

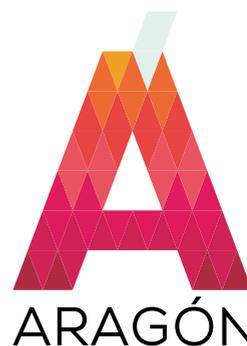


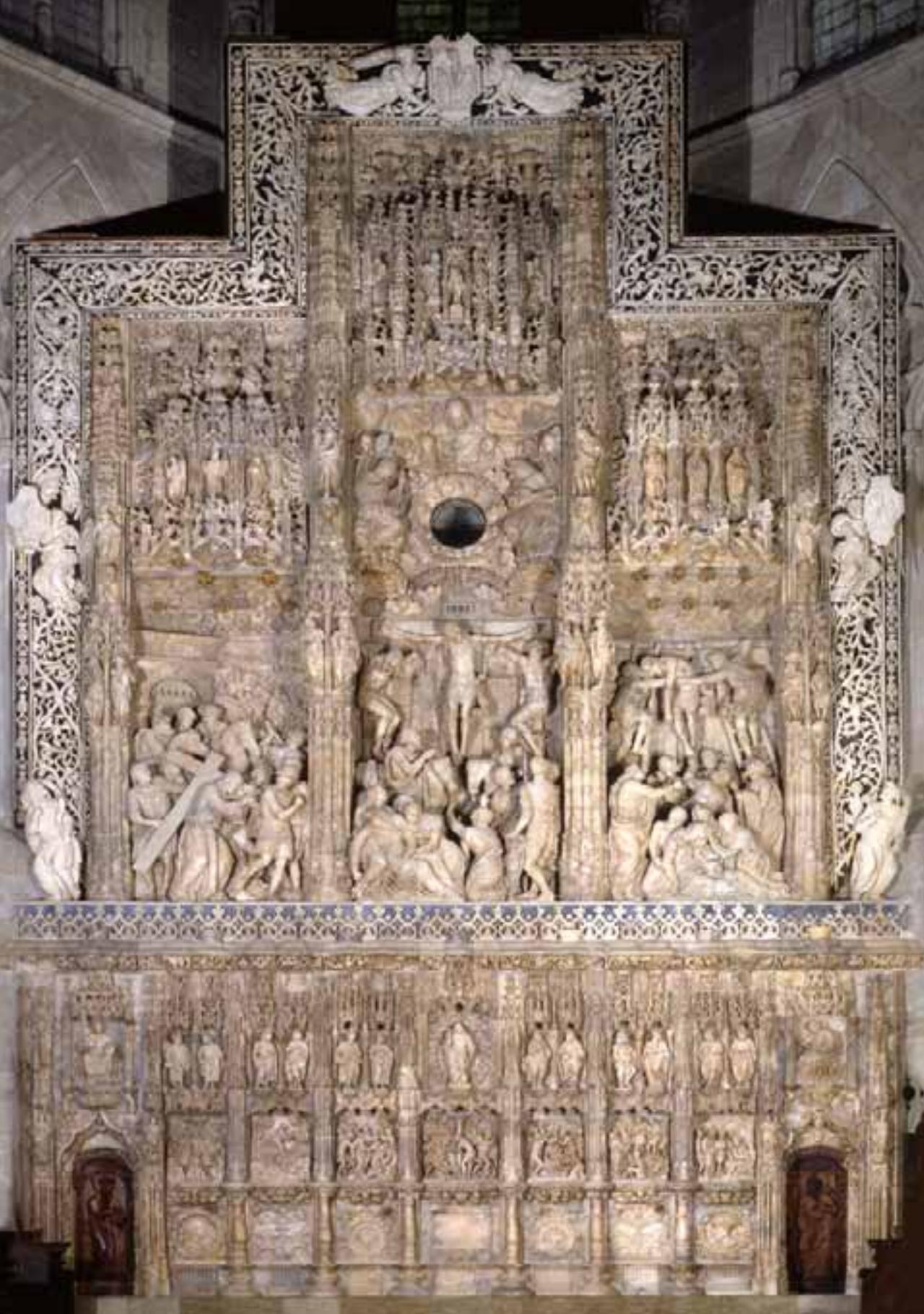
ENGLISH

# ARAGON

/ IS CULTURE

ARAGON IS AN ANCIENT LAND THAT HAS BEEN WITNESS TO THE PASSAGE OF CIVILISATIONS AND CULTURES, CLEARLY RECOGNISABLE IN ITS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE.







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# / ARAGON IS CULTURE

From prehistoric times, various civilisations have left their mark on this territory: the Iberians; the Romans, founders of cities; the Muslims, who inhabited the peninsula for seven centuries; the Europeans arriving along the Way of St James; and the Jews and Christians living side-by-side in many villages.

**Aragon is culture. And the result of all this, besides a spectacular architectural heritage encompassing all periods and styles, is a cultural background that has shaped an open character, proud of its cultural riches.**



< Alabaster altarpiece, Cathedral of Huesca.  
Detail of typical Mudejar decoration.  
Sádaba Castle (Zaragoza).  
International Railway Station, Canfranc (Huesca).  
Romanesque capital of the Church of Santiago, Agüero (Huesca).



Ainsa. Medieval town.

# 01/

## ARAGON IS CULTURE

Thanks to its spectacular architectural heritage encompassing all periods and styles, Aragon has developed an open character, proud of its cultural riches.



# 02/

## IN THE PYRENEES

Discovering ancient artistic monuments amidst unspoilt mountain landscapes is an incomparable experience.



# 03/

## THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS

Enjoying a milder climate than the mountains, the uplands and valleys of the Pyrenean foothills are a living museum offering a huge variety of art.



# 04/

## TERUEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

This is the land of the Mudejar, of legends of love, of dinosaurs, jamón and many more surprises.

# 05/

## ZARAGOZA AND THE EBRO VALLEY

The Ebro River has been a channel for successive cultures, enriching the cultural background of the Aragonese up to the present day.

# 06/

## ZARAGOZA IS SO MUCH MORE

Visiting Las Cinco Villas, Moncayo, Daroca and Calatayud becomes a magical journey into the past of legends and artistic treasures.



# 07/

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Another way to discover Aragón, a compelling journey through time.



San Pedro de Siresa Monastery.



Beginning the Way of St James in Aragon. Somport pass.

DISCOVERING ANCIENT ARTISTIC MONUMENTS AMIDST UNSPOILT MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES IS AN INCOMPARABLE EXPERIENCE.

## / IN THE PYRENEES

### OLD ARAGON

#### ALONG THE HECHO VALLEY

Venturing into this lovely valley in search of its natural beauty, you will find the tremendous 9th-century **Romanesque Monastery of San Pedro in Siresa**, whose Carolingian origin stands witness to the Frankish kingdom's influence on the origins of the Kingdom of Aragon. Looking closely, you can discover some still-visible stretches of the Roman road that ran through the valley. And if you climb up to **Aguas Tuertas**, you can admire its 5,000-year-old megalithic dolmen.

#### THE WAY OF ST JAMES, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The so-called 'French Way', a continuation of the Toulouse route, is part of the Way of St James, running through Aragonese territory from the French border in Somport to the Yesa reservoir, and entering the region of Navarre through Sangüesa.

The first thing pilgrims find on crossing the Somport pass are the 11th-century **ruins of the medieval hospital of Santa Cristina**.

The route descends through the valley to **Canfranc Station**, below **the Coll de Ladrones fort**. It then passes the **International Railway Station**, a magnificent yet melancholy modernist building, and continues to the foot of the 19th-century Fusiliers' Tower.

After crossing the pretty medieval bridge of **Canfranc**, you arrive in **Villanúa**, with its **Cueva de las Güixa** (Witches' Cave) and Megalithic dolmens. In Borau you can find the beautiful Romanesque church of the old 12th-century **San Adrián de Sasabe Monastery**, said to have safeguarded the Holy Grail. And in the nearby **Garcipollera Valley**, dense pine forests hide a Romanesque marvel: the 11th-century **Church of Santa María de Iguácel**.

**Jaca**, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Aragon, is home to some of the greatest treasures of Aragonese art, including its spectacular **cathedral**, one of the first of the Romanesque era in Spain. Its Diocesan Museum contains one of the most important collections of Romanesque and Gothic art. Jaca also has a significant place in Spanish military history. This is evident from its impressive **San Pedro Castle**, better known as **The Citadel**, a pentagonal fortification which houses a fascinating museum of military miniatures. But Jaca also has the charm of an early 20th-



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.jacetania.es](http://www.jacetania.es)



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## THE SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA MONASTERY COMPLEX

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The monastery complex of San Juan de la Peña is well worth a visit. The jewel in its crown is the old monastery, a Romanesque masterpiece with an outstandingly beautiful cloister sheltered by an immense rock.

Its capitals, exemplifying the religious and scholarly expressiveness of the Romanesque, are unique. The complex of San Juan de la Peña is completed by the Baroque New Monastery, whose symmetry and rational layout have created one of the most perfect and well-developed examples of monastic architecture of the modern era.

Within its Baroque church is the Kingdom of Aragon Interpretation Centre and beside it, the Monastery Interpretation Centre, with its old chambers on display beneath a glass floor.

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Opening times and entry fees

☎ 974 35 51 19

More Info: [www.monasteriosanjuan.com](http://www.monasteriosanjuan.com)

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century bourgeois city, inviting you to wander its streets, lined with elegant modernist buildings.

Pilgrims often take a detour to **Santa Cruz de la Serós**, drawn by two Romanesque treasures: the **Church of San Caprasio** (Lombard Romanesque) and the elegant church of the old **Convent of Santa María**.

From here, don't miss a visit to one of Aragon's most emblematic places: the **San Juan de la Peña** monastery complex. Pilgrims continuing along the route will come to **Santa Cilia**, with its outstanding Priory Palace, and then a number of interesting towns such as **Arrés**, with its 16th-century church and fortified tower. The last town on the Aragonese Way is **Undués de Lerda**, with its Renaissance town hall and 16th-century church.

## TOWARDS THE TENA VALLEY

Heading towards **Sabiñánigo**, recommended visits include the **Ángel Orensanz Popular Arts of Serrablo Museum**, with its collection of goods and tools typical of daily life in the Pyrenees in bygone years, and the **Julio Gavin-Castillo de Larrés Museum of Drawing in Larrés**, before setting off on the famous **Ruta de Serrablo**.

This is a group of fourteen small Romanesque churches with unique and fascinating architectural features. Their main charm lies in their beautiful valley location and their shared artistic elements, characteristic of the Lombard Romanesque: their small size, each with a single nave with apse, the simplicity of their exterior decoration and their slender bell towers. Some of them can be visited in the villages of **Lárrede, Oliván, Susín, Orós and Gavín**.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.pirineosaltoallego.com](http://www.pirineosaltoallego.com)

Casa del Muito, Roda de Isábena.



## THE EASTERN PYRENEES

### AÍNSA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

The high Cinca Valley is a magical destination for tourists with an inquisitive nature. In **Tella**, you can find a prehistoric dolmen associated with legends of witchcraft. Below the imposing peak of Peña Montañesa is the **Monastery of San Victorián**, of great importance during the Middle Ages. And if you enter the **Fueva Valley**, you can explore an interesting route taking in Romanesque churches.

Following the course of the Cinca, there are surprising and spectacular views from the **military-religious complex of Samitier** and of the unique silhouette of the **Fortress Tower of Abizanda** (10th-11th centuries), which has a fascinating museum of popular beliefs.

The town of Aínsa deserves special mention, since it is a major tourist centre for this area. A beautiful medieval village, its eye-catching silhouette is crowned by its **castle and church**. The old town is fascinating and evocative, and the arcade-lined **main square** is one of the most photographed in Spain. The 12th-century Romanesque church stands out for the decorative simplicity of its entranceway, its interior and cloister and, above all, for its exceptional and formidable 30-metre-high square tower.

Very near Aínsa is **Boltaña**, a visit recommended for its huge collegiate church, built in the Aragonese Gothic style with Renaissance elements. Its castle was one of the first Christian fortresses in the region.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.turismosobarbe.com](http://www.turismosobarbe.com)

Church of San Pedro, Lárrede. Ruta de Serrablo.





1/



2/



3/



4/

## ISÁBENA VALLEY

This valley offers a scenic architectural tour, whose centrepiece is **Roda de Isábena**. The highlight of this wonderful old town is its beautiful **cathedral**, built from the 11th century in Lombard Romanesque style. Its bell tower and 18th-century entranceway are spectacular. But more treasures await inside: three crypts on different levels, as well as a museum of precious relics of Bishop San Ramón. And don't miss its magnificent and welcoming cloister.

Where the valley narrows at the Obarra gorge, nestling at the bottom of a ravine is the Lombard Romanesque church of the Santa María de Obarra Monastery, which became the heart of the County of Ribagorza. Inside is a Visigothic-style font.

## NOGUERA-RIBAGORZANA VALLEY

Where the eastern boundary of Aragon meets Catalonia, fascinating surprises lie in store, such as the magnifi-

cent **Alaón Monastery in Sopeira**. Nearby, you can be transported back into the Middle Ages while admiring the streets, buildings, walls and Romanesque churches of medieval **Montañana**. And if you are travelling with children, the **Arén Dinosaur Museum** combines fun and scientific learning (it is an extension of the Paleontological Museum of the University of Zaragoza), housing fossils discovered in its excavations.

Finally, don't miss an enthralling walk through **Bena-barre**, the area's cultural capital, its buildings huddled around the circular outline of its castle.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.turismoribagorza.org](http://www.turismoribagorza.org)

1/ Canfranc International Station.

3/ The Citadel of Jaca.

2/ Romanesque bridge in Bujaruelo.

4/ Cathedral of Roda de Isábena.

Jaca Cathedral.



## ARAGON'S CATHEDRALS

ARAGON HAS A RICH AND IMPORTANT CULTURAL HERITAGE, EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS CATHEDRALS. TEN MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS FROM DIFFERENT ARTISTIC PERIODS, SHARED BETWEEN THE THREE PROVINCES.



Tarazona Cathedral.

## HUESCA

Barbastro Cathedral is a beautiful Gothic building with a polygonal tower which retains, among other gems, a magnificent altarpiece by Damian Forment. Its Diocesan Museum is one of the best in the world in terms of medieval painting.

Huesca's cathedral has a wonderful large Gothic entranceway, built between the 13th and 16th centuries. The sculptor Damián Forment left his artistic mark here too with an impressive high altar of alabaster. An interesting Diocesan Museum rounds off a visit to the cathedral.

Jaca Cathedral is one of the most important monuments of peninsular Romanesque, for both its antiquity and the stylistic innovations that were exported from here to the rest of the Spanish Romanesque, thanks to the Way of St James. These include the checkerboard motifs and ornamental spheres, characteristic of Jaca, decorating the building. Located in the cloister, the Diocesan Museum is one of the best in the world in terms of medieval painting.

As well as its imposing Templar castle, Monzón has a cathedral, a sober and elegant Romanesque building that was converted from a collegiate church, in conjunction with that of Barbastro, on the creation of the Barbastro-Monzón Diocese in 1995.

But Aragon's oldest cathedral is the former Cathedral of Roda Isábena, episcopal see between the 10th and 13th centuries. Built in the Lombard Romanesque style, with subsequent alterations, it has a particularly lovely little cloister.

## TERUEL

Teruel Cathedral stands out for its beautiful Mudejar tower and dome. But the building's masterpiece is its exceptional 32-metre-long coffered roof, dating from the 14th century. Its great artistic value has earned it the epithet 'the Mudejar Sistine Chapel'.

Albarracín Cathedral crowns one of the peninsula's most charming towns. The present 16th-century cathedral, with its Renaissance-style exterior, has star-ribbed vaults from the late Gothic era inside. The cloister leads to the Episcopal Palace, housing the Diocesan Museum, with its fine collection of artwork.

## ZARAGOZA

The Cathedral of Tarazona displays a combination of French Gothic, Mudejar and Renaissance elements unique in Europe, for which it is considered the 'Sistine Chapel of the Spanish Renaissance'.

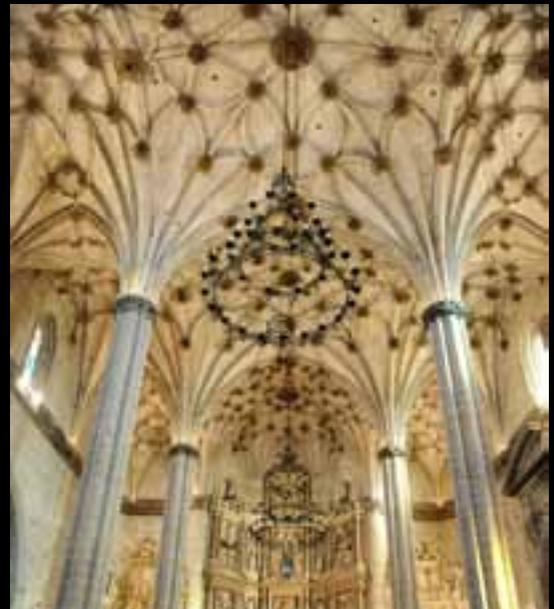
A magnificent restoration project, extending over nearly 30 years, has returned it to its former glory.

The city of Zaragoza has two cathedrals. The Basilica del Pilar, its most emblematic monument, is Spain's largest Baroque place of worship.

Meanwhile the Cathedral of San Salvador, La Seo, is a fine example of Spain's glorious cultural and historical heritage. The present building is a combination of artistic styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Moorish, Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical.



Cathedral of Salvador, La Seo (Zaragoza).



Cathedral of Barbastro (Huesca).



# / THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS

ENJOYING A Milder climate than the mountains, the uplands and valleys of the Pyrenean foothills are a living museum offering a huge variety of art.

## FROM HUESCA TO LOS MALLOS

### HUESCA'S MONUMENTS

First Roman Osca and later Muslim Wasqa, Huesca became the capital of the Kingdom of Aragon on its conquest by the Christians, enduring for some time and bequeathing a great artistic heritage. One of its finest examples is the *cathedral*, built on the old mosque in Gothic style, with a beautiful Renaissance altarpiece by Damian Forment. The *Museum of Huesca*, with interesting archaeological and artistic collections, is located in the old Baroque university and the Romanesque Palace of the Aragon Monarchs.

Built mainly in the 12th century, the *Monastery of San Pedro el Viejo* is one of the most important examples of Aragonese Romanesque, with its church and in particular its beautiful cloister, with elaborate capitals. The chapel of St. Bartholomew is also a royal tomb.

Renaissance highlights include the *Town Hall*, located in a 16th-century palace.

Also worth visiting in the vicinity of Huesca are *Montearagón Castle*, whose silhouette stands guard over the city, and the fascinating and innovative museum exploring the relationship between contemporary art, nature and landscape, the *CDAN Centre for Art and Nature*.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.huescaturismo.com](http://www.huescaturismo.com)

### THE KINGDOM OF LOS MALLOS

The route leading from Huesca to Pamplona crosses through the area of the Hoya de Huesca to the famous Mallos de Riglos.

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Entranceway of Huesca Cathedral.

On the outskirts of the nearby village of **Agüero**, at the foot of tremendous russet-coloured rock walls, is the curious **Hermitage of Santiago**. Built in the purest French Romanesque style of the 12th century, it seems hastily finished.

A few kilometres west of Huesca, **Bolea** has an imposing **collegiate church**. With stunning ribbed vaults in the 16th-century Aragonese Gothic style, it contains a famous altarpiece, considered a masterpiece of Renaissance painting.

From here you can drive to **Loarre** and climb up to Spain's most important Romanesque castle (11th-13th centuries).

Finally, a trip to **Ayerbe** is highly recommended, to stroll through its stately squares, admiring its palaces, Renaissance mansions and towers.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.hoyadehuesca.es](http://www.hoyadehuesca.es)

## THE ART OF SOMONTANO

Somontano de Huesca has a collection of monuments of various artistic styles. These include the 16th-century Gothic-Renaissance **Cathedral of Barbastro**, in the heart of the region. A must-see is its splendid altarpiece by Damien Forment and its curious minaret-style tower. The **Barbastro-Monzón Diocesan Museum** hosts a valuable collection of religious art from various locations in the diocese. Strolling through the rooms is a journey through 1,000 years of Western art, from the Romanesque to the Baroque.

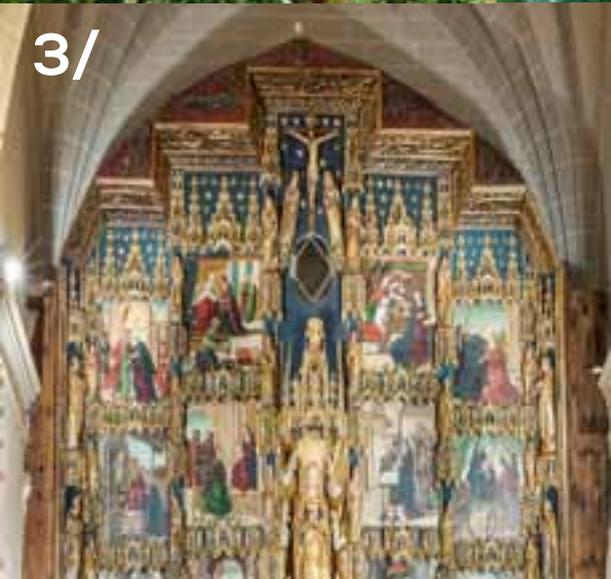
Nearby **Alquézar** is a labyrinthine medieval village. Topped by a castle, its collegiate church is another must-see, especially for its magnificent Romanesque cloister and murals.

1/ CDAN Centre for Art and Nature.

2/ The medieval village of Alquézar.

3/ Altarpiece of the collegiate church of Bolea.

4/ Cloister of the collegiate church of Alquézar.





## LOARRE CASTLE

**Loarre Castle perches on top of a crag, its walls blending into the rocks.**

This Romanesque castle is the best preserved in Europe, its stylistic purity conjuring up a journey back to the Middle Ages, and it has been the setting for several films.

Its stairways, passages, towers, chapels, dungeons and its terraces, overlooking the whole of Hoya de Huesca, create an unforgettable set of experiences and sensations.

The feel of the stone and the sighing of the wind can take you back for a moment into another more distant time. Besides its evident historical value, Loarre is also a showcase for the best of Romanesque art, especially in the sculpting of its capitals.

**Absolutely a must.**



Opening times and entry fees. ☎ 974 34 21 61

Bookings advisable for groups.

Visitor centre with bar/café.

More info: [www.castillodeloarre.es](http://www.castillodeloarre.es)

From here, you can access the **River Vero Cultural Park**, meandering at the foot of the gully that bears its name. It is home to cave paintings of exceptional value, designated UNESCO World Heritage status.

Other magnificent monuments, witness to many centuries of history, are the **Romanesque churches** of **Peralta de Alcofea** and **Berbegal** and the splendid **collection of Gothic painting** in **Bierge**. You can also discover the legacy of Mudejar tradition in the Baroque church of Santa María de Dulcis in **Buera**.

South of Somontano and above the city looms the silhouette of the **Templar Castle of Monzón**, of Moorish origins and historically related to the legend of El Cid.

Monzón Castle.



In nearby **Villanueva de Sigena** is a Romanesque monastery whose cloister served as burial place for the kings, queens and princesses of Aragon. One of the highlights of the building is its magnificent facade, with fourteen archivolt. Further south, near **Fraga**, are the remains of **Villa Fortunatus**, an important Roman rural villa in use between the 2nd and 6th centuries, which contains remarkable mosaics, some with Christian inscriptions.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.turismosomontano.es](http://www.turismosomontano.es)

River Vero Cultural Park.



# / TERUEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

THIS IS THE LAND OF THE MUDEJAR,  
OF LEGENDS OF LOVE,  
OF DINOSAURS, JAMÓN AND  
MANY MORE SURPRISES.

## THE CITY OF TERUEL

*Teruel's Mudejar monuments have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites since 1986.*

The tour begins at the **cathedral** (13th-16th centuries), with its magnificent tower, dome and richly decorated coffered ceiling, regarded as the 'Sistine Chapel of Mudejar art'.

Next, it's time to look up and admire the beautiful **towers of San Martín and El Salvador**, like Almohad minarets. Carrying on, you arrive at the **Church of San Pedro**, also with a tower.

Finally, you can finish your tour of Mudejar Teruel at the tower of the Church of La Merced.

Alongside these ancient streets there are also outstanding examples of **modernist buildings** such as those in the Plaza del Torico, at the heart of the city. The decorative and the functional are blended together in the curves and tendrils of beautifully detailed wrought iron which can be seen on **Casa Ferrán, La Madrileña** and **Casa "El Torico"**, with its splendid turret. Dating from the same period are the steps of **Paseo del Óvalo**, a prime example of Teruel neomudejar.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.turismo.teruel.es](http://www.turismo.teruel.es)

Tower of the Cathedral of Teruel.  
"Plaza del Torico" in Teruel.





Aerial view and characteristic architecture in Albarracín.

## AROUND TERUEL

Very close to the capital is **Albarracín**, one of Spain's most fascinating villages and a monument in itself. Its curtain walls, the cathedral, churches, streets and charming little nooks make for an unforgettable visit. The woods which make up the **Sierra de Albarracín Cultural Park** are home to numerous examples of World Heritage status post-palaeolithic cave art, which can be visited. Belonging to the category of Levantine Art, there are many images of local wildlife and hunting scenes.

**Rubielos de Mora**, with its outer walls, is one of the prettiest villages in the province, and has a Europa

Nostra award for restoration. Its **Town Hall** is a Levantine Gothic building with a broad, splendid marketplace.

In **Mora de Rubielos**, the regional capital, the Gothic style is fully exemplified in the old **Collegiate Church of Santa María** and above all in its immense and imposing castle, one of best preserved in Aragon.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.comarcadelasierradealbarracin.es](http://www.comarcadelasierradealbarracin.es)



### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.gudarjavalambre.es](http://www.gudarjavalambre.es)



## MUDEJAR ART OF ARAGON: WORLD HERITAGE

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

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

Mudejar craftsmen excelled in extracting beautiful creations from simple materials: bricks, plaster, polychromatic wood and glazed ceramics. This is a system of construction characteristic of Islamic tradition in the service of Christian architecture, notable for the rich decoration of walls and ceilings with elements of great plasticity and extraordinary beauty. The outcome is original artistry of universal value.

In Aragón there are 157 listed Mudejar monuments.

**More info:** [www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/ruta-mudejar](http://www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/ruta-mudejar)





North entrance, Rubielos de Mora Castle.



Convent of los Carmelitas Descalzos in Rubielos de Mora.

## EASTERN TERUEL

### LOWER ARAGON AND MATARRAÑA

The streets of **Alcañiz** display vestiges of the various civilisations that have shaped Lower Aragon's regional capital. The main testimony to medieval Alcañiz is its magnificent **Calatravo Castle**, which houses an exceptional and unmissable collection of Gothic murals. But it is the **Plaza de España** which features a collection of some of Aragon's most interesting monuments: the handsome Renaissance town hall adjoining the **Gothic marketplace** and, a few metres away, the immense **old Collegiate Church of Santa Maria la Mayor**, an imposing Baroque building of great artistic interest.

The numerous Iberian archaeological sites in Lower Aragon have led to the creation of the **Ruta de los Iberos** (route of the Iberians). One particularly important site is El Cabezo de Alcalá, in **Azaila**.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.bajoaragon.es](http://www.bajoaragon.es)

Plaza de España in Alcañiz.

It is crowned by a magnificent elongated acropolis with a Roman-style layout and cobbled main street. Wandering its streets evokes its glorious past. To help understand the importance of this route, there are visitor centres at the Iberian settlements found near **Alcañiz, Alcorisa, Alloza, Oliete, Andorra, Calaceite, Caspe, Cretas, Foz-Calanda Mazaleón** and **Valdeltormo**.

There are also marvellous examples of **Levantine cave art** (UNESCO World Heritage status) in the vicinities of **Beceite, Calaceite, Mazaleón, Fuentespalda** and **Cretas**, in Matarraña and Alcañiz.

Calanda's **Buñuel Centre** is dedicated to the great film director, born in **Calanda**, and has become a point of reference for scholars of his work. And **Andorra** pays homage to the famous folk dance writer José Iranzo in its **Centro Pastor de Andorra**, a place dedicated to the jota (traditional folk dance) and Aragonese folk music.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.iberosenaragon.net](http://www.iberosenaragon.net)





Creative commons. Jose Luis Mieza.

Portal del Pilar in Calaceite.



Valderrobres, exterior view.



Valderrobres, village streets.

## HISTORIC VILLAGES

### VILLAGES OF MATARRAÑA

A unique culture and unparalleled natural surroundings define this territory. In Matarraña, a succession of picturesque villages shelter fascinating monuments within their well-preserved old quarters, adding to their appeal. In Fresneda there are numerous historic buildings, both civil (town hall, Casa de la Encomienda) and religious (the convent, Capilla del Pilar and parish church).

A beautiful stone bridge and the **San Roque gateway** give access to the splendid village of **Valderrobres**. It is located on a hillside bounded at its base by the river Matarraña and at the top by its magnificent monuments, the **castle** and the **Gothic Church of Santa María La Mayor**. **Calaceite** is one of the best preserved villages in Matarraña, with numerous mansions, chapels, shrines, gateways and a Renaissance-style town hall. Don't miss taking a stroll along the **main street, Plaza de España** and **Calle Maella**, or a visit to the Parish Church and the **Juan Cabre Museum**, dedicated to the distinguished local archaeologist who championed the region's archaeological excavations.

**Ráfales** also has surprises including a Gothic church, the remains of a **Calatravo castle** and its 16th-century **town hall** complete with restored jail. In this beautiful town, most of the houses have preserved their stone structure, and some of them still retain their traditional indigo colour.

Also not to be missed are **Torre del Compte**, with its Gothic parish church, and **Fuentespalda**, with a Gothic church and Renaissance town hall. Further to the south of the area is the shrine of the **Virgen de la Fuente** in **Penyarroya de Tastavins**, whose 14th-century Gothic chapel contains a treasure of Moorish woodwork: its wonderful decorated coffered roof.

**Beceite**, also located in the south, has a complex urban layout dotted with numerous gateways and alleyways that lend it great charm. Also part of its allure are its narrow and steeply sloping streets. Still visible on some facades are masonry features such as arched entranceways, balconies supported by corbels and moulded sills. This beautiful village retains many of its ancient gateways.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.matarranyaturismo.es](http://www.matarranyaturismo.es)

## VILLAGES OF MAESTRAZGO

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

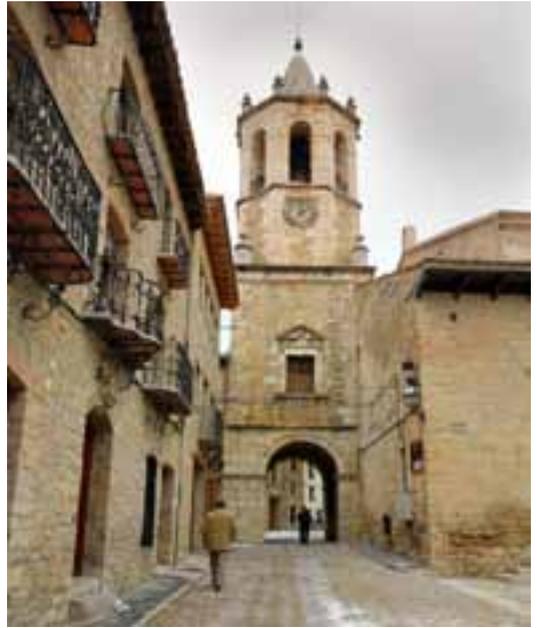
The medieval village of **Mirambel** has a Europa Nostra restoration award and its 13th-century walls are the most complete and best preserved in the region. The town hall is a historic building housing a Gothic jail.

**Cantavieja** is the old capital of Alto Maestrazgo. The ruins of its castle, the **Church of la Asunción**, the town hall and various stately houses make up one of the best collections of Aragonese Gothic monuments.

And in **La Iglesuela del Cid**, there are several mansions which are paragons of the Aragonese Renaissance palace model, plus an old fortified tower that serves as the town hall. The **Casa Matutano-Dauden** is an authentic 18th-century palace.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.turismomaestrazgo.es](http://www.turismomaestrazgo.es)



Church of la Asunción, Cantavieja.

## THE JILOCA AND THE COALFIELDS

The valley of El Jiloca is guarded from afar by the unforgettable silhouette of **Peracense Castle**. The river Jiloca flows gently to **Monreal del Campo**, part of the historic route of El Cid. Here, the **Saffron Museum** explores the secrets of the flower from which this coveted spice is extracted, whose local variety is considered the best in the world.

Following the course of the river to **Calamocha**, which is also part of the **Camino del Cid**, there is a surprising and beautiful Roman bridge in a pastoral setting, similar to the bridge of **Luco de Jiloca**. Also on this route you can stop to admire the unique Mudejar towers of **Báguena**, **Burbáguena** and **San Martín del Río**.

East of Jiloca is **Montalbán**, with its interesting **Church of Santiago** (13th-14th centuries), with its noticeably military aspect. Examining it in detail, you can see how it was begun in Gothic style, in stone, and then completed in typical Mudejar brickwork.

The **Río Martín Cultural Park** is a succession of deep gorges whose scenic value is complemented by the World Heritage prehistoric paintings of **Alacón**, the Iberian settlement of Cabeza de San Pedro in **Oliete**, and the fortified Archbishop's Palace of **Albalate del Arzobispo**, a Lower Aragonese Gothic masterpiece.



Portal de Las Monjas, Mirambel.



Peracense Castle.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.turismocuencasmineras.com](http://www.turismocuencasmineras.com)

# / GOYA IN ARAGON

TO GET TO KNOW THE WORK OF THIS ARAGONESE GENIUS, BEGIN AT FUENDETODOS, WHERE YOU CAN FIND HIS BIRTHPLACE AND A MUSEUM OF ENGRAVINGS FEATURING SOME OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT SERIES OF WORKS.

In the **Charterhouse of Aula Dei**, near Zaragoza, Goya painted a series of eleven murals, seven of which can be seen today.

Other thematic collections representing 'the Fathers of the Church' can be visited at the **Hermitage of la Fuente in Muel**, the **Church of Remolinos**, the **Church of San Juan el Real in Calatayud** and in the **Casa de la Cultura in Alagón**, where a fresco decorates the vault of the staircase. His most important commission in Zaragoza was the decoration of a vault and a dome in the **Basilica del Pilar**. The city also maintains a large collection of his works in the **Museum of Zaragoza** and the **IberCaja Camon Aznar** Museum.

In the **Diocesan Museum** you can find a portrait of Archbishop Company, which Goya painted in 1800. At the Museum of Huesca, you can also admire an interesting display of his graphic and pictorial work.

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**More Info:** [www.fundaciongoyaenaragon.es](http://www.fundaciongoyaenaragon.es)

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1/ Engraving, *Los Caprichos Series*. *IberCaja Camon Aznar* Museum.

2/ Paintings by Goya in the Charterhouse of Aula Dei.

3/ Portrait of Queen Maria Luisa of Parma. Zaragoza Museum. Prado Museum collection.



Photograph: Juan Carlos Gil Ballano



Photograph: José Garrido Lapeña



THE EBRO RIVER HAS BEEN A CHANNEL FOR SUCCESSIVE CULTURES, ENRICHING THE CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE ARAGONESE UP TO THE PRESENT DAY.

# ZARAGOZA AND THE EBRO VALLEY

## ZARAGOZA, PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

**Zaragoza** was founded as a Roman city over two thousand years ago by the Emperor Augustus, who gave it his own name (Caesaraugusta). Its importance is evident not only in its walls, but also in a series of remains converted into interesting and informative museums. These include the old forum, the centre of public life; the museum exploring river port activity along the Ebro; the public baths, an essential element in such a city; and the ruins of the immense theatre, one of the largest in Roman Hispania.

In the 11th century, Saraqusta became the capital of one of the most powerful Taifas in al-Andalus. Its importance can be seen first-hand on an unmissable visit to the palace of **La Aljafería**, whose spectacular courtyards and chambers make it one of the glories of al-Andalus art.

Christian Zaragoza boasts two beautiful cathedrals. The best known is of course the **Basilica del Pilar**, located halfway along the Marian pilgrimage route linking Lourdes and Fátima. Besides being a symbol of Aragon, in artistic terms, it is a veritable museum full of religious works, including the fabulous frescoes Goya painted on two of its vaults.

The other cathedral is El Salvador, better known as **La Seo**. This features a variety of artistic styles ranging from Romanesque to neoclassical, through the Gothic-Mudejar, Renaissance and Baroque. Its most eye-catching exterior features are the Wall of La Parroqueta, a masterpiece of Zaragoza Mudejar, designated UNESCO World Heritage status, and its slender Baroque tower. Inside, highlights include the magnificent alabaster altarpiece of the main altar, a characteristic work of European Gothic, the 16th-century dome and the splendid choir.

- 1/ Night-time view of the Basilica del Pilar.
- 2/ Roman Theatre of Caesaraugusta.
- 3/ Patio de la Infanta in the IberCaja building.



FURTHER INFORMATION  
[www.zaragoza.es](http://www.zaragoza.es)



## THE ALJAFERÍA PALACE

A UNESCO World Heritage site and the current seat of the Aragon Regional Government, this is a cultural melting pot where you can visit three palaces from different eras.

The Islamic essence of the 11th century is preserved in the multifoil archways of the Patio de Santa Isabel, in the Salón Dorado and, above all, in the beautiful Oratory. The Mudejar Palace of King Pedro IV of Aragon dates from the 14th century.

Finally, Mudejar heritage merges with Renaissance elements in the Palace of the Catholic Monarchs, dating from the late 15th century.

After climbing the grand staircase and crossing the Salas de los Pasos Perdidos, a spectacular coffered ceiling awaits in the Throne Room, transporting us to the fabulous court of Ferdinand and Isabella.

Guided tours can be arranged. ☎ 976 28 96 83

The palace is closed to the public on some Thursdays (morning and afternoon) and Fridays (morning) due to parliamentary activity.

More info: [www.cortesaragon.es](http://www.cortesaragon.es)



And don't miss its glorious **Tapestry Museum**, with pieces from the 14th to the 17th centuries.

Besides La Seo, the city is a treasure trove of Mudejar art. The slender towers of the churches of San Pablo, la Magdalena, San Miguel and San Gil are magnificent examples. All this, together with the numerous Renaissance palaces of the wealthy aristocracy to be found in the old city, made Zaragoza in its heyday 'the Spanish Florence'.

The **Palaces of los Condes de Sástago, los Luna, Montemuzo, los Torrero and los Morlanes**, with beautiful inner courtyards, such as the superb **Patio de la Infanta**, and imposing facades with wooden eaves, such as the old merchants' market, are today mostly museums or cultural centres.

But Zaragoza is also a modern and progressive city. The **Bridge Pavilion, Water Tower and Conference Centre** are the most iconic buildings of the 2008 International Exhibition in Zaragoza. And museums dedicated to the sculptors **Pablo Gargallo** and **Pablo Serrano** are major centres for contemporary art.

## AROUND ZARAGOZA AND THE LOWER EBRO

Near **Escatrón**, you can visit the **Cistercian monastery of Rueda**. The monastery has an interesting tour taking in its austere church, as dictated by the style of the order, its Mudejar tower and its lovely Gothic cloister, with a delightful chapter house. And you shouldn't leave without a look at the spectacular water wheel that gives its name to the monastery.

Heading to **Azuara**, you can see the remains of the **Roman villa of La Malena** with its magnificent mosaics, the **Roman city of Lépidia Celsa** in **Velilla de Ebro** and the **Celtiberian-Roman site of Contrebia Belaisca** in **Botorrita**. Mudejar style can be admired in the beautiful towers in places like **Alagón, Utebo, Monzalbarba, Peñafior, La Puebla de Alfindén** and **Alfajarín**. **Caspe** is home to the famous castle where the Caspe Agreement was negotiated and the **Collegiate Church of Santa Maria la Mayor**. In **Fabara**, there is one of the most important Roman mausoleums in Spain, and in **Mequinenza**, the magnificent castle is a shining example of Aragonese Gothic.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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



Local architecture in Sos del Rey Católico.



Winter view of Uncastillo.

VISITING LAS CINCO VILLAS, MONCAYO, DAROCA AND CALATAYUD BECOMES A MAGICAL JOURNEY INTO THE PAST OF LEGENDS AND ARTISTIC TREASURES.

# / ZARAGOZA IS SO MUCH MORE

## LAS CINCO VILLAS

Visiting Las Cinco Villas is a real walk through history, as its villages have preserved beautiful artistic monuments where time seems to stand still.

The route that climbs up from the Ebro valley takes you first to **Tauste**, to admire the beautiful octagonal structure of the **Mudejar tower** of the Church of Santa Maria. San Antonio Abad, the village's other church, is an intriguing blend of artistic styles.

The next stop is **Ejea de los Caballeros**, where the late 17th-century **Church of San Salvador** has the characteristic fortified appearance of this area. Inside, the 15th-century main altar is one of the most important examples of International Gothic painting in Spain.

On reaching **Sádaba** the first thing you see is the massive bulk of a spectacular 13th-century castle with seven towers. Also worth a visit is the elegant Gothic **Church of Santa Maria**, with its slender tower. And evidence of the significant Roman influence on this territory can be found at the **Mausoleum of los Atilios** and the erroneously named **Synagogue**, both remnants of the Roman era.

Further on is the 12th-century Romanesque church of Cistercian influence in **Castiliscar**.

Inside, a remarkable 4th-century **Early Christian sarcophagus** serves as the altar.

A final ascent brings you to well-known **Sos del Rey Católico**, a village with a charming medieval atmosphere transporting you to another era through the streets of its Jewish quarter, its walls, gateways and towers, including the castle's 12th-century **keep**.

Among its notable religious monuments are the **Romanesque churches of San Martin de Tours** and **San Esteban**, inside which there are interesting Gothic murals. And its eye-catching public buildings include the **Palace of Sada**, where Ferdinand El Católico was born, the **Palacio Español de Niño**, the Renaissance **Town Hall** and the arcade-lined **marketplace**, which will put the finishing touches on this unforgettable visit.

Already within the Pyrenean foothills, the streets of **Uncastillo** will reawaken the senses.

At the highest point of the village, there are remains of its outer walls, from which emerge its 13th-century **keep**. The village maintains all its medieval flavour, with many palatial mansions, the magnificent Renaissance **Town Hall**, the **Gothic Palace of Martín el Humano** and the **marketplace**.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.comarcacincovillas.com](http://www.comarcacincovillas.com)



Cloister in the Monastery of Veruela.

In the lower part of the village is the 12th-century **Church of Santa Maria la Mayor**, a superb example of Romanesque architecture. It stands out for the splendid capitals in its apse, its beautiful entranceway, its fortified tower and its spectacular Gothic-Renaissance cloister. Among the many churches here, recommended visits include the **Church of San Martín de Tours**, now a Romanesque Art Interpretation Centre and the **Church of San Juan**, with its Romanesque murals.

Also in this locality, don't miss one of Aragon's most remarkable archaeological sites: **Los Bañales**. Here you can see the remains of an important Roman city. Its significance is clear from its thermal baths and the 32 remaining pillars of the aqueduct that brought water to the population.

Before returning to the broad Ebro valley, stay and wander the villages of the **Sierra de Santo Domingo**. Passing through stunning scenery, the first stop is **Luesia**, inviting you to explore the streets of its Jewish quarter and the 12th-century **Romanesque churches of San Esteban and San Salvador**, with its wonderful entranceway. While you walk, watch out for several mansions with high galleries and carved wooden eaves, characteristic Aragonese Renaissance features. One excellent example is the **town hall**.

And you can end your tour in the mountains, at the foot of the majestic 10th-century **fortress of Biel**, before starting the return journey, already nostalgic for the wonders of Las Cinco Villas.

## EL MONCAYO

El Moncayo is not only a natural paradise separating Aragon from Castile, but is also a mountain that has safeguarded treasures of the area's artistic heritage.

The most important is undoubtedly the **Cistercian Monastery of Veruela**, whose beautiful setting only increases its artistic splendour. Its hexagonal outer wall with towers, including a keep, allow access to a romantic tree-lined avenue, lending it a truly picturesque charm. Although construction began in the 12th century in Romanesque style, the church and cloister are magnificent examples of Gothic architecture. While walking around, everything here invites quiet reflection: the vaulted naves of the church, the ambulatory of the apse and especially the tranquil cloister, with its beautiful chapter house and chambers. Your next stop should be the village of **Trasmoz**, where the world of witchcraft lives on in legends of the supernatural construction of its castle. Its ruins make an enchanting place from which to look out over El Moncayo.

The last port of call is one of Aragon's most beautiful and unusual places: **Tarazona**. First Roman city, then Muslim, Jewish and Christian, it is a border town and Mudejar treasure. Its **cathedral** is based on French Gothic models, enriched with Mudejar elements that have created a unique monument. Regarded as the Sistine Chapel of the Spanish Renaissance, the cathedral has undergone extensive restoration to regain its former splendour.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.turismotarazonayelmoncayo.es](http://www.turismotarazonayelmoncayo.es)



Renaissance facade of Tarazona Town Hall.

Don't miss the **Church of la Magdalena**, with its slender tower, the octagonal **Old Bullring**, the **Episcopal Palace** or the **Town Hall** with its impressive Renaissance facade. But above all, the city invites you to visit the old town, especially the **old Jewish quarter**, with its sinuous streets, part of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters.

And the last stage of this tour should be **Borja**, a city of Celtiberian origin. Its Jewish quarter and ancient streets make for a wonderful walk amongst churches, squares, mansions and Aragonese Renaissance palaces.

## CALATAYUD AND DAROCA, MUDEJAR TERRITORY

Arriving at **Daroca** and entering its gateways, you feel as if you have gained access to bygone ages. Its **wall** is like its backbone, punctuated by towers and fortified gates leading to steep streets lined with noble mansions. These include the **Palace of los Luna**, with well-preserved decorated wooden ceilings and its exterior notable for its eaves. Daroca also has good examples of Romanesque churches begun in stone and completed in typical Mudejar brickwork, such as **San Juan de la Cuesta** and **Santo Domingo**, which draws the eye with its beautiful square tower.

Mudejar architecture abounds in almost every village in this area. Notable examples are the churches of **Longares**, **Paniza**, **Encinacorba**, **Mainar**, **Villar de los Navarros**, **Herrera de los Navarros**, **Villarreal de Huerva** and **Romanos**, topped by slender towers of ornate filigree brickwork.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.comarcacalatayud.es](http://www.comarcacalatayud.es)

# / ARAGON'S JEWISH QUARTERS

*Aragon was a crossroads of peoples and beliefs throughout the Middle Ages, allowing the coexistence of churches, mosques and synagogues in an environment of mutual respect.*

Centuries of Hebrew culture in many villages in this territory have left their mark in the mazes of winding streets, the cemeteries and synagogues, and in the architecture of the houses.

A rich cultural legacy that you can get to know first-hand, wandering the winding streets of the Jewish quarters of places like Biel, Calatayud, Daroca, El Frago, Ejea de los Caballeros, Híjar, Luna, Sos del Rey Católico, Tarazona, Tauste and Uncastillo.



Jewish Quarter of Tarazona.



Jewish Quarter of Sos del Rey Católico.

One of the greatest legacies of **Gothic painting** in the world can be seen throughout this area. In addition to the 14th-century murals in **Daroca's** churches, noted for their optimal preservation and spectacular colouring, there are also outstanding altarpieces in **Langa del Castillo, Retascón, Villarroya del Campo, Lechón** and **Anento**.

**Calatayud** is another important example of a historic city. Nearby is the site of the Roman city of **Bilbilis**. The city's current name means '**Castle of Ayub**' in Arabic, a fortress which still dominates the town. The Islamic influence is clear in several excellent works of Mudejar art: the **octagonal tower of San Andrés**; the apse, cloister and tower of the **Collegiate Church of Santa María**; **San Pedro de los Francos**; the cloister of the **Collegiate Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and the plasterwork of **Nuestra Señora de la Peña**.

The winding streets of the medieval **Jewish Quarter** invite you to take your time and stroll. And admirers of Goya will also pause to enjoy the pendentives he painted in the **Church of San Juan el Real**.

Very near Calatayud, in **Nuévalos**, is one of Aragon's most frequently visited places: the **Monasterio de Piedra**, a beautiful natural park with a former 12th-century Cistercian monastery. Besides its famous waterfalls, the monastery is of great artistic interest. Protected by a medieval wall, it has an evident military air. Standing out from its silhouette is the keep, which safeguards its painstakingly restored inner chambers. Of particular interest are the cloister, with its ribbed vaults, and the exceptionally beautiful chapter house.

The Calatayud countryside is Mudejar territory, and monuments in this particular style can be found in countless locations in every valley. Along the Jalon River, highlights include the towers of **Ateca, La Almunia, Lumpiaque, Urrea de Jalón** and **Ricla**, and the churches of **Épila** and **Belmonte de Gracian**.

Pay special attention to the **church of Tobed**, with surprisingly profuse decoration, both inside and out.

Entering the valley of Jiloca towards Daroca, you will find two magnificent and beautifully decorated churches, one in **Maluenda**, boasting a spectacular interior, and the other in **Morata de Jiloca**, with an equally impressive exterior.

Another option is to follow the course of River Ribota, which leads to the fortified churches of **Torralba de Ribota, Cervera de la Cañada, Villarroya de la Sierra** and **Aniñón**.

And heading upriver along the River Aranda in search of **Mudejar monuments**, you can find Mudejar plasterwork inside the church of **Brea de Aragón** and further on in **Illueca**, the **Palace of Pope Luna**, Benedict XIII. Its construction began in the 14th century on top of a rocky outcrop, but it is not merely a classic Aragonese Renaissance palace with Italian influences. Its main interest lies in its interior decoration, with Baroque-Mudejar plasterwork and outstanding ceilings, such as those in the 15th-century main hall and the chapel.

And to complete this Mudejar route, you can visit the majestic **Castle of Mesones de Isuela**, one of Aragon's most important fortresses. Inside, the chapel of **Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles** hosts an extraordinary polychrome wooden Mudejar ceiling, composed of ninety-six small panels decorated with beautiful figures of angels carrying lighted candles. Also in this area, don't forget to visit the splendid Mudejar towers of the churches of **Tierra, Trasobares** and **Mesones**.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.comarcadelaranda.com](http://www.comarcadelaranda.com)



**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
[www.comarcadedaroca.com](http://www.comarcadedaroca.com)

Lower gateway, Daroca.

Tower of the Collegiate Church of Santa María de Calatayud.



# / CHARMING VILLAGES

ARAGON HAS MANY BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES DESIGNATED OF HISTORICAL INTEREST. THESE ARE HISTORIC LOCATIONS WHICH HAVE MAINTAINED THE ARTISTIC LEGACY OF TIMES PAST. WANDERING THEIR STREETS, STEEPED IN HISTORY, IS AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

## IN HUESCA

Aínsa, Alquézar, Ansó, Arén, Barbastro, Graus, Jaca, Montañana, el Balneario de Panticosa and Roda de Isábena.

## IN TERUEL

Albate del Arzobispo, Albarracín, Beceite, Calaceite, Cantavieja, Castellote, Cuevas de Cañart, La Fresneda, Iglesuela del Cid, Jabaloyas, Linares de Mora, Mirambel, Miravete de la Sierra, Mora de Rubielos, Mosqueruela, Orihuela del Tremedal, Puertomingalvo, Ráfales, Rubielos de Mora, Tronchón, Valderrobres and Villarroya de los Pinares.

## IN ZARAGOZA

Alagón, Borja, Calatayud, Daroca, Ejea de los Caballeros, Luesia, Salvatierra de Esca, Sos del Rey Católico, Tarazona and Uncastillo.

1/



2/



3/



1/ Albarracín.

2/ Aínsa.

3/ Tarazona.



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



ARAGON IS CULTURE  
IN THE PYRENEES  
THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS  
TERUEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS  
ZARAGOZA AND THE EBRO VALLEY  
ZARAGOZA IS SO MUCH MORE  
OTHER SUGGESTIONS