



ENGLISH

ARAGÓN

YOUR KINGDOM

A CULTURAL CROSSROADS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY HAS GIVEN RISE TO AN OPEN AND WELCOMING ARAGON. ITS VAST ARTISTIC, CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE IS ITS GREATEST LEGACY.



“ THE MAJESTIC CASTLE OF LOARRE
LOOKS OUT OVER THE PLAINS
OF LA HOYA DE HUESCA AND IS
THOUGHT TO BE THE BEST PRESERVED
ROMANESQUE CASTLE IN EUROPE. ”





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/ ARAGON, YOUR KINGDOM

If anything characterises Aragon it is its strategic location, which makes it a cultural crossroads and melting pot. The Pyrenees is not a border but a means of communication with Europe.

The Iberian mountain system spanning Aragon connects the Castilian interior with the Mediterranean coast. And in the centre, the Ebro River runs across the region from west to east. So it is hardly surprising that different civilisations have left their mark here. Iberians, Visigoths, Muslims, Romans, Jews and Christians: the result is a people proud of their individuality and their traditions.

The physical characteristics of the territory also create very different landscapes: from snow-capped high mountain to desert steppe; from fertile plains to steep forests; from bleak crags to wide open valleys.

Its vast territory of almost 48,000 km² has 1,300,000 inhabitants. It has a strategic location as it is equidistant from Spain's most important cities and has a good communications network.

All this makes visiting Aragon an adventure in search of a kingdom full of amazing treasures, where travellers will always feel at home.



< Loarre Castle.
Autumn colors in Aragon
The Pyrenees, a paradise for skiers.
Canyon of Mont-Rebei.
Teruel jamón

01/

ARAGON IS THE PYRENEES

Aragon has the greatest area of high mountain territory in Spain. The Aragonese Pyrenees includes over 50 peaks above 3,000 metres, unspoiled landscapes, spectacular wildlife and splendid well-preserved heritage and customs.



02/

ARAGON IS SNOW

Its altitude and climate make Aragon a paradise for lovers of winter sports, both inside its modern facilities and out in the open air



04/

ARAGON IS ADVENTURE

Aragon offers a wide variety of services to help you enjoy active tourism and have fun in the great outdoors.



06/

ARAGON IS FLAVOUR

Aragon's wealth of agriculture and livestock and its carefully preserved traditions are enriched by the creativity of its chefs.



08/

ARAGÓN IS FIESTA

Ancestral customs rooted in the rhythm of the seasons and the harvests are celebrated in the form of fiestas, full of life and culture





03/

ARAGON IS NATURE

An amazing variety of scenery and careful, sustainable conservation ensure natural areas of the highest environmental interest

05/

ARAGON IS FOR CHILDREN

A collection of fun and interesting activities which will inspire children with the joy of discovering the world around them.



07/

ARAGON IS RELAXATION

Centuries ago, Aragon was already enjoying the healthy virtues of its medicinal waters. Today, an important network of resorts located in beautiful settings offers treatments of the highest quality..



09/

MUST-SEES AND CHARMING PLACES

Here you can find a selection of the most interesting places to visit in Huesca, Teruel and Zaragoza.



/ARAGON IS THE PYRENEES

ARAGON IS THE REGION WITH THE GREATEST AREA OF HIGH MOUNTAIN TERRITORY IN SPAIN. THE ARAGONESE PYRENEES INCLUDES OVER 50 PEAKS ABOVE 3,000 METRES, FRAMED WITHIN UNSPOILED LANDSCAPES AND HOME TO SPECTACULAR WILDLIFE. ITS SPLENDID AND CAREFULLY PRESERVED CULTURAL HERITAGE MAKES THIS UNIQUE AREA SPAIN'S GOLD STANDARD. HERE WE TAKE A TOUR FROM VALLEY TO VALLEY, FROM WEST TO EAST.

WESTERN VALLEYS NATURE PARK

The park spans the headwaters of the *Veral, Aragón Subordán, Osia, Estarrún* and *Lubierre* rivers. Its relief was shaped by glacial action, carving slender peaks and excavating cirques, U-shaped valleys and basins that would create the tarns (ibones) which you can see today. There are small plains where the water zigzags, creating meanders such as those found in the stunning scenery of *Aguas Tuertas* in the *Forest of Oza*, 15 km north of Hecho. Here, you can also find an awe-inspiring 5,000-year-old megalithic dolmen. This place abounds with beech and other deciduous trees that blend harmoniously with forests of tall fir and black mountain pine.

Also, about 12 km north of Ansó, you can find the beautiful *Forest of Zuriza*, bordering northwest France and Navarre, which is the best example of Atlantic forest in Aragon.

Don't miss the villages that gave their names to the *Ansó* and *Hecho* valleys, beautifully conserved examples of typical Pyrenean architecture. And just a few miles from Hecho is the imposing 9th-century Romanesque monastery of *San Pedro de Siresa (S.IX)*.

ARAGON VALLEY

This is one of the most developed corridors of the Aragonese Pyrenees, with ample services *Jaca*, which was the first capital of the Kingdom of Aragon, is now the regional capital and a thriving centre for commerce and tourism.

Access to the valley from the north is by the Somport pass, the Roman 'Portus Summus', entry point of the *Way of St James* into Aragón. *The Pilgrim's Way* runs along almost the entire valley, parallel to the course of the river Aragon, the backbone of the valley to which it gives its name.

Only *Aísa* and *Borau*, where you can admire the Romanesque treasure of the *Monastery of San Adrián de Sasabe*, fall outside the influence of this river, as they form the link between the Aragon Valley and the Western Valleys.

But the most emblematic monuments of the area are the *Romanesque cathedral in Jaca*, with its *Diocesan Museum* (a global point of reference for medieval painting), and the *Monastery complex of San Juan de la Peña*, which includes the two churches of Santa Cruz de la Serós. This monastery complex is located within the *Protected Area of San Juan de la Peña and Monte Oroel*, which is noted for its stands of pine, oak and beech, sheltering griffon vultures, lammergeiers and Egyptian vultures and forest-dwelling mammals such as wild boar, fox, beech marten and roe deer. It is a prime site for bird-watchers.



Ansó Valley traditional costume.



Pineta Valley.



San Juan de la Peña Monastery.



Canfranc International Railway Station.



Church of San Pedro, Lárrede. Ruta de Serrablo.

These churches share the features of defensive or military structures such as the *Castle of San Pedro* in Jaca, better known as *The Citadel*. And don't miss the impressive modernist building of *Canfranc International Railway Station*. The valley has the highest peak of the Jaca area, *Collarada*, at 2,883 m, whose massif hides the *Cuevas de las Güixas* in Villanúa and some of the most recognisable peaks of the Pyrenees, such as Aspe and Anayet. From *Castiello de Jaca* you can access the melancholic and peaceful *Garcipollera Valley*, where another fine example of the Romanesque awaits: *the Church of Santa María de Iguácel*

TENA VALLEY

Parallel to the *Aragon Valley* and surrounded by towering massifs is the *Tena Valley*. Here the beauty of its peaks, forests and lakes blends with the traditional architecture of its mountain villages, such as Biescas, Hoz de Jaca, Tramacastilla de Tena, Panticosa, Lanuza and Sallent de Gállego.

This glacial valley lies in the upper basin of the Gállego River, surrounded by high peaks including Collarada (2,883 m), Tendeñera (2,853 m) and Anayet (2,559 m).

Within this area, the great massif of *Balaitus-Panticosa* was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, together with *Ordesa and Monte Perdido*. The area around the Panticosa Spa in particular is a spectacular display of peaks over 3,000 m in altitude and countless glacial mountain lakes that make it a real paradise for mountaineers.

The mountain lakes (ibones), the forests of pine, beech and oak, the valleys, meadows and a network of beautiful well-maintained trails invite you to enjoy nature at its most pristine.

Sabiñánigo, regional capital and gateway to the valley, has the *Ángel Orensanz Popular Arts of Serrablo Museum*, an ethnological exploration of the Pyrenees which is well worth a visit. In nearby Larrés, you can visit the Julio Gavin *Castillo de Larrés Museum of Drawing*, the only one of its kind in Spain.

In the vicinity of *Sabiñánigo*, you can head off on an interesting tourist route: the *Ruta de Serrablo*, a series of 14 unique and beautiful churches, with their own special artistic characteristics that set them apart. *Lárrede*, *Isún*, *Satué*, *San Juan de Busa*, *Oliván* and *San Bartolomé de Gavín* are all examples of these miniature masterpieces, with single nave, semicircular apse and eye-catching bell towers. They date from the mid-tenth century to the mideleventh century.

ORDESA AND MONTE PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK

Ordesa is synonymous with mountain and Pyrenees. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the park encompasses four valleys (*Ordesa*, *Añisclo*, *Escuain* and *Pineña*), which extend like arms around the *Monte Perdido massif*. It is one of the most beautiful areas in Spain due to its optimal state of preservation, extraordinary high mountain scenery and the abundance and variety of its fauna and flora.

The heart of the park is the *Ordesa Valley*, a jewel of nature where the River Arazas has carved waterfalls and channels amid dense woodland and towering walls, conferring an indescribable feeling of peace and tranquility. Following the well-marked trails through these spectacular natural surroundings is an unforgettable experience.



View of the Tena Valley from Lanuza.

The Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park has for years combined educational outreach with nature conservation. Throughout the year, and above all in autumn, you can marvel at such natural treasures as *Tozal del Mallo*, the *Estrecho waterfall*, *Gradas de Soaso*, the *beech woods* and the *Cola de Caballo waterfall*. At the entrance to the valley, from the charming village of *Torta*, you can also access the *Bujaruelo Valley*, which offers fascinating routes for all levels.

The Añisclo Canyon, reached from *Escalona*, is a deep scar with towering walls carved out by the *Bellós River*. Spectacular waterfalls cascade down, surrounded by imposing woodlands full of wildlife, which remain untouched and impenetrable thanks to the darkness of the ravine and its constant humidity.

The Escuaín Gorges, which can be reached from the town with the same name, is another example of nature's power, where the channelling of the river *Yaga* has formed an impressive canyon, as well as a number of fascinating upwellings. It also offers an excellent observation point for protected birds.

The *Pineta Valley*, accessed from *Bielsa*, is a pleasant and pastoral U-shaped glaciated valley. Surrounded by high ridges and wooded hillsides, it culminates at the great mass of the *Tres Sorores: Monte Perdido, Cilindro de Marboré* and *Soum de Ramond*, which force us to crane our necks to take in their more than 3,000 m height.

The entire park is a grand collection of Pyrenean flora and fauna, containing several unique species and where nature is the real star of the show. Dense forests of beech and pine; crystal clear lakes and rivers with trout and newts; alpine meadows and vertiginous crags with vultures, eagles and lammergeiers. In short, a true gem of the utmost importance that we should all cherish.

AÍNSA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Perched on a hill where the rivers *Cinca* and *Ara* meet, the beautiful medieval village of *Aínsa* retains the splendour of a bygone era. Its old town, presided over by the castle, has a harmonious and clearly medieval character, inviting the visitor to stroll through its archetypal arcade-lined *Main Square*. In its streets and cobbled squares, you can follow in the footsteps of the Romanesque through its beautiful buildings.

Heading north from *Aínsa* brings you to the *Cinca Valley*, where you can find wonders such as the *Monastery of San Victorián*, considered by some experts to be the oldest in Spain, and the *Tella prehistoric dolmen*, located in bewitchingly beautiful surroundings.

Southeast of *Aínsa*, suspended between the sky and the ground and dividing the *reservoirs of Mediano and El Grado*, the *military-religious complex of Samitier* awaits your discovery. *Abizanda* is also well worth a visit to admire its magnificent tower, with an interesting museum of popular beliefs, the *fortifications of Muro de Roda* and the *Romanesque church of San Juan de Toledo*, inside which you can see a colourful display of mural painting.

West of nearby *Aínsa* is *Boltaña*, with its huge Aragonese Gothic collegiate church. Dominating the little village are the remains of its castle, one of the first Christian strongholds in the region.

RIBAGORZA

Easternmost Aragon is as little known as its natural and artistic wonders are striking. The *Turbón massif* is a unique and legendary mountain that acts as a formidable climatic screen, giving rise to places of great beauty such as the *beech forest of Selba Plana*.

The spectacular *Obarra Canyon*, carved out of the rock by the river Isábena, provides a haven for the Pyrenean desman, dipper, otter and trout. Here, nestling at the bottom of a ravine near to Calvera, is the Lombard Romanesque church of the *Santa María de Obarra Monastery*, which became the heart of the County of Ribagorza. Inside is a Visigothic-style font.

And the *Mont-rebei Canyon*, where the river Noguera Ribagorzana crosses the *Montsec mountains*, has stunning vertical walls of over 350 metres high and only 20 metres wide.

The *Monastery of Alaón* in Sopeira is an interesting example of Lombard Romanesque. Nearby, you can be transported back into the Middle Ages while admiring the streets, buildings, walls and Romanesque churches of medieval Montaña. And if you are travelling with children, the Arén Dinosaur Museum combines fun and scientific learning, housing fossils discovered in the area.

ISÁBENA VALLEY

This valley offers a scenic architectural tour, whose centrepiece is *Roda de Isábena*. The highlight of this wonderful old town is its beautiful cathedral, built from the 11th century in Lombard Romanesque style. Of particular interest is the *Museum*, with valuable relics of Bishop San Ramón. The simple and charming cloister has a wealth of lapidary inscriptions.

And don't miss the cultural capital of *Ribagorza, Benabarre*, its buildings huddled around the circular outline of its castle.

POSETS-MALADETA NATURE RESERVE

Three peaks stand watch over this carefully conserved area, which includes the greatest concentration of peaks over 3,000 metres in Spain: *Posets, Perdiguero* and *Aneto*, the highest summit in the Pyrenees (3,404 m). Among them, preserved like relics, are the *Natural Monuments of the Pyrenean Glaciers: Maladeta-Aneto, Perdiguero* and *Posets*. The Park is scattered with countless high mountain lakes, waterfalls and streams, making your visit as rewarding as it is unforgettable.

In biological terms, the park has a spectacular diversity of flora and fauna, due to the series of micro-habitats created by a carefully balanced relationship between humans and nature throughout the centuries.

Arcade-lined Main Square in Aínsa.



Canyon of Mont-Rebe





Ibon Batisielles and aerial view of Benasque



Dog sledding, a different way to enjoy the snow.

ITS ALTITUDE AND CLIMATE MAKE ARAGON A PARADISE FOR LOVERS OF WINTER SPORTS, BOTH INSIDE ITS MODERN FACILITIES AND OUT IN THE OPEN AIR.

/ ARAGON IS SNOW

Every year, Aragon dresses up all in white, making its impressive landscapes a paradise for snow and mountain sports enthusiasts. Not surprisingly, Aragonese alpine and crosscountry skiing resorts offer some of the most exciting and extensive winter tourism in the whole of Spain.

There are modern, comfortable facilities for enjoying your favourite passion, with all the amenities. Explore endless slopes surrounded by nature, breathing the pure air of snow-capped forests and beautiful landscapes, and enjoying a special sense of freedom.

And not only can you go skiing or snowboarding in the stunning Pyrenees in Candanchú, Astún, Aramón Formigal, Aramón Panticosa or Aramón Cerler, but Teruel also has surprises in store in Aramón Valdelineares and Aramón Javalambre.

If you prefer long routes along trails through wonderful landscapes, you can go cross-country skiing as far as your strength and sense of adventure will take you, on the Pyrenean pistes at Candanchú, Fanlo-Valle de Vió, Linza, Lizara, Gabardito, Pineta, Llanos del Hospital and Panticosa Spa, and at Muela de San Juan, in Griegos, in the province of Teruel.

Cerler resort in the Benasque Valley.

Valdelineares, in Teruel.



And the Pyrenees and the Iberian mountain system also have flourishing private initiatives offering courses, routes and services for various activities. Hiking, Telemark skiing, snowshoeing, alpine skiing and even mushing or dog sledding are all on offer in the spectacular locations of our hills and mountains during the wintertime.

- 1/ Snow-capped peaks.
- 2/ Enjoying après-ski.
- 3/ Learning to ski.
- 4/ Formigal, with its 137 km of pistes..

These companies also offer equipment rental and guide services, highly advisable for the safe enjoyment of these splendid activities

+ Info: www.turismodearagon.com/nievedearagon

+ Info: www.espaciosnordicosdearagon.es





/ ARAGON IS NATURE

BESIDES THE PYRENEAN WONDERLAND, ARAGON ENJOYS A VARIETY OF AMAZING LANDSCAPES GOVERNED BY SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION POLICY WHICH ENSURES NATURAL AREAS OF THE UTMOST ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST

A/THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS

The transition zone between the Pyrenees and the Ebro valley, the Pyrenean foothills are a succession of spectacular scenery offering a wealth of experiences.

Sierra and Cañones de Guara Nature Park

This park is named after its most important mountain range, the Sierra de Guara, and encompasses almost the entirety of the river basins of the Vero and Alcanadre, tributaries of the river Cinca.

At the *Salto de Roldán*, near Huesca, legend has it that Roldán, pursued by his enemies, jumped on horseback from one rock to the other.

The south side has a climate and vegetation more typical of the Mediterranean, with holly oak dominating the landscape. But the most impressive features of this natural area are its *deep canyons*, carved from the limestone over millions of years by wind and water. The result is a vast collection of ravines, caves and waterfalls, where the water seems to work magic on the landscape.

The Kingdom of los Mallos

Los Mallos de Riglos is one of Aragon's most singularly impressive and well-known sights. Stunning russet rock formations, 300 m tall, tower over the landscape like giants, watching the griffon vultures, red kites, eagles and Egyptian vultures soar overhead.

Neighbouring *Mallos de Agüero*, equally imposing though less well-known, is also home to a large colony of vultures.

And around the *Peña reservoir*, hikers can venture into remote canyons of great beauty.

The majestic Mallos de Riglos, at the threshold of the Pyrenees.



Calomarde waterfall in the Sierra de Albarracín.



Canyons in Guara.

B/TERUEL'S SURPRISES

Surprising and enigmatic, the province of Teruel is a discovery that will leave no one disappointed.

Sierra de Albarracín and Montes Universales

In this region of high plains, the landscape rises above one thousand metres. Not surprisingly, some of the most important Iberian rivers begin their journeys here, including the Tagus (Tajo), the Turia and the Júcar.

A must-see is the *Protected Area of the Rodeno Pine Forests*, encompassing the municipal areas of Albarracín, Bezas and Gea de Albarracín. It is made up of unusual russet escarpments carpeted with cluster pine, which sometimes seem to sprout from the rock as if by magic.

Protected species such as peregrine falcons, eagle owls and roe deer can be found throughout the range. The reserve includes a visitor centre in the heart of the forest.

Gúdar, de Javalambre and Maestrazgo ranges

Peñarroya, which crowns the Sierra de Gúdar, is Teruel's highest peak and along with Javalambre it dominates these lofty mountain ranges with a clear atmosphere ideal for stargazing.

En el histórico territorio del Maestrazgo nos encontraremos el histórico territory of Maestrazgo, you can find the *Natural Monument of Los Órganos de Montoro*, near Ejulve. This is an imposing 200-metre-high rock formation which erosion has carved into shapes like organ pipes.

Close by is the *Protected Area of the Natural Monument of the Source of the River Pitarque*. Here, in rainy weather and as if by magic, the water gushes from the rock creating a marvellous four-metre-high waterfall.

Near Castellote is the *Natural Monument of Puente de Fonseca*. This is a landscape of rugged crags whose centrepiece is a natural bridge excavated by water and which provides shelter for various species of animal.

And one last surprise is the *Natural Monument of las Grutas de Cristal de Molinos*, where stalagmites and stalactites create strange geological formations which can be seen in a unique visit to the belly of the Earth.

Los Puertos de Beceite

Matarraña reaches its highest point in *los Puertos de Beceite*, which separate Aragon from Catalonia. The best examples of this rugged geography are *Les Roques de Masmut* and *Parrisal de Beceite*.



Órganos de Montoro



Source of the river Pitarque



Moncayo. View from the summit.



Beech woods in the foothills of El Moncayo

Les Roques del Masmút rise dramatically to over 100 metres near *Peñarroya de Tastavins*, giving shelter to a sizeable colony of vultures.

El Parrisal de Beceite is a narrow gorge offering a fantastic walk between rock walls along the bed of the river Matarraña. The river channels itself until it reaches a width of a barely believable 1.5 metres between rock walls of some 60 metres in height.

River Martín Cultural Park

This area, spanning the land between *Albalate del Arzobispo* and *Montalban*, takes us into a beautiful landscape of deep gorges, russet rodeneo rock walls and natural phenomena such as the *Sima de San Pedro*. This is the largest chasm in Europe, with a diameter of 100 m and containing a small lagoon with its own highly specialised habitat

C/ ZARAGOZA, A PROVINCE FULL OF CONTRAST

Where the ground starts to level out, the climate changes, varying between the aridity of the steppe and the freshness of the banks of the Ebro, creating a diverse and interesting range of landscapes and habitats.

Nature Park of El Moncayo

Within this *Protected Natural Area* and dominating the steppes of the Ebro and the flat-topped hills of Castile is the highest point of the Iberian mountain system, el Moncayo. Walking its trails is to wonder at its changing levels of vegetation, ranging from oak forests to pine woods. Its magical beech forest, one of the most southerly in Europe, is at its most spectacular during the autumn. From the summits you can look out over a splendid panorama, which on clear days reaches the Pyrenees and the Iberian and Central mountain systems.

Laguna de Gallocanta

Straddling the provinces of Zaragoza and Teruel, the *Nature Reserve of La Laguna de Gallocanta* is located in the area between Gallocanta, Berrueco, Tornos, Bello and Las Cuerlas.

On a plain at 1,000 m in altitude, it is a wetland area unique in Spain for its biological diversity. It is famous for its large concentrations of cranes, travelling to warmer climes for the winter. There is an Interpretation Centre, as well as waymarked routes and observation points for bird-watching.

El Mar de Aragón

Created by the construction on the Ebro River of the *Mequinenza* dam, the *Mar de Aragón* grants its visitors spectacular landscapes of rock walls and forests that are a gift for the senses.

Five hundred kilometres of inland shoreline gives rise to one of the largest European destinations for fishing and water sports. Species such as catfish, black bass, pike and zander have put the Mar de Aragón on angling's global radar.

Los Galachos del Ebro

In Zaragoza, the meanders cut off by changes in the course of the river have formed ox-bow lakes, known locally as 'galachos', which have created unique wetlands with their own ecosystem. *The Nature Reserve of Los Sotos y Galachos del Ebro* allows visitors to see more than 200 animal species, including herons and mallards, and mammals such as otters.

Los Monegros

This landscape is harsh and arid yet at the same time beautiful and bright. Once covered in pines and the dark juniper shrubs that gave it its name (black mountains), it is now the living desert of Europe.

The *Sierra de Alcubierre* crosses *Los Monegros* and is an important reserve for the wildlife inhabiting its woodlands of pine and holly oak.

Characteristic of this landscape are the 'torrallones', formations of eroded sandstone, and the 'ripas' of Alcolea and Ballobar, huge compacted clay outcrops lining the bends of the rivers.

The *Laguna de Sariñena* is a *Special Protection Area for Birds* and one of the ten largest lagoons in Spain. There are camouflaged hides for watching both the resident birds and those passing through on migration.

ARAGON OFFERS COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENCOUNTERING NATURE IN EXCITING AND ENJOYABLE WAYS. HERE, ADVENTURE IS GUARANTEED.

/ ARAGON IS ADVENTURE

A/ LAND

Mountaineering and climbing

Its rugged mountain terrain offers countless opportunities for the enjoyment of climbing and mountaineering. Naturally, the Aragonese Pyrenees, with the highest peaks of the range, year-round snow and spectacular landscapes, is the destination for more experienced enthusiasts. It has a network of hostels and mountain refuges providing superb facilities, as well as various active tourism companies offering experienced specialist guides.

And Aragon can also boast mythical places for rock climbing, such as Los Mallos de Riglos in Huesca, spectacular challenges like Los Órganos de Montoro in Teruel and walls for beginners and training in Morata de Jalón and Jaraba, in Zaragoza.

Hiking

Awaiting you In Aragon, far from the madding crowd, are thousands of kilometres of peaceful paths, lanes, trails and tracks, whatever your level of fitness and experience. They are waymarked in red and white for long distance (GR) trails, or white and yellow for short distance (PR) trails. GR trails cover hundreds of kilometres, connecting distant places and crossing various terrains, regions and areas.

PR trails are shorter routes for exploring individual environments or with a specific destination such as a refuge or a particular place or point of interest. It is often possible to combine several trails to create circular routes.

More info: www.aragonturismodeportivo.es
www.alberguesyrefugiosdearagon.com
www.viasverdes.com
www.senderosturisticos.turismodearagon.com

1/ Via ferrata climbing.

2/ Hiking to suit all tastes.

3/ Quad bike routes.





Aragon has an extensive network of bike trails.



Descending the Cinca by canoe

Besides its extensive network of trails, Aragon has other interesting routes such as old railway lines transformed into tourist routes (*Vías Verdes*) which can be enjoyed on foot, by bike or on horseback.

There are three in Aragon: the *Tarazonica*, linking the towns of Tarazona and Tudela; *Ojos Negros-Sagunto*, from the outskirts of the city of Teruel, crossing the *Sierra de Javalambre*; and *Val de Zafán*, from Alcañiz to Tortosa, spanning Matarraña.

Cycling and horse riding

Horse riding enables you to get close to nature, in a manner which respects the environment. On horseback you can discover beautiful landscapes along a network of traditional paths, forest tracks, cattle trails, bridle paths and trails.

Also, routes that would be long and hard to walk can be enjoyed on a mountain bike, enabling long distances to be covered in a single day. Mountain biking combines physical activity with the pleasure of enjoying the landscape at a gentler pace than by car. Make sure you are adequately equipped and plan your route.

Caving

Aragon offers a wide range of opportunities for caving, a sport that uses techniques similar to those used in climbing to explore caves and grottoes. In the Pyrenees, particularly notable are *the many caves of the Cotiella massif*, in the vicinity of the *Gistain Valley*.

Also worth a mention is the incredible *Alba* cave system, in the *Maladeta massif (Benasque Valley)*, which brings together all the phenomena that can be found in a chasm: underground lakes, great vaults, walls and labyrinths. Finally, don't miss the *Sierra y Cañones de*

Guara Nature Park, including some of the world's most important caves, such as *Solencio-Bastarás*

Golf

With golf, you can enjoy fresh air and magnificent natural surroundings. You can find golf clubs in *Latas, Badagüas, Benasque and Nueno* (province of Huesca), *Alcalá de la Selva* (province of Teruel), *Ranillas, La Peñaza* and the *Real Aeroclub* (Zaragoza) and in *Pinseque* and *Calatayud* (Zaragoza province).

B/ WATER

Canyoning

Aragon is one of the most important European destinations for canyoning. Following the course of a river along its narrowest and most difficult stretches, while controlling the risks, is a real adventure. The view from the bottom of a ravine gives you a completely different perspective from that of the walker who can only look out over the edge.

The activity of canyoning involves overcoming obstacles in the narrowest stretches of a river by jumping, abseiling, swimming, diving or walking along the riverbed. In addition to proper equipment, including a helmet, you should enlist the help of specialist guides to help you safely enjoy the beauty of the landscapes that you explore. In Aragon there are various areas where you can enjoy this sport, but two particularly stand out: the *Sierra de Guara* and the *Pyrenees*.

Guara, the European birthplace of canyoning, is a real paradise for lovers of this sport, because of its wide variety of ravines, from the simplest to those suitable

only for specialists. The descent of the river Vero is one of the best known, and the *Canyon of Gorgas Negras* is the longest of the entire range. The *Otín* and *Chimiachas* ravines are also highly recommended.

Boating, canoeing and whitewater sports

Navigating the water in any type of vessel is a pleasure which can be as exciting as whitewater rafting or as relaxing as sailing the countless Aragonese reservoirs.

In whitewater sports, high mountain rivers are descended in various types of vessel. The most popular are canoe, kayak, raft (several rowers in an inflatable boat), hydrospeed (using an individual board) and hot dog (several people sitting astride an inflatable tube). All of them require a thorough understanding of navigation techniques and knowledge of the particular stretch of river and the weather. The canoe is a versatile option, suitable for enjoying both pleasant outings on the calm waters of reservoirs and the most exciting descents of whitewater rivers such as the Gállego.

Other sports that can be enjoyed on Aragon's reservoirs, such as *La Sotonera* in Huesca and *Mar de Aragón* in Caspe, are sailing and windsurfing, as well as kitesurfing on the *Loteta* reservoir.

Aragon is also a prime destination for fishing, where you will find rivers and lakes of crystal clear water in which fishing is permitted. The reservoir known as *Mar de Aragón*, between Caspe and Mequinenza, is a European point of reference for species such as black bass and catfish.

C/ AIR

Boating, canoeing and whitewater sports

Going hang gliding or paragliding, you can experience a sense of total freedom, launching yourself over a valley from the top of a hillside.

Castejón de Sos in the Benasque Valley (Huesca) and *San Just* in Teruel are well-known for their perfect conditions for this sport. Several local companies can guide you in your aerial baptism, an experience that you will never forget.

You can also fly the Aragonese skies in a light aircraft or microlight, or if you dare, by parachute. The aerodromes of Benabarre, Castejón de Sos, Monflorite, Tardienta and Villanueva de Gállego serve as bases for this exciting adventure.



Canyoning in Guara



Rafting in the Pyrenees.



Aragon from the air.

1/



2/



3/



4/



A COLLECTION OF INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES THROUGH WHICH CHILDREN CAN DISCOVER ARAGON WHILE HAVING FUN.

/ ARAGON IS FOR CHILDREN

In Aragon there are countless opportunities for family fun: horse riding, bicycling, quad biking or segway routes. Hiking and organising picnics become the simplest of tasks given the large number of beautiful places and quiet spots in this region. And why not have fun in the winter snow, snowshoeing or snowboarding at one of the many ski resorts? Children can also enjoy various water activities suited to their particular needs, or a holiday to remember on a camp site in the great outdoors. And don't miss the various outings that are outlined below:

LACUNIACHA WILDLIFE PARK

In the Tena Valley, two kilometres from *Piedrafita de Jaca* and between 1,300 and 1,600 metres above sea level, a pleasant stroll through lush forests allows you to see a variety of animals in semi-freedom.

You can park at the entrance and then all you need is clothing and footwear suitable for the mountains. Everything else you can find here, including backpacks for carrying babies. There are also two picnic areas where you can take a break and some refreshments. During a 2-3 hour walk, the well-signposted trails will guide you to the animal enclosures, where you can see ibex, lynx, wolves, deer, elk, reindeer, bison, Przewalski's horse, chamois, fallow deer and roe deer, all in their natural habitat.

1/ Skity, the mascot of Aramon resorts.

2/ 3/ Brown bear and lynx in Lacuniacha Wildlife Park

4/ Trees are fun in adventure parks.

+ More info: www.lacuniacha.com



Territorio Dinópolis, devoted to dinosaurs.



Escucha Mining Museum.

TERRITORIO DINÓPOLIS

Dinópolis combines science and fun, enabling you to travel back 4,500 million years and see up close the fascinating world of the most extraordinary creatures that have ever existed: dinosaurs! Dinópolis is a group of theme parks with its main centre in Teruel, and smaller centres in six locations across the province.

At *Dinópolis Teruel*, you can travel back to the Big Bang, find out how our planet was formed and how the first lifeforms emerged, and marvel at the incredible world in which the dinosaurs lived until their extinction. The last 65 million years are travelled by boat, from the disappearance of the dinosaurs until the arrival of Homo Sapiens. You can follow the entertaining trails of the 'paleosenda' and be spellbound by the myriad sensations in the 3D cinema and the 4D simulator. You can also enjoy children's entertainment shows and watch out for the impressive life-size recreation of a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Finally, the Museum of Palaeontology provides a final stop on your voyage to this unique and fascinating period in the history of the Earth.

Peñarroya de Tastavins (Inhospitak) is home to the original fossil of *Tastavinsaurus Sanzio* and an impressive life-size replica seventeen feet long. In *Ariño* (Valcaria) you will discover the flora and fauna dating back 111 million years. In the village of *Galve* (Legendark) you can see a family of life-size *Aragosaurus* and the real remains of *Hypsilophodon* and *Iguanodon*. In *Rubielos de Mora* (Región Ambarina) you can discover the techniques used by palaeontologists to classify fossils, while in *Castellote* (Stone Forest) palaeography reveals the mysteries of the Earth when dinosaurs and mammals lived side-by-side, 125 million years ago. Finally in *Albarracín* (Mar Nummus) there is a diverse collection of fossils of creatures which lived in the immense sea that once covered these lands and in *Riodeva* (Titania) you can see a life-size replica of *Turiasaurus Riodevensis*, Europe's largest dinosaur skeleton, which was discovered in this area.



+ Info: www.dinopolis.com

ESCUCHA MINING MUSEUM

Do you want know how it feels to be a miner? Teruel has several villages with a past linked to mining and you can learn all about it in the Escucha Mining Museum.

Visiting this genuine coal mine, you can explore the depths of the Earth and learn first-hand about the harsh conditions of mining work. The visit begins with a ride in a mine cart down to a depth of 200 metres. Once below you can see the tools and utensils used to extract coal, as well as a long tunnel of beams and sleepers of wood and metal, leading to the main gallery. Taking the turning to the left leads to the only real coal pit in a Spanish Museum. An unforgettable experience.

+ More info: www.museomineroescucha.es



Gruta Iris in the Monasterio de Piedra.

EL MONASTERIO DE PIEDRA

Located in the Nuévalos area, near Calatayud, The *Monasterio de Piedra* is an ideal place to spend a great day out with children. The monastery's nature park offers an enjoyable walk of about two and a half hours through a lush and unusual garden where the sound of the water in the waterfalls, caves and lakes guides you through the dream-like surroundings. Along the way, children can visit the fish farm and feed the trout or visit the exhibition on the history of chocolate, which was made for the first time in the monastery's kitchen. And from March to October, you can also enjoy a spectacular display of birds of prey in flight.

+ More info: www.monasteriopiedra.com

Zaragoza Amusement Park.

ZARAGOZA AMUSEMENT PARK

This is a city park, just a few minutes from the centre of Zaragoza, with more than 60,000 m2 of fun and entertainment in the midst of the pine trees of Los Pinares de Venecia.

More than 40 rides and a wide range of catering services make the *Zaragoza Amusement Park* a special place.

If you go by car, there are several free parking areas next to the park, but you can also get there on one of the city's buses.

An unmissable day out for all the family during your visit to Zaragoza.

+ More info: www.atraczara.com





Ternasco lamb

IN ARAGON, YOU WILL DISCOVER THE KNOW-HOW OF TRADITIONAL DISHES AND ALSO THE IMAGINATION OF THE NEW GENERATION OF CHEFS. AND THE BEST WAY TO GET TO KNOW IT IS TO TRY IT, BECAUSE IT CONTAINS THE BEST OF THIS LAND.

/ ARAGON IS FLAVOU

UNIQUE ARAGONESE PRODUCTS

A variety of products are taken to their gastronomic heights in Aragon. Some notable foodstuffs include *borage* (indispensable in Aragonese cuisine), *black truffle* (Aragón is the most important producer worldwide), saffron from Jiloca (considered one of the best in the world), *dried tomatoes* from Caspe (widely used in various recipes), and a great variety of *local cheeses*, which are a real delight.

Don't miss the local pastries in nearly every town in Aragon, particularly in the province of Huesca, with its specialities famous throughout Spain, such as *Pastel Ruso* and *Trenza de Almudévar*.

PRODUCTS WITH “DENOMINACIÓN DE ORIGEN”

Foods with Denominación de Origen (designation of origin) are the star products of Aragonese cuisine. Olive oil from *Lower Aragon* and the *Sierra del Moncayo*, sweet and tender *Fuentes de Ebro onions*, delicious *Teruel jamón*, *Calanda peaches*, succulent *Ternasco lamb* and *Navarra asparagus* (produced in the border areas of la Rioja and Aragon), are products that have helped bring the flavour of these lands to all corners of the world.

WINES

One of the areas of modern tourism that attracts most interest is wine tourism. Aragon has four wine-making Designations of Origin: *Somontano*, *Cariñena*, *Campo de Borja* and *Calatayud*. In addition, the Cava Regulatory Council certifies sparkling wine made according to the champagne method in seven autonomous regions, including Aragon. mundo.

Black truffles from Sarrión.



Sip by sip, you can uncover all the secrets of this sensual world.

The *wine routes of Somontano, Campo de Cariñena and Garnacha (Campo de Borja)* have joined together to form Enoturismo Aragón (Aragon wine tourism) with the aim of joint promotion and expanding their market position.

More info:

www.rutadelvinosomontano.com
www.dosomontano.com/festival-del-vino
www.rutadelvinocampodecarinena.com
www.larutadelagarnacha.es
www.docalatayud.com
www.vinosdelatierradearagon.es



Wine tourism introduces you to the vineyards and varieties of the region.

The designation of de la Tierra has been created to identify a series of wines from particular areas, which have pleasant surprises in store for the consumer. Recognised at European level as a Protected Geographical Indication, these table wines must fulfil certain criteria



THE C'ALIAL SEAL

C'Alial is a quality assurance seal from the Aragon Regional Government which identifies foodstuffs distinguished by their special gastronomic and nutritional qualities. There are many and varied products that bear this seal in Aragon. Savour them.

+ Info:

www.gastronomia-aragonesa.com
www.aragonalimentos.es

TAPAS

Tapas are bite-size delicacies perfect for sampling different flavours and textures in just one mouthful. A deeply-rooted Aragonese custom which blends tradition and modernity. Huesca, Teruel and Zaragoza are all 'tapas cities'.

Like other areas of Aragon, each of these cities holds an annual competition to celebrate their innovations in the art of bar snacks and allow leading establishments to show off their new developments in 'microcuisine'.



1/ Aragon cheeses, variety and quality. 2/ Traditional migas with eggs and grapes. 3/ Tapas: always innovating. 4/ Teruel jamón.





Paracuellos de Jiloca Spa.

ARAGÓN IS A PRIVILEGED LAND IN TERMS OF ITS SPAS. LONG AGO, ROMANS AND MUSLIMS DISCOVERED THE HEALING POWER OF ARAGONESE WATERS. TODAY, THESE SPAS ARE MODERN RESORTS WITH WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES WHERE YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK AND DISCOVER A WORLD OF SENSATIONS THROUGH VARIOUS TREATMENTS USING THEIR MEDICINAL WATERS.

/ ARAGON IS RELAXATION

Here you can leave stress behind and find peace and harmony in the midst of splendid landscapes steeped in history and culture.

PYRENEAN SPAS

The *Panticosa Spa Resort* is located in a unique enclave in the Tena Valley, 8 km away from the town of Panticosa. Located at 1,600 m above sea level, it is also a traditional starting point for the spectacular high peaks of 3,000 metres and the many surrounding tarns.

The *Baños de Benasque Spa* is located 10 km from Benasque, in the beautiful setting of the *Nature Park of Posets-Maladeta*, at 1,720 m above sea level. Besides enjoying the spa itself, its enviable location provides opportunities for other activities such as mountain biking, hiking, horse riding and paragliding.

And finally, *Vilas del Turbón* offers a cosy and welcoming spa nestled in the midst of beautiful scenery that also allows you to enjoy a variety of mountain excursions and adventure sports.

In its surroundings are many places worth a visit, including the *Cathedral of Roda de Isábena*, the *Obarra Monastery*, *Benasque*, *Cerler*, *Ainsa* and *Graus*.

IN THE CALATAYUD AREA

There are also spas in the Zaragoza ranges of the Iberian mountain system, in the areas around Calatayud and the *Monasterio de Piedra*, at *Alhama de Aragón*, *Jaraba* and *Paracuellos de Jiloca*.

In *Alhama de Aragón*, the *Termas Pallarés Spa* is surrounded by 68,000 m² of parks and gardens. It has a wonderful 'thermal lake', unique in Europe, ideal for swimming all year round. In the centre of the town there is also the *Alhama de Aragón Spa Hotel*. Its greatest asset is the mineral content of its hot springs. And special mention should be made of its 11th-century gallery of baths, known as the *Baño del Moro*, considered one of the oldest in Spain.

In *Jaraba*, in a setting of breathtaking beauty, is the *La Virgen Spa*. It is located at the bottom of the Mesa River Canyon, flanked by two 100-metre-high rock walls which tower over the river Mesa.

Set in a beautiful spot enclosed by dense woodlands, the *Serón Spa* is a comprehensive health centre. In this charming family hotel you can enjoy a tranquil atmosphere, ideal for relaxing and relieving stress.

Nestled in a natural cave, you'll be amazed at the thermal pool of *Sicilia Spa*. The setting alone encourages relaxation, surrounded by 80,000 m² of gardens and woodlands.

On the banks of the Jiloca River and a few kilometres from Calatayud, the *Paracuellos de Jiloca Spa Hotel* in Paracuellos has been in business for more than 160 years. Its facilities, fully remodelled, retain restored 19th-century furniture while incorporating new technologies, combining modernity and antiquity.

IN TERUEL

In Manzanera, near Teruel, the *El Paraíso Spa*, located amidst forests, is a high quality spa resort where you can also go hiking, horse riding and cycling.

In Ariño, at the foot of Sierra de Arcos, you can wind down in a thermal centre with a four-star accommodation area.

+ More info: www.balneariosdearagon.com

1/ The spas offer many services.

2/ Panticosa Spa.

3/ Sicilia Spa.





Easter in the province of Teruel, with its Route of the Easter Drums, declared of International Tourist Interest.

/ ARAGON IS “FIESTA”

BESIDES ITS NATURAL SPLENDOUR AND ITS WEALTH OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, ARAGON OFFERS A WONDERFUL CALENDAR OF FESTIVE EVENTS. HUGELY POPULAR, AND FULL OF LIFE AND TRADITION, CELEBRATIONS OF ALL KINDS ATTRACT HUNDREDS OF VISITORS EACH YEAR.

Here you will find fiestas ranging from sombre and moving Easter traditions to joyous local festivities, and celebrations of historical events, legends and traditions. This section outlines those which have been declared of Tourist Interest at national and international level, although there are many more, to suit all interests.

The Mojiganga is celebrated on the night of the 13th. This is a bizarre parade through the streets, ending with a traditional performance in the Main Square by the local people which satirises social events of the previous year

Giants and cabezudos, participants in every Aragonese fiesta.

IN HUESCA

On the last Sunday of August, Ansó becomes a living museum with its *Exaltación del Traje Anotano* traditional costume day. In various parts of the village, traditional customs and bygone daily tasks are recreated, allowing you to appreciate up close the beauty of the different costumes. Later, on a catwalk set up in the Main Square, there is a parade with an accompanying explanation of all the costumes.

During 12-15 September, Graus celebrates its fiestas in honour of *Santo Cristo and San Vicente Ferrer*. Highlights here are folk dances with ribbons, sticks and swords, as well as the parade of giants and cabezudo figures, Caballez and Furtaperas, and the traditional songs sung in the streets early in the morning.



© City of Zaragoza

Huesca's festivities are held from 9 to 15 August in honour of *San Lorenzo*. The town is completely transformed, decked out in white and green to celebrate a blend of tradition and entertainment. Highlights include the age-old *Baile de los danzantes de Huesca*, during the procession on the 10th, and its famous bullfighting events, among many other activities. This is one of the most popular Aragonese festivals.

Also, in Jaca, in late July or early August during odd years, the Pyrenean Folk Festival is held. Folk groups from all over the world perform their traditional dances in the Conference Centre and the Festival Pavilion. But the real fiesta is in the streets, with endless parades and impromptu performances where the audience can join in.

IN TERUEL

The *Route of the Easter Drums* is a particularly famous fiesta in Lower Aragon. The feeling of hearing an entire village beating its drums is difficult to sum up.

It is a tremendously popular cultural and family-ba-

sed celebration, in which thousands of side and bass drums come to life in the hands of several generations in the nine villages that make up the Route: *Albalate del Arzobispo*, *Alcañiz*, *Alcorisa*, *Andorra*, *Calanda*, *Hijar*, *La Puebla de Hijar*, *Samper de Calanda* and *Urrea de Gaén*.

Also, in *Teruel*, the entire city gets involved in the ritual, aesthetics, tradition and activities related to the commemoration of the Passion during *Easter week*. Seven religious fraternities, numerous events, a crowd of faithful spectators and the whole backdrop of the *World Heritage* Site city combine to create an unforgettable experience for visitors.

IN ZARAGOZA

Tarazona's *El Cipotegato* is celebrated on 27 August during the *Fiestas de San Atilano*. The *Cipotegato*, a character similar to a jester, emerges from the Town Hall dressed as a harlequin and runs away under a deluge of *pelted tomatoes*.

1/ Traditional dancing in the Plaza del Pilar 2/ Easter week in Zaragoza.
3/ San Lorenzo, dancers 4/ *El Cipotegato* in Tarazona.



The present-day celebration recalls the presence of the Cipotegado when the municipal council gathered at the town hall, formerly very close to the marketplace, embodying the people's mockery of the authorities.

In the city of Zaragoza, *Easter week*, declared a fiesta of international tourist interest has its own identity, with countless processions and widespread public participation. The most unusual feature of Zaragoza's Easter week is that all the religious fraternities come together on the night of Good Friday for the *Procesión General del Santo Entierro*, forming a complete procession depicting all the stations of the cross. The result is spectacular, with more than 15,000 people from 24 religious fraternities dressed in their tunics and hoods, accompanied by the thunder of side drums and bass drums. Listening to them playing together is an undeniably thrilling experience, and is part of what makes Zaragoza's Easter week one of the most complete and spectacular in Spain.

Zaragoza's *Fiestas del Pilar* take place during nine days in October, involving widespread public participation and many cultural, religious and festive events, which attract crowds of visitors. Two of the most prominent religious events are the mass *Offering of flowers* to the Virgin, on the 12th, which is a spectacular and colourful display of regional costumes, and the beautiful *Rosario de Cristal*. On the evening of 13 October, hundreds of people, many dressed in splendid regional costumes, crowd together to see the fantastic illuminations from over 300 lamps and 15 floats of polychrome glass that bring the religious activities of the fiestas to an end.

OTHER UNIQUE FESTIVALS

La Morisma in Ainsa (Huesca) is held during the last Sunday of August or the first in September, during even-numbered years. It is a dramatic performance full of mythical elements. Ainsa's beautiful Main Square provides the backdrop against which dozens of local people recreate a legendary medieval battle in which the Christian troops triumphed over the mighty Saracen army.

Bielsa's Carnival is the most important festival celebrated in this village, and one of the most traditional fiestas in the whole of the Pyrenees. It marks the prelude to lent and attracts a huge amount of visitors every year. For the local people, it is a point of pride that the Carnival has been preserved almost unchanged and has been held uninterrupted since time immemorial, maintaining both the essence of the fiesta and its characters.

On the *first Friday in May*, Jaca (Huesca) celebrates the fiesta commemorating the victory of the people of Jaca over a Muslim army that attempted to conquer the city. Its victory parade is a riot of noise and colour, with spectacular costumes.

Every February, year after year, the public performance of Las Bodas de Isabel, based on the legend of the lovers of Teruel, gathers together thousands of people from Teruel and beyond. For a few days, the city of Teruel is transformed and the local people dress in pe-



Bielsa carnival (Huesca).



Floral tribute during the Fiestas del Pilar in Zaragoza.



Sword dance, Graus.

riod costumes and go back in time to the 13th century. The streets become a grand medieval backdrop.

The Contradanza in Cetina (Zaragoza) is a highly original dance with Celtic music, unique in Aragon. It is a masked dance of pre-Christian origin that preserves elements of ancient agricultural rituals. Spectacular jumps are performed by the dancers, who all wear black costumes with white patterns resembling skeletons, except the devil, who wears red. This takes place on the night of 19 May, by torchlight, creating a startling spectacle.

The celebration of Corpus Christi is an important day in Daroca (Zaragoza). On the day of Corpus Christi, there is a procession in honour of los Sagrados Corporales.

According to tradition, in 1239, the communion wafers turned into blood, sticking to the altar cloths that they were wrapped in. They are preserved in the Church of Santa Maria, in a golden reliquary donated by the Catholic Monarchs. The procession is highly colourful, with a canopy, crosses, a custodia donated by Pedro IV and other ancient decorations, but is most remarkable for the thousands of petals that rain down on the procession.

1/ Bodas de Isabel de Segura in Teruel. . 2/ Contradanza in Cetina.



CALENDAR

* Of regional tourist interest ** Of national tourist interest *** Of international tourist interest

JANUARY:

- * Albelda (H). Fourth Sunday. Fiesta del Tossino.
- * Castelserás (T). 19th and 20th. San Sebastián.
- * Esteruel (T). Weekend closest to the 19th. Fiestas de los Sanantones y La Encamisada.
- * All municipalities of Matarraña (T) (except Fórnoles). 17th, the day before or nearest weekend. Fiesta de San Antón.

FEBRUARY:

- * Ateca (Z). 3rd. San Blas.
- * ** Teruel (T). Weekend after the third Friday. Bodas de Isabel de Segura.

MARCH:

- * Mara (Z). Saturday closest to the 15th. 'The Ides of March' Segeda Celtiberian festival

APRIL:

- * ** Fraga (H). Sunday closest to the 23rd. Día de la Faldeta.
- * Tauste (Z). 20th-22nd, el Dance de Tauste, and 22nd, el Rosario de Cristal.

MARCH-APRIL:

- * ** *** Albalate del Arzobispo/ Alcañiz/ Alcorisa/ Andorra/ Calanda/ Híjar/ La Puebla de Híjar/ Samper de Calanda/ Urrea de Gaén (T). Easter week. Route of the Easter Drums.
- * Alfambra (T). During Easter week. Subida a la Encamienda
- * Ateca (Z). Easter week.
- * Ayerbe (H). Maundy Thursday. La Enclavación.
- * ** Barbastro (H). Easter week.
- * Barbastro (H). Fiesta del Crespillo. Sunday closest to the 25th. March.
- * Borja (Z). El Rosario de Cristal, during Easter week.
- * Calatayud (Z). Easter week.
- * Caspe (Z). Easter week.
- * Huesca (H). Easter week.
- * Jaca (H) Easter week.

* Sarrión (T). Easter week.

- * Sos del Rey Católico (Z). 10th March and also the weekend before and the weekend after.
- * Tarazona (Z). Easter week.
- * Tauste (Z). Easter week.
- * ** Teruel (T). Easter week.
- * Torrijo de la Cañada (Z). Easter week.
- * Valderrobres (T). Easter week.
- * ** - ** - *** Zaragoza (Z). Easter week.

MAY:

- * Borja (Z). First Sunday. Rosario de Cristal.
- * Cetina (Z). 18th and 19th. San Juan Lorenzo (19th, la Contradanza).
- * Jaca (H). First Friday of May.
- * Monzón (H). Penultimate or last weekend. Tribute to Guillem de Mont-Rodón.
- * Sariñena (H). 15th. Dance de Sariñena.
- * Terrer (Z). Sunday closest to the 17th. San Pascual Bailón.

JUNE:

- * Calatayud (Z). Weekend closest to the 24th. Las Alfonsadas.
- * Caspe (Z). Weekend closest to the 28th. Commemoration of the Caspe agreement.
- * Gallur (Z). 3th and 29th. Dance de Gallur.
- * Pina de Ebro (Z). Saturday closest to the 24th. Toro de Sogas.

MAY-JUNE:

- * Daroca (Z). Thursday, 60 days after Easter Sunday. Corpus Christi.
- * Tamarite de Litera (H). Thursday, 60 days after Easter Sunday. Corpus Christi.

JULY:

- * Daroca (Z). Last weekend. Medieval market.
- * Graus (H). Last Saturday. Día de la Longaniza.
- * Munébrega (Z). 9th. San Cristóbal.

AUGUST:

- * Ainsa. Last Sunday or first Sunday of September (even years). La Morisma.
- * - ** Ansó (H). Last Sunday. Ansó traditional costume day.
- * Barbastro (H). Month of August (biennial). El Sitio de Barbastro.
- * Calamocha (T). 16th and 17th. El Baile de San Roque.
- * Calatayud (Z). 16th. San Roque.
- * - ** Huesca (H). 9th - 15th. Fiestas de San Lorenzo.
- * Mara (Z). Saturday closest to the 23th. Segeda Celtiberian fiestas (Vulcanalia).
- * Romanos (Z). 26th. Fiesta de las Migas y Vino en Teja.
- * - ** Tarazona (Z). 27th. El Cipotegato.

JULY-AUGUST:

- ** Jaca (H). End of July or early August (odd years). Pyrenean Folk Festival.

SEPTEMBER:

- * Almodévar (H). 7th-12th. Fiestas en honor a la Virgen de la Corona.
- * Cariñena (Z). 13th-18th. El Toro de Ronda.
- ** Graus (H). 12th-15th. Santo Cristo y San Vicente Ferrer fiestas (La Mojiganga, 13th).
- * Lituénigo (Z). Fourth Sunday. Pesaje de los Niños.
- * Longares (Z). 2nd and 8th. El Paloteo.
- * Novallas (Z). 15th. Día del Encierro Andando.
- * Sariñena (H). 2nd. Dance de Sariñena.

OCTOBER:

- * Sena (H). nd and first Sunday. El Dance de Sena.
- ** Zaragoza (Z). round the 12th. Fiestas del Pilar.

DECEMBER:

- * Monzón (H). 4th. El Bautizo del Alcalde.



/ MUST-SEES

1/

ART IN ARAGON: INDIVIDUALITY AND CHARACTER



Characteristic Mudejar mosaic.

Mudejar art

World Heritage

Mudejar is the name given to the Muslim population who continued living in their towns and villages after the Christian Reconquest, maintaining their religion, customs and culture.

Aragon's Mudejar monuments were designated World Heritage sites by UNESCO in 2001 for their unique and irreplaceable artistic expression, the result of the co-existence of cultures in a specific geographical location, which reached its peak during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Mudejar craftsmen excelled in extracting beautiful creations from simple materials: bricks, plaster, polychromatic wood and glazed ceramics. This is a system of construction characteristic of Islamic tradition in the service of Christian architecture, notable for the rich decoration

of walls and ceilings with elements of great plasticity and extraordinary beauty.

The outcome is original artistry of universal value.

In Aragón there are 157 listed Mudejar monuments. The city of Teruel is the most important in this respect, but there are abundant and magnificent examples of Mudejar art in the city and province of Zaragoza and in Teruel..

www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/ruta-mudejar



Capital, Cathedral of Huesca.

Romanesque treasures

When stone becomes art

Old Aragon was one of the main points of entry for this style in Spain and its legacy is one of the most important collections of Romanesque buildings in the Peninsula.

Many buildings of this style still remain, built while the Christians were extending their conquest of territories held by the Muslim population. They include chapels, churches, cathedrals and monasteries, all characterised by the use of semi-circular arches, large blocks of stone, and decorative sculpture and murals of great expressiveness. Two important examples of this beautiful architectural style are the old monastery of San Juan de la Peña and the magnificent Castle of Loarre, which deserve a chapter of their own.

Every Pyrenean valley possesses hidden wonders such as the monastery of San Pedro de Siresa in the Hecho Valley, and the Church of Santa Maria de Iguael and the old monastery of San Adrián de Sasabe in the Aragon Valley.

The Cathedral of Jaca is one of the most representative monuments of the Spanish Romanesque, since its

original decorative designs were exported to the rest of the peninsula by means of the Way of St James.

Its Diocesan Museum contains one of the most important collections of medieval art. And the sarcophagus of Doña Sancha, in the convent of las Madres Benedictinas, is a global point of reference in Romanesque funerary sculpture.

Close to Sabiñanigo, there is a dazzling group of small churches of with simple decoration and slender towers, which are associated with the most primitive Romanesque. Very close to each other, they make up the Ruta de Serrablo.

Huesca retains a beautiful example of the Romanesque in the church and cloister of the monastery of San Pedro el Viejo. And in Sobrarbe, the church of Aínsa and the Romanesque route of La Fueva Valley stand out. The Isábena Valley guards a real treasure: the Cathedral of Roda de Isábena, with its small but charming cloister. In the shelter of a gorge, 4 km from Calvera, you will find the magnificent Church of the Santa María de Obarra monastery. And at the eastern end of Huesca, you can admire the monastery of Alaón, in Sopeira.

In the province of Zaragoza, you can explore a Romanesque route known as Las Cinco Villas. The five villages include beautiful Luesia and Biel. In Sos del Rey Católico and Uncastillo, the many carefully-conserved Romanesque churches also have a marked defensive character, their fortifications evidence of their past in a border territory between two kingdoms.

And finally, the Romanesque buildings in the southernmost area of the Ebro are those which embellish the old town of Daroca, some of them displaying Mudejar elements.

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Engraving by Francisco de Goya. "Los Caprichos" (The Whims) series.

Goya Route

Following in the footsteps of a genius

To get to know the work of this Aragonese genius, take the tour beginning at Fuentetodos, where you can find his birthplace and a museum of engravings featuring some of his most important series of works.

In the Charterhouse of Aula Dei, near Zaragoza, Goya painted a series of eleven murals, seven of which can be seen today. Other thematic collections representing 'the Fathers of the Church' can be visited at the Hermitage of la Fuente in Muel, the Church of Remolinos, the Church of San Juan el Real in Calatayud and in the Casa de la Cultura in Alagón, where a fresco decorates the vault of the staircase.

His most important commission in Zaragoza was the decoration of a vault and a dome on the Basilica del Pilar. The city also maintains a large collection of his works in the Museum of Zaragoza and the IberCaja Camon Aznar Museum. In the Diocesan Museum you can find a portrait of Archbishop Company, which Goya painted in 1800. At the Museum of Huesca, you can also admire an interesting display of his graphic and pictorial work.

2/ SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA

A few kilometres from Jaca, the old monastery of San Juan de la Peña shines with its own light in this list of medieval treasures.

Built in the shelter of the huge crag from which it gets its name, the buildings appear to blend perfectly with their exceptional natural surroundings. The interior, whose broad chronology begins in the 10th century, includes the original Mozarabic Church, the so-called Pantheon of Nobles, the upper Church, consecrated in 1094, and the beautiful Gothic Chapel of San Victorián. But its most outstanding features are the beautiful Romanesque cloister, where the capitals represent biblical scenes of great expressiveness, and the 18thcentury neoclassical Royal Tomb.



San Juan de la Peña Monastery.

3/

LOARRE CASTLE

The castle of Loarre, another great Aragonese Romanesque treasure, perches on top of a crag, close to the city of Huesca.

This Romanesque castle is the best preserved in Europe, and visiting it conjures up a journey back to the Middle Ages. It has also been the setting for various films. Covering about 10,000 m2, its southern part is surrounded by a 13th-century wall, the rest being protected by the rock on which the fortress stands. A walk through its interior, at 1,070 m above sea level, is an attractive tour through passageways, battlements and dungeons, finishing at the Mirador de la Reina, with its fantastic panoramic view over



Loarre Castle.

Hoya de Huesca. An unforgettable experience.

4/

TERUEL: FROM MUDEJAR TO MODERNISM

The Mudejar route through the city of lovers begins in the Cathedral of Santa Maria, whose coffered ceiling is considered the Sistine Chapel of Mudejar art.

The Mudejar marvels continue as you gaze up at the towers of San Martín, El Salvador, La Merced and San Pedro, which houses the famous Mausoleo de Los Amantes.

But not everything is medieval in Teruel. There is also an interesting route of modernist architecture, exemplified in several buildings in the old town. And the grand finale of your visit is the beautiful neo-mudejar stairway of El



Modernist building in Teruel.

Paseo del Óvalo.

5/

ZARAGOZA: MUCH MORE THAN EL PILAR ON THE BANKS OF THE EBRO

Thanks to its strategic location, the capital of the Ebro has been a crossroads during its more than two thousand years of history. It is a place where different cultures have lived side-by-side and which has become a dynamic, modern and welcoming city

Founded by the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus, it was one of the main Roman cities of Hispania, as attested by its walls, its old name (Caesaraugusta) and its numerous archaeological remains. Many of these have been turned into museums, such as the forum, the river port, the public baths and most notably the theatre, one of the largest of its time.

Another of Zaragoza's treasures is the splendid palace of La Aljafería, which is a complex of palaces from the 11th-century Islamic, the 14th-century Mudejar and the late 15th-century Gothic-Renaissance. A real gem .



The Basilica del Pilar on the banks of the Ebro.

In the most emblematic of Zaragoza's squares, the Plaza del Pilar, its two magnificent cathedrals stand together. The Basílica del Pilar, Spain's largest baroque church and an important place on the international Marian pilgrimage, stands just a few metres from the lesser known, but artistically significant Cathedral of San Salvador, la Seo. It is a splendid combination of different artistic styles, ranging from Romanesque to neoclassical.

Don't miss the splendid Mudejar-style churches, declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO, whose towers stand out on Zaragoza's skyline.

Zaragoza is a renowned conference location, renovated and improved after the International Exhibition of 2008. The Pabellón Puente, Torre del Agua, and the Aragon Conference Centre make up its splendid architectural legacy.



Monasterio de Veruela.

6/ TARAZONA, VERUELA AND MONCAYO

Artistic treasures at the foot of a mythical mountain. Crossed by the river Queiles, Tarazona is one of Aragon's most beautiful towns.

Considered the Sistine Chapel of the Spanish Renaissance, the Cathedral of Santa María de la Huerta is a beautiful example of Gothic architecture enriched with Mudejar and Renaissance elements.

But there are other buildings to admire here, including the unusual Old Bullring, the Town Hall, the Church of la Magdalena and the Episcopal Palace. And a walk through the Jewish quarter's narrow, winding streets is a perfect way to end your visit to this beautiful city.

Nearby, in Vera de Moncayo, is the famous Cistercian mo-

nastery of Veruela. It is one of Aragon's most important monasteries. Surrounded by a turreted wall, lending it the air of a fortress, the monastery has a huge church with a beautiful cloister, which is without doubt the monastery's most precious treasure.

From Veruela, a road leads to the El Moncayo Nature Park, whose peak is the highest point of the Iberian mountain system. This is a place for country walks uphill through woods of oak, beech and pine towards the summit, where you can look out over a spectacular panorama.

7/ MONASTERIO DE PIEDRA: AN UNFORGETTABLE ROUTE OF STONE AND WATER

Located 112 km from Zaragoza, the Monasterio de Piedra is a nature park where, within the splendour of lush greenery, the river Piedra has created a series of stunning and delightful waterfalls, a crystal clear lake and caves of breathtaking beauty.

You can also visit the monastery itself, a 12th-century Cistercian monastery where you can see the cloister, the chapter house, the kitchen, the cellar and granary, the refectory, the altar and the church.

Half an hour away from this dream-like place is Calatayud, a city that stands out for its series of fortified buildings, one of the oldest in the Islamic world. Superb examples of the Mudejar style include the churches of San Andrés, San Pedro de los Francos and Nuestra Señora de la Peña, and the collegiate churches of Santa María and Santo Sepulcro.

You can feel the medieval atmosphere while wandering the narrow, winding streets of the old Jewish quarter. And the church of San Juan el Real contains pendentives painted by the young Goya.



Monasterio de Piedra.



/ CHARMING VILLAGES

These are places that possess that special something, that magic arising from a combination of exceptional artistic heritage and charming natural surroundings.

/ HUESCA

Ansó and Hecho

Pure Pyrenean architecture

Located in the western Pyrenean valley bearing its name, Ansó is one of the best examples of well-preserved Pyrenean architecture, set in lush high mountain surroundings. A wander through its streets is highly recommended, allowing you to discover the imposing parish church, which stands out in this charming collection of buildings.

A few kilometres away, also in a valley bearing its name, Hecho has safeguarded all the charm of its traditional Pyrenean architecture. Built on a crag, its steep streets emphasise the perspective over the roofs of the imposing mansions surrounding the church. Strolling these streets, you can discover doorways, mullioned windows, coats of arms and a thousand architectural details that speak of a resplendent past.

Jaca

The capital of the ancient Kingdom of Aragon

This city, the administrative and tourist centre of the valley of Aragon, offers many attractions of different kinds. Its magnificent Romanesque cathedral and exceptional Diocesan Museum shine with their own light.

And the castle of San Pedro, better known as the Citadel, is a magnificent pentagonal military fortification, built at the end of the 16th century. The only building of its type

still intact, not only in Spain but throughout Europe, it is home to a fascinating museum of military miniatures.

Alquézar

The fort overlooking the Vero

Located in the heart of Somontano de Barbastro, this beautiful village with winding medieval streets overlooks the imposing canyon of the Vero River from the top of a crag.

The ancient and arcade-lined Main Square is its nerve centre and here you can find the grandest houses in the village. The Collegiate church is striking for its magnificent Romanesque cloister and, above all, its beautiful capitals. Alquézar is also the starting point for an enjoyable outing along the walkways of the Ruta de las Pasarelas del Vero, suitable for all ages.

Aínsa

A journey back to the Middle Ages

In the heart of Sobrarbe, where the rivers Cinca and Ara meet, this medieval town's historic centre is a real openair museum.

Its immense arcade-lined Main Square is one of the most beautiful in Spain. At one end, is the sober Romanesque-style church of Santa María. With a slender square tower of 30 m in height, it dominates the skyline. You can complete your visit at the castle, of which some sections of walls and towers remain.

Hecho.

La Villa de Alquézar.

Aínsa.

Valderrobres.



Benasque

The heart of the ‘Hidden Valley’”

The centre of Benasque has many buildings, squares and places that retain their mountain charm, as well as some buildings of particular interest. The church of Santa María is of Romanesque origin, while the Palace of los Condes de Ribagorza is Renaissance. And Casa Juste and Casa Faure are beautiful historic buildings. The fiestas of San Marcial include the Ball dels homes on June 30 and the Ball de les dones on the following day.

/ TERUEL

Albarracín

A journey into the past, half an hour from Teruel

A walk through this village, considered one of the most beautiful in Spain, is an unforgettable experience. You can delight in the traditional half-timbered architecture and the characteristic russet-coloured plastered walls. A succession of passages, arches, stairways, entranceways, stately mansions with carved wooden balconies, wrought iron doorknockers, and roofs crowded together all adds up to create an absolutely magical atmosphere. Albarracín is a monument in itself.

Rubielos de Mora and Mora de Rubielos

Two unmissable visits

Two beautiful villages can be found in the River Mijares valley. Mora de Rubielos and Rubielos de Mora (with a Europa Nostra award for restoration) have historic buildings and monuments which tell of a resplendent past. In Rubielos de Mora, the town hall is one of the most important civic buildings, with its spacious marketplace in Levantine Gothic style. Meanwhile in Mora de Rubielos, the regional capital, the Gothic style is fully exemplified in the old collegiate church of Santa María and above all in its imposing castle, which dominates the village and is one of best preserved in Aragon María y sobre todo, en su imponente castillo, que preside el pueblo y es uno de los mejor conservados de Aragón.

Alcañiz and Valderrobres

The charm of Lower Aragon and Matarraña

The streets of Alcañiz display vestiges of the various civilisations that have shaped Lower Aragon’s regional capital. The main testimony to medieval Alcañiz is its magnificent Calatravo Castle, which houses an exceptional and unmissable collection of Gothic murals. At the Plaza de España, there is a splendid group of buildings, formed by the handsome Renaissance town hall adjoining the Gothic marketplace and, a few metres away, the immense Excolegiata de Santa María la Mayor.

A few kilometres from Alcañiz is Valderrobres, capital of Matarraña, a region of countless surprises.

A beautiful stone bridge and the San Roque gateway welcome you to this picturesque village.

It is located on a hillside bounded at its base by the River Matarraña and at the top by its magnificent monuments, the castle and the Gothic church of Santa María La Mayor.

Mirambel, Cantavieja and La Iglesuela del Cid

Beautiful places steeped in history

The Maestrazgo area offers beautiful, well-preserved historic villages, genuine treasures of our heritage.

The medieval village of Mirambel has a Europa Nostra restoration award and its 13th-century walls are the most complete and best preserved in the region. The town hall is a tremendous building which houses a Gothic jail.

Nearby, on top of a steep crag, is the impressive silhouette of Cantavieja. The ruins of its castle, the Church of la Asunción, the arcade-lined Main Square, the town hall and various aristocratic houses make up one of the best collections of Aragonese Gothic buildings.

Albarracín.

Rubielos de Mora.

Cantavieja.



/ ZARAGOZA

Uncastillo and Sos del Rey Católico

Two jewels of the Romanesque in Las Cinco Villas

In the northernmost part of the province of Zaragoza, very close to the border with Navarre, these two localities have enormous seductive power.

Uncastillo is considered the best collection of 12th-century Romanesque buildings in Spain. The village preserves the medieval flavour of its six magnificent churches as well as the remains of its curtain wall with its outstanding keep. Its steep streets, palatial houses and old Jewish quarter create a sense of suspended time. The Church of Santa María has a spectacular display of sculpture at its south entrance. The Church of San Martín is now an Interpretation Centre of Romanesque Art. The austere Church of San Juan has remarkable Romanesque murals. Palatial mansions, such as the Renaissance town hall, the Gothic Palace of Martín el Humano and the marketplace complete the roll-call of the town's historic monuments.

A few kilometres from Uncastillo, the medieval village of Sos is comprised of handsome stone houses, wooden eaves, facades with dressed white stone and coats-of-arms, Gothic and Renaissance windows and cobbled streets.

This is a real journey into the past where you can discover charming spots. The Palace of Sada was the birthplace of Ferdinand El Católico in 1452. Outstanding examples of

its Romanesque heritage are the churches of San Martín de Tours and San Esteban, which contains Gothic murals. The alleyways of the Jewish quarter, its walls, gateways and towers, including the keep of its castle, leave an indelible image in your memory

Daroca y Gallocanta

A wealth of history and an ornithological paradise

Crossing through Daroca's gateways takes us back into bygone ages. The Portal de Valencia, Puerta Baja and Puerta del Arrabal gateways, which guard the entrances through the city wall, offer a majestic welcome.

Within the old town are the old Jewish quarter and the Church of Santa María, where the Sagrados Corporales relic is preserved. You can also visit the Romanesque Church of San Miguel, with extraordinary and highly colourful Gothic murals.

The churches of San Juan de la Cuesta and Santo Domingo de Silos are two beautiful examples of 12th-century Romanesque buildings. And don't miss Daroca's mansions, such as the Paladio de los Luna, with remarkable projecting eaves.

Near Daroca, Gallocanta is a unique wetland in Spain because of its biological diversity. Its strategic location means that every year various species of aquatic bird use it as an overwintering site or as a migration stop. It is particularly famous for its large concentrations of cranes, travelling to warmer climes for the winter.

Uncastillo.



Sos del Rey Católico.



Daroca.





Calle Alfonso in Zaragoza, with the Basílica del Pilar in the background.



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