



HISTORY

Remains of the first settlements in this land are to be found through the many Paleontological sites of Rubielos, where fossilized insects are present in amber and rocky layers. There is also a large amount of primates, different mammals and fossilized birds in the Puebla de Valverde. The presence of the first human settlements are found in Albentosa, Alcalá de la Selva, Formiche Alto and Bajo, Manzanera, Mosqueruela and Olba. There is evidence of: silex stones patently laminated by pre-historic man; cave painting in the ravine of Mosqueruela, and the egg-shell and ne wall pottery found in the sites of Los Pilares of Rubielos de Mora. However, it was with the Christian conquest and its repopulation when the land was definitely defined, after a long process which started around 1170 with the foundation of Teruel by Alfonso II of Aragón and the conquest of Valencia by Jaime I in 1238. The first thing we see when reaching Mora de Rubielos, Alcalá de la Selva and Puertomingalvo are the outstanding castles. The two former castles were built by Juan Fernández de Heredia, a true gentleman, and the latter has its entrenchment on a rocky spur from which the nearest hills can be seen. There are still many medieval remains, however, it is the civil architecture that has remained in monuments from the 14th and 15th centuries, examples of which are the Casa Fuerte of Mosqueruela or the City Halls in Camarena de la Sierra, Nogueruelas, Puertomingalvo, Rubielos de Mora or Valdellinares. However, an example of the continuity of this habitat from the Middle Ages to our present time is the group of typical houses and mansion houses (masías, casetos, masicos or masadas) considered as important agricultura and livestock exploitations. In the contemporary period, both the Carlist Wars in the 19th century and the Spanish Civil War in the 20th century made an enormous impact on the land.



FESTIVITIES AND FOLKLORE

The festive calendar of the district Gúdar Javalambre relates throughout the year with paganism and religious devotion. It begins with the bonfires in honor to San Antón towards the 20 January. The festivity of San Blas is celebrated in Nogueruelas on the 3rd of February. The Saint is honoured with a colourful altar made of oranges. The Salidhijas of Sarrión constitute an ancient tradition. The members of the Sangre de Cristo Brotherhood organize the procession of the Pregón (speech) on Good Friday. People walk along the streets, singing a chant whose name refers to the first verse of the 183 verses that constitute the song: 'Salid hijas de Sión...' ('Come out, Sión's daughters...'). It is a deeply rooted tradition. The pilgrimage to the Virgin de La Estrella is celebrated on the last Sunday of May. It is the festivity par excellence in Mosqueruela. There is a procession from the village to the shrine of La Estrella, where the night is spent at the temple. From June to September the festive, playful and cultural calendar intensifies throughout the region. The Festival "Puerta del Mediterraneo" (Mediterranean Gate) is celebrated every August in the towns of Mora de Rubielos and Rubielos de Mora, their streets with music, dance, theater... Other important event in August is the FESTIFALK "Festival de las Autonomías" in Alcalá de la Selva and La Puebla de Valverde and The Medieval Weekend takes place in the beautiful village of Rubielos de Mora. In Alcalá de la Selva, on the 8th of September, a graceful display of dancers and ambassadors honour the carved sculpture of the Virgin de la Vega in a monumental Baroque shrine. Other elements present in the festivals of our towns are the bullfighting of cows and the traditional Toro Embolado (bulls with spheres of burning tar on their horns).



GASTRONOMY

Typical delighting flavours in this region are, ideal to get one's strength back after a hard working day in the fields. Homage is paid to farm animals for their embutidos (cold meats), their different cured hams, canned food and stews. This food is perfect to recover strength in low temperatures. Their people feel heady with the aroma of game, thanking their forests for its mushrooms and fungi. They enjoy delicious desserts baked in wood-ovens passed down through the generations. Apart from these common foods, different dishes are prepared according to tastes or possibilities; for instance, the Gachas (a recipe based on breadcrumbs fried in garlic) in Camarena are consumed with peppers and sardines. A competition of tortillas, elaborated with all kinds of ingredients, takes place during the festivities of San Mateo. In Valbona, the Gachas are elaborated with pork. Common dishes are the Migas and the Shepherd rice; however, pork and lamb dishes prevail: meat cooked a la pastora style or calf baked in the oven. Outstanding is the renowned Cured Ham, Designation of Origin of Teruel, as well as its embutidos (cold meat), all cured in dry and cold conditions. Different poultry, game (partridges, rabbits, quails and wild boars) are eaten accompanied by local fungi and mushrooms. Among these, the black truffle, or Tuber melanosporum, stands out for its aroma when it is ripe and for its myriad of uses. It is considered an essential product always present in the markets of the Estación de Mora. It is worthwhile tasting it on its own: laminated in olive oil, with bread and also as a seasoning for other dishes, meat and embutidos, as they do in Sarrión. We can also have trout in La Escaleruela. In Nogueruelas, there are delicious buns (made with lard) and cakes oven-baked.



NATURE

The region of Gúdar Javalambre stands out for its rivers, its sources, its high summits, for its great ornithological diversity, the splendor of its trees, the purity of the air... a natural environment that we must care for all. On the highest peaks of the Sierra de Gúdar, we can find a variety of pine tree called the pino moro. It is typical of The Alps and the Pyrenees, and it represents the sole evidence of the cold periods of the Quaternary. The Scots pines are abundant in the high regions. In the eastern sector of the Iberian Mountain Range, this type of pine tree is associated to the savine juniper. They represent the typical vegetation of these mountains. The presence of savines in the Sierra of Javalambre is a consequence of deforestation processes. The maritime pine also called black pine is another variety that grows below this savine. It normally grows alongside common lavender and sage. All this can be seen in the foothills of Javalambre, in the area of Torrijas and Camarena de la Sierra. Aleppo pines, Kermes oaks and rosemary grow in the lower areas. This black pine variety is commonly found near rivers like the valley of Mijares near Olba. Cluster pines grow in the surroundings of Mora de Rubielos and Rubielos de Mora. The presence of Spanish junipers covers a large extension of land, reaching the western part of La Puebla de Valverde, Sarrión and Manzanera stretching as far as the high mountains of Javalambre. In the Mijares Depression, visitors can find holm oaks and gall oaks. There are also Kermes oak and truffle holm oak new plantations which are replacing the old crop elds. Deciduous species such as maple, lime, aspen and hazel are typical of the Eurosiberian region. The aspen can be seen in Alcalá de la Selva; the hazel of the Cerrada de la Balsa is in Linares de Mora. There is evidence of yew trees in El Castellar.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

This mountain range allow the visitor to practise any number of adventure sports and activities. It offers a wide range of possibilities for the path routes and the BBT, the GR-8 (great distance route) and the GR-10 and all the PRs (short distance routes). Besides, the Via Verde (Green Route), starting out in Ojos Negros (Black Eyes) and reaching Puerto de Sagunto is considered a great attraction for travellers and touring cyclists. If you prefer more challenging activities, you shouldn't miss the yearly Circuits of Popular Races as in May in Mora de Rubielos and in July in Rubielos de Mora with his half marathons. At the end of March, the Nogueruelas mountains host two very hard mountain runs: an ultramarathon of 70 km. And a trail of 30 km. On the other hand there are BTT races such as the Transhighlands MBT for the highest villages in Spain (Valdellinares, Alcalá, Linares, Mosqueruela, Puertomingalvo...) and Matahombres every September in Camarena de la Sierra, with a large participation. There is an interesting cyclotourist race in June called Ciclotourist Sierra de Gúdar. For climbing enthusiasts, you can visit the ferry routes of the Alhambras in Manzanera, the Straits of La Hoz in Formiche Alto and the Via Ferrata Jurásica of El Castellar, always with the advice of a professional. On the other hand, in Alcalá de la Selva there is a golf course with nine-hole grass; an interesting option to spend a weekend in the company of family or friends surrounded by green hills and valleys. The golf course "El Castillejo" at almost 1,500 meters of altitude, presents a unique characteristic since it combines the best of the traditional fields with the best of the rustic ones; as it adapts to the existing orography, respecting terraces, troughs and hills. In the region there are nine active tourism companies and a company specialized in birdwatching taking into account that there is a great wealth and ornithological diversity in this territory. To contact these professionals go to www.gudarjavalambre.es/turismo/ique-hacer



MONUMENTS

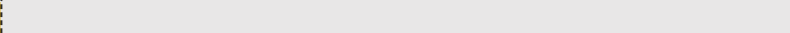
Each of the municipalities in the region of Gúdar Javalambre preserves peculiarities in their buildings. Worth seeing are the remains of the castle, the parish church, its gateways, and an unusual hermitage which invites the visitor to wander around... Castles like the one in Albentosa, show evidence of their Christian past dating from the 13th to the 15th century. Among these, two of them have evidence of Moorish vestiges, like the one in Puertomingalvo, and its twin in Linares, whose wall is faced in bolster, from the 10th century, and the one in Alcalá de la Selva. Worth seeing too is the exterior grandeur of the castle of Mora de Rubielos due to its gigantic proportions. The importance of civil buildings emerges in the time when the power of nobility declines. Town halls are a sign of council power, and will be used as meeting points, since former meetings were held before in the portico of the churches or the cemeteries. The Town Hall of Rubielos de Mora is considered one of the most monumental civil buildings. In the inside, there is a considerable fish market from the middle of the 16th century, which was built according to the Levantine Gothic style. Outstanding are the buildings in Temprado street in Linares de Mora as well as the Ricos Hombres constructions in Mosqueruela: a number of mansions of feudal presence whose lineage is evidenced in its materials and shapes. The Inmaculada Concepción Church in Arcos de Salinas with its monumental Baroque façade was declared Place of Cultural Interest in 1983. The Church in Linares de Mora, with three aisles, is dedicated to the Inmaculada Concepción Virgin. Worth mentioning are the buttresses of the Former Collegiate in Mora.



HISTORIC ROUTE. Its medieval heritage is with no doubt its most outstanding and attractive feature. The fact that the town was fortified at that time has converted Teruel into a special location full of stories about impossible loves, memories of legends and buildings which defended themselves against sudden attacks from their enemies. It is located in the high mountains facing the Mediterranean Sea. These mountains are nowadays ideal for practicing sports, however, they were once strategic surveillance points protecting against enemy incursions. Other lower hills are craggy and inaccessible, topped and boasting an enduring castle like an ornamental considered to be the feature safeguarding the village. Manor houses crowned with towers are found among the castles. They were complex networks for vigilance. The sentinels would raise the alarm when a rival attack were in sight and would act as a barrier against the powerful enemies. Each of these stories had a hero, i.e., which is the case of El Cid, who marched through different villages in this area, on his way to Valencia. This conquest became legendary after waging an important campaign which involved a siege plus three years of battle in the Levante Region, making it more than memorable. Following the steps of this distinguished gentleman, El Cid, we are taken to La Puebla de Valverde, Valbona, Mora de Rubielos, Rubielos de Mora, Nogueruelas, Linares de Mora, Mosqueruela, connecting from here to the route from El Cantar to the Maestrazgo. We could also trace the Cid Campeador within the boundaries of the region, moving from Fuentes de Rubielos and Olba to the Valencian Region. Due to their important strategic position and impressive castles, Alcalá de la Selva and Puertomingalvo are worth a mention.



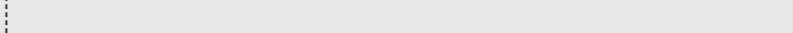
THE ROUTE OF THE MUSEUMS. The region of Gúdar Javalambre can boast to have everything alongside with the heritage of its villages and surroundings. Rivers with tempting crystal clear water, walks that evoke its paths and high peaks atop its mountains. There are several museums in the region which are worth visiting. There are ethnographic museums in Manzanera, Nogueruelas and Mora de Rubielos where ancient home utensils and farming tools are displayed. The Spanish Civil War Interpreting Centre and the Defensive Fortifications Route is located in Sarrión and the Mycology Museum in Valdellinares. The thematic park Región Ambarina offers the possibility of learning about the inhabitants' past in this region. It is one of the head offices of Territorio Dinópolis and is located in Rubielos de Mora. The insects that got trapped at the bottom of a lake 110 million years ago can be seen. The Salvador the Victoria Foundation-Museum is located in this town. The Hospital de Gracia houses the works of this international artist. It was built in the middle of the 18th century, its objective was to welcome the poor and pilgrims. It has been restored to house a project which recognises Salvador Victoria's origins and universality. The Town Hall gaol in Puertomingalvo houses the Castillos del Maestrazgo Interpreting Centre. Different scale models of the castles of the region are displayed, together with exhibition panels explaining the structure of the fortified constructions. Likewise, the Museum of Historic Documents is located in the Church of the Asunción in Mosqueruela, where the legacy created by the Community Archive of Teruel from the 13th to the 18th century is displayed.



THE ROUTE OF THE CHURCHES. Religious constructions in this bordering land are of special interest. There is clear evidence of the blending of different architectonic styles blended according to the needs of its population and the materials used. The legacy in beliefs is proportional to the cultural heritage. It clearly shows the role of the church as a meeting point for both prayer and meditation. Many parish churches are of artistic interest. The old Church of La Sangre de Cristo in Sarrión, a Roman construction which has been recently restored, preserves the portico from the 13th century. The Ex-collegiate Church of Santa Maria la Mayor in Rubielos de Mora is worthy of note. This Renaissance construction dates from the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th century. It houses a masterpiece in the interior: an international Gothic painting from the 15th century, the largest altarpiece dedicated to the Virgin. Alonso Fernández de Barrio de Ajo was involved in this church and in the Church of La Puebla de Valverde, at the beginning of the 17th century. The other Former Collegiate Church of Santa Maria la Mayor in Mora de Rubielos dates back to the 15th century. It has a single nave temple and chapels among its colossal buttresses. It is considered the second largest church in Spain of this style, after the Church of Girona. In the interior, there is a fascinating 15th-century-grille, and among others, the Sagrario Chapel of Mannerist style from the 17th century. The Valdellinares Church is known as the Virgen de las Nieves Chapel (Virgin of the Snow Chapel), being an appropriate name as it refers to the highest municipality in the country. It was built in masonry and ashlar stone. The façade is divided into three areas which show a diminution heightwise. This is just one example, there being many more. Examples of Places of Cultural Interest are the San Juan and San Judas Churches in Alcalá de la Selva (16th century), the Inmaculada façade in Arcos de las Salinas (18th century), in Linares de Mora, dedicated to the same virgin, and in Cabra de Mora dedicated to San Miguel (18th century).



ROUTES OF MEMORABLE TREES. The richness in heritage and vegetation in the high regions cannot be missed. The significance of the crops still prevails, picnic spots and fountains are used for relax and enjoyment. The route we recommend has paths outlining the routes for the farmers, sometimes leading to stunning sites with ancient trees, and moving to the beat of the rain. There are more than 15 trees labelled as monumental trees. These works of art created by nature ooze wisdom, strength, height and width and seem to invite us to get closer to know more about them. Let's start with the pine juniper. This botanic curiosity consists of a centuryary juniper and a pine tree which grows inside it, and is located in the Formiche Alto at an hour-and-tenminute distance from the foot of the village. The aspen woods in Alcalá; the Lentejas pines which are great black pines found between Gúdar and Valdellinares; and black pines. One of the most distinguished varieties are the Escobón pines found near Linares. It is 30 metres high, it has a diameter of 1,4 metre and a perimeter of 5 metres. We will also find the Obrado pines, maple trees and the place where the San Bernabé pine tree was before strong winds pulled it down in the year 2006. The Letrado pine tree near Mosqueruela is outstands for its beauty, and there is a gall-oak known as Rebollo Gordo. The Iserte kermes oak is located over the hill of a typical country house of Rubielos named the same. It is a reminder of the kermes oak wood which once covered these fields. It is approximately 400 years old, 14 metres high and its top is 26 metres. Nearby is the Gújón pine tree, a centuryary black tree perfectly preserved. White mulberries are found in San Agustín. The Berenguer pine tree is near Sarrión, the Desmayo Juniper in Manzanera and the Cepa pine tree with two crowns in Camarena.



ROUTE OF THE STARS. In all the towns of Gúdar Javalambre it is possible to touch the stars. The altitude, the climate and the lack of light pollution makes the region one of the best places in the Northern Hemisphere to enjoy the sky. For this reason, in Gúdar Javalambre is working the Center for Studies of Physics of the Cosmos of Aragón (CEFCA), through the Astrophysical Observatory of Javalambre (OAJ), declared a unique Scientific and Technical Facility, located in the Pico del Buitre. In addition, "Galáctica", also in Arcos de las Salinas, will bring this science to lovers of the cosmos and the general public. Territorio Gúdar Javalambre composed of the towns of the region plus the bordering municipalities of Alpuente, Aras de los Olmos, Titaguas and La Yesa, of the province of Valencia, has obtained the Certification as Reserve and Tourist Destination Starlight. This is granted to protect the quality of the sky and maintain it in optimal conditions for astronomical observation, and consider it a natural and cultural heritage vital and enriching for the local population, as well as a determining factor for the promotion of star tourism. The Starlight Initiative sensitizes the harmful effects of light pollution worldwide and in certified territories, sustainability guidelines and night landscape protection are promoted. The popular observations of the starry skies throughout the year, the network of star viewpoints and the routes of g-astronomy in the establishments of the area are just some of the activities that are offered in the region to enjoy these privileged skies.



ROUTE OF THE WATER. The richness of this region may reside in its altitude or in its water. This source of life is present in snow, ice, rivers, fountains, marshes and spas, some of which are located in Camarena de la Sierra and Manzanera. This basic element outlines subterranean and superficial paths, basins bathing sites of uncomparable beauty, irrigating working fields and fountains to refresh ourselves. For travellers interested in discovering the most interesting landscapes in the region, in contact with nature, peacefulness, silence and serenity, we propose a visit to the different leisure areas, picnic spots (depending on the yearly rainfall) and fountains,... however, always respecting the environment. We can start out in La Escaleruela, a neighbourhood in Sarrión. There is a beautiful spot in Mijares with a leisure zone and a hostel. The waterfalls of the Hiedra in Fuen Narices, the fountain of the Hocino in Mora de Rubielos, and the fountains in El Tajo, Las Torres, La Cava and El Fortuño in Nogueruelas, and the public fountains where waters never stops running, are also worth a visit. The reservoir of Valbona constitutes a marvellous enclave, perfect for swimming, going for a walk and to see the dam of the Piquillos, the fountain of the Cura and the fountain of the Peñaña in La Puebla de Valverde. In short, to enjoy a superb day in the countryside. The Sierra of Manzanera consists of mountains, river banks, ravines, pine woods and rich landscapes. In the surroundings, the fountains of the Gavilán, the Teja, the Caballero and the Especies have high quality water. The water of the fountain of Salud de Torrijas is held to have medical powers to treat kidney diseases and rheumatism.

