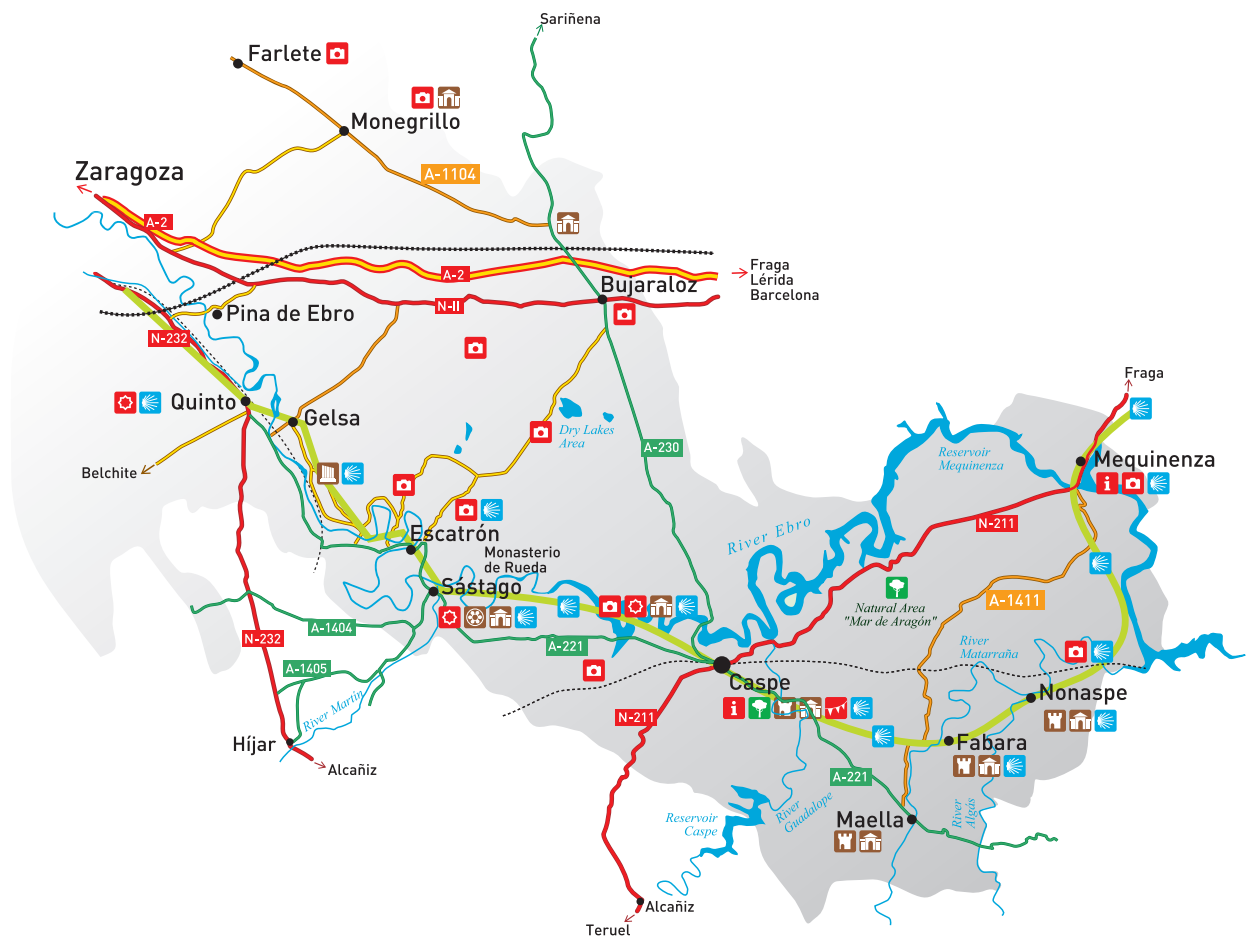


The low Ebro

guide for tourism professionals. Zaragoza, the province 2008-2009





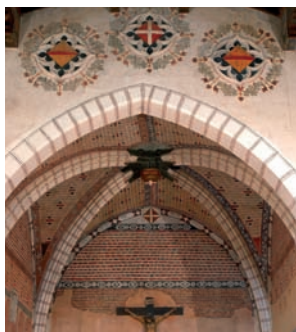
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|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Tourist offices | | Wine cellars |
| | Natural area of interest | | Celebrations |
| | Pintoresque landscape | | Spas |
| | Romanesque and Gothic | | Sefarad |
| | Mudéjar | | Cid Route |
| | Cistercian | | St. James's Ebro Route |
| | Castle | | French St. James's Way |
| | Other architectures | | Pottery |
| | Archaeological sites | | Protected natural area |
| | Goya | | |

The Lower Ebro

→ The Lower Ebro was a natural communication route between the Mediterranean and the Aragonese capital, when it was possible to navigate in barges and traditional crafts “laúdes and llauts”. Later great dams, which today make up the Sea of Aragon, were constructed.

On the banks of the Ebro, the **Roman Colony of Celsa** rose up next to Velilla de Ebro, where its urban route of narrow paved streets, ruins of public buildings and homes decorated with paintings and original mosaic astonish.

A little to the South, from the Ebro’s viewpoints we observe the curved banks of the meandering river, and green groves. **Sástago** and Escatrón are the most populated localities, of an area from where most of the world’s alabaster is extracted.



From this type of rock, translucent and easy to work, sculptured lattices, window shutters and decorative objects have been made since antiquity. The church of Escatrón’s exquisite altarpiece was sculptured in alabaster. Nearby the **Monaterio de Rueda** rises, such named for its colossal wheel which carried water to its gardens. It was founded by the Cister Order at the beginning of the XIIIth-century. Its monumental church and cloister of different monastic orders contrast with the octagonal Mudéjar brick tower. Today the old abbey palace has been converted into a captivating Hospederia (Inn).

From this part of the river, plains and beautiful rugged hills extend to the North. Scarce rains and extreme thermal variations have modelled an extremely arid landscape of salt water lagoons. Plants, animals and man himself have been obliged to develop different survival strategies.




Mequinenza dam with its more than 100 kilometres length (and 500 kms of coasts) is also known as the **Mar de Aragón** (the Sea of Aragón) has become a paradise of nautical sports. The city of **Caspe** rises, marked by Iberian and Roman remains such as the Miralpeix Mausoleum it was in the Middle Ages when it came to play a role of the first order bringing together various secondary routes of the Saint James' Way. A route which went up the Ebro river from the ports of Cataluña and Valencia. It conserves the Gothic Santa María Church Collegiate and the convent of San Juan, palaces, hermitages and the Salamanca Tower, a solid medieval fortification.

Around the junction of rivers that feed the Ebro there are Gothic churches, main squares and medieval town halls such as Fabara and Maella. Maella can also boast to be the home of the birthplace of Pablo Gargallo, one of the forerunners of modern sculpture and where some of his work is permanently exhibited.

→ main attractions

- Monasterio de Rueda
- Caspe and the Mar de Aragón (Sea of Aragón)
- Fabara and Maella
- Monegros Landscape and archaeological remains in Vellilla de Ebro
- The Ebro St James' Way: www.jacobeo.net
- Festivals: NAUPESCA Nautical and Fishing Show in Caspe (April), Celebration of the Compromise of Caspe (May), Peach Fair in Maella (September), BlackBass Fishing Competition (October).

→ routes

- Lower Ebro Route
- Goya's Route de and Cariñena P.D.O. 
- The Ebro St James' Way



→ museums and interpretation centre

- **Caspe:** The Crown of Aragon Institutional Heraldic Museum, The Numismatics Museum, The Piazueto-Barberán Palace-House Exhibition Hall.
- **Chiprana:** Salty lakes Herbarium.
- **Fabara:** The Fabara Mausoleum Exhibition Space, Virgilio Albiac Painting Museum.
- **Maella:** The Pablo Gargallo Museum-House.
- **Mequinenza:** "Cosas del Poble" Exhibition Hall.
- **Velilla de Ebro:** Lépidia Celsa Colony Museum.

→ where to eat



CASPE

Magallón Restaurant

→ Contact: 976 630 222

www.hotelmagallon.com

ESCATRÓN

El Atrapasueños de los Meandros Restaurant

→ Contact: 976 171 100

www.hotelatrapa.com

FABARA

Ca Oliver

→ Contact: 976 635 120

www.caoliver.com

SÁSTAGO

Monasterio de Rueda Restaurant

→ Contact: 976 170 016 /

976 170 018

www.monasteriorueda.com

→ where to sleep



CASPE

Hotel 2* Magallón

→ Contact: 976 630 222

www.hotelmagallon.com

ESCATRÓN

Hotel 3* Atrapasueños de los Meandros

→ Contact: 976 171 100

www.hotelatrapa.com

QUINTO DE EBRO

Casa Rural (country house)

SuperiorParaje de Luco

→ Contact: 976 177 213 /

647 724 782

www.parajeluco.com

SÁSTAGO

Hotel 4* Monasterio de Rueda

→ Contact: 976 170 016 /

976 170 018

www.monasteriorueda.com



→ infrastructure for events

SÁSTAGO

Meeting halls in the

Hotel 4* Monasterio de Rueda

→ Contact: 976 170 116

www.monasteriorueda.com

ESCATRÓN

Halls in the **Hotel 3* Atrapasueños
de los Meandros**

→ Contact: 976 171 100

www.hotelatrapa.com

→ travel agencies

CASPE

Halcon Viajes

→ Contact: 976 63 20 81

www.halconviajes.com

→ activity organisers

CASPE

Lake Caspe Aventura

Fishing, nautical sports (sailing boat rental, windsurfing, kayak, water-ski, bus-ski, wake board), mountain biking, potholing, climbing, off road...

→ Contact: 608 16 12 61 / 660 162 976

www.lakecaspeaventura.com

Perca-Bass

Boat rental with and without guides, as well as tourist accommodation.

→ Contact: 976 631 151 / 669 828 878

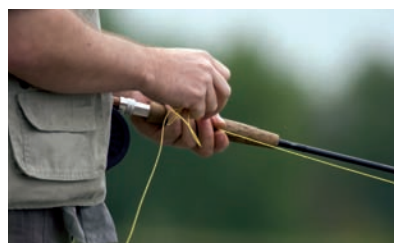
www.percabass.com

Piratas del Ebro

Windsurf, sailing, skates, sailing boat, kayak: rental and courses.

→ Contact: 699 38 99 38 / 620 45 23 28

www.piratasdelebro.com



→ activity organisers

QUINTO DE EBRO

Planaventura

Companies, stag/hen nights, groups. Horse riding, hiking, archery, paintball y quads.

→ Contact: 636 47 09 01

www.planaventura.com

Centro Hípico Cabezos del Prado

→ Contact: 630 424 812 / 699 752 998

www.centrohipicocabezosdelprado.com

PINA DE EBRO

L'auca

Ornithological routes and natural spaces interpretation. Guides in various languages.

→ Contact: 976 165 969

www.grupolauca.com

→ tourist offices

Caspe Tourist Office

Piazuelo Barberán Palace-House
Pza. España, 1

Caspe

→ Contact: 976 636 533

turismo@caspe.es

www.caspe.es

Mequinenza Information Department

Pza. del Ayuntamiento, 5
Mequinenza/Mequinenza

→ Contact: 974 464 136

octogesa@futurnet.es



→ group offers

1. The Lower Ebro Route (2 days)

Monasterio de Rueda > Caspe > Bajo Ebro > Mar de Aragón

Day 1

Monasterio de Rueda, lunch and afternoon in Caspe.

→ The national road 232 and then the A-221 takes us to **Velilla de Ebro**, the first stop off of this route. Here we find nearby on a privileged site the ruins of **Celsa**, a Roman colony conserving almost intact its original urban layout. The excavation has an interesting museum.

(Lépida Celsa Colony Museum, visits Tuesday to Sunday 9.00-15.00 and Wednesday 16.00-18.00 Monday closed
Contact: 976 222 181 and 976 225 682)

→ It is recommendable to take the road that passes through Alforque, Alborge and Sástago, and enjoy the incomparable landscape arriving at Escatrón. The antique alabaster altarpiece from **Monasterio de Rueda** was installed in its church. The nearby abbey was built following the architectural Cistercian scheme, with its various rooms placed around the cloister. Its abbey palace has been conditioned as a hotel.

Next to the monument a path leads to the riverbank from where the rich natural framing of the monastery, the old water wheel and the Gothic aqueduct can be admired.

→ Lunch, afternoon and accommodation in Caspe.

→ In the afternoon a stroll around **Caspe**, the city of the famed Compromise through which the heir of the Crown of Aragon was elected. The Collegiate, the Town Hall, the Salamanca Tower and its Heraldic Crown of Aragon Museum draw the attention, as does the main square where the Barberán House stands. The Roman mausoleum of Miralpeix and the hermitage of Santa María de la Horta had to be transferred to the old centre so as not to be flooded.



2. The Ebro St. James' Way Route

Day 2

Visit to the Lower Ebro and a boat trip on the Sea of Aragón. Lunch and return.

→ The St. James' Way of the Ebro passes through this land from Cataluña going by Maella, Fabara, Nonaspe and Fayón. On the banks of the wild Matarraña River Nonaspe, Fabara and Maella appear. The three rival each other in the beauty of their Gothic churches, main squares and Town hall, housed in medieval buildings. **Fabara** also possesses a Roman Pantheon in the form of a classic temple unique in the Iberian Peninsula and a museum dedicated to the local painter, author of luminous landscapes, Virgilio Albiac. Maella conserves the birthplace of Pablo Gargallo one of the forerunners of modern sculpture, permanently exhibiting a selection of his work.

→ Lunch on the banks of the Mequinenza Reservoir or The Sea of Aragón.

→ Boat trip and return to Zaragoza.

The Ebro St. James' Way

→ The Ebro was a natural route for the entrance of pilgrims from the Delta to Logroño and from there towards the North of the Peninsula into Galician lands. It is recommendable to follow this stretch which goes through the province of Zaragoza in spring or autumn when temperatures are less extreme and the fields are colourful.

→ The route which enters from neighbouring Gandesa in Tarragona reaches Fabara, which has the best conserved Roman mausoleum in Aragón. Continuing, one arrives at **Caspe** visiting the Collegiate, the castle and the Roman Miralpeix tomb. Following the sinuous flow of the Ebro, the pilgrim passes along the Roman path of Chiprana to arrive at Escatrón, its church conserving a marvellous alabaster altarpiece. In its surroundings a visit to the **Monasterio de Rueda** is also a must, its name comes from the great water wheel which supplied the monastery complex, today converted into a 4 star hotel. Little villages pop up along the way and a visit to the ruins of the Roman City of Celsa in **Velilla de Ebro** is obligatory.

→ The route continues passing through the city of Zaragoza and the Ebro balconies going up river searching for Navarra, La Rioja and the French Way.