

Maribel's Guide to Segovia © -Updates

February '08

The new high speed **AVE train, Madrid-Segovia-Valladolid** was inaugurated on Dec. 22 (on schedule!) and began passenger service the next day. It now stands as the quickest, most comfortable way of traveling between Madrid and this lovely city. The standard fare of €20.40 one-way or €32.64 round trip is steep, however, but deeply discounted fares are available on www.renfe.es.

The 60% discount WEB fare must be purchased one-way, tourist class only, and a minimum of 15 days in advance. A 40% discount ESTRELLA fare is also available and must be purchased within 7 days of your travel date. Both fares are non-refundable. For the very short 35-minute ride, a tourist class ticket is recommended. "Preferente" (business) class seats are also available (for those going on to Valladolid), but very much a waste of money for such a short trip.

Segovia's AVE station was built 4 kilometers outside the city, so one must take a taxi or bus (line 11 or 12) into the city center. Taxi fare runs around €7, and the bus costs €80. But because the busses are timed to meet the trains, they can fill up very quickly, particularly if AVE trains from Madrid and Valladolid arrive at the same time. Therefore, I recommend that you walk quickly (or run!) from the platform to the bus stop to grab a seat before the bus fills. Avoid the temptation to stop at the tourist office booth for maps and brochures, because if you miss the bus, your only option will be to hail a taxi, as the next bus may not arrive for another hour or two. Bus 11 leaves passengers at the Plaza de la Artillería, just below the Plaza de Azoguejo, the aqueduct and very helpful tourist office. Bus 12 ends its run at on Paseo Ezequiel González, across from the bus station and next to the police office. From there, it's an easy and short walk to the aqueduct. See the schedule at www.urbanosdesegovia.com/index2.htm. Click on "Mapas de líneas y horarios", select 11 or 12; then click on "Horarios".