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Charming Town of Salamanca by Nancy Gallen

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This â€˜Golden Townâ€™ is best known for its oldest university in the whole of Spain and Europe. It is the university which brings the proper ambience and vibrancy to Salamanca. Hundreds of university students pass through the streets daily for their classes in the day time while enjoying the nightly social interactions at the townâ€™s numerous and well decorated bars especially during the weekends.

Salamanca is a charming town that is architecturally pure. Modern developments are the central highlights in the main town areas although constructed in true Salamanca tradition; hence, it is not surprising to have the city declared as a UNESCO â€œWorld Heritage Siteâ€•.

This is the place to be for the discovery of cultural values, tradition, learning of Spanish and enjoying the vibrant night life.

Sightseeing

There is always something exciting happening at Salamanca with the myriad of choices available. One can check out the impressive architecture in town that is made of Villamayor stones which has a high iron concentration. The material enables a very sturdy attempt of any possible designs desired with a golden color that is characteristic of the townâ€™s personality.

Cathedral

Salamanca has a plateresque cathedral that is typical in Spain; it marks the transition of the Gothic era to the Renaissance. The locals call this new cathedral as â€˜La Nuevaâ€™ with the old one situated next to it. The cathedral has an impressive interior â€œGolden Chapelâ€• where extraordinary sculptures stand. There is the small yard known as Patio Chico where both the cathedrals were built. A narrow street known as Calle CalderÃ³n leads the way towards the town University.

Salamanca University

As the worldâ€™s oldest university which was founded by King Alphonse IX, this building is a masterpiece of fine architecture and well planned design. Its faÃ§ade is heavily ornamented with many figures of all types such as frogs on a skull. Others require a little more imagination with the countless figurines in its building structure.

The University library has 160,000 volumes reading material which makes it a delightful afternoon visit. The library staircase is adorned with reliefs showcasing bullfighting scenes and local customs where old time students wrote their names on the University faÃ§ade with bullâ€™s blood.

At the center square, the status of famous poet, Fay Luis de LÃ©on stands; he was a professor persecuted at an inquisition. There is also a University hospital with a splendid Renaissance court and typicalÂ salmantinian arcades.

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Nancy Gallen - About Author:

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