



# The AQUEDUCT OF SEGOVIA

by Esther Gómez

The Aqueduct of Segovia (or more precisely, the aqueduct bridge) is a Roman aqueduct and one of the most significant and best-preserved ancient monuments left on the Iberian Peninsula. It is located in Segovia, near Valladolid. Segovia is a World Heritage City and also has other significant monuments such as the Alcazar.



The first section of the aqueduct contains 36 semi-circular arches, rebuilt in the 15th century to restore a portion destroyed by the Moors in 1072. The line of arches is organized in two levels, decorated simply, in which predominantly simple molds hold the frame and provide support to the structure **without any glue!** On the upper level, the arches have width of 5.1 meters. The top of the structure contains the channel through which water travels, through a U-shaped hollow.



The aqueduct is built of unmortared, brick-like granite blocks. **During the Roman era, each of the three tallest arches displayed a sign in bronze letters, indicating the name of its builder along with the date of construction.** Today, two niches are still visible, one on each side of the aqueduct. One of them is known to have held the image of Hercules, who, according to legend, was founder of the city. The other niche now contains the images of the Virgen de la Fuencisla (the Patroness of Segovia) and Saint Stephen.



# \*Information from Wikipedia