



VAL D'ARAN  
Era essència des Pirenèus

# VILLAGES

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# VILLAGES

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## 1 VAL DE TORAN



Accessed from **Pontaut**, the last populated village before reaching the border (Pont de Rei), which includes the old Carabinier quarters as well as the single high arch bridge that gives the place its name (high bridge).

On the mountain slope you can see the ruins of the great mineral wash (sphalerite or blende) that came from the **Liat mines**, transported by a cable car of more than 13 km long that was in operation from 1911 until the Civil War.

During the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century, mining activity in Toran Valley was very important, originating a great number of densely populated villages during those years.

We begin our tour of the small villages of **Canejan**, **Porcingles**, **Bordius** and **Sant Joan de Toran** (a charming village of well-kept stone houses) and the small **chapel of Sant Joan Baptista**.

At the bottom of the valley is **Honeria Refuge**, in memory of the old iron foundry that operated in the 19th century. This is the starting point of some hiking and high mountain routes that along old mining roads lead us to the old mines of Liat (2,300m). This remote place offers spectacular views of the Toran Valley and a unique sense of peace.

## 2 CANEJAN



**Village covered in Flowers.** At one end of Val de Toran and located next to the French border perched on a steep hillside; this village offers one of the best views over the Low Aran (Baish Aran) and the villages of Les and Bausen.

It is the starting point of a pleasant walk along a historical path towards the town of **Porcingles** (8 km there and back, 3h total).

### 3 BAUSEN



This charming village can brag about having preserved its authenticity and its beautiful traditional architecture. Its unique stepped facades and wooden balconies make Bausen a magnificent example of traditional Aranese architecture.

It is also famous for being the starting point of the hike around a spectacular beech forest, **Carlac Forest** (circular route of 5km there and back, 2h total).

Ask one of the locals about the "**Bausen Lovers**". You will be moved by the beautiful legend that has been created by the cemetery of Teresa, about the love of two young people in the year 1900. It is a tiny cemetery that contains only one grave: Teresa's. For this reason it is considered the smallest civil cemetery in Spain. It is located on the outskirts of the village, in the peaceful spot known as Coret, a plain populated with acacia trees from which there are impressive views over **Toran valley** and the plains of Les (**Era Lana**).

### 4 LES



It houses thermal waters in its subsoil, with lots of health benefits for the skin, which are used in the **Termas dera Baronía** recreational-thermal centre. Its name comes from the old residence of the Barons of Les (La Baronía), which is located a few meters from the spa. This is the starting point for a pleasant stroll towards the **Capèla dera Lana** a small chapel surrounded by meadows.

Tours to the organic production centre of one of the most valued sturgeon caviars in the world, **Caviar Nacarii** are available through the year with prior reservation.

In the middle of the square and next to the church you can admire the tall fir tree trunk planted there. This is the **Haro**, which, every year, following a very lively thousand-year-old tradition is burned on the night of Saint John, in a great festival celebrated with traditional music, known as the **Crema der Haro**. In 2015, UNESCO recognized it as Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

From the square begins the ascent to the feudal castle, known as **Castèth de Pijoèrt** of the 12th-15th centuries. Halfway up, we find the **Romanesque chapel of Sant Blas**.

## 5 BOSSÒST



This town is home to one of the best examples of Aranese Romanesque architecture: the church of **Mair de Diu dera Purificacion** (RRd'Aran) (12th century), which has been declared a Cultural Asset of National Interest. From the church square you can walk to the oldest part of the village, the **Cap dera Vila** district, where there is an old **public washhouse**.

**Route of the protective chapels:** It is worth visiting the seven chapels that surround the village and that, according to legend, were built by its residents to protect them from the plague: **Sant Cerat**, **Sant Joan Crisòstom**, **Sant Fabian** and **Sant Sebastian**, **Era Pietat**, **Sant Antòni**, **Santa Eulària** (ruins) and **Sant Ròc** (patron saint of the village). From the latter, a brief ascent begins to the ruins of the castle and the Romanesque chapel of **Santa Eulària**, next to the **Soala de Casteràs** cave.

Bossòst is crossed by the beautiful tree-lined promenade along the Garonne River, called **Eth Grauèr**, with French-style houses, known for its commercial activity, bars and restaurants.

The most spectacular tour from Bossòst is the climb to **Pòrt deth Portilhon**. A route that runs through a leafy fir forest, where it is a must to stop at the viewpoint to enjoy a spectacular view of the village and the **Margalida Forest**.

We can finish the visit by enjoying a tour of the **Refu Birreria** artisan brewery, where more than 7 different types are produced with the **Val d'Aran Guarantee** seal.

## 6 VILAMÒS



Its location at the foot of the Montludé offers a magnificent view over the **Maladeta range** and **Aneto** (3,404m), the highest peak in the Pyrenees.

Considered to be the oldest village in the valley, it has the **Romanesque church of Santa María**, (11th-12th centuries) which incorporates a large number of **Roman steles** in its walls (4th-5th centuries AD) and its apse was restored in the 16th-17th centuries. In its main street is the **house-museum Çò de Joanchiquet**, which is well worth a visit to learn about the traditional Aranese way of life until the second third of the twentieth century. Through a side street of the museum, you can access the old **covered wash house** that also integrates the fountain and the well. On one of the pillars supporting this large unitary roof, an inscription gives us the possible date of construction: 1773. Also highly recommended is a visit to the **lime furnace** (horn de caudia) and the nearby 11th and 12th-century **Romanesque chapel of Sant Miquèu**, from which there are magnificent panoramic views of the **Aneto** and the **Maladeta mountain range**.

## 7 ARRÒ



This village with only fifty inhabitants is one of the smallest in the Valley. It has the Romanesque church of Sant Martí, dedicated to its patron, the antiquity of which is manifested in the deteriorated state of its façade. Unlike the parish churches of its neighboring towns, the church has not been able to withstand the inclement weather conditions of the high mountains. Legend has it that **Sant Martí** peacefully passed through its streets on horseback, where he met a beggar in a deplorable state. The poor man was about to die due to the cold weather in the middle of November and San Martín took pity on him, handing him half his cloak so that he could take shelter. But



the reality is that this beggar was the devil, who, with the intention of getting the Saint to freeze to death, devised this plan to keep his clothing without his knowledge. In spite of everything, he finally did not succeed, because at that precise moment, the sun appeared and with its rays began to heat up, making it no longer necessary to wear the cloak to continue the march.

## 8 ARRES



The village of Arres is made up of two towns on the slopes of **Montanha d'Uishèra**: **Arres de Jos**, below and **Arres de Sus**, above. Halfway between the two, the **parish church of Sant Joan**, built in the 18th century, gives the whole area a lot of character.

**8.1. Arres de Jos:** Located on a mountain landing, at 1267m high, it has a small Romanesque church dedicated to **Sant Fabian**. It has a beautiful apse, decorated with arches and lesenes, and a late Roman stele, used as a small window on the west façade.

**8.2. Arres de Sus:** From this upper town, there is a forest track that leads to the **Bassa d' Arres** in the middle of dense pine forests and the access point to **Mina Victoria**, an important zinc mine which was in operation until the 1940s and which is now a museum with a signposted exterior route and the possibility of a guided tour inside one of its galleries during the summer. Continuing along the track we will reach another historical mining operation, **Margalida Mine**.

## 9 ES BÒRDES

The village of Es Bòrdes originated in the 17th and 18th centuries, around the fortification of **Castèth Leon**, to house the families of the soldiers who made up the stronghold garrison. **Castèth Leon:** The stronghold was built during the French invasion of 1283, on a hill at the Garonne and Jòeu river junction allowing control of this important crossroads. Due to its high strategic value, it was the seat of the royal governor and one of the main settings in Aran's history until its destruction in 1719 by French troops during the War of the Quadruple Alliance. The archaeological work carried out has enabled the recovery of the walled perimeter and the foundations of the keep and other buildings. Next to the door of the parish church of **Era Mair de Diu deth Roser** (19th century), the tombstone (14th century) of a knight



of the castle is embedded in the wall, depicting the deceased lying in a prayer pose.

Es Bòrdes was also the bloodiest stage of the invasion of the Aran Valley by the Maquis (19-29 October 1944). The bullet holes in the façade of the bell tower are a reminder of these battles.

The village is also the starting point for one of the most beautiful excursions in the Val d'Aran: the **Artiga de Lin** valley and the **emergence of Uelhs deth Joeu** where the waters of the Aneto glacier reappear.

This is also where **Camin Reiau**, the main historical route of the valley, passes. To the north, there is a very beautiful section that preserves the original cobblestone and walls. Shortly after leaving the village and crossing the Joeu River over an old bridge, we will reach a picturesque **old washhouse**, covered by a large slate roof. It is highly recommended to do the circular route walking among chestnut trees, oak groves and green pastures, which from Es Bòrdes and following ancient bridle paths take us through the picturesque villages of **Arró**, **Vilamòs**, **Begós** and **Benós**.

## 10 BEGÓS



This small village has a small but interesting church of Romanesque origin, **dedicated to Sant Ròc**, preserving the apse and a beautiful baptismal basin. The nave is covered with a gothic vault.

In recent years, wall paintings from the modern era have been recovered. The house with the **Socasau tower** also stands out.



## 11 BENÓS



This quiet village, located 910 m., has a small and picturesque core of houses in which the remains of the Romanesque church dedicated to **Sant Martí** of the XII century stand out, one of the oldest in the Valley.

## 12 BETLAN



On a hillside of the Garonne River and surrounded by meadows, the village has beautiful views over the vast **Baricauba fir forest**, located on the other side of the valley. You can get the best views from the viewpoint /cemetery located next to the parish church dedicated to **Sant Pèir** and of Romanesque origin. This town, which in medieval documents appears as Bella, Bela, Bellano and Betlano, is known for the legend of **Mandrónius the Giant** who, it is said, fought against the Romans who invaded the valley until he was mortally wounded. The legend also tells that he was hiding in a small cave near the village.

## 13 VILA



Perched on the slope of the mountain and below the Mariagata forest, the village offers a beautiful **view of the Baricauba forest**, and the **peaks of Montcorbison** (2172m) and the **Entecada** (2267m). At the entrance to the village we can see the small **chapel of Sant Miquèu**.

From the same village one can connect with the village of Arròs without having to return to the main road, enjoying **splendid views**.

## 14 ARRÒS



At a lower level we find the village of Arròs. In the centre of the village stands a large neoclassical style manor known as **Çò deth Senhor d'Arròs**, which houses the **Archiu Generau d'Aran**. This archive holds the historical documentation of the Valley. Among the documents kept there, from the medieval and modern periods, we can highlight "*Era Querimònia*", a compilation of the rights of the Aranese people granted in 1313 by the King of Aragon, Jaime II.

Part of the same complex is an older building with Renaissance windows. Nowadays, its ground floor houses the **Small School Museum**, which, with original furniture and materials, aims to show what a rural school was like in the 20th century. The old desks, maps, blackboard and school materials on display were recovered from the old school in the village of Vila before it was demolished. The village also preserves the **washhouse**.

## 15 AUBÈRT



At the bottom of the valley is the village of Aubèrt which has two churches. The **church of Sant Martí** on the outskirts and the **church deth Rosèr** on the square, with a small Romanesque nave from the 12th or 13th century which is attached to an octagonal bell tower from the 18th century. In the Major street, there is the **old village washhouse** protected by a gabled roof, next to a fountain.

## 16 VILAC



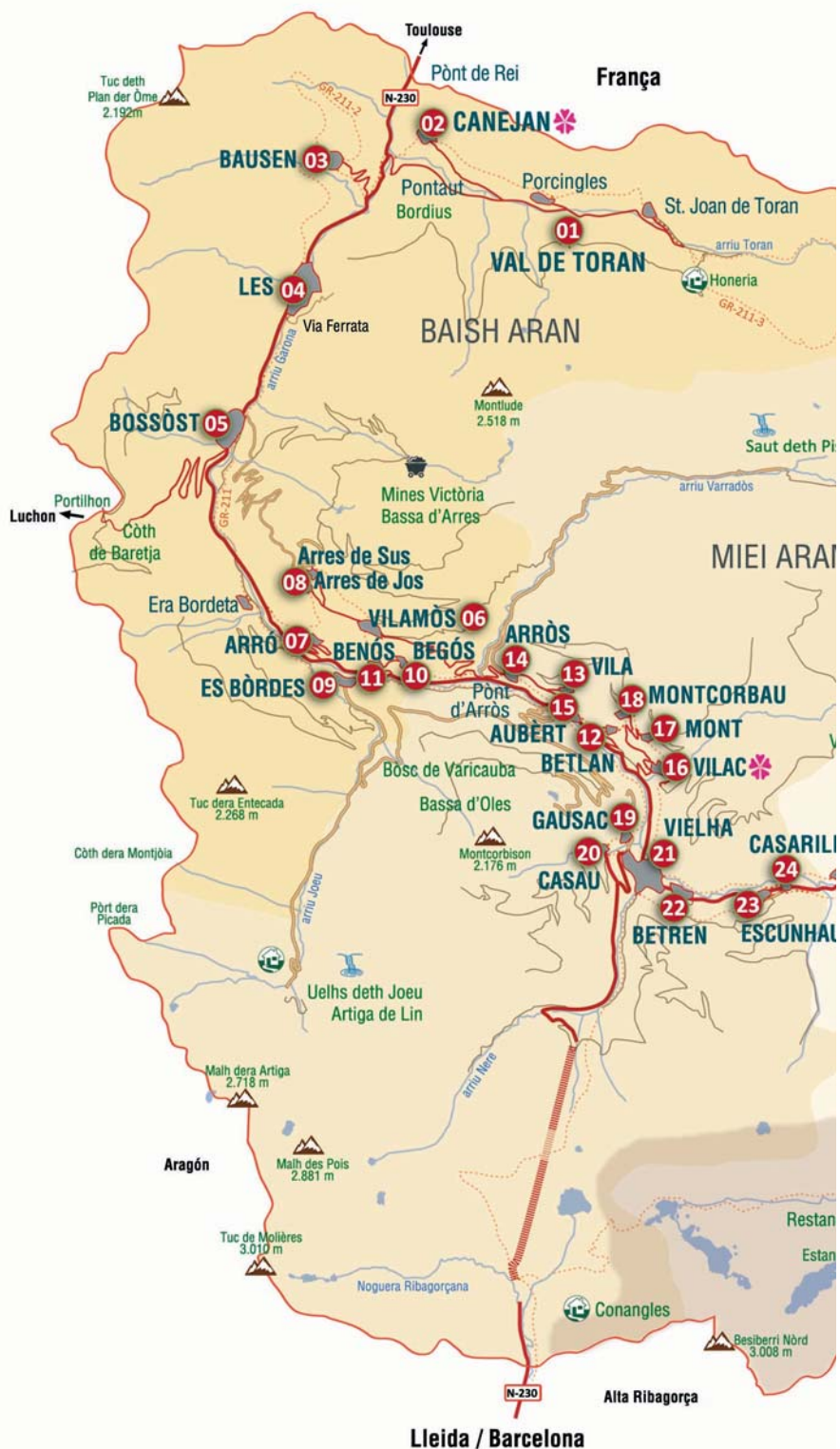
**Village covered in Flowers**, located at a mid-level, overlooking the Mijaran plain, next to the turbulent Salient River just before it flows into the Garonne River. The elegant Gothic bell tower of the **Sant Fèlix church** (RRd'Aran), in Romanesque style from the 12th and 13th centuries, stands out in the distance. Access to the church is through a wonderful garden-viewpoint. The church's interesting **Romanesque façade** with its sculpted tympanum, presided over by Christ in Majesty, reminds us of the church in Bossòst. Inside, two beautiful **Romanesque basins** stand out, as well as various altar supports. A **visit to the bell tower**, the only one in the Aran Valley, should not be missed. From the top, apart from the wonderful views of Vielha, the **Mijaran plain and the mountains of Sarraèra and Pòrt de Vielha**, we will be delighted by the delicate Gothic windows, the enormous bells, some of them very old, hanging from a robust castle of bells and the clock mechanism, from the beginning of the 18th century. The village preserves large houses with lintels from the 17th and 18th centuries.

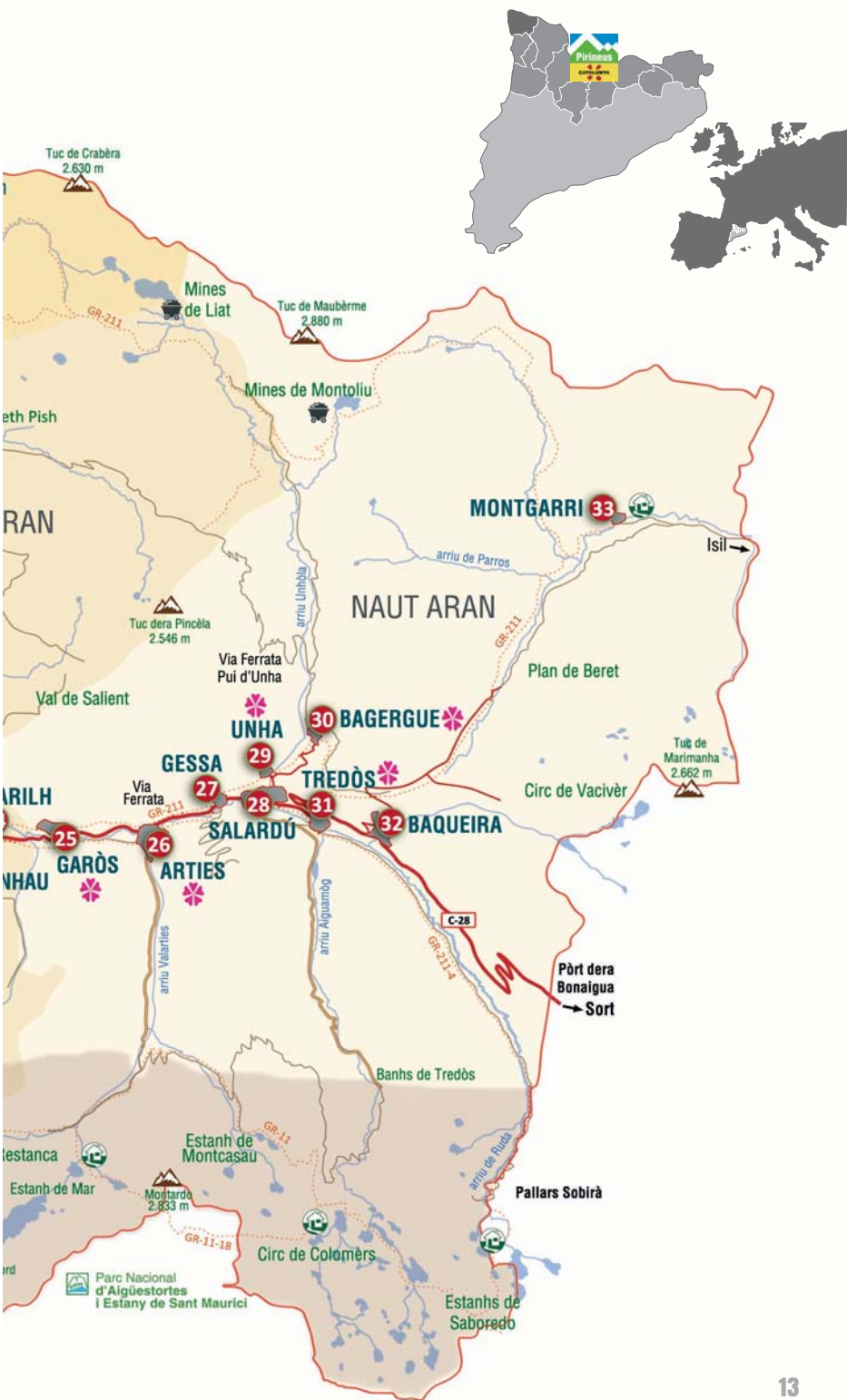
## 17 MONT



Somewhat separated from the town, and at its entrance, is the parish **church dedicated to Sant Laurenc**. From the primitive Romanesque, only the portal and the baptismal basin remain. Embedded in the village's **fountain/well** is a white marble piece in which the **chrismon or monogram of Christ** is carved in relief, a 12th-century Romanesque piece, probably from the original church.







## 18 MONTCORBAU



Offers a splendid panoramic view of the **Sarraèra** and **Pòrt de Vielha mountains**, its white peaks contrast with the green landscape of the lush **Baricauba forest**. It has the **Sant Estèue church**, with Gothic and Baroque architecture. On the wall of the façade, dating from the 18th century, there are elements from much earlier times: a late **Roman stele** (4th-5th century), and a **chrismon** along with other elements from the early Romanesque church. Continuing along the same street from the church is the **public washhouse** and about 10 minutes on foot above the village is the **Mair de Diu des Desemparats chapel**. There is a pleasant picnic and barbecue area nearby, with spectacular views.

## 19 GAUSAC



Located 2 km from Vielha, this small town has the beautiful **church of Sant Martin de Tours**, of Gothic architecture. It stands out for its **fortified Gothic tower** (15th-16th centuries), with an octagonal section and a replica, on a smaller scale, of the bell tower of Vielha. As in the former, at its base and under a large archway, the access door opens. A block embedded in the side wall shows a **crucified Christ in high relief**. Other reliefs integrated into the wall can be seen on the exterior walls of the church, including some **fragments of funeral steles** from the Roman period. Inside, there is a beautiful **Romanesque baptismal basin** with a beautifully carved polychrome baroque cover.



## 20 CASAU



Located in a prime setting, overlooked by the **Montcorbison** and with spectacular views over Vielha and the entire upper section of the valley, this is the first village in our region to be accessed from the Vielha tunnel.

Its **church dedicated to Sant Andrèu** stands out being a good example of the fusion of various architectural styles. Its imposing bell tower, of an evident defensive character, dates from 1613. Inside, it has a beautiful **Romanesque baptismal basin** and an interesting collection of **Gothic and Baroque imagery**.

## 21 VIELHA



Capital of the Aran Valley, Vielha is a small Pyrenean town, located at an altitude of 974 m, in a widening of the valley at the junction of the Garonne and Nere rivers, which cross the town. Vielha is currently home to 40% of the population of the valley. Its new neighbourhoods, with a wide variety of commercial spots, especially adventure sports, high mountain and snow shops, as well as artisan crafts and the **Palai de Gèu** sports complex, contrast with the charm of the narrow streets and old houses (16th and 17th centuries) of the **old town**, where you can taste a variety of culinary options, in its many charming restaurants, enjoy its popular "pinchos" (tapas) or have a drink at night.

But Vielha also offers a wide range of cultural stops. In the main square stands the **church of Sant Miquèu** (RRd'Aran), with its imposing **octagonal tower** from the 15th century, with battlements and defensive arrow slits, topped by a slender slate spire. Its base houses the large

14th-century **Gothic gates**. The interior, in addition to the **Gothic altarpiece** and the beautiful **Romanesque baptismal basin**, houses a masterpiece of 12th century Romanesque statuary: the Christ of Mijaran. This wooden bust, beautifully carved and polychromed, is the only preserved fragment of a large set representing the Descent of Christ from the Cross. It has been considered the work of the so-called Erill Workshop which has left several works in the neighboring Boí Valley and in the Aran Valley.

Other places not to be missed are the **Val d'Aran Museum**, **Çò de Rodès** manor house and the **Fabrica dera Lan** (wool factory). The former, located in a fortified house from the 17th century, with interesting Renaissance windows, you will be able to discover the complex and unique past of the Aran Valley. Very close by, in the same Main Street, is the beautiful **Çò de Rodès manor house**. And further up, at the end of the town, you will find the **old wool factory**, which is now a museum. There you can see an old English spinning machine, known as **Mule-Jenny**, which was key to the phenomenon of the Industrial Revolution, and learn about the process of transforming wool from tufts of sheep to bundles of yarn for knitting.

In **Plaça d'Aran**, in front of the Vielha headquarters of the Conselh Generau d'Aran, we find the monument to the **Aranese Language and Culture**, designed by the Aranese designer André Ricard.

In the **area of Mijaran** (leaving from Vielha towards France) is the **Pèira de Mijaran**, a large megalith that marks the geographical centre of the Aran Valley, and around which, according to tradition, the ancient Aranese gathered to make agreements. Nearby, an individual grave was found with a small trousseau, dating from the Bronze Age (1400-1200 BC), which is currently preserved at the **Musèu dera Val d'Aran**.

Nearby is the sanctuary of **Santa Maria de Mijaran**. In its Romanesque church, built in the 12th century and currently in ruins, the governors of the Valley swore to respect the rights and privileges of the Aran Valley. With the recovery of the **Conselh Generau d'Aran** in 1991, every June 17th, in commemoration of this fact, the ruins of the Romanesque church, host the events of the **national holiday of Aran**. In 1999, next to these ruins, a new sanctuary was inaugurated.



## 22 BETREN

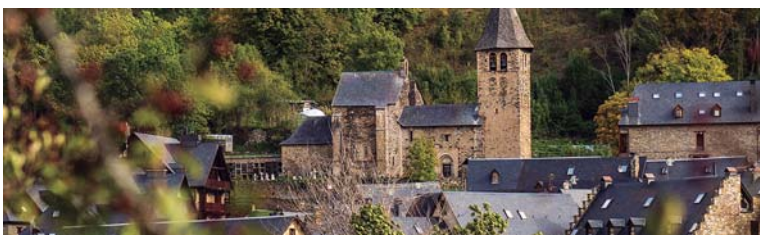


Although linked to Vielha, Betren is a small village that has preserved a large part of its **old houses** from the 17th and 18th centuries, surrounded by courtyards and their distinct **bordas** used as stables on the ground floor and as a haystack on the upper floor. The village had a church at both ends. Originally the parish church was the **church of Sant Sernilh**, of which only the bell tower is still standing.

At the other end, coming from Escunhau, you can visit the **church of Sant Estèue** (RRd'Aran), a transitional church from Romanesque to Gothic style. The beautiful **façade** and the Gothic style windows stand out. Inside, the old **clock mechanism** from the early 18th century is on display.

Next to the Garonne River is the **Mòla de Betren**, an old flour mill. From here starts a beautiful path, which following the course of the river will lead us in a pleasant ten minute walk to Vielha (next to the school of Vielha).

## 23 ESCUNHAU



It has an interesting town centre with cobbled streets where several old houses in the purest Aranese style stand out; especially **Çò de Pèirjoan**, built in 1595, with a beautiful Renaissance **façade**. A must see is the Romanesque **parish church of Sant Pèir**, built between the 11th and 12th centuries, to which a Gothic apse was added in the 15th century, and the bell tower in the 16th or 17th centuries. The interesting carved **Romanesque doorway** is worth mentioning, its tympanum shows a **Crucified Christ**, very similar to those in the churches of Vielha and Gausac. Inside we can admire a beautiful **Romanesque baptismal** basin as well as the oldest **bell tower clock** preserved in the valley, prior to the discovery of the pendulum in 1657.



## 24 CASARILH



It has a small town centre where you can discover some houses from the 17th to the 19th century, as well as the **church dedicated to Sant Tomàs**, originally Romanesque but very much renovated. On the outside and at the base of the bell tower wall, there is a large carved block with three circles, the central one showing a **chrismon**. A magnificent **Romanesque carving of Christ on the cross** comes from this church and it is on display at the **Musèu dera Val d'Aran**.

## 25 GARÒS



**Village covered in Flowers.** The first village in the municipality of Naut Aran, it has old houses from the 17th to the 19th century and the **church of Sant Julian**, in Gothic style, with an impressive **fortified bell tower**, finished in 1619. The vaults at the head of the church are decorated with **Renaissance paintings**. It also conserves the **old clockwork mechanism**, which we know was built in 1714 by an Aragonese clockmaker named Juan Guerri, thanks to its extensive inscription. On the outskirts of the village is the **deth Haro** necropolis (4th-5th century AD), whose excavation provided evidence of the oldest Christian presence in the valley. Garòs is located 2 km from Arties, where the visitor can take a nice circular walk along the **Camin Reiau** and return along the des **Banhs path**. It is said that in Garòs the grave of the legendary **Giant Mandronius** was found, a brave warrior who led the fight against the Roman invaders.



**Village covered in Flowers.** The village is located at an altitude of 1114m, extending through the plain where the Valarties and Garona rivers converge, overlooked by the spectacular **Montardo peak** (2833m). The town is famous for both its monuments and tourism infrastructure. It is also one of the access points, on the Aranese side, to the **Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park** through the Valarties valley.

On a small hill, the parish **church of Santa María** (RR d'Aran), declared a Cultural Asset of National Interest, stands out. It is a Romanesque church from the 12th century, to which a splendid **Gothic bell tower** was later added, topped by a slender slate roof. Inside, you can appreciate the **Gothic altarpiece** (15th century) that presides over the main altar, as well as several **Baroque altarpieces** from the 17th and 18th centuries. But what is really most impressive are the Renaissance paintings that decorate the vaults and walls, highlighting, in particular, the **Last Judgment** represented in the vault of the central nave or the Holy Father, located above the main altar.

At the other end of the town is the **church of Sant Joan**, in Gothic style and currently being used as the temporary exhibition hall of the **Musèu dera Val d'Aran**.

In addition, the old part of the town has outstanding examples of **Renaissance houses** from the 16th and 17th centuries, such as **Çò de Paulet** and the tower and **chapel of the Portolà family manor**, currently integrated in the **Parador de Turismo de Arties**. A descendant of this important family was **Gaspar de Portolà Rovira**, born in Os de Balaguer (Lleida) in 1716, who explored the American Pacific coast and became the first governor of California. A statue by the **sculptor Subirachs** in his honour stands next to the chapel, built, as an inscription indicates, in 1678 by his ancestor Gaspar de Portolà Pont. A twin sculpture recalls the explorer in the Californian city of Monterrey. Walking through the village, visitors are surprised by the funny **cow statues** that make the tour more enjoyable.

Next to the exit roundabout (direction Vielha) we find the **monument to the Taro**, the festival celebrated on the night of San Juan, June 23, declared **Intangible Heritage of Humanity** by UNESCO (2015). At about 10 minutes walking by a pedestrian path we arrive at the new thermal **pools of Arties**, located next to the old building (currently in ruins) of the original thermal baths of sulfur waters built in 1817.

## 27 GESSA



**Village covered in Flowers.** This beautiful village overlooking the nearby **Mont Romies fir forest and the glacier of the Aneto peak** preserves old houses from the 17th and 18th centuries. Among these, **Çò de Ròsa** stands out, a manor house with an angled tower and Renaissance windows. On the other side of the square, you will find the parish **church of Sant Pèir**, with its massive **bell tower** from the late 16th century, mainly for defensive purposes.

In the highest part of the village, a path begins which, ascending rapidly, will lead us to the chapel of **Sant Martin de Corilha**, located at 1880 m. of altitude, in an impressive position, hanging over a cliff, in the deep ravine of the same name. Inside, behind the altar, there is a small cave in the rock. A legend attributes its origin to the apparition of Saint Martin, who ordered the neighbours of Gessa to build him a prayer altar in this barren place, in exchange for freeing them from the storms they suffered.

## 28 SALARDÚ



**Village covered in Flowers.** Located on a hill, at the junction of the rivers Garonne and Unhòla is Salardú, capital of the municipality of Naut Aran, at the top of the valley.

It is a village of narrow and steep streets that culminates in the **church of Sant Andreu** (RR d'Aran), presided over by its imposing **octagonal Gothic bell tower** topped by a sharp slate spire, attached to the church, a beautiful **example of the transition from Romanesque to Gothic style**, in which a monumental late Romanesque doorway, stands out. Its interior holds the carving of the **Christ of Salardú**, a masterpiece of Romanesque imagery (12th century) and a highly venerated image. A magnificent **collection of Renaissance paintings**



from the 16th-17th centuries decorates the walls. Of the remains of the **castle** that once surrounded the church, one of its corner towers is preserved, behind the apses.

On the outskirts of the village and on the opposite bank of the Garonne River, you can visit the **Mòla de Salardú**, an old hydraulic flour mill, in a very good state of conservation and currently a museum.

**PyrenMuseu** offers a journey through the history of Pyrenees, which allowed the discovery of the high valleys of the Pyrenees. In the **Plaça Major** one of the oldest houses in the town can be found, **Çò de Lanhèu**, a **fountain** built in 1805 and a **statue of a wild boar**, symbol of the town.

## 29 UNHA



**Village covered in Flowers.** At the foot of the steep Pui d'Unha and on a hill, this small village near Salardú (1 km) and recently connected to it by a footbridge over the river Unhòla, enjoys **splendid views of the glacier and peaks of the Maladeta massif**.

It is also one of the villages that withstood the test of time, as its **Romanesque parish church of Santa Eulària** (RR d'Aran) (12th century) shows with a basilica floor plan and Lombard decoration in the apses. Inside the church there is a surprisingly varied **collection of mural paintings** in different styles and periods, from the Romanesque paintings in the central apse (half of the 12th century), to the **Renaissance representations (16th-17th centuries)** of the Virtues, Adam and Eve and Saint Sebastian on the southern wall of the nave, and the **Gothic**, Passion of Christ and Saint Germain (15th century) on the northern wall.

The unusual **bulbous-base roof of the octagonal bell-tower** built in the late eighteenth century that stands out over the harmonious urban complex is remarkable. Some manors can be found around the area such as **Çò de Brastet** (1580), located at the entrance to the village, with corner turrets, arrow slits and other defensive elements.

The **Musèu dera Nhèu**, located in another house from the end of the 16th century, **Çò de Baile**, shows us the importance of snow in the daily life of the valley and its evolution.

We would also like to highlight the small and well-preserved **flour mill**, located at the entrance to the village and next to the Unhòla river.

## 30 BAGERGUE



Located at an altitude of 1490m in the municipality of Naut Aran, is the highest village in the Valley, nominated **Villa Florida** (Village covered in Flowers) and since 2019, one of **the most beautiful villages in Spain**. In its old town, among many other houses of popular architecture, we can highlight **Çò de Menginat** (19th century) displaying a shield over the door and a sundial on the façade, one of the few existing in the Aran Valley; and the interesting **Eth Corrau museum**, which contains more than 2500 objects related to the traditional agricultural and livestock activity as well as to the daily life until the middle of the 20th century. Its parish church of **Sant Fèlix** (RR d'Aran) is of Romanesque construction although it was expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries, when two side chapels and the octagonal bell tower were added. Its interior houses a **replica of the Romanesque cross** that is currently on display at the National Art Museum of Catalonia (Barcelona), a work by the painter Agustí Masvidal; a late **Romanesque funeral stele** (4th or 5th century AD) that serves as the foot of the high altar, as well as various Baroque altarpieces (17th-18th century). **Hormatges Tarrau**: Cheese factory where 5 different types of cheese are made and where you can visit and taste them. One kilometre north, up the valley of the Unhòla River, it is worth visiting the **chapel of Santa Margalida**, in a beautiful setting of excellent pastures. The GR 211 long-distance footpath, the circular path of the Aran Valley, runs through there.

## 31 TREDÒS



**Village of Flowers.** Located at the top of the main valley, between Salardú and Baqueira, next to the Garonne River, it is overlooked by the great **church of Santa Maria de Cap d'Aran** (RR d'Aran), an old Marian sanctuary, built in different stages, between the end of the

11th century and the beginning of the 13th century, in Romanesque style. It has a small **crypt**. The walls of this impressive church are embellished with **paintings from various periods**, although the magnificent Romanesque frescoes in the apse are now in the **Metropolitan Museum in New York**. On the other side of the mountain and on the outskirts of the village is the small **church of Sant Estèu**, also of Romanesque origin.

## 32 BAQUEIRA



This recently created town centre began with the opening of the prestigious **Baqueira-Beret ski resort** in December 1964. It has a contemporary style church, dedicated to the Virgen de las Nieves. We also highlight the **Baqueirola Circuit** in which we can see different varieties of trees located throughout the town.

## 33 MONTGARRI



Beyond the great plain of the Plan de Beret and situated on the Mediterranean side, the **Marian sanctuary of Montgarri** is located in a beautiful mountain setting and next to the Noguera Pallaresa river. Although the current building dates from the 18th century, its foundation dates back to 1117-1119 when, according to tradition, a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary was found.

From the primitive church, the **Romanesque door** has been walled up and recently restored, in the first left side chapel, as you enter the church.

The **enclosure of the sanctuary**, which is protected by a wall, had, in addition to the church, a rectory, a hostel, stables and barns. After years of being abandoned, the old rectory has been restored and converted into a mountain refuge which, given the proximity of the Baqueira Beret ski resort, operates in both summer and winter.



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