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Olite

CITY
MAP

PLANO
DE LA
CIUDAD

HIRIKO
PLANOA

PLA
DE LA
CIUTAT

PLAN
DE LA
VILLE

CARTA
DELLA
CITTÀ

STADTPLAN



Kingdom of
Navarre
Land of Diversity



2012 | CONTIGO
AVANZAMOS

1 - **Palacio Real de Olite**
The old palace was renovated during the reign of Carlos III and was extended with the construction of the Palacio Nuevo in the French Gothic style. The building comprises large stone walls with a series of recesses and projections. At the corners there are round towers with slate roofs that have replaced the original lead ones. Nowadays the entrance is through a large courtyard, the former garden with Seville orange trees, which is next to two courtyards called 'La Pajarera' and 'De la Morera'. Behind these are the King's and Queen's chambers on the ground floor. The *Galería del Rey* (king's gallery) is on the first floor and the second floor communicates with a small courtyard, which today is called *El Patio del Naraino* or *Jardín de la Reina*. The silhouette of the tower rises above the accommodation. La Torre del Homenaje, 'La Torre de las Tres Coronas', 'La Torre de los Cuatro Vientos' and 'La Torre del Vigía' (homage tower, three crowns tower, four winds tower and lookout tower). Olite's royal palace was witness to the early Middle Ages, an era of splendour which put it on a par with the best European courts. According to the records the palace was luxuriously decorated with delicate plasterwork, glazed tiling, multicoloured coffered stained-glass windows and gilded ceilings. There were garden terraces, fountains and plants from far and wide. A few of the decorative features remain but nothing of the gardens. An example of this was the gardens with their exotic plants such as orange, lemon and grapefruit trees, and jasmine. The plants were watered by a complex system of lead pipes and a reservoir which allowed the water to be taken up to the hanging gardens in copper buckets. The palace even had its own small zoo.

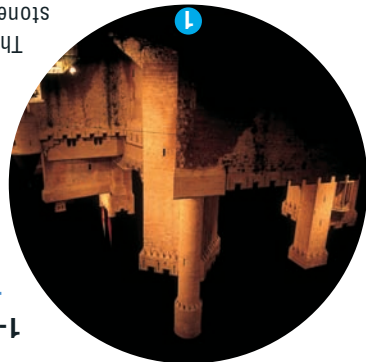


3- Church of Santa Maria

The 13th-century Gothic church of Santa Maria stands next to the palace. The exuberant facade is formed by eight archivolts and a central typanum supported by highly decorative abutments. On both sides the facade is framed by a series of recesses that house the statues of the Apostles. Inside, there is a painted renaissance altarpiece which is attributed to Maestro Agueda. A Gothic statue of the Virgin presides over the altarpiece. There

2 - **The old palace**
The oldest part of this castle-palace is the *Palacio Viejo* (old palace) located in the Plaza de los Teobaldos. Nowadays it is a state-owned hotel called a 'Parador'. It formed part of a fortress on the Roman site and was used by the Navarrese monarchs as a palace. Only the exterior walls and towers at the corners survive. Outstanding features of the facade include the large Gothic windows, the Renaissance main door and the tower, which is referred to as 'La Torre de la Atalaya' (lookout tower) or 'La Torre de la Cigüeña' (stork's tower). Between the old palace and the church of Santa Maria lie the ruins of the building work undertaken in 1399 by Queen Leonor, the wife of Carlos III el Noble.

There was a lion house and it is known that there were also camels, African buffalo, a giraffe, squirrels, parrots and other exotic birds. For entertainment, they played *pelota* and a game with rackets. Jousting tournaments were held on special occasions, such as the wedding between the Prince of Viana and Agnes of Cleves. A 15th-century German traveller wrote about the grandeur and luxury of the building: "I am sure that no king could have a more beautiful palace or castle... it cannot be put into words, or even imagined, how magnificent or lavish that palace is." After Navarre was annexed to Castille in 1512 the palace was left empty. It suffered even more deterioration after a fire in 1813, but the architects Javier and José Yáñez started work in 1937 to restore it to its present state.



1 - Palacio Real de Olite

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4- Chapel Tower - Plaza de Carlos III

is also a 14th-century image of Christ which apparently came from the church of San Lázaro, which no longer exists.

Opposite the castle there are buildings of great interest in the elongated square, the Plaza de Carlos III, which lies in the space between the inner Roman wall and the outer medieval wall, such as the Chapel Tower, which was initially conceived as a goods control point and later on became the headquarters of the town council. It was also known as the Clock Tower because in the 14th century the upper part housed the first bell tower clock on the Iberian Peninsula. The City Hall is located opposite the Palacio Real, at the eastern side of the square. It is a modern building, designed by the Navarrese architect Victor Eusa, and is similar in appearance to the great aristocratic mansions built from the 16th to the 18th century. On the opposite side is the Royal Palace and underneath the square are the medieval galleries.

5- Medieval galleries

Two parallel medieval galleries run beneath the square, joined by a common wall and supported by transverse ribs. Although it is known that they date back to the 14th century their purpose is unknown. Nowadays they house an exhibition on the old Court of Olite. Other, smaller galleries have been found in other parts of the city during excavations.

6- Church of San Pedro

The construction of the church of San Pedro, in the Rua Mayor, was started in the Romanesque style and then extended in the Baroque period. The facade and the Romanesque cloister are splendid. The cloister features valuable capitals decorated with scenes from Genesis. At the transept there is a slender Gothic tower, La Torre Aguja (needle tower), which is crowned by a series of frescoes have been preserved. An oak grove surrounds the chapel, making up one of the most interesting natural sights in the area.



10- Chapel of St. Bridget (exterior view)

Standing three kilometres from Olite on Mount Encinar, the chapel is a Gothic building from the early 13th century in which a series of frescoes have been preserved. An oak grove surrounds the chapel, making up one of the most interesting natural sights in the area.

9- The Wine Exhibition Centre

There is a multimedia exhibition centre in the Plaza de Teobaldos showing the history of wine, its cultivation, traditions, harvesting and processing.

8- St Clare monasterie (exterior view)

The San Anton convent, which today belongs to the Order of St. Clare, was founded as a monastery for the Hospitalier Order of San Anton. The church, built in the 13th century and renovated in the 17th and 18th centuries, is of special interest.

7- San Francisco monasterie (exterior view)

The San Francisco and Santa Engracia monasteries are situated on the outskirts of Olite. According to the legend, the San Francisco monastery was founded by St. Francis of Assisi himself when he was on his Way to Compostela. The monastery was rebuilt in the 18th century incorporating some of the original Gothic features such as on the facade and some of the tombs. Inside there is an image of the "Virgen del Colera".

graceful arrow. Inside the tower there is a Gothic statue of St. James holding his pilgrim's staff, the consecrated gravestone of the notary Eneguro Pinel and an altarpiece with paintings by Vicente Berdusán, from Tudela.