



Suggeſtions. THE FESTIVALS OF ZALDUONDO The traditional festivals of Zaldunondo were revived in 1975 after a long hiatus of 41 years. The lead character of the festivals is Markitos, a suited figure who represents an old man from the city and who becomes the subject of an unusual trial. During the trial, he is accused of being the cause of all the misfortune of the previous year. After being carried around the town he is put on a stake and set on fire. Nowadays, the rural festivals of Zaldunondo are among the most interesting festivals in Alava from an ethnographic point of view.

The Zaldunido ethnographic museum illustrates the ethnology, folklore and art of the Comarca through several centuries of history. The place where the collections are housed is a work of art unto itself. Especially noteworthy are its 16th century mural paintings. The space devoted to the traditional rural festivals of Alava, where diverse characters who participate in the festivals are displayed, deserves special mention.



ZALDUONDO ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

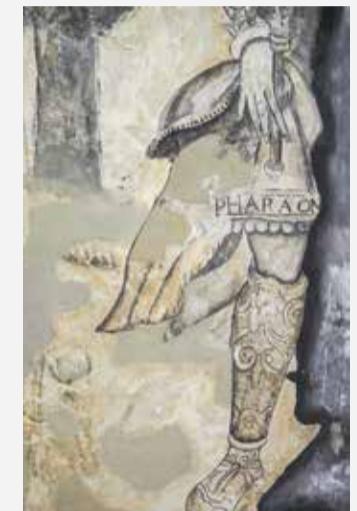
Information. Since time immemorial, Zaldúndo has been a crossroads that means it is an unavoidable passage for pilgrims on the Way of St. James and multitudes traveling through the area. The wealth generated by the coming and going of travelers attracted important families from Alava, who settled in the area and built places that can be seen today throughout the entire town.

LAZARRAGA-AMÉZAGA

PALACE



The Lazarraga family, vassals of the powerful Guevara family who had their feudal estate in the nearby Oñate villa, were favoured by them and strategically located certain in significant places. Being as Zalduondo was in the middle of commercial crossroads, it fell under the control of the Lazarraga family. That family promoted significant construction in the town, like the parish church, where they had a private chapel built that has been conserved to this day, and the impressive renaissance palace next to the church. They sculpted a large Lazarraga-Lecea coat of arms on the facade of the 16th century civil building with two warriors holding it up from the sides with great monumentality. The palace has an eclectic style where you can see Italian, Castilian and Mudéjar influences and even elements that foreshadow a baroque style.



ZALDUONDO

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

In Zalduondo ethnographic museum you can learn about the traditional way of life of the residents of the area through a range of objects associated with the work and day to day life of the inhabitants of the comarca surrounding Zalduondo. In addition, you can also see an interesting collection of historic and contemporary artisanal objects and works by commemorated local artisan Blas Arratibel.

One of the most unusual and striking exhibitions in the museum is the one about the rural Alavese festivals, which are popular celebrations where diverse characters take to the streets of the villages in Álava to purge the troubles of the previous year. That is the case for Zalduondo, with its traditional Markitos, but in the exhibition you can also see costumes for Porretero, the Salcedo character, Toribio de Santa Cruz from Campezo, the Old Lady, the Bear, the Boilermakers, the Porreros and the katzirulos.



SCHEDULE OF GUIDED TOURS:



Group visits can be arranged by calling:
945 30 43 93

ZALDUONDO ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM
Sunday: 11:30 to 13:30
945 304 393