

The aim of this leaflet is to help the visitor engage with the experience those who truly know what Aragon is like—that is, the Aragonese themselves.

People of all ages from different parts of Aragon have shared their experiences, memories and advice for this book. We believe it's worth sharing what's important with the rest of the world, and invite everyone to come and meet us.



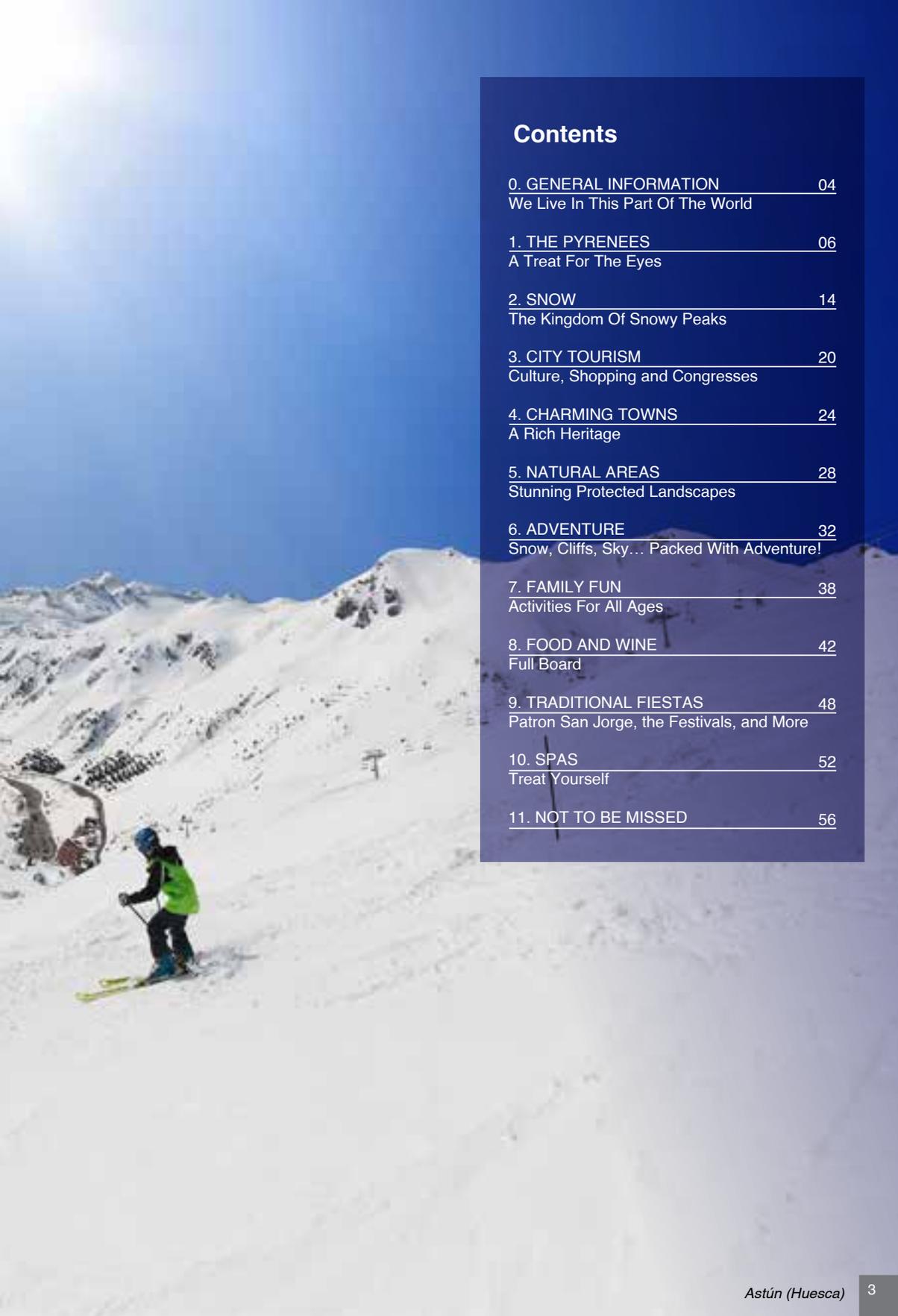
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[www.turismodearagon.com](http://www.turismodearagon.com)

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ARAGON,  
your Kingdom



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# WE LIVE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD



## Aragon

Area  
**47.719 sq km** (9.4 % Spain; 1.1 % EU)

Government  
**1 Autonomous Community, 3 Provinces, 33 districts, 731 municipalities**

Population  
**1.347.149 (2013)**. Province of Huesca: 226,329; Province of Teruel: 142,183; Province of Zaragoza: 978,638

Cities (population)  
**Zaragoza (682,004), Huesca (52,418), Teruel (35,961).**

Highest Point: **Aneto Mountain (3,404m)**  
Lowest Point: **Ebro River (65m)**

Gross Income Per Capita (2012)  
**€ 16,661**

Activity Rate  
**58% (4<sup>th</sup> Q/2013)**

Education  
**University level 18.5% of the population**



# PYRENEES

**The Pyrenees and the Pre-Pyrenees are one of the most authentic Aragonese tourism destinations.**

The sky from the summit of the Aneto mountain, at 3,404 metres, is the roof of the world: glaciers, ibones (mountain lakes), forests, high mountains and ski resorts, perfect for anyone who loves snow, trails, photography and nature. The Pyrenees hide many secret valleys to be discovered, some with their own distinct identity as revealed in the regional art, the Romanesque churches, the Aragonese language, the Carnival and the food.

The valleys of Hecho-Ansó, Aragón, Tena, Ara, Chistau, Pineta and Benasque receive thousands of visitors each year, both experts and amateurs, who come to quench their thirst for pure and protected nature, to refresh and gather all the bounties of well-being from the simplicity of the Pyrenees— from the energy that mountain range exudes.

Energy and history that has been represented throughout the ages in beautiful churches, hermitages and monasteries, which shaped life in the valley. From above you can capture the mountains in all their splendour, and they're just waiting for travellers to dare to do so.



*Castle of Loarre (Huesca)*



Aragon boasts history, churches, monasteries, paintings, art and writers. Culture all round. And all this right on my doorstep.

**Águeda, 37**

*Monastery of San Juan de la Peña (Huesca)*



Torla, Valle de Ordesa (Huesca)



My nephew can identify numerous species of plants and trees while I'm barely able to name them. The Park of Lacuniacha is great, it's designed for both kids and grown-ups to have fun as a family. Spot on.

**Sara, 27**

Lacuniacha, Piedrafita de Jaca (Huesca)



I learned a bit of French from the tourists. The French are always the first to discover our best attractions and our top food haunts.

**Nadia, 32**

The ajedrezado jaqués, which is a stone decoration resembling a chessboard, can be found in all the Romanesque churches throughout the Camino de Santiago (St. James' Way), but it originated in Jaca.

**Carmen, 67**

Pyrenean Camino de Santiago (Huesca)



"for  
the love  
of its gorges,  
ravines and  
mountains"  
Lucien Briet

Ordesa is a must-see for all ages, the grasslands are accessible even in a wheelchair, you'll find the most stunning part if you go great gorges for 3 hours.

**Gabino, 35**

If the middle of the valley  
Your fervent love should grow slow,  
Or your foot falter, or your waist fold...  
It is I, beloved squire,  
Who, in unseen bonds  
Of wistful love, hold you in my arms;  
It is I who weaves the florid mat  
Who gives back to your body the strength of life;  
It is I, who follows you  
On the wings of the wind, dreaming of you.

**Bécquer, 1836-1870**

# SNOW

**Huesca is part of the Pyrenees and also the origin of the Kingdom of Aragon.**

Since the dawn of mankind, many inhabitants have left their footprints behind in this land: splendid churches and hermitages in different styles, monasteries, heavenly medieval cities that are visited by a deluge of Camino de Santiago pilgrims, whilst others enjoy winter sports or the renowned carnivals.

Huesca is only too pleased to invite you to discover the magic of its cuisine, traditional in its ingredients and innovative in its award-winning techniques.

The province is a paradise for adventure and outdoor pursuits lovers: skiing on hundreds of kilometres of ski slopes, white water rapids and descents into deep gorges for the neoprene clad, blue swamps to be tackled in canoes, via ferratas to hang on in your harness, Pyrenees dog races, clear blue skies for paragliding, adrenaline rushes from bridges, or testing your endurance on the Quebrantahuesos cycling race.

Huesca is green: the smell of the city of Huesca turns to basil-green each August with the fiestas in honour of their patron saint, San Lorenzo.

*"...the power of the Pyrenees, which is tantalising and striking"*

There is no need for art where there's too much nature. There's too much affectation where laxity should suffice.

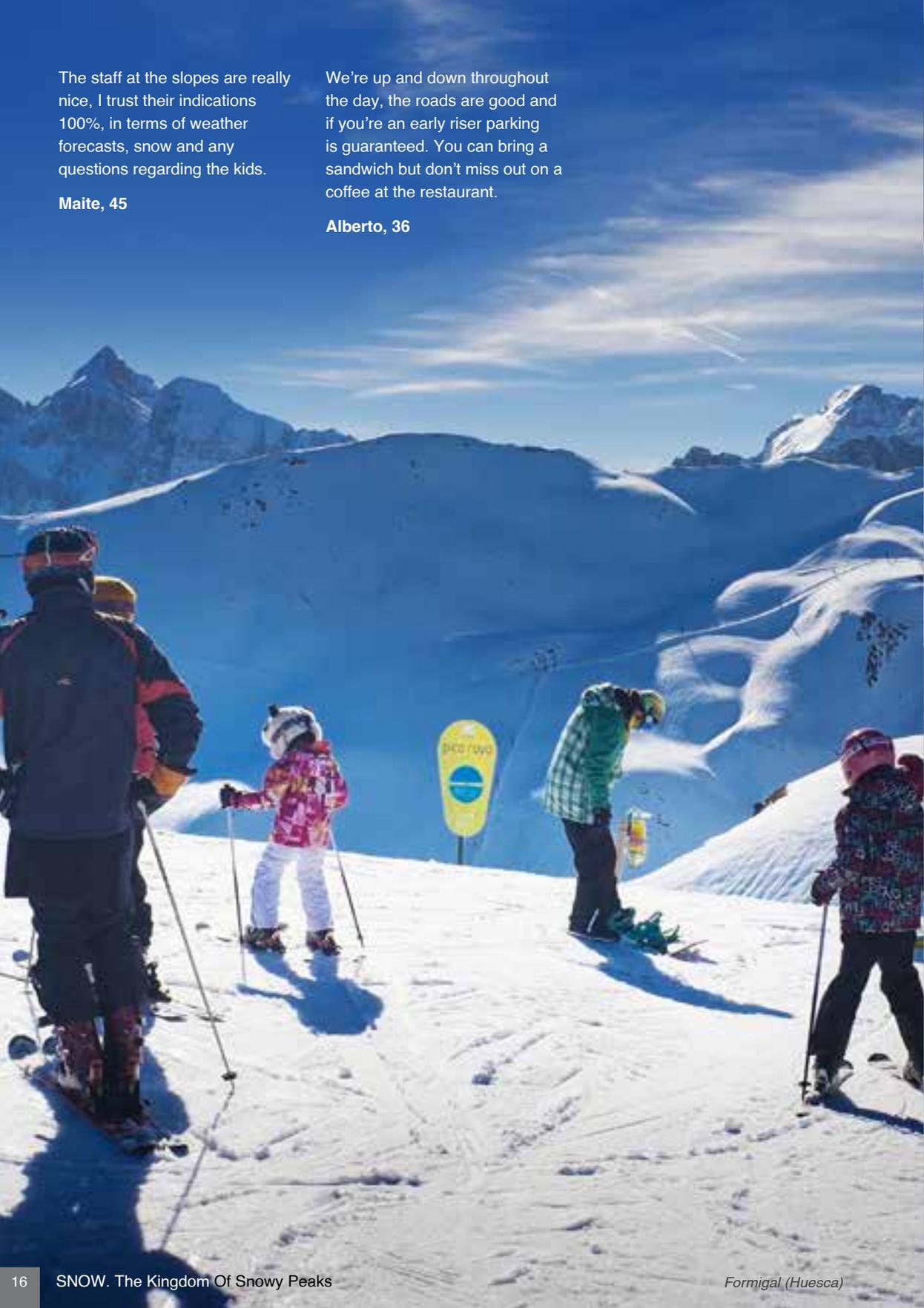
**Baltasar Gracián, 1601-1658**

The staff at the slopes are really nice, I trust their indications 100%, in terms of weather forecasts, snow and any questions regarding the kids.

**Maite, 45**

We're up and down throughout the day, the roads are good and if you're an early riser parking is guaranteed. You can bring a sandwich but don't miss out on a coffee at the restaurant.

**Alberto, 36**



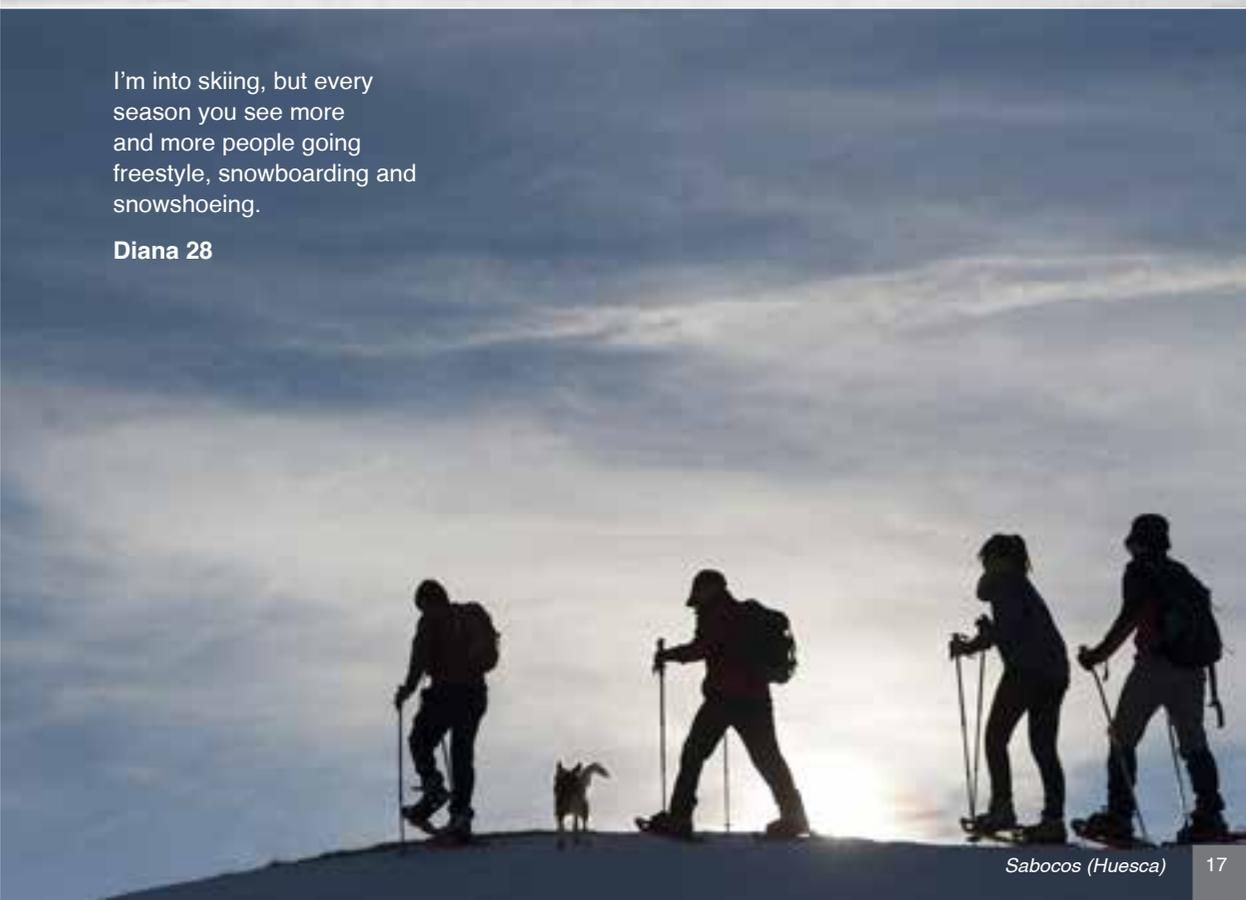
Formigal (Huesca)



Formigal (Huesca)

I'm into skiing, but every season you see more and more people going freestyle, snowboarding and snowshoeing.

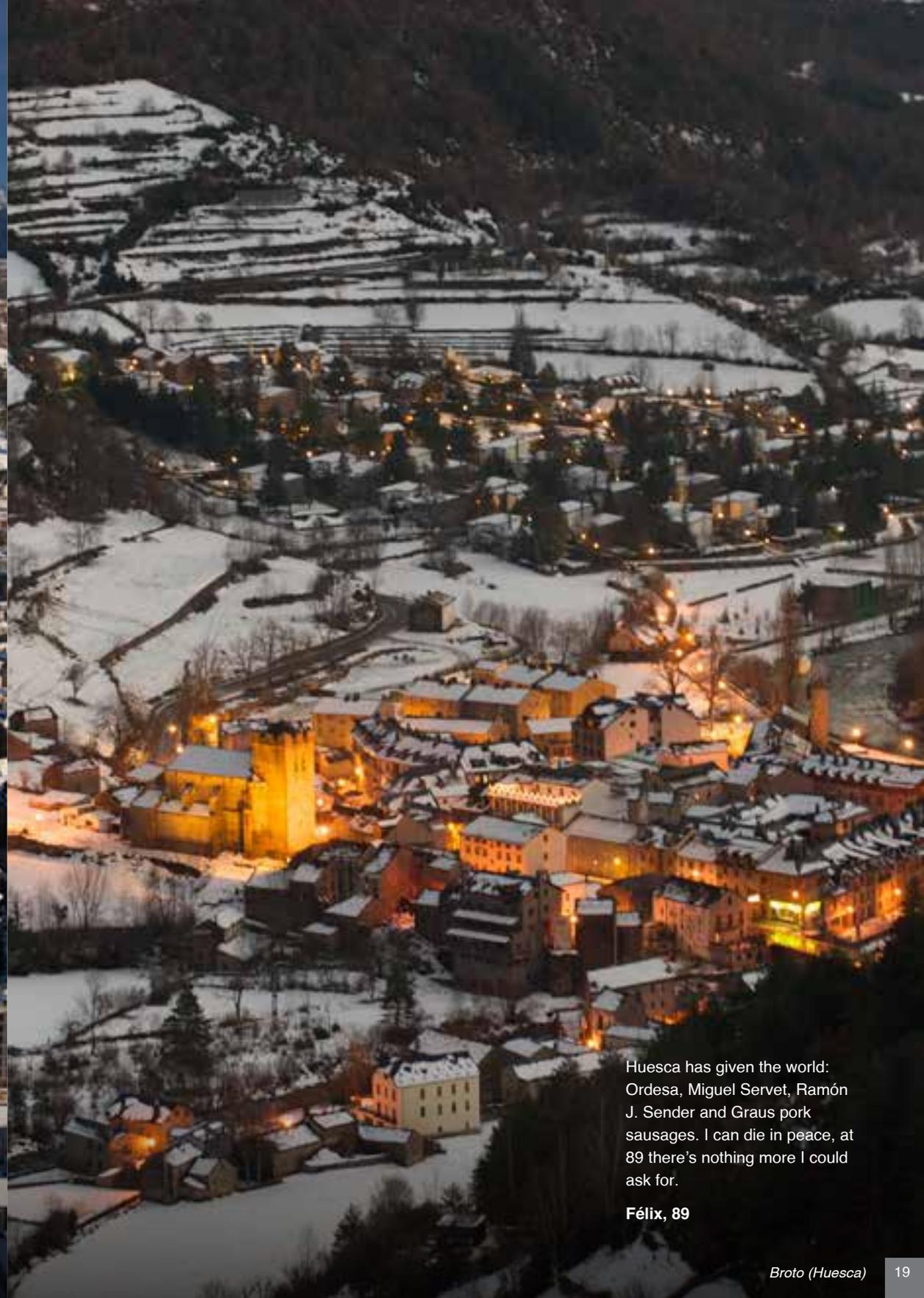
**Diana 28**



Sabocos (Huesca)



Jaca (Huesca)



Huesca has given the world:  
Ordesa, Miguel Servet, Ramón  
J. Sender and Graus pork  
sausages. I can die in peace, at  
89 there's nothing more I could  
ask for.

**Félix, 89**

Broto (Huesca)



# CITY TOURISM

**There's a plethora of things to do in terms of culture, shopping and congresses in our cities.**

The visitor will find a perfect network of practical and modern tourism services: a stroll through a historic quarter as part of a theatrical production, a tapa pub crawl, a day of relaxation, shopping and rounding off the night with the best banter and smiles all round. That's the spirit of our cities.

For the foodies and skiers in Jaca, the Templar castle knights in Monzón, the motorsport enthusiasts in Alcañiz, the dinosaur fans in Teruel, Las Alfonsadas medieval celebrations in Calatayud for party-lovers, and Tarazona for the ritual tomato-throwing at the Cipotegato, Ejea de los Caballeros for the history buffs, Teruel for the Mudejars admirers, Barbastro for the artistic folk, Huesca for the stew connoisseurs, truffle specialists in Teruel, and traditional delicacies and leisure in the city of Zaragoza.



I've been cycling in the city of Zaragoza since 2008. The cycle lanes network is perfect to get around and avoid the traffic jams. The city is pretty much flat so it's easy

**Carla, 24**



Plaza López Allué. Huesca

My parents and I ended up following a group of foreigners... doing everything they were doing... taking pictures of Mudejar towers and modernist houses (the Ferrán house, El Torico house and La Madrileña house).

Laura, 9



Oval Promenade. Teruel



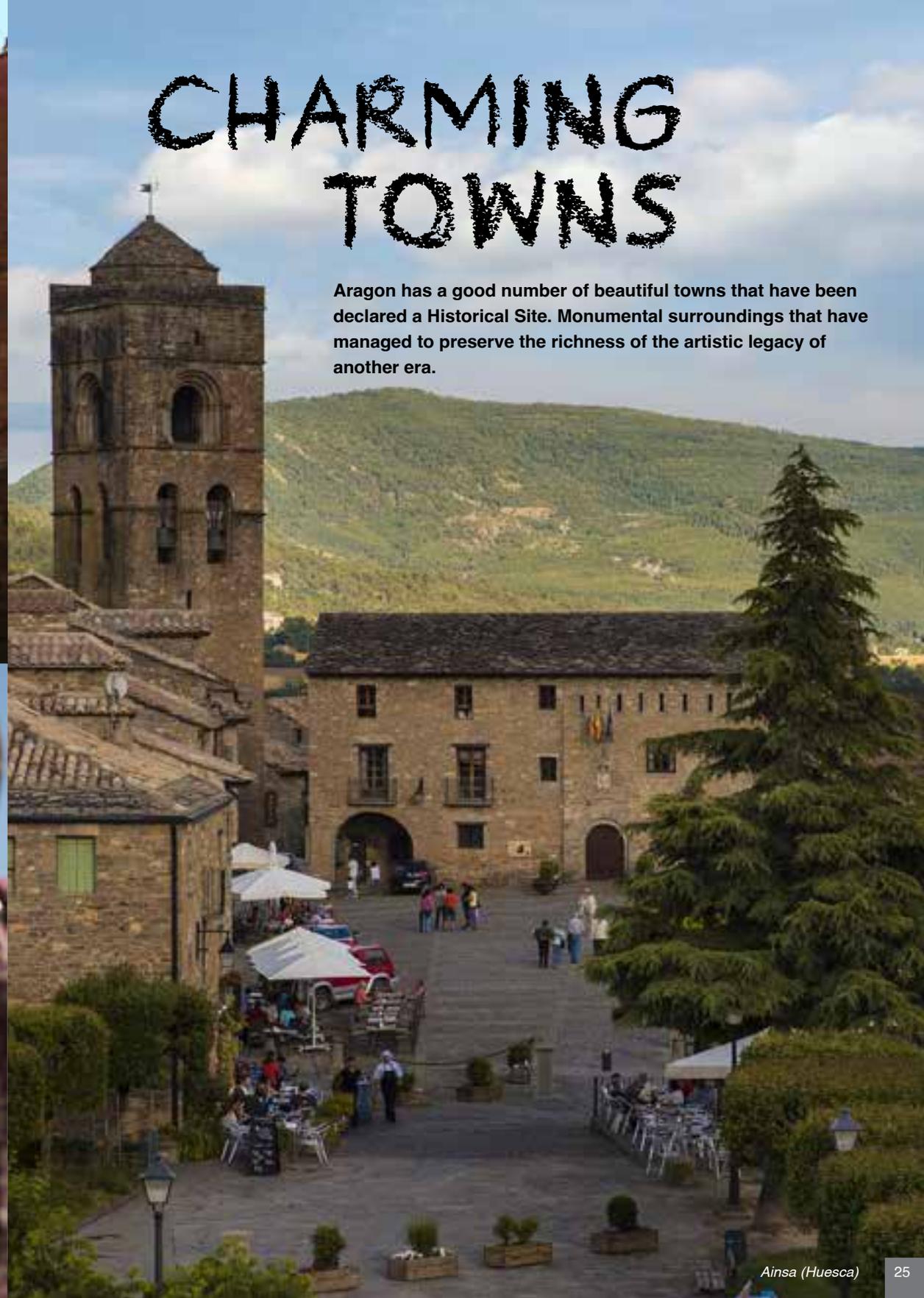
*Albarracín (Teruel)*



*Alquézar (Huesca)*

# CHARMING TOWNS

Aragon has a good number of beautiful towns that have been declared a Historical Site. Monumental surroundings that have managed to preserve the richness of the artistic legacy of another era.



*Ainsa (Huesca)*



I retreated in Miravete de la Sierra to study for my competition exams... the peace and quiet of the area is what got me through. Years later I recognised all the neighbours in the tourism campaign "El pueblo en el que nunca pasa nada," or "the town where nothing ever happens," and I was happy to see that nothing in their lives had changed.

Vicente, 46

Mora de Rubielos (Teruel)



Valderrobres (Teruel)



Sos del Rey Católico (Zaragoza)



Veruela Monastery (Zaragoza)

For us, facing the ruthless cierzo north winds of Aragon becomes a matter of pride. We Aragonese always look ahead.

**Bárbara, 39**

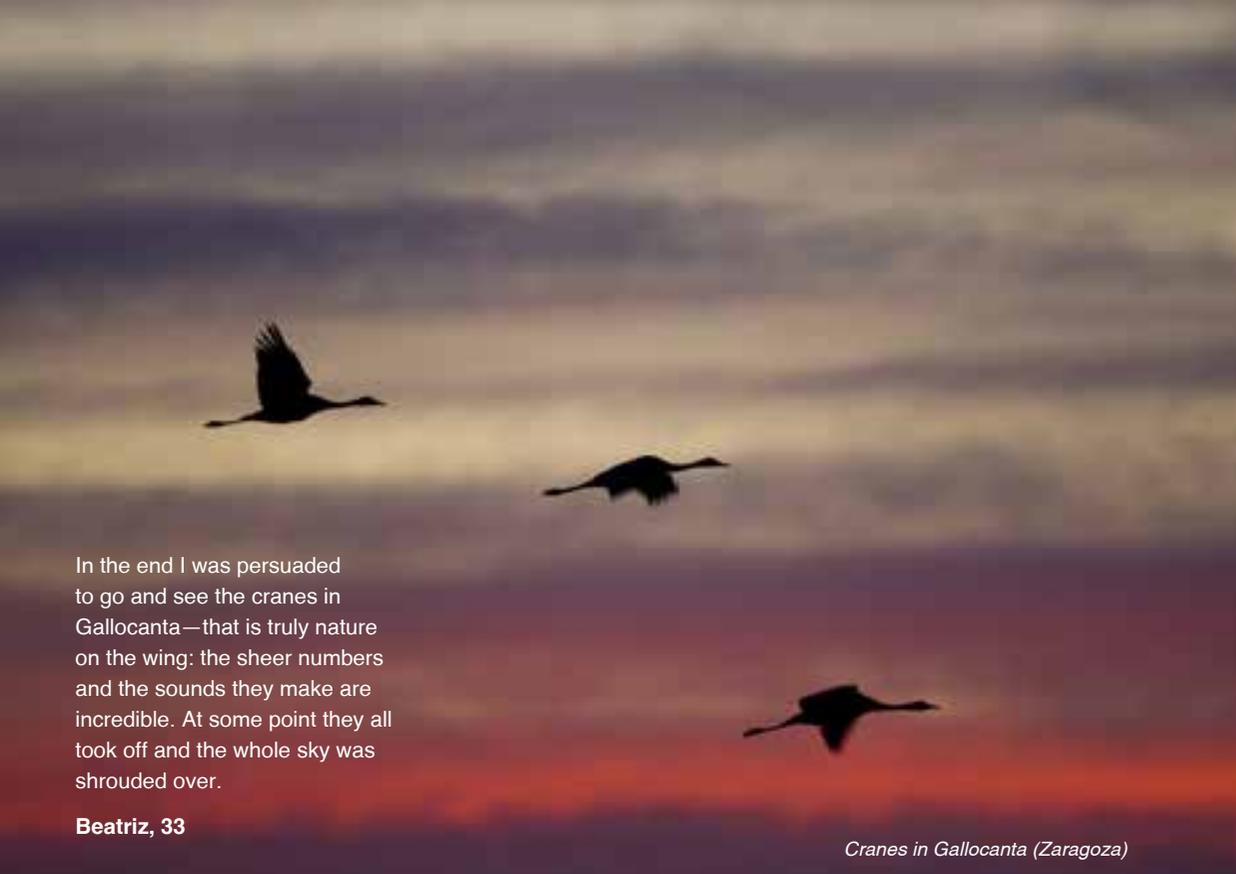
# NATURAL AREAS

**Almost 40% of the Aragon landscape is protected.**

Which proves the awareness of the Aragonese people regarding conservation of biodiversity. During your visit you will find the high peaks of the Pyrenees to the north, spectacular mountain ranges sculpted by the rivers that go down from the Iberian System in Teruel and Zaragoza, glaciers, gorges, endless forests with stunning colours in autumn, lagoons and wetlands, in contrast with the arid and astonishing steppes of the Ebro Valley.

The Network of Protected Natural Areas in Aragon is classified in the following spaces:

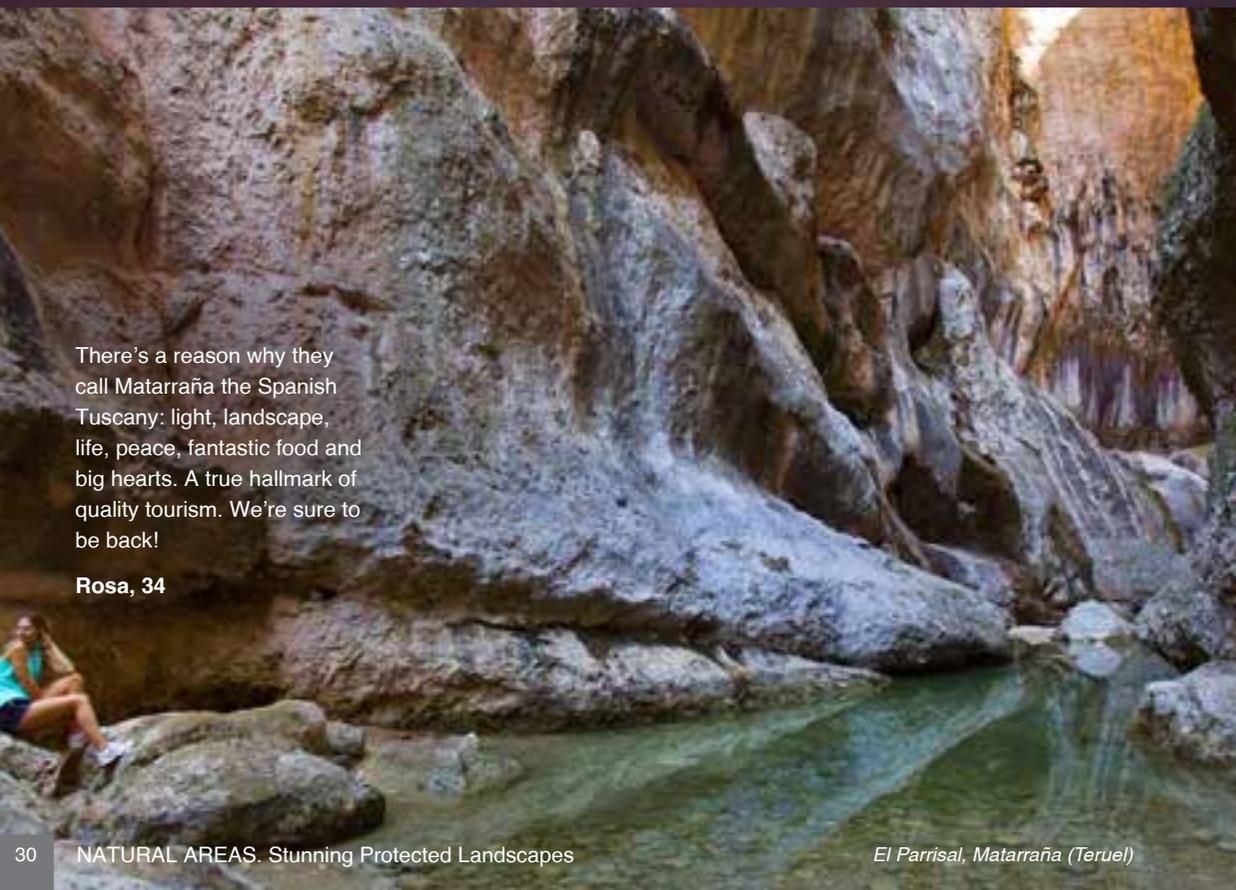
- Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park.
- Natural Parks: Moncayo, Sierra y Cañones de Guara, Posets-Maladeta and Los Valles Occidentales.
- Managed Nature Reserves: Sotos y Galachos del Río Ebro, Saladas de Chiprana and Laguna de Gallocanta.
- Natural Monuments: Pyrenees Glaciers, Cristal de Molinos Grottos, Puente de Fonseca, source of the Pitarque river, and Órganos de Montoro.
- Protected Landscape Areas: San Juan de la Peña and Monte Oroel, Pine Forests of Rodeno and Fozes de Fago y Biniés.
- Wildlife Refuges: Sariñena Lagoon and Lomaza de Belchite.



In the end I was persuaded to go and see the cranes in Gallocanta—that is truly nature on the wing: the sheer numbers and the sounds they make are incredible. At some point they all took off and the whole sky was shrouded over.

**Beatriz, 33**

*Cranes in Gallocanta (Zaragoza)*



There's a reason why they call Matarraña the Spanish Tuscany: light, landscape, life, peace, fantastic food and big hearts. A true hallmark of quality tourism. We're sure to be back!

**Rosa, 34**

*El Parrisal, Matarraña (Teruel)*



To see Aragon from the Ebro is a joy, the areas of Sástago and Mequinenza have excellent jetties and parks for the canoes.

**Valero, 36**

*Canoeing along the Ebro (Zaragoza)*

# ADVENTURE

There's plenty to do in Aragon for winter sports, adventure and outdoor pursuits, throughout the whole region: from the excellent alpine and cross-country ski slopes in the Pyrenees, down to the Samontano oscense, there are dozens of trails for walking, cycling, horse riding, canyoning, climbing, suitable for discerning experts, groups or for family fun.

Our region can also be enjoyed from the air, paragliding or gliding, scrambling up steep walls on all fours or rafting along its many rivers. Fishing enthusiasts have the "Sea of Aragon" in Capse, an international attraction for many tourists from around the globe.

Aragon offers well-marked and managed green trails: in Matarraña, La Val de Zafán, Ojos Negros and also in the Moncayo area with the Tarazonica trail, where mountain biking has become one of the most popular activities in recent years.

Teruel is a speleologist's paradise for its chasms, grottos and mining tourism, as well as being a hotspot for bird spotters.



The Quebrantahuesos is a thrilling cycling race: 10,000 cyclists and 4,000 m incline spread out over 200 km. It's pure adrenaline, we are more devoted to our bikes than our women (that's what they say themselves and I think it's true).

**Jota, 39**

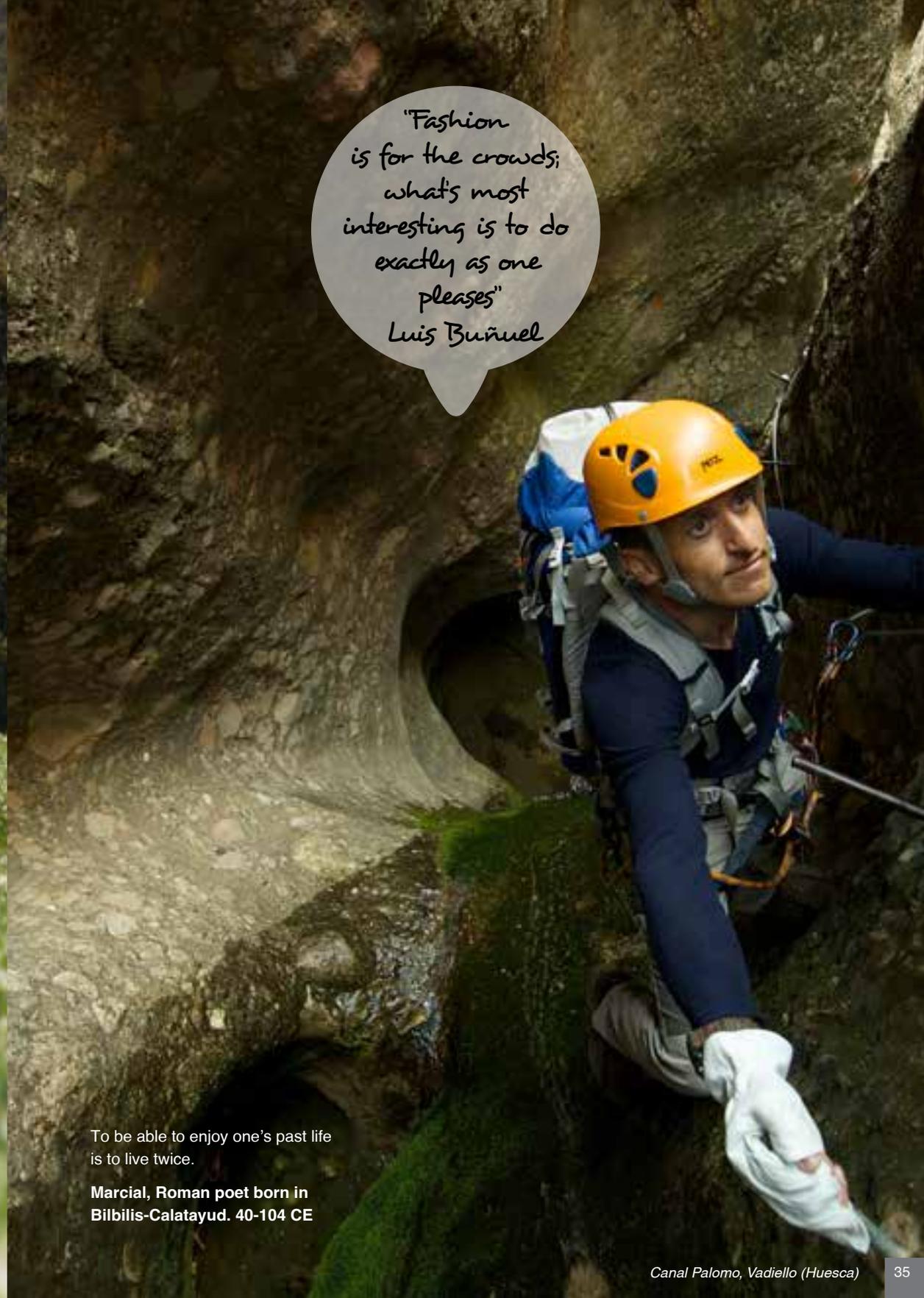
The kids were wiped out when we got back to the cottage from our hike, we even ran out of songs to sing, but it was: get home, get the fire going, have a bath and crash out on the sofas for a nice schmooze about a wonderful day full of adventures.

**Susana, 43**



Mountain biking the Samontano (Huesca)

"Fashion is for the crowds; what's most interesting is to do exactly as one pleases"  
Luis Buñuel



To be able to enjoy one's past life is to live twice.

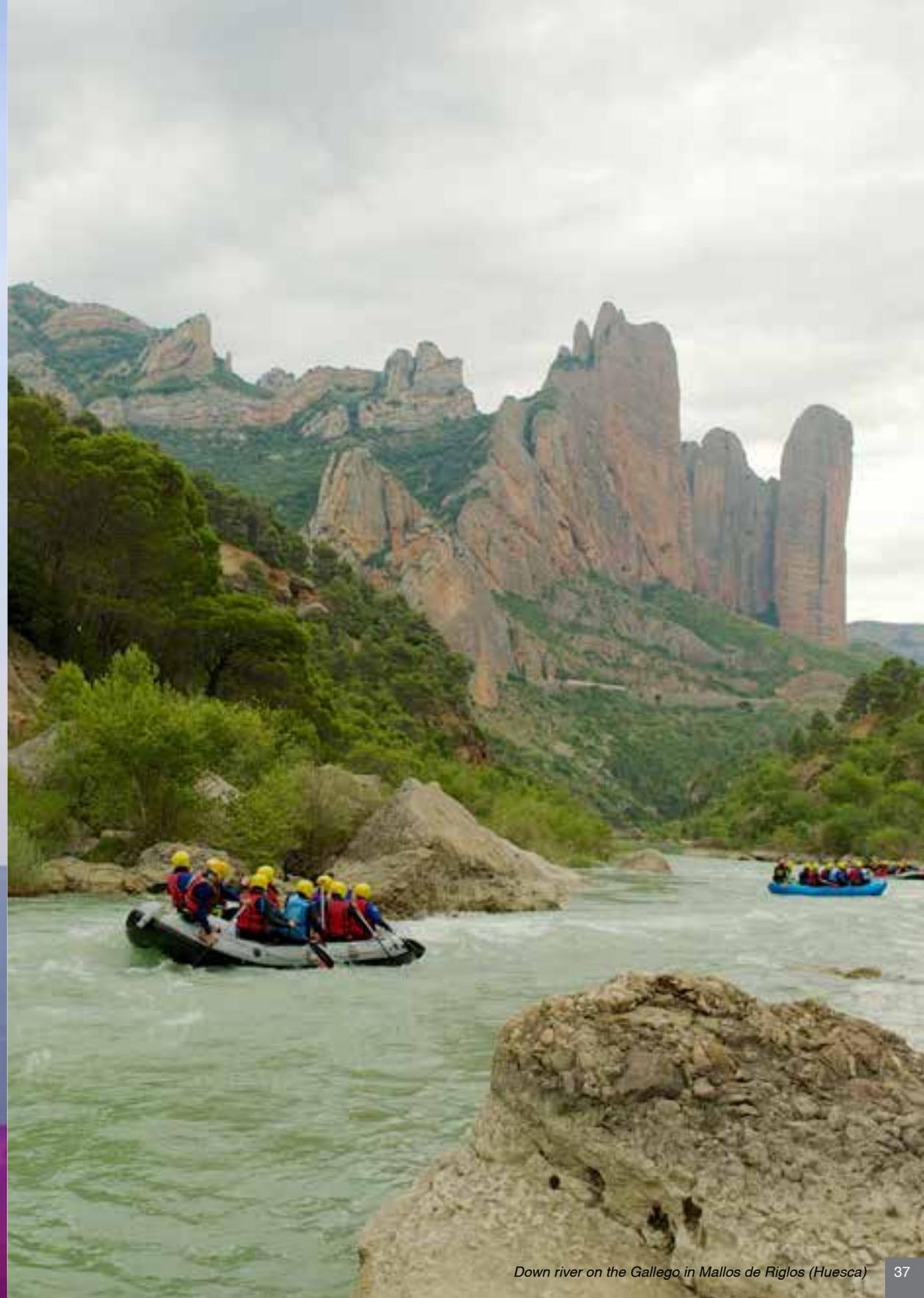
**Marcial, Roman poet born in Bilbilis-Calatayud. 40-104 CE**

Canal Palomo, Vadiello (Huesca)



My parents took me to see horse riding in Biescas, I'd only ever seen it before in the movies.

**Toño, 7**



# FAMILY FUN

Aragon has several Amusement Parks: Dinópolis in Teruel, Lacuniacha in Piedrafita de Jaca, the Monasterio de Piedra and the Zaragoza Theme Park are very popular with the kids.

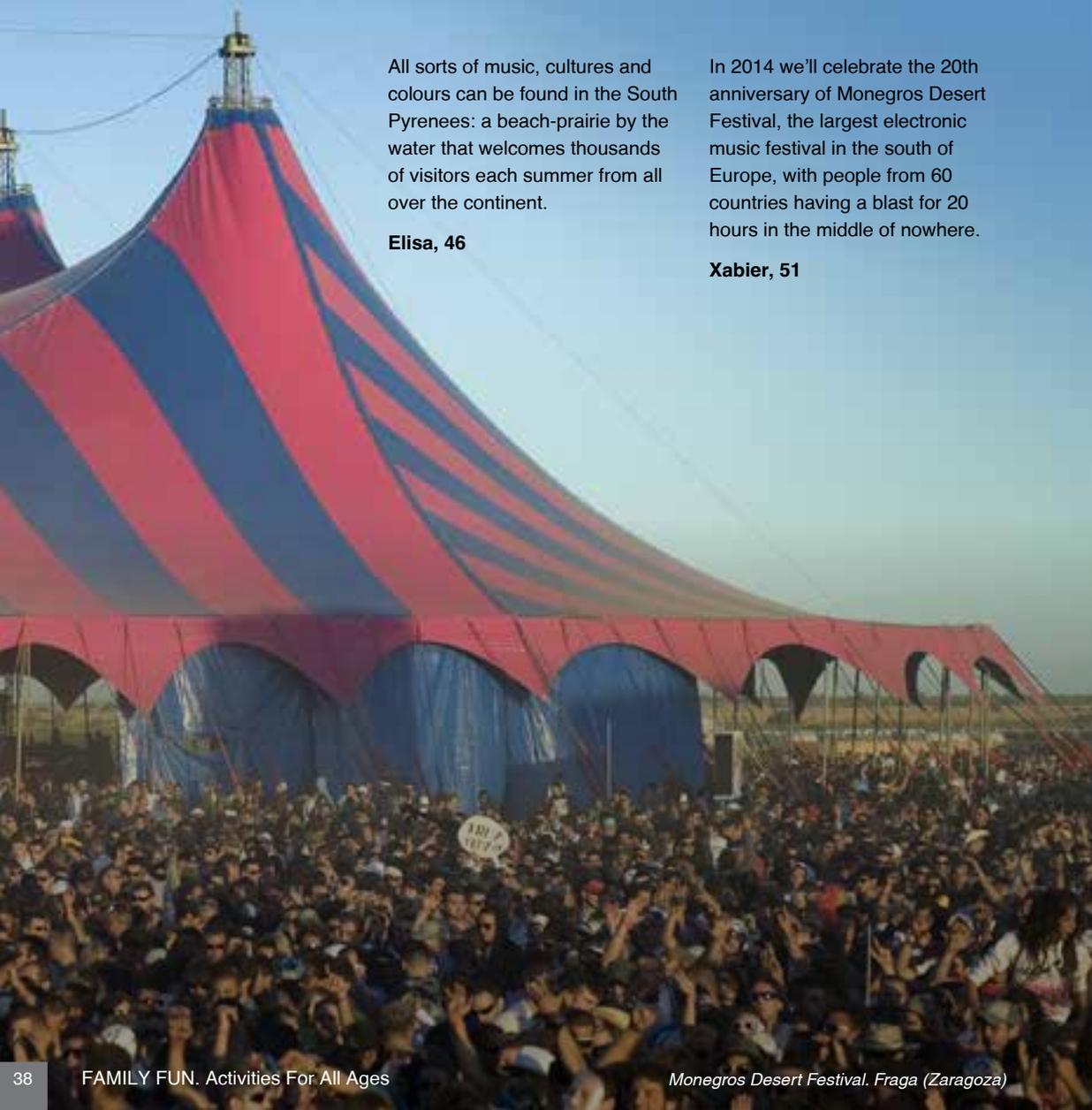
Aragon proudly caters for its young tourists, so don't forget their sunhats in the summer and snow goggles and gloves in the winter! There is a choice of over 100 activities to do with the kids: for adventurers of legendary footpaths or ice rinks, dinosaur experts, caving fans, train devotees, or visiting the "Museo de los Títeres" (Puppets Museum) in Abizanda, the "Museo del Juguete" (Toy Museum) in Albarracín or the Aragon Astronomy Centre 0.42

All sorts of music, cultures and colours can be found in the South Pyrenees: a beach-prairie by the water that welcomes thousands of visitors each summer from all over the continent.

**Elisa, 46**

In 2014 we'll celebrate the 20th anniversary of Monegros Desert Festival, the largest electronic music festival in the south of Europe, with people from 60 countries having a blast for 20 hours in the middle of nowhere.

**Xabier, 51**



Monegros Desert Festival. Fraga (Zaragoza)

There are numerous companies specialising in activities for kids, bicycle hire, hiking backpacks, horse riding, storytellers and experiences such as going down into a mine, living in an igloo and sleeping in an aquarium.

The hotel infrastructure also provides adapted menus, playgrounds, child-minding services and adapted furniture.

Aragon also makes the natural and cultural heritage accessible to the senior members of the family: signposted, accessible areas, guides and travel notebooks are common in the main tourism destinations of the region. Photos to share and experiences to tell your friends about are the only weight that their backpacks will have to carry.

"Aragon boasts a wealth of history, churches, monasteries, paintings, art and writers."



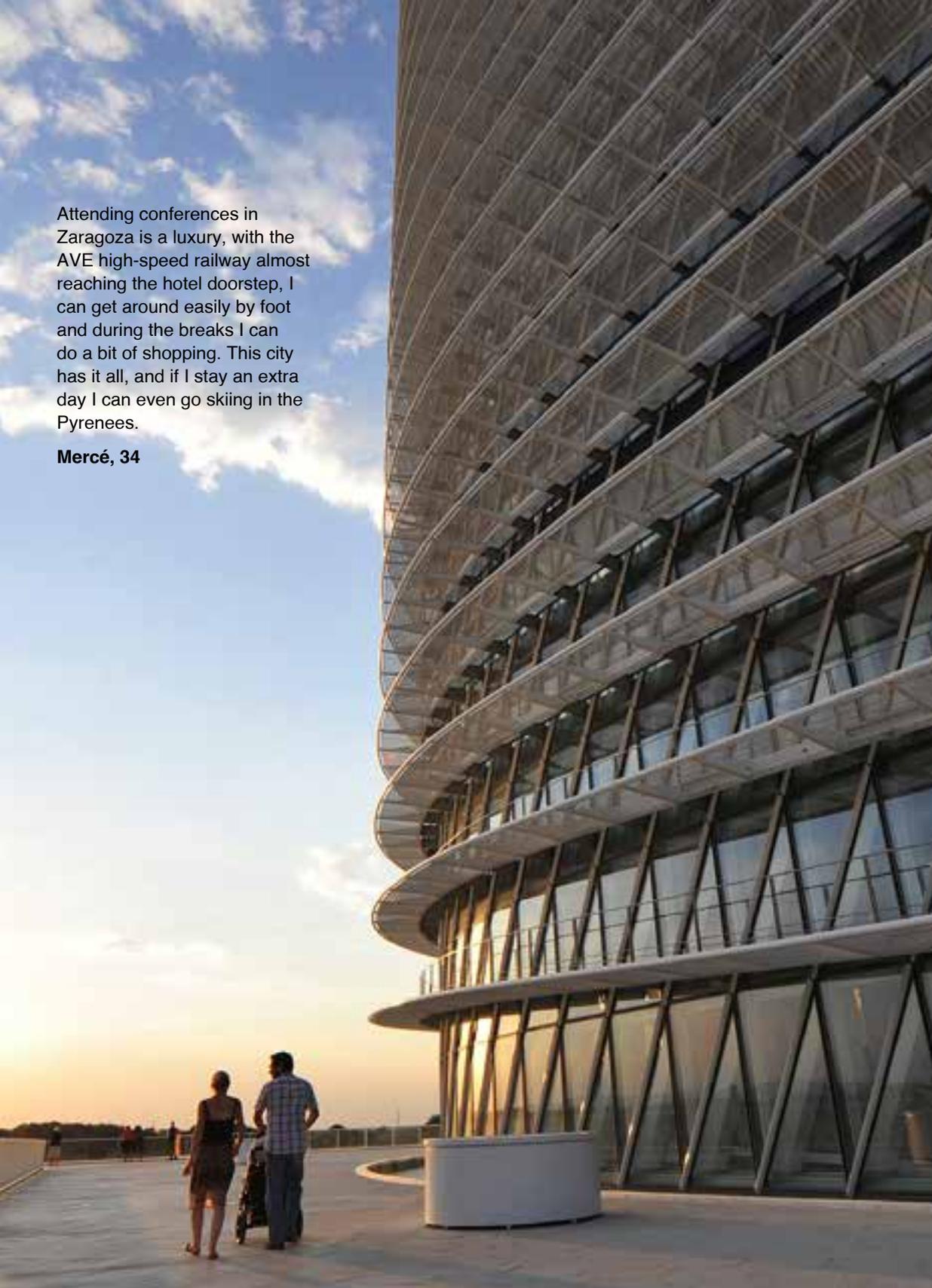
The Tarazona Cathedral draws from a wide variety of styles. Strolling down its isles is a riveting experience... it's the Sistine Chapel of the Spanish Renaissance!

**Balma, 50**

Tarazona Cathedral (Zaragoza)

Attending conferences in Zaragoza is a luxury, with the AVE high-speed railway almost reaching the hotel doorstep, I can get around easily by foot and during the breaks I can do a bit of shopping. This city has it all, and if I stay an extra day I can even go skiing in the Pyrenees.

**Mercé, 34**



*Water Tower. Zaragoza*



Taking my students to the Monasterio de Piedra is inviting them to play starring roles in a film.

**José Carlos, 38**

*Monasterio de Piedra (Zaragoza)*

# FOOD AND WINE

Aragon provides a splendid and varied offer in local wines and food, grown on its fertile land, hundreds of olive groves and vineyards, green pastures. It's traditional cookery adapted to the taste of modern visitors.

Aragonese cuisine is distinguished for striving towards improvement for the locals and making sure that our visitors are completely blown away.

Traditional recipes such as apricots poached in wine, have been the starting point to sumptuous delicacies such as 'Calanda Apricot Ice-cream with Benabarre Chocolate.'

Award-winning products such as Bajo Aragón oil, wines of the different Appellations of Origin, and the ham and saffron from Teruel, Mudejar sweets of Daroca, truffles from Sarrión and Graus, cardoon from Moncayo, pink tomatoes from Barbastro and Ternasco baby lamb from Aragon... as they say, there must be something about Aragon.

Gastronomic culture is deeply rooted here, where the art of enjoying tapas whilst standing is combined with the pleasures of award-winning fine dining at Michelin star restaurants.

Check this out: thinly sliced truffle on a fried egg, spiced truffle oil, mushroom and truffle croquettes, tasty risotto, spreadable cream, meat stew with truffled wine and, for dessert, strawberry ice-cream with truffle flavour... truffles with everything! There's a reason why we're the greatest producers of black truffle.

**Jesús, 38**



I've lived here for 20 years, and I've gotten used to Aragonese lunch, which consists of a first course, a large salad, two second courses, plenty of fruit, more than one desert, coffee with pastries and then, almost immediately after you're done, moving on to the afternoon snack.

**Caroline, 44**

With the deep purple pomegranate seeds in our mouths, like juicy rubies inviting us to quench our thirst in summer.

**Bécquer 1836-1870**

My grandmother from here makes flat scones in a frying pan, we love having them for breakfast... my other grandmother doesn't know how.

**Óscar, 9**

People never used to slice the ham so paper-thin as they do now, but of course, back then it wasn't sold in Japan, and today we export a lot.

**Cristóbal, 54**



*Teruel Ham*



We've been eating apricots poached in wine for as long as I can remember, and if they were from Calanda better still.

**Miguel, 74**

After travelling all around the world I'm still of the same opinion: a dish of black olives, bread and oil, and in my homeland I'm as happy as can be.

**Loreto, 34**

*Winery in Cariñena (Zaragoza)*



I couldn't stop laughing, the whole plaza was shouting and throwing tomatoes. Tarazona is a fiesta for everyone, people welcome you in and their joy is contagious.

Nuria, 17

# TRADITIONAL FIESTAS

Traditionally Aragon has arranged its festivities around the work in the fields: harvest festivities and pilgrimages to the beat of the sticks, drums and dulzainas are very typical.

San Jorge is the patron saint of Aragon and is celebrated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, the first Sunday of July we celebrate the "Vaquillas" in Teruel, the 10<sup>th</sup> of August is San Lorenzo in Huesca and 12<sup>th</sup> of October sees the El Pilar fiestas in Zaragoza.



Traditional Christian and pagan fiestas take place celebrating mock battles, sword dances, and the traditional palotiaus and palitroc's stick dances. The most popular fiestas receive hundreds of visitors who are invited to take part in the celebrations. Welcome to Aragon!

The carnivals of Bielsa and the Pyrenean valleys are well known, as are the embolado bulls with fire torches on their horns, or ensogados with rope tied around their horns, in Teruel, whose city coat of arms proudly sports the image of a bull.

The traditional Aragonese garb has been preserved for generations in the family cabinets of Ansó, Fraga and Zaragoza, and also in detail at the "Museo del Traje Ansotano" (Museum of the Ansotan Dress).

A plentiful amount of summer festivals runs through Aragon, entreating us to partake in the fun: the Castle of Aínsa (H), the PIR – Festival of Music and Culture of the Pyrenees in Hecho (H), the Ribagorza of Classics in Frontera (H), Noche in Graus (H), Pirineos Sur in Sallent (H), Lagatavajunto Reggae Festival (Z), Monegros Desert Festival (H), Castle of Alcañiz (T), Early Music Festival of Daroca (Z), International Camino de Santiago Festival (H), Puerta al Mediterráneo in Rubielos (T), and the International Música Viva in Veruela (Z). And in autumn, the Periferias festival in Huesca is not to be missed.



There's no other fiesta like the "Torico", no matter how often the others are on TV. You'll fall in love with Teruel.

**Alonso, 26**

I get very excited on the eve of every Maundy Thursday, my soul soars when I hear the thundering drums. It's music to my ears.

**Elena, 39**



All the way home in Chile I can smell the basil every August, I remember Huesca in lush green as I reminisce on the twirls of the dancers.

**Rosario, 72**



# TREAT YOURSELF

**The wide range of spas in Aragon, from Panticosa (Huesca), to Jaraba (Zaragoza) and the El Paraíso spa in Manzanera (Teruel), make it the second most important destination in Spain for health and leisure.**

The innovative massage techniques with aromatherapy, stones, pindas and colour therapy, complement the traditional hot springs with Vichy showers, pressure water jets, steam rooms, heated pools, springs at 35°C and natural thermal springs.

What I love the most about the spa is that I can watch cartoons from the pool.

**Chuan, 11**

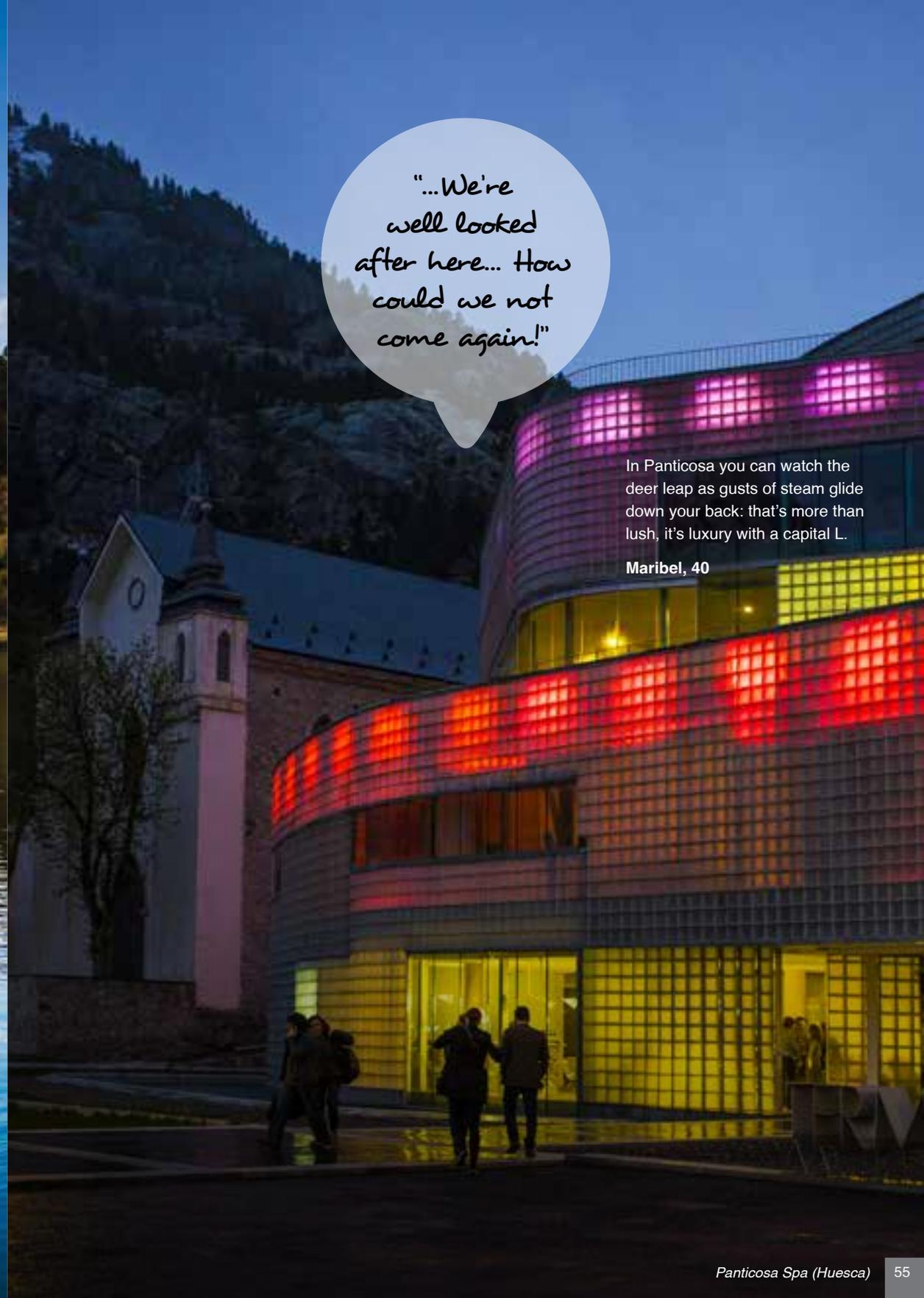
In addition to these body treatments, Aragon spas offer healthy food and specific food supplements, natural cosmetics and care from the inside out, all very popular with many visitors of all ages, and services that are becoming a trend for holding events and congresses.

The hot springs destinations in Aragon offer a wide range of accommodation options, inviting a significant number of tourists, allowing for both short and longer stays. Tourism packages also offer countless possibilities for groups and visitors in search of revitalising experiences.



We come to the spa every year, it's our holidays without grandchildren. We're well looked after here, they cook for us and we never go to bed without having a dance first. How could we not come again!

**Pilar 65 and Rafael 67**



"...We're well looked after here... How could we not come again!"

In Panticosa you can watch the deer leap as gusts of steam glide down your back: that's more than lush, it's luxury with a capital L.

**Maribel, 40**

# NOT TO BE MISSED

## Absolute must-visits

If you stay here for a few days, don't forget to stop by...

### Wine Tourism

Wineries, hotels and other accommodation related to the world of wine, wine boutiques, and restaurants where the marriage of wine and fine food plays a starring role.

[ponaragonentumesa.com](http://ponaragonentumesa.com)



### Tapas in Aragon

Scrumptious finger food, tapas nibbles in Zaragoza, Appellation of Origin wine, ham from Teruel, Calanda ice-cream and Pyrenees liqueur. Aragon is to be savoured to the very last bite!

[aragonalimentos.com](http://aragonalimentos.com)



### Monastery of Veruela y Moncayo

One of the natural and architectural jewels of Aragon. An hour from Zaragoza will take you to the foot of the mountain through a multitude of trails for all fitness levels.

[visitaveruela.com](http://visitaveruela.com)



### Amusement Parks

Aragon has several Amusement Parks: Dinópolis in Teruel, Lacuniacha in Piedrafita de Jaca, and the Zaragoza Theme Park are very popular with the kids.

[parquesocioaragon.com](http://parquesocioaragon.com)



### Albarracín and Rodeno Pine Forests

The city of Albarracín was listed as a Natural Monument in June 1961. It is currently being proposed by UNESCO to be listed as a World Heritage Site.

[albarracin.org](http://albarracin.org)



### Motorland

Teruel shows off its talent at international sports events in Motorland and the Aragon Motorcycle Grand Prix.

[motorlandaragon.com](http://motorlandaragon.com)



### Plaza of El Pilar/La Seo/Lonja/Museo de Tapices (Tapestry Museum)

The luminosity of El Pilar intermingles with the colour of the ceramic tiles on the Mudejar towers of Teruel, the Goya imprint, the tranquil light of the monasteries and the spotlight at the fiestas.

[zaragozaturismo.es](http://zaragozaturismo.es)



### Health Tourism

Aragonese healthy leisure is high in popular demand, where the wish to feel better comes first. It's the healing power of water.

[balneariosdearagon.com](http://balneariosdearagon.com)



### Snow in Aragon

Aragon is all about snow! Over 370 kilometres of ski slopes make Aragon one of the main ski destinations in Spain.

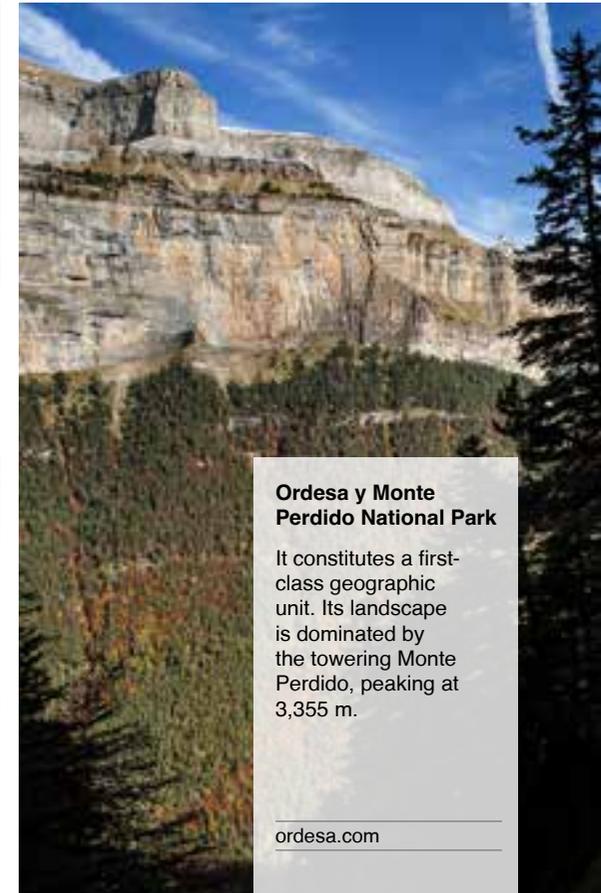
[nievedearagon.es](http://nievedearagon.es)



### Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park

It constitutes a first-class geographic unit. Its landscape is dominated by the towering Monte Perdido, peaking at 3,355 m.

[ordesa.com](http://ordesa.com)





*Monegros (Zaragoza, Huesca)*

