

# SPAIN

## Burgos Cathedral

### Brief description

Our Lady of Burgos was begun in the 13th century at the same time as the great cathedrals of the Ile-de-France and was completed in the 15th and 16th centuries. The entire history of Gothic art is summed up in its superb architecture and its unique collection of works of art, including paintings, choir stalls, reredos, tombs and stained-glass windows.

### 1. Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1984

#### Agency responsible for site management

- Castilla y León Regional Government, Head of the Historical Heritage Planning and Protection Service
- Directorate-General of Heritage and Cultural Sites, Castilla y León, Spain

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (ii), (iv), (vi)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

(i) The cathedral complex is an artistic work that can be considered a masterpiece in the creative use of space by man;

(ii) Since it was built it has been a religious centre and the scene of important historical events;

(vi) An important centre for the Catholic religion since its foundation.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS recommends inclusion of the cathedral of Burgos on the World Heritage List based on criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi).

- Criterion (ii) : this cathedral has exerted, at different times, a considerable influence on the evolution of architecture and the plastic arts. It is sufficient to call to mind:

1) its role in the diffusion in Spain of the forms of French Gothic art of the 13th century.

2) the international importance of the workshop in the 15th and 16th centuries where artists from the

Rhineland, Burgundy and Flanders trained Spanish architects and sculptors, creating, thus, one of the most flourishing schools of the end of Middle Ages.

3) its role as model, through the 19th century: the French architect Garnier was inspired by the staircase of Diego de Siloe when he created that of the Opera in Paris.

- Criterion (iv): Burgos offers an eminent example of an integral Gothic cathedral, with church, cloister and annexes. Over more than four centuries, without a break in continuity (tombs were constructed in the chapel of Saint Gregory and the chapel of the Assumption in the 14th century), this cathedral bears testimony to the creative genius of architects, sculptors and craftsmen.

- Criterion (vi): the cathedral of Burgos, with the tomb of the Cid and that of his wife Doña Jimana, is integrally linked to the history of the Reconquista and Spanish unity. Several members of the early royal house of Castilla rest beneath the main altar. The memory of Saint Ferdinand is linked to the construction of this symbolic monument of the Spanish monarchy.

#### Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

#### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Decree 1885 bestowing Monument status on the Cathedral; Decree 273/1994 of 1 December regulates the competencies of the Cultural Heritage Territorial Commissions; Law 12/2002 of 11 July regarding Cultural Heritage in Castilla y León
- The 1995 Special Plan of the Burgos Historical Complex; National Cathedral Plan; Burgos Cathedral Management Plan; The June 2004 Special Plan concerning the Route of Santiago de Compostela where it crosses the city of Burgos
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

#### 4. Management

##### Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, religious use

##### Management /Administrative Body

- Formal steering group
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: regional; religious (Cathedral Chapter)
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

#### 5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 09/1997
- Adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: The Castilla y León Regional Government, Directorate-General of Heritage and Cultural Sites of the Department of Culture and Tourism; The Cathedral Chapter collaboration

#### 6. Financial Resources

##### Financial situation

- The Ministry of Culture; Castilla y León Regional Government; Local Burgos Government; Burgos Town Hall; Archdiocese of Burgos
- Private foundations and associations; Savings Banks
- European Investment Bank
- Sufficient

#### 7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: not provided
- Access to staff from the national and regional authorities

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, promotion
- Average: interpretation, education, visitor management

#### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Technical expertise from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Castilla y León Regional Government and other technical expertise

#### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 330,000 number (entrance tickets)
- Visitor facilities: Signs, parking facilities, guide books, guided tours
- The Burgos Cathedral Management Plan provides a series of guidelines for visitor management

#### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; studies related to the value of the site; monitoring exercises; archaeological surveys
- The Cathedral Management Plan includes a diagnosis of the building's state of conservation; studies on environmental conditions

#### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Web site available: [www.jcyl.es](http://www.jcyl.es)  
[www.catedraldeburgos.es](http://www.catedraldeburgos.es)
- Local participation: "Friends of the Cathedral"

#### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

##### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 18<sup>th</sup> (1994); 22<sup>nd</sup> (1998)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 17<sup>th</sup> (1993); 18<sup>th</sup> (1994); 22<sup>nd</sup> (1998)

##### Conservation interventions

- Conservation; restoration works on environmental conditions, emergency interventions on works on buildings, interior surfaces based on the criteria in the Cathedral Management Plan
- Present state of conservation: adequate

##### Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental, visitor/tourism pressures
- Emergency measures taken: A more ordered and structured visit itinerary has been created and guided visits are encouraged

### **13. Monitoring**

- Formal monitoring programme
- The Management Plan has a Monitoring Commission. A Commission has also been formed to monitor works undertaken at the Cathedral
- PAHIS 2004-2012 Plan focusing on historical heritage in Castilla y León (approved by virtue of Agreement 37/2005 of the Castilla y León Regional Government) envisages the creation, in collaboration with the Cathedral Chapter, of a Consejo Fabricero (works council) comprised of experts from a number of different disciplines.

### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: Conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: prestige; strong impetus for the organisations involved in the conservation of the site; a greater commitment on the part of the property and the Public Administrations
- Weaknesses of management: The large number of visitors; the need to combine enjoyment and dissemination of this historical heritage site with its religious and cultural mission

#### **Future actions:**

- Better organisation of guided visits