### **ROUTE I Mudéjar Calatayud and Romantic Daroca**

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# Morata de Jiloca

### Daroca Gallocanta

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### ROUTE VI Water routes

**ROUTE VII Cinco** 

Villas. Castles and Jewish qu

Sádaba

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### ROUTE IX Castles and palaces of the Jalón river

Chodes

Illueca Mesones de Isuela Morata de Jalón

Gotor

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### **ROUTE III The Bajo Ebro, Rueda and Caspe** Nonaspe Fayón Caspe Fabara Monasterio de Rueda Velilla de Ebro 50700 Caspe Telf. 976 63 65 33 turismo@caspe.es www.caspe.es Caspe Tourist Office Pza. España, 1 Belchite Cariñena Mediana Fuendetodos Muel Ceramics Workshop and School Carretera N-330, km. 468 50450 Muel Telf. 976 14 52 25 (mañanas de lunes a viernes) Fuendetodos Tourist Office Cortes de Aragón, 7













### **ROUTE I Mudéjar Calatayud and Romantic Daroca**

Torralba

Aniñón

Calatayud

Terrer

Ateca

Maluenda

de Jiloca

Daroca

Gallocanta

Borja

The route runs through Iberian Zaragoza, regions that El Cid passed through during his exile. Red earth, deep cuts and Mudejar bricks are the most outstanding features of this landscape cleaved by the waters of the Jiloca river.

If we take the Soria exit off the A2 dual carriageway we reach the archaeological site of **Bilbilis**, the Roman origin of present-day Calatayud. Fifteen kilometres down the same road we find **Torraba de Ribota**, with the church of San Felix, and just a bit further on is **Aniñón**, with the church of the Virgen del Castillo, both of which are outstanding examples

A visit to **Calatayud** can take two hours. Its streets are full of temples and mansions, a clear reflection of its prosperous past. The churches of San Juan el Real and San Andres are a must for any interested traveller, as well as the collegiate church of Santa Maria. Other places of interest are the Archaeological Museum, the Plaza del Mercado (market square) and the Posada de San Anton or the Dolores.

ning to the A2 dual reach Terrer

Mue

Longares

Cariñena

Fuendetodos

Belchite

Mediana

Sigüés

ROUTE IV Goya, ceramics and wine

and Ateca, where once again we can admire some graceful Mudejar towers. El Cid wandered around these lands during his exile, and the route is signposted for walks.

The N 234 road that connects Calatayud and Daroca, accompanies the Jiloca river on its way. Along the road we will be surprised by the greenness of the meadows and the different colours of the area, white in the area of Maluenda and red in Morata del

When we reach the monumental town of **Daroca**, our attention will be drawn to the collegiate church of Santa Maria de los Sagrados Corporales, the churches of San Juan, San Miguel and Santo Domingo, the Regional Museum, the Puerta Baja and the Puerta Alta (Low and High Gateways) and the Manuel Segura Museum of the Pasteleria (Patisserie), a privately managed museum. Traditional sweets of Sefardi origin are sold in the town.

Nearby is the **Laguna** (lake) **de Gallocanta**, a place where migratory birds, especially cranes, concentrate.



Several towns are found near the Moncayo, whose outward appearance tells us of longgone times when the three cultures of the Book lived in perfect harmony. **Borja** is reached along the 232 national road and then along the A122. The town has a Jewish quarter livened up by picturesque corners and well-preserved civil and religious monuments, such as the collegiate church of Santa Maia and its museum, the Town Hall, the Plaza del Mercado (Market Square) or Casa Aguilar. **Tarazona** is our next stop. Its architecture suggests a splendid mediaeval past. Its Jewish quarter is comprised of steep, narrow streets with traditional passageways and arches. The town is famous for its hanging houses, the Archbishop's palace, the cathedral, the churches and the convents of Magdalena, San Francisco and the Merced, as well as the Renaissance Town Hall and its octagonal bullring, with houses on the inside. Other places of interest are the

ROUTE II Jewish and Moorish Quarters. Moncayo, Veruela, Tarazona Tórtoles Torrellas

of Veru

Mon

Museum, the Jewish Quarter Interpretation Centre and the Archaeological Museum.

To the north of Tarazona, in **Tórtoles**, we can visit the mosque and its 17<sup>th</sup> century parish church. Quite nearby is **Torrellas**, with the Moncayo region Moslem Culture Interpretation Centre and its castle, the church of San Martin de Tours, the Plaza Mayor and the San Esteban hermitage, with the Bernardo de Cienfuegos Botanical Garden.

The outing continues in the Cistercian **Monastery of Veruela**, an interesting example of abbatial architecture. It currently houses a Wine Museum and in summer it has an intense cultural life, with exhibitions and shows. It also offers high quality accommodation at its new Parador (State-owned Hotel).

Finally, nature lovers must not miss a walk through the Nature Reserve of the Dehesa del Moncayo and a visit to its Interpretation Centre in **Agramonte**.



### ROUTE V Romanesque and Gothic Styles in the Pre-Pyrenees Ruesta Navardún Sos

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stiliscar

Uncastillo

Ejea

Calatayud

Paracuellos de Jiloca

suggestive town design, dating from mediaeval times, shelters the church of San Esteban with spectacular samples of Romanesque architecture, sculpture and wall painting. Other points of interest in the town are the Sada and Gil de Sanz palaces, the guildhall and the Town Hall.

The northern part of the province of Zaragoza is scattered with mountain ranges that announce the proximity of the Pyrenees. There is a lot of stone in this area which was used in the Middle Ages to build many Romanesque and Gothic monuments.

The route starts at **Sigüés**, in the middle of St. James' Road or Camino de Santiago. The Santa Ana Hospital, built to attend to the pilgrims, is one of the main features, as well as the parish church of San Esteban.

A classical route in Zaragoza is the one that goes from the N330 road, running through the lands where the illustrious Francisco de Goya was born, among a sea of vineyards and colourful manifestations of Mudéjar art.

Muel ceramics have played an important role in local life for many centuries. Artisan techniques are taught in its Workshop-School, recuperating the old pottery-making tradition. The town has other attractions such as the hermitage of the Virgen de la Fuente, built on a Roman dam and decorated with paintings by a young Goya.

A few kilometres further on, Longares surprises us with its impressive Mudéjar tower. A walk through its town centre is a pleasure, which is reached through the Puerta de Valencia (Valencia Gateway).

Still on the N330, we reach Cariñena, the governing centre of wines of the area. Its greatest acclaim are its wineries, some of which can be visited, as well as an interesting Wine Museum. The church of the Asunción is also appealing,

as well as the Town Hall and the Torreta (Tower). Its prize-winning gastronomy and its grape harvest festivals, enlivened with fountains that brim over with the fruit of the grape are also of great interest.

To reach **Fuendetodos**, the birthplace of the brilliant Francisco de Goya, we must turn down the A220 road. The painter's family home and the Etchings Museum are housed in a well-cared for stone house, which has an extensive sample of his work. A network of paths, which leads us to singular spots in the area, with its fountains and traditional neveras (places where ice used to be stored), are witnesses of a longlost activity.

To return, we can continue along the A220 road towards **Belchite** and **Mediana**, crossing a stepped landscape scattered with brackish ponds, an ornithological reserve and refuge for wild fauna. Here we can see the ruins of the old Belchite, razed to the ground during the Civil War, with its spectacular and photogenic sunsets.

From the A 137 road we reach the N240 where we take the turn off to the Yesa reservoir, where canoeing is possible. Practically on its banks is **Ruesta**. The Romanesque hermitages of Santiago and San Sebastian are its most important buildings, together with the Vidiella

At Navardún, the church of the Asunción combines both Romanesque and Gothic elements. A castle and an interesting Town Hall are preserved in this same town.

Sos del Rey Católico is the next stop. Its

**ROUTE VIII Ebro Mudéjar** 

El Frago Murillo de Gállego

ROUTE VII Cinco Villas. Castles and

Jewish quarters

Bie

Uncastillo

The Altas Cinco Villas are marked by their mediaeval past. At that time, their role as a frontier, firstly between Christians and Moslems, and later among Christian monarchs, led to a profusion of fortified enclaves. The large number of Jews in the area has also left the material inheritance of its ancient Aljamas or Jewish quarters, which were formed in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

To reach this region, we head north from Ejea de los Caballeros, to **Uncastillo**, the first destination of our route. Its town centre is mediaeval in design and its Jewish quarter is well signposted. The complex is presided by its fortress, with a crenallated tower where a museum has been installed on life in the Middle Ages and a Gothic palace raised in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Two of its many Romanesque churches stand out, Santa María and San Martín. **Luesia** is 14 kilometres away, with its castle, in ruins now, which dominates the town and the remains of a Jewish quarter. The parish

Following the course with its hermitages of San Miguel, Santa Ana and San Miguel de la Cheulas, the church of San Nicolas de Bari and Casa Luis. The Terrau arch acts as a gateway to the town which also has a Jewish quarter.

Our route ends in **Murillo de Gallego**, next to the Mallos de Riglos, which offers a great choice of adventure sports, such as river descents or climbing.

Excellent rural accommodation and quality gastronomy can be enjoyed in the whole area. churches of El Salvador or San Esteban, the Town Hall and several 16<sup>th</sup> century palatial houses can also be admired.

Further down the same road we reach **Biel**.

Another stone castle built upon the church of San Martin presides the place. The town centre has a well-preserved Jewish quarter, houses with galleries that cross traditional streets and several noble buildings.

The Ebro, upstream from Zaragoza, and Mudéjar are the main features of this route that spreads out between fertile riverbanks and dry rainfed land.

The N232 road runs parallel to the river, as well as the A68. Near the capital is **Utebo**, which houses one of the most spectacular Mudéjar towers of the whole route, that of the church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. In its shade, two centres, dedicated to present-day culture, have been opened, the Mariano Mesonada Museum, centred on the work of the painter, Jose Orus, and the OSSA Museum of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Science and Technology.

Further along the route is **Alagón**, whose old quarter preserves part of the Jewish and Moslem aljamas or quarters. Here, Mudéjar art shines in the San Pedro tower. The church of San Antonio and the hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Castillo are other additions to the list of monuments. And its cultural offer is complemented with the Hispano-Mexican Contemporary Museum.

Not very far way is **Alcalá de Ebro**, identified

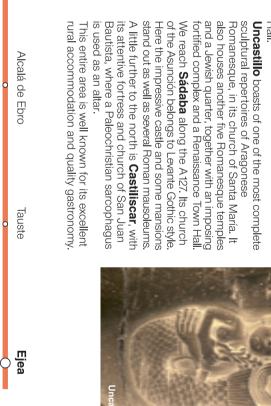
de Ebro

with the Insula Barataria which Sancho Panza governed in Cervantes' universal work. A monument to the likable shield bearer greets the traveller not very far from the church of the Trinidad.

To reach **Tauste** we have to turn off the A126 road. In the distance the slim tower of the church of Santa María surprises us, as well as the church of San Antón, the Barrio Nuevo or New Neighbourhood(former Jewish quarter) and the Monastery of San Jorge, as well as the House of Culture and its collection of contemporary art. And if we stay a little longer, a visit to the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Sancho Abarca is recommended, with its impressive panoramic views.

Ejea de los Caballeros is reached along the A127 road. A walk around its historical centre will show us the fortress-church of El Salvador and the parish church of Santa María de la Corona. Ethnology has a meeting place in the Miguel Longás Centre, and a sample of the three cultures in the Water Museum.









### **ROUTE III The Bajo Ebro, Rueda and Caspe**

Velilla de Ebro

Escatrón

When the large dams of Mequinenza and Ribarroja were constructed in the mid-20th century, the life of the Bajo Ebro of Zaragoza was transformed, as many of the river-related activities carried out until that time were abandoned. Today there are many marks of its builded too.

The 232 national road and then the A222 lead to **Veilila de Ebro**, the first stop on this route. Next to this town, in a privileged location, are the ruins of Celsa, a Roman colony that preserves its original town design almost intact. The excavation has an interesting museum. It is advisable to take the road that goes through **Alforque**, **Alborge** and **Sástago** to enjoy this incomparable landscape and then on to **Escatrón**. The old alabaster altarpiece of the **Monastery of Rueda** was installed in the church of this town. The nearby abbey was built according to the Cister architectural design, with the different buildings arranged around a cloister. Its abbatial palace has been converted

**ROUTE VI Water routes** Alhama de Aragón

Several thermal centres are located in a luxurious natural framework, in harmony with the quiet, welcoming atmosphere of the nineteenth century spas with their modern facilities, which offer all types of proposals with medicinal mineral waters. The presence of the Jalón, Mesa, Jiloca and Piedra rivers converts this territory into the greenest garden of the province.

This route starts in **Alhama de Aragón**, which can be reached from the A2. The Romans were the first to install spas and baths in this town to benefit from its waters. Today, there are two spas, "Termas Pallarés", with the charm of a unique thermal lake in Europe and "Termas de San Roque", whose Baño del Moro (Moor's Bath) is one of the oldest in Spain.

In **Calatayud** we can visit the churches of San Juan el Real and San Andrés as well as the Collegiate church of Santa María. Other places of interest are the archaeological museum, la Plaza del Mercado (market square) and the Posada de San Antón or the Dolores.

Next to the N234 road and two kilometres from Calatayud is **Paracuellos de Jiloca**, with its church of San Miguel, the castle and hermitage of Santa María. Its spa is characterised by having extensive walk areas and exuberant gardens that exert an invigorating action on anyone going there to take the waters.

Following the course of the Mesa river we reach **Jaraba**. Its medicinal mineral waters were declared a public utility in 1860 and nowadays it has three spas, La Virgen, Sicilla, whose facilities can be visited, and Baños de Serón. An interesting walk along a path takes us to the Mesa river ravine.

Our day ends in Nuévalos, near the **Monastery of Piedra**. This enclosure is in an idyllic nature spot which contains grottos, waterfalls and lakes, together with a 12th century Cistercian monastery whose rooms have been partly reformed and converted into a restaurant and a hotel.



### **ROUTE IX Castles and palaces of the Jalón river** Chodes Morata de Jalón Mesones de Isuela

The history of these lands is disputed between the frontier wars with Castile, the rule of the nobility and the clergy, and the artistic development of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. All of this can be seen in its constructions, with its many fortresses and palaces, often immersed in town planning that expresses the power held by a privileged few in the olden days.

About 60 kilometres from Zaragoza, and turning off the A2, the traveller will be struck by **Morata de Jalón**. This estate used to belong to the counts of Morata and the marquises of Villaverde and the latter built an enormous Baroque palace here, which, together with the façade of the Town Hall, form part of a very harmonious complex.

**Chodes** is an unprecedented example of Aragonese Baroque style, with its new ground plan urban design. An axis of coordinates converges in a chamfered square. Three access doors and the church are situated at the four

Illueca

Gotor

cardinal points of the square.

One of the most impressive mediaeval castles of the province is located in **Mesones de Isuela**. The archbishop of Zaragoza, Pedro Fernández de Luna is responsible for its outer appearance, reforming it in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It has six towers on its perimeters and inside one of them the prelate ordered a beautiful chapel to be built with a Mudéjar ceiling, which combines paintings and a graceful wooden structure. The parish church and the hermitage of San Vicente are also worth a visit in Mesones. Our next stop along the route is **Illueca**. The palace where Benedict XIII, pope Luna, was born, can be envisaged, presiding the town. This building is currently an inn. The parish church is very interesting due to its interior decoration of Baroque plasterwork of Mudéjar survival

Finally, another castle dominates the town of **Gotor**, whose impressive surrounding countryside really takes your breath away.

# Caspe

Rueda Fayón

into an inn. A path, next to the monument, takes us to the river banks. There the rich natural framework of the monastery, an old waterwheel and a Gothic aqueduct can be admired. After returning to the A221 road, we reach Caspe, the most important urban centre of the area and town of the famous Compromiso (Commitment), whereby the heir of the Crown of Aragón was pacifically elected. The Collegiate church, the Town Council, the Salamanca tower and its Heraldic museum of the Crown of Aragón draw our attention, as well as the Plaza Mayor, where Casa Barberan is located. The Roman mausoleum of Miralpeix and the hermitage of Santa María de la Horta had to be moved to the town centre so as not to be flooded by the waters.

The so-called Ebro Jacobean Path runs through this territory. It originates in Catalonia and goes through Maella, Fabara, Nonaspe and Fayón.

Monastery of Piedra