

english

# ARAG ó N



▲ The lion, the symbol of the city of Saragossa ▲ The Lovers Mausoleum, Teruel

▲ Ski slopes, Huesca

▲ Iberian lynx in Lacuniacha, Huesca

# ARAGŒN

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**A**RAGON 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



# FEEL ARAGÓN

**D**O you want to live a geographic space with intensity? Moreover, do you want to feel in the last nerve ending everything that surrounds you? Aragon is a provocation to the senses.

In the north, the Pyrenees, in the south, the Iberian System and, in the center, the River Ebro, the biggest river in the peninsula. Huesca, Zaragoza and Teruel. This land and its contrasts will knock you senseless and, at the same time, with your entire senses alert.

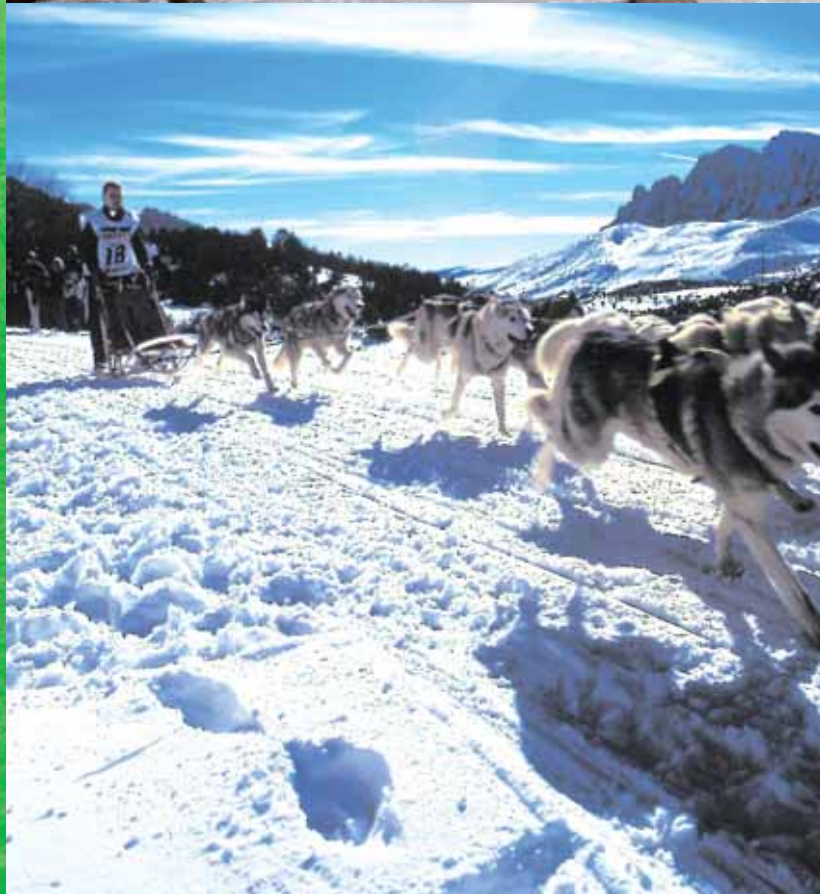
The eyesight sharpens up in order to contemplate the lakes and the green high-mountain grasslands, the heavenly valleys, the wooded mountain ranges and the complicated canyons and gullies, located next to arid and dry steppes or unrepeatable plains. Landscapes full of life populated with vultures, lammergeyers, bears, although there is a little population, or the cranes that, year after year, come to the Gallocanta Pond to get their strength back. There are also camels and bison, but they are foreign. The first ones take you for a ride along Los Monegros desert. The second ones graze happily in the Fauna Park of "Lacuniacha", believing they are in Canada.

You need a good sense of touch to make the most of all the open-air proposals that can be carried out in Aragon. The highest peak of the Pyrenees, the Aneto, is located here. It has an altitude of 3,404 m above sea level. Mountaineering and climb, but also paths, rides in a horse, canoeing, rafting or canyoning. There is much more and during all year round. Spelunking, golf, air sports, ice skating, orienteering, sled dog or ski in every one of its versions. In Aragon, you will find the sportsman you have inside yourself. Moreover, if you do not find it, you have some marvelous spas where you can hit the sack and let yourself be fussed over.

▼ The Oza Forest, Huesca



▼ Sleights race





▲ La Aljafería Palace, Saragossa



▲ The Feast of El Pilar, Saragossa



▲ The Somontano wineries, Huesca

With a good nose, you will be able to search for the rich history, whose marks are still fresh. Some megalithic monuments, cave paintings and Iberian villages still survive. From the Roman period, there are bridges, huge hydraulic works, mausoleums and solid walls. We can admire the Islam stamp, especially in the palace of La Aljafería in Saragossa and in the route of the Mudéjar monuments that splash this land.

During the XI century, small Romanesque churches with Mozarabic influence were built all over the Serrablo region. The Christian kingdom of Aragon dates from the Middle Ages. The symbol of its birth is the Monastery of San Juan de la Peña, near Jaca. Aragon is born as a political entity in the XI century, consolidates in the XII and reaches its peak being the Crown of Aragon with Jaime I.

This Autonomous Region has a thousand-year-old artistic heritage. From the Romanesque to the Baroque, passing past the splendor of the Gothic, the Mudéjar or the Renaissance. All these styles merge in San Salvador Cathedral, the cathedral of Saragossa. It is located in the same square as the Pilar Basilica, a place frequented by hundreds of pigeons and the key center for all the tourists that come to the Aragonese capital.

If you open your hearing properly, you will hear the hubbub of the feasts, festivals and competitions that, year after year, give color to the villages and the Aragonese cities. From the Holy Week and the

Drum and Bass Drum Route of Teruel to happy and traditional patron saint's days, whose greater exponent is the one of El Pilar in Saragossa. On October 12, they celebrate the flowers offering. Millions of roses and carnations that people from all over the world offer, used for weaving the Virgin's cloak that day.

You will be told magic legends such as the one of the Teruel Lovers, Diego and Isabel, who died giving up an impossible love. Moreover, not only will you be told, but also you will have the chance to live in from the inside, completely mixed up in the Medieval world. It will be like a fantastic trip along the time tunnel. San Jorge is the patron saint of Aragon. He is always shown with the dragon he killed coiled around his body. It is said that, this way, he liberated a beautiful princess and his popularity became rooted in this land in the XII century.

To give taste to the palate, in Aragon, they cook the shepherd's crumbs, the roast lamb, the cardoon, the borage or the *crepsillos*. The ham and the olive oil, the spicy pork sausage, the honey, the peach...captivate your senses. Sincere, lovely and without makeup gastronomy that wins all the stomachs. Come here and try it, washed down with the good and varied wines of our Guarantees of Origin.

Feel Aragon, land of life, of feelings and surprises that are over there, waiting to captivate you.

# MODERN ARAGÓN

**A**RAGON is close to everything, a stone's throw away from you. Naturally, this Autonomous Region has turned into one of the big logistic powers of Europe. The secret, know how to exploit its privileged geographic location. In the middle of the biggest economic centers: Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Valencia and in the south of Europe. From this nerve point, one accesses a market of twenty million high-quality consumers.

Nevertheless, if to consume is what you want, you will discover the shopping paradise in Saragossa. Here, you can find clothes, footwear and all sorts of presents for your family or friends for a very reasonable price. The paving stones "*adoquines*", for instance, are very famous. They are giant sweets, which are prepared using traditional methods. They have been given this name because they look like the paving floor tiles that were used to cover many of our urban roads. We can still tread on them, but this paving is in danger of extinction. The asphalt prevails as the new tendencies and the rise of the road traffic call for it. You know it; look where you are walking by.





Thousands of hectares have turned into logistic platforms. The one of Saragossa, PLAZA, is the biggest in Europe. However, besides, they have invested a lot in new technologies research. In the area around the 2008 Expo, modern infrastructures have been erected, the airport starts to take off, and that is only the beginning. Going to Madrid has turned into an hour and a half drive, hugging the ground in the AVE (high-speed train).

The fact is that you will need a pair of wings to be able to go all over the tourist, cultural, artistic and gastronomic routes that this land offers you: the Cid route, the Cistercian order one, the Roman Saragossa... You will stay in Country Holidays Houses or in superb hotels, but you can not leave without covering at least a stretch of the Road to Santiago, stopping at the Pilgrims Hospital of Arrés or at the Cathedral of Jaca, at which entrance a column keeps the sign of thousands of travelers that have kissed it throughout the centuries. A walk along Albarracín or along the magical Saragossa, Huesca and Teruel is also unavoidable. All these full-of-magnetism places are the perfect venue for conferences and conventions. Be careful because they attract you like a magnet.

In this trip, you will be met by thousands of wind-driven generators, which have been set up in this Autonomous Region that is putting everything on the renewable powers. It is the new version of the mills that came across Don Quixote, who, like you, also stopped by Aragon. Do you see that it is unavoidable? The Witty Nobleman left captivated by "the pleasantness of the banks of the Ebro, the brightness of its waters, the peace of its course and the presence of a large number of liquid crystals, whose bright view renewed in his memory one thousand love thoughts. Maybe, you be able to begin the story of this adventure this way: "Somewhere in Aragon..."

# MUST-SEE LOCATIONS

**C**ERVANTES started *The Quixote*: “Somewhere in La Mancha, in a place whose name I do not care to remember...” but you have to remember, whatever the way, if necessary with a mark on your hand, a series of must-see locations.

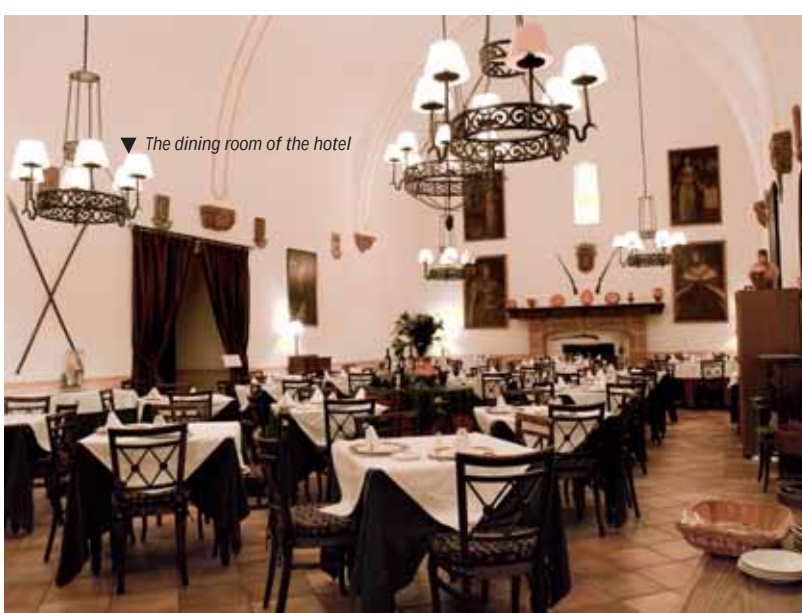
## THE STONE MONASTERY (EL MONASTERIO DE PIEDRA) AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

118 kilometers away from the city of Saragossa, along the Aragon divided highway (A-2) toward Madrid, you will arrive at Calatayud, take the turning toward Nuévalos and, a stone's throw away, you will be met by the Stone Monastery (*Monasterio de Piedra*).

A dozen monks from Poblet, who belonged to the Cistercian order, arrived there in 1194. Faithful to the Benedictine rule: “ora et labora”, they looked for poverty and austerity, loneliness and isolation. They were “flabbergasted” when, in the middle of an arid landscape, an oasis of freshness appeared before them, rich in

▼ The Stone Monastery (Monasterio de Piedra), Saragossa





▼ The dining room of the hotel



▲ El Espejo Lake

vegetation and live waters that rise from the waterfalls formed by the river Piedra. You have been already warned of what can happen to you.

Leave the hurries and the stress outside and immerse yourself in a huge and tempting garden. The music is set by the water murmur, when it plunges from the waterfalls, like the one of Cola de Caballo. Other times, it becomes calm and forms a pool like in El Espejo Lake.

There is no waste on the monastic collection. A hotel has managed to combine the spectacular monastic large rooms and their sobriety with all the comforts of the XXI century. You will be able to eat like a king in the former in the monk's common dormitory, where a restaurant has been opened up. By the way, did you know that it was here where the first Spanish fish farm was started up?

The Stone one is one of the three that make up the Cistercian Order's Route. Other must-see locations are the Rueda Monasteries, where you will be able to stay in one of the Guesthouses of the Aragon Network, and the Veruela one, in the shade of the Moncayo. In this last one, Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer lived between 1863 and 1864. This monastic environment inspired him when writing "Letters from my cell".

▲ The Monastery's cloister



▼ *Mudejar Tower, Tauste*

## THE FIVE TOWNS' MUSEUM TERRITORY

Aragon is such splendid that, when it invites you to pay a visit to a museum, it opens the doors of an entire territory. The Five Towns one, with their fortresses, Romanesque collections and singular landscapes, it is located in the northwestern region of the province of Saragossa. The five roses as the popular folk song says, the Five Historical Towns that give the name to this region are Tauste, Sádaba, Ejea de los Caballeros, Uncastillo and Sos del Rey Católico. If you disappear into these last two, the Romanesque will meet you. Also in Luna, Castiliscar and Bagüés. They boast about the Romanesque, but they also boast about the Roman and about a castle, in Sádaba. In Tauste, apart from the Mudejar tower, they have the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Sancho Abarca.

From Uncastillo, the name says it all. Town and castle go together, that is the secret of success. The Medieval flavor can be tasted in its half a dozen of Romanesque churches, its complicated streets and its ancestral houses.

Do not leave without paying a visit to Luesia, Biel and Ruesta. In Ejea, it is impossible to count all the stork's nests that there are, even seeing that one of the most recommended neighborhoods is the Cuco (Cuckoo). Also the Corona one. In addition, now that we are on it, its churches, Renaissance palaces and its streets with charm. Get lost.

Clayey plains, land of castles like the one of Sada in Sos. Do you know that the king Fernando el Católico (The Catholic) was born here? Somebody said that here, the stone turns into poetry. He surely drew inspiration from its paved streets, together with the arcades of the houses' doorways and the squares. By the way, if you want to check that the Aragonese stick, which was used as a measurement, is equivalent to 77,2 cm, you can do it in the Main Square, under the porches between two arches. "Do not get yourself in over your head," some people say that this saying was born when a beautiful young woman went to buy eleven rods of material to make a shirt, and the salesperson told her that the price was of one kiss each rod. She answered: "Ok, then my grandmother will come to pay tomorrow.

▼ Sádaba Castle



▼ Uncastillo



▼ El Salvador Church, Ejea





▲ Loarre Castle

## LOARRE AND REINO DE LOS MALLOS (THE KINGDOM OF THE MALLETS)

The Loarre Castle raises some thirty-five kilometers to the north of Huesca toward Ayerbe, whose flat cakes are delicious. It has eight towers, which still keep the sword sounds and protect what was the royal palace, a convent and, recently, a film stage. It has a reputation for being the best-preserved Romanesque castle in the entire world, but what has made it famous is the cinema. Its inhabitants have the art in their veins and they have already turned into extras experts. You can watch their wonderful performances on screen. In addition, the truth is that, in Loarre, films like "Kingdom of heaven" of Ridley Scott or "Miguel and William" directed by Inés París have been shot.

Gentleman or lady, know that a consistent wall greedy for prominence will close your way when arriving. It dates from the XIII century and protects the whole collection with its two hundred meters long and its meter and a half thickness. The towers and the bended entrance made it difficult for the invaders to get in. However, do not worry. Nowadays, behind those windows devised for protecting without being injured, nobody can throw boiling liquids. You will manage to enter without any problem, but do not forget that the bridge with access to the Tribute Tower (*Torre del Homenaje*) could be cut in order to isolate this area.

At the end of the XI century, the monastery, which belongs to the Sancho Ramírez period, was erected. It has a tower, a guarding



▲ Mallos de Riglos

section and a church into which the light comes through beautiful windows with thin little columns. Do not forget to have a look at the capitals and let the medieval spirit overcome you. At the turn of the century, the military fortress was built, which sticks out onto an almost vertical cliff. La Reina Viewpoint is a luxurious balcony over Hoya de Huesca. What a views!

In addition, talking about views, the Loarre Castle is part of Reino de los Mallos (Kingdom of the Mallets). A kingdom that has outstanding geological formations, which raise majestically, a paradise for vultures and mountaineers of the entire world. Impressive, the stone-walls of Mallos de Riglos, the ones of Agüero and Murillo, the Gratal Peak and lakes like the Ardisa or Sotónera, ideal to do nautical sports. When the wind is good, the windsurfing and the paragliding are all the rage. The River Gállego, the freshest of Aragon, crosses the kingdom from north to south with its rough waters, suitable to do rafting, canoeing and hydrospeed. If the adventurer that is inside you decides to come out, there are plenty of aquatic birds, cranes, vultures and birds of prey waiting for you to notice them without your getting tired. You can go and pay a visit to the churches and chapels or, if you feel like eating, apart from the flat cake, in this area, they boast about having the best cherries in Bolea, almonds and good lamb.

If you want that a certain air of retro overcome you, there is a bus from Huesca, which was registered in 1913, that covers eleven charming routes without hurries.

## SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA

▼ The Monarchs' Pantheon

Dare to enter another world, a stone's throw away from Jaca, in one of the last Pre-Pyrenean Mountain Ranges of Jacetania. The impressive Mountain Range of San Juan de la Peña is breathtaking. It is a must-see location for those that follow the trace of the Renaissance in Aragon or the Holy Grail one. As the tradition says, the chalice from which Christ drank during the Last Supper was brought by San Lorenzo from Rome.

Before arriving, you can stop on the way to pay a visit to Santa Cruz de la Serós and, therefore, enjoy the kindness of its inhabitants and a careful popular architecture. The buildings end in fabulous chimneys that are decorated with tops or "scarewitches". However, its two gems are the church of Santa María and San Carpasio chapel, both Romanesque.

After this break, you will have the honor of immersing yourself in amazing landscapes. It smells moss, pine, oak, box, hazel and humidity. It is always this way. You are about to arrive at San Juan de la Peña and the opportunity requires a certain degree of solemnity, as this was the first pantheon of the Kings of Aragon. In the middle of the Road to Santiago, you will find the Old Monastery (Monasterio Viejo), given over to San Juan Bautista at the end of the IX century or at the turn of the X. The image of its cloister sheltered under a rock will be etched in your memory but, besides, it keeps more surprises like the king's pantheon, the old Mozarabic church, the upper one and several chapels.

If you follow the road, you will find Llanos de San Indalecio, beautiful and sunnier grassland where the baroque New Monastery (Monasterio Nuevo) was built in the XVII century, which has a postcard-like front. There was nothing they could do about it. The Old Monastery was a bit dilapidated after several fires and damage caused by ice and stones.

You deserve a rest, but there are many mountains waiting to say hello to you. If you follow the path that is located in front of the main New Monastery's door, you will be able to have a look out of the Pyrenees Balcony (Balcón de los Pirineos) and, afterwards, lie down in grassland in this place that has its own microclimate, what makes it cooler. Relax and take the advantage of gazing at the lammergeyers, woodpeckers, tawny vultures, golden eagles, wild boars, squirrels, deer and roe deer that frequent these spots. Do not worry; you are not dreaming but if you insist... you can pinch yourself.

▼ New Monastery (Monasterio Nuevo)



▼ Old Monastery (Monasterio Viejo)



▼ Capital of the cloister, Old Monastery (Monasterio Viejo)



## ORDESA AND MONTE PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK

If you want to be impressed by a landscape, pay a visit to the National Park of Aragon, the one of Ordesa and Monte Perdido. Animals and plants enjoy their private paradise that also stretches down to the valley of Añisclo, Escuaín and Pineta. Listen to the murmur of the rivers Arazas, Bellos, Yaga and Cinca and become imbued with the calm of a pair of glaciers, a work of the nature.

The mineral and plant color are added to the thousands of shapes, among which the fauna is camouflaged. Grey colors on the top that become green, ocher-colored or white as the seasons go by. A wide variety of microclimates coexists in this paradise, what allows

the miraculous existence of nearly one thousand and four hundred plant species.

The nature has proposals for everyone, also for the less fond of walking. The excursion of Cola de Caballo is famous, a beautiful excursion suitable for the general public, as well as arriving at La Garganta Viewpoint. Another route could be the old path that joined Torla with Ordesa or a get away to Los Llanos de La Larri, a cirque that has a glacial origin and exceptional views.

You will find the civilization and many more proposals in the surrounding villages: Gistaín, San Juan de Plan, Torla, Bielsa famous for its carnival, Aínsa for being a lovely medieval collection and its festival, Broto, Boltaña or the lovely Plan. Do you have a better "plan"?



▲ Mural paintings, Alquézar Collegiate Church



▲ Canyoning, Guara Mountain Range

## THE MOUNTAIN RANGE AND THE GUARA CANYONS NATURE PARK

Water, light, color and life. What else can you ask for? From Saragossa, after going past Huesca, you will take the road to Barbastro (N-240) and you will be about to arrive at your destination.

You already are in The Guara Mountain Range, a precipitous area, watered by a small river; it has deep gullies and the trace of our ancestors in the shape of cave paintings. Are you ready to leave the artist that is inside you come out? The mountain villages cut in stone contrast with the ones of the Somontano, where the land is given prominence. Some of them are uninhabited, as Nasarre and Otín, located next to remains by the hands of the man. blacksmith's, fountains or olive-oil mills. They coexist with monuments such as Santa María de Lanuez, or the Alquézar collection, with its collegiate church, the castle and the sacred art museum. It is one of the most beautiful places of this land and, without a doubt, it will captivate you when you walk along its charming streets or look out of its precipitous cliffs. There are Islamic remains, but also from the Christian Middle Ages in an area that rose as the border between Arabs and Christians.

The nature stands out among the landscape in a mountain range where you will enjoy country holidays, and you will have the chance to talk with modest and warm people, who will open their houses' doors for you.

The River Vero Nature Park is an open-air museum that has more than sixty shelters painted. Cave art, but also Romanesque in Bierge. Between Lecina, Colungo, Asque, Alquézar and Rodellar we find the Prehistory's trace in several styles: Paleolithic, Levantine (from the Levante Region of Spain, the provinces of Alicante, Castellón, Murcia and Valencia) or Schematic.

Put your neoprene on and start the downhill, always accompanied by experts. The best canyons and gullies of Europe are waiting for you, but also the sheer rocky formations, in which the rock-climbers have a fantastic time. To finish with, do you dare to ride a horse or a donkey? If you don not, you can choose the bicycle or San Fernando's car. You know, some time on foot and some time walking.



▲ River Martín



▲ Albalate



▲ Monasterio Church



▲ The Abyss of San Pedro, Oliete

## THE RIVER MARTÍN CULTURAL PARK

Would you like to know the one thousand looks that The River Martín Cultural Park has? It is a work of art that the water, the wind and the time have been modeling, forming the canyons of the River Martín and its spectacular gullies. They are in the province of Teruel. In both sides of the river, open secrets: Urban collections as well as of monuments, archeological sites, scenes of cave art that coexist with fossils, forests, vineyards and vegetable gardens. In addition, from the air, the birds of prey and the vultures make this work of art even more beautiful.

If you come from the west, you will be welcomed by Montalbán and the Peñarroyas neighborhood. From there, to Torre de las Arcas. The landscape is like a landscape of reddish, blood-like reddish or yellowish sandstorms that contrast with some plants that are tinged with dark green.

After a great many canyons, giant peaks will waylay you and, in Alcaine, many springs, which pour their crystalline waters into the thirsty course of the river to give him a break. Waters that, millions of years ago, the authors of the cave paintings drank, which illustrate La Cañada Marco, El Abrigo de la Higuera and other areas in Obón. In Alacón, the Mortero-Regatillo gully, another amazing story of the ways of life and beliefs of the first settlers of the valley on the walls. There are also more recent caves that the shepherds rose with stones to protect their cattle during the night. The best thing is that the present settlers will offer you a refreshing swig of wine from their traditional wineries to help you digest so much excitement.

Next destination: Oliete, the Iberian land of the Park. A tower, which is fourteen meters high and the better preserved of this period, together with several villages, will allow you to realize how they lived with a quick look. Do not miss the urban area of Oliete, with its narrow streets, arches at the entrance of what used to be a walled building...Do not miss either La Sima de San Pedro, which is a hundred and ten meters deep and a hundred meters in its mouth diameter, giving shelter to the birds of the area.

In Ariño, we follow the trace of some supposed dinosaurs' footprints and, in Albate del Arzobispo, more cave paintings and the nature's caprices that make gorgeous scenes.

## GÚDAR AND JAVALAMBRE MOUNTAIN RANGES

The Gúdar Mountain Range has its highest point in the Peñarroya Peak, which is 2,019 meters high. The rivers Guadaloque, Mijares, Linares and Alfambra have their source in this mountain range. The Javalambre Peak is one meter higher than the previous and gives its name to the other mountain range of Teruel. Pine, oak and maple forests make these places very special ones. Most of the towns still preserve medieval layouts, like Mosqueruela, the big houses of Rubielos de Mora and Mora de Rubielos.

Together, both towns read the same both ways. Nevertheless, the local people are sure, it is not easy to remember which is one is each one. In order to do it, you just need to remember that Mora is the one that has the sturdy Gothic castle of the Fernandez de Heredia family that dates from the XIII century and Santa María Collegiate Church, which dates from the XV century. A stone's throw away, Rubielos de Mora, the one of the towered arcades of San Antonio and El Carmen, from the XIV century, and walls remains.

This beauty is well known by the skiers who, winter after winter, choose the ski slopes of Valdelinares and Javalambre, that area of the Iberian System of Teruel, just because they are dying to see the snow. Others, place the worm on the rod in any of the excellent trout reserves that you can find here. By the way, in Puertomingalvo, you can eat good seafood and they boast about cured meat and ham in every spot. Do not leave without rewarding yourself.

## TERRITORIO DINÓPOLIS

Do you dare to enter Territorio Dinópolis? To cover 4,500 millions of years, to trail the dinosaur's pawprints, to swim underwater in the Cretaceous Seas, to get to the bottom of the mysteries of the huge extinctions and to discover the human origins.

You will find the answer to the biggest enigmas in a huge paleontological park located in the city of Teruel and if four innovative museums spread around the province. Inhóspitak in Peñarroya de Tastavins, Legendark in Galve, Región Ambarina (*Orangish Amber Region*) in Rubielos de Mora and Bosque Pétreo (*Stone Forest*) in Castellote.

▼ Mora de Rubielos



▼ Ski resort, Javalambre



▼ Dinópolis



## ALBARRACÍN

If there is a place praised by all the visitors it is, without a doubt, Albarracín, a city located on the top from which one can have a look over all the lands of the domain that used to be the capital. Going deeper into its streets is like going deeper into a story, a story full of freshness and beautiful, pleasant and uneven slopes. Albarracín makes one fall in love, it captivates you. The magic flows from its houses built using wooden frameworks and reddish plaster partition walls, typical of that area.

There is no mystery but there is a secret: all the inhabitants have made an effort to be respectful with the place they live in. A place where the roofs come closer in a curious and original attempt to gain habitable space. This way, a semidarkness environment is created, flirting with the sun, what envelops the stroller, making him or her feel well. If you go, you will fall in love.

There are so many things to see. House like La Julianeta, Del Chorro or the one of Azarga Street, intermingled with small palaces: The Episcopal, the one of the Monterde and Antillón, the one of the Dolz de Espejo or the Community House one (*Casa de la Comunidad*). We must not forget the Cathedral or the Cathedral Museum, which holds a treasure in tapestries form. In addition, of course, its wall and wonderful views. Go for a walk by the River Guadalaviar before leaving the story in which you are being the main character.

This region holds wonderful forests of cluster pine in its interior, surrounding monuments such as the shelters with cave paintings in the Cultural Park of Albarracín. Do you know how they painted? Using the fingers, with paintbrushes made from horsehairs or hairs, blowing or helped with a bone or a reed. They got the colors palette by grinding earths and charcoals and then mixing it with water, the fat from the animals, blood or resin from the trees. How clever they were!





▲ Crystal Cave, Molinos



▲ Cantavieja



▲ Mirambel

## EL MAESTRAZGO CULTURAL PARK

Welcome to El Maestrazgo Cultural Park, forty-two municipalities full of cultural and nature treasures. You will be met by historical collections, monuments, archeology, cave collections, paleontological sites and places of geologic interest, but also by friendly people. You are in an area where the simplicity is the main attraction. The castles coexist with the farms, the memories of the gentlemen that had traditional trades, being the transhumance the main one. There is also time for pilgrimages to local shrines, which are generally followed by activities, as well as for feasts, where the *albadas*, the dances and the sound of the bagpipes shine.

The naturalness of the Fortanete pine forests, of Órganos de Montoro and of the River Guadalope are worth an unhurried visit. Do not get overexcited in the Pitarque's source, in Las Truchas Dry Riverbed, in the Valley of the Linares or in the Monchén Hill. There are loads of paths that are signposted, which you can follow without getting lost in order to find the paradise.

Nevertheless, you also have many other meetings. In Aliaga, the Geological Park and the Mining Industry Center of Santa Elena. In Galve, the Paleontological Park. The Museum of Mas de las Matas, the Cultural Park of Molinos, the Olive-Oil Mill of Jaganta, the Environmental Interpretation Center of Villarluego or the Sculptural Park of Hinojosa de Jarque.

Mirambel, Mosqueruela, Puertomingalvo, Estercuel, Cantavieja, Alcorisa... Whatever you choose, you will get it right. Moreover, do not leave without trying their gastronomy. It is as varied and excellent as their landscapes and people. Let yourself be given advice.

## THE MARIAN ROUTE

Aragon must be one of the places with more *Pilares* (Pillars) in the whole world. Yes, yes, with more women named this way: *María Columna*, in Latin.

This is in honor of an event. As the tradition says, the Virgin miraculously came to Saragossa during her life in order to comfort the apostle James (*Santiago*) in his evangelizing mission. She leaned on a pillar and, around it, on the banks of the Ebro, the first chapel was built in honor of her. That pillar is distorted because it has been kissed countless times. Since two thousand years ago, the Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Pilar has turned into a worldwide pilgrimage center. A monument that combines several styles and constructions, as spectacular that it will shock you at first sight. It was a Romanesque church, but it was burned down. Afterwards, it was Gothic Mudejar church, but it was pulled down. There are remains of both of them, like the incredible plateresque altarpiece, work of Damián Forment, and the choir stall. The domes are Baroque; Goya painted his *Regina Martyrum* and Ventura Rodríguez put his signature on *La Santa Capilla de la Virgen* (The Virgin's Holy Chapel). At the crossroads of Christian and European centers like Santiago, Fátima or Lourdes. Toward this last one, the Marian Route has the magnificent Sanctuary of Torreciudad, in lands of Aragon.

Oh! This is usually the expression that the new spectators exclaim. Compared with the Basilica's dimensions, they think that the one of La Virgen is slightly smaller, but always as beautiful with her cloak and surrounded by flowers. You have to look at her from two meters away but, if you have small children, they could be able to touch her, accompanied by the *Infanticos del Pilar*, some boys that sing like the angels and that are in charge of missions like this one.

The devotion to La Virgen del Pilar (*The Virgin of El Pilar*) reaches its highest point on October the twelfth, the discovery of America's day, the Columbus Day. On that day, the Virgin is taken out to the square, where the basilica and the La Seo Cathedral are located, and, around her, half a million offerers dressed with regional costumes, who come from all the world, help to make a cloak, which is fifteen meters high, with millions of carnations, daisies and gladioli. It is made with love, devotion and good intentions. As she is the Hispanic world queen, several Latin American countries take part as well, others mail or air mail flowers or just send them by train. There will be plenty of dances and music in every spot. It is spectacular.

▲ The Sanctuary of Torreciudad

▲ The Virgin of El Pilar



## THE ROUTE AND AREA OF GOYA AND OTHER PROPER NOUNS

Many of our streets, hospitals, schools or museums have names that, soon, will sound familiar to you by hearing them. Nevertheless, let's introduce them to you. Did you know that Miguel Servet was from Aragon? He was a Renaissance wise man that was born in Villanueva de la Sigüenza around 1509. He was an expert on every art: Classical languages, astronomy, geography, mathematics, medicine, philosophy... How wise a man he was! Famous for his studies on the circulation of the blood, he was not very lucky. He was accused of being a heretic and he was burned at the stake in 1553.

Joaquín Costa came into the world in Monzón, in 1846, and he came out of it in Graus, in 1911. He combined his work as a writer with the teaching and politics. His "Regeneracionismo" (*Regenerationism*) set out the solutions for a Spain that was in crisis.

María Moliner drafted the best dictionary ever of the Spanish language usage during all her life (1900-1981).

Aragon has even had a Nobel Prize winner, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, one of the first-rate scientists of the XX century. Used to seeing him sitting in front of the microscope, he was born in 1852 and died in 1934.

The sculptor Pablo Gargallo, the film producer, Luis Buñuel, friend of Dalí and Lorca, who always came back to his home, Calanda, in order to "*romper la hora*" with his drum, the writer of "Requiem for a Spanish peasant" Ramón J. Sender, and the painter from Huesca Antonio Saura and his brother the director Carlos, also Saura, and also from Huelva. Not all of them were understood in their times but, in the end, they were prophets in their own land. The artists Pilar Bayona, Pilar Lorengar and Raquel Meller.

Maybe the most famous around the world has been the one of Fuendetodos, Francisco de Goya (1746-1828). A genius marked by his land and its people. Pioneer in the modern portrait, in Aragon you can see his work in the La Cartuja de Aula Dei (*Aula Dei Charterhouse*). You can also delight the delightful frescos that he painted in El Pilar and in other churches and museums. Saragossa wants to gather the work and documentation that is spread out around the city in a superb Goya Area.



▲ Outward view from the moat



▲ Main staircase



▲ Arab Palace Courtyard

## ISLAMIC ART

La Aljafería is the most significant work of the Islamic art in the Aragonese lands. It is called this way in order to remember the monarch that undertook its construction. In its origin, it was “Qasr al-Surur”, the Happiness Palace. It was called this way because it was more a leisure place full of artists, scientists and Arab and Jewish intellectual people than a defensive building. In the area around the Arab castle, with its battlements, the foliated series of arches and the beautiful panels of a Moorish arch, gardens flowered and irrigation ditches flowed.

The delicate beauty of the palace of the Taifas lived, after the Reconquest, several Christian alterations carried out by Pedro IV el Ceremonioso (*the Ceremonious*) or by the Catholic Monarchs, who ordered to build a palace on the Muslim walls. Nowadays, it is the brand-new seat of the Aragon Parliament, and there is no problem when you want to pay a visit to it.

It could not be better preserved. From the wall and the entrance door to the Christian Palace and the one of the Catholic Monarchs, with its fine staircase and the throne’s hall, passing by the Trovador Tower (*Troubadour*), the mosque and the courtyard of Santa Isabel, where the water flows and it smells orange trees. A work of art product of the union between many cultures and religions.



▲ Jaca Cathedral

## ROMANESQUE ART

If you have an artistic soul, you should embark on the Romanesque route in Aragon. The stone turns into art. You will be able to relive other times in majestic castles, churches, cathedrals and monasteries that smell incense, palaces with thousands of stories among their walls and small chapels that are sometimes located in places that nearly reach the sky.

Hundreds of buildings in every spot of this land that were raised coinciding with the birth of the Kingdom of Aragon, a thousand years ago. Semicircular arches and thick walls with ashlars ended in barrel or groin vault, which were spread among the entire Europe, along the Road to Santiago, thanks to the Benedictines.

If you want to start the Romanesque route of Aragon from the beginning, you have to start in Jacetania and not in the Cathedral of Jaca, which had its own followers. The cathedral of the first



▲ San Juan de la Peña

capital that Aragon had keeps a magnificent collection of Romanesque paintings.

In its walls, you will be able to get to know the Jaca's checker pattern, lines of little squares set in a chess-like form, what is shown in many other Romanesque buildings.

Very close, the Old Monastery of San Juan de la Peña And in the Serrablo, churches with Mozarabic influence from the XI century. Between Sabiñánigo and Biescas, ask about the ones of Larrede, San Bartolomé de Gavín, Otal, Satué, Oliván and, right there, about the one of San Juan de Busa. This last one is buried deep in a gorgeous grassland with the mountains at the end, small ones, where some shepherds even took shelter with their flocks to shelter from the inclemency of the weather.

Do not forget the Loarre Castle, a fantastic fortress. In El Sobrarbe and La Ribagorza, you will find Lombard churches that date from the XI century, such as Roda de Isábena, Obarra and Pano.



▲ Dome of La Seo, Saragossa

## GOTHIC ART

If you are looking for the pillars of Earth, you can find them in Aragon, through its Gothic art. You will immerse yourself in a world full of charm through the Cistercian order route. You should pay a visit to Nuestra Señora de Rueda, the Stone Monastery (*Monasterio de Piedra*), which do not have statues in order not to stray off your thoughts, and the Veruela one, which inspired Bécquer in his *Legends and Letters from the cell*.

Part of Seo of Saragossa is also Gothic, as well as the Cathedral of Huesca and San Pedro de los Francos, in Calatayud, where Fernando el Católico (*the Catholic*) was sworn the crown prince of Aragon.

The Cathedral of Tarazona trims the sky with its silhouette, the Castles of Valderrobres, Albalate del Arzobispo, Mesones de Isuela or Alcañiz, Templar locality riddled with secret passageways. The Cathedral of Barbastro, a wonder.

▲ Barbastro Cathedral

▼ *Coffered ceiling, the cathedral of Teruel*

## MUDEJAR ART

Do you know what does Mudejar mean? The population with a Muslim culture, tradition and religion, who stayed to live in the villages and cities after the Christian conquest, but preserving their customs. There was plenty of everything, but we should highlight the excellent artisans and builders that erected and decorated the new Christian buildings, combining the European styles with their Islamic tradition. It is sure that they would have liked to know that, in the XXI century, they were to be given the status of World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

They used cheap materials, easy to get ones, like bricks, plasterwork, polychrome woods and glazed ceramics. Nevertheless, their skilful hands gave them a dazzling beauty. They knew how to turn the huge stretches of monotonous brick into attractive decorative elements, placing the geometrical forms repeatedly. Intertwined little arches, plant elements, sets of bowls and stars combined with windows that have semicircular or pointed arches. Going for a walk along the city of Teruel is like visiting a huge open-air Mudejar museum. When you less expect it, you will be met by its cathedral and the towers of San Pedro, San Martín and El Salvador.

The simplicity to work the plaster allowed them to excel themselves with their latticework and stuccowork with plant, geometrical, heraldic and incredible handwriting motifs. In the city of Saragossa, you will be able to admire this fact in its greater splendor, in La Seo or in the towers of La Magdalena, San Pablo, San Gil or La Aljafería. More Mudejar in Tarazona, Calatayud, Borja, Daroca, Magallón, La Almunia and in many more places. How much did they work!

Take a good look at the artisans' mastery to model the wood and the pottery. Nowadays, the clay tradition survives in Muel and Teruel.

It is written in capital letters. Do you dare to practice with your hands? Do not hesitate about it.

▲ Tower of San Martín, Teruel



▲ Rueda Monastery

Aula Dei Charterhouse ▼

## MONASTERIES

If you feel like becoming imbued with monastic spirit, in Aragon you can find many places in which to look for it. In order to find the oldest ones, you will have to go back to the Visigothic period. Many monasteries have fitted out some of their rooms as guesthouses or restaurants, so you will be able to rest surrounded by austerity, silence or withdrawal, but enjoying the comforts of the XXI century. Of course, you will have a comfortable mattress and you should know that the damp has gone down in history. There are real accommodations with charm that are located in Monasteries and that will surprise you. You will leave the fasting for another time, in order to reward your stomach with a good breakfast, lunch or dinner in the same large rooms where the monks used to eat. At your disposal, every kind of details and even some handicrafts that are still produced in some orders. You will be able to taste caramel-coated almonds, cookies and several sweets that have a celestial taste.

In Huesca, among others, San Pedro de Siresa and San Juan de la Peña are the two oldest ones, but you can also pay a visit to the ones of San Pedro el Viejo, Sigüenza, Casbas and Santa María de Obarrá. In Saragossa, La Cartuja de Aula Dei (*Aula Dei Charterhouse*), Veruela, Stone Monastery (*Monasterio de Piedra*) and Nuestra Señora de Rueda. In Teruel, Santa María del Olivar.

▼ Veruela Monastery



**C**AN you hear the hubbub? Aragon is a hospitable and cheerful people that have a calendar full of feasts and celebrations where the visitor is always welcomed, even if he or she is hit by a tomato, coated in batter or with the sound of gunpowder. Do you dare to?

The first date is on January 12 in Abizanda, with *Los Langostos* (grasshoppers and locusts) of San Beturián. A sheet with flat cakes is placed in the country and, depending on the number of insects that go there, they predict the agricultural year. The closest Saturday and Sunday to San Antón (the 19<sup>th</sup>), the *Encamisada* of Estercuel is celebrated. Big bonfires and riders that go along the village on their horses. The nineteenth, on the vespers of San Sebastián, get ready to dance around a burning black poplar, the Rodat de Castelserás. The shawm (*dulzaina*) and the drum sound. In order to get your strength back, the best is to go the *Tossino* Fiesta, in Albelda, on the fourth Sunday. The main feature is the traditional pig's slaughter. Moreover, for dessert, on the twenty-ninth, San Valero, the saint patron of Saragossa, *rosconero* and *ventolero*.

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 showered with the apples that the children throw at him. On the fifth, Santa Águeda, fiestas everywhere with the woman as the main character. On the fourteenth, Saint Valentine's Day, you are invited to Las Bodas de Isabel (*The weddings of Isabel*). All the people in Teruel dress up with medieval costumes in order to follow the history of the two unhappy lovers along the streets. The Thursday before Ash Wednesday, "Jueves Lardero, longaniza en el puchero" (*"Maundy Thursday, spicy pork sausage in the pot"*), in the whole territory of Aragon. In addition, on the 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. From places such as Épila or La Almunia, where the *mascarutas* are shown, a costume in which they camouflage themselves and even their voice in order to be able to annoy the public without being seen, to the really famous carnivals of Bielsa, where the *trangas* will embarrass you, even more if you are a girl, and you will be met by the beautiful *madamas*, the *onsos* and the *amontatos*. In Saragossa, you will get lost among so many floats, shows and happiness.

# POPULAR FEASTS



▼ Encamisada de Estercuel



▲ Rompida de la hora (Breaking the time), Andorra



▲ Typical costumes of Huesca



▲ Fireworks

Put all your passion in the Holy Week of Aragon. Cover the Drum and the Bass Drum Route. Do not miss the Holy Friday of Calanda, at midday, to listen to "la rompida de la hora." The din of the drum basses and drums does not stop since midnight in Hija, which is very close.

On March the nineteenth, pilgrimage in Paniza to the top of Alto del Águila, on the twenty-first of April, the Dance of Tauste and on the twenty-third San Jorge, patron saint of Aragon, ceremonies everywhere. On April 30, the Mayos of Albarracín, the young boys court the young girls during the night.

Save your strength because we start a new month and, with it, Jaca immerses itself in the Fiesta of the first Friday on May. It is a bright and colorful celebration with a lunch during the early morning and parades of artisans and farmers to the sound of the blunderbusses in order to go with Conde Aznar, who rides a horse, during his entrance to the city. The next day, the first Saturday of May, you have a meeting in Sabiñán to mark La Romería de la Cruz (*The Cross Pilgrimage*). On the nineteenth, in Cetina, eight dancers and a devil dance in the light of the torches. It is the bright and colorful contredanse. At the end of May and the beginning of June, you should go to the navata rafts downhill along the Cinca. They remember the times when the trunks that were fell in the Pyrenees' forests went downhill in big rafts along the river in order to arrive at the sea.

In June, you will have to be in a dozen places in order to arrive the first weekend at El Poyo del Cid, which goes back to the medieval times. The Corpus Christi, in Daroca, with its Corporal Saints. The thirteenth dance of Gallur, the twentieth the Bonfires of San Ramón in Barbastro and the twenty-third La Falleta, in San Juan de Plan. They run downhill with lighted torches in a bright and colorful show. The twenty-fourth the fire bull goes out in Mora de Rubielos, the twenty-fifth is Santa Orosia, annual fiesta of Jaca and, next to it, in Yebra de Basa, one of the more picturesque pilgrimages of this land, thanks to its dancers, is celebrated. On the thirtieth, where the dancers dance is in Benasque.

On July 10, get ready some white clothes and a red scarf to go to Teruel, to La Vaquilla del Ángel (an amateur bullfight with young bulls). It is a fiesta in style that you must share with its clubs, in the street. Apart from a lot of night and day life, there are roped bulls. On the sixteenth, the feasts are in Rubielos de Mora in honor of La Virgen del Carmen and, on the twenty-fifth, the ones of Santiago in Sabiñánigo.

Stay there as, during the first weekend of August, the Mozarabic mass is celebrated in one of the churches of the Serrablo region. On the tenth, now in white and green, the wildness arrives with the clubs during the fiesta of San Lorenzo, the ones of Huesca. It smells basil and there are ceremonies for everyone. During the second week of August, Rubielos goes back to the Middle Ages and on the sixteenth, San Roque, in Calatayud. Dress up as you can but don not miss this feasts. On the twenty-third, Vulcanalia. In Mara, they stage the battle where the Celtiberians from Segeda defeated the Romans. On the twenty-eight, put on some clothes that you do not mind to get dirty and get ready to be hit by tomatoes in the Cipotegato of Tarazona. They threw the tomatoes to a young boy that is dressed as a harlequin but many tomatoes deflect.

In September, after the summer, everyone remembers the saints. On the second of *San Antolín* in Sariñena, on the first Sunday of *La Virgen de la Oliva* in Ejea, on the eighth of their Virgin in Alcalá de la Selva, apart from the feasts of *La Natividad* in Barbastro, in Calatayud of *La Virgen de la Peña* and in La Iglesuela del Cid they dance with their patron saint. On the ninth, San Macario in Andorra and Santa Leticia in Ayerbe, where they fill the bonfires with stews. On the fourteenth, you will be able to see the Christ of Calatorao and, in Rubielos de Mora, the roped bull. In Graus, they make a critical analysis of the year in an eccentric parade known as Mojiganga. The closest Sunday, La Morisma de Aínsa is celebrated where, every two years, the village turns into a huge theatre stage in which all the inhabitants act. By this time, roll up your sleeves in order to immerse yourself in the spectacular Grape Harvest Feast of Cariñena, where La Mora Fountain pours with wine. On the twenty-fifth, Santa Pantaria in La Almunia and the last weekend San Paterno in the area around the Bílbilis ruins.

October arrives, as well as an outburst of colors, jotás, concerts and offerings to La Virgen del Pilar. The most stunning is the flowers one, on the twelfth. The children run in front of carnival figures with a huge head, escorted by giants, everybody is in the streets. They are holding the Fiesta of El Pilar, and Saragossa turns into a huge agenda with ceremonies for everyone. The fun is assured. Get ready to be sleepy.

In December, Monzón celebrates its feasts with traditions like "the baptism of the mayor". During all year round, there are many more pilgrimages, processions, feasts and celebrations, which have an Aragonese taste and kind people that are waiting for you.

▼ Cipotegato, Tarazona



▼ First Friday of May, Jaca





Flower offering to the Virgin of El Pilar ▲



▲ The Feast of El Pilar, Saragossa



▲ Holy Week

\* During the summer, moreover, ask about the Aragon Festivals: Theatre in Alcañiz and Valderrobles; in Rubielos and in Mora the Door to the Mediterranean opens; Celtic music in Aínsa; Borja in Jazz; 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. 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. Oh! During the odd years, everyone looks at Jaca, at the Folk Festival of the Pyrenees. A flood of cultures, united by the folklore and the respect for the other. I think that you have a problem, whether you stay to live in Aragon or you will not know where to start.



*Peach of Calanda* ▲



*Vineyards* ▲



*Onions of Fuentes* ▲



*Ham of Teruel* ▲

# GASTRONOMY

**I**F you want to taste Aragon in all its dimensions, the best thing is your having a good appetite. You will be able to eat every kind of fresh vegetables but, if you prefer something especially local, try the borage. There are also very good artichokes and, for the salads, the famous onions from Fuentes and, of course, the variety of olives in all its forms. All this dressed with great oil, the one from Bajo Aragon.

For main course, you can have meat that has just been hunted or trout that have just gone out the water. In addition, of course, you have to try the suckling lamb from Aragon, the chicken in tomato and pepper sauce or the pork, as well as all its products, after a slaughter like in the old times. Spicy pork sausage from Graus or Binéfar, and ham from Teruel.

The desserts are like the people from this land: healthy and modest. Who is reluctant to eat roast apples, a golden peach from Calanda or a *sopetas* dish? In some places of the Pyrenees, that is the name of the peach with wine. Real artists elaborate the confectionery in a traditional way. You can have a feast of plat cakes, fried slices of bread in milk, sweets made with egg yolk and sugar, chestnuts, plaits from Almodévar, large ring-shaped bun, fruits from Aragon, *condes* or *jaqueses* or *besitos* (little kisses) from Jaca. Moreover, to water all this, full-bodied wines, which are rich in shades, from the four Guarantees of Origin: Somontano, Cariñena, Campo de Borja and Calatayud.

# NATURE AND LIFE

**N**ATURE and life. This is Aragón. Have you realized it yet? Stone, earth, water, light, more than 2.4 millions of hectares of mountain, one million of them wooded. A whole world of different habitats and protected spaces.

A paradise for the geologists, the oldest rocks are previous to the Paleozoic Era, they are quartzite, slate, limestone and granite. Over them, a spring of nature full of contrasts and with shades that change as the seasons go by. Green leaves that become red or ocher colored and then tinge with white. They are real works of art, paintings that are more than impressionists, which express the villages with a varied and unique fauna.



## THE PYRENEES AND THE PRE-PYRENEAN AND IBERIAN MOUNTAIN RANGES

Two mountain formations that cross Alto Aragón from west to east are its backbone: The Pyrenees and the Pre-Pyrenees.

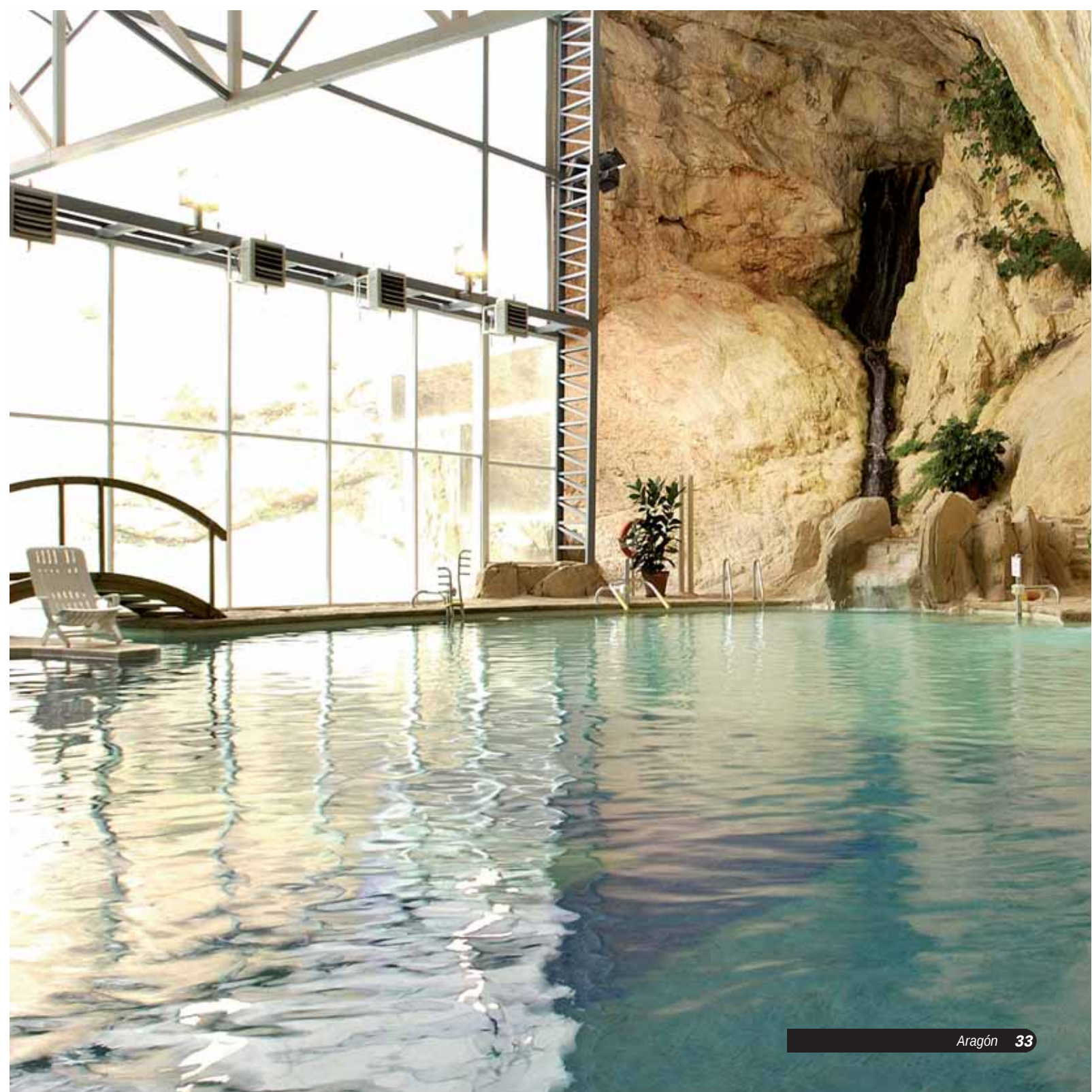
The peak that is closer to the sky is the Aneto (3,404 meters) but, in the Pyrenees, you should also look for the amazing granite ridges of the Maladeta (3,308 meters) and the Balaitus, as well as the deep valleys and the limy canyons of Monte Perdido (3,335 meters) and the nature monuments that the Pyrenean glaciers form.

Hundreds of lakes and small lakes are also waiting for you, which are located next to huge grasslands where you will be able to get lost in order to find yourself. You can walk to Cregüeña, Batisiellas, Millares, Ordiceto, Marboré, Brazatos, Azules and Estanés, with their pure and crystalline waters.

Nevertheless, the fact is that the snow and the fluvial erosion have drawn big valleys, each one with its own personality. From west to east, we find them in Ansó, Echo, Aragüés, Canfranc, Tena, Broto, Bielsa, Gistáin, Benasque and Barrabés. All of them are full of histories and secrets, of beauty proposals that are waiting for you to notice them.

In the Pre-Pyrenees, the structure is made up of a collection of mountain ranges that keep impressive masses inside them, like the ones of Mallos de Riglos that make art from the verticality.

Nevertheless, Aragón has always more. The Iberian System invites you to get lost in its middle-high mountain ranges and abundant vegetation. You will find the maximum height in the Meadow of the Moncayo Nature Park, the Albarraçín Mountain Range with the National Hunting Reserve of the Universal Mountains and the Gúdar Mountain Range, populated with the characteristic pine trees. Do not forget the villages and landscapes of El Maestrazgo, its people and its gastronomy, the nature spots of the Beceite Mountain Passes, the Stone Monastery (*Monasterio de Piedra*) and the spas of this area, from which you will leave revitalized, the ones of Jaraba, Alhama de Aragón o Paracuellos de Jiloca. Do not you think that you deserve it? Let yourself be spoiled.



## THE RIVERS

Aragon is crossed by the rivers that are its source of life. The Ebro Hydrographic Network gets the strength in the north, quenches the thirst of the dry lands of the central steppe and it extends in a perpendicular-like shape to the chains of mountains, joining mountains and plains naturally.

The Ebro, together with its tributaries, has marked the history of this land: Aragón, Gállego and the Cinca with the Ésera on the left and Queiles, Huecha, Jalón, Huerva, Aguas, Martín, Guadalope, Matarraña and Algás on the right. A real lesson of geography.

## THE NATURE SPACES

Aragon is a whole world. From the glaciers and the highest peaks of the Pyrenees, located over 3,400 meters above sea level, to the lower areas, this land offers the most varied ecosystems. The chamois and the marmots live in the Pyrenean peaks, among plants that withstand everything, like the coveted snow flower, the edelweiss. As the legend says, the men that wanted to prove their love had to go up to more than two hundred meters of altitude in order to look for one to give it to their love. Maybe this is the reason of its symbolizing the everlasting love. If you happen to find one, the best thing you can do is to leave it be at peace as it has become a protected species due to the amount of suitors.

A little lower, the flora and the fauna that live in the damp forests of the valleys change. The lowest areas and the hillsides that are facing the south are populated with species more typical of Mediterranean climates. Nevertheless, the big birds of prey do not know about borders and, therefore, they show off their lovely flights with the blue sky as background.

If you want to come closer to the whole flora and fauna typical of the mountain areas, some from here, some imported, you can get away to Lacuniacha, the Fauna Park of the Pyrenees, next to Piedrafita de Jaca. A three-hour excursion that will captivate you, whatever your age. You will be able to rub shoulders with chamois and Spanish ibex, meet the look of European bison, lynx, fallow deer and deer. The reindeer, roe deer and elusive wolves are also waiting for you. If you like plants, during your pleasant walk, you will be able to notice the fern, box, wild pine trees, willow tress, birch tress, elm trees and black elder trees. This is only an aperitif.

▼ Bison



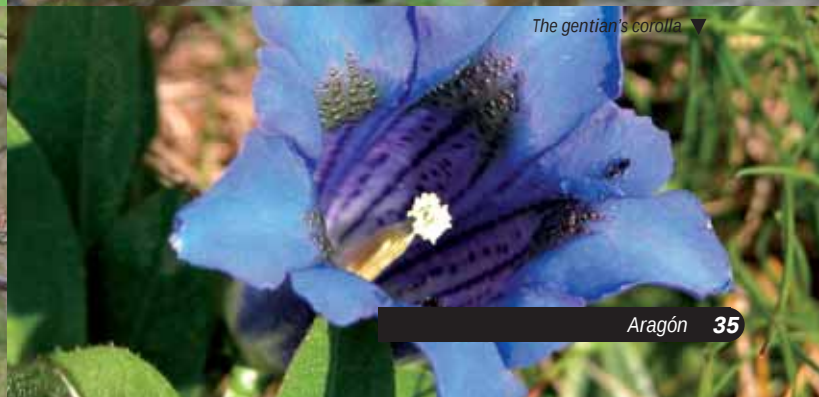
▼ Edelweiss



▼ Wolf



▼ The gentian's corolla



▼ Chamois



If you want to visit everything, you can start at the Valleys' Joint Community (*Mancomunidad de los Valles*), Anayet, Panticosa, Ordesa, Posets-Maladeta, Ribagorza, the Guara Mountain Range, the Pre-Pyrenees, Mequinenza, the Ebro Gullies (*Galachos del Ebro*), wetlands like the ones of Gallocanta and Sariñena, the steppes of Belchite, the Moncayo, the Iberian Mountain Ranges, the Rivers Mesa and Piedra, the Mountainous Region of Albarracín, the Mountain Ranges of Gúdar and Javalambre, the Maestrazgo and the mountain passes of Beceite.

The following Protected Nature Spaces: The Nature Reserve of the Gullies of La Alfranca de Pastriz, the Charterhouse and El Burgo de Ebro, El Moncayo Nature Park, The Mountain Range and the Guara Canyons Nature Park, Posets-Maladeta Nature Park, Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park, Nature Monuments such as the Pyrenean Glaciers, San Juan de la Peña Nature Monument and the Protected landscape of the Pine Trees of Rodeno. In addition, the Cultural Parks of the River Martín, River Vero, Albarracín, San Juan de la Peña and Maestrazgo.

Moreover, there are other nature spaces of interest, such as the Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve and several wild fauna shelters like La Lomaza de Belchite and the ponds of Sariñena and Gallocanta

▼ Cranes in Gallocanta during the wintering period

▼ Autumn in the deciduous forests





▲ *Ski resort, Cerler*

## THE SNOW AND THE SKI

If you come during the period between November and May, you will be able to see the whitest look of our mountains and valleys. The snow transforms the landscapes and ways of life of the persons from Aragon, but also of those that come to visit us. In order to go for a walk in the open air, in some areas, you will need the help of the skis, the sledge, the snowshoes or the snowmobiles. Aragon has seven modern ski resorts to do downhill or cross-country skiing: Candanchú, Astún, Aramón Formigal, Aramón Panticosa, Aramón Cerler, Aramón Valdelinares and Aramón Javalambre. All of them

are located in the Pyrenean area of Huesca, except the last two, which are located in the Iberian System of Teruel. It also has nine ski resorts to do cross-country skiing. If those things do not go with you, a peaceful walk, wearing your boots or just to sitting by the sun heat in a terrace, in spite of being surrounded by snow, are hands of a saint in order to make you feel well.

If you like winter sports, you have come to the right place. Do you feel like playing ice hockey or doing figure skating in the new Ice Rink of Jaca? They are XXI century installations. Other proposals: paragliding with skies and snowboarding. A dream that comes true.

## ADVENTURE SPORTS, HUNTING AND FISHING

Dare to and enjoy. In Aragon, you can turn into an adventurer all year round. Remember that you are in a land of contrasts and, therefore, your experiences will be really mixed ones. Many guides can go with you. Remember that you always have to be very well equipped. You may want to release adrenaline during a huge ascent or calm down riding a quiet horse, to follow the measured walking of the hiker or join the tension of climbing, the frenzy of the rough waters or to taste the feeling of freedom of the one that flies. There are moments for everything.

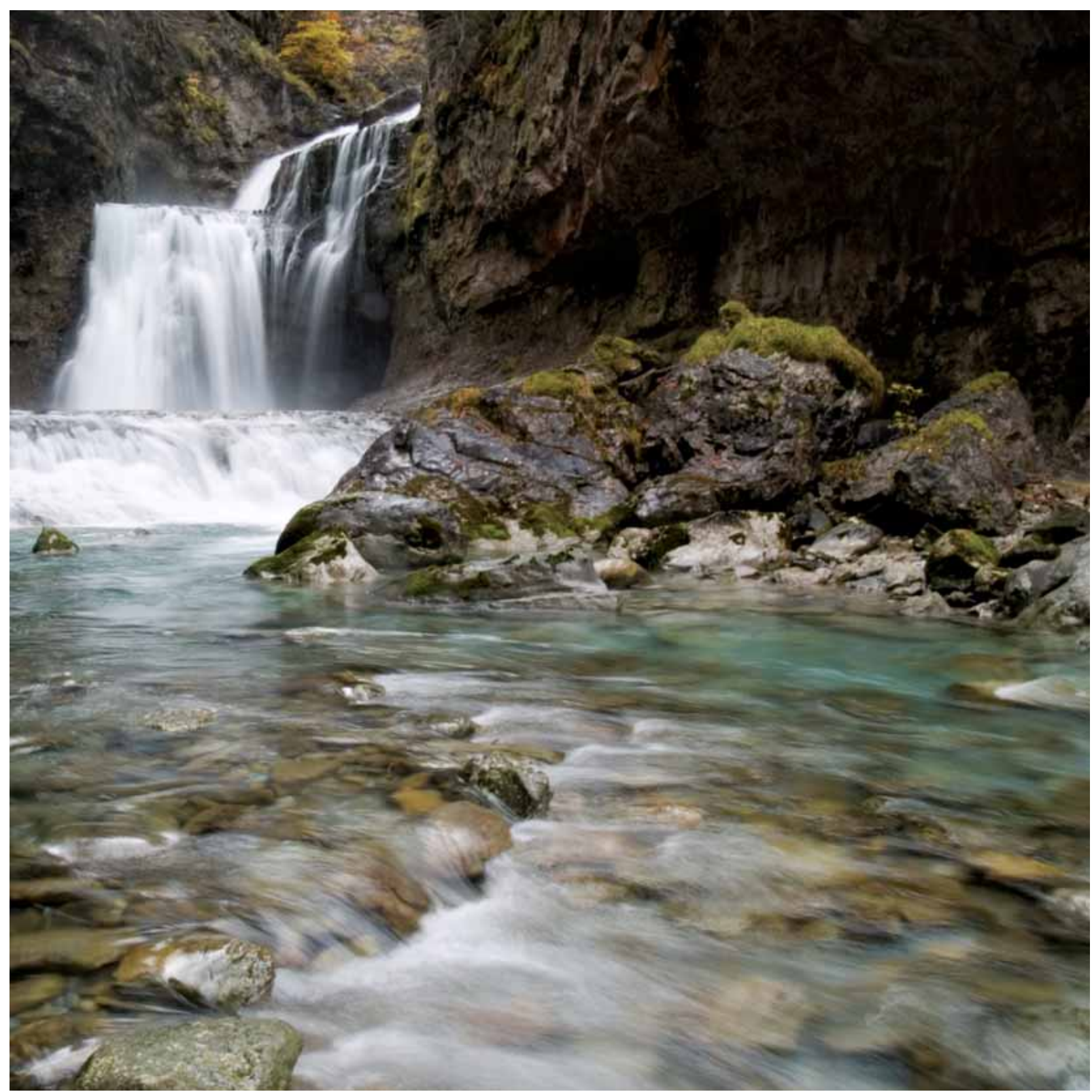
Alto Aragon is the ideal place to do rock-climbing, whether it be in its sporting aspect or in the classical one. Many schools can advise you. At the peaks, you will check that the blue Aragonese sky is the most intense one, the most spectacular, but if you want to see it close to, you will have to choose a paragliding ride, or in a hang glider, or just do gliding or ultralite.

If what you want is to check the temperature of our waters, you can do any nautical sport: sailing, canoeing, windsurfing or diving. If you miss more activity, look for rough waters and throw yourself in a dugout canoe, kayak or canoe, do rafting, hydrospeed or hot dog. Do not forget canyoning, whether it be in dry land, the mountain bike, the high-mountain hiking or the walks riding a horse.

Nevertheless, as there is always more in Aragon, you can also find less common proposals in Los Monegros, like camel rides, sidecar rides or tractor rides, before getting even with the paintball, you know, the paint war. Afterwards, you can stay in a well-appointed hotel dug out of the mountain during the night.

If hunting and fishing is what you like, welcome. A large number of reserves and preserves is regulated and differentiated in categories. Shooting in the plains of Saragossa and game hunting of wild boar or chamois, in Huesca, or the capture of deer and Spanish Ibex in Teruel.

In fishing, trout in the rivers and lakes of the Pyrenees. However, if you come closer to the Aragon Sea and you are a bit skilful, you will be able to take a picture of yourself with catfish of nearly two meters. Happy adventure in Aragon, another world.



TOURIST OFFICES (OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND)

Aragón tourism office (OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND)  
Avda. César Augusto, 25. Tel. 976 28 21 81. ZARAGOZA

► [www.turismodearagon.com](http://www.turismodearagon.com)

| PROVINCE | LOCALITY                                 | ADDRESS                                                                 | PHONE NUMBER                           |
|----------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ZARAGOZA | ALAGÓN                                   | Plaza de San Antonio, 2 (Casa de Cultura)                               | 976 61 18 14                           |
| ZARAGOZA | BORJA                                    | Plaza España, 1, Bajos ayuntamiento                                     | 976 85 20 01                           |
| ZARAGOZA | BREA DE ARAGÓN (comarcal)                | Oriente, 18                                                             | 976 82 41 41                           |
| ZARAGOZA | CALATAYUD                                | Plaza del Fuerte, s/n                                                   | 976 88 63 22                           |
| ZARAGOZA | CASPE                                    | Plaza de España, 1, Casa Palacio Piazueto Barberán                      | 976 63 65 33                           |
| ZARAGOZA | DAROCA (municipal)                       | Plaza de España, 4                                                      | 976 80 01 29                           |
| ZARAGOZA | DAROCA (comarcal)                        | Mayor, 44 (Planta Baja)                                                 | 976 80 01 93                           |
| ZARAGOZA | EJEA DE LOS CABALLEROS (municipal)       | Paseo del Muro, 2, duplicado                                            | 976 66 41 00                           |
| ZARAGOZA | EJEA DE LOS CABALLEROS (comarcal)        | Concordia, 10                                                           | 976 66 43 90 / 976 66 29 62            |
| ZARAGOZA | GALLOCANTA (comarcal)                    | Plaza San Mauricio, 4                                                   | 976 80 30 69                           |
| ZARAGOZA | JARABA                                   | Plaza Afán de Rivera, 3                                                 | 976 87 28 23                           |
| ZARAGOZA | LA MUELA                                 | La Balsa, 1                                                             | 976 14 99 65                           |
| ZARAGOZA | MEQUINENZA                               | Plaza Ayuntamiento, 5, Bajos                                            | 974 46 41 36                           |
| ZARAGOZA | SOS DEL REY CATÓLICO                     | Plaza Hispanidad, s/n (Palacio de Sada)                                 | 948 88 85 24                           |
| ZARAGOZA | TARAZONA                                 | Plaza San Francisco, 1                                                  | 976 64 00 74                           |
| ZARAGOZA | UNCASTILLO                               | Avenida Ramón y Cajal, 2 A                                              | 976 67 67 16                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (provincial: El Cuarto Espacio) | Plaza España, 2                                                         | 976 21 20 32                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Eduardo Ibarra, 3 (Auditorio)                                           | 976 72 13 33                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Glorieta Pío XII, s/n (Torreón de la Zuda)                              | 976 20 12 00                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Plaza del Pilar, s/n                                                    | 902 14 20 08                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Aeropuerto de Zaragoza                                                  | 976 78 01 44                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Rioja, 33 (Estación Delicias)                                           | 976 32 44 68                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Municipal)                     | Feria de Zaragoza. Ctra de Madrid, Km. 311                              | 976 76 47 00 (ext.165)                 |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Turismo de Aragón)             | Avenida César Augusto, 25                                               | 976 28 21 81                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Turismo de Aragón)             | Diego Dormer, 21 (Palacio de la Real Maestranza)                        | 976 29 45 39                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Turismo de Aragón)             | Aeropuerto de Zaragoza                                                  | 976 78 09 82                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Turismo de Aragón)             | Rioja, 33 (Estación Delicias)                                           | 976 31 42 68                           |
| ZARAGOZA | ZARAGOZA (Turismo de Aragón)             | Feria de Zaragoza. Ctra de Madrid, Km. 311. Galería Comercial, Local 17 | 976 76 47 98                           |
| HUESCA   | AÍNSA (municipal)                        | Avenida Pirenáica, 1 (Cruce de carreteras)                              | 974 50 07 67                           |
| HUESCA   | AÍNSA (comarcal)                         | Plaza del Castillo. Torre Nordeste                                      | 974 50 05 12                           |
| HUESCA   | ALQUEZAR                                 | Nueva, 14                                                               | 974 31 89 40                           |
| HUESCA   | BARBASTRO                                | Avenida La Merced, 64 (Conjunto S. Julián y Sta. Lucía)                 | 974 30 83 50                           |
| HUESCA   | BENASQUE                                 | San Sebastián, 5, Edif. Casa de la Cultura                              | 974 55 12 89                           |
| HUESCA   | BIESCAS                                  | Plaza Ayuntamiento, 2                                                   | 974 48 52 22                           |
| HUESCA   | BOLTAÑA                                  | Avenida Ordesa, 47 (a la entrada del pueblo, a mano derecha)            | 974 50 20 43                           |
| HUESCA   | CANFRANC                                 | Plaza Ayuntamiento, 1                                                   | 974 37 31 41                           |
| HUESCA   | FORMIGAL (VALLE DE TENA)                 | Edificio Almona III, Bajos                                              | 974 49 01 96 *                         |
| HUESCA   | GRAUS                                    | Plaza de la Compañía, 1, bajos                                          | 974 54 00 01                           |
| HUESCA   | HUESCA                                   | Plaza López Allué, s/n                                                  | 974 29 21 70                           |
| HUESCA   | JACA                                     | Plaza de San Pedro, 11-13                                               | 974 36 00 98                           |
| HUESCA   | MONZÓN                                   | Plaza Mayor, 4 (Porches del Ayuntamiento)                               | 974 41 77 74 / 974 40 07 00 (ext. 504) |
| HUESCA   | MONZÓN                                   | Castillo de Monzón                                                      | 974 41 77 91                           |
| HUESCA   | PANTICOSA                                | San Miguel, s/n                                                         | 974 48 73 18                           |
| HUESCA   | SABIÑANIGO (Turismo de Aragón)           | Avenida del Ejército, 27. Pirenarium (galería comercial)                | 974 48 42 72 **                        |
| HUESCA   | SARINENA                                 | Gasset, 4 (Museo de la Laguna)                                          | 974 57 08 73                           |
| HUESCA   | TORRECIUDAD                              | Santuario de Torreciudad                                                | 974 30 40 25                           |
| TERUEL   | ALBARRACÍN (comarcal)                    | San Antonio, 2                                                          | 978 71 02 62                           |
| TERUEL   | ALCALÁ DE LA SELVA                       | Castillo Bajo, 2                                                        | 978 80 12 26                           |
| TERUEL   | ALCAÑIZ                                  | Mayor, 1                                                                | 978 83 12 13                           |
| TERUEL   | ANDORRA (comarcal)                       | Pº de las Minas, s/n (Antiguas oficinas de Endesa)                      | 978 88 05 27                           |
| TERUEL   | CALACEITE (comarcal)                     | Sagrado Corazón, 33                                                     | 978 85 12 01                           |
| TERUEL   | CALANDA                                  | Mayor, 44                                                               | 978 84 65 24                           |
| TERUEL   | CALAMOCHA                                | Pasaje Palafox, 1                                                       | 978 73 05 15                           |
| TERUEL   | CANTAVIEJA                               | Mayor (Museo de las Guerras Carlistas)                                  | 964 18 54 14                           |
| TERUEL   | CASTELLOTE                               | Plaza España, 3                                                         | 978 88 75 61                           |
| TERUEL   | ESCUCHA                                  | Travesía de Escucha, s/n                                                | 978 75 67 05                           |
| TERUEL   | LA PUEBLA DE VALVERDE                    | Mayor, 12                                                               | 978 67 00 01                           |
| TERUEL   | MANZANERA                                | Plaza de la Cultura, 4                                                  | 978 78 18 82                           |
| TERUEL   | MOLINOS                                  | Torreón Medieval                                                        | 978 84 90 85                           |
| TERUEL   | MORA DE RUBIELOS                         | Diputación, 2                                                           | 978 80 61 32                           |
| TERUEL   | PUERTOMINGALVO                           | Edificio del Ayuntamiento                                               | 978 80 20 51                           |
| TERUEL   | RUBIELOS DE MORA                         | Plaza Hispanoamérica, 1                                                 | 978 80 40 96                           |
| TERUEL   | TERUEL (D.G.A.)                          | San Francisco, 1                                                        | 978 64 14 61                           |
| TERUEL   | TERUEL (municipal)                       | Plaza Amantes, 6                                                        | 978 62 41 05                           |
| TERUEL   | VALDELINARES                             | Plaza de la Iglesia, s/n                                                | 978 80 18 04                           |
| TERUEL   | VALDEROBRES (comarcal)                   | Avenida Cortes de Aragón, 7                                             | 978 89 08 86                           |

\* It's the Valle de Tena Tourism Association replacing the tourist office in winter and closed in Sallent / \*\* Except December 25 and January 1

TOURIST INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER: 902 477 000



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Departamento de Industria,  
Comercio y Turismo