

# LOARRE

## THE TREASURE OF AL MUQTADIR



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Find the lost treasure of Al-Muqtadir: 50,000 gold coins that never reached their destination. From Ramiro I to Juana Enriquez, all the Aragonese kings and queens have tried to find the treasure. But is it real or just a legend?

The route runs through Sos del Rey Católico, Uncastillo, Bolea, Loarre, Huesca, Barbastro and Alquézar. You can follow this route on foot, by bike, on horseback or by doing it in several different stages. In each of the stages, you have other great treasures to discover: Romanesque, medieval architecture, magnificent buildings and wonderful memories.

The treasure is in one of the towns, or perhaps in all of them. We've left clues to help you to find it. Remember, all the clues and hints are in the Geocaching app. Turn on your GPS and begin the search!

## THE HISTORY OF THE TREASURE

Finally, the town of Barbastro falls! Al Muqtadir and his followers thought we would never take it back. Us! A handful of mountain folk, without the riches of Denia or Valencia - yet we have snatched it back from you.

A glorious campaign. God protect all those who have helped us: Ramiro I for taking this city from the infidel. All have been great companions. From my brother-in-law the Count of Urgell to the Bishop of Vic, the Baron of Lower Normandy, the Count of Poitiers and the Duke of Aquitaine. All Christians against the Muslims. But in the final accounting, damn our luck, there has been a treasure that we have not found - the sacks of 50,000 gold coins that the Lord of Zaragoza had to pay to the Lord of Lérida for his protection. We had sent a dozen men to guard the gold on its journey. I know that they entered Barbastro and that, except for one of the men guarding the sacks, all have died.

Where can those sacks be? One of the guards was carrying a document. But they are just unconnected words, gibberish. They name several cities: Barbastro, Alquézar, Bolea, Loarre, Huesca, Uncastillo and Sos.

I must recover the booty. In Barbastro there was plenty, but we had to share it between all of us. But with those 50,000 coins, I can build a house and make my lineage great. For Aragon! I must find the treasure.

# LOARRE

Unique. Imposing. Impregnable. Awe-inspiring. This is the castle of Loarre. The best Romanesque military castle in the world. A familiar silhouette that takes us directly to the heart of the pre-Pyrenees. The castle was the epicentre of the conquest of Huesca and Bolea, but after achieving the surrender of these places, it was no longer necessary. It remained active until the fifteenth century when it was abandoned. That was our good luck, because since it was not required, it has not undergone any subsequent modification and what we see is a unique and exclusively Romanesque monument in its original state.

We're going to give you some clues so that you can find the treasure that is spread around the town. Remember to bring paper and pen. When you have them all you will have the key to unlock the location of the treasure.

You must enter it here: [www.prepirineoclandestino.prepyr365.com/Loarre](http://www.prepirineoclandestino.prepyr365.com/Loarre)

## THE HISTORY OF THE TREASURE: VIOLANTE DE LUNA

Violante was a leader. Only thus can we explain why she remained at the forefront of the defence of Loarre's castle, and how companies of soldiers, horsemen, archers, and troops from France and England who all defended the castle, did not betray her. A woman defending a military position? But when was that? Do you remember the famous Compromise of Caspe (1412)? An agreement was reached on who would be the King of Aragon after the childless death of King Martin I. But that agreement was not accepted by everyone: Jaime II de Urgell, a grandson of Pedro IV, "El Ceremonioso", wanted to reign. And the foolish Count Antón de Luna, Lord de Loarre, and his most faithful follower started a civil war to help him get it. Violante, abbess of the convent of Trasobares and excommunicated by her uncle, Pope Luna, and who was madly in love with her cousin, decided she must help and take up arms. She made the preparations and went to the side of her lover in support of Jaime II de Urgell. In any case, her uncle had already ordered the convent of the abbess to be burned, so she did not have many options left.

In August of 1413 the castle of Loarre was besieged. And Violante entrenches herself there, although on her own, because her cousin Anton fled to Navarre. Jaime II de Urgell was to surrender in October. Violante was in Loarre Castle for almost a year. And in that time she thought about how to escape with her life if could get out of the mess she was in. She would need something to negotiate with - and then she remembered the story her aunt had told her about María de Luna's search for the treasure. Loarre was in the manuscript, but Maria had not looked for it there. What if it was still hidden there?

# ROUTES AND CLUES

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When you have all the clues, go to  
[www.prepirineoclandestino.prepyr365.com/Loarre](http://www.prepirineoclandestino.prepyr365.com/Loarre)



## WALLED ENCLOSURE

### The Door of the Kings

The door of the Kings is to the south. You will not be able to imagine it before you see it. It is the entrance to the castle from the old town of Loarre. Remember that the kings that occupied this castle did not want great pomp, but rather somewhere to save their own lives or at least sell them dearly. All the towers of the wall are semicircular - or perhaps not all of them? How many sides does the tower of the Door of Kings (Puerta de Los Reyes) have?



## BELL TOWER

### The silent bell tower

The tower of the old Church of Loarre is topped by a spherical dome. A construction marvel of its time. It has two stylized windows on both sides, separated by a column in the middle. What is that column called? Add up the letters.



## PORCH, STAIRCASE AND CRYPT OF SANTA QUITERIA

### Monkeys out

When you enter the castle there are two stone capitals at the entrance. They are a warning! Take care! In one, Abraham's blind faith is represented by him surrendering his son to God, in the other there are crouching monkeys. They represent a parody of humans and especially of lust. So now you know: leave out human passions and have faith, or God from above will judge you. How many monkeys are on the chapter at the entrance?



## CHURCH OF ST. PETER (SAN PEDRO) THE ROYAL CHAPEL

### DEO LUX (Light from God)

A rarity that you can see in the Church of San Pedro is the impressive hemispherical dome in the centre of the temple. It was not easy to do; it was a very innovative system for its time and reminds us of Saint Sophia of Byzantium with which it has many similarities in terms of its structure. In the sanctuary there are a series of arches, but none are lit. How many allow light to come in?



## NORTH PAVILLIONS

### Stonework

In the North Pavilion there is a cell that is unlike the others - it is vaulted and would surely be for someone with higher lineage or reputation. Perhaps the Abbot? . Inside there is a name engraved in stone. Find it. Count its letters and you will have the clue.



## THE THREE TOWERS

### **Altas Torres**

There is much speculation and many theories about the towers of Loarre. Maybe what we now know as the Homage Tower was actually the lookout Tower, and that the North Tower was the original Homage Tower, and that the Queen's Tower was not even habitable. Just theories. What is certain is that the Queen's Tower is a great example of Lombard Romanesque architecture and is very elegant with, how many windows?



## THE QUEEN'S LOOKOUT

### **Scanning The Horizon**

From the lookout point you have a beautiful view of the plain of the Hoya de Huesca. The craggy harshness of Loarre castle and its mountains contrasts with the tranquil plain that lies at its feet. From the lookout, can you count how many bodies of water are to be seen? That will be your clue.



## PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN (SAN ESTEBAN)

### **The relics of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki**

The history of the remnants can be seen on the wall of the church of Loarre. It is recreated with great detail. Do not forget to look at the chest that held the relics - a Romanesque jewel. How many human figures are represented on the front of the chest?



— PRACTICA EL PREPIRINEO —