

english

A large, ornate float carrying a religious statue, surrounded by people in traditional dress, with a green banner overlaying the text.

ARAGÓN CELEBRATES ITS FIESTAS

◀ Front: Flowers offering, October 12



▲ The Book Fair



▲ Medieval Market



▲ The Day of Aragon, April 23



▲ The Fiesta of the Exaltation of the Costume of Huesca

ARAGÓN

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARAGON is one of the seventeen Autonomous Regions of Spain. It is located in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, equidistant of nearly everything and always close (only some seventy-five minutes from Madrid and Barcelona, thanks to the high-speed train). With 47,724 square kilometers, this old kingdom, which once was one of the oldest nations of Europe, has more than 1,200,000 inhabitants nowadays. On the whole, tenacious people, as kind as warm, with a sarcastic humor and noble intentions.

It will take your breath away, but Aragon is a land that breathes history. If you follow the thousand-year-old marks, you will realize that, in this community of contrasts, Christians, Jewish and Muslims have lived together. Get ready because your adventure starts.

LOCATION



HURRAY!

THE POPULAR FIESTAS OF ARAGON

Hurray! If you let me tell you, live the fiestas of Aragon. Dress in white and green, red or purple, put the neckerchief on, change completely, and let yourself be captivated by old traditions or by festivities that are more recent.

Processions and jotás, the bonfires of San Juan, bulls, carnivals, and flower petals for the Corpus. The Holy Week sounds with passion and, on April 23, the Day of Aragon is celebrated. You will travel through time, villages, people, happiness, and good food. See, hear, taste, smell, touch. Can you hear the hubbub? This is a hospitable and funny land, full of proposals. The visitor is always welcomed, even if a tomato hits him or her or they are coated in batter.

Do not miss any of those events that have been organized in every spot of this land that always has the door opened for those that arrive. Do you dare to fulfill the calendar?

▼ Music Festival



▼ Holy Week



▼ Flower carpets in the Corpus Christi



▼ Children wearing the costume of Huesca



▼ The Bonfires of San Antonio



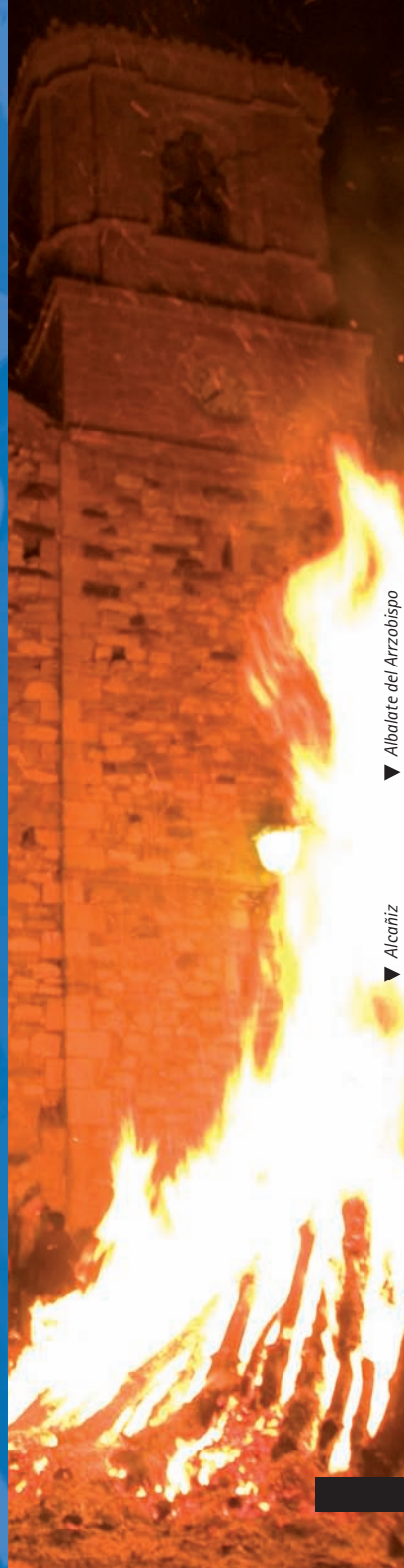
THOSE OF TOURIST INTEREST

Let the party begin! On January 17, San Antón, and the closest Saturday and Sunday to the nineteenth, the *Sanantones* and the *Encamisada* of Estercuel are celebrated. If you go for a walk around the village, you will check that it is full of big bonfires and riders that ride the horse along the streets. Do you want another brilliant celebration? On the nineteenth of this month, on the vespers of San Sebastian, dance the Rodat of Castelserás. It takes place around a black poplar that burns in the middle of the square by the dulzaina and the drum. In order to get your strength back, on the fourth Sunday, you are invited to the Festa del Tossino in Albelda. Do not miss the traditional pig's slaughter that is also celebrated in many other places of this land. In a warm atmosphere, you will check that one can make good use of all the parts of this little animal, even the tail.

Be careful. On February the third, San Blas, *La Máscara de Ateca*, dressed up as a harlequin, blesses those present and, after arriving at the chapel, tries to go up a hill. They welcome him by showering him with the apples that, in theory, only the children throw at him

By the end of March or in April, the Aragonese Holy Week wakes up. Cover the nine villages of the Drum and Bass Drum Route. A thunderous roar breaks the silence that envelopes a sober and hard landscape in unison. The "Romper la Hora" (*Breaking the time*) is celebrated during the midnight of Maundy Thursday, except in Calanda, where it is celebrated during the midday of Good Friday. The echoes of its drums and bass drums have sounded in half the world thanks to its distinguished neighborhood, Luis Buñuel. The ground shakes for the Savior's death. Bajo Aragon tinges with the blue, purple and black of the robes and *terceroles* (pleated hoods). In Albalate del Arzobispo, stay and see the beautiful Stations of the Cross that go along the narrow, steep, and paved streets toward the Calvary. In Alcañiz, you will not see bass drums or the "Romper la hora" (*Breaking the Time*), but you will be overwhelmed by a profound silence accompanied by drums that play sorrow during Maundy Thursday. It will be followed by measured noise that seems an earthquake. More than five hundred people from Alcorisa relive the "Drama de la Cruz" (*The Cross Drama*) with a meticulous staging. Andorra will surprise you during the Holy Burial, with its beautiful and well-carried floats. In Híjar, you will be dazzled by far too many details, even if the black predominate, the black of the robes accentuated by white collars La Puebla de Híjar announces death and protest, deep feeling. In Samper

▼ Encamisada of Estercuel



▼ Albalate del Arzobispo



▼ Alcañiz





▲ *Urrea de Gaén*

de Calanda, listen to the rattles, that monotonous and harsh sound. In Urrea de Gaén, slip along the small narrow streets and passageways that lead to intimate small squares.

The Holy Week of the three capitals will also fascinate you. In Huesca, the participation of the brotherhoods becomes art. The bright palms procession begins beautiful Stations of the Cross and processions, whose high point is on Good Friday in the Holy Burial with the tapping of drums and bugles. The pointed hoods can already be made out. In Barbastro, among history and modernness, to the sound of drums and bugler, the feelings of the processions follow one another. Sobriety and fervor that join the inhabitants of Barbastro and the visitors.

The Mudejar art of Teruel frames the ceremonies of an artistic Holy Week where the trumpets accompany the drums and bass drums. The palm leaves and olive branches that, afterwards, will be hanging on the balconies in order to move away storms and sorrows announce the end of the Lent. Do not miss the Holy Burial or the "Baile de la Virgen" (the Virgin Dance), but do not miss either the procession that asks for the pardon of a prisoner in the prison on Good Friday. In Valderrobres, everything begins on Holy Wednesday when the Stations of the Cross go past. Until Saturday midnight, the lively bells fall silent outshined by low rattles. Purple pieces of material cover the pictures of the church as a gesture of mourning. On Friday midday, the murmur of its "Romper la Hora" (Breaking the Time) wakes up, which goes on until the Misa de la Pasión del Señor (the Passion of the Lord Mass), at five



▲ *Procession, Saragossa*

in the afternoon. The Adoration of the Cross, the Holy Burial, silence, more bells, and Easter Sunday. On Monday, rural walk.

These days are spectacular in Saragossa. More than fifteen thousand people that belong to twenty-three brotherhoods wearing the robes, pointed hoods, and pleated hoods (*terceroles*), with bass drums, drums, trumpets and rattles fill the streets with colors, the streets that bow to the passage of news of the Christ's death. Flowers and jotás cause more than one lump in the throat of those that hear them. The Holy Burial goes by during four hours. Forty-three beautiful floats carved by famous sculptors completely relate the Passion. That day, all of them together, but, before, dozens of processions that pass, converge, tell, and fill, make the one that waits for them or find them fall in love. Follow the Turno de Vela (Wakefulness shift) in the church of San Cayetano and let yourself be carried by the charm that pervades in the Aragonese capital. In the rest of the province, look for the trace of customs such as the Descent of Christ from the Cross, or the figure of the "alabarderos" helped by the "angelicos" that you will find in Borja. In Tarazona, ask about the old procession of the "encasados" and about the *Sermón de las Siete Palabras* (The Seven-Words Sermon). In Calatayud, delve into the ancient origins of the rich procession of the "Holy Burial" and let loose by the dramatizations that the inhabitants of Calatayud themselves play brilliantly. Another stage, the one that hundreds of inhabitants from Ateca prepare with hope. Ateca boasts about the procession with centuries of tradition and its beautiful sculptures. In Torrijo de la Cañada, follow the ascent to the Calvary,



▲ Dancer of Yebera de Baza



▲ The Corporal's Chapel, Daroca

the Crucifixion, the Burial, and the "Cuna" nailing, on guard before it during the whole night. In Caspe, a piece of wood, which is nearly half a meter long, is preserved, that, as it is said, is a part of the Cross of Christ. Be fascinated in Aragon.

In addition, after the Holy Week, on April 21, you will be able to delight with the *dulzainas* (shawms) that accompany the famous and plastic Dance of Tauste in honor of the Virgin of Sancho Abarca. The next day, stay and enjoy the Crystal Rosary. Three hundred beautiful pieces and the splendor of the regional costumes fill the main places of the city with light. On the twenty-third, you must be at Fraga. It is La Faldeta Day. A tribute to the typical costume of Fraga, to those that still keep it and to those that work in order to recover it.

Save your strength as Jaca immerses in the Fiesta of the first Friday of May. An intense celebration with an early morning lunch and a parade of artisans and farmers, wearing their flower hats. They arrive to the sound of the blunderbusses in order to accompany the Count Aznar when he arrives at the city riding a horse. As the legend says, they defeated the invaders in 761 thanks to the bravery of the men and women from Jaca. Year after year, they intone the hymn of the first Friday of May with their remaining might. In the afternoon, medieval tournaments in *La Ciudadela* (The Citadel). On the first Sunday of May, in honor of *Nuestra Señora de la Peana*, the Crystal Rosary lights the streets of Borja when night falls. The closest Sunday to May the seventeenth, the feast of San Pascual Bailón (*Pascual the Keen Dancer*) is celebrated in Teruel, with the "*rifa del santo*" (the saint raffle), an auction of several donated items priced by a show of hands. Do you want to know what is there to it? Some bean coppers that are distributed generously among the people. And from a Keen Dancer to another dance, *La Contradanza* (The Contredanse), on May 19 in Cetina. The night of San Lorenzo, eight dancers and a devil, all of them dressed in white looking like skeletons, dance in the light of the torches. A beautiful spectacle that also has a children's version.

On Thursday, sixty days after Easter Sunday, the Corpus Christi is celebrated in style in Daroca. Full of history and tradition, the Corporal Saints cover the streets of this village among rose petals. A flagrant rain that is repeated in many other places of Aragon when their processions go by. The closest weekend to June the twenty-eight, relive the key moment of the Caspe Agreement. You already know that in one of the rooms of this village's castle, the succession to the Aragonese throne was decided after the power vacuum that the death of *Martin el Humano* (the Human) entailed. It was

in 1412 that Fernando de Antequera was appointed king of the Aragonese Crown. Do you fancy the agreement?

On July the ninth, another procession, the San Cristobal one in Munébrega. Live the fiesta and you will not regret it.

At the end of July and the beginning of August, only during the odd years, embrace cultures from all around the world in Jaca, in the Folk Festival of the Pyrenees. During the even years, the twin town of Olorón is the host. Travel around all the continents without moving from this beautiful city whose streets turn into the best stage, as the song says, brotherhood, live and peace streets. Conferences, exhibitions, dances, instruments...many things to show from the roots of each village. A beautiful lesson.

From August 9 to the fifteen, live the Feast of San Lorenzo. Your destination is Huesca. The white and green take hold of the streets, it smells basil and the dancers dance *el paloteo* (with sticks), *las cintas* (with ribbons), *las espadas* (with swords) or *el degollau*. The clubs liven up the amateur bullfights with young bulls, the bullfighting, and the concerts. There are also hundreds of children's ceremonies suitable for people of all ages. Make a note of *El Rosario de la Aurora* (the Dawn Rosary) or the flowers and fruits offerings. Manage your strength as on the following day, San Roque, you can start to relive something very similar in Calatayud. Dress however you can but do not miss the atmosphere that envelopes all the spots, or in the bullfighting hand in hand with the clubs' people. Exalting the friendship knows no bounds. As high point, the tomatoes blowout will leave you marked. On August 27, put on some clothes that you do not mind getting dirty and get ready to be hit by tomatoes in the Cipotegato of Tarazona. They throw them to a young boy dressed as a harlequin but the tomatoes are so many that some hundreds deflect.

Hit the target going to the "Sitio de Barbastro" on the last Sunday of August. Every two years, actors are needed for the theater performance that recalls the history of this city of Huesca during the conquest centuries. You will love the atmosphere. However, if you want to see beautiful costumes, go to the particular fashion show that you will find in Ansó that Sunday (whenever it does not coincide with the last day of the month). It is the Day of the Costume of Huesca. The exhibition of the best clothes of every house is held at midday, before the mass, and a parade covers this paved village used to see its neighbors dressed like that since not long ago. A perfect frame that fills with parties in the

▲ Ansó



▼ Cipotegato, Tarazona

afternoon. If you cannot wait the day to arrive, you will find a foretaste in the Museum of the Costume of Huesca. You will like it.

From April 2 to the eight, fiestas in honor of San Vicente and San Gonzalo, in Longares. The parade is accompanied by the "paloteo" dance (with sticks), which has the hole flavor of this land. From the seventh to the twelfth, they dance with their patron Saint in mind, the Virgin of La Corona (*the Crown Virgin*), in Almudévar. On September the fifteen, let loose in the traditional Running of Bulls through the Streets when People Walk Day, in Novallas. The night before, the neighbors go to look for the bulls that will be fought that day. In the morning, the procession goes from the country to the city followed by expert riders on horses, among a great deal of excitement. Do not hesitate and go.

From September 12 to the fifteenth, make a note of the Feast of Santo Cristo and San Vicente Ferrer in Graus. Get ready for the best laughter therapy on the thirteenth. The Main Square turns into the perfect place for making a critical review of the year in a bizarre parade known as Mojiganga. You will see peculiar characters in it, such as *furtaperas*, *caballetz*, giants and *cabezudos* (figures with huge head), livened up by the pipers. The ridiculous costumes and the masks are very fashionable that night. Your next appointment is the closest Sunday to the fourteenth, in La Morisma of Aínsa. During the odd years, the village turns into a huge stage where all its neighbors act. The argument is the victory of García Ximénez' hosts over the powerful Saracen army. In addition, on the fourth Sunday of September, the parents weight the children below one year in a steelyard, in Lituénigo. In the end, the total weight is translated into wheat and an exciting auction begins. The "Children's weigh-in" dates from the XVII century, when a married couple that could not have children promised the Virgin that, if they achieved it, they would donate as many sacks of wheat as were the kilos the newborn baby's weight. No sooner said than done.

With October arrives an outburst of colors, jotas, concerts, and offerings to the Virgin of El Pilar. The most spectacular one is the flowers one, on the twelfth. Do not either miss the charm of the fruits one or the superb Cristal Rosary. The children run in front of the *cabezudos* (figures with a huge head) escorted by the giants. Everybody is in the street. It is the Feast of El Pilar. Saragossa turns into a huge agenda with celebrations for people of all ages. Amateur bullfights with young bulls, bullfights, fires, and concerts. Fun is guaranteed. However, get ready to feel sleepy.

▼ Flowers offering, Saragossa

▼ Rosario de Cristal (Crystal Rosary), Saragossa

▼ Fruits offering to the Virgin of el Pilar, Saragossa

▼ Aínsa





MORE INTERESTING FIESTAS

As the beginning of a new year always brings predictions, do you want to hear a really original one? On January 12, in the procession of Abizanda, you will find *Los Langostos* (grasshoppers and locusts) of San Beturián. Locate yourself. You will see a flat cake over a sheet placed in the country. Depending on the number of insects that go there and their color, they predict the agricultural year, if there will be many olives, wine, and cereal. Some people say it is infallible, but everybody agrees that it is curious.

The vespers of San Anton, during the Sanantoná of Mirambel, on the **sixteenth of this month**, face the devils that tempted the saint. They go in and out of a branches hut that is set fire. The bonfires spread all over the territory. The ones of La Puebla de Híjar or the ones of Ainzón are very famous. Feelings start to run high in this town of Zaragoza whose patron saint is San Sebastian (January 20). On that day, alter the procession, they get together in order to taste large ring-shaped buns in the cellars. In addition, in Pradilla de Ebro, all the eyes look at the Dance of La Soldadesca del Moro.

From January 17 to the twenty-fourth, in Morata de Jalón, they burn a thyme bundle at their home's door and roast chorizo (highly seasoned pork sausage) and spicy pork sausage. On that last day, in Épila, it is the women's fiesta, and they are so kind that they invite them to have a chocolate. If you feel like you want more, San Valero is celebrated on the twenty-ninth, the patron saint of Saragossa, *rosconero* and *ventolero*. Dare to face the North Wind in order to taste the typical large ring-shaped bun. You can buy it at a cake shop or just be present at the sweet giving in El Pilar Square accompanied by thousands of people. You will see how much does sharing a hot chocolate unite.

On February 3, get ready to dance the Dance of Pina de Ebro. They dress up as whole armies or as the typical characters of this place, such as the angel, the devil, or the shepherd. Nevertheless, if you want to see good dances, go and see the ones that the women dance all over the spots of this land on the fifth, Santa Águeda. In Escatrón, its procession of blessed breads and the sound of the blunderbusses is very famous.

Do you feel like reliving a beauty love story? On the third weekend of February, Las Bodas de Isabel (*The weddings of Isabel*). All the people from Teruel, as well as thousands of guests, dress up with medieval costumes in order to go with the two unhappy lovers along the streets. You can visit them

▲ The weddings of Isabel Segura, Teruel



▲ The Carnival of Bielsa

in their delicate mausoleum or just learn to sew dresses of that time in the creative workshops that are organized during the previous months. Excel yourself.

Less romantic, on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, Aragon immerses itself in "Jueves Lardero, longaniza en el puchero" ("*Maundy Thursday, spicy pork sausage in the pot*"). Thousands of portions are given in Saragossa and, accompanied by thousands of people, taste much better. In Borja, country lunch with spicy pork sausage, chorizo (highly-seasoned pork sausage) and some bread known as *El Palmo*. In addition, on Easter Tuesday, you can join the thousands of people from Teruel that go out to the country in order to eat to mark El Sermón de las Tortillas (*The Sermon of the Omelets*).

Are you ready to know the thousand looks of Aragon? During Carnival, every spot transforms. Pay a visit to Épila or La Almunia, with the *mascarutas*, a costume in which they camouflage themselves and even their voice in order to be able to annoy the public without being seen. Get to know the famous carnivals of Bielsa, where the *trangas* will embarrass you, even more if you are a girl. You will easily recognize them, as they are young people with colorful skirts and shirts, with the head and back covered by a huge ram fur and, to cap it all, big horns, the face painted black, potato teeth, and a huge cowbell tied to the waist. They brandish a *tranga* with which they hit the floor. They represent fertility. You will also see beautiful *madamas*, the *onso*, and the *amontatos*. In San Juan de Plan, you will see their bright and colorful valley costume and the straw man that symbolizes the Carnival, adorned with serenades and dances. In Zaragoza, you will get lost among so many floats, shows, and happiness. Jaca,



▲ The Day of Aragon, Saragossa

Sabiñánigo, Épila, Calaceite, or Valderrobres with its *fantasmada* and the toy that burns during the last night. Wherever you be, get into character. When all's said and done, you will no longer be the same person after passing by Aragon.

Can you guess when the *Cincomarzada* is celebrated? It is celebrated on March 5, in the Aragonese capital. The people from Saragossa are the main characters. They were the ones that expelled the Carlist troops in 1838. In order to remember it, thousands of people spend a very nice day among food, laughter and other festivities.

On the second Sunday of March, in Ainzón, it is the conscript day and, on the nineteenth, the day of San Jose and the father, in Paniza. The go on procession to the top of Alto del Águila, where the Virgin is waiting for them. Devotion mixes with the traditional lunch where the wine takes part in the *revuelta del trago*, anise bread is distributed, and they have a country lunch.

More proposals arrive with April. On the fifteenth, pilgrimage to Nuestra Señora del Pueyo, in Barbastro; on the twentieth, in Monzón, Nuestra Señora de la Alegría. On the twenty-third, it is the Day of Aragon and its patron saint, San Jorge, so you will find surprises everywhere. If the shows liven up the streets, there is a pilgrimage in Huesca and, in La Almunia, there is a food conquest and a popular meal. In Alcañiz, they stage the victory of the saint over the dragon. It is an intense day.

Would you like some poems? On April 30, the Mayos. Rush to Albarracín and to other places of this beauty mountain range where the young boys court the young girls with the moon as witness. The



▲ Fireworks

magic and the poetry pervade everything: *"April 30th has just passed, cheer up lady as May has just arrived"* An original way to welcome the spring among chants, dances, and laughs.

On May 1, busy visit to the Christ of Ribota, in Calatayud. In addition, in Castellote, only for the men, night male pilgrimage to El Lovedor. They ask the Virgin for rain. On the first Saturday of May, they are waiting for you in Sabiñán to mark the Cross Pilgrimage (*Romería de la Cruz*). The same as in many other villages of this land, the *mayo* is planted the days before, a straight black poplar without branches. You cannot dump them. On the seventeenth, in Calatayud, they pay tribute to "San Pascual Bailón (*the Keen Dancer*), the patron saint of the ropemakers, the women go barefoot and the men without money" All of them trooping and dancing to the sound of the *dulzaina* (*instrument similar to a clarinet*) and the drum. A curious and funny picture.

Roll up your pants and let loose. Head for the descent in navata rafts downhill along the Cinca, at the end of May and the beginning of June. The refreshing look passes from Laspuña to Ainsa through unforgettable landscapes. You will be transported to the times when the trunks that were felled in the Pyrenees' forests went downhill in big rafts along the river in order to arrive at the sea. Close.



▲ The Carnival dance

From now on, as the good weather arrives, you will have to be everywhere at once in order to get to El Poyo del Cid on the first weekend of June. It goes back to the medieval times in order to remember the stay of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, El Cid Campeador. On the same Sunday, in Ayerbe, they pay a visit to the Virgin of Casbas. Moreover, on Pentecost Monday, the inhabitants of Sos del Rey Católico, as well as those that live in the nearby villages, go on pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Valentuñana. They bless the fields and eat the *"longuete"* sandwich in front of some spectacular and breathtaking views. There is also a pilgrimage in Artieda. The town council gives bread and wine, and the pilgrims share their food. A very familiar atmosphere.

Get ready to dance in La Pastorada of Benabarre, on June the eight. A shepherds and *palitrots'* typical Pyrenean dance. In addition, along the same line, the Dance of Gallur in honor of San Antonio, on the thirteenth. The pipers beat the rhythm. The calendar heats on the twentieth with the Bonfires of San Ramón in Barbastro and, on the twenty-third, La Falleta in San Juan de Plan. They run downhill with lighted torches in a bright and colorful show that ends in a big bonfire that will make your hair stand on end. On the twenty-fourth, charge



▲ The clubs in the bullring, Teruel

with strength at the bull with fired balls in Mora de Rubielos. And also in Rubielos de Mora, the *enramadas* (entwined branches) are shown in the young girl's windows. It is San Juan and, in Orés, they still soak themselves in water at midnight in order to prevent diseases.

Santa Orosia is celebrated on June 25. Jaca is in the middle of the fiestas. There is a procession and a display of the relics and cloaks of this saint to whom the possessed people that wanted to get well used to turn to. Next to it, in Yebra de Basa, one of the most picturesque pilgrimages of this land is celebrated. This time, the typical Aragonese instruments, like the *chiflo* and the *chicotén*, beat time while the dancers go up a beauty path toward Santa Orosia chapel. On the twenty-ninth, the feasts of San Pedro in Larrodé, with a pilgrimage and a Mozarabic mass. On the thirtieth, the dancers let loose in Benasque. *El Ball de Benás* and, the next day, *El Ball de les Dones*, are unrivaled.

On the second weekend of July, you have to be at Teruel anyhow. Dress in white, tie the red *pañuelico* (scarf) to your neck, go to the street, let yourself be guided by the clubs and, some seconds afterwards, you will have been transmitted the spirit of La Vaquilla del Ángel (an amateur bullfight with young bulls). It is said that it reminds



▲ El Torico Square, Teruel

people of the founding of Teruel by some knights after taking the Muslim fortress, place where a brave bull lead them to. With the Mudejar art as witness, live these days devoted to its patron saint, Santo Ángel. A popular and street fiesta with regional and traditional dances, *jotas* and performances, fires, roped bulls and snacks. The *torico* (bull) is waiting for you in the square and you have to live it, as it is indescribable. Everything flows and surrenders to this friendship exaltation. Nobody feels like a stranger in Teruel, the city of the bull and the star.

On July 16, the festivities rain down in every spot in honor of the Virgin of El Carmen. If you have to chose, the big fiesta is in Rubielos de Mora. On the third weekend of July, the town of Uncastillo recalls a historical event in remembrance of the Execution of the Fifty Knights, where the medieval atmosphere of the time is recreated by celebrating several ceremonies. The closest weekend to the twenty-fifth, you do also have an appointment with the Artemon Craftsmanship Fair, in Monreal del Campo. You will relive an old tradition that dates from 1790, when the king Felipe V granted this city the privilege to hold a fair. Learn old trades and join the Traditional Music Festival, as well as the cultural and sport activities that are organized. A whole world to enjoy. On the twenty-fifth, the

Feasts of Santiago will take you to Guadalaviar or Sabiñánigo. In this town of El Serrablo, the hubbub of the clubs and the celebrations in the streets, jotás and proposals for people of all ages will be one of your best adventures.

Stay there as on the first Sunday of August, the churches of El Serrablo offer you the opportunity to attend a Mozarabic-rite mass. They take turns to turn into the perfect scenario. Afterwards, you will be invited to try the strong mellow wine of this area and cookies. A very tasty experience. On the fourth, the Dance of the Virgin of El Mar (Sea), in Encinacorba. On the next day, and with the heat of August, the Virgin of Las Nieves (Snow). The happiness floods the town of Bujaraloz. You will have the opportunity to listen to the captivating sound of the *boto* bagpipes.

On the second week of August, Rubielos goes back to the Middle Ages and invites you to travel back through time. On the fifteenth, the Virgin of August. A festive atmosphere can be felt everywhere. Enjoy as much as you can in Calamocha or in Bronchales, where a curious chicken dance is organized, with several jota-like styles. On the seventeenth, the dance of La Chinchana is celebrated in Campo. Delight in seeing this deliberate and ceremonious dance. On the eighteenth, in the middle of the fiesta of Biescas, join the Pilgrimage of Santa Elena. You will arrive at a lovely chapel almost suspended in the air, a place where it is not usually hot.

On August 23, go into Vulcanalia. In Mara, they stage the battle in which the Celtiberians from Segeda defeated the Romans. Among fights the children love, you will be able to taste the historical taste seasoned with some shopping at a market of the time. Learn while you have fun. In addition, on the twenty-fourth, shake a leg with the Dance of San Bartolomé, in Borja. It is so good that it is repeated the next day in the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of La Misericordia. In Fraga, San Bartolomé's Fair.

In September, after the fresh celebrations of summer, everybody thinks about the saints. On the second, in Sariñena, the dance to the sound of the *boto* bagpipes in honor of San Antolín. On the first Sunday, in Ejea, celebrations to remember the Virgin of La Oliva. On the eight, in Alcalá de la Selva, the dancers, the shepherds with their castanets and the ambassadors riding their horses accompany the inhabitants to the sanctuary of their virgin. Besides, the Feast of the Nativity is celebrated in Barbastro. In Calatayud, the feasts of the Virgen of La Peña and, in La Iglesuela del Cid, they dance for their patron saint. The

▼ Popular festivities in Santa Cilia, Huesca



▼ The feast of El Ángel, Teruel



closest Sunday to the eight, Dance de Cabañas in La Almunia. They move, enjoy the music and the food in good company. What else can you ask for?

On September 9, you must be fit in order to attend the feasts of San Macario in Andorra and Santa Leticia in Ayerbe, where the bonfires with stews are everywhere. On the fourteenth, you will see the Christ of Calatorao and, in Rubielos de Mora, you will see the roped bull with balls again. This time, roll up your sleeves in order to immerse yourself in the spectacular Grape Harvest Fiesta of Cariñena, where the Mora Fountain pours with wine. The festivities will intoxicate you but, above all, the traditional treading of grapes. On the twenty-fifth, bullfighting, processions, giants, and *cabezudos* (figures with a huge head) are waiting for you to mark Santa Pantaria. In addition, on the last weekend, San Paterno pilgrimage, with a lovely background: the area around the Bîlbilis ruins. By the way, this month the fiesta of Hecho is celebrated, which include a *cheso* poems competition. What becomes art is the ham in the delicious contest that, this time, is celebrated in Teruel. The ranching fairs of Cantavieja and Cedrillas are also very interesting. Do you want more?

October. Make a note: in Torla, on the twelfth, the Dance of *El Repatán y O Palotiau*. Moreover, at the end of October, the cattle is the main protagonist in Aranda de Moncayo. In December, Monzón celebrates its fiesta with traditions such as the Baptism of the Major, with a marvelous stage. There are many more pilgrimages, processions, fiestas and festivities all year round, with an Aragonese flavor and kind people that is waiting for you. Live every moment in Aragon. A real fiesta.

* During the summer, ask about the Festivals of Aragon: Theatre in Alcañiz and Valderrobles; in Rubielos and in Mora the Door to the Mediterranean opens; Celtic music in Aínsa; Jazz in Borja; the classical music in Roda de Isábena and Rueda and the organ in Torreciudad Also, ask about the PIR Festival of Pyrenean music and culture, which is held in many lovely places such as Aragües, Jasa, Hecho or Ansó, and the Luna Lunera in Sos. The dream of many artists is to act on the stunning floating stage of Lanuza in Pirineos Sur, what gives rise to nights full of magic. You will also find old music in Daroca, the Film Festival in Huesca or, in Tarazona, the Tarazona photo conquest, the Comedy Film Festival and the "tierras del Moncayo" Festival. This one is held in several towns of the region. I think that you have a problem, whether you stay to live in Aragon or you will not know where to start.



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