



Mariano Celso

Duration: 4 hours  
 Means of transport: on foot, bicycle or horseback  
 Type of itinerary: lineal itinerary  
 Distance: 8 km  
 Seasons: **Sp** the swallows and bee-eaters arrive  
**Su** pomegranate trees around the tower are in flower  
**A** leaves fall from the trees in the shoreline forest  
**W** no water in the right-hand canal  
**DEPARTURE: C-12 road**

## LA CARROVA TOWER, MEETING POINT OF CULTURES ALONG THE RIVER EBRO

A route that takes the visitor on the right-hand canal, along the River Ebro to La Carrova tower. At the top of a low ridge, this medieval tower was constructed in this strategic location to monitor boat traffic along the River Ebro.

### Description of the itinerary

From the river port, where the Tourist Office is located, you go to the old town and main centre of the town. As you walk up Carrer Sant Joan, you will find **Plaça de l'Aube**, once the hub of the town's activities and where, early last century, the comings and goings of people and merchandise along the river, on catboats (llaguts) and barges, were part of everyday life. Here you will find the **Miralles building**, inside of which the machinery and gears of an old oil press are still conserved.



### The carob tree *Ceratonia silicua*

This tree is typical and extensively cultivated in the Mediterranean area. It is a dry-land crop, always associated with olive groves. The carobs it produces are used as animal fodder; in traditional medicine, it is employed to make herbal tea from crushed ripe pods (As a laxative) or from the bark (astringent properties).





**Plaça del Poador (1)** is an excellent point from which to contemplate the majestic waters of the River Ebro as they flow under the town's most emblematic structure, **the Penjant (suspension) bridge**. Once you reach Carrer de Victòria, you will notice the bright colours and sgraffito work on **the modernist Notari (Notary) House**, which is reminiscent of a small arabesque palace. At the end of the street, you will have to cross the Avinguda Alcalde Palau using stairs that lead to the castle area. Here, following a **route that offers explanations** of the architectural remains, you can learn about the castle's long history.



Follow the canal path on the right-hand side of the River Ebro going upstream. Leaving the town, continue along the path running parallel to the right-hand bank of the River Ebro. A visit to **the Bou Gardens (2-4)** is optional. This botanical garden shows some of the main plants and trees that are characteristic of the landscapes of the Ebro region. On the way to the tower, just before crossing the bridge over the A-7, you will find the remains of two **rice-mills**, the Xapon and Calatrava mills which were among the earliest to be constructed in the delta. They are no longer in use today following the introduction of agricultural cooperatives. The path goes through hundreds of small orchards that comprise one of the area's major historic **river-land terrace systems (3)**, an example of which may be seen in the archaeological remains in the Montsià Regional Museum, which also includes the **Roman villa** that once stood next to the site of the tower. Alongside the river, you will notice small stands of **river-land forest (3)** with poplars and white poplars that once covered the whole area. Continue along the canal path until the majestic medieval **La Carrova tower**, which once formed part of a line of watchtowers along the Ebro for the defence of the area. This tower still conserves a considerable part of its original architectural features.



**Tips:**

*The castle area may be visited free of charge. At La Carrova tower there is a picnic zone and recreation area for children, and a fountain giving a permanent water supply.*

