

Olite/Erriberri



Gobierno de Navarra / Nafarroako Gobernua



Accommodations

- H1** Hotel*** Parador Príncipe de Viana • Plaza de los Teobaldos, 2 • 948 74 00 00
- H2** Hotel**** Alda Castillo de Olite • Rúa de Medios, 23 • 948 98 01 93
- H3** Hotel** Merindad de Olite • Rúa de la Judería, 11 • 948 74 07 35
- H4** Hotel** Ducay • Rúa de Medios, 1 • 948 74 13 00
- H5** Hotel*** El Juglar • Rúa Romana, 39 • 948 74 18 55
- Hs1** Hostal Rural Villavieja • Rúa Villavieja, 11 • 948 74 17 00
- Hs2** Hostal La Atalaya • Rúa de San Francisco, 9 • 681 94 45 23
- Hs3** Hostal 18 de abril • Rúa Mirapies, 11 • 948 74 01 41
- AT1** Apartamento Casa Ollaga • Rúa del Fondo, 18 • 688 64 07 71
- AT2** Apartamento Lorione • Rúa Mayor, 30 • 948 74 05 40
- AT3** Apartamento La Tesendería • Rúa Romana, 8 • 687 21 62 07
- AT4** Apartamento El Silo • Avda. Beire, 44 • 948 71 20 29
- AT5** Apartamento Olite • C/ Tempranillo, 20 • 620 95 54 00
- AT6** Apartamento La Torre • C/ San Francisco, 5 • 628 98 70 48
- AT7** Apartamento Castillo De Olite • Pl. de la Rueda, 2 bajo • 625 12 14 58 / 679 57 33 23

- AT8** Apartamento La Rueda • C/ Rincón de Racioneros, 10 • 620 03 24 36
- AT9** Apartamentos Ducay • Rúa Tesendería, 11 • 948 74 13 00
- AT10** Apartamentos El Enclave • C/ Falconera, 1-2° • 620 19 15 90
- AT11** Apartamento Buenavista2 • Rúa de la Taillada, 5-2° izda • 636 42 39 63
- AT12** Apartamento Aposentos Olite • Plaza Aoiz, 8 trasera • 609 62 96 35
- AT13** Apartamento La Atalaya • Rúa San Francisco, 6 • 681 94 45 23
- VT1** Vivienda Turística La Nava • Rúa Romana, 42 • 660 02 44 01
- VT2** Vivienda Turística Los Olivos • Calle Arenales, 12 • 620 25 41 99
- VT3** Vivienda Turística Mirador de la Reina • Rúa Mayor, 19 • 948 71 24 55
- VT4** Vivienda Turística Rosaenea • C/ Tempranillo, 67 • 628 86 66 26
- VT5** Vivienda Turística Ronda del Castillo • C/ La Estación, 5 • 669 99 33 42
- VT6** Vivienda Turística La Casa de la Abuela • Paseo de D° Leonor, 4 • 651 11 98 70
- VT7** Vivienda Turística Tamaragua • Rúa Romana, 31 • 606 468 117
- VT8** Vivienda Turística Casa Hugo • C/ Rúa Romana, 40 • 606 37 52 53
- C1** Camping Ciudad de Olite • Ctra. NA-115, Tafalla-Peralta • 948 74 10 14

Restaurants

- 1** Parador Príncipe de Viana • Plaza de los Teobaldos, 2 • 948 74 00 00
- 2** Erri Berri • Rúa del Fondo, 1 • 948 74 11 16
- 3** Casa del Preboste • Rúa Mirapies, 8 • 948 71 22 50
- 4** Gambarte • Rúa del Seco, 15 • 948 74 01 39
- 5** El Rincón de la Joyosa • Rúa de Medios, 23
- 6** Merindad de Olite • Rúa de la Judería, 11 • 948 74 07 35
- 7** Ducay • Rúa de Medios, 1 • 948 74 13 00
- 8** Paisal • Ctra. NA-115, Tafalla-Peralta • 948 74 12 60
- 9** La Muralla • Rúa Mayor, 31 • 948 74 15 10
- 10** El Juglar • Rúa Romana, 39 • 948 74 18 55

Tourist Activity Companies

- Magmacultura** • 691 021 667
info@palaciorealolite.com • www.palaciorealolite.com
- Reyna de Copas. Vinoteca-enoturismo** • 655 094 054
info@reynadecopasolite.com

Tourist Office
Plaza de los Teobaldos, 10 · 31390 OLITE
(+34) 848 423 222 · oit.olite@navarra.es
www.visitnavarra.es

- A** Town council (948 74 01 75)
- ✉** Correos postal service (948 74 05 82)
- 📖** Cultural Centre - Library (948 74 07 72)
- 🏥** S.O.S. Navarra (**112**) Health care centre (948 74 17 01)
- GC** Guardia Civil. (948 74 00 07)
- PM** Municipal Police (609 69 07 37)
- 🧪** Chemists
- DYA** DYA-First Aid Organisation (948 74 05 07)
- WC** Public toilets
- 🛒** Supermarket
- 🚂** Train station
- 🚌** Bus stops
- 🛢** Petrol station
- P** Car parks
- P** Bus parking
- 🔌** Recharge electric car
- 👤** Coach passenger boarding/alighting area
- 🚐** Motorhome Parking
- ♿** Disabled parking
- T** Taxi (948 74 01 43 / 608 77 78 80)
- 👶** Children's play area
- 🌿** Picnic areas
- 🍷** Wineries
- *** Artisans/Souvenirs
- 🏛** Monuments
- 🏰** Walls and Roman enclosure
- 🏰** Walls and Medieval enclosure
- ⋯** Palaces
- Main shopping streets
- 🚚** Loading and unloading
- 🍷** Wine bar / Delicatessen
- @** "Camelot" Internet café
- 🍺** Brewery D'Olite

- 1.** Royal Palace of Olite
- 2.** The Old Palace
- 3.** Church of Santa Maria
- 4.** Chapitel Tower – Plaza de Carlos III
- 5.** Medieval galleries
- 6.** Church of San Pedro
- 7.** San Francisco Monastery
- 8.** St. Clare Monastery
- 9.** Enozentrum Olite
- 10.** Chapel of St. Bridget



ORIGINS OF THE CITY

The town of Olite is in the centre of Navarre, and has one of the most outstanding monumental ensembles in the entire Autonomous Community. The original town centre dates back to Roman times. It is a walled area, surrounded by 20 towers, which was constructed in the 1st century. This area is called the “Cerco de dentro” (Inner Circle). From 1147 on the town grew significantly thanks to the privilege granted by King García Ramírez, and it expanded through the inner Roman wall to a new outer area, also surrounded by a wall. Several towers and stretches of the Roman wall survive. Of the medieval wall, two defensive towers on the west side, the Torre del Chapitel or clock tower, the four gateways and the street names remain. The streets of the city have a medieval air and their names reflect the age: Rúa de la Judería, referring to the Jewish community that lived in the city, Rúa de la Tafurería (gambling), where the gambling house was located, and Rúa Villavieja. Many of the street names reflect the professions and lives of the citizens of medieval Olite. These streets are lined with Renaissance and Baroque palaces with large coats of arms and splendid wooden, brick or stone eaves. One of the most remarkable buildings is the Palacio del Marqués de Rada, which has an ashlar facade and a brick attic on which the wooden eaves rest.

ROYAL HEADQUARTER

From the 13th century, Olite was one of the royal headquarters for the Navarran kings, yet it was Charles III the Noble (1337 – 1425) who chose it as his preferred residency, giving it great splendour and grandiosity, as was habitual in European courts at that time. As testament to that time of glory stands the Royal Palace of Olite, declared a national monument in 1925.

WINE CAPITAL

The winemaking sector deserves a special mention. The mild Mediterranean climate of Olite is a great ally for agriculture. The town has an important winemaking tradition and there are many long-standing and newly opened wineries and cooperatives. In 1982 the Government of Navarre set up the Navarre Viticulture and Oenology Station (EVENA) in the town, dedicated to the study, experimentation and divulgation of techniques for grape growing and winemaking. The Board of the Designation of Origin Navarra also has its headquarters in Olite, as well as the Brotherhood of Wine. This is why Olite has been called the “capital of Navarran wine”.

Olite wines have well-deserved prestige. The area produces whites and rosés, as well as young, vintage, reserve and gran reserva reds. It is also well known for its muscatels, all with the Designation of Origin.

FESTIVALS AND FOLKLORE

The palace and the medieval streets of Olite provide an ideal setting to recreate the Middle Ages. During one week end of august thousands of people gather to celebrate **the Medieval Festival**. The festivities begin with an opening speech read from the royal palace. Then merchants, craftsmen, witches, acrobats, clergymen, troubadours, knights, archers, jugglers and cavalymen parade through the adorned streets. There is a street market selling products produced in Navarre and in the Middle Ages. The programme includes lunches and dinners with a medieval menu, parades of kings and princesses, street theatre, falconry and archery exhibitions and a series of conferences.

Other festivals are held throughout the year: on the closest Sunday to 22nd May a popular pilgrimage is made to the Ermita de Santa Brígida, situated on a hill called El Monte Encinar; the people of Olite and other towns and villages also make an annual pilgrimage to Ujué on the Sunday following 25th April. **The Olite Theatre Festival** is held between July and August and features some very well known theatrical companies. On 26th August the major local festival of the Virgen of Cólera is held. The **Wine Harvest Festival** is celebrated on a Sunday in the first half of September. With this event, the Navarre Brotherhood of Wine marks the start of the annual grape campaign.

The patron saint's festival takes place from 13th to 19th September.



1. Royal Palace of Olite



2. The old palace



3. Church of Santa Maria

A Tour of the city

1. ROYAL PALACE OF 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 Naranjo or Jardín de la Reina. The silhouette of the towers 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. 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 Yárnoz started work in 1937 to restore it to its present state.

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 two Gothic windows, two escutcheons of the Evreux dynasty, 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.

3. CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA

Next to the palace is the Santa María church, a 13th century Gothic building. The entrance is one of the most important Navarrese Gothic sculpture ensembles. It was finished around 1300 and was clearly influenced by the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Formed with eight archivolts and a central tympanum supported on jambs, it has a very elaborate lintel. The entrance is framed on both sides by some arcades holding sculptures of the apostles. A recent restoration brought out a large part of the façade’s original polychrome, making it exceptionally valuable, as not many Gothic entrances have preserved their original colours. The atrium was added in around 1432, and has an entry arch flanked by two sculptures: Doña Blanca de Navarra and the Virgin with the Child, which rest on corbels with the coat of arms of Doña Blanca and Juan II of Aragón, attributed to the workshop of the master sculptor Jehan de Lome.

The understated interior is home to the noteworthy main altarpiece, which is from the Renaissance period with influences from Italian, Flemish and German painting. It was placed there in 1528, a little before the death of the craftsman who made it – Pedro de Aponte from Aragón.

The altarpiece is presided by a Gothic sculpture of the Virgin with the Child, and contains 28 oil painted panels representing passages of the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary. There is also a preserved image of the Christ of the Good Death. This is a mid-14th century Gothic sculpture that allegedly comes from the lost Hermitage of San Lázaro. His head is tilted to one side over his body, and his ribs have been highlighted. The folds on the long loincloth are outstanding.

4. CHAPITEL TOWER – PLAZA DE CARLOS III (Exterior view)

Opposite the Royal Palace lies the long Square of Charles III, constructed between the Roman “Cerco de Dentro” within the walls, and the medieval outer town “Cerco de Fuera”. In this square we find the Steeple Tower or the clock tower, which was one of the two gateways to the Roman premises.

In the medieval period it was designed as a control point for the sale of products, and later it was the headquarters of the town council. It is also called “Clock Tower”, as in the 14th century, at the top, it held the first chiming clock in mainland Spain. There are also other outstanding buildings, such as the Town Hall, a modern building by the Navarran architect Victor Eúsa, which is vaguely reminiscent of the image of large 16th – 18th century stately mansions.

5. MIEVEAL GALLERIES (Closed to the public)

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 Rúa 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. Despite not being on the Santiago Way, many pilgrims in the Middle Ages took a diversion on the route to enter the thriving town of Olite, the headquarters of the Navarrese Courts. The mark of the Santiago Way pilgrims can be seen in the decoration of its churches, in particular the church of San Pedro, with its impressive pointed tower (the highest in the town), constructed at the height of the calvary crowned with a graceful arrow. Also inside the church is a Burgundian style sculpture of Santiago with his pilgrimage stick, considered to be one of the most beautiful in Navarre.

Inside the church various styles can be seen: Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque. As well as the carving of Santiago, there is the outstanding votive tombstone of the notary Enequo Pinel, and the main altarpiece displaying paintings by the Tudela-born Vicente Berdusán.

7. SAN FRANCISCO MONASTERY (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 Cólera”.

8. ST. CLARE MONASTERY (Exterior view)

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

9. ENOZENTRUM OLITE

This is located in the former palace of the Santo Ángel; a 17th century building that overlooks the Teobaldos Square. It is a didactic museum with multimedia technology, spread over four floors, each covering a different aspect of the world of wine: the history of wine, viticulture, oenology, the winery and the wine in Navarre.

10. CHAPEL OF ST. BRIDGET (Exterior view)

Standing three km 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.