

english



ZARAGOZA





▲ Symbol of the City, Stone Bridge



▲ Pablo Serrano Museum



▲ Guesthouse, Rueda



▲ The Great Prophet, Pablo Gargallo Museum

ARAGÓN

GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME to Aragon. Do you know where you are? You are in the Iberian Peninsula's northeast. Its territory covers an area of more than 47,500 square kilometers and is made up of the provinces of Huesca, Saragossa and Teruel. More than 1,200,000 inhabitants live here. They are friendly, noble and close. The best thing you can do is to get lost in this natural land, full of life and flavor. It has a border of 136 km with France, so you are in the central door to Europe from France and Portugal.

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

LOCATION





NATURE, CHISTORY AND CULTURE

SARAGOSSA is a stone's throw away from you. It is said that all the roads lead to Rome, but most of them pass by Saragossa. At least, you will not have other option if you go from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean Sea or from there to the interior lands of the Castilian plateau. The River Ebro organizes this land, whereas the politic and economic life is centralized in the capital. The city of Saragossa is the one located in the centre, some three hundred kilometers away from Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, and some two hundred kilometers away from the French border. These distances result in a one-hour-and-a-half drive using the AVE (high-speed train). Thousands of hectares have turned into logistic platforms and, thanks to the 2008 Expo' boost, we have raised modern infrastructures, we have invested in communications and the airport takes off. It is a modern and avant-garde city where it is still comfortable to live and which has a rich legacy.

We have to mention Rome again, but the reason is that Saragossa got this name thanks to its founder, Caesar Augustus. The Roman's hands can be felt in many spots of the capital and all over the region: The remains of Contrebia-Belaïasca, La Zaida, and Bilbilis in Calatayud or Turiaso (Tarazona). Arabs, Jewish and Christians lived behind them.

Fernando el Católico, Gracián, Goya, María Moliner, Gargallo, Serrano... All of them are from Saragossa. If you stop here, you will stay at least a few days, attracted by its art and the art of its people. You can come to go shopping, to take care of yourself in any of its spas, to dive in thousands of nautical and adventure sports, to work in fairs and conferences or just to be a member of the audience in huge spectacles, to delight your stomach or just because you want to take great pleasure.

It is going to be difficult to make up your mind. The hands of the great Goya are waiting for you, especially in the capital, Saragossa,

▲ La Lonja y el Pilar as background

▲ La Seo dome

▲ Caesar Augustus statue





▲ Mountain bike



▲ Cartuja de Aula Dei (Aula Dei Charterhouse)



▲ Jaraba Spa



▲ Cookery typical from Saragossa

and in Fuentetodos, the village where he was born. Muel is the pottery village: Wherever you look at, there will always be a pottery detail. In La Muela, the wind is the driving force. In these lands, wind-driven generators have been sowed and its inhabitants have nearly taken flight. In Illueca and Brea, their trade has always been the footwear. In Gallocanta, the time's going by has been marked by the cranes that, year after year, come back to the lake. Trasmoz and the witchcraft. In Balconchán, only one person lives during the winter. Nevertheless, one never knows. The same happened in Anento twenty years ago and, nowadays, more than one hundred people live there eager to make up for lost time. Talking about time, In Daroca and Uncastillo you will go back to the Middle Ages. In Veruela or in El Monasterio de Piedra (The Stone Monastery), the tourism is everything. And what do you tell me about Jaraba, Alhama or Paracuellos de Jiloca? They have spas that cater for visitors all year round. Why don't you come closer and pay a visit to all of them?

You will think that you have turned into an indecisive person but the problem is that it is very difficult to make up your mind when you are sitting at the table. The cookery is simple, nutritious, and strong and has a lot of character, just like the people from Saragossa. There will be no shortage of peppers, tomatoes, cardoon, courgette, green beans, borages or onions from Fuentes, the only ones in the entire world that neither chop up nor will make your eyes water. For first course: beans, potatoes, bread, olives, snails or frog's legs. Afterwards, game, lamb, pork, bovine, trout and fowl. You can order some good salmorrejo-style eggs, cod cooked with eggs and garlic or Aragonesc-style cod. But there is also shepherdess-like lamb or roast lamb, *magras* (fried eggs, ham, cheese and tomato) with tomato or loin in almonds sauce. And for desert, prunes from the lower bank of the River Ebro, pears and apples from La Almunia, cherries and apricots. Land of those that have a sweet toot, there is no shortage of almond toffee nougat candy or *crepilllos*, fruits from Aragon that are crystallized and covered with chocolate, fritters, yolk flat cakes, *cajicas* from Tauste, pumpkin sweet, almond *socarrones* from Uncastillo, candy paving stones, hundreds of flat cakes, peach with wine or the Mudejar confectionery from Daroca. And for drink, being in a land of wines, you will have to choose between three Guaranties of Origin: Cariñena, Calatayud and Campo de Borja. Happy decision!

You will have at your disposal a wide number of exhibitions, concerts and contests like Tarazona photo, The Old Music Festival in Daroca or the "Luna Lunera" in Sos. If you prefer something more natural, the parks of the rivers Piedra and Moncayo are waiting for you, as well as the steppes from Monegros and the gullies made by the River Ebro in Juslibol or in La Afranca These gullies are branches left by the rivers when changing their course after a swollen. It would be like immersing yourself in a nature documentary.



▲ Monument to Goya

THE CITY OF ZARAGOZA

SARAGOSSA is a crossroads, a meeting place. Nowadays, around 700,000 inhabitants live here, more than half of the population that lives in Aragon. It opens the doors to a modern and comfortable city bathed by the River Ebro and its tributaries, the Huerva and the Gállego. It is a city with a long history to be told.

It was called Salduie when it was an Iberian settlement, but it was founded by the Romans as Caesar Augusta. From them, only remain the walls, the Roman Theatre, the Fluvial Port and the Public Thermal Baths. During the Arab period, it was the capital of the Marca Superior of Al-Andalus, and what a better testimony that La Aljafería or La Alegria Palace, nowadays the seat of the Aragonese Parliament. The Mudéjar art filled with simplicity and starts the towers of La Magdalena, San Pablo, San Gil and San Miguel churches, as well as the large fortified tower of La Zuda and the wall of La Seo's cathedral. In this one, we can see a large number of styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. There is another Baroque gem: The Pilar Basilica. With the XVI century, the splendor arrives and several buildings are built: La Lonja, Santa Engracia church, Casas de los Morlanes, of the Mestranza, the palaces of the counts of Morata, Argullí, Armijo, Sástago and the Patio de la Infanta. Then, the strong urban development alteration of the XIXth and XXth centuries will come, as well as the XXth century modernization. We have to add other churches and museums, squares that remind of historic ups and downs like the heroic resistance facing the French in Los Sitios or in the Justicia (Justice) monument, typical Aragonese figure.

▼ Roman Theatre



▼ La Aljafería Palace



▲ Flowers offering to La Virgen del Pilar

▼ Stone Bridge and El Pilar Basilica as background



You would better decide where you start your visit. Nevertheless, the tourist bus makes it easy to go up and down the city using the same ticket. You will have sixteen bus stops at your disposal, which are spread all around the city. The first one is located in Don Jaime Street, next to the Plaza del Pilar (Del Pilar Sq), and the last one is on the other side of the River Ebro, just to show you a beautiful view over the city. Then, you will just need to cross the river using the Stone Bridge and you will be in the place where you started. If you want to go shopping, you should go to Basilio Paraíso Square. From here, the Paseo de las Damas is a stone's throw away, a place which is crawling with offers, as well as Independencia, Sagasta or San Miguel Square, place where Goya lived for some time in a house that still survives. You will be able to visit Parque Grande (Big Park), with its Botanical Garden, San Sebastián walk

and a couple of museums and, if you want to have a rest, you can sit in the shade of a tree, have a snack or just go out for a ride on a bicycle or for a drive in the train. Close, you will find the Romareda and the Auditorium. You can visit the University's Auditorium or Del Carmen Door, one of the entrances to the city that dates from the XVIIIth century and that is the symbol of the Aragonese Resistance during the Sieges, which still survives despite having been hit by a bus some years ago.

For the youngest, the Megabus. It covers the same route but the guide recreates the Roman period with his clothes. The dramatized visits are another way to discover Saragossa, under other period figures' leadership. By the way, if a murmur goes with you during your stay and your hair makes untidy more than usual, do not worry, it is the North wind, a wind typical from here and quite naughty.

THE CINCO VILLAS MUSEUM TERRITORY



▲ Sos



▲ Sádaba

YOU are going to go deeper into a territory with so many merits that is a museum. Do you know which the five roses of Aragon are? According to the popular folk song, Tauste, Sádaba, Ejea de los Caballeros, Uncastillo and Sos del Rey Católico. If you disappear into these last two, the Romanesque will meet you. Also in Luna, Castiliscar and Bagüés. They boast about the Romanesque, but they also boast about the Roman and about a castle, in Sádaba. In Tauste, apart from its Mudejar tower, you will be surprised by their particular vocabulary. The Monlora Sanctuary, got up on a hill's plain, is the perfect balcony to admire the five towns. Aired and rich in vegetation, it is the ideal place to stay if you feel like going paragliding or hang gliding.

Do not leave without paying a visit to Luesia, Biel and Ruesta. In Ejea, its numerous storks will welcome you. The third most populated centre of population in the province, after Saragossa and Calatayud, is pledging its firm commitment to the urbanism that looks for the width and the green spaces. You can also look for Santa María church-fortress, Cistercian Romanesque style. The church of San Salvador is quite subsequent and has Gothic influences. You can see it; they have managed to keep up with the times without leaving their past.

At every turn, clayey plains, lands of castles like the one of Sada in Sos. Do you know that the king Fernando el Católico (The Catholic) was born here? With lights, sensations and music, you will be able to travel through time in order to pay a visit to His Majesty in the Interpretation Centre. Somebody said that here, the stone turns into poetry. He surely drew inspiration from its paved streets, together with the arcades of the houses' doorways and the squares. By the way, if you want to check that the Aragonese stick, which was used as a measurement, is equivalent to 77.2 cm, you can do it in the Main Square, under the porches between two arches.

If you do not want to put your feet on the floor yet, you can go high up on Uncastillo. As its name says, town and castle are one. The Medieval flavor can be tasted in its half a dozen of Romanesque churches, its complicated streets and its ancestral houses. From up there, you can look out over everything and, this way, you will understand why this environment is a real "Museum Territory."

▼ Uncastillo





▲ Tarazona



▲ Veruela



▲ Tarazona

▲ Veruela Cloister



▼ The top of the Moncayo during the winter





▲ Trasmoz Castle

▲ Ainzón wineries

▲ The Moncayo meadow

MONCAYO VERUELA TARAZONA

ALL your plans will have to wait as the Moncayo is willing to bewitch you. You may have already met with this mountain in the distance because, when it is snow-covered, it can be seen from the Pyrenees, but this mountain is the one that prefers to treat the visitor on equal terms. It wants to show you the twisted branches of its oak tress, beech tress and birches, typical of an Atlantic forest. With 2,315 m, it is the roof of the Iberian System. You can savor every one of its stretches until arriving at Nuestra Señora del Moncayo Sanctuary, some time by car and some time walking. Some say that the southwestern wind and the North wind are born in this mountain. Nevertheless, the one that has a reputation for being bewitched is the new approach road. It is a straight line in which you may think that you are going downhill but, if you stop your car and leave it neutral, it will move backwards as if it was going uphill. It is an optical illusion caused by the landscape but it really seems to be a magical thing.

Sheltered under the Moncayo, a delight is waiting for you: Veruela's Cistercian Monastery. Behind those thick stone walls, austere monks, who decided to leave the mundane world in order to dedicate their life to God, prayed and worked. They settled in paradises with forests, where they could hunt and get some wood, fertile valleys for the agriculture, irrigated with clean and crystalline water. This is what you will find here, the same that Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer found in 1864 when he stayed here with his family in order to cure his illness. From there, some of his "Letters from my cell" left. Do not miss any detail: The entrance, the Abacial Palace, an amazing cloister, the chapterhouse, the church, even the sink that is a hexagonal Gothic-style shrine where the monks washed their hands three times a day before each meal. And near there, Bécquer himself, through his texts, invites you to visit Trasmoz, a lovely village that has a reputation for being bewitched, as all the stories told in the book include witches' Sabbaths, toads and snakes.

Bécquer defined Tarazona as an old and small city, with an original and artistic character. He mentioned its streets with arches and altarpieces, the stone rambling houses with their shields and the high iron grilles. He said that, sometimes, one thought that he was in Toledo. Are you going to leave without paying a visit to it? Romanesque and Mudejar do not miss its cathedral, the churches, the Episcopal Palace, the Convent or its houses, which hang over the River Queiles. Its old bullring is inhabited, and it is the ideal place to go for a walk. Come around. And, if you come on August 27th, be careful as the Cipotegato party is celebrated. You know, everybody throws tomatoes at a man dressed up as a harlequin, mercilessly. Tarazona is delicious alone or with tomato sauce. The wines in this area are from Campo de Borja.

CALATAYUD MONASTERIO DE PIEDRA SPAS DAROCA

▼ Daroca



▼ Gallocañta



A very recommended route. Do you know how the inhabitants of Calatayud are named? Bilbilitanos. They still preserve their Roman roots, from when Bilbilis was founded but, above all, the Muslims. five castles, four kilometers of walls and its Mudejar towers. Besides, you will find several churches like San Juan el Real, which has decoration painted by Goya and civil buildings. Enjoy the narrow streets that go to all these gems, as well as the beautiful views. You are in another world, but do not forget that this is the biggest city of Aragon after the three provincial capitals, and that it offers you other comforts and offers of the present century.

In this area, you will also find beautiful examples of Mudejar towers in localities such as Ateca, Embid, Tobed, Morata de Jiloca, Ricla, Maluenda...

▼ Spas and thermal baths of Alhama



▼ *El Espejo Lake,
the Stone Monastery
(Monasterio de Piedra)*



▲ *Calatayud, San Juan el Real*

Nevertheless, as the thermal waters are so close, one is reluctant to think about anything else. But, which one do you choose? Because Jaraba offers you three spas: two in Alhama de Aragón and one in Paracuellos de Jiloca. You can spend some hours to soak or just stay several days daydreaming. All of them offer pleasant walks, massages, and baths of every kind. The one of Sicilia, one of the Jaraba ones, offers a nursery for children and a modern swimming pool sheltered under a rock wall. In the Pallarés Thermal Baths in Alhama, you will find a real thermal lake. Let yourself be loved.

And in order to keep on spoiling your senses, 15 kilometers away from Calatayud, in Nuévalos, a new paradise from that other world called Aragon is waiting for you: The Stone Monastery and its unforgettable Park. The Cistercians that founded it were "flabbergasted" when, in the middle of an arid landscape, an oasis of freshness appeared before them, rich in vegetation and live waters that rise from the waterfalls formed by the river Piedra. You are warned of what can happen to you. Leave the hurries and the stress outside and immerse yourself in a huge and tempting garden. The music is set by the water murmur, when it plunges from the waterfalls, like the ones of Cola de Caballo, the one of Los Fresnos, the one of La Trinidad...

Other times, it becomes calm and forms a pool like in El Espejo Lake. That is happens outside, but in the inside, the guided tour around the Monastery is full of surprises. If what you want is absolute peace, you can stay overnight in the rooms of this luxury and calm hotel. These rooms have been installed in the old monastery's cells.

To finish with this route, run away to Daroca. You will be able to go for a pleasant walk along the kilometers of fortification's, with its four doors, passing by its Muslim castle and by the Sagrados Corporales Collegiate Church. This beautiful city is located in a gully. According to the millstone legend, during a stormy afternoon, the water flooded the streets, what caused that the large doors could not be open, not even to go out. When the life of the habitants of Daroca was in danger, a big stone from the mill went down and broke the doors, putting a happy end to the story. If you try its sweets, your trip will have a sweet outcome for sure. And if you come closer to the Gallocanta Lake, which is a stone's throw away, and you are lucky to see the hundreds of cranes that visit it every year, you will think that you are dreaming. Their elegant flight in "V" shape while they screech their greeting with their special voices. The show is unforgettable.



▲ *La Dolores Guesthouse, Calatayud*



▲ Old Town, Belchite



▲ Cariñena



▲ The ceramics of Muel



▲ Goya's birthplace, Fuendetodos

MUEL CARIÑENA FUENDETODOS BELCHITE

THE clay, the hands, the craftsmanship, the good taste. These words acquire another importance in Muel. It is barely 27 kilometers away from Saragossa, heading toward Teruel. You have the opportunity to put yourself in the artisan's place. It is a gratifying feeling to shape the ceramic. You will find several workshops, but also decorative details everywhere in the houses' inside and outside. You can draw inspiration from the mural paintings of Goya's youth that decorate La Virgen de la Fuente Chapel.

If you go southernward, you will go into Cariñena. Smooth vineyard fields that ripen under the sunshine before the attentive look of the Iberian Mountain Ranges. Pay a visit to its collegiate church, the Town Hall, the Wine Museum of this Guarantee of Origin with taste. These spots inspired Goya, who was born very close, in Fuendetodos, in 1746. You can pay a visit to his house, the Engraving Museum or just enjoy the numerous cultural activities that are arranged.

Only fifteen kilometers away, Belchite is waiting for you. You will, for sure, have heard about its old village, which was devastated after the Civil War. Going for a walk around its ruins, along a beautiful but death place, is a live history lesson. In Aragon, you have everything.

MONASTERIO DE RUEDA CASPE

▼ Mequinenza Reservoir



▲ Collegiate Church, Caspe

THE Ebro riverbank was the third heavenly place that the Cistercians chose to install another monastery in Aragon in 1202 and to devote themselves to the "ora et labora". Its cloister and the Gothic temple are only the beginning. You can also see the waterwheel's foundations, or the big wheel that served the premises. Its walls keep marks of various periods and styles. Nowadays, a brand-new guesthouse opens its doors to the visitor, who will be able to feel as privileged as the monks but without so many sacrifices.

By the way, who said that Aragon has not got sea? It is true, it has not got a sea but you can sail in an interior one, the "Mar de Aragón" (The Aragon Sea). In both sides, shores decorated with forests and birds fluttering around. Under the River Ebro water, which keeps so many secrets, we find the old village of Fayón, with its curious tower that goes out to the surface to have a look. Another ideal place to get to know the Ebro closely is Mequinenza, going along the meanders that the reservoir has drawn following the valley and the mountain

ranges. With the castle as witness, the fishermen spend hours and hours. By the way, every year the famous Oxford rowers train here, attracted by the peace and the area's mildness. When you pass by the city of Saragossa you will also see canoeists or, depending on the time of year, sunbathing enthusiasts. Along its course, you will find a lot of places perfect for going for a walk.

Commit yourself to visit Caspe, which dates back to the seven hundred before Christ, to look for its first settlers. You can remember it when you visit the Miralpeix Mausoleum, in Plaza del Compromiso (Compromiso Sq), next to Santa Maria Collegiate Church. In order to look for another key piece of history, go to El Compromiso Gothic Castle. It was the commanders of the Order of San Juan's official residence. In its rooms, the succession to the Aragonese throne was decided, the famous Caspe Agreement. Santa María la Mayor Collegiate Church, La Plaza de España (España Sq) with the Town Hall and the Barberán Palace will complete a walk in which you should not forget to walk as much as you can.

FEAST DAYS OF TOURIST INTEREST

ATECA	Holy Week and San Blas. February 3rd.	MUNÉBREGA	San Cristobal. July 9th.
BORJA	Holy Week and Rosario de Cristal. 1st Sunday of May.	NOVALLAS	Running of bulls through the streets walking's Day. September 15th.
CALATAYUD	Holy Week and San Roque. August 16th.	TARAZONA	Holy Week and "Cipotegato". August 27th.
CASPE	Holy Week and the Celebrations to Commemorate the Caspe Agreement. The closest weekend to June 28th.	TAUSTE	El Dance de Tauste April 20th, 21st and 22nd and El Rosario de Cristal April 22nd.
CETINA	San Juan Lorenzo. May 18th and 19th (contredanse).	TERRER	San Pascual Bailón. Closest Sunday to May 17th.
DAROCA	The Corpus Christi.	TORRIJO DE LA CAÑADA	Holy Week.
LITUÉNIGO	Children's weigh-in. 4th Sunday of September.	ZARAGOZA	Holy Week and El Pilar Feasts. October 12th.
LONGARES	The "Paloteo" (with sticks). September 2nd and 8th.		

TOURIST OFFICES (OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND)

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

► www.turismodearagon.com

PROVINCE	LOCALITY	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Avda. César Augusto, 25	976 28 21 81 / 902 47 70 00
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Eduardo Ibarra, 3. Auditorio (Patronato Mpal. de Turismo)	976 72 13 33
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Glorieta Pío XII, s/n. Torreón de la Zuda	976 20 12 00 / 902 20 12 12
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Plaza de Nstra.Sra. del Pilar, s/n	976 39 35 37
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Estación Zaragoza-Delicias. Avda. de Rioja, 33	976 32 44 68
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Torre, 28 (S.I.P.A.)	976 29 84 38
Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Plaza de España, 1. Cuarto Espacio (Patronato Prov. de Turismo)	976 21 20 32
Zaragoza	Alagón	Plaza de San Antonio, 2	976 61 18 14
Zaragoza	Borja	Plaza España, 1. Ayuntamiento	976 85 20 01
Zaragoza	Calatayud	Plaza del Fuerte, s/n	976 88 63 22
Zaragoza	Caspe	Plaza España, 1. Casa-Palacio Piazuolo Barberán	976 63 65 33
Zaragoza	Daroca	Plaza de España, 4	976 80 01 29
Zaragoza	Gallocanta	Mayor	976 80 30 69
Zaragoza	Mequinenza	Plaza Ayuntamiento, 5	976 46 41 36
Zaragoza	Muel	Taller-Escuela de Cerámica. Ctra. Valencia. Km 468	976 14 52 25
Zaragoza	Sádaba	Rambla, s/n	976 67 50 55 / 699 42 58 34
Zaragoza	Sos del Rey Católico	Palacio de Sada.Pza. Hispanidad	948 88 85 24
Zaragoza	Tarazona	Plaza de San Francisco, 1	976 64 00 74 / 976 19 90 76
Zaragoza	Tauste	Plaza de España, 1	976 85 51 54
Zaragoza	Uncastillo	Santiago, s/n. Iglesia de San Martín de Tours	976 67 90 61

TOURIST INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER: 902 477 000