



Suggestions.
Dentro del edificio del Ayuntamiento se esconde la ermita románica de San Martín, el único vestigio de la primitiva aldea de Hagurain.
Se puede acceder por medio de visita guiada.



AGURAIN

Information.
The Alaveses plains, with its agricultural fields and mountains that define its perimeter, is speckled with a multitude of small villages that originated in medieval times. Some of those small villages grew because of commerce and economic prosperity to become active and bustling towns. One of them was Agurain/Salvatierra, which was founded by Castilian King Alphonse X to defend his kingdom and dynamise the commercial and pilgrimage routes that crossed these lands.



The walled village of Agurain/Salvatierra is one of the places in Alava that best conserves the essence of its history between its walls. Despite having suffered a horrific fire in the 16th century, it's medieval timber work and a good part of its walls still survive, as do the San Juan and Santa Maria Gothic churches and the peculiar Romanesque hermitage of San Martín. Walking up and down its streets ridden with renaissance and baroque palaces and the old Jewish quarter or a visit to the peculiar oliveas (columnnades built for the adjacent markets) lets us better understand the past and present of this village which still maintains its noble character.

Schedule of guided tours:
every Sunday (and Thursdays in July and August)
at 13:00h.
For more information, group visits and reservations:
ALAVESE PLAINS TOURISM OFFICE 945 302 931

THE WALLED VILLAGE OF

AGURAIN/SALVATIERRA



Documents from the distant 11th century tell us of the existence of a small village called “Hagurahin”. With barely 50 inhabitants, its strategic position made it catch Castilian monarch Alphonse X's eye as a place to establish a prosperous walled village. Just a few kilometres from the border of the kingdom of Navarre and right in the middle of the most active commerce and trade routes, the recently founded village of Salvatierra saw growing development over the centuries that is perfectly recorded among its streets and in the civil and religious buildings that it has had the awareness to conserve.

On the panoramic guided tour visitors can appreciate the majesticsness of the two large parish churches: Santa María and San Juan. The first one is a Gothic building whose interior contains one of the most spectacular Plateresque choirs in Álava. The church's retable, by the acclaimed sculptor Lope de Larrea, is a unique example of the know-how of the local artists in the late 16th century. The church of San Juan - conceived as a true church fortress - dominates one of the main plazas with its imposing baroque portico. There are also spectacular views of the nearby Aizkorri-Aratz mountains from its wall walk.



Walking around the streets you can also find other testaments to history, like the famous “olbeas”, which are long streets with market spaces that had porticoes to protect the merchants from the elements.



As was typical for the time, the old Jewish quarter was completely separated from the other streets and had an independent entrance gate, which is one of the few that still remains of the seven that the original walled area had.



Walking along the walls of Agurain/Salvatierra you can see an interesting array of emblazoned palaces and noble houses from the 17th and 18th centuries that show the splendour of the village residents during the modern era.

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