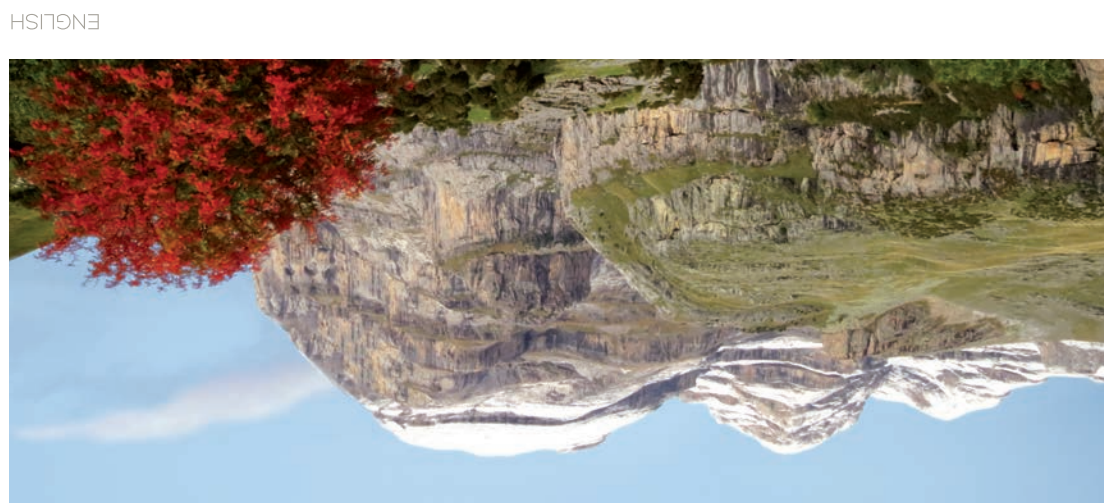




WHERE TO SEE BIRDS



ARAGÓN,
A NATURALIST'S
PARADISE



Unión Europea
FEADER
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural:
Europa invierte en las zonas rurales



/ OUTSTANDING BIRDS

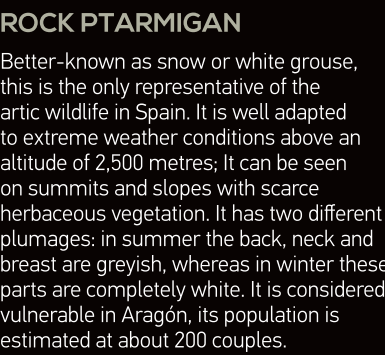


EMBLEMATIC SPECIES IN A TERRITORY OF CONTRASTS



BEARDED VULTURE / LAMMERGEIER

A Scavenger raptor which feeds mainly on bones. This bird is very large in size with long wings and a diamond-shaped tail. Adult specimens have black wings and tails with a head and body varying from white to orange-yellowish. Juveniles are completely dark and it takes them about seven years to acquire the adult plumage. It is listed as endangered in Europe, and the only wild population can be found in the Pyrenees. In Aragón there are about 60 reproductive groups.



ROCK PTARMIGAN

Better-known as snow or white grouse, this is the only representative of the arctic wildlife in Spain. It is well adapted to extreme weather conditions above an altitude of 2,500 metres; it can be seen on summits and slopes with scarce herbaceous vegetation. It has two different plumages: in summer the back, neck and breast are greyish, whereas in winter these parts are completely white. It is considered vulnerable in Aragón, its population is estimated at about 200 couples.



LITTLE BUSTARD

A steppe land bird brown with black spots above and white below. While flying the male makes a distinctive call which sounds like a hiss. In spring males display a striking neck pattern of black bordered by white markings and occupy individual territories that protect of other males, from where they perform their distinctive calls. They are found in flat areas of extensive farming. They are considered vulnerable in Aragón, and they have completely disappeared in many areas due to the habitat transformation.



EUROPEAN ROLLER

This bird of African origin is the only representative of the roller family. It arrives in our lands in April-May and leaves in September. It has a bright blue body and wings with a chestnut back. It feeds on insects and small vertebrates that hunts from their perches. It lives in dry wooded steppe and cultivation and nests in holes in trees and buildings. Its range is extending in Aragón, although the change of crops and the destruction of its habitats pose a serious threat.



WHITE-WINGED SNOWFINCH

In spite of its name this is a sparrow more than a finch. It is specialised in High Mountain and can reach heights of over 3000 metres where it is the sole passerine bird that can withstand those harsh conditions. It has brown upperparts with a very remarkable black and white pattern in wings and tail. It can cope with the winter in the High Pyrenees by foraging around mountain refuges and skiing resorts. It is fearless and tolerates the presence of mountaineers and hikers. It can be seen all along the Pyrenees, but it is more abundant in limestone mountains.



COMMON CRANE

Fully migratory species whose western European population winters in the Iberian Peninsula. It has long legs and neck, greyish plumage with a black, red and white facial pattern. Being a fairly gregarious bird, it usually moves around in large flocks and is easily detectable through its repetitive, strong call. It spends the winter in several Aragonese wetlands, but it is during the pre-nuptial migrant season that it can be spotted at any location.



BLACK WOODPECKER

This is the biggest woodpecker of the European bird life. The size of a crow, its plumage is entirely black except for a red crown. In males the entire crown is red while in females the red is confined to the nape. The bill is ivory coloured. It has an undulating flight, always close to the forest with a strong, remarkable call that makes it easy to find them. When hammering old trees looking for larvae it can be heard from a distance. It can be found in all kind of forests in the Pyrenees and Pre-Pyrenees.



EGYPTIAN VULTURE

The smallest among the scavenger raptors of Spain. Adult specimens are white with the edge of the wings black and bare orange-yellowish face. Juveniles are dark brown until their fourth year of age. This bird feeds principally on carrion of small animals and offal. Despite being at risk globally, in Aragón there is a significant breeding population with about 300 couples. It is considered vulnerable in Aragón, and its numbers have decreased due to the use of poison in some areas.



GREAT BUSTARD

This is one of the heaviest flying birds. Males can weigh up to 12 kg, although females are much smaller. It has a striking plumage with rufous brown body and tail rufous brown with black bars, grey head and neck, and white belly and flight feathers. It occurs in wild or cultivated crops such as cereals in the Ebro Valley. In Aragón it is listed as «endangered» and its populations are highly threatened.



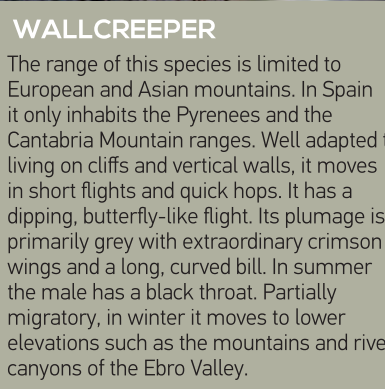
PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE AND BLACK BELLIED SANDGROUSE

These two species are closely related and have similar habits, they are well adapted to living in dry open plains with wild vegetation and traditional farming. They can withstand extreme temperatures in winter as well as in summer. Their long pointed wings allow them to fly quickly, with a powerful wingbeat. They forage for seeds and green shoots. Their nesting season is in the height of summer and therefore they need permanent waterholes



DUPONT'S LARK

This is a very scarce and specialist bird. Its worldwide distribution is limited to North Africa and Spain. Visually discreet, with pale brownish colours that help it to fuse with the ground, it is very difficult to spot. Its long, fine slightly curved bill is the most remarkable feature to distinguish it from other larks. In Aragón it inhabits a few land patches in the Ebro Valley that have not been cultivated, its population is estimated at less than 1000 individuals. Listed as «sensitive to changes in the habitats».



CITRIL FINCH

This small bird is related to canaries and other Fringillidae. It has greyish, green and yellow plumage, the female may be duller below. Its range is restricted to Europe, it occurs in coniferous forests all the year. There is little information about their seasonal movements. In Aragón it can be seen mainly in forests of black and Scots pine in the Pyrenees, Moncayo and southeast Teruel. It is common and even abundant and can be easily found by its distinctive call.

/ GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BIRDPWATCHING



“ORDESA AND MONTE
PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK:
ROAMING AREA OF THE
MAJESTIC BEARDED VULTURE”

If we want to go for a hike and do some birdwatching, we will need a pair of binoculars and a guidebook to look for and check the species that we will find. It is highly recommended to add a notebook to take notes and a camera. A land telescope helps a lot in long distance observation. Knowing the voices and calls of the birds will substantially enlarge our checklist, therefore the best is to carry recordings with the name of each species. The most convenient is to wear comfortable clothes in discrete colours, go alone or in small groups and move slowly and quietly.

Any time of the year is good for bird watching since every season has its typical species: summer, wintering, migratory and resident birds. Birds can be found anywhere, even in densely urbanised areas. It is essential to put the wellbeing and the peace of the birds before the success of our activity. Try not to get too close, and not to leave the trails and paths in order to avoid stepping on the vegetation. Respect the boundaries of reserves and restricted areas. There are several critical periods for the birds, not only when breeding but also during their migrations while resting from their long trips.



LODGINGS FOR BIRDPWATCHERS

A GOOD OPTION TO START BIRDPWATCHING

There is a wide range of specialized accommodation on offer for the traveller with naturalistic concerns that arrives in Aragón. A variety of services that includes hotels, guest houses and hostels that have specialized libraries, photography hides, guide services and schedules adapted to the needs of the birdwatcher and of those who wish to discover the peculiar bird life that our territory hosts.

More info:
birdingaragon.com/organiza-tu-viaje

/ ARAGÓN A PRIVILEGE



TRAVELLER

The Autonomous Community of Aragón is characterised by having a varied bird life, along with the biological wealth of its habitats, and therefore of its different biogeographic features: relief, climate, soil type, altitude and orientation. The fact that Aragón lies in the central part of the Ebro Valley, from the French border to the Iberian System, makes it possible that in less than 100 km we can enjoy a wide variety of environments. Due to the great diversity of habitats, the low population density in a 90% of the territory, and a relative good conservation status, there is a great amount and variety of birds to be observed. More than 370 species have been cited, being over 200 of them breeding species and the rest wintering, migratory and wandering. Their origins are also varied: from typically Eurosiberian birds to Mediterranean and Indoafrian. Although the level of transformation of the habitat due to human activity has been severe, there are still some locations where we can enjoy a high level of conservation.

/ HABITATS AND ROUTES



01/ HIGH MOUNTAINS AND ROCKS

The high mountains of Aragón are one of the world's most interesting biological areas. This highly specific ecosystem is home to some truly interesting bird species that are difficult to see in other areas or simply not present in much of the rest of Europe. The area has protected natural spaces from the 3000 metre high summits to the rugged hills of the Pre Pyrenees.

Aragón has many canyons and gorges with soaring cliffs which are fascinating ecosystems with a wide range of bird species.

02/ FORESTS AND RIVERS

33% of Aragón is forested with many different forest areas ranging from the Mountain Pine forest of the high mountains to the Holm Oak and pine forests of the dryer, more Mediterranean landscapes further South. With such diverse forest ecosystems, we find a range of forest specialising bird species.

Along the rivers and reservoirs dense stands of Poplar, Willow, Bramble and Tamarind provide a habitat for a wide range of bird species and wild animals.



03/ THE STEPPE AND MOOSAIC FARMLAND

Aragón has a huge area of steppe landscape – with huge skies, long views and wide-open spaces. In Spring the steppe comes alive with a short-lived explosion of colours, scents and life. Steppe species such as Dupont's Lark are adapted to the tough climate with extreme temperatures and long periods of drought.

The high steppes in Teruel (1000 metres above sea level) are beautiful wild landscapes with an amazing biodiversity. Extensive, dryland cereal areas are also an important habitat for Great and Little Bustards and Black Bellied and Pin Sand Grouse.

04/ WETLANDS & LAKES

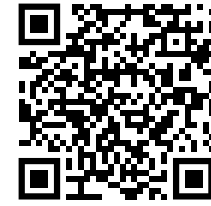
Numerous and interesting wetlands dot the Aragonese territory with marshes, lakes, oxbow lakes along the rivers and endorreic lakes in the steppe areas. Two of them are declared of international importance and are included in the Ramsar Convention.

The wetlands are spaces of great beauty and are vital resources for wildlife including a rich variety of bird species which you can watch from a network of hides and observatories.

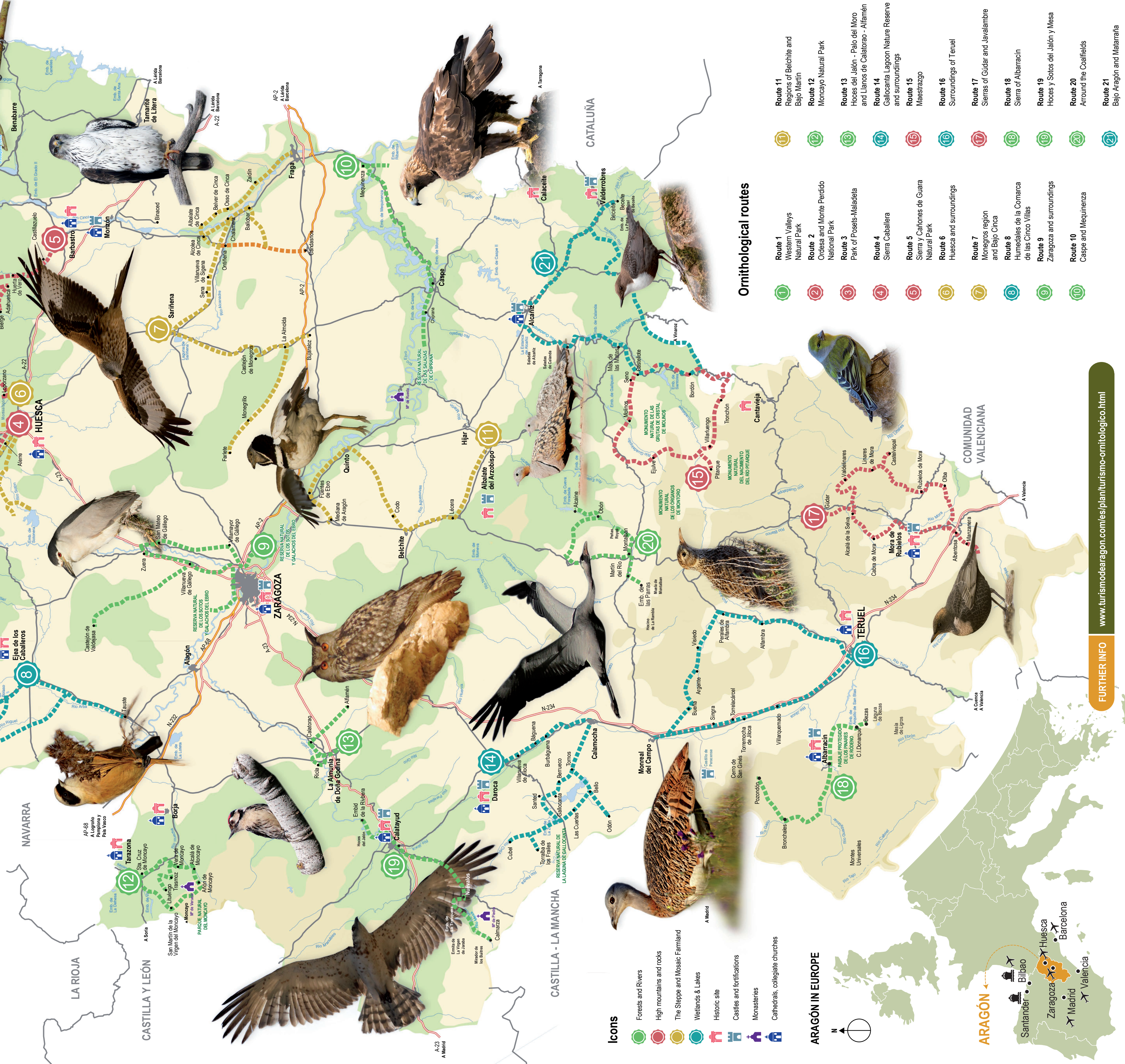




www.birdingaragon.com



Escanear el código QR y descarga las fichas detalladas de cada ruta en formato digital, encontrarás información específica de cada recorrido: puntos GPS de localización de las zonas, guías



Ornithological routes

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| Route 1
Western Valleys
Natural Park | Route 2
Ordesa and Monte Perdido
National Park | Route 3
Park of Posets-Maladeta | Route 4
Sierra Caballera | Route 5
Sierra y Cañones de Guara
Natural Park | Route 6
Huesca and surroundings | Route 7
Monegros region
and Bajo Cinca | Route 8
Humedales de la Comarca
de las Cinco Villas | Route 9
Zaragoza and surroundings | Route 10
Caspe and Mequinena | Route 11
Regions of Belchite and
Bajo Martín | Route 12
Moncayo Natural Park | Route 13
Hoces del Jalon - Palo del Moro
and Llanos de Calatorao - Allamén | Route 14
Gallocanta Lagoon Nature Reserve
and surroundings | Route 15
Maestrazgo | Route 16
Surroundings of Teruel | Route 17
Sierras of Gudar and Javalambre | Route 18
Sierra d'Albarracín | Route 19
Hoces y Sotos del Jalon y Mesa | Route 20
Around the Coalfields | Route 21
Bajo Aragón and Matarraja |
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www.turismoaragon.com/es/plan/turismo-ornitologico.html

FURTHER INFO