



ZARAGOZA *THE CITY WHERE EVERYTHING HAPPENS*



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ZARAGOZA *THE CITY OF TWO CATHEDRALS*



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TWO CATHEDRALS, ONE HEART

Zaragoza can proudly claim to have two cathedrals sharing the same urban heart. In the city's quintessential meeting place, and the setting for its most important traditions and celebrations, Plaza del Pilar, two architectural personalities coexist to form a living and exceptional historic ensemble.

On one side stands the **Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar**, the great symbol of the city: imposing and luminous, framed by the River Ebro and the vast expanse of Plaza del Pilar. On the other side, the **Cathedral of the Saviour — La Seo** — elegant and surprising, closely linked to the historical origins of Zaragoza and to the soul of its old town.

To visit this space is to travel through centuries of history in just a few steps: from Roman and Muslim traces to the splendour of Mudéjar, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque art. Few cities offer such an intense and accessible heritage experience.

PLAZA DEL PILAR, THE CITY'S GRAND STAGE

Plaza del Pilar is much more than a square: it is Zaragoza's great public space, the place where the city celebrates its history, its festivals and its everyday life. Spacious, open and monumental, it brings together some of the most emblematic buildings in Zaragoza's heritage.

The square hosts religious celebrations, cultural events, concerts, community gatherings and major events throughout the year. It is a place that changes with the light of day, with the seasons and with the rhythm of the city, while always remaining a welcoming, historic and deeply symbolic place.

In this setting, **the Pilar Basilica and La Seo form a striking visual and spiritual dialogue**, alongside other notable landmarks such as La Lonja, the City Hall and the Fountain of Hispanidad. Together, they create a remarkable historic ensemble, where every corner invites visitors to pause, look around and discover.

BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR



The Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar is Zaragoza’s most recognisable image and one of the great churches of the Hispanic world. Its monumental silhouette, with four tall towers and a series of domes covered in brightly coloured glazed ceramic tiles, defines the city’s skyline.

Its imposing presence, facing Plaza del Pilar and the River Ebro, makes the basilica a landmark for visitors and locals alike. It is deeply connected to the city’s identity, its festivals, its traditions and a devotion that has shaped its history for centuries.

The present basilica, built in the Baroque style, impresses with its scale, harmony and luminosity. Its monumental and elegant exterior already invites contemplation, but it is inside that its extraordinary artistic richness is fully revealed.

Among its essential highlights are :

THE HOLY CHAPEL

The spiritual heart of the basilica, where the image of Our Lady of the Pillar is venerated. According to tradition, this is where the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint James the Apostle, a foundational episode that makes the Pilar one of the great centres of Marian devotion in the Hispanic world. A visit to the Holy

Chapel and the small shrine offers not only an insight into its artistic value, but also into the profound spiritual and symbolic meaning this place holds for Zaragoza.

THE REGINA MARTYRUM DOME BY FRANCISCO DE GOYA

Painted by Francisco de Goya in 1781, this dome is one of the artistic jewels of the basilica. Here, the Aragonese painter depicts the Virgin Mary surrounded by the Holy Martyrs, in a composition of great spiritual power and luminosity that already anticipates the artistic personality of his mature work.

THE HIGH ALTARPIECE BY DAMIÁN FORMENT

Created by Damián Forment between 1509 and 1515, this is one of the masterpieces of the Aragonese Renaissance. Carved in alabaster, it combines a Gothic structure with Renaissance sculpture and decoration, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with scenes including the Purification, the Assumption and the Nativity.

THE VIEWING TOWER

From the top of the tower, accessible by lift, visitors can enjoy one of the finest panoramic views of Zaragoza, taking in Plaza del Pilar, the River Ebro, its bridges, historic towers and the cityscape.



CATHEDRAL OF THE SAVIOUR — LA SEO



With its tower rising above the rooftops of the narrow streets and palaces of the historic quarter, the Cathedral of the Saviour, known as La Seo, is Zaragoza’s other great cathedral.

La Seo is one of the city’s most fascinating monuments because it brings together the major stages of Zaragoza’s history in a single place. It stands on a site once occupied by the ancient Roman forum and later by the city’s main mosque, making it an exceptional testament to Zaragoza’s historical continuity.

This layered history gives La Seo a unique character. More than a cathedral, it is a place where Zaragoza’s evolution can be traced, layer by layer, from Antiquity to the modern era.

LA SEO, WORLD HERITAGE

This historical richness finds one of its most beautiful expressions in the wall of the Parroquieta de San Miguel, a jewel of Aragonese Mudéjar art and one of the most admired images of the monument. Its delicate brick and ceramic decoration forms part of the Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon declared World Heritage by UNESCO, placing La Seo among Zaragoza’s great heritage landmarks.

A UNIQUE BLEND OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

La Seo offers a fascinating journey through centuries of art and architecture. Romanesque, Gothic, Mudéjar, Renaissance and Baroque styles come together harmoniously, creating an architectural whole of exceptional beauty and richness.

Among the cathedral’s essential treasures is its Gothic high altarpiece, a masterpiece by the sculptor Pere Johan. It is one of the cathedral’s most valuable works, admired for its superb craftsmanship and extraordinary artistic power.

THE TAPESTRY MUSEUM

La Seo also offers one of its greatest, lesser-known and most surprising treasures : the Tapestry Museum, which houses one of the most valuable textile collections in Spanish and European heritage.

The collection was formed between the 16th and 17th centuries through donations and acquisitions linked to archbishops, canons and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. Its prestige rests especially on the quality of its medieval and Renaissance tapestries of Flemish tradition.

