out: characters -warriors, St Michael the Archangel, a shepherd, fantastic animals...- and varied vegetal elements -palm trees, grapes, pine cones, grape leaves- from the Romanesque tradition, but inserted in an Early Gothic architecture.

An essential visit that allows us to imagine, even if it is remotely, how could it be one of the most important art pieces of La Rioja and the Jacobean Way.

Sculptural details.



15 CULTURE HOUSE AND LIBRARY

Dressed stone and brick palace, with a crowned coat of arms over the main entrance, at the beginning of the Higher Main street. The lobby has a great stone pavement with a familiar emblem. Nowadays it is an important part of the daily activity of Navarre, because it works as the Culture House of the town, and it is connected with the town hall building, south.

The mid-17th century. Baroque.



16 THE LANDSCAPE

We can't forget to mention the scenery of Navarre, mostly a wide vineyard curtain, great example of the «Wine and vineyard cultural landscape of La Rioja», a World Heritage candidate. We find the best sights inside the old town, on top of Tedeón hill, a lookout called 'the castle' by natives.

The district of Navarre has two green areas where to go for a walk or go cycling: Valbornedo reservoir and the Meadow. Moncalvillo Mountains, Ebro Valley or Los Cameros, spaces of great natural value, are also close to Navarre.

Natural and cultural landscapes

