



**Media Inquiries:**

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**WORLD MONUMENTS FUND TEAMS UP WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT OF CASTILLA Y LEÓN AND  
THE QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE  
FOR AN EXHIBITION ON THE ROUTE OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**

**IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES ALONG THE FAMOUS PILGRIMAGE TRAIL  
IN THE REGION OF CASTILLA Y LEÓN ARE THE FOCUS  
AT THE QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK  
FEBRUARY 23 – APRIL 12**

***OPENING RECEPTION  
FEBRUARY 23 AT 6:00 P.M.  
QUEEN SOFIA SPANISH INSTITUTE  
684 PARK AVENUE AT 68TH STREET, NEW YORK  
RSVP: CONNIE VERGARA 212-628-0420 OR [CVERGARA@QUEENSOFIASI.ORG](mailto:CVERGARA@QUEENSOFIASI.ORG)***

World Monuments Fund (WMF), the government of Castilla y León, and the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute have joined forces to organize *Treasures along the Route of Santiago de Compostela in Castilla y León*, an exhibition on the famous Catholic pilgrimage route of Santiago de Compostela. On view at the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute in New York from February 23 through April 12, the exhibition focuses on the 1000-year-old pilgrimage route in the region of Castilla y León, placing particular emphasis on WMF's conservation work at specific historic sites along the path. *Treasures* features a number of projects on which WMF collaborated with the government of Castilla y León, including the Cartuja de Miraflores monastery near Burgos, the Colegiata de Toro complex in Zamora, and the Roman Aqueduct of Segovia.

The medieval pilgrimage trail, actually comprising several different routes, runs through northern Spain, ending at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, reputedly the burial place of St. James the Greater, one of the Twelve Apostles. As the feast day of St. James falls on a Sunday in 2010,

(more)

the route, also known as the Way of St. James, is expected to receive a great increase in pilgrims and tourists, making this exhibition all the more timely.

Spread over two floors at the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute, the exhibition contains photographs and panels giving background on the route as well as specific information on particular sites. The upper floor features a virtual tour of the route showing evocative historic sites, including several places where WMF has worked, and landscape features along the pilgrimage trail. The display on the lower floor concentrates on the Cartuja de Miraflores monastery, an important site containing royal tombs. Cartuja was also the focus of a restoration project on which the World Monuments Fund and the government of Castilla y León collaborated between 2002 and 2009. One of the treasures of this monastery was a 15<sup>th</sup>-century statue of St. James by Gil de Siloé, now on view at the Cloisters in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (MMA). Thanks to WMF's assistance, the MMA made a resin replica of the statue for the monastery. This statue is on display in the exhibition and, when the exhibition closes, it will be sent to the Cartuja de Miraflores monastery, where it will be on permanent display.

World Monuments Fund, the government of Castilla y León, and the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute are planning several activities, including lectures, in conjunction with *Treasures along the Route of Santiago de Compostela in Castilla y León*; details will be announced when available.

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### **World Monuments Fund**

World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world's most treasured places. For over 45 years, working in more than 90 countries, our highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, we inspire an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. [www.wmf.org](http://www.wmf.org)

### **Queen Sofía Spanish Institute**

Queen Sofia Spanish Institute is a private non-profit founded as The Spanish Institute in 1954 to promote greater awareness and understanding of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world in the United States. Since its foundation, the Institute has sought to advance its mission through a variety of programs. The activities focus on particular aspects of Spanish culture, past and present, and the remarkable influence this culture has in the Americas. [www.queensofiaspanishinstitute.org](http://www.queensofiaspanishinstitute.org)

### **Government of Castilla y León**

Castilla y León is the largest of 17 Autonomous Communities in Spain, with legislative and statutory authority and executive power in jurisdictions and areas established in its Statute of Autonomy. It is a cultural and historical community and retains, as essential components of its identity, the Castilian (Spanish) language and the richness of its historical, cultural, artistic and natural heritage, which are especially protected and supported. Through its Ministry of Culture and Tourism, La Junta de Castilla y León [the Autonomous Government of Castilla y León] is the official government organ that has complete authority over the region's cultural heritage and has committed significant resources to this heritage, one of the most important in Spain. Castilla y León has the greatest number of declared cultural properties in Spain, 7 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including, since 1993, the Camino de Santiago (the Way of Saint James). [www.jcyl.es](http://www.jcyl.es)

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