

# Jaca Excursions

8 suggestions for getting to know Jaca and its environs





# Western Valleys

Jaca - Valle de Hecho - Ansó - Canal de Berdún

**These form one of the most beautiful high mountain landscapes in Aragon. The mountains contain valuable historic, cultural and ethnographic remains, including Megalithic monuments and a section of Roman road that was used by pilgrims on their way to Santiago.**



## Santa Cilia

A village of historical and cultural interest on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago. Church of St. Saviour (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries).

## Puente la Reina de Jaca

An important crossroads.

## Embún

16<sup>th</sup> century parish church. Typical beans. Museo del Palotiau y la Ferrería.

## Echo

At the foot of Peñaforca mountain and Acher Castle, next to the Roman road from Zaragoza to Lescar (France) via the Puerto del Palo mountain pass. Home of the County of Aragon. Attractive houses with impressive chimneys and stylish balconies. Ethnological museum and open-air sculpture museum.

## Siresa

St. Peter's Monastery set up around 833 by Galindo Aznarez, founder of the Aragonese County House. Beautiful landscapes and magnificent forests from the Boca del Infierno to Selva de Oza and Guarrinza. Megalithic monuments. A good mountain road leads from Hecho to the Ansó valley.

## Ansó

On the banks of the Veral river. Very beautiful houses with graceful chimneys. 16<sup>th</sup> century Aragonese Gothic church. Museum of religious art and Ethnological Museum displaying the varied local costumes. Leafy forests and beautiful landscapes such as Zuriza Valley and Agua Tuerta Valley. Close by are the picturesque villages of Fago and Majones.

The latter has a Romanesque church with a trefoil apse and a 15<sup>th</sup> century defensive tower.

## Foz de Biniés

Surprising landscape. A passage excavated by the Veral river.

## Berdún

One of the most extensively photographed villages in the Pyrenees. Once a fortress, it retains one of the original gates. 16<sup>th</sup> century Aragonese Gothic church with a Baroque organ. Mansions. Romanesque chapel. Not far from the Yesa reservoir is Sigüés with its 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque church, and Salvatierra de Escá, a beautiful, historic village.

## Artieda

Medieval church that was much altered in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. An important stopping-place on the Pilgrims' Road to Santiago on its way through Aragon.

## Mianos

A typical village. Inside the 17<sup>th</sup> century church is an outstanding, pitched wooden roof.

## Arrés

Church with a 16<sup>th</sup> century belltower. On the Pilgrims' Road to Santiago.

## Bailo

Gothic mansions. Baroque organ in the church.





# The Hidden Valley

Jaca - Borau Valley - Aísa - Jasa - Aragüés

**A beautiful valley forming part of the most important nature reserve in the Aragonese Pyrenees. Most of the villages have a marked tradition of cattle breeding which has determined the local architectural style.**





## Borau

A picturesque village with mountain architecture. The Chapel of Saint Adrián de Sasabe in Lombardy Romanesque style is all that remains of the monastery that sheltered the Aragonese bishops at the time of the Arab invasion. The Holy Grail was here.

## Aísa

A typical mountain village affording impressive views over the Aspe massif. Village architecture. A privileged location for sporting activities.

Close by are the villages of Esposa and Sinués, famous for its typical dance with kerchieves, ribbons and poles. A drive through attractive landscapes leads to other valley villages such as Lastiesas and those in Solana de Jaca.



## Jasa

An interesting village with an 18<sup>th</sup> century church built in several stages. Typical local costume and dance.

## Aragüés del Puerto

Ethnological museum. Beautiful landscapes around the Labati mountain pass. Sierra Bernera, Sarrios Valley and the mythical Bisaurín mountain. Typical local costume and dance.

*1. Aísa, with the Aspe peak in the background. / 2. Jasa, lintel over a stable. / 3. Typical house in Simués. / 4. Chapel of Saint Adrian of Sasabe, Borau.*



# Aragón Valley

Jaca - Castiello de Jaca - Garcipollera Valley

Villanúa - Canfranc town - Canfranc Station

Somport - Candanchú - Astún - Aspe Valley

**The valley follows the course of the Aragon river as does the Pilgrims' Road to Santiago from its point of entry into Spain at the Somport mountain pass. The paths of art and history cross here in an outstanding natural setting.**

### Castiello de Jaca

13<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque church that underwent extensive alterations. Known as the town of one hundred relics.

### Garcipollera Valley

The Ijeuz river is surrounded by forests and fields. At the head of the valley is the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Romanesque Santa María de Iguácel chapel, remaining from a Benedictine monastery. One of the first churches in Aragon to have a semicircular apse. The last part of the valley can be visited on foot. The path offers tourist information.

### Villanúa

Parish church of Saint Stephen. A well-looked-after town with examples of traditional architecture. The Güixas cave with its stalactites and stalagmites offers a wealth of fantastic chalk structures.

### Canfranc town

Medieval Pilgrims' Bridge. Ruins of a 14<sup>th</sup> century tower and of the Trinity Church. The parish church of the Assumption houses some interesting Baroque altarpieces in its side chapels.

### Canfranc Station

An imposing international railway station inaugurated in 1928. Note also Our Lady of the Pillar parish church built by Miguel Fisac and the Fusilería Tower, a delightful 19<sup>th</sup> century construction with an elliptic ground plan, a defensive moat and a medieval



appearance. At the entrance to the town is the 8-kilometre tunnel leading to France. Starting-point for many excursions.

### Candanchú and Astún

Important ski resorts. Outstanding views all year round.

### Aspe Valley, Francia

Beautiful Pyrenees valley with delightful, typical towns such as Borce, Lescun and Bedous. Pyrenees National Park. Ecomuseum.



# San Juan de la Peña and Oroel Mountain

Jaca - Santa Cruz de la Serós - San Juan de la Peña - Oroel Mountain



**A surprising group of monuments in a protected natural landscape. History comes together with art, culture and nature.**

## Santa Cruz de la Serós

Outstanding buildings. Lombardy Romanesque church of Saint Caprasio. The late 11<sup>th</sup> century Church of Saint Mary, an outstanding example of Spanish Romanesque, is all that remains of the famous female Benedictine monastery.

## San Juan de la Peña

A National Monument located in the municipal district of Jaca. Its monasteries were inhabited by Benedictine monks until 1835. The Old Monastery, built beneath a large rock and a jewel of medieval architecture, is located at an altitude of 1,220 metres.

It has two floors. On the lower level is the pre-Romanesque church and the 11<sup>th</sup> century 'Council Hall'. At the back is the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Romanesque Pantheon of Nobles, the high church with three apses (11<sup>th</sup> century), the cloister in pure Romanesque style with capitals bearing reliefs sculpted with scenes from the Old and New Testament (12<sup>th</sup> century), the Gothic chapel of Saint



Victorian, the abbatial pantheon on the north side of the cloister (15<sup>th</sup> century) and the Kings' Pantheon built in 1770 by Charles III.

On the upper Saint Indaletius esplanade, in a beautiful field surrounded by leafy trees is the Upper Monastery (17<sup>th</sup> century) dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. A brick church with three beautiful Baroque portals. Today the Monastery houses the interpretation centres for the Kingdom of Aragon and for San Juan de la Peña and a modern guesthouse. At a five-minute walk through pine and fir woods is the Pyrenees Balcony lookout point.

## Oroel Mountain

From the Upper Monastery the old road leads to Bernúes and Jaca via the Oroel mountain pass. For further wonderful landscapes, continue along a mountain road to the Parador. If you climb from there to the peak you can see one of the most splendid views of Jaca and the Pyrenees.



1



2

# Jaca Villages

Ecomuseum of the Pyrenees

**The villages of Jaca offer surprisingly beautiful landscapes, a rich artistic heritage, popular traditions and hospitable people.**



Special attractions are the Romanesque churches of Asieso, Abay, Caniás, Navasa and Barós, the Osia, Orante and Espuéndolas chapels, the Baroque church in Ara and its restored group of items of local architecture – wells, wash-houses, ovens, smithies, etc. All of these played a role in shaping the district.

The Ecomuseum of the Pyrenees organises guided tours showing the key features of the Jaca area – its monuments, its wonderful landscapes, and lifestyles and beliefs in the Pyrenees.

*1. Twin window in Banaguás. / 2. Ecomuseum signpost. / 3. Cross at Abay and Oroel mountain. / 4. View of Botaya.*





# Sabiñánigo and the Serrablo Rute

Jaca - Sabiñanigo - Serrablo Rute



**The Serrablo Route is one of the key sights in the area, offering several Romanesque / Mozarabic churches all with unique characteristics.**

## Sabiñánigo

Capital of the Serrablo district and the only mountain town having a sound industrial structure.

Close by in Puente de Sabiñánigo is the important Museum of “Ángel Orensanz of Popular Arts” which collects goods of the ancient Pyrenean daily life

## Larrés

The Julio Gavín Drawing Museum is located inside a late Middle Ages fortress and displays a very large collection of drawings by contemporary artists.

## Serrablo churches

Lovers of the Romanesque style can visit a variety of churches – all different but all sharing the features that are common to their territory: Lárrede, San Juan de Busa, Orós, Oliván, Gavin, Satué are some examples.

1. Ángel Orensanz Popular Arts Museum. / 2. Larrés castle.  
3. Church of Lárrede.





# Tena Valley

Jaca - Biescas - Sallent - Panticosa - Formigal

**A marvellous Pyrenean valley offering visitors a varied environment with everything they need for enjoying its beautiful landscapes, its villages and its people.**





## Biescas

An attractive leisure and sporting centre. Close by are Megalithic monuments, the 18<sup>th</sup> century chapel of Santa Elena hanging above a cliff and a 19<sup>th</sup> century military fort. This is also an important crossroads between the road to Sobrarbe via the Cotefablo mountain pass and that towards France via Portalet through the Tena Valley.

## Hoz de Jaca

A picturesque village in wonderful surroundings. From the lookout point, visitors can enjoy magnificent views of the whole of the Tena Valley.

## Tramacastilla de Tena

A delightful village amongst pine woods, oak woods and meadows in an incomparable setting. On the horizon, Peña Telera and Peña Blanca and, below the town, the Búbal reservoir. A 16<sup>th</sup> century church, with a Romanesque apse.

## Panticosa

Of special interest is the town centre with its attractive buildings, mostly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the period of maximum splendour of this spa town. Also a late Gothic, 16<sup>th</sup> century church with outstanding altarpieces and a small museum of religious art. Attached to the town is a ski resort.

## Balneario de Panticosa

This is a privileged, unique spa, at an altitude of 1,630 metres in the glacial depression of the Caldarés river.

Roman coins dating from the period of Augustus and Tiberias found in the area of the spring indicate that the Romans were present here and that the thermal waters have been in use since then.

## Sallent de Gállego

A typical Aragonese Pyrenean village at the top of the valley and at the foot of Foratata Mountain on the rivers Gállego and Aguas Limpias where there is a medieval bridge.

Early 16<sup>th</sup> century church with a Plateresque altarpiece. Starting-point for many excursions.

## Lanuza

A very beautiful restored village. The South Pyrenees Festival is held in the month of July.

## Formigal

A large winter sports and ski-ing centre, just a few kilometres away from El Portalet, the frontier with France.

*1. View of the Tena Valley. / 2. Protective symbols in Sallent de Gállego.  
3. Lanuza, town centre.*



# Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park

Jaca - Biescas - Torla - Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park



**With its 15,608 hectares, this is a nature museum comprising four valleys of glacial origin – Ordesa, Añisclo, Escuaín and Pineta - around the Monte Perdido massif.**

### San Bartolomé de Gavín

7 kms from Biescas, this is a delightful chapel, a jewel of 10<sup>th</sup> century art, with the most beautiful bell tower in the Serrablo district.

### Linás de Broto

15<sup>th</sup> century Church of Saint Michael, with a medieval background.

### Torla

A typical high-altitude Aragonese village, below Mondaruego mountain. This is the natural entrance to the Ordesa and Bujaruelo valleys. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the province of Huesca. Important examples of popular architecture include Casa Ruba, Lardiés, and Casa Viu, built in stone with double arched windows and noble coats of arms on the facades.

### Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park

Declared a National Park on 16 August 1918, it was the second such park in Spain. It is dominated by Europe's highest calcareous massif, the Monte Perdido (3,355 m), with the Tres Sorores peaks, from which four rivers and their respective valleys lead – Arazas, Bellos, Yaga and Cinca.

The landscape is one of great contrasts – the extremely arid high parts contrast with the green valleys covered with forests and meadows, with waterfalls, canyons and gullies.



A natural paradise that is home to almost 1,400 plant species, almost half of the flora present in the Pyrenees, thanks to varied microclimates at the different altitudes as well as moisture, sunshine and the soil composition. There are also important animal species such as the bearded vulture, the Pyrenean newt, the capercaillie and the chamois. This is a place that no lover of nature and trekking should miss.

# Map of Jacetania

## Suggested routes:

1. Western Valleys
2. The hidden Valley (Valley of Borau and Aísa)
3. Aragon Valley
4. San Juan de la Peña and Oroel Mountain
5. Jaca villages
6. Sabiñánigo and the Serrablo Route
7. Tena Valley
8. Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park





## Tourist Office

Plaza San Pedro, 11-13  
22700 Jaca

T. 974 360 098  
oficinaturismo@aytojaca.es

[www.jaca.es](http://www.jaca.es)