



hoya de huesca

Come and See



THE REGION OF HOYA AND HUESCA, BY CAR

HUESCA AND THE REGION BY CAR

1.1

Huesca-Bolea-Aniés and Virgen de la Peña - Loarre - Loarre-Castle-
Sarsamarcuello-(Marcuello Linás) - Ayerbe - Virgin of Casbas-and-Artasona-
(San-Mitxel-Castles)- Huesca.

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A high-angle, wide shot of a vast field of flowers. The field is densely packed with small, bright red flowers and smaller yellow flowers, interspersed with green foliage. The perspective is from a slightly elevated position, looking down and across the field towards a distant horizon. The sky is a pale, clear blue, and the overall lighting is bright and even, suggesting a sunny day. The colors are vibrant and saturated.

1

THROUGH THE
KINGDOM OF
THE MALLOS

1.1 Huesca-Bolea-Aniés and Virgin of la Peña -Loarre- Loarre-Sarsamarcuello-Castle (Linás de Marcuello)-Ayerbe- Virgin of Casbas-(San Mitiel and Artasona Castles)-Huesca.

Landscapes full of nature, history and art. Land where the visitor can admire the mountains of Loarre and Cavalier, vultures flying over the soaring formations of the Mallos de Riglos and the stones of the Collegiate Church of Bolea, the Castles of Loarre and Sarsamarcuello, or the Palace of the Marquises of Ayerbe.



Leaving Huesca through the Northwest there are two options to access Bolea. The A-132 road towards Pamplona and after passing Esquedas, take the A-1206, or the same A-132 until you reach the diversion to Chimillas and then, take the HU-V-3141.

The village of **Bolea** stands on a mound that dominates a large territory of La Sotonera. It offers an interesting historic and artistic heritage, as shown in its collegiate church of Santa Maria la Mayor (National Monument) and raised in the 16th century according to the models of Hall Churches (hallenkirchen), three naves all of the same height that contribute to a perfectly clear vision. Its roofing cross vaulted and its impressive altarpiece composed of twenty painted boards and numerous sculptures from the beginning of the 16th century, complete this building. Walking through its urban layout, you can enjoy good examples of popular architecture of the area, stone constructions that escort to other architectural examples, such as the Baroque Church of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad. But we must not ignore its cherry - fair in June, when its plaza mayor is dyed with the intense redness of this fruit.

Following the A-1206 road towards Loarre, on the right, you reach the detour to **Aniés**. Century-old olive trees welcome the people, where you can enjoy from its parish church of San Estebán, originally Romanesque, of which period it still preserves the front and the apse, although completed in Baroque of the 18th century. However, It is the Hermitage of the Virgen de la Peña, where people go in procession the second Sunday of May. Built between the rocks on Sierra Caballera, it's a popular register, as is also the home of the pilgrims opposite it. A path allows easy access to this amazing location.

Loarre, town of stone constructions and extended below the figure of his Castle, shows travellers the powerful manufacturing of the Tower of the Church of San Esteban, made in excellent masonry and composed of three sections, all finished off with decorated pinnacles on which stands a soaring stone spire. The town offers a beautiful square with a fountain, where you can find an old building, the Inn. Walking along its streets the traveller can come across some beautiful places, arched doors, small blank arches on the façades and eaves jutting out, and also the hermitages of Santa Águeda, San Juan and its Roman bridge.





1.1

THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS





1.1 THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS

1.1 Huesca-Bolea-Aniés and Virgin of la Peña -Loarre- Loarre-Sarsamarcuello-Castle (Linás de Marcuello)-Ayerbe- Virgin of Casbas-(San Mitiel and Artasona Castles)-Huesca.

Several kilometers of road lead to the **castle of Loarre**, the largest and best preserved Romanesque fortress. This work of the 11th century was built in order to keep watch on Muslims and Navarre, but would soon become a dwelling for church people. Its walls, towers, churches and crypts make a vital place to go to when visiting Hoya de Huesca.

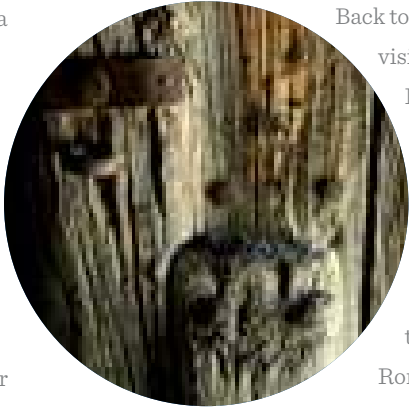


Continuing along the A-1206 towards Ayerbe, you soon find the detour to the HU-V-3111 to **Sarsamarcuello**, a former manor where you can still see remains of the 11th century castle, raised, like the Loarre Castle, during the reign of Sancho el Mayor of Pamplona. Next to it is the Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Marcuello and also close is the Hermitage of San Miguel, work of the 12th century. From this area, a dirt track leads to the **Mirador de los Buitres** (viewpoint for vultures), the best location to admire the flight of these birds over the rocky set of the Mallos de Riglos. Back on the road to Sarsamarcuello, you can visit the town of **Linás**

Marcuello, its Church of Santa Ana and its Rural School Museum.



Once in **Ayerbe**, the traveller discovers one of the cities with greater historical and artistic value. Settled in the flat area - at the foot of the Sierra de Loarre and Caballera, and north of La Sotonera reservoir-, one must not forget to go for a walk round its Plaza Baja, where buildings such as the Palace of the Marquises of Ayerbe (15th – 16th century) or the Clock Tower (late 18th century) have been witnesses to all the fairs and markets. On the top part features the Tower of San Pedro, work of the 12th century and now sandwiched between the houses. A villa that offers beautiful examples of civil architecture, large houses and mansions with coats of arms on façades and other constructions like the parish of the 16th century, where the pantheon of the Marquesses or Marquises of Ayerbe is. The Hermitage of San Miguel and the ruins of its Castle preside over the upper part of the place where the Nobel prize in medicine, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, spent his early years, as we are reminded by a bust in the Plaza Baja and an interpretation centre located in what used to be his home, in Rafael Gasset Street.



About 3 km southwest of Ayerbe, stands the Hermitage of the Virgin of Casbas, built in the 18th century, which has a magnificent exhibition of pictorial decoration inside.

Back to Huesca on the A-132, you must visit the Medieval Castles of San Mitiel and Artasona, located to the right side of the road and to which you access on a track. By this road is the village of **Loscorrales**, with its parish of La Asunción, from the 16th century, where the Romanesque sculpture of Nuestra Señora de la Vid is located, as well as the Romanesque Hermitage of Gaberdola from the 12th century. In **Plasencia del Monte**, you can admire the Tower of the Temple with a pyramidal shape, and in **Esquedas**, the Church of San Gregorio, which has some wall paintings attributed to Goya and a few altarpieces of the 18th century.





1.1 THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS

HUESCA AND THE REGION BY CAR

2.1

Huesca-hermitage of los Dolores de Monflorite-Albero Alto, with church, well and castle of Corvinos-Novales-Piracés-Sesa-Tramaced-Pertusa-Antillón, with ruins and well-Bespén-Blecua-Huesca.

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A wide-angle photograph of a flat, open landscape. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses, some of which are in sharp focus. The middle ground shows a vast, flat expanse of land with a mix of green and brown vegetation. The horizon is a straight line in the distance under a clear, light blue sky.

2

THROUGH THE
FLAT TERRITORY
OF THE REGION

2.1 Huesca-hermitage of los Dolores de Monflorite-Albero Alto, with church, well and castle of Corvinos-Novales-Piracés-Sesa-Tramaced-Pertusa-Antillón, with ruins and well-Bespén-Blecua-Huesca.

The route starts from the southeast end of Huesca, in particular, the A-131 to Sariñena. After leaving behind a rich landscape of orchards and the influence of the Isuela river on the river bank's vegetation, you reach the first stop of the tour, the Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de **Monflorite**. Located to the right of the road, just on the detour of the A-1217 that leads to the town, this building from the 12th century, old mercedario convent (belonging to the order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, who released captive Christians from Muslims), has a three-lobed apse and numerous marks of stonemasons on its stone ashlar, as well as several anthropomorphic tombs excavated in an outcrop of sandstone. Also in the town of Monflorite, we must mention its Gothic tower or the Villahermosa Palace.

Between Monflorite and Albero Alto arise the grayish ashlar of the castle of Corvinos (private property), the first fortified place conquered by the Christians in the South of Huesca and where the first specimen of holms appeared.

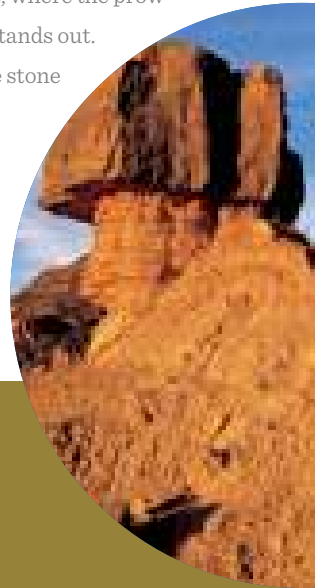
Albero Alto offers, as a must see, its Gothic Parish, with a magnificent roof with ribs. Towards the east area, you can find the well-fountain, where a staircase descends underground to a spring, and by it, a medieval necropolis extends. When leaving Albero one comes to the Peñiza, a monolith of sandstone where white storks nest..

A little further southeast lies **Novales**, whose hamlet extends under the late Romanesque parish, the Medieval fortress (in restoration) and the weir.

We follow our steps back to the junction on HU-V-8111 road, which leads to Piracés, detour marked by a huge oak tree. The landscape of **Piracés** is enclosed by some strange erosive sandstone rock formations. We have reached the Monegrino field: the Altos of Piracés, with the Tozal de Lobo and its Iberian site, and the Hermitage la Corona, where the echoes of a medieval battle between Muslims and Christians still resounds. A magnificent viewpoint of los Monegros, where the prow of the Peña del Mediodía stands out. West of this building is the stone sculptural set of Art and Nature that resembles a some trees.



Flat territory of Huesca formed between the lands of the Somontano and the Monegros. A world plains of cereal combining the holms with the low mountain thyme, rosemary and gorses. Romans, Muslims and Christians have left their trace in - roads, bridges, ditches, churches and hermitages - physical examples, and immaterial, especially in the wide toponymy, still existing today.





2.1 THROUGH THE PLAIN OF THE REGION





2.1 THROUGH THE PLAIN OF THE REGION

2.1 Huesca-hermitage of los Dolores de Monflorite-Albero Alto, with church, well and castle of Corvinos-Novales-Piracés-Sesa-Tramaced-Pertusa-Antillón, with ruins and well-Bespén-Blecua-Huesca.

On the top of the Peña del Mediodía you can see the ruins of a Moorish Castle, to which you have access by a staircase carved in the sandstone, and now, it also has rope railing and wood railing. The surroundings reflect what was a Roman road, the enriching Cave of Semuro and a well-tank. In the town, one can also admire the Gothic Parish with its beautiful Tower.

On the west entrance of Sesa is where the A-1216 highway starts, towards **Tramaced**. A short descent between lands of cereal and wine, within the framework of the D.O. Somontano and all watered by the waters of the Canal del Cinca. It is hard not to notice the loams and sandstone achieved by differential erosions. The result is a picturesque landscape.

Next to this town you can still see the remains of the old Roman road from Ilerda-Osca; and the viewpoint of the Virgen de la Victoria on the River Alcanadre, of clean waters, where Otters have chosen this route as their home. When in its hamlet, you see the Tower of the Church of Santa María, work of the 16th century, the Romanesque crypt is also interesting to see.

Again on the A-131, along the lines of the Guatizalema River a further stretch south from Novales, arises **Sesa**, with its Church of San Juan, the Gothic Hermitage of the Virgin of Jarea and the scarce ruins of its castle at the top.

In the town centre, there is a beautiful arcaded square, many coats of arms, a fronton and several walls of masonry made in the way of the spine of a fish, emblem of its unique traditional architecture. Do not forget the visit to the necropolis of San Bartolomé, of time medieval and located next to the current cemetery. In this place, you can also find what are known as fecundantes stones, a route leads to the Castó and the Ratona one.

Leaving Sesa, heading northwest, the Guatizalema River crosses, characterized by the presence of dense vegetation. You will soon reach the town of **Salillas**, where you can see its recently restored ice well, and you soon come to the Palace of the Marquises of Montemuzo. Now you have reached the town of **Pertusa** between blocks of conglomerates.

As an example of the trace of old roads, today the ruins of several roman and medieval bridges remain, as the aforementioned Roman road and the Camino de Santiago.





After heading northwest for 5 km, on road A-1217, you get to **Antillón**, place of Roman origin and old important road junction. Of its glorious past

some wall canvases, the ruins of its castle and its originally Romanesque church with Gothic additions later, are preserved. Other items of interest are the magna, reminder of their communal bread oven of the 17th century, the remarkable well la Fuente Vieja, from the 19th century, a fountain with staircase descending to the spring, a water wheel and the hermitages of San Juan and San Cosme. Without forgetting, of course, the presence of a wine cellar attached to the D.O. Somontano.

Following the same road is the detour to **Bespén**, taking the A-2203 on the right, towards Angüés. This small town is home to the Romanesque building of its parish and its powerful Tower next to the ruins of a Moorish Castle. Its famous wine cellars keep superb wines inside. We also recommend a visit to the blacksmith, where tools of different eras are preserved.

Returning to the A-1217 road, we keep to the right to go to **Blecua** and the figure of its Muslim Fortin dug into the sandstone and containing a deep cistern over-bored in stone. In a town with beautiful examples of popular architecture, you can see its parish, from the 18th century, dedicated to la Asunción de la Virgen, the Romanesque building of the Hermitage of Santa Ana or the Baroque of the Hermitage of San Gregorio, on the west side of the town. The Museum of Carpentry is also located in this place. The winemaking tradition is clearly reflected in Los cubos, the former grape-press, where wine from the grape juice was obtained.

Continuing along the A-1217, heading north-west towards **Pueyo de Fañanás** and its parish from the 16th century, being refurbished in the 18th century. In this village, it is also important to see its interesting traditional architecture, as well as a curious Calvary composed of three crosses found in an excellent state of conservation.

The tour continues on a track that heads west of the town and crosses the Guatizalema River to reach **Fañanás**, where its Church of St. John the Baptist, baroque work of the 17th century, under which the remains of its ancient medieval castle are located. Also of interest is its traditional architecture of the 18th century, as well as a bread oven, considered to be the oldest in Aragon and dated 1091. Not in vain, this town hosts the **Centro de Interpretación**

del Pan. From the Plaza Mayor of Fañanás, go down the Paz street to take a track that heads northwest, towards **Alcalá del Obispo**, located next to the Botella River. The centre of the town, whose traditional architecture maintains the guidelines of the Somontano: buildings of rammed earth, adobe, stone and arched doorways, as you can see in Latre's House or Bishop's House, with its magnificent façade in semicircular arch framed by pilasters, as well as the Houses Longás, Lacasa and Arnal. Not forgetting its Parish of San Miguel, built in the 17th and 18th century.



So, when leaving Alcalá del Obispo, after just 6 km you get to the A-131 highway, that was taken on the way there, next to Monflorite, this takes us to Huesca through its southeast end.

2.1 THROUGH THE PLAIN OF THE REGION

HUESCA AND THE REGION BY CAR

3.1

Huesca-Montmesa- La Sotenera reservoir- Tormos Castle- Hermitage of Los Agudos-Alcalá de Gurrea-Gurrea de Gállego-Almudévar-Huesca. 20

3

LA SOTONERA AND LA VIOLADA



3.1 Huesca-Montmesa- La Sotonera reservoir- Tormos Castle- Hermitage of los Agudos-Alcalá de Gurrea-Gurrea de Gállego-Almudévar-Huesca.



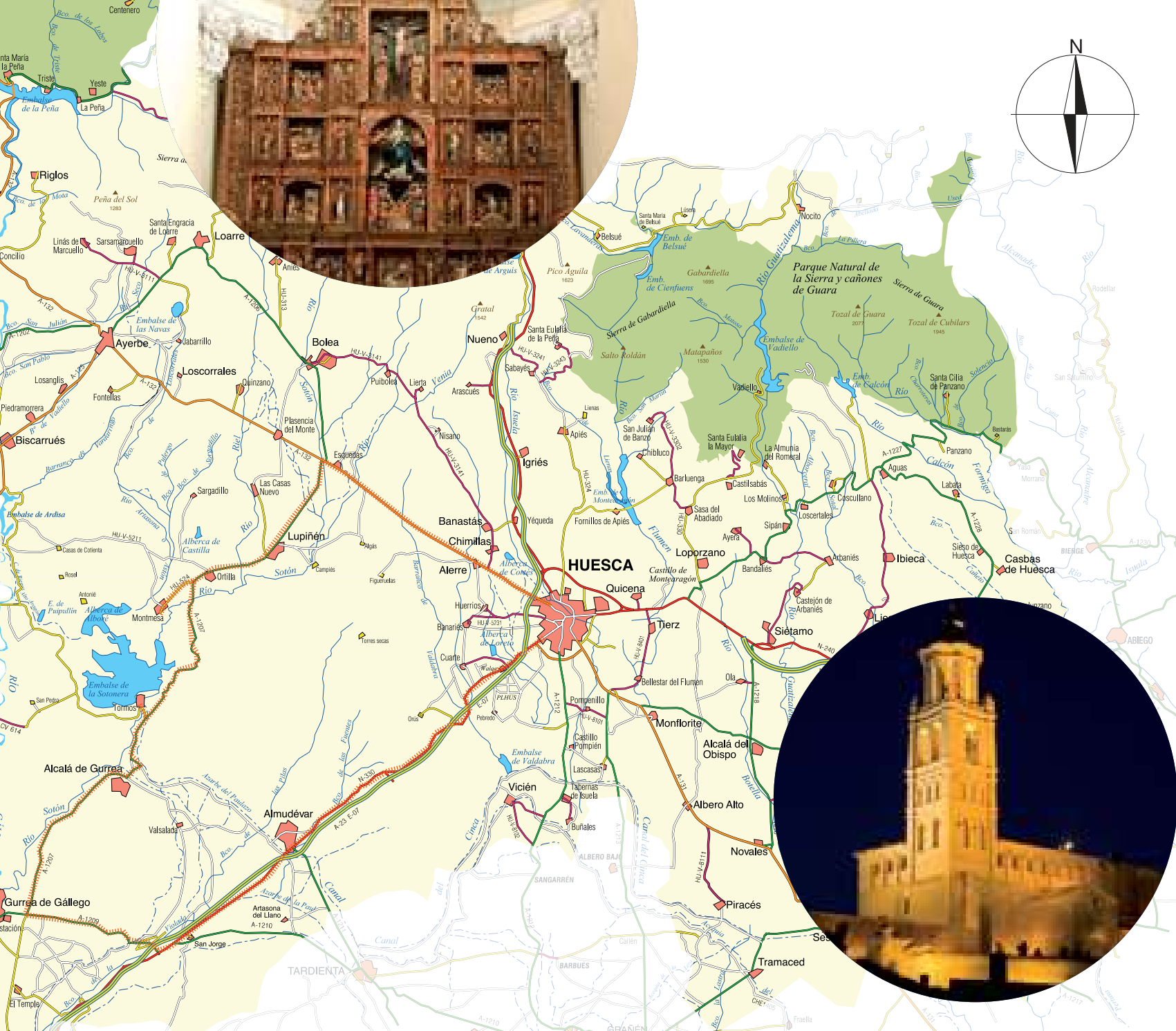
The site of the southwest region hosts a territory characterized by enormous cereal plains, mainly rain-fed and with a little bit of irrigation. Various wetlands settle in this geographical framework, such as the historic Castilla reservoir or the most recent construction of the Sotonera reservoir, which replaced the former Alboré reservoir. Wetlands in which we can observe a mosaic of species of birds. These natural excellences joined on this tour with interesting monumental examples, which speak of the Islamic domination, Romanesque, Gothic and Moorish, as well as a traditional architecture of the Somontano lands.

The route starts on Artero Avenue, in Huesca, on the NW end of the city. From there, we continue NW along the A-132 road, towards Ayerbe. The first stop is the town of Alerre, to the left of the road. It's one of the “seven places” (Alerre, Banastás, Chimillas, Yéqueda, Huerrios, Banariés and Cuarte), that has an important relationship with the Hermitage of Cillas, to where they come every year on pilgrimage. This town has a monumental heritage, such as its Parish of Santiago, Baroque building of the 17th century, that has taken advantage of a stately 16th century fortress Tower, and inside they keep an altarpiece of the 17th signed by Diego Bernad. This town includes the Museum of Costume and Footwear. Next to this place you can visit the Fountains of Marcelo, which can be accessed from Huesca taking the PR-HU 146 path. To the right, in the proximities of Chimillas, lies the Cortés Reservoir, which can be reached from Huesca following the PR-HU 140 path.

From this point the route continues NW, past the town of **Esquedas**, where the Church of San Gregorio has some wall paintings, attributed to Goya, and a few altarpieces of the 18th century. At that point, a detour to the left on A-1207 road, leads to Lupiñén and Ortilla, leaving on the right the cypress of the Vivero de Plasencia.

This is the way to **Lupiñén**, which presents a town centre in line with the architectural principles of the area, made between the 16th and the 18th century. Some of these constructions have reliefs inscribed on their blocks, such as Subirón House and Castán House. The temple of San Martin, built between the 16th and 18th century on top of former Romance works, is also of great interest.





3.1 LA SOTONERA AND LA VIOLADA

3.1 Huesca-Montmesa- La Sotonera reservoir- Tormos Castle- Hermitage of los Agudos-Alcalá de Gurrea-Gurrea de Gállego-Almudévar-Huesca.

In addition, it has a Renaissance fountain, a trough and a washing place. In the surroundings there is a Roman villa and a hispanic-visigothic site. On the other hand, Ortila also offers a similar architecture to Lupiñén, such as the Parish Church of San Gil, originally Romanesque and with expansions carried out in the 16th and 18th century.



To the North of Ortila you find the Castilla Reservoir, a wetland where the bird watching enthusiasts may see ducks, grebes, herons, coots in its waters or between the giant reeds which adorn its edge.

After passing this town, the small HU-524 road leads to **Montmesa**, where you can visit the Church of San Miguel, Romanesque building expanded between the 16th and 18th century, and with a Moorish Tower. Before leaving this place, we must not forget to visit the Hermitage of our Nuestra Señora de Turrullón, construction built in the 12th century; whole wine cellars built in the earthy slopes of the village.

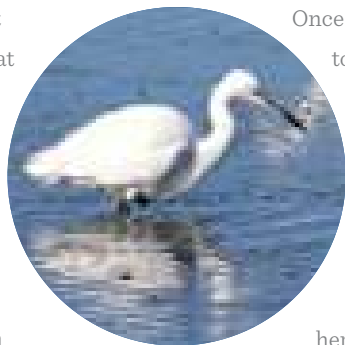
Here, you can also visit the **Sotonera reservoir**, completed in 1963, by invading the space of the former Alboré reservoir, to regulate the Gállego River.

With an area of 1,840 ha, it is a wetland of international significance due to the large number of cranes that come together at this point, some 60,000 during the pre-nuptial months of February and March.

There are different ways of approaching this place, although the most advisable is to visit the center of Interpretation of Birds. Another would be surrounding the reservoir along the A-1207 road, on its eastern side and accessing Tormos, visiting the castle of Muslim origin from the 10th century and the **Romanesque Hermitage of the Agudos**, declared Heritage of Cultural interest (BIC).



Continuing along the road that goes right (west), after crossing the River Sotón, that flows through the southern area of the reservoir, you can surround it to visit places such as the irrigation channel of Alto Aragón, Antonié and Rosel. But the option proposed, is to continue on road A-1207 heading SW, reaching the town of **Alcalá of Gurrea**. This location offers the visitor a good stretch of wall of Islamic era and the parish of San Jorge, magnificent example of Aragonese Gothic, which is attached to a superb Moorish Tower. The temple has the Romanesque carving of the Virgin of Astón and a small parish Museum inside.



Once you have visited this town, the route returns east direction on the A-1209 until the previous crossing and, after you cross it, take the N-330, through the Llanos de Sardá. From here, the route heads NE, up to **Almudévar**, where the silhouette of its Moorish Castle lays on the top, practically in ruins, and the Hermitage of La Virgen de la Corona, built between the 12th and 13th century..

In the town centre stands the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Baroque work of the 18th century. Almudévar also offers a visit to the Center of Interpretation “El Bodegón”, where you can learn more about the wine tradition of this land. Here, we will also have the pleasure of discovering about its most illustrious son, Pedro Saputo, main character of the novel by Braulio Foz: *Life of Pedro Saputo*, or enjoy the wonderful flavour of their “trenza”, a sweet pastry granted the C of Calidad (quality).

From this point on, the route continues along Los Planos de la Violada, a wide plain of the depression of the River Ebro primarily composed of clays and loam. With a dry, arid climate, there are large areas of dry land, where mainly cereals are grown, and thanks to the extensive network of canals, of irrigated crops also. While maintaining the same direction SW, and always parallel to the bank of the River Sotón, you come to connect with the A-1209 highway. If you continue to the right (W) you reach **Gurrea de Gállego**, with the Parish of San Nicolás’ Romanesque building with expansions from the 18th and 19th century, and the type of architecture from the Somontano.

The route returns to Huesca going out on the N-330 heading northeast, passing Almudévar slopes and leaving the small road that leads to Orús to your left. Soon after, the N-330 arrives at the Technological Park Walqa, a space dedicated to technological companies, whose architectural physiognomy responds to constructive postulates of the twenty-first century.

This same road enters the city of Huesca through its south west end, along the Martínez de Velasco Avenue, leaving the stadium El Alcoraz to the left and the Hermitage of San Jorge, raised on the Pueyo Sancho. At the end of this long Avenue, you find Alcoraz Street and the Plaza de Navarra.



3.1 LA SOTONERA AND LA VIOLADA

HUESCA AND THE REGION BY CAR

4.1

Huesca-Nueno- reservoir and village of Arguis-Belsué-Santa María de Belsué-Lúsera-Nocito and San Úrbez de Nocito Sanctuary.

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4

ARGUIS AND VALLEYS OF BELSUÉ AND NOCITO

4.1 Huesca-Nueno- reservoir and village of Arguis-Belsué-Santa María de Belsué-Lúsera-Nocito and San Úrbez de Nocito Sanctuary.



A magnificent journey through one of the corners, until recent times, least known of the Sierra de Guara, its North face. In this northern hills the Belsué and Nocito valleys extend, a combination of nature, art and human trace lasting in time. The Tozal de Guara (2,077 m) accompanies you on this route where you can also find notable endemic species in flora, especially associated with rocky crags and scree formations. A landscape that, at some point, seems to transport us to more northern locations, due to the presence of forests of beeches and firs.

The route starts on the San Miguel bridge, in Huesca, located next to the Medieval Church of San Miguel or the Miguelas. We are in an area, recently restored and set on the left bank of the Isuela River.

We should leave to head north on the N-330, towards Jaca and Sabiñánigo, and parallel to the A-23 motorway, passing by the Fuente de Jara. To this place - located at the foot of the small hill where the shrine of our Lady of Jara stands, now restored, is where the families from Huesca used to go for picnics.

A bit further along, comes the town of **Yéqueda**, in which you can see the Romanesque Parish Church of San Martín, a magnificent work of the 12th century with extensive modifications in the 18th century. However, you can still admire its original form, especially its semicircular apse, and its front with a semicircular arch with two pairs of capitals, adorned with vegetal and geometric motifs, which is surrounded by a checkered overall.

After a stretch on route, you get to **Igriés**, town which reproduces the

guidelines of the architecture of the Somontano, Huesca: use of the stone, earth and brick.

Carrera House is interesting, a construction of the second half of the 18th century, especially the beautiful voussoir front. The hermitage of San Juan is also remarkable, a transitional work from the Romanesque to the Gothic, raised at the end of the 12th century.

If you go along the HU-V-3241 you reach **Sabayés**, and from here, first on the HU-V-3243 and then tracks, we can reach the magnificent setting of the **Salto del Roldán**.





4.1 ARGUIS AND VALLEYS OF BELSUÉ AND NOCITO

4.1 Huesca-Nueno- reservoir and village of Arguis-Belsué-Santa María de Belsué-Lúsera-Nocito and San Úrbez de Nocito Sanctuary.



Following the road you soon reach a roundabout indicating

Nueno. This is where

we go to visit its

Parish Church

of San Martín, a

building from the

12th century, where

the Romanesque is

significant at the top its

naves. The building has Baroque

extensions (18th century) in its hermitages and

a Moorish Tower, which makes it an example

of architecture of great interest, as this style

is almost non-existent in the Alto Aragon. Its

hamlet, adapted to the slopes of the Sierra

de Gratal, already announce the montane

landscape that we are going to see from now on

and the abandonment of the flat geographies of

widespread crop fields.

Thus, from Nueno, the landscape is narrow and

runs by the gorge which the Sierra de Gratal,

on the left (W) and the foothills of the Pico del

Águila, on the right (E) form. You can still see

the route of the old road, snaking between

the mountains and going through endless

tunnels excavated in the rock. On the

way up to Arguis, the road works of the

A-23 motorway are being done, this will

join the plain and the mountain through

the bowels of the Sierra de Guara.

You now reach the **reservoir of Arguis**, the oldest active reservoir in Aragon, as it was built at the beginning of the 18th century, although it was re-grown from 1929 to 1938-, and the former guesthouse of the same name. There, a change of direction heads towards the old road to go up through Monrepós, passing through the village of Arguis, and always leaving the reservoir to the left. This place is a must for sport lovers, fishing and hiking, as numerous routes run through these landscapes. From here, you can go up northern face to the Pico de Gratal or you can visit the wells of snow of las Calmas, on the southern face of the Sierra de Gratal, among many other hikes. The center of Interpretation of the Natural Park of Guara, next to the dam, allows us to learn more about this territory.

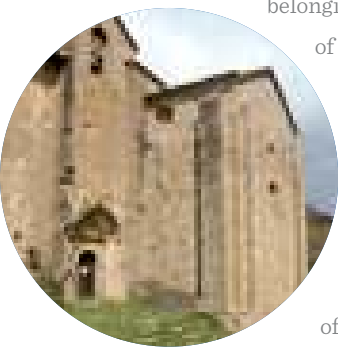
In the town of Arguis you can begin to appreciate the kind of highland buildings: they use stone for the walls and slabs for the ceilings, as well as truncated fireplaces finished off with witch-catchers, typical pieces of stone located at the top of the chimney and which according to beliefs, frighten evil spirits away. Its traditional architecture is joined to its Romanesque Church of San Miguel, work of the 12th century, which had the Gothic altarpiece made by the “master of Arguis” inside, but today, is kept in the Museo del Prado.

Going up the Sierra de Bonés on the old road that goes up to the Puerto de Monrepós, a wide curve leaves the detour to the towns of Bentué de Rasal and Rasal on the left, located at the foot of the Sierra de Javierre, and if you exit towards the west, it connects with the area of the reservoir of la Peña. But we must head northeast, reaching the former Mesón de Arguis (Inn). Before this, a track starts to the left and with a sharp incline, takes you to the peak of the mountain, Pico de Águila, a place to which you can also get to by car, to be able to admire a superb panoramic of the Hoya de Huesca, the Sierra de Guara, the valleys of Belsué and Nocito, the mountain ranges of Javierre, Gratal, etc.





Continuing along this path you reach the aforementioned Arguis Inn, where the route leaves the road, shortly before reaching the tunnel of la Manzaneda, to continue along a track, paved at first and down into the ravine of the Barranquera. Thus you reach **Belsué** - still



belonging to the municipality of Nueno - the first town of this slope to the north of the Sierra de Guara. There stands the Romanesque-Lombard Church of San Martín, work of the 11th century.

Declared Heritage of Cultural Interest, which on the inside of the apse has mural paintings dated some time after it was built, probably in the 14th century and transitional to Gothic style. Also worth a visit, is the Hermitage of the Virgen de Linares.

Later on, going down the same ravine before mentioned, we reach the deserted Santa María de Belsué, where the ruins of its Temple from the mid-11th century remain, a combination of Hispanic and Romanesque-Lombard tradition.

A place of great scenic interest with the so-called stands of the Flumen River, where you can still see the remains of a weir and an old irrigation system. In its day, there was a flour mill, now disappeared.

Soon afterwards, to the right, the path that leads to the tail of the reservoir of Belsué, which construction was finished in 1918, and south of this, Cienfuens reservoir. A section is then left on a hillock on the left side of deserted **Lúsera**, a village with mountain type houses already in ruins, and a Baroque Parish Church dating from the 18th century. A place where they have already carried out some recovering experiences.

And after a good stretch of track, to avoid a good list of ravines, you reach **Nocito**, on a detour to the right on the main track. This town, extended along the slopes of the north face of the Tozal de Guara is a very good example of traditional highland architecture, a beautiful medieval stone bridge which connects the two neighborhoods which the land splits; a Parish of the 18th century, as well as the transept located in front of it; its Romanesque Hermitage of St.

Peter; three flour mills, and in the municipality, the dolmen of the Palomar. A corner with wonderful natural enclaves, such as the ravine of the Pillera, located to the South of the town, a good place to discover magnificent specimens of endemic plant species. Nocito is, in turn, the base camp to ascend to the Guara Tozal by its north face.

Back to the main trail the Guatizalema River crosses and continues to the right (SE) to reach the Sanctuary of San Urbez de Nocito and his monumental oak, a Portuguese oak 21.5 m tall with a trunk of 2.40 m in diameter. San Úrbez is a Church of Romanesque origin of 12th century which counts with numerous posterior additions, like a nave at the beginning of the 16th century, a sacristy in the first third of the 17th century and a front in the 18th century. Next to this religious building they built another destined to the brotherhood. In addition, this place offers a necropolis excavated in the corral of the santero and the Hermitage of Santa Maria, whose current register corresponds to a reconstruction of the late 19th century.

If you wish to continue, this track leads to Bentué de Nocito, Used, and Bara, towns where the road ends. These last three town, with interesting constructive examples, are already integrated into the neighboring region of Alto Gállego.

4.1 ARGUIS AND VALLEYS OF BELSUÉ AND NOCITO

5.1

Huesca-Ayerbe-Concilio-Riglos-Agüero-Murillo de Gállego-De La Peña reservoir-Yeste-Rasal-Ena.

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5

KINGDOM OF
THE MALLOS
AND LA PEÑA

5.1 Huesca-Ayerbe-Concilio-Riglos-Agüero-Murillo de Gállego-pantano de La Peña-Yeste-Rasal-Ena.



This proposal offers an interesting journey that leads through the extensive cereal plains of Sotonera, the bank of the Gállego River – in the middle of the scenario of the Kingdom of the Mallos – and the south face of the mountain ranges of Loarre and Santo Domingo, towards the northernmost territory of the region, to the north of the Sierra de Loarre, in the landscapes of the Cultural Park of San Juan de la Peña, next to the first foothills of the region of La Jacetania.

We leave Huesca from its NE end, and in the same direction, we start a journey along the A-132 road between cereal fields and a few scattered orchards. We also pass next to the town of **Alerre** (to the left of this track), with its Medieval castle-fortress of Bornos, with only one remaining tower, made the times of the Baroque Parish Church of the 17th century bell tower dedicated to Santiago el Mayor. To its right is Chimillas, where you can see the enormous construction of 18th century, Carolina House and the Church of San Jorge, work of the 17th century.

You soon reach **Esquedas**, with its Church of San Gregorio, with some murals attributed to Goya and altarpieces of the 18th century and, upon reaching the junction of the A-1207 road to Bolea (right) and La Sotonera (left), you get to **Plasencia del Monte**, where on the border you can visit the Parish Church - originally Romanesque and rebuilt in the 18th century - of Nuestra Señora de la Corona and its bell tower finished off in a pyramidal shape; the hermitages of the Gaberdola or the Verdola of the 12th century and the hermitage of San Juan Bautista of fascinating civil architecture, especially a building of mid-19th century, full of classicist decoration.

Soon, the road leaves **Quinzano** to its right, with the Romanesque temple of San Martín Obispo, refurbished between the 16th and 18th century, to which we join a medieval necropolis cemetery and Roman remains in the La Paúl and campo Concejo. Sorty after we reach **Loscorrales** and its Parish of la Asunción de Nuestra Señora, built in the 16th century and in which inside is the Romanesque carving of Nuestra Señora de la Vid, which is joined by interesting examples of traditional architecture.

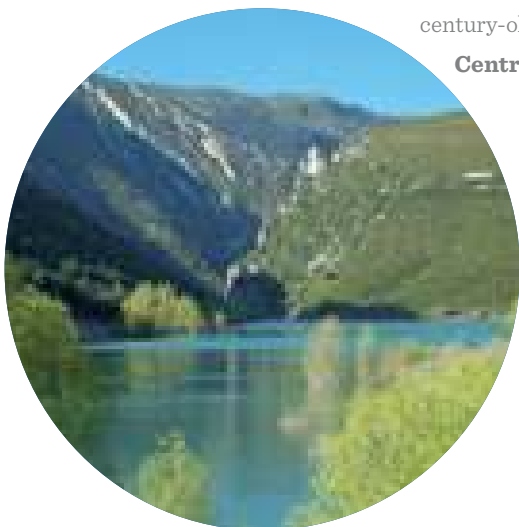




5.1 KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS AND LA PEÑA

5.1 Huesca-Ayerbe-Concilio-Riglos-Agüero-Murillo de Gállego-pantano de La Peña-Yeste-Rasal-Ena.

On this route you come across the town of **Ayerbe**, one of the most important in the region. This historic village - where the Nobel Prize for medicine, Santiago Ramón y Cajal spent his teenage years and where currently there is an interpretation centre dedicated to his figure - offers the visitor a great historical and artistic heritage, in some cases declared of Cultural interest (BIC), like the remains of its Medieval Castle - most of the ruins correspond to the 14th century-; the Romanesque tower of the former Church of San Pedro; or the Palace of the Marquises of Ayerbe, although possibly begun at the end of the 15th century, much of its register corresponds to the 16th century. It is also joined to other buildings of great interest as the clock tower - end of the 18th century-, and some following the typical architecture of the somontano, as Normante House.



Continuing NE we reach **Concilio** (village belonging to the province of Zaragoza), where its most remarkable element is the Romanesque Church of Santa Maria and especially its apse, in which you can see various musical instruments. A church in origin of the 10th century, which still has a horseshoe arch on its west side, and that contained some wall paintings and a Romanesque carving.

From taht same place, we take Z-310 road and then the HU-310 road that leads to **Riglos**, a place that for several decades has been international paradise for climbing. The parish of Nuestra Señora de Mallo is of Baroque style and was built in the 17th century. Keeping inside the Romanesque carvings of la Virgen de Mallo and Carcavilla. It has, in turn, the Hermitage of San Martín of the 12th century. And to the east of the village, you mustn't miss the enormous olive tree of 4.5 m tall, located in a magnificent century-old olive trees plantation and the

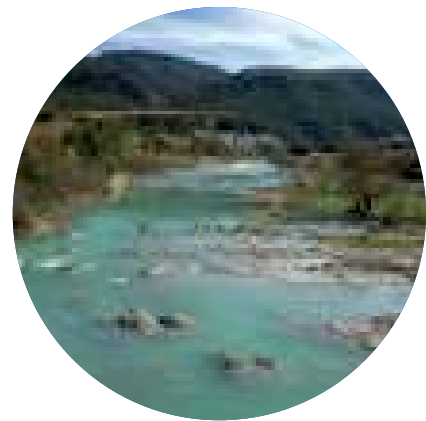
Centre for Bird Arcaz.

Back in Concilio, we continue along the same way to connect to the detour on the HU-534 road that leads to **Agüero** and its mallos, a formation of conglomerates similar to those already seen in Riglos. Before entering the town - located in a landscape of transition from the somontano to the mountain-a dirt track in good condition starts to the right and goes to the Romanesque church of Santiago (Heritage of Cultural Interest) built between the 12th and 13th century and in which there is a superb work of sculpture on its front and the canetes that surround its exterior made by the Master of Agüero. Workshop which would also work on the parish of the town, dedicated to el Salvador (Heritage of Cultural Interest), which shows its magnificent façade with polychromy, which was enlarged in the 16th century and its Museum of the Organ, proof of its pretty traditional architecture and its millennia-old holm oak.





Again at the previous detour, and already heading north, the route leads to **Murillo de Gállego**, again, another municipality located in the province of Zaragoza. The interesting town is equipped with an architecture that combines the typical forms of the plain and the mountains, especially noticeable on the façades of stone, with some touches of brick and earth, as well as on its fronts, some of them in semicircular arch. The parish of El Salvador is a Romanesque building which shows its soaring apse that includes the crypt of the Santo Cristo. Its front is also outstanding. And on the highest part of the town stands the Church of la Virgen de Liena, originally from the 10th century, era of which preserves a geminated window and two horseshoe arches inlaid on a wall.



5.1 KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS AND LA PEÑA

5.1 Huesca-Ayerbe-Concilio-Riglos-Agüero-Murillo de Gállego-pantano de La Peña-Yeste-Rasal-Ena.



Past this town we are surprised by the magnificent views of the Mallos de Riglos, especially beautiful at dusk, when they become reddish.

Little by little the **Gállego River** begins to narrow and the road has a multitude of curves to head north. This way we enter the area of ZEPA (Special Area Bird Protection) in Santo Domingo, Caballera and River Onsella, as well as LIC (Site of Communal Interest) Sierra of Santo Domingo and Caballera.

After leaving Carcavilla on the right bank of the river, place built as support for the continuation of this power station - near the ruins of the Castle of Cacabiello, and a wonderful area to do rafting-, the route crosses the tunnel which has access to the iron bridge over the reservoir of la Peña. After crossing it, on the right you can see the building of the Hermitage of the Virgin, which replaces the previous one, flooded by the works of the dam.

Just after the road takes a 90 degree curve, after crossing the swamp, you abandon the A-132, that goes left, and continue on the A-1205, that goes right. There, sits the village of **Santa María de la Peña** on a slight elevation of the terrain. Among its traditional buildings stands the Parish Church of San Sebastian, of Romanesque origin but with clear posterior reforms. Nearby, next to the cemetery, is the Hermitage of Santiago.



Driving through a landscape of loam and with magnificent views to the dam, on the right, is the town of Triste, a place where you can appreciate the physiognomy of the traditional highland architecture with layers of mixed slabs and tiles on rooftops and stone walls.

Without forgetting the windows with ogee arch and classic geminated space, as seen in Estallo House. Also notice its Romanesque Parish of Santa Maria and its traditional textile production, maintained thanks to the work of a family who are settled there.

You soon reach **La Peña**, town built for the works of the dam which was inaugurated in 1913. And soon after, there is Yeste, deserted town which seems to be recovering its life back, little by little. Presiding over all this set of beautiful traditional architecture is its Parish, dedicated to the Transfiguración del Señor, raised between the end of the 11th and the 12th century, and which has a nave completed with a semicircular apse and an entrance door on the south side with a profusely decorated tympanum.

Shortly after, the route leaves the HU-V-3001 road, that leads and enters **Rasal**, to the north of the Sierra de Loarre. Here, next to the Garona River, you can once again see the traditional highland architecture. Here, all the stone façades, fronts in half-point arch and roofs covered with slabs, also the truncated fireplaces with witch-catchers as a symbol of protection. The Parish of San Vicente, Baroque work of the 18th century, keeps inside the Romanesque carving of the Virgen Mora, brought from the Hermitage of the Virgen de los Ríos. Although, undoubtedly, the most outstanding thing is the Hermitage of San Juan Bautista, which can be included in the same group as the Serrablo ones, for its style, shape and chronology (11th century).



Also, on the outside, its apse is decorated with blank arches. This is an ideal pre-Pyrenees enclave to do many sports such as, hiking, canyoning and hang-gliding.

And if you continue on the road heading east, you will reach the town of **Bentué de Rasal** and the area of the reservoir of Arguis, car accessible. But we recommend you go back to the junction on A-1205 highway and head north, entering the region of Alto Gállego. After leaving the town of Anzánigo to your right, you reach the detour for the road that leads to Centenero and Ena, both located in the domains of the Cultural Park of San Juan de la Peña, a location dominated by the typical landscape of mountain ranges on the outside of the Pyrenees and the beautiful montane landscapes that extend towards the north.

Centenero sits on the north of Punta Peiró (1,078 m) and has an interesting town centre, where see huge houses of the 16th and 18th century. Its Romanesque Parish of San Esteban was built during the 12th century and, despite the renovations, still preserves the traces of its original capital decorated with modillions. On the surroundings, you can see the Romanesque Hermitages of Santa María and Santa Isabel.

Ena, the northernmost town of the Hoya de Huesca, lies right on the south side of the Sierra of San Juan de la Peña, bordering the region of La Jacetania. Its small hamlet boasts some magnificent samples of traditional architecture of the area, especially the truncated chimneys, something you will see very often from now on, if you continue heading north. The Baroque Church of San Pedro and the Hermitage of the Virgen del Campo close this set.



5.1 KINGDOM OF THE MALLOS AND LA PEÑA

6.1

Huesca-Castle of Montearagón-Bandaliés-Santa Eulalia la Mayor-reservoir and mallos de Vadiello-Barluenga-Chibluco-Huesca.

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6

SOMONTANO
DE GUARA AND
MONTEARAGÓN



6.1 Huesca-Castle of Montearagón-Bandaliés-Santa Eulalia la Mayor-reservoir and mallos de Vadiello-Barluenga-Chibluco-Huesca.

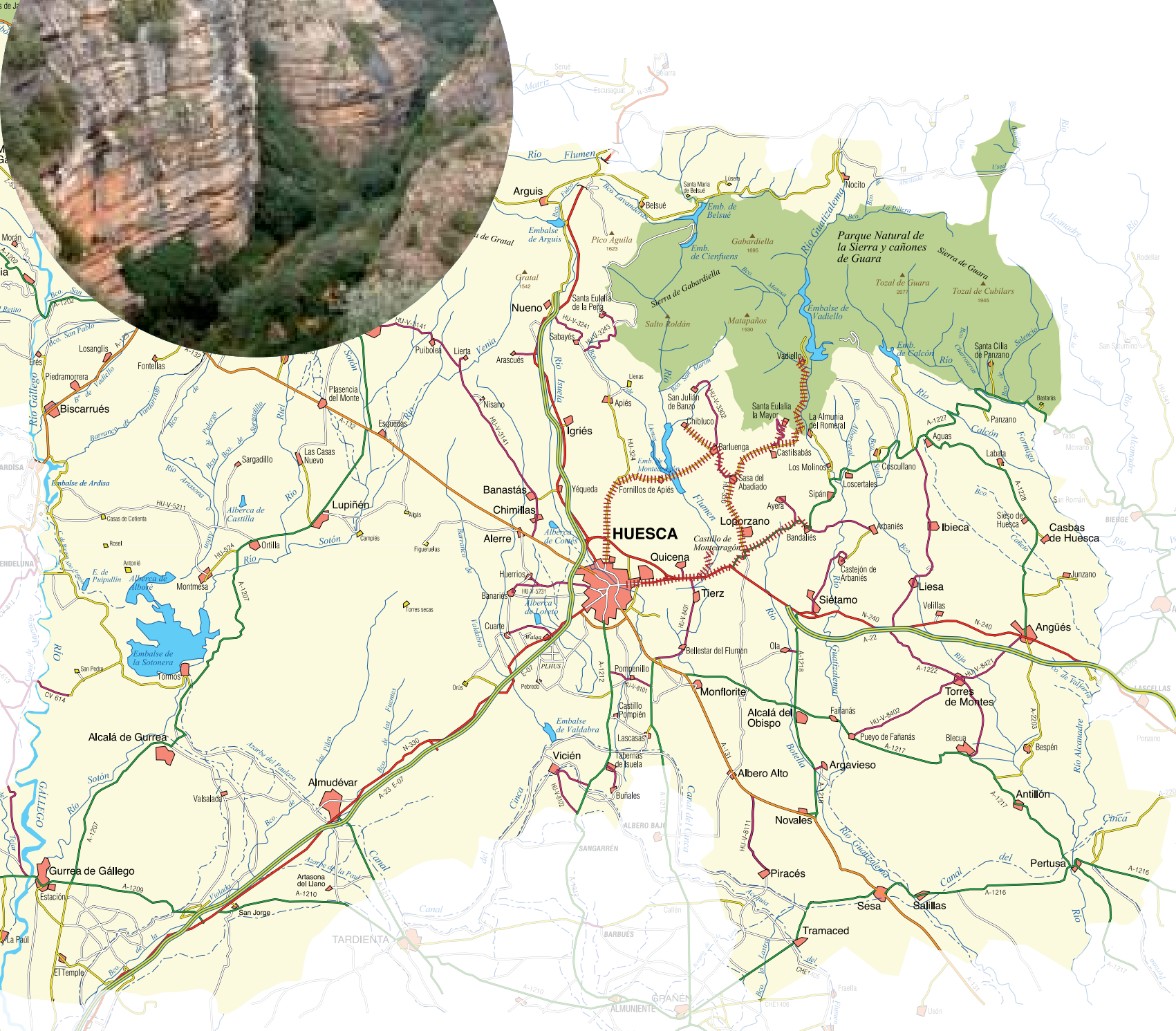


In the foothills of the Sierra de Guara are the lands of the former Abadiado of Montearagón, a bunch of towns that hold a suggestive architecture, typical of somontano, with many fronts in semicircular arch or pointed arch, with huge segments of sandstone and coats of arms that bear witness to the site of old noble families. Castle of Montearagón and Santa Eulalia, the mallos de Vadiello, small Romanesque churches and the paintings of linear Gothic style of San Miguel of Barluenga, are a good example of this surprising walk from the city of Huesca.

Leave Huesca on the N-240 road to Barbastro. On a bare hill, about 5 km from Huesca, looms the unmistakable silhouette of the Castle-Abbey of Montearagón, as a symbol of the commitment of the Aragonese Kings conquest over Muslim Huesca. To visit Montearagón, take the **Quicena** detour. Before reaching the village, next to a water reservoir, take the track that ascends up this unique fortress which was founded by Sancho Ramírez between 1085 and 1086, ten years before the battle of Alcoraz. After the conquest of Huesca, Montearagón became one of the most important monasteries in Aragon, overlooking a large territory. Its decadence and the confiscation (1835) led to the abandonment of the Castle, which also suffered a terrifying fire a few years later. The building is currently undergoing a slow process of rehabilitation. The ancient splendour of Montearagón can be recognized in the altarpiece of the Church, work by Gil Morlanes el Viejo (16th century), deposited in the Diocesan Museum of Huesca. The castle is also a superb viewpoint over the Sierra de Guara and the Salto de Roldán. When coming down, you must visit Quicena, we recommend you see the voluminous homes with large fronts or, in the ravine of las Canales, a singular aqueduct, probably of Roman affiliation.

Back on the N-240 we cross the Flumen River and overcome the ramps of the Estrecho de Quinto, where you can visit the Republican trenches which today form part of the “Traces of the war” route, signposted by the region of Hoya de Huesca. Later on, taken a left on to the A-1227 to **Bandaliés**, a town of ceramic tradition that was already famous in the 16th century and which reached 35 potteries in the 19th century. Today, there is an artisan workshop and the Museum of Ceramics of the Alto Aragon, that allows us to learn about the job and a remarkable collection of traditional pottery from different eras. A stroll through the streets and stately mansions of Bandaliés - dated from the 16th to 18th century- will be just as charming.





6.1 SOMONTANO DE GUARA AND MONTEARAGÓN

6.1 Huesca-Castle of Montearagón-Bandaliés-Santa Eulalia la Mayor-reservoir and mallos de Vadiello-Barluenga-Chibluco-Huesca.



If you return the up road to the detour to Vadiello and Loporzano, you can continue the route along its municipal capital and some of its smaller entities, such as Sasa del Abadiado or Castilsabás, all with the common factor of their superb domestic architecture. Next to **Castilsabás** is the Baroque Hermitage of **Nuestra Señora del Viñedo**, real religious center of the inhabitants of the Abadiado of Montearagón - busy pilgrimage site in May. Very close to the Hermitage, there is highly recommended place to visit, a restored olive oil mill, where you can admire its enormous beam press or the rest of the elements that are a reflection of a traditional industry that has disappeared today.

After this stop, it is imperative to go up the ramps that separate us from the untamed town of **Santa Eulalia la Mayor** (Santolaria), 867 m altitude. The town centre, accommodated to the unevenness of the ground, will bring successive surprises on one main street: Casanova and Calvo Houses, with enormous segments on their fonts, the Town Hall or, in the upper part, the Parish Church of San Pedro. But above, next to the threshing floors, is the Romanesque Hermitage of the Virgen de Sescún and the Medieval tower (11th century), vigilant watchtower on the gorges of the Guatizalema River and the plains of the Hoya de Huesca, which has been recently restored and enabled for your enjoyment as a viewpoint.

Back on the road, we travel through the gorges that we previously saw from the watchtower in Santa Eulalia, immediately entering the Natural Park of the Sierra and Canyons of Guara.

The reservoir of Vadiello, which supplies water to the city of Huesca since 1971, is next. In its surroundings you can admire one of the most splendid and surreal scenarios in the Park: from Cuello Bail to Peña Predicadera, through Ligüerri, Lazas or San Cosme and San Damián - with its famous rock Church - stands the set consisting of the mallos de Vadiello, one of the most extensive, spectacular and photogenic of the pre-Pyrenees. The area, also houses a high density of birds of prey that have advantage, of course, in such an extraordinary vertical terrain.

We must retrace the road back to Sasa del Abadiado, where we will take the detour to **Barluenga**. There, in the cemetery, in the Hermitage of San Miguel, is one of the artistic gems of the region: fresco wall paintings, linear Gothic style, the head of the temple and the triumphal arch. They are dedicated to San Miguel, the resurrection of the dead and judgment day.





From Barluenga, a narrow road takes you to **Chibluco**, with houses that follow the typological pattern of the somontano of Guara. The Parish of Santa Cecilia is Romanesque, with semicircular apse and beautiful overelaborate capitals. In the apse and door frames from the Baroque times, there are a few interesting graphics - animal and signs - difficult to interpret. We will not leave the village without asking about the famous chinebro, a really unique snow juniper due to its size: the trunk is 0.90 m in diameter and its top is 11 m wide.



Back in Barluenga, you should continue on a new road that crosses the Flúmen River, above the dam of the reservoir of Montearagón and leads to Huesca through Fornillos. You can walk up to the relay station in Fornillos, at the top, over the municipal rubbish dump in Huesca, to observe the great concentration of scavengers and opportunistic birds there is, from vultures, eagles and kites to storks and yellow-footed seagulls, including all Corvidae. When you reach the road to Apiés, the journey ends in Huesca centre, in little more than 5 km.

6.1 SOMONTANO DE GUARA AND MONTEARAGÓN

7.1

Huesca-Siétamo-Angüés-Casbas de Huesca and monastery of La Gloria-Sieso
de Huesca-Labata-Aguas-Panzano-Santa Cilia de Panzano.

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7

SOMONTANO DE
GUARA.
THROUGH THE VALLE
DE LA GLORIA

Huesca-Siétamo-Angüés-Casbas de Huesca and monastery of La Gloria-Sieso de Huesca-Labata-Aguas-Panzano-Santa Cilia de Panzano

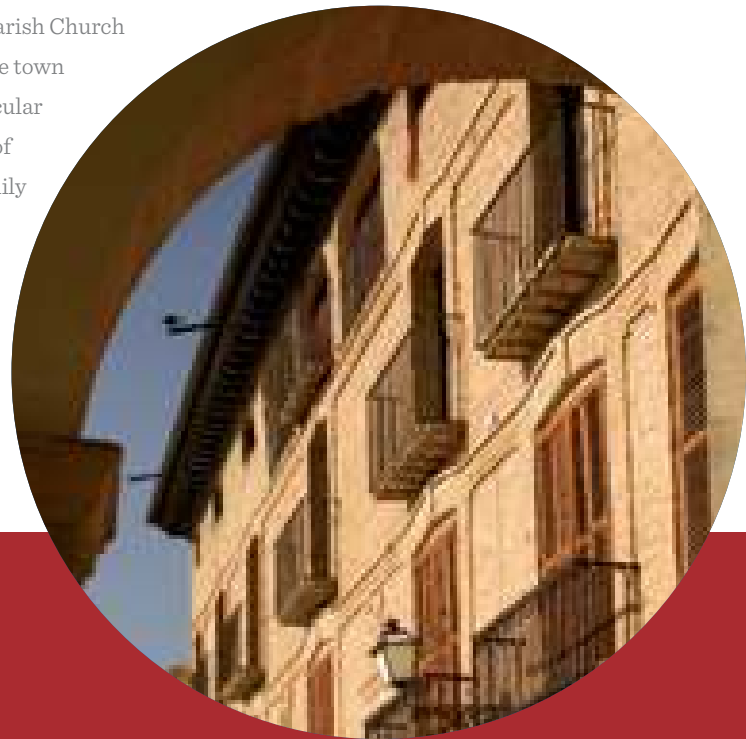


The summits and reliefs of the Natural Park of the Sierra and Canyons of Guara, constitute the backdrop of this route that runs through the so-called Valley of Glory and reaches Santa Cilia de Panzano, at the foot of the roof of the pre-Pyrenees mountain range. In addition, the Casbas Cistercian Monastery, Romanesque art, traditional architecture and hydraulics - fountains, washing places, fountain-wells, refrigerators-, nature and bird-watching tourism are faithful companions of a small adventure that will captivate all members of the family.

Leave Huesca on the N-240 road, road which coincides in its layout with the old Real of Barbastro road, although there is also speculation with the possibility of it being a Roman road in the past. Currently, there is a parallel highway to the capital of Somontano, but to take this route we propose you follow the steps of the old highway. After crossing over the Flúmen River, at the foot of the Castle of Montearagón and road up to the Estrecho de Quinto, the route runs along a broad plain, actually a glacis or ramp that descends gently towards the Ebro depression from the foothills of the Sierra de Guara. Soon, on a hill that dominates the countryside, we find Siétamo, whose name seems to come from “Septimum Milliarium “ of the Osca-Ilerda Roman road. This town was very affected by the Civil War - its town hall was built after the conflict over devastated regions. However, you can still see some magnificent palaces, typical of the Aragonese civil architecture, the Parish Church (16th century), or to the south of the town centre, the ruins of a wall and a circular tower, which certify the existence of former Castle of the illustrious family Abarca de Bolea. In fact, this is where Pedro Abarca of Bolea was born in 1719, Conde Aranda, well-known politician and statesman of the Spanish Enlightenment who served as Minister of Charles III. We must not abandon

Siétamo without visiting their Renaissance masonry fountain, with six spouts under the arch, and its washing place.

Back on the road, we descend to cross over the Guatizalema River. The terrain is gently undulating, with a mosaic of cultures and forests of holms or holm oaks which decorate the landscape. The detour to **Velillas** is to the left, a small place that deserves a visit for its outstanding traditional architecture, with arched fronts that take us back to the 17th and 18th century, and some magnificent balconies made of wrought iron. Also see the pozo-fuente (fountain-well), one of the most characteristic elements, as we shall see, of the somontanos of Guara.





7.1 SOMONTANO DE GUARA. THROUGH THE VALLE DE LA GLORIA

Huesca-Siétamo-Angüés-Casbas de Huesca and monastery of La Gloria-Sieso de Huesca-Labata-Aguas-Panzano-Santa Cilia de Panzano



We later come across **Angüés**, town documented since the 11th century, and like so many of these lands, which belonged to the lordship of the monastery of Montearagón. It has an interesting town centre, with buildings of large proportions, elements and Renaissance palaces of Aragonese style, notable fronts and beautifully carved stone lintels.

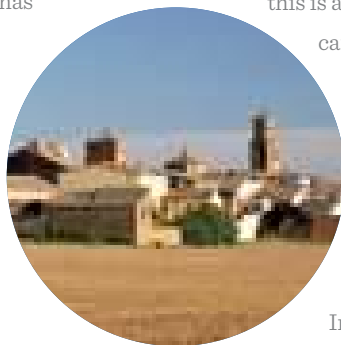
We recommended you visit their monumental fountain-well, a hydraulic work of great ethnographical interest that is also spread around other parts of the Hoya de Huesca (Velillas, Ola, Albero Alto), the Somontano, Los Monegros, or Cinca Medio have a common factor, they are situated in a land of sandstone, at the foot of the pre-Pyrenees mountain range. Probably of Muslim origin, the fountain-wells enable you to enter the levels of underground water. The one in Angüés, the oldest in the area, has four successive chambers, vaulted by ashlars. A long staircase descends to the reservoir where the water is stored.

You take the A-1228 in Angüés to go to **Casbas de Huesca**. On the right, we leave the detour to Junzano, where you can visit the suggestive ruins of the hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Salillas, Romanesque (12th – 13th century), known locally as “Iglesieta de los Moros”. A little further on, we leave the Romanesque Hermitage of Bascués to the left of the road and, before reaching Casbas, to the right, there still remains a refrigerator or ice well covered with a false dome. The scenic background of the Sierra de Guara, we arrive in Casbas de Huesca, a village that retains its medieval urban layout and a magnificent Cistercian Monastery, our Lady of Glory, founded in 1172 by the Countess of Pallars, from land owned. Numerous subsequent reforms added different units which have made it what we see today. The mother Bernardas of the Cistercian community, who had lived there without interruption, left the place in the year 2004, unable to maintain a monastic set of such size. It was then acquired by the Progea Foundation and is now in the process of total reformation.



Behind the perimeter wall and its beautiful Torre al Homenaje, you enter the enclosed perimeter. In the Romanesque temple, re-grown with a brick structure that reminds us of the Aragonese palaces, are its three apses and the splendid front, with 11 archivolt decorated with different geometric elements, checkered included, and a chrismon. The cloister, around which the monastery is organized, is of a later period, Gothic (14th – 15th century), with unique pointed and lobed arches. Among other units, the Chapter House, which still has the sepulchral slabs with reliefs of two abbesses (14th century) also of interest.

It you follow the route to **Sieso de Huesca**, where we continue seeing the plans of traditional architecture of the somontano of Guara, with buildings in stone ashlar, arches of half point and magnificent coats of arms. The parish of San Martín is a heavily modified Romanesque building, with apse and a voluminous tower with two sections, the lower being Romanesque and the top being Moorish. Sieso is also a famous for its artisan cheese factory, varieties of cured fresh, curd cheese, which have won awards in several competitions. Then we pass the towns of Labata and Aguas, leaning over the Valley of the Calcón River, that descends from the depths of the Natural Park.



When you connect with the A-1227 continue to the right. The landscape becomes more rugged and, after crossing the Calcón, you go up to Panzano, where you will learn about its parish of San Pedro, late Romanesque, which requires a leisurely visit. Then, the road goes down to cross the Formiga River, gently flowing at this point after its narrow wander within one of the most well-known gorges of the Sierra de Guara. In good weather, there are many people doing canyoning around the area of the bridge, as this is an extraordinary place to do canyoning.

Finally, a detour to the left leads to **Santa Cilia de Panzano**, at the foot of the main peaks of the mountain range.

In fact, Santa Cilia is one of the classic points of departure to ascend the Summit of Tozal de Guara (2,077 m), top of the region and the whole pre-Pyrenees mountain range. The square of this small village is itself a great local spot. Its Church (18th century) has embedded in its walls the capitals of the previous Romanesque temple. But nature is the main feature in this fantastic environment. There are two exhibition spaces in Santa Cilia: the Center of Interpretation “Altos de Guara”, of the Natural Park, and the Museum “Casa

de los Buitres” (home of the vultures), a place where, along with the one in Riglos, is part of a cross-border network of bird-watching in the Pyrenees. As the culmination of the route, we recommend you go to the viewpoint, located on the highest part of the town, where you can observe the main scavengers birds of the sierra live: the Griffon vulture, the Egyptian vulture and bearded vulture.







7.1

SOMONTANO DE GUARA. THROUGH THE VALLE DE LA GLORIA

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In la Hoya de Huesca you will be able to discover a huge territory marked with contrasting landscapes, which delight lovers of rough and wild scenarios, and those who seek open spaces and softer reliefs.

Its more than 100 towns also contain interesting examples of cultural heritage, for the most part linked to the middle ages, as witnesses to a splendid past.

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