

COMENIUS PROJECT

“Ezcaray, our town”

English CD made by students of 1st level of E.S.O.

C. P. San Lorenzo – Ezcaray – La Rioja – España

E-mail: deezcara@centros2.pntic.mec.es

<http://centros2.pntic.mec.es/cp.de.ezcaray>



1 - EZCARAY



It is located in the south-west of *La Rioja* (Spain).

Ezcaray is one of the towns with greatest tourist tradition in *La Rioja*. It has got 1800 inhabitants, but in summer the population can reach 12000 people.

Apart from the main municipality there are a group of 13 small hamlets. Some of them have now disappeared.

Altuzarra, Posadas, Azárrulla, Amunartia and *Turza* are some of the names of these hamlets where inhabitants work principally with livestock and maintain traditional ways of life.

EZCARAY



TURZA



2 - HISTORY OF THE TOWN

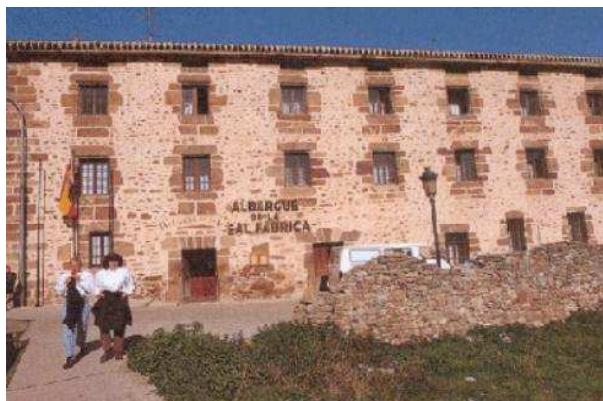
The first historical reference appeared in the X Century when the king Sancho Garcés I gave Ezcaray its actual name. Ezcaray means “high rock”.

In 1312 Fernando IV de Castilla y León signed its privileges which allowed inhabitants not to pay the tax and at the same time achieved autonomy to do justice to themselves.

In the Middle Ages the textile industry started to grow and in the XVII Century it was very important.

In 1752 the Royal Cloth factory of Santa Bárbara was founded with the help of Marqués de la Ensenada. It became famous for the quality of its cloth (the product of the local textile tradition which survives until the present days). It worked until 1808 and it was closed at the beginning of the XX Century.

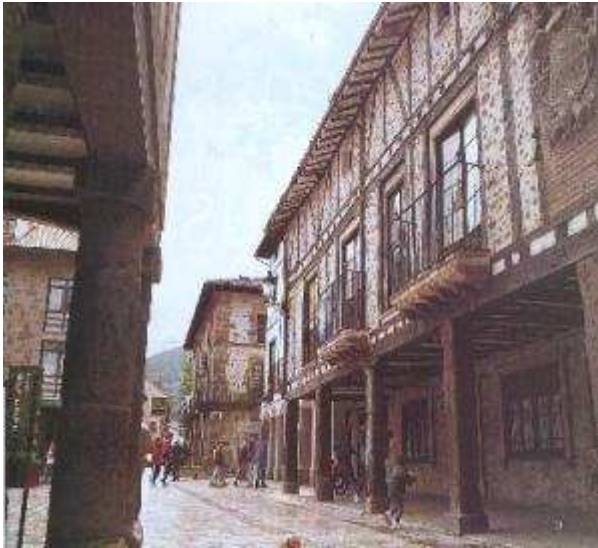
Nowadays part of the building is used as a hotel.



3 - FAMOUS BUILDINGS

Although the tourism brought new buildings and housing estates, Ezcaray has still got some ancient buildings where the past reawakes, such as alleys, squares, porches and facades.

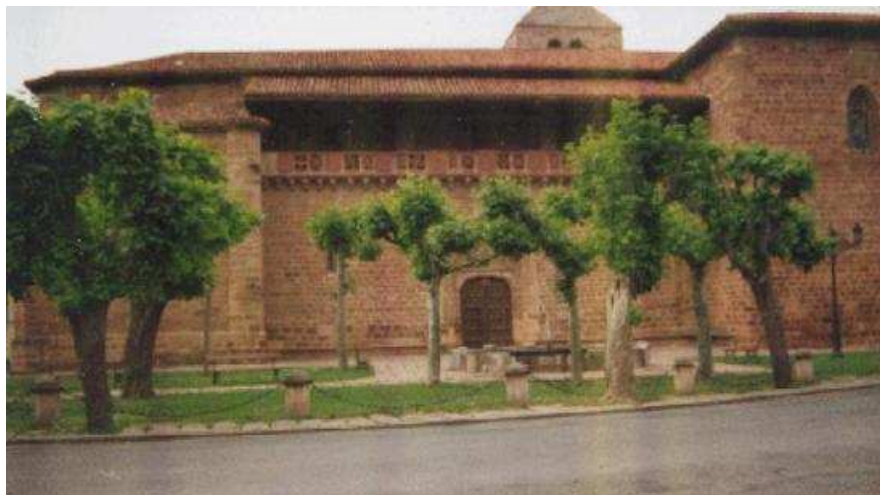
There are also various lay buildings from the XVIII Century. The most notably is the Palace of the Counts of Torremuzquiz.



4 - THE CHURCH

The church, a XV century stone building was built on the remains of a previous Romanesque church. Inside the church there are valuable gothic and Renaissance sculptures. Its main facade has got a wood balcony and various local families stone shields.

The museum in the sacristy houses valuable paintings, carvings a collection of holy gold and silver work and sculptures.



5 – THE HERMITAGE OF *NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ALLENDE*

We can find nine paintings that stand for war angels.



6 - THE HERMITAGE OF *SANTA BÁRBARA*

It is located in the hill off *Santa Bárbara* and from here people can see the town and the valley.



7 - THE HAMLETS

Their houses have three floors: the ground floor is used as stables; the first floor is the living space and the second floor, known as the “*Payo*” is use as a store for fodder for the livestock. Farmers can go into the “*payo*” with a ladder placed on the outside wall.



8 - VALDEZCARAY SKI STATION

The ski station is located 12 km from away Ezcaray. It is the only one in La Rioja.

It offers complete infrastructure for this sport.

The ski station covers 300 hectares and it has 19 different ski slopes.

Valdezcaray has a equipment of artificial snow too.

The Ski Station School organizes short courses to learn this sport and make progress.



9 – TOURISM

The landscape in own area offers walks and views of its marvellous natural environment.

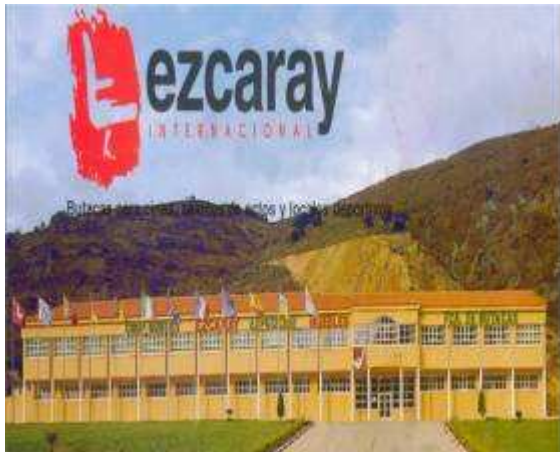
The long Distance Path, which is perfect for trekking and it's divided into various stages, begins in Ezcaray. There is also a free way for walking and cycling.



10 – WOODWORK INDUSTRY

The forestry covers 8000 hectares of pine and beech trees.

There are many wood factories and some cooperatives societies that make furniture and sell the pieces of furniture. We want to mention the two factories that make theatre and cinema seats and export them in many countries.



11 - TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The cloth, the product of the local textile tradition survives until the present days.

The hand made wood blankets are very famous in our Region and in Spain.



12 - FLORA

There are many beech woods, with increasing number of ash trees, holm oaks and hazel trees.

There are also areas of pine replanting on lands which receive sunlight.

The countryside is specially attractive during the autumn, when the woods offer impressive ranges of colours.



13 - FAUNA

It is abundant and varied.

There are goldcrest and brown partridge (or “mountain partridge” as it is known here) in the highest areas and passing doves. There are many deers and wild boars in wooded areas.

Farmers take care of sheeps, goats, lambs, cows, rabbits and horses in their farms.



14 - GASTRONOMY

Ezcaray also offers a complete range of high quality gastronomic possibilities, restaurant and hotel infrastructure.

We can point out the mountains honey, the sheep and goat cheese, mushrooms and liqueris made of wild fruits.



End of the English CD
“Ezcaray,our town”.

Many greetings from Spain for our Belgium, Finnish and Italian friends.

Ezcaray,15th April 2002