

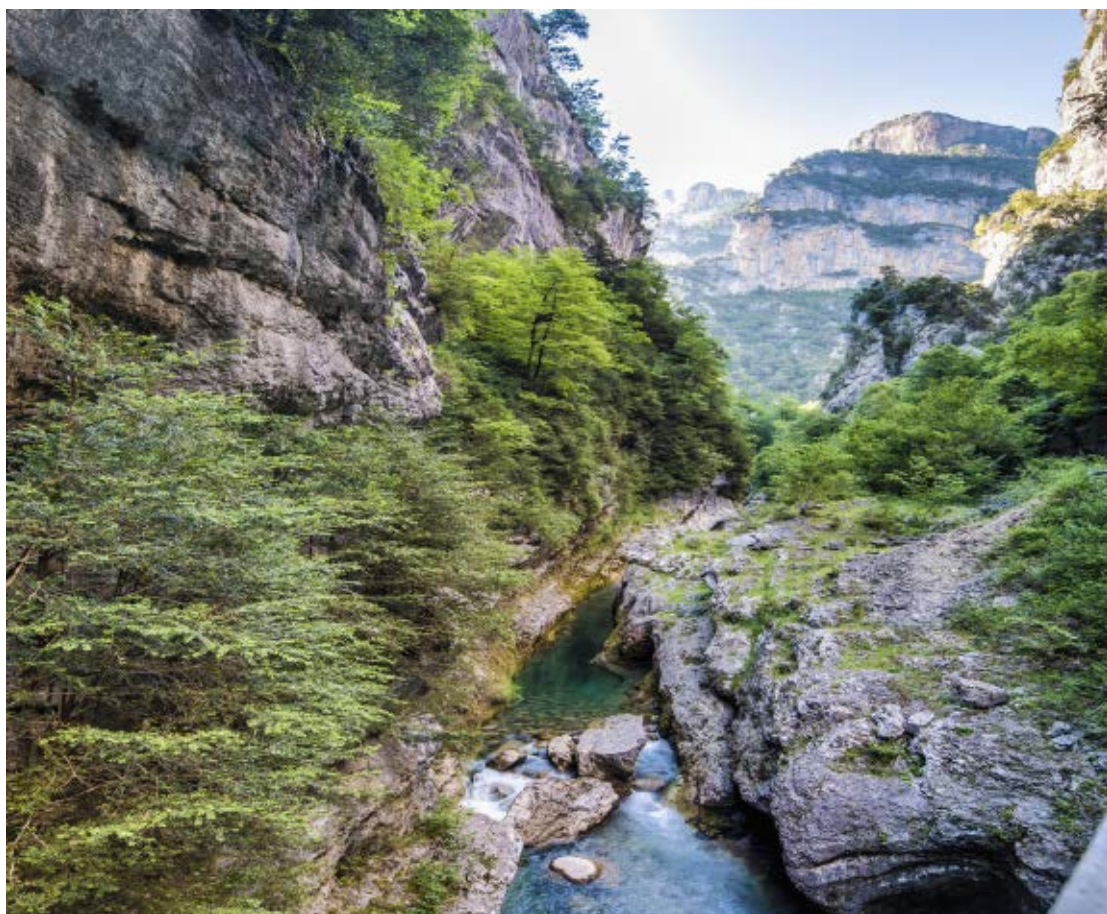


ENGLISH

HUESCA

IS MAGICAL

THE PROVINCE OF HUESCA REVEALS A MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF LANDSCAPES WHICH RANGE FROM SNOW-CAPPED HIGH MOUNTAIN TO RICHLY FERTILE PLAINS, BEYOND IMAGINATION.







The Aragonese Pyrenees includes the highest peaks of the range. In the background is Aneto.

THE PROVINCE OF HUESCA REVEALS A MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION OF LANDSCAPES WHICH RANGE FROM SNOW-CAPPED HIGH MOUNTAIN TO RICHLY FERTILE PLAINS, INCREDIBLE SCENERY BEYOND IMAGINATION. ABOVE ALL, HUESCA IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE PYRENEES: MAJESTIC PEAKS, EVERLASTING SNOW, ABUNDANT WILDLIFE AND ENDLESS FOREST THAT CHANGE COLOUR WITH THE RHYTHM OF THE SEASON.

Quedarás encantado / HUESCA IS MAGICAL

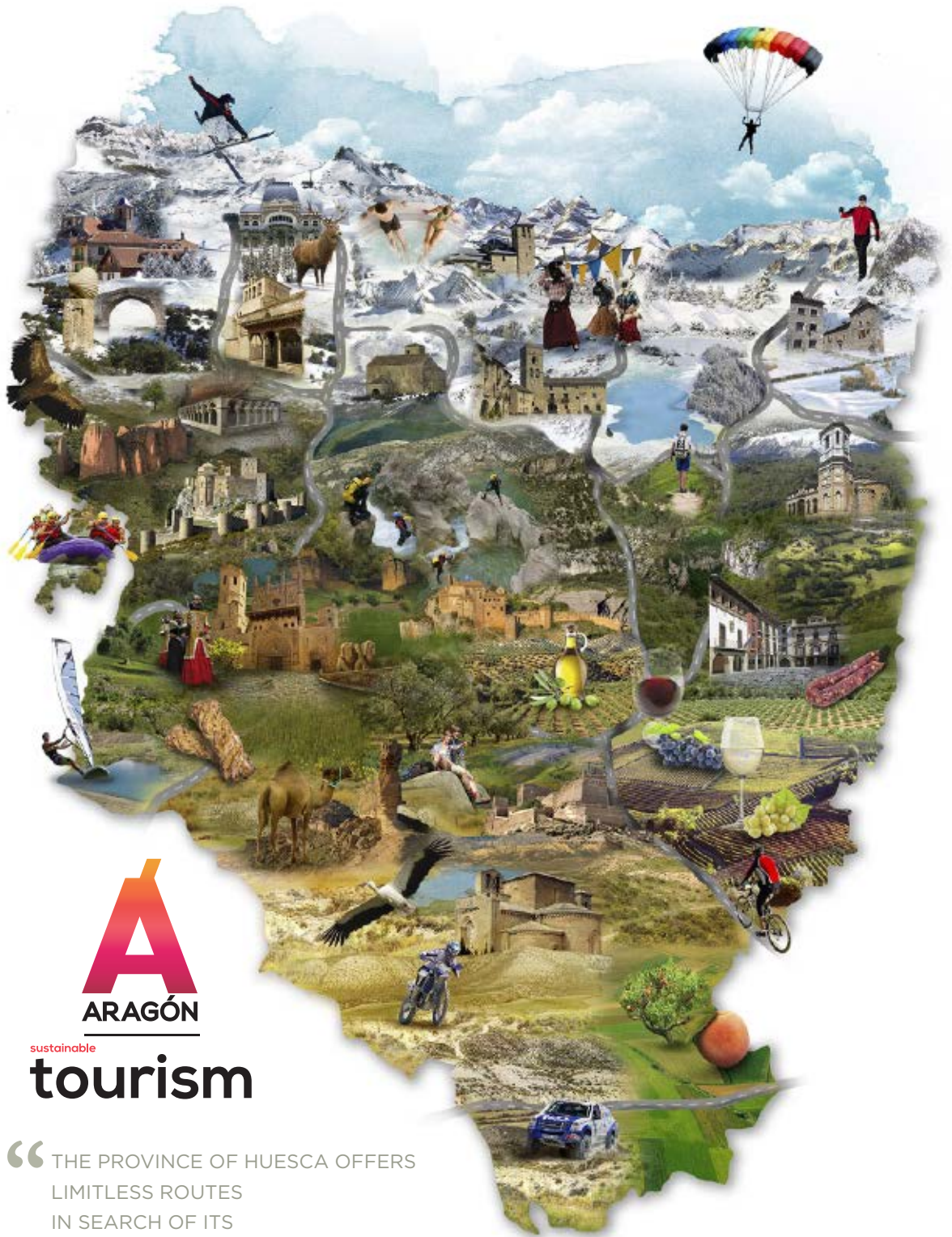
Huesca was the birthplace of the ancient kingdom of Aragon, the most powerful empire of the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages. Its northernmost area was also the gateway to the Way of St James, so almost every village harbours hidden artistic gems, particularly of the Romanesque style.

As a result of all this, the province offers limitless routes in search of its natural riches, various sporting activities and extensive historic legacy.

Huesca is a magical place for tourists, and its excellent network of services ensures that visitors are always enchanted.



< Valle de Ordesa, hayedo centenario.
El río Gállego a su paso por los Pirineos.
Valle de Tena. Trineo de perros.
Calle de Aínsa.



sustainable

tourism

“ THE PROVINCE OF HUESCA OFFERS
LIMITLESS ROUTES
IN SEARCH OF ITS
NATURAL RICHES, VARIOUS
SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND
EXTENSIVE HISTORIC LEGACY ”



MUST-SEES

This icon indicates tourist attractions of outstanding beauty or interest, which should not be missed



TO BE DISCOVERED

This icon indicates less well-known tourist attractions which are equally interesting.

01/

HUESCA, PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

Closely guarding its heritage and history, yet regarding the present with optimism and modernity, Huesca is an ideal city for walking around.



02/

THE PYRENEES

There is nothing in Spain comparable to the alpine landscape of the Aragonese Pyrenees, where you can discover the real meaning of concepts such as 'mountain', 'snow' and 'nature'.



03/

WAY OF ST JAMES

This ancient route offers an alternative approach to discovering these lands, step by step, in a more intimate and direct way.



04/

THE KINGDOM OF LOS MALLOS

If you enjoy dreaming of the past, in Hoya de Huesca, the countryside climbs up to the Pyrenean foothills where history comes alive and takes your breath away.

05/

GUARA AND SOMONTANO

If you've already heard of Somontano, it's now time to get to know this region, where the Sierra de Guara proudly rises up to reveal remarkable villages leaning out over deep gullies with mysterious waters.

06/

SOBRARBE AND RIBAGORZA

If you're looking for nature, history, open space, a little solitude and a lot of tranquility, this is the place for you. Come and discover it.



07/

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Huesca also has surprises in unusual places where the landscape leaves the Pyrenean heights behind for the calm of the Ebro Valley.





San Lorenzo Fiestas, the saint's farewell



La Confianza, the oldest grocery store in Spain.



Huesca Conference Centre

CLOSELY GUARDING ITS HERITAGE AND HISTORY, YET REGARDING THE PRESENT WITH OPTIMISM AND MODERNITY, HUESCA IS AN IDEAL CITY FOR WALKING AROUND..

/HUESCA PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

To get to know Huesca, there's nothing like beginning with the Gothic cathedral, built over the old mosque, with its beautiful Renaissance altarpiece by Damián Forment.

Opposite is the *Town Hall*, originally a 16th-Century Aragonese Renaissance palace. Just a few metres away is the fascinating Museum of Huesca, *with its annex extending into the adjoining* Romanesque palace of the Aragonese crown.

Also in the old quarter, you should visit the *church* and *cloister* of *San Pedro el Viejo*. Constructed mainly during the 12th Century, it is one of the most important examples of the Aragonese Romanesque style. The Chapel of San Bartolomé, within its cloister, is also a royal vault.

You can't leave Huesca without strolling through the central *Miguel Servet Park* and along the *Calle de Coso*, where you can see the modernist *Casino*. Finally reaching the Moorish city wall, you can get your strength back enjoying its tapas or its famous confectionery.

Near the city to the east, the imposing silhouette of *Montearagón Castle* is a memorable sight. A few kilometres towards Pamplona is the *Art and Nature Centre*, dedicated to contemporary art. And to the south, in the Walqa Technological Park, is the Aragonese Astronomy Centre's *Planetarium*, highly informative and entertaining if you're travelling with children.

Huesca's big week is the *San Lorenzo Fiestas*, taking place around 10th August and declared of National Tourist Interest.

< Romanesque cloister of San Pedro el Viejo.
< Facade of the Cathedral.



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.huescaturismo.com



/ THE PYRENEES

THERE IS NOTHING IN SPAIN COMPARABLE TO THE ALPINE LANDSCAPE OF THE ARAGONESE PYRENEES, WHERE YOU CAN DISCOVER THE REAL MEANING OF CONCEPTS SUCH AS MOUNTAIN, SNOW AND NATURE.

WESTERN VALLEYS

Ansó Valley

If you're looking for pristine nature, the western most Aragonese valley has a landscape of humid Atlantic climate with lush woodland and a great variety of wildlife, perfect for an enjoyable walk or for hiking.

To reach the valley, you can pass through either the stunning gorge of *Foz de Biniés* or the equally impressive *Fago-Majones*

Wandering the streets of *Ansó*, with its stone buildings, is a lesson on mountain life, since this picturesque locality has been able to skilfully preserve its individuality. Its characteristic costume is particularly interesting, and is honoured on the last Sunday in August with a colourful fiesta which has been designated of National Tourist Interest.

In the deep silence of the woodlands at the bottom of the valley, you can gain access to the *Forest of Zuriza*. Its extensive beech and fir woodlands and high meadows are a spectacular display of ecological diversity. You can also go cross-country skiing on the *Linza pistes*.

Hecho Valley

A well-known spot in the Pyrenees well worth a visit, where nature is visible in its pure state and its residents have carefully safeguarded their traditions and culture.

Hecho is the valley's most important village, offering all necessary tourist amenities, while maintaining a sensitive balance with the charm of its typical Pyrenean architecture.

Don't miss the trip to Siresa to visit the imposing Romanesque monastery of San Pedro de Siresa, of Carolingian origin (9th Century).



San Pedro de Siresa.



Ansó Valley traditional costume.



Ibón de Estanés

A Roman road, still visible in some sections, crosses the valley through the narrow divide of the *Boca del Infierno* and leads to a vast forested area of beech, fir and pines known as the *Forest of Oza*, a refuge for many endangered species and fascinating at any time of year.

From this paradise for lovers of untouched nature, the mountain entices us into trips and climbs suitable for all ages up to beautiful spots such as the *Guarrinza valleys*, *Aguas Tuertas*, with its five-thousand-year-old Megalithic dolmen, and the icy blue waters of Ibón de Estanés.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Enjoy yourself safely in the mountains

- Plan your activity
- Be properly equipped
- Be careful

☎ 112 (S.O.S. Aragón)

More info: www.montanasegura.com



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.jacetania.es

Autumn in all its splendour. Forest of Oza.



ARAGON VALLEY

This was the European gateway to the Way of St James and the birthplace of the old kingdom of Aragon. From the highest peaks of Aspe, Anayet and Collorada to the more developed Jaca, the valley abounds in nature reserves, sporting activities and an extensive tourist service network with excellent access.

Jaca, a city of more than 13,000 inhabitants, is the administration and tourism centre for the valley and offers many attractions of various types. To begin with, the spectacular *Romanesque cathedral* shines in its own right, complete with its *Diocesan Museum's* exceptional collection of Romanesque and Gothic murals. 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.

But Jaca is much more than this. Stroll through its streets, bustling with commercial activity, admire its elegant modernist buildings, treat yourself to exquisite traditional confectionery from its famous cake shops, skate for a while at the ice rink, and afterwards sample its local delicacies in its many bars and restaurants.



THE DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF JACA

Adjoining the cathedral, this is one of the most important museums dedicated to the Romanesque style in Spain.

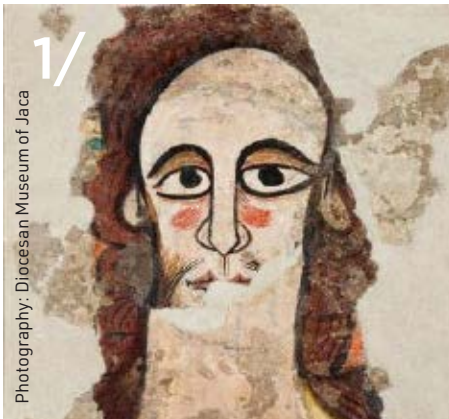
Its extraordinary collection of original Romanesque and Gothic frescos, rescued from various churches in the Diocese of Jaca, is outstanding. This collection firmly places Jaca's as one of the most important museums of medieval painting in the world.

Guided tours can be arranged.

More Info: www.diocesisdejaca.org

☎ 974 36 21 85/ 974 35 63 78

- 1/ Diocesan Museum of Jaca.
- 2/ Canfranc station.
- 3/ The Citadel of Jaca.
- 4/ Jaca, city of tapas.





Jaca, una de las catedrales románicas más antiguas de España.



Formigal con sus 136 Km. esquiables es la mejor estación de España.

In August of every odd-numbered year, Jaca hosts the Pyrenees Folk Festival.

Upriver, near Castiello de Jaca, the valley of *La Garcipollera* opens up, a National Hunting Reserve with a large deer population and within, a real treasure of the Romanesque, the *church of Santa Marta de Iguácel*.

Further on is Villanúa, at the foot of the *Collarada* massif with its famous *Güixas Caves*, legendary refuge of witches.

And just a few kilometres from the French border is the surprising and magnificent *Canfranc International Station*. Visiting it is an evocative reminder of its splendid early 20th-Century past.

Further still, the road takes a marked ascent to the renowned ski resorts of first *Candanchú* and then *Astún*. From these verdant meadows, you can set off on unforgettable high-mountain excursions.

Between Sabiñánigo and Biescas is the famous *Ruta de Serrablo*. This is a group of 14 small medieval churches, scattered throughout various villages but with common artistic features which give them their own characteristic identity. *Lárrede, Orós, Gavín, Satué* and *San Juan de Busa* are some of the stops on this unmissable itinerary.

Next is *Biescas*, head of the Tena Valley, with its great tourist atmosphere. Five kilometres away, you can visit the legendary *Santa Elena Hermitage*, which rises above a stunning gorge with a prehistoric dolmen nearby.

Climbing the valley, beside the Bubal reservoir is *Piedrafita de Jaca*, gateway to the *Lacuniacha Wildlife Park*. Ideal for a family trip, its Pyrenean woodlands are home to various species such as bears, deer, reindeer, wolves and bison, kept in semi-freedom. Close by are other tourist destinations such as *Tramacastilla de Tena, Sandiniés* and *Escarrilla*, all surrounded by beautiful countryside offering the chance to relax or go hiking, whatever your level.



FURTHER INFORMATION

www.turismodearagon.com/nievedearagon

TENA VALLEY

Any lover of adventure tourism should discover what the Tena Valley has to offer: remarkable alpine landscapes reaching up to 3,000 metres in altitude, charming mountain villages, and high-quality tourism services which support and bring prosperity to the region.

In *Sabiñánigo*, you can visit the fascinating *Ángel Orensanz Popular Arts of Serrablo Museum*, with its collection of goods and tools typical of daily life in the Pyrenees in years gone by. A few kilometres away in *Larrés* is the *Julio Gavín Castillo de Larrés Museum of Drawing*.



The Jaca Ice Pavilion, with two ice rinks.



FURTHER INFORMATION

www.pirineosaltoalgallego.com



CHURCHES OF SERRABLO

Close to Sabiñánigo is a group of churches with unique and fascinating architecture, encompassing the Mozarabic and the Romanesque, and set in beautiful landscapes. Notable for their small dimensions, simple decoration and graceful towers, Lárrede, Oliván, Susín y Orós are just a few examples.

More Info: www.serrablo.org

Aragon Tourism: ☎ 902 47 70 00

Regional Tourist Office: ☎ 974 48 33 11



Panticosa lies to the east, with its enchanting hamlet and *Aramón Panticosa ski resort*. Just a few kilometres separate the village from the famous *Panticosa Spa*, now called Panticosa Resort. Here, the most up-to-date health resort facilities combined with the extraordinary curative properties of its waters meet spectacular high mountain scenery and elegant nineteenth-century buildings. It is also a traditional starting point for routes to the high peaks of 3,000 metres and the many surrounding tarns.

Climbing up the Tena Valley, you reach the Lanuza reservoir, where the *International Festival of the Southern Pyrenees* is held every summer, celebrating world music.

At the end of the reservoir and at the foot of Peña Foratata, you reach Sallent de Gállego, a picturesque Pyrenean village with an interesting late-Gothic church and pretty nooks and crannies, and a centre for skiers from the neighbouring *Aramón-Formigal* resort and hikers venturing towards the daunting summits of *Respomuso*, *Balaitús* and *Anayet*.

- 1/ Lanuza with Peña Foratata in the background.
- 2/ Lynx. Lacuniacha Wildlife Park.
- 3/ Migas a la pastora.
- 4/ Panticosa Resort.





Bujaruelo Valley in winter.



Beautiful waterfalls in the Ordesa Valley.

/ORDESA NATIONAL PARK AND MONTE PERDIDO

If you don't know Ordesa, you don't know the Pyrenees. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the park encompasses four valleys (Ordesa, Añisclo, Escuaín and Pineta), 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 rock walls. Following its well-marked paths and immersing yourself in your surroundings is an experience never to be forgotten.

Thousands of people from all over the world arrive throughout the year to marvel at such natural treasures as *Tozal del Mallo*, the *Estrecho Waterfall*, the *Gradas de Soaso*, the beech woods and the *Horsetail Falls*.

At the entrance to the valley, from the enchanting traditional Pyrenean village of Torla, you can explore the *Bujaruelo Valley*, a lesser-travelled but lovely excursion.



The Añisclo Canyon with Monte Perdido in the background.



A beautiful spot in the Ordesa Valley.

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 *Gargantas de Escuaín*, accessed from the village of the same name, are a further example of the forces of nature. The narrowing of the River Yada has formed an impressive canyon, as well as an interesting series of upwellings of water. 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, the Cilindro de Marboré and the Soum de Ramond, which make you crane your neck to take in their more than 3,000 metres 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. Vultures, eagles, Lammergeiers, Pyrenean mountain goats and marmots share the dense beech and pine woodlands, rivers and crystal-clear tarns, alpine meadows and towering crags.

In all, a true natural treasure of the utmost ecological and environmental importance that we must cherish but also enjoy at first hand.



Ordesa. El Paso de los Sarrios.



The spectacular Tozal del Mallo in Ordesa.



View of the Pineta Valley from the Parador.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

More Info: Centro de visitantes de Torla. Avda. Ordesa s/n

During summer, Easter and some bank holidays, access by car is not permitted. Buses every 20 minutes, leaving from the Torla car park. Free parking.



☎ 974 48 64 72

www.turismosobarbe.com




THE BIELSA CARNIVAL

Customs, traditions, folktales and beliefs full of ancient flavour and magic still survive throughout the Pyrenees. One example is the Bielsa carnival, the most popular and well-attended of all the Upper Aragon region.

Amongst its well-known characters are the *trangas*, devilish and alarming creatures that frighten adults and children alike with their heavy staffs thundering against the ground, making the cowbells at their waists ring out. Their hides, horns and soot-blackened faces complete the startling effect..

More Info: www.bielsa.com

Sobrarbe Regional Tourist Office. Aínsa

 974 50 05 12



GETTING TO KNOW ORDESA

You can't talk about the Pyrenees without having got to know the wonderful Ordesa Valley and its captivating wealth of trails, woods, waterfalls, towering walls, meadows and snow-capped peaks.

From the car park at the meadow, at the foot of the *Tozal del Mallo* rock wall, the recommended route is to follow the path next to the river leading to the spectacular *Waterfalls of Arripas, la Cueva and Estrecho*. After passing through the silent beech woods, you arrive at the *Gradas de Soaso Waterfalls*. From here, it is best to carry on to the end of the glacial cirque to reach the foot of the famous *Horsetail Falls (Cola de Caballo)*. The return journey can be made via the *Faja de Pelay* to get an elevated view of the valley, then descending by the *Senda de los Cazadores* trail, although this section involves a higher level of difficulty.

This valley offers limitless opportunities for hiking and climbing.



**POSETS-MALADETA
NATURAL RESERVE**

The Posets and Aneto massifs make up another enormous group of peaks, permanent glaciers, frozen lakes and stunning woodland valleys. A magnificent example of Pyrenean scenery where the highest summits of the whole Pyrenees will be indelibly stamped on your memory.

The Chistau or *Gistain Valley* is surrounded by monumental peaks, numerous lakes and tarns, and open meadows where livestock graze. The pastoral villages of *Plan, San Juan de Plan and Gistain* are fine examples of well-preserved Pyrenean architecture: stone houses, sloping streets and hidden corners with panoramic mountain views. A valley which offers not only hiking routes for all levels and climbs to frozen lakes and mythical peaks such as Posets and Bachimala but also the serene pleasures of relaxed tourism, away from worldly bustle.

The *Benasque Valley* has everything you could want from a mountain tourism paradise. Its nerve centre is the town of *Benasque*, combining impressive mansions with every kind of high-quality tourist service, from shops to hotels and restaurants.

Close by is *Cerler*, with its famous *Aramón Cerler* ski resort and its extraordinary panoramic views of the valley. Also in the vicinity of Benasque is *Anciles*, with a handsome collection of manor houses which are well worth a visit.

Cerler ski resort.



**TRAVELLING ROUND THE
BENASQUE VALLEY**

Hiking is the best and simplest way to really get to know the Benasque Valley. The tranquillity of walking allows you to feel part of all that surrounds you: unadulterated nature and delightful mountain villages. The valley has an ample network of waymarked trails: GR Routes (long-distance footpaths), such as GR 11 (Pyrenees coast-to-coast) and PR Routes (short-distance footpaths) such as PR-Valle de Benasque.

Though there are countless hiking opportunities offered by the valley, its highlight is the well-known excursion to the magnificent *Forrau D'Aiguallut Waterfall*.

Surrounded by the highest concentration of peaks over 3,000 metres in the entire Pyrenees, Benasque is situated in the central valley of the three that form the *Posets-Maladeta Nature Reserve*.

**INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Nature Interpretation Centres in the Posets Maladeta Nature Reserve in Aneto, Benasque and San Juan de Plan

Check the weather forecast before setting off on any mountain activity



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.turismoribagorza.org

Eriste, also nearby, is a good starting point for a trip to *Posets*, second-highest peak of the Pyrenees. At its foot you will find a valley of tarns, with the lake of Las Alforjas, the Ibón de Posets and the Plana lake as reference points. The Escarpinosa area (with the Escarpinosa lake and the lakes of Batisielles and la Aigüeta de Batisielles) and Perramó, the border between the Estós and Eriste valleys, afford incredible views.

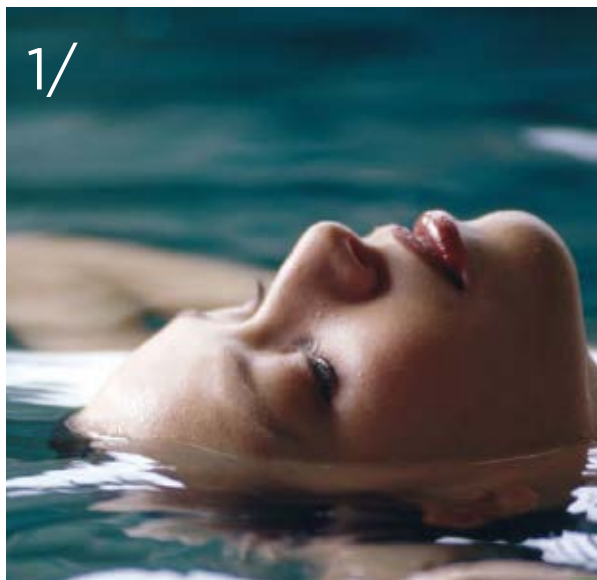
The easternmost section of the Benasque valley abounds with mountain lakes. Also in this area is the *Baños de Benasque spa*.

Dominated by Aneto, the second-highest peak in the Iberian Peninsula, is the Maladeta massif. Here you will find some of the last tongues of ice of the Aragonese Pyrenees, protected under the status of *Natural Monuments of the Pyrenean Glaciers*. These are the southernmost permanent glaciers of Europe. The scenery here is like a dreamscape in places such as *Llanos de Hospital*, with its cross-country skiing circuit and the spec-

tacular *Forau de Aigualluts* waterfall. From the neighbouring valley of Noguera Ribagorzana, you can lose yourself discovering less-frequented countryside like the lovely *Salenques Valley* or the area's many tarns.

There are infinite opportunities for hiking in this valley for all ages and abilities. You can enjoy scenery ranging from year-round snow and alpine meadows to woodlands of pine and oak. Squirrels, boar, marmots, Pyrenean mountain goats, eagles and Lammergeiers inhabit this valley paradise.

-
- 1/ Spa tourism in the valley.
 - 2/ Posets second-highest Pyrenean peak.
 - 3/ Ibón de Cregüaña.
 - 4/ Mushroom paradise.





/ WAY OF ST JAMES

THIS ANCIENT ROUTE OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO DISCOVERING THESE LANDS, STEP BY STEP, IN A MORE INTIMATE AND DIRECT WAY.

A natural gateway for other Europeans during the Middle Ages, Aragon grew as a kingdom thanks to the Way of St James, a pilgrimage which could not be completed without travelling this section.

When a pilgrim crosses the Somport pass, a gentle descent into the valley opens up before their eyes. Leaving behind the Astún and Candanchú ski resorts, the route passes the ruins of the medieval Santa Cristina pilgrims' hospital.

The Way arrives at Canfranc Estación via the demanding Coll de Ladrones pass and past the magnificent modernist International Rail Station. A few kilometres after crossing the pretty medieval bridge of Canfranc is Villanúa, with its Cueva de las Güixas (Witches' Cave) and megalithic dolmens.

Before arriving in Castiello de Jaca, so-called because of the fortified appearance of its church, the pilgrim can take a detour to the right to Borau to visit the Romanesque church of San Adrián de Sasabe. Once in Castiello, a path leads into the romantic Valley of La Garcipollera, with its beautiful Romanesque hermitage of Santa Maria de Iguácel.

When the traveller finally arrives in Jaca, they will find not only an outstanding pilgrims' refuge but also a lively city with all amenities. It is also home to unique monuments, such as the medieval Torre del Reloj, one of the earliest Romanesque cathedrals in Spain, its annexed Diocesan Museum with its splendid examples of medieval painting, and the immense Citadel.

Continuing down the valley, a visit to lovely Santa Cruz de la Serós to admire the Romanesque churches of San Caprasio (Lombardy Romanesque) and Santa María is a must.

From here, the route follows the road up to the old monastery of San Juan de la Peña, a Romanesque masterpiece which blends into its stunning surroundings, under the shelter of an immense rock.

Jaca Cathedral interior, obligatory stop for the pilgrim.



San Juan de la Peña Monastery.



VISITING THE SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA MONASTERY COMPLEX

Entering this monastery clinging to the rock is a voyage into the past: the birth of the kingdom of Aragon. A royal tomb and obligatory stop for pilgrims on the Way of St James, this artistic treasure is linked to the tradition of the Holy Grail.

The original cloister under the rock which gives it its name is a wonderful example of 12th-Century Romanesque art, with its beautiful capitals lucidly depicting biblical scenes.

The rest of the complex comprises the New Monastery, built in the baroque style, and the two Romanesque churches of Santa Cruz de los Serós, situated in the San Indalecio meadow.

The whole complex is surrounded by mysterious and shadowy pinewoods, inviting withdrawal and reflection.

Opening times and entry fees

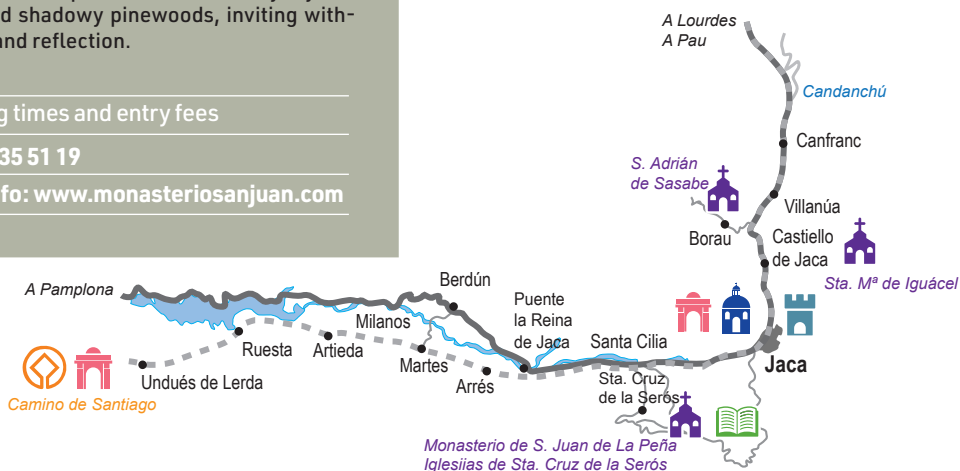
☎ 974 35 51 19

More Info: www.monasteriosanjuan.com

Returning to the Aragon valley, the route passes *Santa Cilia* and its priory palace. A few kilometres further on is *Puente La Reina de Jaca*, whose 19th-Century bridge has replaced the one that gave this place its name and prestige. Heading for the broadening of the valley at Canal de Berdún, the pilgrim arrives at Arrés, crowned by its 16th-Century church and defensive tower.

Leaving Arrés by the left bank of the River Aragón, there are several charming villages well worth a look: Martes, with its evocative medieval atmosphere, and the interesting buildings of Mianos and Artieda. Next is Ruesta, its vibrant past evident in its medieval towers, Jewish quarter, churches and mansions.

The last stage of the Aragonese route arrives in Undués de Lerda, another remarkable place, with its Renaissance town hall, 16th-Century church and the splendid and characteristic russet-coloured stone facades of the houses. These last four localities belong to the province of Zaragoza.



See icons, p.27

/THE KINGDOM OF LOS MALLOS



Los Mallos de Riglos.

DO YOU ENJOY DREAMING OF THE PAST? IN HOYA DE HUESCA, THE COUNTRYSIDE CLIMBS UP TO THE PYRENEES FOOTHILLS WHERE HISTORY COMES ALIVE AND TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY.

West of Huesca, the road runs parallel to the mountain range which rises up to greet the traveller. After a few kilometres, a turn leads to Bolea, famous for its cherries and dominated by its imposing collegiate church with 16th Century Aragonese Gothic ribbed vaults and a magnificent altarpiece, considered a masterpiece of Renaissance painting.

From here, you can go on to Loarre, where an extraordinary surprise awaits. The castle of Loarre is an artistic treasure, unique not just to Spain but to Europe.

Afterwards, you can return via Ayerbe and stroll through its elegant squares, admiring its palaces, towers and Renaissance mansions.



AGÜERO AND LOS MALLOS

The hamlet of Agüero nestles in the natural protection of Los Mallos, magnificent rock walls of russet conglomerate, over which the tireless vultures soar. On its outskirts is the enigmatic and unfinished St James hermitage. Built in the 12th Century in purest French Romanesque style, it is a delight to visit at any time of year.

Other places to visit in Agüero:

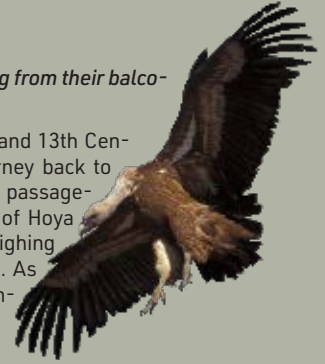
- The Organ Museum
 - Ethnographic Museum of O Segallo
-



THE ASTONISHING CASTLE OF LOARRE

This Romanesque castle is a waking dream of medieval knights, queens leaning from their balconies over an imposing landscape and a time when life was hard and austere.

Perched on a crag that dominates the panorama and built between the 11th and 13th Centuries, this Romanesque castle is the best preserved in Europe, a true journey back to the Middle Ages (and because of this, backdrop to many films). Taking in its passageways, turrets, chapels, dungeons and balconies, which overlook the whole of Hoya de Huesca, is an unforgettable experience. The feel of the stone and the sighing of the wind can take you back for a moment into another more distant time. As well as its obvious historical value, Loarre is also a fine example of high-quality Romanesque art, as the capitals of its church attest.



Opening times and entry fees. ☎ 974 34 21 61

Bookings advisable for groups.

Visitor centre with bar/café.

More Info: www.castillodeloarre.es



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.hoyadehuesca.es



Further along, the road joins the River Gállego and you can soon see the great mass of *Los Mallos de Riglos* in the distance. These natural russet-coloured rock walls, a favourite with expert climbers, deserve a detour for a closer look.

Further still, you can complement this view with *Los Mallos de Agüero*, squeezed together just a few kilometres to the other side of the river, giving shelter to the village at their feet and home to a sizeable colony of vultures, always visible around their heights.

To the north, from *Murillo de Gállego* (where you can go rafting with one of the local adventure companies) the road weaves across the river and back, then crosses a ravine opening out into *Pantano de la Peña*.

The clear waters of the Gállego then pass beneath a spectacular iron bridge, surrounded by beautiful narrow gorges.



Rafting on the River Gállego.



Huts in Nocito

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF SOMONTANO. SO NOW IT'S TIME TO GET TO KNOW THIS REGION, WHERE THE SIERRA DE GUARA PROUDLY RISES UP TO REVEAL REMARKABLE VILLAGES LEANING OUT OVER DEEP GULLIES WITH MYSTERIOUS WATERS.

/ GUARA AND SOMONTANO

Your first port of call in Guara is the Roldán waterfall, accessed via Apiés coming from Huesca, or Sabayés from Nueno.

Its characteristic appearance - two towers of conglomerate, shaped by the slow erosion of the River Flumen and the force of the wind - have made this a landscape of legend. Overhead, enhancing the spectacular views, the vultures soar gracefully.

Barbastro, with more than 17,000 inhabitants, is the heart

of the region and offers visitors all types of amenities and pleasant walks. A visit to the 16th-Century *Gothic-Renaissance cathedral*, with its beautiful altarpiece by Daniel Forment and its curious minaret-style tower, is a must. Barbastro is also the main town of the Somontano Wine Route, and its Centro de San Julián y Santa Lucía houses the *Somontano Interpretation Centre*, gateway to this famous vineyard tour, whose wines make up one of the four Denominaciones de Origen of Aragon wine. Somontano also produces an exceptionally good olive oil, the region's liquid gold.

Vineyards in Somontano



Lammergeier.



Wine tourism in Somontano



The *Sierra y Cañones de Guara Nature Reserve* is a grand display of majestic water-sculpted landscapes. Its famous canyons are deep, narrow gullies where the turquoise rivers form marvellous waterfalls, siphons and caves. The reserve includes an interpretation centre in **Bierge**.

In addition to nature, Guara harbours relics of cave art and remains of its medieval past, which you can visit on a fascinating route that is almost a journey through time.

Alquézar is a picturesque medieval town crowned by a *castle* and *collegiate church*, a must-see for its magnificent Romanesque cloister and its frescos. From here you can follow the walkways of the *Ruta de las Pasarelas del Vero*, ideal for those with children.

The *Río Vera Cultural Park* is situated around the river which gives it its name. The park's highlights are its prized cave paintings, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Rodellar is a pretty village which has been converted into an adventure centre from which to explore the spectacular gorge of Mascún. Various specialist companies provide all kinds of sporting activities within this extraordinary natural setting, with canyoning particularly popular.

Somontano proudly displays its magnificent monuments, testimony to centuries of history. Romanesque churches like those of *Peralta de Alcofea* and *Berbegal*, and splendid collections of Gothic painting like that found in **Bierge** transport us into the medieval past.

You can also discover the legacy of Mudejar tradition in the baroque church of *Santa María de Dulcis* in **Buera**.

Finally, a curious and relaxing place to finish is the **Naval salt baths**, its waters containing a higher concentration of salt than the Dead Sea.



1/ Climbing on the Delfín de Rodellar.

2/ Alquézar, an inviting place for a stroll.



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.somontano.org





“ THE SIERRA Y CAÑONES DE
GUARA NATURE RESERVE IS A
DISPLAY OF MAJESTIC WATERS-
CULPTED LANDSCAPES. ”



HAVE AN ADVENTURE IN THE SIERRA DE GUARA

Challenge yourself. The mountains and gorges of Guara are deservedly famous for their spectacular and sometimes fantastical beauty. Here you can experience the intense emotions of adventure sports in the heart of nature.

In addition to hiking, mountain biking and rock-climbing, Guara is renowned as a destination for adventurers who dare to descend the dizzying ravines of its rivers (Vero, Mascún and Alcanadre). Waterfalls, natural water-slides and abseiling at various levels of difficulty are all available to the canyoning enthusiast. With the guidance of a local expert, you can enjoy a unique experience in a landscape of rock and water, as wild as it is beautiful.

The *Natural Park of La Sierra y Cañones de Guara* has been granted a European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) award for accessible tourism.



5 UNMISSABLE ACTIVITIES

- 1/ Walking in the Río Vero Cultural Park and admiring the cave paintings.
- 2/ Strolling through the picturesque and well-kept towns of Alquézar and Rodellar.
- 3/ Descending the ravines of the rivers Vero or Alcanadre.
- 4/ For the whole family, an enjoyable outing along the walkways of Vero.
- 5/ Leaning out over the Mascún Gully.

Descending ravines is a risky activity for which proper training and experience is essential. If you are not experienced, it is recommended to hire a professional guide.



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NATURE, HISTORY, OPEN SPACE, A LITTLE SOLITUDE AND A LOT OF TRANQUILLITY, THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU.

/ SOBRARBE AND RIBAGORZA

The old eastern earldoms of Aragon have an extensive and varied terrain, with wellpreserved natural spaces and numerous tourist attractions.

VALLE DEL RÍO ARA VALLEY

From Ordesa, the River Ara passes through Broto, a lively tourist centre with picturesque architecture and the spectacular Sorrosal waterfall. Further south is Fiscal, a place for adventure sports, and downriver is Boltaña, with a delightful traditional Pyrenean hamlet, enormous Gothic collegiate church and the ruins of its legendary castle.

The important tourist centre of Aínsa rises up where the rivers Ara and Cinca meet. Even from afar, it draws the attention with its distinct and imposing *castle* and 12th-Century Romanesque *church*. Its *historic centre*, crowned by a magnificent arcade-lined main square is one of the most beautiful collections of medieval building in Aragon.

CINCA VALLEY

A few kilometres from Aínsa, the *Peña Montañesa* soars up, and within its folds is the *San Victorian Monastery*, an important place in the history of medieval Aragon. In this area, you will also find the *La Fueva* Valley Romanesque churches route (including San Juan de Toledo), the fortified medieval complex of *Muro de Roda*, the military-religious complex of *Samitier*, with spectacular views, and the *Torre de Abizanda* with its curious museum of popular religions and beliefs.

Leaning out over the El Grado reservoir is the remarkable Torreciudad sanctuary, one of the stages of the Ruta Mariana, a route which links Lourdes and Zaragoza.



Ternasco (Aragonese roast suckling lamb) with snails

Aínsa main square.

Torreciudad sanctuary overlooking the El Grado reservoir.



RODA DE ISÁBENA

The village and cathedral of Roda de Isábena are historically and artistically significant and well worth visiting.

Set on a hillside, its streets are full of medieval flavour with its gateways, passageways and walls. Construction was begun on the cathedral in the 11th Century, in the Lombardy Romanesque style, although it was subject to various subsequent modifications. The small, austere cloister is a charming place to walk this exceptional place

Guided tours of the cathedral.
Prior bookings advisable

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ÉSERA VALLEY

Near Benasque is Castejón de Sos, famous for its exceptional paragliding conditions. Close by is the *Turbón mas-sif*, below which, in an incomparably beautiful setting, is the *Vilas del Turbón spa*.

Further south, the gorge narrows almost unbelievably until the walls nearly meet at the *Congosto del Ventamilla*. Winding along, the river passes through Graus, a town with all amenities, a pretty arcade-lined main square and the basilica of La Virgen de Peña. The September fiestas here are particularly interesting, featuring the *Mojiganga*, a satirical representation of daily life in the locality, declared of National Tourist Interest.

Mountain biking in Huesca, an increasingly widespread activity.
Buddhist monastery in Panillo.
Paragliding in the Pyrenean foothills. .

Also nearby is the famous Panillo Buddhist Monastery, a feature of this tranquil landscape since 1984.

ISÁBENA VALLEY

Going back upriver from Graus, you pass places that have hardly changed, bridges of ancient stone, and fascinating Romanesque churches.

Roda de Isábena has a medieval atmosphere, with its wonderful Romanesque cathedral and graceful cloister, ruined walls and prior's palace. Further on, in a beautiful natural setting at the foot of a rock wall, is the Lombardy Romanesque church of the *Monastery of Sta. María de Obarra*.

Further on still, the river covers at the bottom of the daunting *Congosto de Obarra* ravine until it arrives in Bónasa, a junction which leads to the Bensque Valley and the valleys of Noguera-Ribagorzana and Arán.

NOGUERA-RIBAGORZANA VALLEY

This valley on the Catalan border hoards treasures like the magnificent Alaón monastery in Sopeira, construc-

ted in Lombardy Romanesque style over the previous Visigoth building.

Also of interest is the Montañana medieval complex, where towers, bridges, streets, buildings, walls and Romanesque churches will transport you into the Middle Ages.

The Dinosaur Museum of Arén makes for an enjoyable visit with children, where you can discover the area's extraordinary palaeontological heritage.

In Benabarre, cultural capital of Ribagorza, the castle makes an imposing silhouette.

Bordering Lérida is the impressive and little-known Sierra del Montsec, with its spectacular Congosto de Mont-Rebel ravine and recently constructed and vertiginous projecting walkway.

- 1/ Obarra Monastery.
- 2/ Congosto de Mont-Rebei
- 3/ Graus's famous longaniza.
- 4/ Walkways in the Congosto de Mont-Rebei



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.turismoribagorza.org



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.turismosobarbe.com





Monzón Castle with the snow-capped Pyrenees in the distance.

SOUTH OF BARBASTO AND ABOVE THE CITY LOOMS THE SILHOUTTE OF THE TEMPLAR CASTLE OF MONZÓN, OF MOORISH ORIGINS AND HISTORICALLY RELATED TO THE LEGEND OF EL CID.

/ MONEGROS AND BAJO CINCA

The region of Los Monegros is an enchantingly beautiful and unusual wilderness, a broad and luminous steppe. Now an arid land, it was once covered in dark juniper shrubs to which it owes its name.

The *Sierra de Alcubierre* is its backbone, its heights home to a great number of pines, holly oaks, wildlife and especially birds of prey.

The fascinating *Orwell Route* passes through here, with well-preserved and restored trenches and defences from the Spanish Civil War, where the British writer George Orwell fought alongside the Republicans.

The *Carthusian Monastery of Monegros*, first of the Carthusian monasteries of the Kingdom of Aragon, is home to several mural paintings of Manuel Bayeu, monk and brother-in-law of the famous artist Goya.

Sierra de Alcubierre. Orwell Route.

Canoeing on the Cinca, between Fraga and Mequinenza.

Los torrellones in Los Monegros.

Sariñena has a notable salt-water lake, designated as a Wildlife Reserve, which is an over-wintering and migration stop for around 12,000 birds.

Nearby, in Villanueva de Sigena, the Romanesque monastery with a magnificent 14-arch portico is refuge to the tombs of members of the Aragon royal family.

To the north of Fraga are the remains of the *Villa Fortunatus*, an important Roman rural villa in use between the 2nd and 6th Centuries, which contains remarkable mosaics, some with Christian inscriptions



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.turismomonegros.com



/ PROVINCE OF HUESCA


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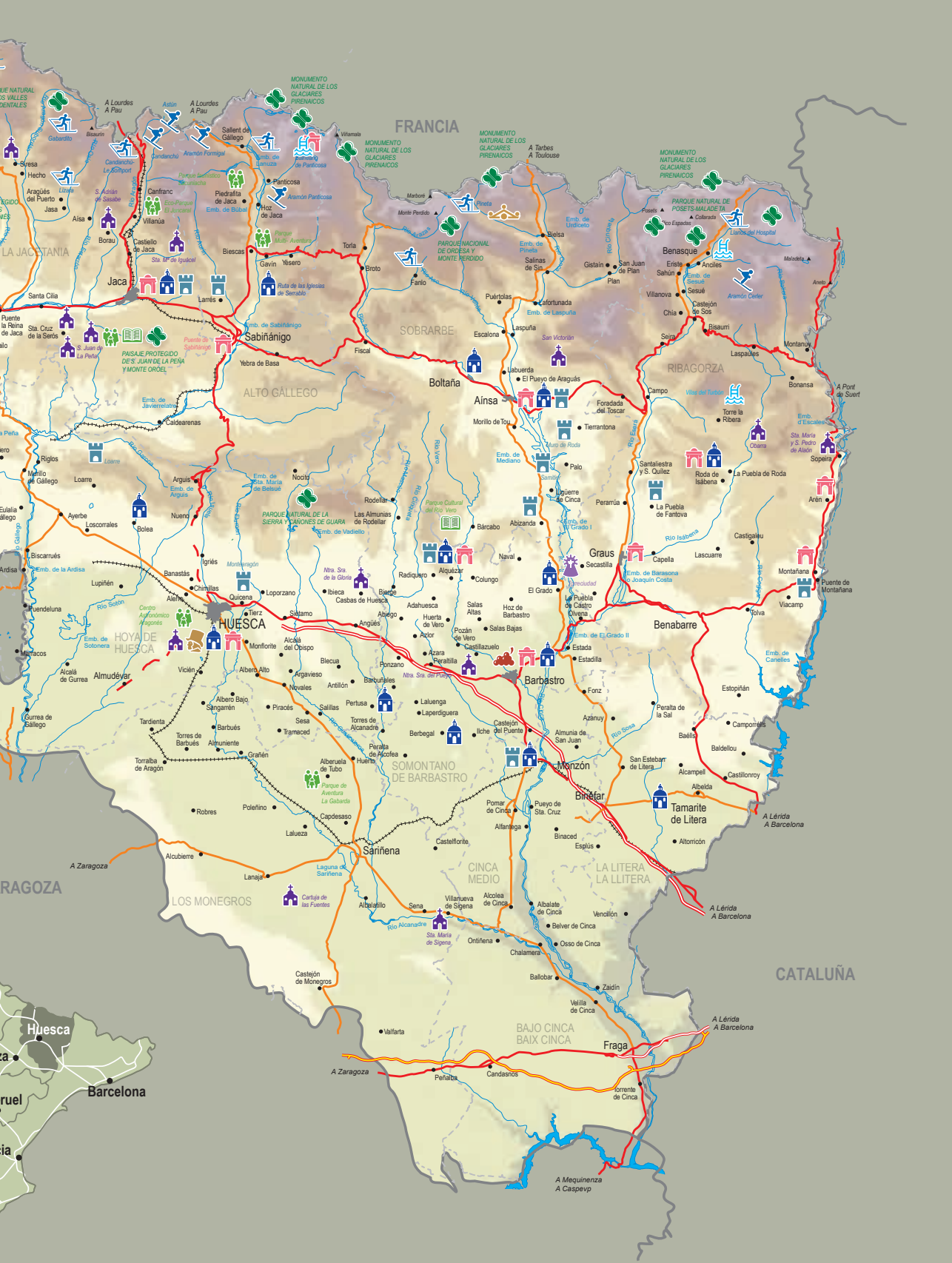
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-  Regional road network
-  other roads
-  Railways
-  Regional borders
-  Way of St James
-  Protected Naturak Spaces
-  Cultural Parks
-  Parks and leisure areas
-  Alpine skiing
-  Cross-country skiing
-  Tourist Paradors
-  Historic site
-  Castles and fortifications
-  Monasteries
-  Cathedrals, collegiate churches
-  Vineyards
-  Spas
-  Goya Route
-  Ruta Mariana
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-  The Way of St James
-  Ordesa National Park and Monte Perdido



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