

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN MEDIEVAL CASTLES

Located at the foot of the pre-Pyrenean mountain ranges, atop rocky summits or hilltops, stand two of the most important fortresses in Aragon: the Castle of Loarre and the Castle-Abbey of Montearagón, in Quicena. Their strategic location and history date back to the 11th century, when they were founded by Aragon monarchs to counter the Muslim border and to assault the city of Huesca. Despite the range of avatars, both -walls, towers, watch towers and keep, guards, tanks, store rooms, kitchens, stables-, which reveal what life was like in medieval castles. Furthermore, Loarre is the largest Romanesque military complex in Europe and, therefore, in the used for documentary purposes and featured in major movies, such as Ridley Scott's The Kingdom

ART, TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME

the church of Santiago de Agüero, a monumental depicts the Adoration of the Magi. Near **Ibieca** stands the chapel of San Miguel de Foces, built accommodates the **Centro de Arte y Naturaleza** (Centre for Art and Nature, CDAN)-Fundación



ROCKS HAVE A LOT TO SAY

Crags, towers, mallets and other rocky outlines create some of the most emblematic and photogenic landscapes in La Hoya de Huesca. The steep and vigorous forms have been sculpted by unimaginable centuries of erosion, which has responded to the different natural elements and resistance of the rocks in the area. The hard conglomerates in the mallets and the sandstone on the southern mountain ranges have all been modified by the whims of the water and the wind. Don't forget to visit the challenging and incredible mallos de Riglos (Riglos Cliffs), a world class climbing location; or the appealing Salto de Roldán, with two large crags that act as a huge gateway that lets river Flumen flow into the plain of La Hoya; or the evocative Peña del Mediodía which towers up 25m over the locality of Piracés. There are many legends that explain these peculiar rocky shapes. Such as the weaving witch of the mallets or the legend of the knight of Roldán, who escaped from the Moors when his horse jumped over the two huge crags.

HOW OUR GRANDPARENTS LIVED

not equipped with electricity or running water.
Some of the interpretation centres in La Hoya de
Huesca recreate the experience of that reality and
the changes that have been introduced in recent
decades. Near Castilsabás, by the Hermitage of El Viñedo and surrounded by olive groves, there is a valuable ethnographic ensemble: an oil mill that reveals how oil was produced in past times. The village of Almudévar accommodates many wineries that have been dug out in the hills. "El Bodegón" reveals how wine is produced traditionally. Salillas accommodates a snow dome, topped with a dome with spectacular ribs, which teaches how snow or ice was stored to which teaches how snow or ice was stored to preserve food, cool drinks and for therapeutic uses.

Lastly, the fountain of Los Moros is a monumental well-fountain located in Albero Alto, a medieval



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THE MYSTERY OF MIGRATION

The wetlands, reservoirs and lakes are one of La Hoya's greatest attractions. These locations Alboré, located in Montmesa, a lake that is currently part of the **La Sotonera reservoir.** Its location at the foot of the Pyrenees grants it major strategic value, especially in the fascinating and enigmatic context of bird migrations. The shallow waters and the shores, bordered with tamarix, accommodate hosts of species, and in the winter flocks of ducks and other aquatic birds make this their temporary home. It is easy to see the hen harrier and the Western marsh-harrier. However, the best season for bird-watching falls within the pre-nuptial migration, in late winter -in February and March-, when dozens of thousands cranes rest in La Sotonera and Alboré before flying over the mountain range on their way to the north of Europe.

BIRDS OF PREY AND THEIR WORLD

At the foot of the stunning cliffs in **Riglos** stands the Arcaz bird interpretation centre. Furthermore, the accommodate the **Casa de los Buitres (Vulture** House). Both venues fall within the "Vultouris" biology of these majestic birds.





WHAT DESKS CAN TEACH US **ABOUT SCHOOL**

Museo Pedagógico de Aragón (Aragon Museum of

At each moment in history, school has always reflected the values of society. It is part of our lives, of the lives of contemporary children and of the lives of children who studied in the past. In this sense, the Museo Pedagógico de Aragón, in Huesca, is a must for anyone wanting to learn about the history of school and education in Aragon. Furthermore, the "La escuela de ayer" Interpretation Centre can be found in the locality of **Linás de Marcuello,** in Loarre. This old school, and teacher's house, showcases a collection that transports visitors to rural schools from the late 19th century and early 20th century. The schools where our parents and grandparents studied reflect the conditions in which they learnt and the material they used: satchels, abacus, posters, desks, school encyclopaedia, prayer books, maps, ink wells, quills and pencil cases, sewing instruments... A host of mementos that we can compare with contemporary times.



THE SECRETS OF MIGUEL SERVET

This park, called **Parque de Huesca,** was inaugurated in 1930 and is named after Miguel Serve who was born in Villanueva de Sigena. As well as magnolias, willow, holly trees, lime trees, black popla biloba, which Buddhists consider a sacred plant that is related to longevity and is thought to be a living fossil Pajaritas (Little Birds) -made by Ramón Acín in 1929 as an avant-garde recreation of origami– which are





9 FLUVIAL ADVENTURE IN RIVERS AND RAVINES

kids: hiking, tree watching, water activities... For family-friendly activities, head to the La Sotonera reservoir – calm waters – and river Gállego – white water-, where several companies offer rafting Parque Natural de Sierra y Cañones de Guara (Sierra and Guara Canyons Nature Park) is as S-8 leads the young adventurers into the **La** Pillera ravine, a first-class forest set at the foot of so make sure you wear shoes that can get wet! The



THE BEST VIEWPOINTS AND

North-East of La Hoya de Huesca we find the **Parque** Natural de Sierra y Cañones de Guara (Sierra and Guara Canyons Nature Park), a protected nature area that is home to important natural inhabited by valuable flora and fauna. The park has two interpretation centres: the Pascual Garrido centre in **Arguis** and the Altos de Guara centre in Santa Cilia de Panzano. Both venues provide visitors with the specific facts about the park, and oaths that are suited to kids and, also, offer some Arguis, path S-10 introduces tourists to the **forests** and meadows in Bonés, a beautiful location that amazing views over the Pyrenees and Tozal de Guara. Route S-7 departs from the Vadiello reservoir towards the cave hermitage of San Cosme y San **Damián.** Along the route, tourists will be blown away by the spectacular views of the Vadiello cliffs.



CASTLES OF LOARRE AND MONTEARAGÓN AND SANTA EULALIA LA MAYOR WATCHTOWER

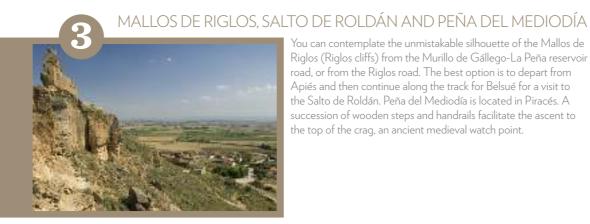
> The Castle of Loarre opens all year round and only closes on December 25 and January 1. There are three different opening nours depending on the season: winter, summer and autumn morning and afternoon). Guide service available. Further nformation is available at the entrance, by telephone 974 342 166, 649 307 480 and 690 636 080 and at www.castillodeloarre.es.

Located on the skirts of Sierra de Guara, the Santa Eulalia la Mayor watchtower stands over the canyon of river Guatizalema and played an important role during the Reconquest.



SANTIAGO DE AGÜERO, SAN MIGUEL DE FOCES AND CDAN

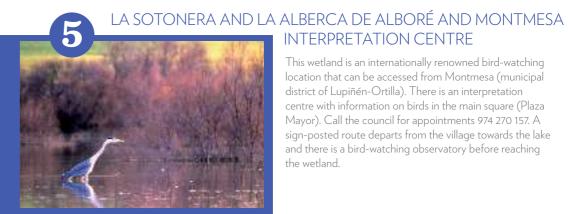
The Church of Santiago is accessed by the Agüero road. The turning is located on the right, shortly before reaching the village. Call ahead to arrange a visit inside 974 380 332. To get to San Miguel de Foces, follow the signposts that indicate the way from Plaza de Ibieca. Call ahead to arrange a visit inside 680 269 744. CDAN is located at Avenida Doctor Artero s/n de Huesca (tel.no. 974 239 893, www.cdan.es). It opens all year round and only closes on December 25 and January 1. There are different opening hours depending and summer (morning and afternoon). are different opening hours depending on the season: winter



ou can contemplate the unmistakable silhouette of the Mallos de Riglos (Riglos cliffs) from the Murillo de Gállego-La Peña reservoir road, or from the Riglos road. The best option is to depart from Apiés and then continue along the track for Belsué for a visit to the Salto de Roldán. Peña del Mediodía is located in Piracés. A succession of wooden steps and handrails facilitate the ascent to the top of the crag, an ancient medieval watch point.



El Viñedo oil mill only opens during the summer months (closed n Mondays). To visit "El Bodegón" in Almudévar call 974 250 002. The snow dome is located at the entrance to Salillas, by Las odeguetas, and is in a very good condition after the refurbishing works. It accommodates an interpretation centre (ask in the village). The Albero Alto well-fountain is located just 400 m from the village, departing from the square in front of the church.



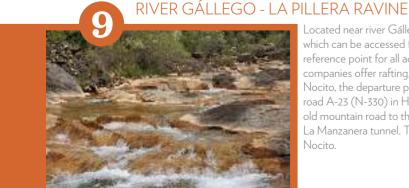
This wetland is an internationally renowned bird-watching location that can be accessed from Montmesa (municipal district of Lupiñén-Ortilla). There is an interpretation centre with information on birds in the main square (Plaza Mayor). Call the council for appointments 974 270 157. A sign-posted route departs from the village towards the lake and there is a bird-watching observatory before reaching the wetland.

CENTRO ARCAZ IN RIGLOS AND CASA DE LOS BUITRES IN SANTA CILIA DE PANZANO



Spreading out over more than 700 m², the Centro Arcaz in Riglos is integrated within the environment and is wheelchair accessible. Visitors can contact the centre by phone on 974 561 910 (visits from Wednesday to Sunday). Located in the tower of the church of Santa Cilia de Panzano, the Casa de los Buitres (Vulture House) opens on weekends, public holidays and school holidays. Visitors can contact the centre by phone on 974 340 015. Both centres offer activities for adults and kids. Further information at www.vultouris.net





cated near river Gállego, the village of Murillo de Gállego, ich can be accessed from Huesca along road A-132, is the anies offer rafting, canoeing, hydrospeed, etc. To reach cito, the departure point for the La Pillera ravine, take ad A-23 (N-330) in Huesca to Arguis, and then take the d mountain road to the Monrepós mountain pass until the Manzanera tunnel. There is a turning towards Belsué and





he Pascual Garrido interpretation centre in Arguis (tel. N-330 (Huesca-Sabiñánigo). It is the departure point for an itinerary around the Bonés mountain range. The Altos de Guara centre in Santa Cilia de Panzano (tel.no. 976 405 120) can be reached from Huesca departing along road N-240 and then taking road A-1227. Both open on weekends, public holidays, school holidays and for pre-arranged activities. The Vadiello reservoir is accessed departing from road A-1227.



hoya de huesca

Come and See

GOBIERNO DE ARAGON











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Come and See

