



ENGLISH

ARAGON

/ IS NATURE

IF YOU LOVE UNSPOILT NATURE AND PRISTINE OPEN SPACES,
IN ARAGON YOU WILL FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.
SECLUDED AND ENCHANTING PLACES THAT WILL AWAKEN
YOUR IMAGINATION.



“ THE ORDESA VALLEY IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN SPAIN AND A UNIQUE HIGH MOUNTAIN ENCLAVE OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. ”





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/ ARAGON IS NATURE

You'll want to pull on your hiking boots, because the variety and diversity of ecosystems has created stunning and beautiful landscapes, from the high peaks to the river valleys, through the rugged mountain ranges and vast steppes. And in all of them you'll see yourself as part of a living, breathing world.

Aragon is nature. The diversity of its landscapes, teeming with wildlife, makes it an exceptional region in terms of its natural areas.



<The Ordesa valley in its autumn finery.
Deer in Garcipollera.
Pyrenean flowers.
Rocas del Masmut in Peñarroya de Tastavins.
Poppy field in Somontano

“ IF ANYTHING CHARACTERISES LA SIERRA DE GUARA IT IS ITS MAGNIFICENT CANYONS AND RAVINES, CARVED FROM THE LIMESTONE OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS BY WIND AND WATER. ”



01/

ARAGON IS NATURE

The diversity of Aragonese landscapes, teeming with wildlife, makes this an exceptional region in terms of its natural areas.



02/

THE PYRENEES AND NATURE

The Aragonese Pyrenees are a symbol of Spain's natural diversity. The region is home to the highest number of protected areas, due to the importance of its fauna and flora.



03/

THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS

This region marks the transition between the Pyrenees and the Ebro Valley. It is a land of contrasts in climate, landscapes, vegetation and wildlife. A visual spectacle that will leave no one unmoved.



04/

TERUEL

Nature has real treasures to offer in Teruel. Ideal settings for both contemplating and understanding nature, and for the enjoyment of adventure sports. Come and discover them!



05/

ZARAGOZA

Changing skin from mountain forests, through the foothills to the valley floor, Zaragoza's backbone is the Ebro River.

/ THE PYRENEES AND NATURE

THE ARAGONESE PYRENEES ARE A SYMBOL OF SPAIN'S NATURAL DIVERSITY. THE REGION IS HOME TO THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS. DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS FAUNA AND FLORA.

Lanuzá, with La Foradada in the background.

WESTERN VALLEYS NATURE PARK

The Western Valleys Nature Park (Parque Natural de los Valles Occidentales) includes Ansó, Hecho, Aragüés del Puerto, with cross-country skiing pistes in the neighbouring region of Lizara, Aisa and Borau.

ANSÓ VALLEY

Due to the influence of the humid Atlantic climate, the landscape is very similar to the valleys of neighbouring Navarre, with dense woodlands and a huge variety of wildlife.

The finest example is the **Forest of Zuriza**, an immense succession of beech and fir trees climbing up to alpine meadows, a dream destination for hikers and mountain enthusiasts. And in winter you can go skiing on the **Linza pistes**.

The valley's access roads run through spectacular, breath-taking stretches such as the impressive **gorges**

of Foz de Biniés and Fago-Majones, both designated as Protected Areas

HECHO VALLEY

The **Forest of Oza** is one of the most popular parts of the Pyrenees. It consists of beautiful mixed woodland of spruce, pine and beech, giving shelter to bears, polecats, chamois, roe deer, wild boar, badgers, pine martens, foxes, squirrels and otters: a true ecological treasure.

Unique scenery can be found in the narrow gorge known as the **Boca del Infierno**. And the high mountains offer all kinds of excursions and ascents: the **Guarrinza Valley**, carpeted with green meadows; the hanging valley of **Aguas Tuartas**, where the lazy river meanders past a megalithic dolmen; and the emerald waters of the glacial **Ibón Estanés**.



FURTHER INFORMATION
www.rednaturaldearagon.com



VALLEY OF ZURIZA

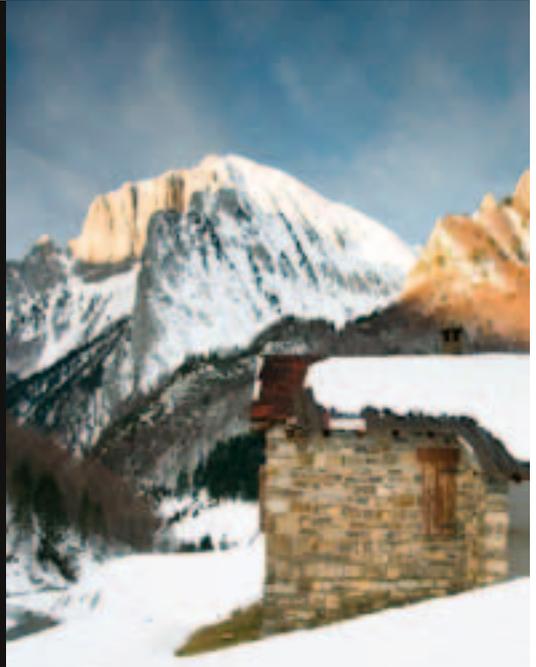
Zuriza lies in the upper section of the Ansó Valley. With a moist, fresh Atlantic climate, this area is home to bears, lammergeiers, red kites, otters and white-backed woodpeckers, characteristic of the area. From here, you can hike up to the famous mountain peaks of the Pyrenees, and in winter there are excellent routes for cross-country skiing or Nordic skiing on the Linza pistes.

More info: Tourist Office

☎ 974 37 02 25.

Open summer and bank holidays.

Linza refuge: ☎ 974 34 82 89



ARAGON AND TENA VALLEYS

These are the most developed valleys in terms of tourism and communications infrastructures, with spectacular locations and a wide range of sports tourism.

ARAGON VALLEY

With alpine and cross-country ski resorts at **Candanchú**, the oldest in Spain, and **Astún** at the bottom of the valley, this is a prime destination for mountain and snow sports enthusiasts.

Snowshoeing in the Aragonese Pyrenees.



The alpine meadows are also an excellent starting point for excursions through the valleys of **Rioseta** and **Canal Roya** or for climbing to peaks such as **Aspe** and **Collarada**.

Near **Jaca**, beside **Castiello de Jaca**, the **Garcipollera Valley** opens up, a game reserve with a sizeable deer population. A great place to observe the autumn rut.



FURTHER INFORMATION
senderos.turismodearagon.com

Hiker in Sabocos, Panticosa.





Bears in Lacuniacha, Tena Valley.



The Pyrenees, a paradise for children.

TENA VALLEY

Opportunities for skiing in this valley are also excellent, at the **Aramón Panticosa** resort, popular with families, and the **Aramón Formigal** resort, which currently boasts the largest skiable area in all of Spain.

Also near the village of **Panticosa** is the famous nineteenth-century **Panticosa Spa**.

Located in a spectacular high mountain cirque, it is a traditional centre of Pyrenean mountaineering, with ascents to the numerous and beautiful lakes that surround it and to the high peaks of over 3,000 metres.

The **Lacuniacha** wildlife park, near **Piedrafita de Jaca**, is an ideal family-friendly tourist destination.



VIÑAMALA

The Viñamala Game Reserve comprises the eastern half of the head of the Gállego River and the mountains of Panticosa, forming part of the Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve.

In this high mountain landscape, the massifs of Balaitús, Picos del Infierno and Vignemale make up part of the Natural Monuments of the Pyrenean Glaciers. An area that enjoys the influence of moist Atlantic winds, with an exceptional diversity of flora and fauna.

More info: Panticosa Tourist Office

 **974 48 73 14. Open all year**





Majestic snowy peaks.

This is a wooded area where you can see deer, reindeer, wolves, bison and other animals kept in semi-freedom.

From **Sallent de Gallego** you can also venture into the high Pyrenees towards the towering peaks of Respomuso and Anayet, the glaciers of **Balaitús** and **Los Infiernos** (designated Natural Monuments) and the other summits, lakes and landscapes that make up the western part of the newly enlarged **Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve**.

ORDESA AND MONTE PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK

The spectacular Ordesa Valley was made a National Park in 1918 and has been a symbol of natural wealth and good conservation ever since. Declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, the National Park now protects the entire area of Monte Perdido and extends into the Añisclo Canyon, the Escuaín Gorges and the head of the Pineta Valley.

The park begins at the **Ordesa Valley**, one of the most beautiful places in Spain and a unique high mountain enclave of exceptional beauty and biological wealth. It has a clear U-shaped profile, characteristic of glacial valleys, and offers an unforgettable experience tracing the course of the River Arazas, discovering meadows, waterfalls, gorges, trails, high crags and silent, shady forests.

The Añisclo Canyon.

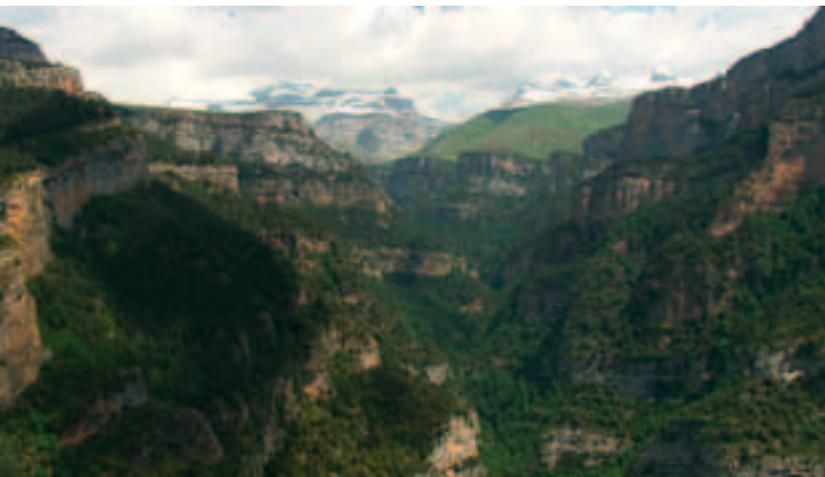
Neighbouring **Bujaruelo Valley** is a less visited but equally beautiful alternative. A pristine landscape of joyous waterfalls climbing up to the beautiful valleys of Otal and Ordiso.

The **Añisclo Canyon** is a scar cut north to south, first by glacial erosion and later by the Bellós River. Its vertical slopes are lined with dizzying waterfalls of hundreds of metres in height, irrigating a lush and well preserved mountain forest that shelters a rich diversity of wildlife.

The next valley, **Escuaín**, is the smallest in the Park. It is characterised by its caves, chasms and gorges, and the lammergeiers that soar above them. The upper reaches are a world of carved stone, where the river has created gullies and pools of singular beauty, before emptying into a spectacular upwelling of the River Yaga. Its cave system is a paradise for potholers.

The tranquil **Pineta Valley** lies beneath towering rock walls crowned by the summits of the **Tres Sorores: Monte Perdido, Cilindro de Marboré** and **Soum de Ramond**, standing guard over the Monte Perdido glacier. Here you will be seduced by beech hangers, pine forests and green meadows, especially in the **Llanos de Lalarri**. And don't leave the valley without a trip to the famous **waterfalls of the River Cinca** from the **Balcón de Pineta**, gaining more than a kilometre in altitude in a short trip.

Edelweiss, protected species in the Ordesa Valley.





WALKING THROUGH ORDESA

The Ordesa Valley is protected for the purpose of instilling respect and love for nature. At the meadow in the valley, you will find an information point, good facilities and a network of well-marked trails that allow you to merge with the environment in an unforgettable experience.

The easiest and most popular route is the trail following the river to the Circo de Soaso and the Cola de Caballo waterfall, passing the waterfalls of Arripas, la Cueva and el Estrecho and their respective view-points. It then crosses the breathtaking beech forest and climbs past the waterfalls of Las Gradass de Soaso before reaching the bottom of the valley.

Other routes of greater difficulty lead to the lateral cirques of Carriata or Cotatuero or climb to the panoramic ledges of los Flores, Pelay, el Mallo or Luenga, offering alternative perspectives to the most popular routes.

More info: www.turismosobrarbe.com

Nature in all its glory in the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park..



Panoramic view of the Ordesa Valley.



Woodland in the Bujaruelo Valley.

The whole National Park is a grand collection of Pyrenean fauna and flora with some unique species and where nature is centre stage: dense forests of beeches and pines; crystal clear lakes and rivers with trout and newts; alpine meadows and vertiginous crags with vultures, eagles, lammergeiers, chamois and marmots. All in all, a true natural treasure of the utmost ecological and environmental importance that all of us should not only cherish but also enjoy at first hand.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Enjoy yourself safely in the mountains

- Plan your activity
- Be properly equipped
- Be careful

☎ 112 (S.O.S. Aragón)

More info: www.montanasegura.com



Rafting, common throughout the Pyrenees



Spring and winter in the Benasque Valley.

POSETS-MALADETA NATURAL PARK

Like several parks in one, it can be divided into three sectors: the area surrounding Posets, the Estós and Perdiguero area and the Aneto massif, with the highest summit in the Pyrenees (3,404 m). It has the greatest concentration of peaks over 3,000 metres of the entire range, with eight of the ten highest summits, in addition to wooded valleys, permanent glaciers and almost a hundred high mountain lakes, waterfalls and streams. Exploring these surroundings is a wonderful experience.

With more than 70% of its area above 1,800 m, this area is considered the capital of pirineísmo and has several strategically-located mountain refuges: Ángel Orús, in the Eriste Valley; the Estos Valley refuge; la Renclusa on Aneto's northern route; and Biados, in the Gistáin Valley. In addition, there are visitor centres in Benasque, Aneto and San Juan de Plan.

Ancient glacial activity sculpted spectacular terrain, leaving a profusion of beautiful jewel-hued lakes in the Natural Monuments of the Pyrenean Glaciers: **Maladeta-Aneto, Perdiguero and el Posets.**

The park has a great diversity of flora and fauna, favoured by the steep slopes and the wide variety of soils and topography. The more humid slopes are covered with forests of beech, pine and fir, and on higher ground, the Scots pine gradually gives way to the black mountain pine. In the Alpine pastures, you can find ptarmigans, marmots, and stoat.

A balanced relationship between human and nature has enabled successful conservation of the environment. Here, tourist development is based around hiking and winter sports, such as in **Cerler** with its famous **Aramón Cerler** ski resort, one of the most spectacular and demanding in Spain. And **Llanos del Hospital** in **Benasque** boasts an excellent course for cross-country skiing in a dream-world setting.



HIKING THROUGH THE BENASQUE VALLEY

The Posets-Maladeta Natural Park is a dream for hikers and mountaineers. Some suggested routes:

A tour of the Estós Valley leads through beautiful forests and past waterfalls up to the lakes of Escarpinosa and Batisielles.

The trail leading from Eriste to the Ángel Orús refuge, 2,100 m above sea level, holds surprises such as the spectacular waterfall of La Espigantosa.

The Perdiguero circular route leads through the Literola Valley to the ibon blanco and the summit of el Perdiguero (3,222 m). The return trip can be made through the wild and narrow Remuñe Valley.

Vallibierna is a beautiful valley that leads to a lake and a peak, all with the same name, and offers stunning views of the southern face of the Aneto massif.

The archetypal excursion, among so many others, is the route climbing from Llanos del Hospital in Benasque to the La Besurta ledge and on to the spectacular Forau de Aigualluts waterfall, with a view of the Aneto glacier. More experienced hikers can go on to the refuge and the lake of La Renclusa.

More info: www.turismoribagorza.org



Aerial view of the River Gállego.



The lammergeier, protected species which breeds in these mountains.

/THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS

THIS REGION MARKS THE TRANSITION BETWEEN THE PYRENEES AND THE EBRO VALLEY. IT IS A LAND OF CONTRASTS IN TERMS OF CLIMATE, LANDSCAPES, VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE. A VISUAL SPECTACLE THAT WILL LEAVE NO ONE UNMOVED.

THE KINGDOM OF LOS MALLOS

The Mallos de Riglos are impressive geological formations of 300-metre-high vertical russet rock walls where each Mallo has its own name. The Gállego River dares to run at the foot of these stone giants, which are landmarks of Spanish climbing history.

Nesting here is one of the most important colonies of griffon vultures in Europe. The Arcaz Bird of Prey Interpretation Centre allows you to watch red kites, eagles, Egyptian vultures and griffon vultures in their natural habitat. The haughty profile of the Mallos is one of the most emblematic images of Aragón.

The **Mallos de Agüero**, a few kilometres away, shelter the village below and are home to another large colony of vultures. They include the slender monolith of the Peña Sola and an enormous cave called **Cueva de la Reina**.

In **Murillo de Gállego** you can go rafting with the help of local adventure sports companies. There, the river's emerald waters flow through a scenic ravine after passing through the **Pantano de la Peña**, surrounded by numerous and spectacular gorges.



SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA AND MONTE OROEL

This is a Protected Area with amazing biodiversity. And the old and new monasteries of San Juan de la Peña within its boundaries lend it added interest. The dense forests of pine, Portuguese oak, beech and fir that clothe its mountain-sides, as well as various species of birds, make up a vibrant ecosystem. It is an outstanding site for raptors, as well as typical forest fauna, including wild boar, fox, genet, beech marten and roe deer. Griffon vultures, lammergeiers and Egyptian vultures circle overhead, seeking nesting places in the immense conglomerate walls. An outstanding area for bird-watching and ornithological tourism.

SIERRA Y CAÑONES DE GUARA NATURE PARK

The **Salto de Roldán** (accessible from **Apiés** or **Sabayés**) is formed by two great blocks of conglomerate eroded by wind and water. Legend has it that Roldán came here pursued by his enemies and jumped on horseback from one rock to the other. From here a spectacular panorama opens up of gliding vultures and other birds of prey.

The north side of the **Nature Park** is more alpine, with the valleys of Belsué and Nocito sheltering villages where time seems to have stood still, their buildings preserving the tradition of the area.

The south side has a climate and vegetation more typical of the Mediterranean, with holly oak dominating the landscape.

If anything characterises the park it is its magnificent canyons and ravines, carved from the limestone over millions of years by wind and water. The outcome is imposing vertical rock faces and gorges perforated by caves. Guara is one of the best places in Europe for karst landforms and an excellent place to go canyoning.

LA RIBAGORZA

The **Turbón Massif**, a tremendous natural vantage point drawing the eye from afar, acts as a bioclimatic curtain, besides being a mythical mountain steeped in legend. Noted for its beauty is the beech hanger of Selba Plana, on the north side of the massif.

Highlights of the **Isabéna Valley** include the Obarra gorge, where the river has carved a spectacular landscape from the limestone, amidst dense mixed forest.

As for fauna, the natural river system and the quality of its water create habits for the Pyrenean desman, dipper, otters and trout.

Several hiking routes follow its course, including one from Beranuy to the hermitage of Sis, offering a beautiful view of Turbón.



Majestic Peña Oroel.



Spring in Salto del Roldán.



Sierra de Bones in Hoya de Huesca.

The spectacular Canyon of Mont-Rebei, crossed by a dizzying path chiselled into the rock, allows entry to the narrow passage that the Noguera Ribagorzana River has cut through the Montsec mountains. Here, a gap between the vertical walls of over 350 metres high and only 20 metres wide forms the natural border between Aragon and Catalonia.

TOWARDS THE VALLEY

Huesca is not all mountains. When the landscape becomes quiet and calm, it takes on new and unexpected forms, bewitching and unique.

Los Monegros is the living desert of Europe. It is a landscape as rugged as it is beautiful, broad and bright. Its name, 'the black hills', recalls a time before its gradual deforestation, when it was covered with dark junipers. The Interpretation Centre for Water in Los Monegros, located in Tardienta, explores the importance of this scarce resource in these lands.

The **Sierra de Alcubierre** is a mountainous formation reaching 800 m, crossing Los Monegros from northwest to southeast. Because of its height, it offers a wealth of holly oak and pine forests and is a natural wildlife reserve, especially for raptors.

Characteristic of this landscape are the '**torrollones**' of Serreta de Tramaced and Gavarda, striking formations of eroded sandstone.

The **Laguna de Sariñena**, a Special Protection Area for Birds, is one of the ten largest lakes in Spain and an outstanding place for bird lovers, since it is home to one of Spain's largest colonies of bittern, a bird in danger of extinction. It has an Interpretation Centre and two hides camouflaged amongst the vegetation for watching birds both on the water and in flight.

Meanwhile, the mighty Cinca River has created a natural corridor that is a perfect example of a succession of riverside woodlands. Unusual and spectacular, the 'ripas' of Alcolea and Ballobar are huge compacted clay outcrops forming natural walls lining the bends in the river for several kilometres.

1/ In the background, the Turbón massif.

2/ Canyon of Mont-Rebei

3/ Characteristic landscape of Los Monegros.

4/ The Pyrenean foothills offer outstanding mountain biking routes.





CANYONING IN THE SIERRA DE GUARA

Looking for adventures in the great outdoors? Various specialist companies offer all kinds of sporting activities within this extraordinary natural setting, with canyoning particularly popular.

This is a sport which involves descending mountain canyons and rivers on foot or swimming and using climbing techniques to overcome obstacles such as waterfalls, natural water slides and abseiling drops. It is essential to have the correct equipment and use a professional guide from one of the local companies.

Guara is a world leader for the sport. Its best-known gorges are the Vero, Formiga, los Oscuros de Balcés, Mascún and Gorgas Negras. For beginners, Formiga, Vero and Oscuros de Balcés are ideal, since no ropes are necessary.

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





Protected Area of the Rodeno Pine Forests.

/ TERUEL

NATURE HAS REAL TREASURES TO OFFER IN TERUEL. IDEAL SETTINGS FOR BOTH CONTEMPLATING AND UNDERSTANDING NATURE, AND FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ADVENTURE SPORTS. COME AND DISCOVER THEM!

SIERRA DE ALBARRACÍN AND MONTES UNIVERSALES

The Sierra de Albarracín and Montes Universales make up a range that is not excessively steep but with a high average altitude, rising above a thousand metres.

Favoured by a moist, cool climate, it is a mushroom paradise. It has green meadows and dense forests as well as pools, waterfalls and high plains and flat-topped hills levelled by erosion. In the splendid Protected Area of the Rodeno Pine Forests, the curious formations of escarpments and natural russet sandstone towers are the first things that draw the eye. But then you discover the inseparable companion of these geological formations, the 'rodno' or cluster pine, which colonises cracks in the rock, growing in unlikely locations. This is the natural habitat of many protected species, with birds such as the peregrine falcon and eagle owl, and timid mammals such as roe deer inhabiting these mountains. There is a Visitor Centre in **Donarque**, beside the road running between Bezas and Albarracín.

This is also a very important area in terms of its water systems, since within it and around it are the sources of some of the major Iberian rivers: the Tagus, the Guadalquivir or Turia, the Cabriel, the Cuervo, and the Júcar or Jiloca.

LOS PUERTOS DE BECEITE

Forming a border with Catalonia and Valencia is the mountain range of the Puertos de Beceite.

Sus Its rugged mountains, pierced by numerous rivers and ravines, shelter the imposing landscapes of el Parrisal de Beceite, Las Rocas del Masmút and el Salt de la Portellada.



Rock formations in the Sierra de Albarracín.

The most well-known of these is **El Parrisal**, with its fantastic walk between rock walls along the bed of the river Matarraña.

Las Rocas de Masmut, near Peñarroya de Tastavins, is a stunning russet crag of over 100 m in height with a large colony of vultures. And don't miss the beautiful 20-metre waterfall of El Salt de la Portellada, a few kilometres from La Portellada.

MAESTRAZGO

Maestrazgo is another region where nature is ready to astonish you.

The Protected Area of the **Natural Monument of the Source of the River Pitarque** is the end-point of an easy trip from the village of **Pitarque**. In this beautiful place, the water flows from all corners almost magically.

The source itself is a karst upwelling where the water cascades from a height of four metres, whenever the rainfall per-

mits. The entire route is a jungle of vegetation and home to a significant population of griffon vulture and ibex.

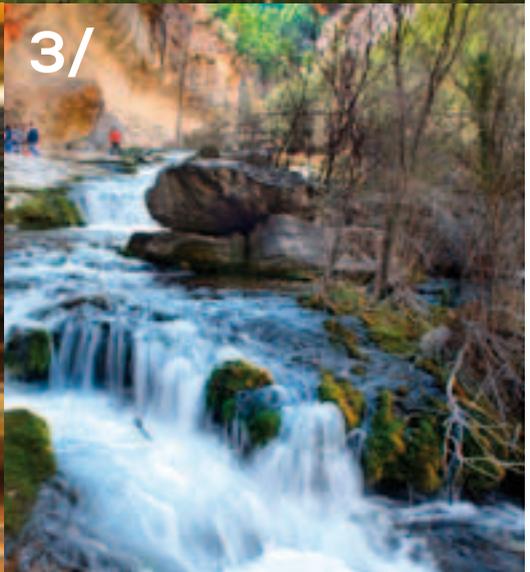
Located off the road between **Villarluengo** and **Ejulve** is the **Natural Monument of Los Órganos de Montoro**. This is a limestone formation of near-vertical strata resulting in a spectacular wall of more than two hundred metres in height, resembling an enormous set of organ pipes. Griffon vultures and ibex can be seen in these beautiful surroundings.

Very close to **Castellote**, upstream of **La Algecira**, is the **Natural Monument of el Puente de Fonseca**. This is a singularly beautiful place where the surface limestone has been eroded, leaving unusual shapes in the rock between which the River Guadalupe makes its way.

1/ Rocas del Masmut in Peñarroya de Tastavins.

2/ Black truffles in the upper Maestrazgo.

3/ Natural Monument of the Source of the River Pitarque.





CLIMBING EL PARRISSAL DE BECEITE

The route starts in the upper part of Beceite, taking a path signposted towards Parrisal.

The route is easy to follow, although there are some more difficult sections, and it has a car park and picnic area. Along the way, the trail crosses the river several times with the help of walkways leading over small crystal-clear pools, teeming with fish. The path ends at Los Estrechos, where the river is channelled through 60-metre-tall vertical walls of only 1.5 metres in width and overlooked by breathtaking rock spires known as Les Gúbies.

More info: Beceite Town Hall

☎ 978 85 02 25

Valderrobres Tourist Office.

☎ 978 89 08 86



Besides the deeply cut limestone of the riverbed, the most dramatic landform is the Puente de Fonseca, a kind of bridge or tunnel excavated into the rock by the natural action of the water.

This place is home to many birds of prey, mammals such as wild boar and ibex, and aquatic species such as crayfish, otters and dippers.

And in **Molinos**, you can visit the Natural **Monument of las Grutas de Cristal**, an exciting journey underground, beyond imagination. The caves are a complex network of small chambers connected by short galleries filled with spectacular stalagmites and stalactites that resemble curtains and waterfalls. The caves are equipped for tourist visits.

GÚDAR AND JAVALAMBRE

If skiing is your sport, there are two fully equipped modern resorts in the snow-capped peaks of this mountain range: Aramon Valdelineares and Aramon Javalambre.

Both are located in glorious settings with a wide range of plant species.

The Sierra de Gúdar includes Teruel's highest point, the peak of **Peñarroya**, near **Valdelineares**, with one of the most spectacular views in the area. The Javalambre range has a rounded profile and offers breathtaking views. Thanks to its altitude and the clarity of the atmosphere, this is one of the best areas in Europe for stargazing. Not surprisingly, it houses the Javalambre Astrophysical Observatory.

A wide variety of hiking, horse riding and mountain biking activities can be enjoyed in this area, allowing you to reach the most enchanting spots. A mountain bike route leads from **Camarena** to the peak of Javalambre. And on foot, you can walk the trail from **Manzanera** to reach the chasm of **El Paul**. There is a vast network of trails in the region, offering over 1,000 km of waymarked hiking trails of both long and short distance. One hundred and sixty kilometres of these belong to the **Vía Verde de Ojos Negros-Sagunto**, a disused railway line running through the provinces of Teruel, Castellón and Valencia.

JILOCA AND THE COALFIELDS

In the Monreal del Campo area, a charming spot awaits discovery in los Ojos del Jiloca.

This is a network of springs emerging from oval shapes known as 'eyes' (ojos), which is host to diverse flora and fauna.

On its way through the foothills of the Iberian mountain system, the River Martín gouges deep gorges through the **River Martín Cultural Park**. Amongst the spectacular scenery and natural beauty, the russet rock walls of



Valdelineares ski resort.



Mining landscape of Ojos Negros. Teruel.



Horses, Sierra de Gúdar.

Peñarroyas in **Montalban** stand out, and in **Oliete** the **Sima de San Pedro**, a cylindrical chasm nearly 100 m in diameter, is the largest in Europe. In its depths, it hides a small pool and its walls shelter thousands of bats and swifts. The park has a network of clearly marked hiking trails.

Another highlight, further south, is the **Aliaga Geological Park**, a national benchmark in this field, which offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in the last 200 million years of the Earth's history.

The park has two routes: the first scientific and the second designed for general visitors, with 9 hiking trails. It also has a Visitor Centre located in Aliaga.

And between the provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza, the **Nature Reserve of La Laguna de Gallocanta** is the largest closed-drainage lagoon in southern Europe and Spain's most important site for migrating cranes



CRANE-WATCHING IN GALLOCANTA

Up to 100,000 cranes can pass through the lagoon in several waves, providing a wonderful natural spectacle.

Situated on a plain at 1,000 metres in altitude, this is a wetland area unique in Spain for its biological diversity. Its strategic location means that every year various species of aquatic bird use the lagoon as an overwintering site or as a migration stop. It is particularly famous for its large concentrations of cranes, travelling to warmer climes for the winter, but a great number of other aquatic birds are dispersed throughout the wetlands. The Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, on the road between Bello and Tomos, organises guided walks around the hides so you can watch the birds without disturbing them.

There are also marked trails and viewpoints that help you bird-watch on your own.

More info: www.comarcadedaroca.com

Gallocanta Tourist Office ☎ 976 80 30 69

Visitor Centre ☎ 978 73 40 31



Meander in the River Ebro.

CHANGING SKIN FROM MOUNTAIN FORESTS, THROUGH THE FOOTHILLS TO THE VALLEY FLOOR, ZARAGOZA'S BACKBONE IS THE EBRO RIVER.

/ ZARAGOZA

EL MONCAYO NATURE PARK

The El Moncayo Nature Park, the highest area of the Iberian mountain system, has a spell-binding charm.

Ranging over a change of altitude of 1,500 metres, the vegetation varies from Mediterranean to alpine species. This amazing gradation of different climatic levels makes Moncayo a living manual of geobotany.

Starting points for excursions to this beautiful Nature Park can be found in **Tarazona, Añón de Moncayo, Litago, Lituénigo, San Martín de la Virgen de Moncayo, Trasmoz, Talamantes** and **Alcalá de Moncayo**.

The southern area of the park is a stark contrast, composed of a series of flat-topped hills, caves, crags and ravines, which are home to rock-dwelling fauna and flora, and villages perched on crags, such as **Purujosa**, or hidden in the valleys, such as **Trasobares** and **Calcena**. The park has visitor centres in **Agramonte, Añón** and **Calcena**.

IBERIAN MOUNTAIN SYSTEM

In Nuévalos is the famous Monasterio de Piedra Park, which surrounds an ancient 12th-century Cistercian monastery.

This is a natural setting of breathtaking beauty. The clearly marked path guides you between mirror-like lakes, mysterious caves and imposing waterfalls, making up a lush, verdant spectacle teeming with life. This is an ecosystem of enormous diversity, with numerous animal and plant species, and a great variety of enormous trees. It is family-friendly and also educational. In high season, there are displays of birds of prey in flight.

The upper course of the river flows through the **River Piedra Gorge**. Located between **Aldehuela de Liestos** and **Torralba de los Frailes**, the gorge is famous for its vertical grey and russet limestone walls, rich vegetation and numerous birds, many of them protected. And if you want to get to know this area better, you can follow a circular route which is a paradise for any hiker. It is also an ideal place to learn to climb



AN AUTUMN WALK THROUGH EL MONCAYO

Haughty and aloof, magical Moncayo is a great showcase of nature due to its particular climatic conditions.

Its stunning beech forest is one of the most southerly in Europe and makes autumn the most spectacular time to enjoy the multi-coloured richness of its mountain forests.

One of the most pleasant routes is along the road from the monastery of Veruela leading to Agramonte, running through the forest for 15 kilometres. Along the way you pass through most of the park's woodland species: holly oak, Pyrenean oak, pedunculate oak, pine and beech.

In Agramonte, the Visitor Centre provides information about the park and you can visit the interactive exhibit about its natural resources. From here, there is a road leading up to the Sanctuary.

More info: www.turismotarazonayelmoncayo.es

Tarazona tourist office: ☎ 976 64 00 74

1/ Egyptian vulture in El Moncayo.

2/ View of El Moncayo from Tarazona.

3/ Beech woods, in the foothills of El Moncayo

1/



2/



3/

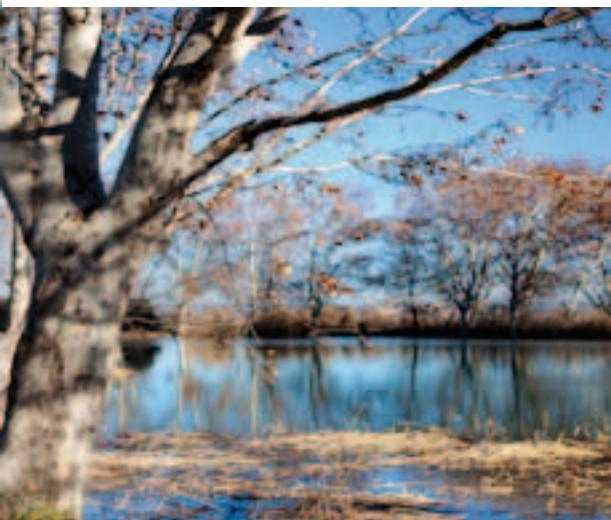




“ THE MONASTERIO DE PIEDRA IS AN ECOSYSTEM OF ENORMOUS DIVERSITY, WITH NUMEROUS ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES, AND A GREAT VARIETY OF ENORMOUS TREES ”

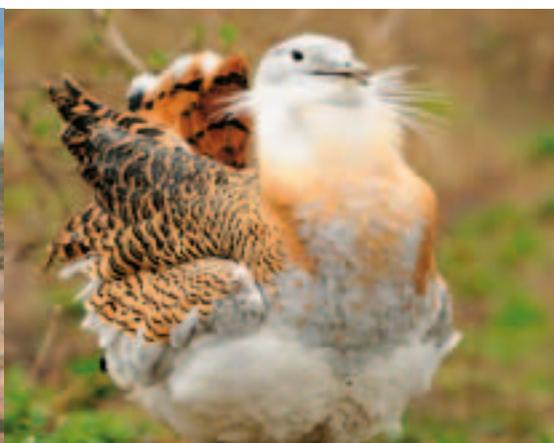


River Piedra Gorge.



Dawn in Juslibol.

El Planerón Bird Reserve, a paradise for great bustards.



There are also extremely beautiful ravines in las **Hoces del Jalón**, located between **Huérmeda** and **Embid de la Ribera** (in the Calatayud area) and the **Mesa River Canyon**, between **Calmarza** and **Jaraba**, which is famous for its spas.

This is a wonderful natural environment where water takes centre stage, which you can explore first-hand by bike or on foot along its extensive network of roads and trails.

AROUND ZARAGOZA

Belchite is the entrance to the steppes, beautiful natural landscapes that have been shaped by the persistent action of wind and rain. At La Lomaza Wildlife Refuge and in the El Planerón Bird Reserve you can get close to fauna and flora unique in Europe.

In Zaragoza, the meanders cut off by changes in the course of the river as a result of major flooding have formed ox-bow lakes, known locally as 'galachos'. These waters have created a unique ecosystem of riverside woodland in the midst of a barren wilderness, with surprising aquatic fauna and flora. The Juslibol lake, near Zaragoza, is highly scenic, with an impressive forest at the foot of an imposing rock wall.

Los Sotos y Galachos del Ebro Nature Reserve, downstream from Zaragoza, includes the Alfranca lake (near Pastriz), which is the best conserved. It is home to over 200 species of birds, including many herons, and in winter there are significant concentrations of ducks of various species. Also making its home here is a small mammal which is a true indicator of the high quality of the river environment, the otter. The Visitor Centre organises walks to watch the birds without disturbing them



LA BARDENA ARAGONESA AND LOS AGUARALES DE VALPALMAS

Located in the area adjacent to La Bardena in Navarre, between Ejea de los Caballeros and Tauste is La Bardena Aragonesa. Access is from the village of Sabinar or from Valareña. It is a Special Protection Area for birds and a Site of Community Importance. An area of great ecological and environmental interest, it incorporates a variety of terrains, including esparto fields, steppes, scrub, pine forests, canyons and gorges, sheltering interesting fauna. One of the trails that can be taken on foot or by bicycle is called the 'Sendero de la Negra'. A pretty route through the different ecosystems and landscapes of La Bardena.

After passing through Valareña towards Tudela (A-125), take the first dirt road on the left at the wooden signpost. Distance: 10 km (from the Casa Forestal to Punta de la Negra and back).

From the Valareña road 19.5 km (round trip). Height gain 230 m. Medium difficulty. There are wooden signposts at crossroads and stopping places along the route.

The Aguarales of Valpalmas make up a curious landscape produced by the action of rainwater on the clay over millions of years.

More info: Ejea de los Caballeros Tourist Office ☎ 976 66 41 00



Los Aguarales de Valpalmas, between Zuera and Ejea.



EL MAR DE ARAGÓN

Construction of the Caspe and Mequinenza reservoirs on the Ebro River led in 1965 to the creation of a huge body of water of 110 km in length and with some 500 km of inland shoreline, known as the 'Sea of Aragon' (Mar de Aragon).

Years of interest and dedication have turned the Caspe reservoir into an ideal destination for the enjoyment of all kinds of water sports, including windsurfing, sailing, water skiing, rowing and canoeing. It is also an angler's paradise.

In Mequinenza, at the other end of the reservoir, you can enjoy speedboat racing, canoeing and even Olympic rowing.

But the worldwide fame enjoyed by the Mequinenza reservoir is for its legendary catfish, one of the species most sought after for its size. Each year it attracts anglers from around the world.

More info: turismomardearagon.com

Mequinenza Tourist Office

☎ 974 46 41 36

Caspe Tourist Office ☎ 976 63 65 33

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

LAS SALADAS DE CHIPRANA

This Protected Natural Area is a series of lagoons of exceptional importance due to its geological interest and great diversity of flora and fauna. It has an area of 154.8 ha. and is located in the area of Chiprana.

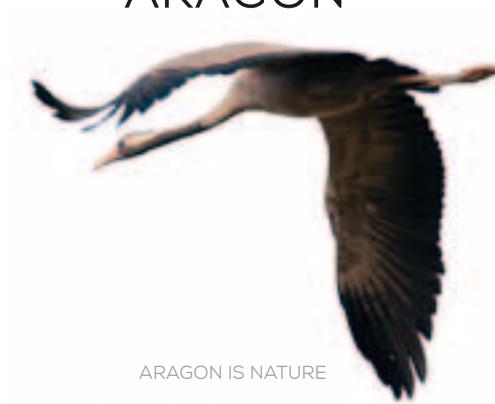
Salada Grande, with a surface area of 31 ha. and a depth of 5 m, is the only permanent deep-water closed-drainage saline lagoon in Western Europe. The highlight of its fauna is its variety of waterfowl: 55 catalogued species, including some that live only in saline environments, such as shelduck.



Salada de Chiprana



www.turismodearagon.com



ARAGON IS NATURE
THE PYRENEES AND NATURE
THE PYRENEAN FOOTHILLS
TERUEL
ZARAGOZA