

# A Journey TO THE UNKNOWN TOWNS

For 3,000 years, urban settlements have been fundamental to structure Saragossa's territory. Indo-Europeans, Iberians, Celtiberians, *Vascones*, *Suessetani*, Gauls and Romans were the ancient peoples who created towns of different fate: permanence, abandonment, oblivion, or substitution by other towns. All of them form a rich historical and cultural heritage.

Saragossa's territory was very populated, with settlements very near each other and placed on easy-defense hills, by water courses and cultivable lands. Their emplacement in Saragossa's province depends on the peoples who built the towns: those of **Ist Iron Age** in the region of Bajo Aragón-Caspe, during Xth-VIth centuries B.C.; Iberians in the aforementioned region and in the Ebro's middle valley and **Celtiberians** in Huerva and Jalón valleys and in mount Moncayo region, since IVth century B.C. until Roman times; **Romans**, who, since the IIIrd century B.C. until the Vth century A.C., reorganized this important urban heritage by inserting it in their road-network and founding new settlements as the magnificent *Celsa and Bilbilis* and as the urban center of Los Bañales.

The ancient **Roman ways** network, connecting *Caesar Augusta* to the rest of the Roman world, uncovers to the traveler surprises that he or she maybe did not imagine: fortified towns, theaters on slopes, mosaics in rich houses, aqueducts in the midst of wheat-fields... But our proposition is not only to feed the spirit: all over the province, we will discover careful places for a break from where to continue our way.



## Roman Gastronomy

To book two days before

### Zaragoza

Restaurante Club Náutico, 976 293 400, restaurante@elnauticozaragoza.com

Restaurante Las Vegas Independencia, 976 238 034

Restaurante El Foro, 976 569 611, carlosorgaz@elforo98.com

### Tarazona

Restaurante Las Brujas, 976 640 400 / 976 640 404, hbrujbecquer@infonegocio.com

### Ejea de los Caballeros

Restaurante Bolaso, 976 668 030 / 976 668 059, bolaso@jet.es

## Tourist offices

### Zaragoza

Palacio de Sástago. C/ Coso 44. Tel. 976 212 032. zaragozaturismo.dpz.es

Avda. Cesar Augusto, 25. Tel. 976 282 181. www.turismoaragon.com

Plaza del Pilar s/n. Tel. 976 721 282/201 200. turismo.ayto-zaragoza.es

### Borja

Plaza de España, 1. Tel. 976 852 001. esperanzaayto@terra.es

### Calatayud

Plaza del fuerte s/n. Tel. 976 886 322

### Caspe

Casa-Palacio Piazuelo Barberán plaza de España, 1. Tel. 976 636 533. caspetur@encomix.es

### Ejea de los Caballeros

Avda. Cosculluela, 1. Tel. 976 677 474

### Tarazona

Plaza de San Francisco, 1. Tel. 976 640 074/199 076. turismo@tarazona.org

### Vera del Moncayo

Monasterio de Veruela. Paseo de Veruela s/n. Tel. 976 649 025

## Museums

### Museos de Caesaraugusta, Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza.

Museo del Teatro. C/ San Jorge, 12. Tel. 976 205 088

Museo del Foro. Plaza de La Seo, 2. Tel. 976 399 752

Museo del Puerto Fluvial. Plaza de San Bruno, 8. Tel. 976 393 157

Museo de las Termas. C/ San Juan y San Pedro, 3-7. Tel. 976 393 157

### Museo de Zaragoza.

Plaza de los Sitios, 6. Tel. 976 222 181. museoza@aragob.es

Centro Monográfico de la Colonia Celsa. Velilla de Ebro. Tel. 976 222181. museoza@aragob.es

### Museo de Calatayud.

Edif. Claretianos C/ Fernández Ardavin, 3. Tel. 976 881 673

### Centro de Estudios Turiasonenses.

www.lanzadera.com/centrodeestudiosturiasonenses

### Centro de Estudios Celtibéricos de Segeda.

www.segeda.net



www.dipuzaragoza.es

Photos: Tarabidar, Museo de Zaragoza, Museo de Calatayud, Centro de Estudios Celtibéricos de Segeda,

Centro de estudios Turiasonenses (C.E.T.), Ayuntamiento de Castiilscar.

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# THE UNKNOWN TOWNS



A JOURNEY INTO SARAGOSA'S PROVINCE



Los Bañales. Uncastillo

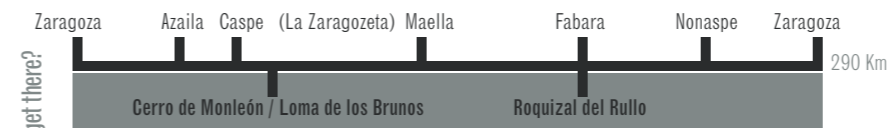
### Celtiberian warriors

"Greek wars, a moment resolves them, whereas Celtiberian wars, it is the night that usually stops them, strength and courage of men holding on, and many times not even winter can put an end to them".

Diodorus from Sicily: Bibliotheca historica, XXXI, 40.

## Iron Towns

*Iron towns* informs us about how Indo-European peoples settled on easy-defense hills that allowed them to watch over rivers and cultivable lands. It is the case of Cabezo de Monleón and Loma de los Brunos, both near Caspe, and Roquizal del Rullo, by Fabara. Bajo Aragón-Caspe region keeps also Iberian remains, as El Pontet and la Vall, at Nonaspe, and as El Tossal Gort, at Maella; and Roman too, as the temple of Miralpeix, in Caspe and Chiprana and Fabara mausoleums.



- How to get there?
- ▶ Zaragoza – Azaila – Camino a la Zaragoceta: **Cerro de Monleón y la Loma de los Brunos.**
  - ▶ Caspe – Maella – por la carretera a Mazaleón: **Tossal Gort.**
  - ▶ Caspe – Mequinenza – Fabara: **Roquizal del Rullo.**
  - ▶ Fabara – Nonaspe: **el Pontet y La Vall.**



Scale model, Cerro de Monleón. Museum of Saragossa.

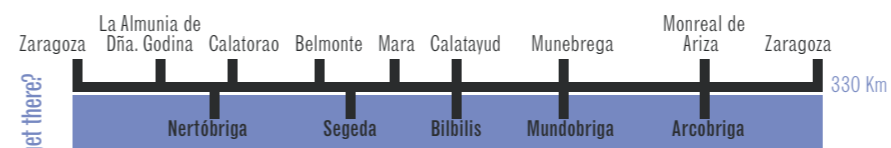
Pottery, Cerro de Monleón. Musée of Saragossa.

### 1st Iron Age urbanism

Rectangular-shaped houses built with mud walls on rough stone socles open to a central street. Their bottoms form the city wall.

## Jalón's big Towns

*Jalón's big towns* offers a great travel to Celtiberia, which towns defied the powerful Rome during the second half of the II<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. These towns were built in IV<sup>th</sup> – III<sup>rd</sup> centuries B.C., well fortified, on heights overlooking communication ways and rivers. They were important trade centers for almost all of them minted coin: *Nertobriga*, between Calatorao and La Almunia de Doña Godina, with an amazing city wall at Puyrredondo; *Segeda*, at Mara and Belmonte, that moved Rome to war in 153 B.C.; *Bilbilis*, at Valdeherrera and at Bámbola hill (*Municipium Augusta Bilbilis*), a jewel of monumental urbanism that shows its full splendor in Calatayud's Museum; *Mundobriga*, between Munébrega and Olivés, the oldest one; and *Arcobriga*, by Monreal de Ariza, an outstanding trade center.



- How to get there?
- ▶ Zaragoza – La Almunia de Doña Godina – Calatorao: **Nertobriga.**
  - ▶ La Almunia de Doña Godina – Belmonte, Mara: **Segeda.**
  - ▶ Calatayud – Huérmeda: **Municipium Augusta Bilbilis.**
  - ▶ Calatayud: **Valdeherrera (Celtiberique Bilbilis).**
  - ▶ Calatayud – Munébrega – Olivés: **Mundobriga.**
  - ▶ Calatayud – Monreal de Ariza: **Arcobriga.**



Coin, Nertobriga.

Frescoes from Bilbilis. M. of Calatayud.

Pottery from Segeda.

Spearpoint, Arcobriga. M. of Saragossa.

### Segeda and Municipium Augusta Bilbilis: the dominion on the territory

Both of them were destroyed by the Romans and refounded in other places: *Segeda* with a chessboard plan (perpendicular streets, rectangular blocks) and *Bilbilis* with a monumental structure (theater on a slope and forum on a hill top).

### Severed heads Celtic cult

Related by classical sources to the Celtiberian and Gaul practice of human sacrifices, this cult may originate from a war trophy consisting in the offering of enemy's heads to a deity in order to obtain protection.



Museum of the Forum, Saragossa.

Museum of the Theater, Saragossa.

# The Routes

## Moncayo's Celtiberians

*Moncayo's Celtiberians*, called *keltiberoi* by Strabo, dwelled in towns as *Turiasu*, in Tarazona or in La Oruña, Vera de Moncayo, and as *Bursau*, today Borja. It was an iron production region and a fundamental communication center due to the crossroad of Saragossa-Numancia-Coruña del Conde way with a secondary way to Calahorra via Aguilar del Río Alhama, where an important town, *Contrebia Leucade*, was located.



- How to get there?
- ▶ Zaragoza – Borja: **Bursau.**
  - ▶ Borja – Vera de Moncayo: **La Oruña.**
  - ▶ Vera de Moncayo – Tarazona: **Turiasu.**



Pottery, Turiasu. Archaeological collection of Tarazona. C.E.T.

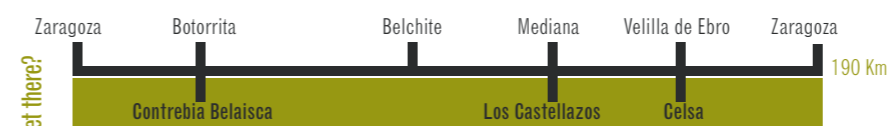
Brooch, La Oruña. Archaeological collection of Tarazona. C.E.T.

### Tarazona's archaeological collection

Outstanding objects from La Oruña: *Turiasu* denarius in silver, sling projectiles in lead, domestic pottery, corn grinders, tools and weapons in iron, brooches (fibulae) in bronze.

## From the Fortresses to the Bridge on the River Ebro

The political Roman power is present in this route. The warlike atmosphere imposed by the Roman Republic conquest changed into a peaceful one in imperial times, once autochthonous peoples were conquered by the Romans. The first situation can be seen in two Pre-Roman fortified cities: *Contrebia Belaisca*, at Botorrita, which tanneries made of it an important trade center and that has produced three historically outclass Celtiberian inscriptions; and the Iberian town in Los Castellazos, near Mediana. The second situation is exemplified by the magnificent *Colonia Celsa*, near Velilla de Ebro, where we find the splendor of the chessboard-planned Roman town. Besides, this route leads the traveler to the Ibero-Romans sites of La Cabañeta, near El Burgo de Ebro, and of La Corona, near Fuentes de Ebro.



- How to get there?
- ▶ Zaragoza – Botorrita: **Contrebia Belaisca.**
  - ▶ Botorrita – Fuendetodos – Belchite – Mediana: **Los Castellazos.**
  - ▶ Mediana – Quinto de Ebro – Gelsa – Velilla de Ebro: **Colonia Celsa.**
  - ▶ Quinto – Fuentes de Ebro – El Burgo de Ebro – Zaragoza.



Bronze plaque, Contrebia Belaisca. M. of Saragossa.

Amphora, Celsa. Museum of Velilla de Ebro.

Barge, Museum of the River Port, Saragossa.

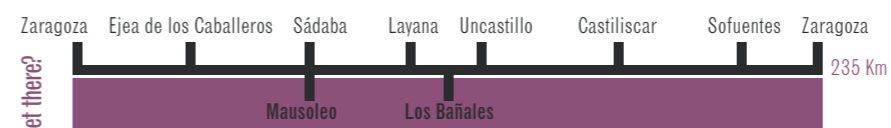
### Colonia Celsa

Its spectacular plan is structured in rectangular blocks of houses and straight streets. It is surrounded by a ditch. To be remarked: the bridge remains, a necropole and a commercial area with shops, a bakery, a market, stores and a restaurant.

Interesting architectural, pictorial and mosaic remains are kept in the Museum of Velilla de Ebro.

## Towards Pompey's Town

Finally, *towards Pompey's town* is illustrative of the urban world relationship with agrarian world (*villae*) in Roman empire times: Los Bañales, by Uncastillo, on the way from Saragossa to Pamplona, is a corn-trade center that managed this kind of transactions. Moreover, there are impressive mausoleums in Sádaba and in Sofuentes, and a sarcophagus in Castiliscar, now used as altar of the parish church.



- How to get there?
- ▶ Zaragoza – Alagón – Tauste – Ejea de los Caballeros – Sádaba – Layana: **Los Bañales.**
  - ▶ Sádaba – Castiliscar – Sofuentes.



Roman sarcophagus, Castiliscar.

Aqueduct of Los Bañales.

### The water in Los Bañales

The aqueduct, thirty two pillars of which still remain, was a part of a water piping coming from Arba de Luesia river. Its function was to feed the baths that are formed by some halls, dressing-room (*apodyterium*), cold bathroom (*frigidarium*), tepid bathroom (*tepidarium*), hot bathroom (*caldarium*), sauna (*laconicum*) and an unroofed area for gymnastics (*palestra*).