

# The Ebro Saint James' Way

All roads lead to Rome however, many others lead to Santiago de Compostela. Apart from the well-known French Route, which after passing through the Pyrenees crosses the North of Castile until reaching Galicia, there were alternative routes along which penitents and the pious travelled through the centuries towards the Campus Stellae or Star Field. There, according to tradition, the tomb of the apostle is to be found.

Since the middle of the XIII century, when the Aragonese King, Jaime I, conquered the Balearic Islands and Valencia allowing for a safe navigation of the Western Mediterranean, one of the most frequented routes had been upriver along the Ebro until converging with the traditional St. James' Way itinerary.

The route entered the current province of Zaragoza through the village of Fabara with an obliged stop at the Aragonese capital, where the Virgin Mary had appeared to Santiago. Monarchs, nobility and military orders protected the pilgrims and founded chapels, hostels and hospitals, nowadays long gone, but from which the current name of many streets, chapels and parish churches maintain a devoted memory.

## Jewels of Art and Nature

The Ebro Saint James' Way is flanked by many scenic and monumental attractions. The great river offers an enormous variety of little known flora and fauna. In addition, from its banks, it is possible to admire some extraordinary Roman remains, such as the Fabara mausoleum or the city of Celsa, the Cistercian monastery of Rueda, a plethora of Mudejar towers with their interwoven brick and ceramics laces, are seen along side luxurious Renaissance great houses and simple Baroque period temples.

## Father Ebro

The arrival of the railway first, and the later construction of the great reservoirs saw a reduction in the importance of the Ebro River and put an end to its navigable condition. However, the Ebro River was a main communication route for centuries. The Zaragoza River port had had an intense traffic since Roman times and many barges carried passengers and goods from the interior to the Mediterranean and back until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Stage (20 km) From Torres to B. à Luceni

- Torres de Berrellén
- Alagón
- Cabañas de Ebro
- Alcalá de Ebro
- Luceni

### 6<sup>th</sup> Stage (8 km) From La Cartuja to Zaragoza

- La Cartuja Baja
- Zaragoza

### 4<sup>th</sup> Stage (21 km) From Gelsa to Fuentes

- Gelsa
- Quinto
- Fuentes de Ebro

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage (29 km) From Caspe to Escatrón

- Caspe
- Chiprana
- Escatrón

### 1<sup>st</sup> Stage (20 km) From Fabara to Caspe

- Fabara
- Caspe

### 9<sup>th</sup> Stage (20 km) From Luceni to Mallén

- Luceni
- Gallur
- Mallén

### 7<sup>th</sup> Stage (17 km) From Zaragoza to Torres de B.

- Zaragoza
- Monzalbarba
- Utebo
- Sobradriel
- Torres de Berrellén

### 5<sup>th</sup> Stage (21 km) From Fuentes to La Cartuja

- Fuentes de Ebro
- El Burgo de Ebro
- La Cartuja Baja

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage (22 km) From Escatrón to Gelsa

- Escatrón
- Monasterio de Rueda
- Sástago
- Alborge
- Alforque
- Velilla de Ebro
- Gelsa de Ebro



# THE ARAGONESE SAINT JAMES' WAY

Zaragoza *La Provincia*



1. The Fabara Mausoleum
2. The Salamanca Tower in Caspe
3. Saladas de Chiprana
4. The Santa María Church in Utebo
5. The Sástago Bridge
6. Saragossa

FRONT Ebro River



# THE EBRO SAINT JAMES' WAY

Zaragoza *La Provincia*



## PILGRIMS' HOSTELS

### ZARAGOZA

**Zaragoza Hostel** 70 Predicadores street  
Tel. number 976 222 043  
17 €

### Baltasar Gracián Youth Hostel

Aragonese Youth Institute. 4 Franco y López street  
Tel. number 976 306 690  
Bus numbers 38 and 22

### Pension Manifestación (Boarding House)

36 Manifestación street  
Tel. number 976 295 821 / 666 114 096  
18 €

### Pensión Iglesias (Boarding House)

14 Veronica street  
Tel. number 976 389 462  
14 €

### MONZALBARBA

**Pensión Emilio (Boarding House)**  
Tel. number 976 770 137  
18 €

### UTEBO

**Pensión Silvio (Boarding House)**  
Pº Berbegal 22  
Tel. number 976 770 503  
10 €

### TORRES DE BERRELLÉN

**City Hall**  
Tel. number 976 655 101

CREDENTIALS: Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Zaragoza.  
San Vicente de Paúl 1, Entlo. Derecha. Tel. number 976 292 605

### ALAGÓN

**Baraca Hostel**  
Tel. number 976 616 011  
45 €

### LUCENI

**Pensión Venus**  
Tel. number 976 652 046  
24 €

### GALLUR

**Hostal Unión de los Trabajadores**  
Tel. number 976 854 202  
26 € (Hostel in spring)



Plaza de España, 2 · 50071  
turismo@dpz.es  
www.zaragozalaprovincia.es



www.peregrinoszaragoza.org

# The Aragonese Saint James's Way

There are four itineraries that converging into one, in Puente la Reina, lead us to Santiago. The first one passes through Saint-Gilles, Montpellier, Toulouse and Somport. Along the Saint James's way following the Tolosa route. The first territory you discover as you cross the Garonne River is that of Gascony, from there, once one has passed over Somport, first Aragón and then Navarra appear.

Aymeric Picaud in his *Liber Sancti Iacobi* described the Aragonese stretch of The Saint James' Way, in the XII century. It was the last part of the Tolosa route before it converged with the rest of the Pyrenean ways which entered the Iberian Peninsula from the North through Roncesvalles and which was in pilgrimage times as important as the rest of the alternative routes.

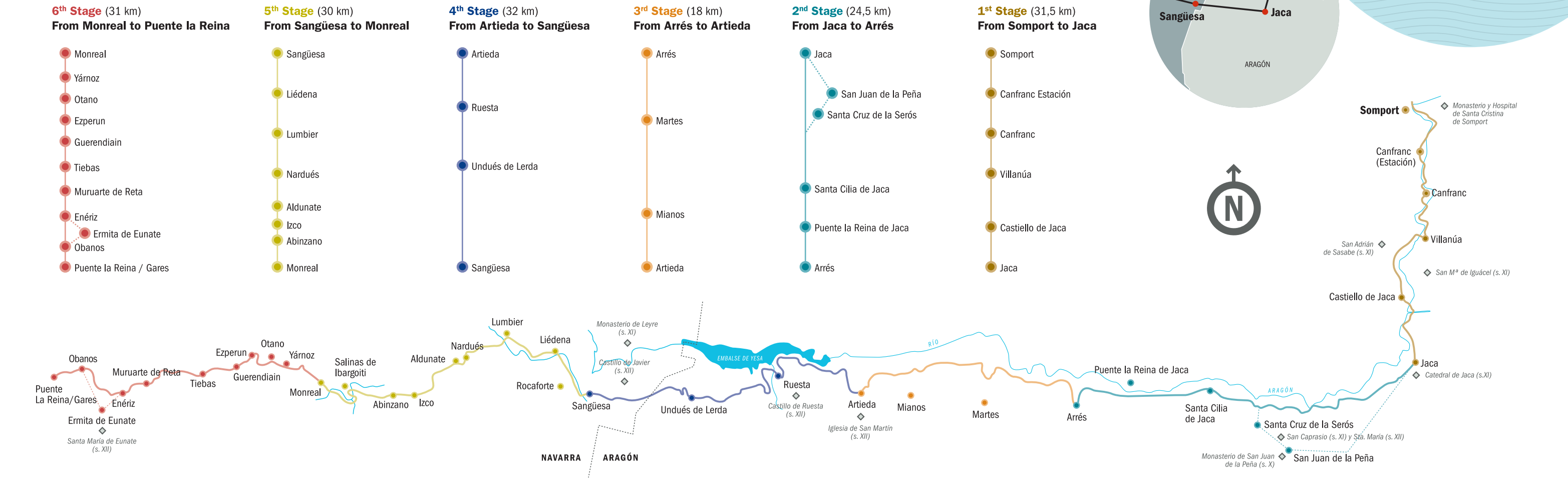
The origins of the History of Aragón are strongly connected with the expansion of the Saint James phenomenon. Until the beginning of the second millennium, pilgrims, then not so numerous, used to cross the Pyrenees through the El Palo pass, in the Hecho Valley, from where the old Roman road passed through small dominions linked to the county of the Pamplonese monarchy. The consolidation of the new kingdom of Aragon, in the XI century, supposed the expansion of reconquered territory and the founding of its first capital city and Episcopal administrative centre, Jaca, together with pioneering codes of laws (fuero) allowing the establishment of free men. With this, in Picaud's words, the foundation of the Santa Cristina Hospital: "One of the three extremely useful columns that the Lord established in this world to support the poor" together with Jerusalem and Mont-Joux determined the deviation of the great pilgrimage flow towards the "Summus Portus" and the valley formed by "a river of health giving waters named, Aragon"

The first kings of Aragon, Ramiro I and above all, Sancho Ramírez, along with Pedro I and Alfonso I El Batallador (the Battler) undertook a protection and promotion policy of the Saint James' Way: The imposing of a Roman Catholic Church administrated feudalism, the importation of the Gregorian liturgy, diplomatic alliances with the South of France, the influential entering of the Order of Cluny and European Cultural developments, the laying of roads, the building of bridges and hostels, the foundation of villages and settlements, the creation of monasteries, the consecration of churches, the awarding of franchises, the vigilance of roads and other measures favouring the transit of pilgrims, which at that time, arrived in large numbers in all conditions and from all around, completed the list.

In this manner, the most frequented and definitive route was fixed, marked by the tracing of the Aragon River, which from its sources in Somport flows in a North-South direction, to later turn into a right angle on reaching Jaca, to finally lead to the Canal de Berdún from the east to the west, and calmly flowing into the Yesa reservoir. The river and the path enter into the Navarran lands, the first looking to converge with the Ebro as its tributary and the second, from Puente la Reina, where the four main itineraries converge, leading onto Santiago de Compostela.

The beauty of these spots is sprinkled with artistic jewels. This was one of the first and greatest paths for the introduction of the Romanesque, which finds, along the Saint James' Way, its model in the cathedral of Jaca. Together with this emblematic monument and of the same fascinating style, appear along this route and its surroundings, others such as the churches of San Adrian de Sasabe and Santa María de Iguacel, San Juan de la Peña and Santa Cruz de la Serós, San Juan de Maltray and Jacobo de Ruesta.

Villages of a sober traditional architecture and old towers where the now invisible, ephemeral footprints, of so many pilgrims through so many years, guide us towards the finisterre (end of the known world) to the Gaelic west, towards the Apostle's tomb so venerated. These pilgrims received the hospitality of the people of the Saint James's Way Aragonese lands.



1. Artieda / 2. Ruesta / 3. Berdún / 4. Jaca / 5. Santa Cristina de Somport / 6. Mianos / 7. Aruej / 8. San Pedro, Jaca / **FRONT** Pont Nou // **AUTOR:** Juan Carlos Gil Ballano **ARCHIVO:** Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural. Gobierno de Aragón.



PILGRIMS'S HOTELS		
<p><b>JACA</b> 36 beds Tel. number 974 355 758</p>	<p><b>UNDUÉS DE LERDA</b> 56 beds Tel. number 948 888 105 / 676 240 712</p>	<p><b>TIEBAS</b> 40 beds Tel. number 948 360 047 / 948 360 222</p>
<p><b>ARRÉS</b> 20 beds</p>	<p><b>SANGÜESA</b> 12 beds Tel. number 948 870 042</p>	<p><b>PUENTE LA REINA</b> 72 beds Tel. number 948 340 050</p>
<p><b>ARTIEDA</b> 20 beds Tel. number 948 439 316</p>	<p><b>IZCO</b> 8 beds Tel. number 948 362 129 / 948 362 195 Open from May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>To go from Jaca to Somport - Comarca de Jacetania Buses Service Tel. number 974 356 980</p>
<p><b>RUESTA</b> 78 beds Tel. number 948 398 082</p>	<p><b>MONREAL</b> 25 beds Tel. number 948 362 081</p>	