
THE CATALAN PYRENEES CULTURE



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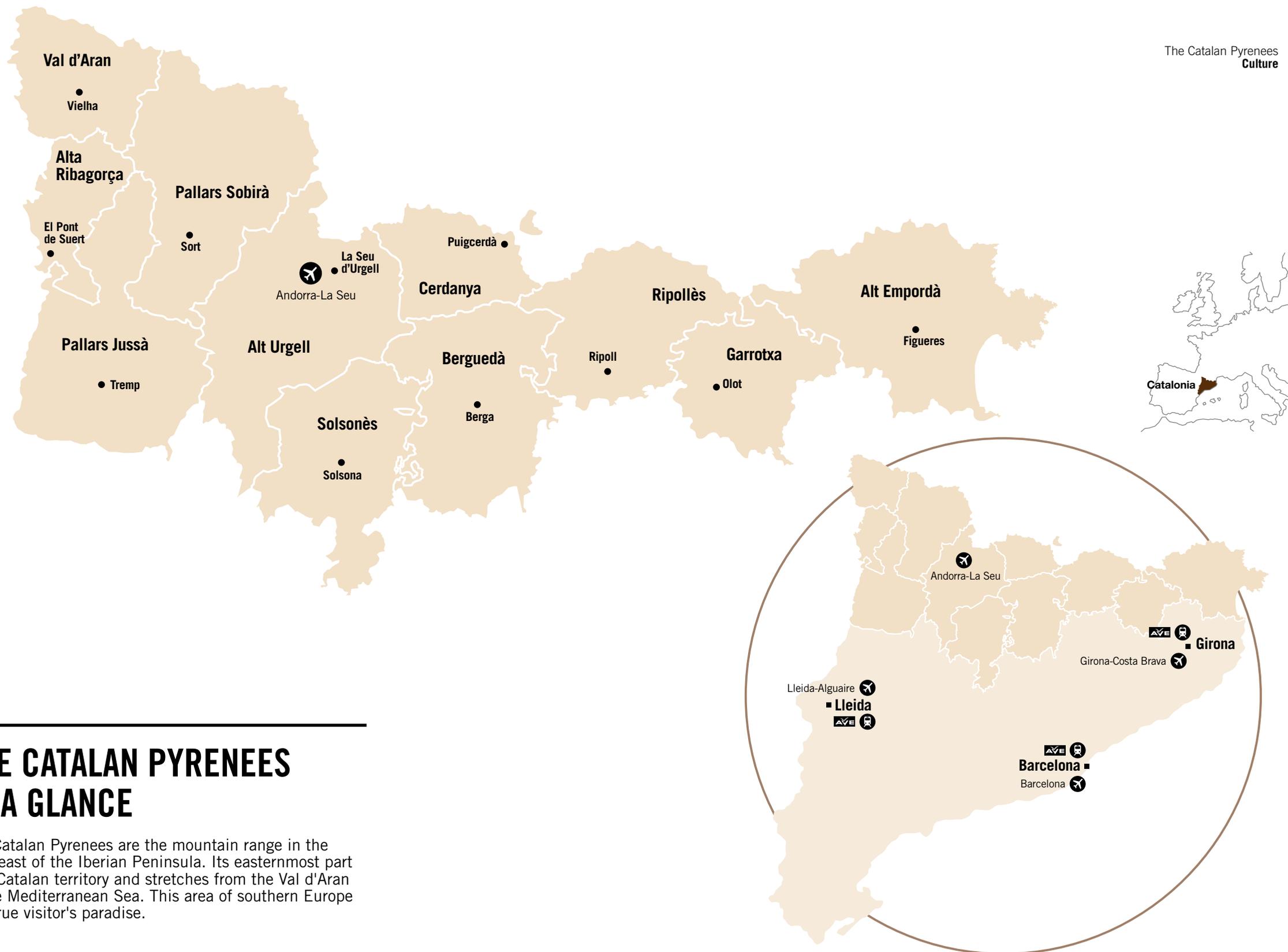


A MOUNTAIN OF CULTURE

A territory where you can discover the culture of 1,000 years of history? We are talking about the Catalan Pyrenees.

The imposing landscape and the different communities that have inhabited this place throughout the different eras have left their trace in the cultural manifestations that we can admire today. Strong buildings await us, which have endured countless harsh winters, and show that beauty and hardiness can go together. At the visitor's disposal, there are museums and interpretation centres to get to know the heritage of this land firsthand. And to celebrate the cycle of life that repeats every year, we can take part in parties, fairs and festivals whose invitation is impossible to decline.

Let's enjoy the Catalan Pyrenees!



THE CATALAN PYRENEES AT A GLANCE

The Catalan Pyrenees are the mountain range in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. Its easternmost part is in Catalan territory and stretches from the Val d'Aran to the Mediterranean Sea. This area of southern Europe is a true visitor's paradise.

© Ingegn. M.A.S. 1071



THE CATALAN PYRENEES

HUMANITY'S PHYSICAL HERITAGE

The list of properties that UNESCO decides to include as World Heritage Sites grows year after year, including the contributions of the Catalan Pyrenees. The magnificent doorway of the monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll, the "Bible of stone", among other candidatures, are beckoning. Meanwhile, monuments such as the Romanesque churches of the Vall de Boí, which were included in 2000, are still admired today by visitors.

THE CATALAN PYRENEES

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

The Catalan Pyrenees are also present in the section Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity - Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Summer Solstice Fire Festival with the *faies* (burning trunks), including the Fia-faia during the winter solstice and the Patum de Berga, are part of the UNESCO attractions. One contender is the cuisine of Catalonia, with the special contributions of the traditional mountain gastronomy of the Catalan Pyrenees.



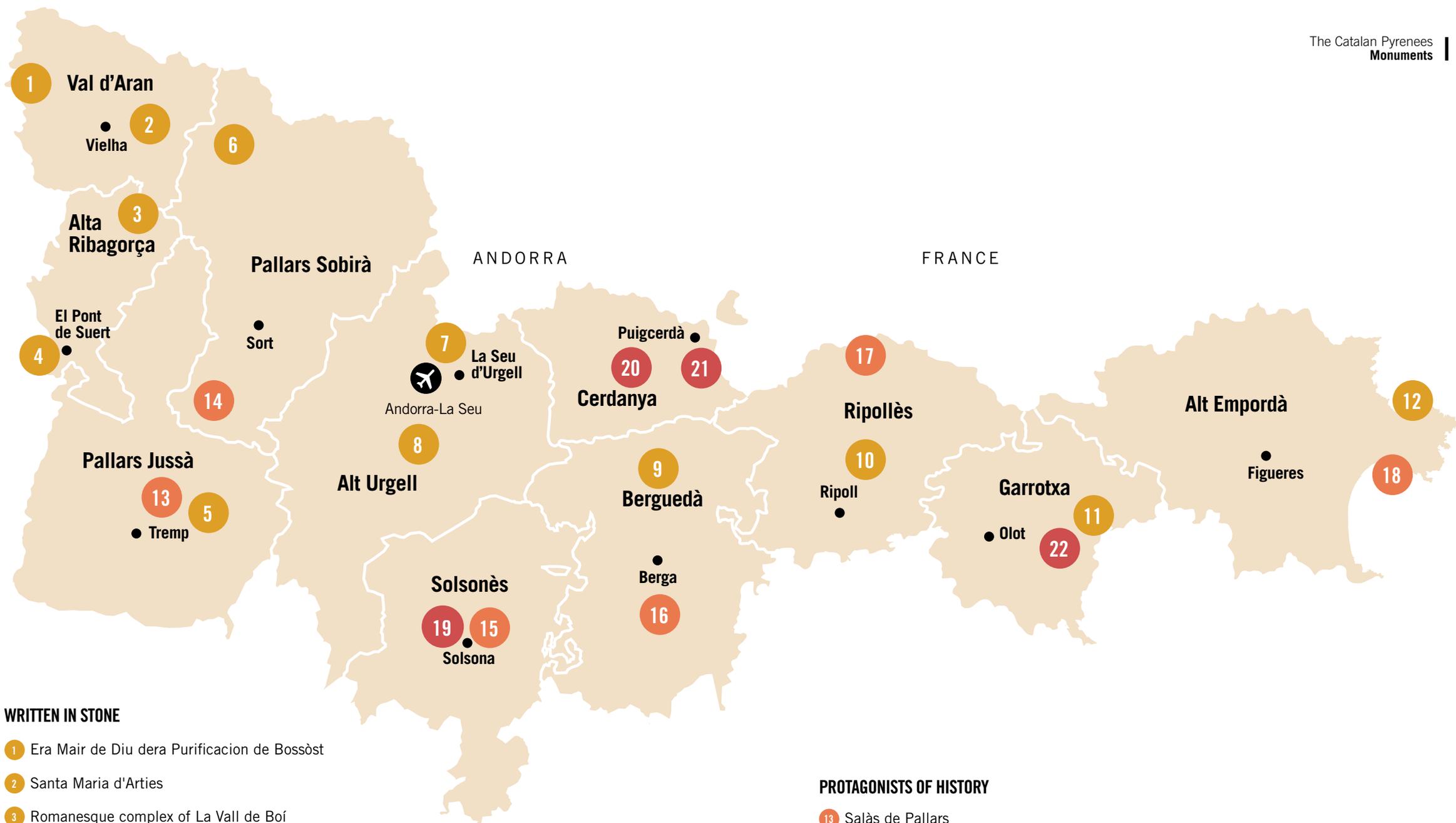


THE CATALAN PYRENEES

MONUMENTS

The diverse communities that have inhabited the Catalan Pyrenees have made an effort to leave their mark. And in every case, this has been as imposing as the landscapes that house it. On some occasions when an important message had to be communicated, it was left **written in stone**.

On others, when an activity was carried out in a building, it has left character, making them **protagonists of history**. And almost always, when we talk about communities that have emerged over the centuries, without spiritual intention or an obvious function, we can capture the energy they give off because they are **a centre of life**.



WRITTEN IN STONE

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1 ERA MAIR DE DIU DERA PURIFICACION DE BOSSÒST



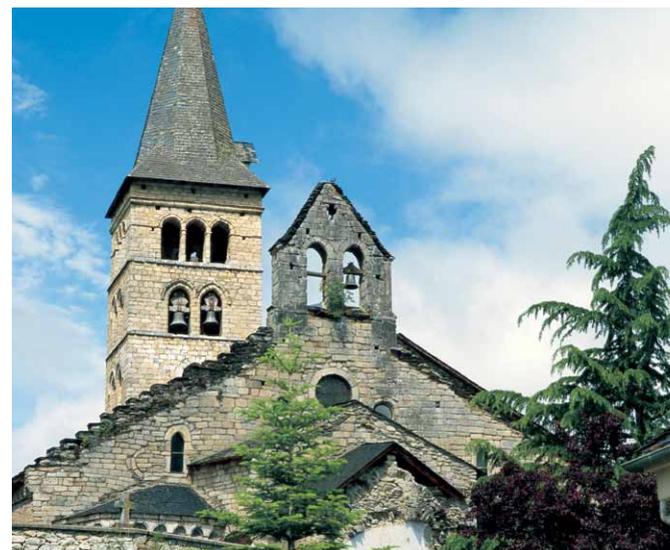
© Daniel Villafraña, WMC

This magnificent example of Aranese Romanesque architecture sums up the main characteristics of this style. It has a basilical plan with three naves, with a barrel vault supported by circular pillars. The naves end with three-lobed apses, decorated with sculptural elements from the Lombard school. Next to the apses, to the northeast, stands the four-storey bell tower, with a square base, separated from the rest of the temple. It has windows with semicircular arches and decorative arches. Of the two doorways, the

north is better decorated, with a tympanum formed by a single piece of marble, with reliefs representing the Pantocrator, flanked by an angel, a sun and a moon, and the symbols of the evangelists. It is surrounded by tiled arches in the foreground and smooth arches further out, resting on columns with smooth shafts and capitals decorated with vegetal and geometric designs. The interior contains remains of mural paintings depicting the scene of the epiphany in the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

Era Mair de Diu dera Purificacion
Plaça dera Glèsia, s/n
25550 Bossòst
www.visitvaldaran.com

2 SANTA MARIA D'ARTIES



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

This church is a good idea to enjoy two impressive samples of two distinct artistic styles in a single visit. On the one hand, the Aranese Romanesque architecture, of which the building preserves the floor plan, a good part of its interior structure and a bell tower from the transition to Gothic.

On the other hand, Gothic painting can be considered the true gem of the temple. Inside, the mural paintings on the ceiling of the presbytery are preserved, which show scenes of the final judgment, and have been

compared with those of the flamenco artist Hieronymus Bosch for their level of detail and precision. The resurrection of the dead and the sky can be appreciated, but the representation of hell is the greatest point to admire, where an enormous dragon engulfs several condemned people pushed by demons, while others cook inside a cauldron in which devils of both sexes stoke the fire. Equally noteworthy as a masterpiece is the altarpiece depicting various scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary.

Santa Maria d'Arties
Plaça Sapujo, 1
25559 Arties
www.visitvaldaran.com

3 ROMANESQUE COMPLEX OF LA VALL DE BOÍ



© Mercè Morzonis

The Romanesque complex, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000, is made up of nine churches: Sant Climent and Santa Maria de Taüll, Sant Joan de Boí, Santa Eulàlia d'Erill la Vall, Sant Feliu de Barruera, the Nativity of Durro, Santa Maria de Cardet, the Assumpció de Còll and the hermitage of Sant Quirc de Durro. These are temples erected between the 10th and 12th centuries that belong to the architectural style of Lombard Romanesque, originally from northern Italy. The Romanesque Interpretation Centre is located in Erill la

Vall, in a building adjacent to the church of Santa Eulàlia. In the town of Boí, you can visit the church of Sant Joan, with mural paintings inside. In Taüll, two other churches were erected, Santa Maria and Sant Climent, one of the best preserved and most visited in the valley. Nowadays it is possible to see a video mapping projection that recreates the paintings conserved in the MNAC as well as the paintings left in the church, as well as the reproduction of the whole pictorial set, as it was thought to have looked in the year of its consecration, in 1123.

La Vall de Boí Romanesque Centre
Carrer del Batalló, 5
25528 Erill la Vall
www.centromanico.com

4 SANTA MARIA DE VIU DE LLEVATA



© Mireia Puig

One of the oldest Romanesque churches in Catalonia is located in the small village of Viu de Llevata, within the municipality of El Pont de Suert. It is the church of Santa Maria, a temple declared a Cultural Asset of National Interest in 1985 by the Generalitat de Catalunya. Its nave with a barrel vault, supported by two arches resting on columns attached to the side walls, is noteworthy. The apse and the entrance door are admirable, with arches and capitals sculpted and decorated with vegetal, human and animal designs.

The square belfry, attached to the wall of the church, is one of the most identifiable features of the village and can be seen from various corners of the municipality.

The key for the church is usually kept in a neighbour's house and there is no problem opening it to whoever wants to visit and discover one of its best kept secrets: the place where the chest was found, discovered during a restoration in 1972, with the act of consecration dated to the year 1018.

Municipal Tourist Office
Av. Victoriano Muñoz, 22
25520 El Pont de Suert
www.elpontdesuert.cat

5 MONUMENTAL COMPLEX OF MUR



© Juan José Pascual / ACT

During the Middle Ages, this was the old centre of the county of El Pallars Jussà. The castle and the canon of Santa Maria that can be admired today date from the 11th century. The Romanesque castle is considered the best preserved in Catalonia and, during your visit, you can relive the everyday life of the Middle Ages in border lands.

As for the Augustinian collegiate church, it houses a reproduction of the magnificent Romanesque wall paintings that

decorated the wall of the apse. The original paintings are on display at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The Romanesque art arrived in the U.S. city after being looted and sold to an auctioneer in 1919. This led to a renewal of the policy and legislation on artistic heritage in Catalonia. In this temple, other reproductions can be seen, such as the Sant Crist and the Mare de Déu de Mur, two copies of Romanesque carvings that were lost in a fire during the Spanish Civil War.

Castle and Collegiate Church of Mur
Carrer Únic, s/n
25632 Castell de Mur
www.castellmur.cat

6 SON DEL PI



© Dofoto. Diputació de Lleida

Situated at an altitude of 1,393 metres and surrounded by imposing high mountain landscapes, the village of Son, formerly called Son del Pi, belongs to the municipality of Alt Àneu. One of its most characteristic buildings is the church of Sant Just i Sant Pastor. It is of the Romanesque style, with a single nave, and was built between the 10th and 13th centuries. Its semicircular apse with two windows, and its three-storey square belfry, a type of construction that follows the lines of the famous Romanesque churches of the

Boí Valley, are particularly noteworthy. At the back of the apse is a small graveyard and, just in front of the entrance door, forming an enclosed area, there is an old round defence tower, crowned by a small wall bell tower. Inside the church there is a Gothic altarpiece by Francesc Soliveres.

In addition to several nature routes that let you get to know the surroundings of the village, it is also worth visiting the old flour mill, which has become a centre of interpretation of the rural world.

L'Alt Àneu Town Council
Av. del Port de la Bonaigua, 9
25587 Alt Àneu
<http://altaneu.ddl.net> <http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat>

7 | LA SEU D'URGELL CATHEDRAL



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

In La Seu d'Urgell you will find the only completely Romanesque cathedral in Catalonia. It was built in the 13th century and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. There are many architectural elements that make it unique: it has three naves, a long transept with five apses, a two-storey bell tower and numerous ornaments. Attached to the south wall of the church is the magnificent 11th century cloister, with three Romanesque galleries, with a fourth rebuilt in 1603. In addition to the transept and the bell tower, the central apse stands out inside the

church, with a gallery of arches on columns reminiscent of the religious architecture of northern Italy and Germany. Highlights include the Virgin Mary, the Mare de Déu d'Urgell, one of the best polychrome carvings in the country, and the Sant Ermengol altarpiece from the 16th and 18th centuries.

The capitals of the cloister, decorated with meticulously designed works such as plant and animal designs and human figures, represent different feelings and emotions: fear, joy, creativity, shame, sin or love.

La Seu d'Urgell Cathedral
Plaça del Deganat, 16
25700 La Seu d'Urgell
www.laseu.cat

8 | SANT CLIMENT DE COLL DE NARGÓ



© Oriol Clavera

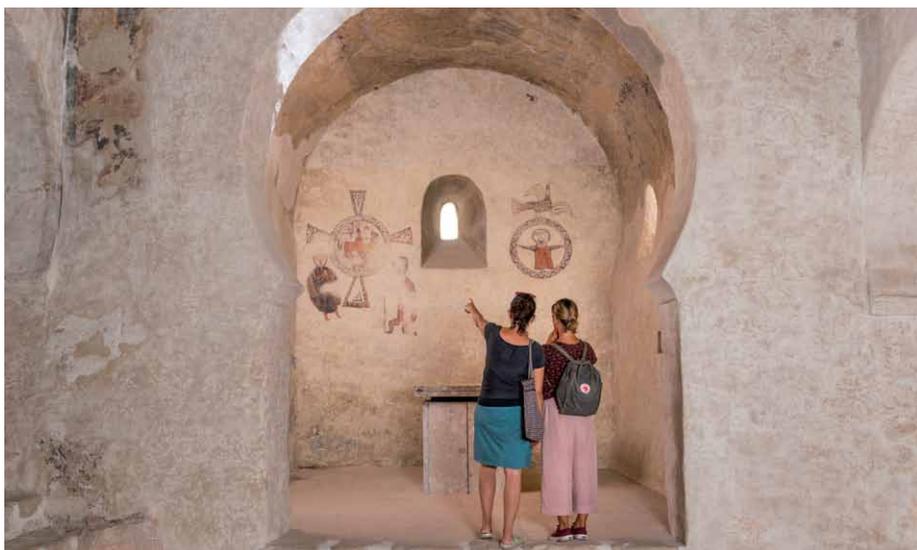
It is estimated that this church was built between the 10th and 11th centuries. It has a single nave with a barrel vault, with toral arches, and a single apse. The decoration of the walls and apse is simple. The bell tower is the most characteristic feature of Sant Climent. It is on the northern façade, slightly inset to the body of the nave which is accessible by a horseshoe arch opening. The square-based bell tower consists of two

distinct parts: the base with a tapered body is of pre-Romanesque design; the upper part is Romanesque, with semicircular windows and a four-sided roof.

It was studied in depth and restored by the architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch in 1929. It is surrounded by the cemetery and some remains of an earlier, undated building.

Sant Climent de Coll de Nargó
Passatge de l'Església, 1
25793 Coll de Nargó
<http://collnargo.ddl.net>

9 ROMANESQUE OF EL BERGUEDÀ



© Oscar Rodóbag

The oldest Romanesque wonder in El Berguedà is Sant Quirze de Pedret, a church built in the 10th century. Examining the different elements that make it unique is recommended: the 13th century façade, the vestiges of the original paintings on the interior walls and some reproductions of other paintings, such as the famous 10th century prayer. The original paintings are preserved and exhibited in the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, in Barcelona, and in the Museu Diocesà i Comarcal de Solsona. The church of Sant Vicenç del

Rus, located between the towns of La Pobla de Lillet and Castellar de n'Hug, is a Romanesque temple from the 12th century, in which the apse, the square bell tower and, inside, the baptismal font and the mural paintings stand out. Other Romanesque churches in the region that are worth visiting for their architectural value are Sant Vicenç d'Obiols, in Avià; Sant Jaume de Frontanyà; Santa Maria, in Pobla de Lillet; Santa Maria abbey, in Viver i Serrateix; Sant Llorenç monastery, in Guardiola de Berguedà, or Sant Sadurní de Rotgers church, in Borredà.

Berguedà Tourist Office
Road C16, km 96
08600 Berga
www.elbergueda.cat

10 GREAT MONASTERIES OF EL RIPOLLÈS



© Arthur Friedrich Salbach, ACT

The monasteries of Ripoll, Sant Joan de les Abadesses and Sant Pere de Camprodon are testimonies of a historical period of great cultural and political fervor. Santa Maria de Ripoll and Sant Joan de les Abadesses were founded by Guifré el Pilós in the 19th century. Ripoll conserves a Romanesque porch from the 12th century, known as "the Bible in stone", which, due to its artistic value, has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

A few kilometres away, in Sant Joan de les Abadesses, you can visit the monastery

Tourist Office of Ripoll
Plaça de l'Abat Oliba, s/n
17500 Ripoll

www.monestirderipoll.cat www.monestirsantjoanabadesses.cat www.valldecamprodon.org

of the same name that forms a valuable architectural complex in the centre of town. Inside the church, you can see the only Romanesque descent preserved in situ in Catalonia, a set of sculptures carved in 1250 and considered one of the most relevant examples of the Catalan Romanesque style.

The monastery of Sant Pere de Camprodon is a Benedictine monastery built in 950, of which only the church remains, a splendid Romanesque temple erected in the 12th century, which was built on the primitive church of the 10th century.

WRITTEN IN STONE

WRITTEN IN STONE

11 MIKVEH OF BESALÚ



© Juan José Pascual, ACT

The urban complex of Besalú is one of the best-preserved medieval areas of Catalonia. To begin with, its walled bridge over the waters of the River Fluvià is impressive, but its squares and streets also hide a heritage treasure related to the culture and history of the Jews, who lived for more than 500 years in the county of Besalú. One of them is the bathhouse located under the vestiges of the old synagogue, in the small square Dels Jueus, in the centre of the village. This is a space that was used for the mikveh, a ritual purification bath. It is believed to date back

to the end of the 12th century, making it one of the few preserved from that period throughout Europe. The tourist office organises guided tours, which is the only way can you get inside and see the small room where the swimming pool is located.

Its discovery was accidental: in 1964 a well was being built when the space was found. After the whole area had been excavated, important rabbis were asked to certify that it was a mikveh, and indeed it was.

Municipal Tourist Office
Carrer del Pont, 1
17850 Besalú
www.besalu.cat

12 SANT PERE DE RODES



© Josep Miquel Guasch, Arxius Imatges FCBBG

The ascent up the Verdera mountain is preparation for the imposing view of Sant Pere de Rodes, an old Benedictine monastery and one of the most famous in Catalonia for the importance of its architectural complex and its privileged location, as it dominates the entire peninsula of Cap de Creus. The most striking element of the monastery is its church, a capital and unique piece of the Catalan Romanesque style. Built between the 10th and 11th centuries to accommodate

pilgrims, its great height and the ornamental richness of the capitals and portico make it an exceptional work. Also noteworthy are the defence tower and bell tower, as well as the two cloisters and the remains of the pictorial mural decoration.

It is possible to get to know the legends surrounding this monastery and enjoy its impressive location by following any of the many routes in the surrounding area.

Monastery of Sant Pere de Rodes
Camí del Monestir, s/n
17489 Port de la Selva
www.patrimoni.gencat.cat

13 SALÀS DE PALLARS



© Jordi Bastard

Salàs de Pallars has earned respect with the passage of time visitors have the fortune to enjoy it. In the last 100 years, its territory has not been enlarged or reduced and the whole area has been declared a Cultural Asset of National Interest by the Regional Government of Catalonia. There is evidence of its settlement since Roman times, but no ruins are preserved. Its golden age was

the Middle Ages, of which several walls, circular towers and portals remain. The layout of the medieval town within the walls can be followed without any problems. At the beginning of the 21st century, Salàs created a Centre for the Interpretation of Ancient Commerce and several museum shops can be visited. The Centre organises activities and guided tours.

Salàs de Pallars Town Council
Bon Jesús, 47
25693 Salàs de Pallars
<http://botiguesmuseusalas.cat>

14 GERRI DE LA SAL



© Lauren Sansen

In Gerri de la Sal, the walled town is found with its adjoining streets that have maintained their structure, in addition to two towers that were used to guard the salt mines, the prison tower, along with the magnificent Almacén de la Sal or Real Alfolí, the largest building in the entire region for non-religious use, where salt was stored. This building is currently the headquarters of the Gerri de la Sal Museum dedicated to the salt trade, which forms part of the network of the Museu de la Ciència i la Tècnica de Catalunya.

It is essential to visit the monastery of Santa Maria, Romanesque style, built in the 12th century and located on the other side of the river Noguera Pallaresa. The Gerri salt flats, already documented in the 9th century, became the main economic engine of the community. Today a salt mine has been restored, consisting of a pool, auxiliary pond, plot and hut, to show the production process carried out, with the salt water spring and a hut with the tools that were once used for the salt.

Baix Pallars Town Council
Sant Sebastià, 1
25590 Gerri de la Sal
www.lleidatur.com <http://baixpallars.ddl.net>

PROTAGONISTS OF HISTORY

PROTAGONISTS OF HISTORY

15 EL MIRACLE SANCTUARY



© Patronat de Turisme

The Miracle Sanctuary is located in the heart of the municipality of Riner and was built following the apparition of the Virgin to two shepherds in 1458. The present church dates from the 17th century and is of a great size, although unfinished. The most striking element of the whole complex is the 18th century Baroque altarpiece, 23 metres high and 12 metres wide, a work by the sculptor Carles Morató, completed in 1758. The gilding and polychromy, somewhat later, are by the painter Antoni

Bordons. This is one of the most sumptuous and harmonious examples of the Catalan Baroque style. Next to the sanctuary stands a majestic Renaissance building of the late 16th century known as Casa Gran.

The monastery of the Benedictine monks of Montserrat, the house of spirituality and the cells are other buildings of the complex, from a later period. The Riner Town Hall, exhibition centres and tourist services are currently located in these buildings.

El Miracle Sanctuary
Casa de la Vila
25290 Riner
www.turismesolsones.com

16 EL BERGUEDÀ INDUSTRIAL COLONIES



© Turismo Verde SL, ACT

In the last decades of the 19th century, along the river Llobregat, numerous textile factories were constructed that used water as a source of energy. The workers of the factories, of diverse origins, were housed in small, closed villages, created around the industries. In these colonies there were houses, schools, bakeries or bars, and after the closure of most businesses during the last third of the twentieth century, these

communities became empty. Later on, they were used as testimony of a way of life now lost. The concentration of textile colonies is very high: 16 in 30 kilometers of river. Among the many existing in the region of Berguedà you can visit the Teixidor house in Cal Bassacs de Gironella, the Colònia Vidal Museum and the Interpretation Centre of the Cal Pons church, in Puig-reig, and the Torre de l'Amo de Viladomiu Nou.

Casa Teixidor
Colònia Cal Bassacs
08680 Berga
www.elbergueda.cat

PROTAGONISTS OF HISTORY

PROTAGONISTS OF HISTORY

17 BEGET AND DÒRRIA



© Kim Castells, ACT

Beget and Dòrria are two typical mountain villages in El Ripollès region. It is worth taking a walk through the streets and squares of Beget and crossing its medieval bridge, an architectural treasure with more than 1,000 years of history. It is of Romanesque origin, like the church of Sant Cristòfol, from the 12th century, very close to the bridge. This temple is the most iconic tourist attraction in the area because it is a typical example of rural Romanesque architecture that contains a polychrome wood Romanesque Majesty from the middle of the 12th century that represents Christ crucified in a position of triumphant majesty, without signs of pain or suffering.

Dòrria, in addition to being the highest village in El Ripollès, located at 1,550 metres, is one of the most picturesque and best-preserved in the region. It has been declared an Asset of National Interest and has special urban protection. It is advisable to walk its streets at a slow pace and pay attention to every detail: the slate roofs, the walls of the stone houses, the wooden balconies and, especially, the singular and precious Romanesque church dedicated to Saint Victor, from the 10th century, with a two-storey tower bell tower. Inside, Romanesque paintings of great value are kept.

Vall de Camprodon Tourist Office
Sant Roc, 22
17867 Camprodon
www.camprodon.cat
www.valldecamprodon.org

Vall de Ribes Tourist Office
Carretera de Bruguera, 2
17534 Ribes de Freser
www.vallderibes.cat

18 CIUDADELA DE ROSES



© Ajuntament de Roses 2018

A walk around the citadel is essential. Declared a historical-artistic site in 1961, it gathers vestiges of different occupations of the last 13 centuries. The military fortification, with the monumental Porta de Mar, is a renaissance-style area of 131,480 m², built in 1543. It contains an important archaeological site, which contains the remains of the Greek colony of Rhode, the Roman villa, dated between the 2nd century BC and the 6th century AD; the Paleo-Christian necropolis, with different buildings from the Visigothic period; the Lombard Romanesque monastery of Santa

Maria, from the 11th century; the remains of the medieval fortified town centre, and also the remains of different military buildings from the last occupation, in the 16th century. The museum provides an immersion into the history and cultural heritage of Roses, from the Prehistoric era to the present.

A visit to the citadel is an in-depth history lesson concentrated in a single 17-hectare space in which you can enjoy a full, highly detailed and signposted visit. Family and cultural activities are available.

Ciudadela de Roses
Av. de Rhode, s/n
17480 Roses
www.rosescultura.cat

19 HISTORIC CENTRE OF SOLSONA



© Ajuntament de Solsona

It is a city with history, dating back to 3000 BC, with vestiges preserved from this time. Solsona welcomed Lacetans, Romans, Saracens and Jews before consolidating its population in the twentieth century. In 1594 it obtained the title of city from King Philip II and, in the previous year, was granted the category of episcopal seat.

A walk through Solsona will show the visitor all of its history, as well as its great activity in terms of traditions and folklore.

It is said to be the city with the most giants per square metre in the world. The cathedral, its various squares, some with Gothic fountains, the historic buildings with "cap de biga" -sculptures representing elaborate characters' heads-, the ice well, the old vestibules of the castle, the bridge and the Llobera, the Renaissance, Baroque and Modernist buildings, as well as other landmarks, constitute the list of essentials to discover the historical centre of Solsona.

Tourist Office of Solsona
Carretera de Basella, 1
25280 Solsona
www.solsonaturisme.com

20 OLD QUARTER OF BELLVER



© Joan Castro, GZ

The centre of the old town is located on top of the hill, which was surrounded by the wall with the classic layout of the castle at the west end and the church at the east end. As such, the town was founded in 1225 and immediately received inhabitants from various backgrounds, who came attracted by the security and freedom that a town provided against the abuses of feudal lords. Its castle was part of the line of defence of the royal road that crossed La Cerdanya. Of particular

interest are the Plaça del Portal, the various cobbled streets, the different gates of the wall and the viewpoints or the Ponent park, recovered during the restoration of the old quarter. The church, dedicated to Sant Jaume, is a remarkable Gothic building located in the street that carries the same name and that ends in Carrer de l'Amargura, where the inn in which the Sevillian poet Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer stayed is located, and that leads to the square dedicated to the writer.

Bellver de Cerdanya Town Council
Plaça Major, 12
25720 Bellver de Cerdanya
<http://bellver.ddl.net>

21 OLD QUARTER OF PUIGCERDÀ



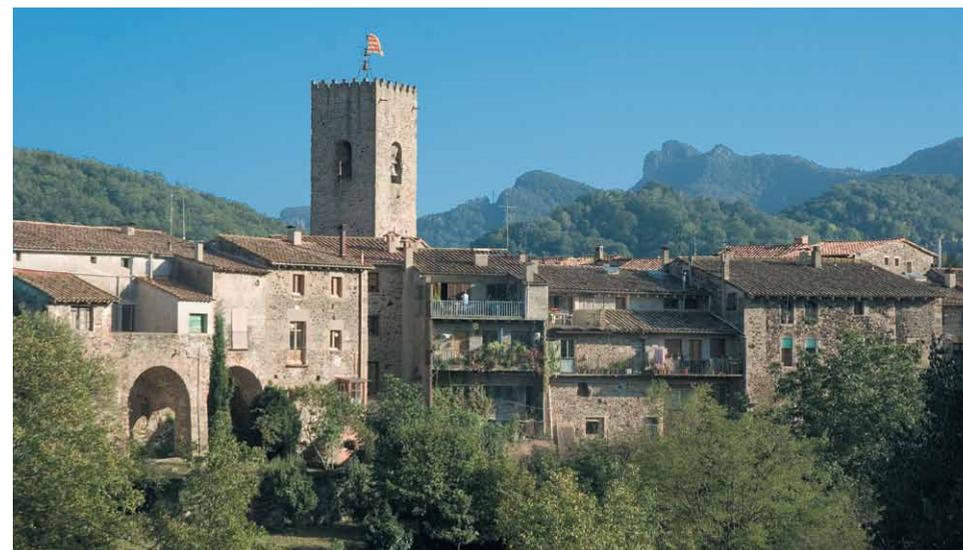
© Albert Lliacó, GZ

Since its foundation in 1177, Puigcerdà has undergone important transformations in its urban structure over the centuries. Originally built on the hill of La Cerdanya, Puigcerdà and its centre grew around the church of Santa Maria, demolished shortly before the Spanish Civil War and of which only the bell tower remains. The Plaça de Santa Maria occupies the site left by the church building and surrounds the bell tower, together with the Plaça dels Herois and the Hospital de la Cerdanya, built at the end of the 12th century and still in operation as a health

centre, after having been remodelled on countless occasions. From Santa Maria come the two shopping streets of Barri Vell, Carrer Major and Carrer Espanya. The medieval configuration of the old quarter has a special charm for residents and visitors, as it combines its ancient flavour with much activity at all hours of the day. Carrer Major leads to Cabrinetty Square, from which you can access the Raval district, full of pleasant corners between its narrow streets with steps.

Puigcerdà Tourist Office
Plaça Santa Maria, s/n
17520 Puigcerdà
www.puigcerda.cat

22 HISTORICAL CENTRE OF SANTA PAU



© Servicis Editorials Genarima, ACT

A stroll through the historic centre of Sant Pau allows you to see unique buildings and, from the east, splendid views over the valley of the river Ser; if the sky is clear, from the Portal del Mar you can see the Gulf of Roses and the sea. Among the most important pieces of this picturesque place are the medieval town, the castle built in the 8th and 14th centuries and the porticoed square or Firal dels Bous, without forgetting the

Gothic church of Santa Maria, which served as a refuge for the market, given to the town in 1297, which has just one nave.

In order to improve accessibility in the old quarter, two new ramps and a new section of handrail have been installed in the alleys surrounding the castle and the porticoed square to allow access for pedestrians with reduced mobility.

Sant Pau Tourist Office
Avinguda dels Volcans, 14
17811 Santa Pau
<http://es.turismegarrotxa.com>

THE CATALAN PYRENEES

MUSEUMS

Treasures are hidden in the Catalan Pyrenees, which museums have the keys to understanding. The heritage of more than 1,000 years of artistic activity forms a unique sample of **fine art** in its most spiritual aspect. The beauty and hardness of the **mountain life** comes to the present through testimonies of unique ways of living that will amaze us and push us to continue to explore the ways in which we can relive **footprints from the past** in sites that tell us how the ancient inhabitants of these lands worked, even the characters who, although not because they were part of mythology, left a smaller imprint.





FINE ART

- 23 La Ribagorça Sacred Art Collection
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23 LA RIBAGORÇA SACRED ART COLLECTION



© Nano Canas, ACT

La Ribagorça Sacred Art Collection is a cultural and artistic collection made up of different works from the churches in the area. They can be admired in the old church of the Assumpció del Pont de Suert, where each one of the unique religious pieces can be appreciated, ordered according to their typology: altarpieces, goldsmithery, imagery and painting.

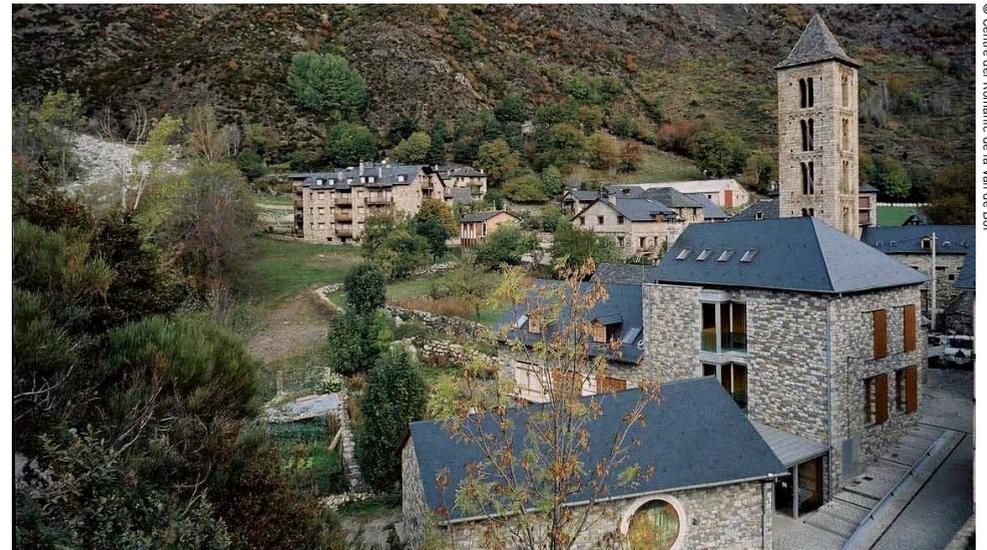
Among the altarpieces, those of the Assumpció and Sant Sebastià stand out, originals from the church, as well as others from small churches in the surrounding area, most of them from the Baroque period. The

oldest is the flagstone of Santa Maria de Còll, from the 12th century. Also noteworthy is the section of imagery, consisting of various baroque carvings of polychrome wood, the goldsmith's, which contains liturgical objects, and paintings, coming from the 17th and 18th centuries.

It is worth saving some time to contemplate the space dedicated to the Monastery of Santa Maria de Lavaix, with sculptures and architectural pieces from this monastery, currently in ruins and partly flooded by the waters of the Escalles reservoir.

El Pont de Suert Tourist Office
Avinguda Victoriano Muñoz, 22
25520 El Pont de Suert
www.elpontdesuert.cat www.turismealtaribagorca.cat

24 LA VALL DE BOÍ ROMANESQUE CENTRE

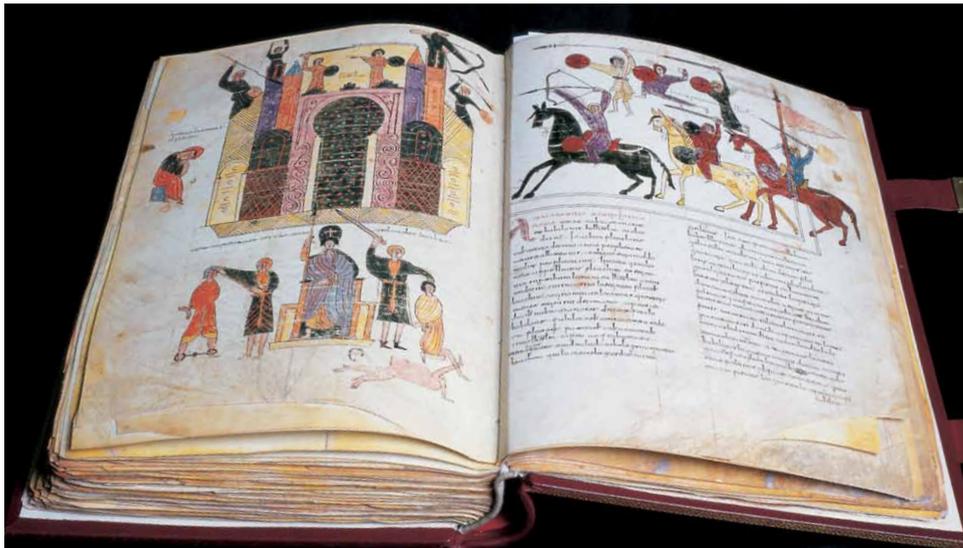


© Centre del Romànic de la Vall de Boí

In this space, located just next to the church of Santa Eulàlia d'Erill la Vall, they give the basic knowledge to know and understand the whole Romanesque monumental set of the valley, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The centre offers an interactive and enjoyable exhibition, as well as all kinds of practical information for visiting churches (brochures, timetables or group tickets), a shop with publications specialising in Romanesque and cultural heritage, a guided tour service for groups throughout the year in different languages or a guided tour service for the general public.

La Vall de Boí Romanesque Centre
Carrer del Batalló, 5
25528 Erill la Vall
www.centreromanic.com

The exhibition consists of writings, photos, books, models, dioramas and images, as well as various audiovisuals and videos that provide an insight into the history of the construction of the churches, which coincided with the period of splendour of the richest families in the valley. Undoubtedly, it is a highly recommended visit to do before that of the churches and to understand the historical context of the time when they were built.

25 | **DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF L'URGELL**

© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

The diocesan museum of Urgell, located inside the cathedral of La Seu d'Urgell, houses and exhibits works of art from various historical periods and artistic styles. The collection of mural paintings corresponds especially to the Romanesque period and comes from different villages in the Catalan Pyrenees. As for Romanesque sculptures, there are carvings of virgins from some churches in the Catalan Pyrenees, the Romanesque capitals of the collegiate church of Santa Maria de Tremp, two stone sarcophagi from the second half of the 12th century and the marble altar

of the cathedral. Other wonders of the museum are the collections of goldsmithery, shrines, clothing and some textiles from the treasure of the cathedral and the different parishes of the Diocese. Also noteworthy is the small, but very valuable, sample of codices and documents dating from the 10th to 14th centuries. Among them is the famous codex of the 10th century Beatus de la Seu d'Urgell, which contains the commentary on the Apocalypse of the Beatus of Liébana, illustrated with 86 miniatures. It is one of the most appreciated pieces in the collection.

Diocesan Museum of L'Urgell
Carrer de Santa Maria, 18
25700 La Seu d'Urgell
www.museudiocesaurgell.org

26 | **DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL MUSEUM OF SOLSONA**

© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

The museum, located in the Episcopal Palace and in the overcloisters of the cathedral, is one of the first diocesan museums in Catalonia. It contains a large collection of historical-artistic heritage of the territory, from the Neolithic to the 20th century.

The visit begins on the first floor, in the curious room dedicated to the 19th century salt collection, where sculptures made of salt from the nearby Cardona mines are on display. In the area dedicated to the Romanesque style, the most spacious in the museum, there are stone sculptures such as the historical column and several capitals of

the cloister of the cathedral of Santa Maria de Solsona, as well as a large collection of polychrome wood images. There is also an exhibition of exceptional mural paintings from the church of Sant Quirze de Pedret, the altarpiece from the monastery of Sant Jaume de Frontanyà and the paintings from the altar of the church of Sant Andreu de Sagàs. From the Gothic period the tables of the painters Lluís Borrassà and Pere Serra are exhibited, and, among the religious objects, the lipsanotecas (small boxes with lids where the most valuable relics are kept) of Sant Quirze de Pedret from the 10th century and Sant Martí de Joval from the 11th century.

Diocesan and Regional Museum of Solsona
Plaça Palau, 1
25280 Solsona
www.museusolsona.cat

27 LA GARROTXA MUSEUM



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

One of the best collections of Catalan painting and sculpture in Catalonia can be found in La Garrotxa Museum, located in the city of Olot. It occupies the building of the old Hospice and in it the permanent collection is displayed, as well as temporary exhibitions and activities.

Particularly noteworthy are the works of the Olot Landscape School, a landscape movement promoted by the brothers Joaquim and Marià Vayreda and by Josep Berga i Boix from the second half of the

19th century onwards. It was characterised by its unique way of capturing the natural landscape, with an original and free style that influenced several generations of Catalan painters. In addition, the museum houses an extensive display of painting and sculpture, with works by artists such as Ramon Casas, Joan Carles Panyó, Josep Berga i Boada, Francesc Vayreda, Ramon Amadeu, Miquel Blay, Josep Clarà and Leonci Quera, among many others, as well as a collection of modernist posters.

La Garrotxa Museum
Carrer de l'Hospici, 8
17800 Olot
<https://museus.olot.cat/museu-garrotxa/>

28 DALÍ THEATRE-MUSEUM



© Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí

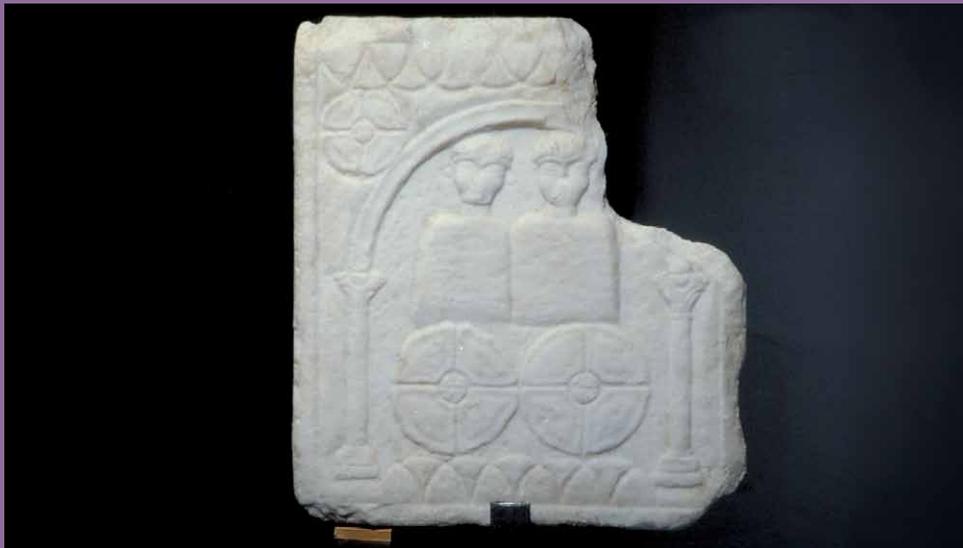
The Dalí Theatre-Museum, conceived and created by Salvador Dalí, is a great surrealist object, ready made and his latest great creation, which offers us a journey through the painter's life and artistic career.

Dalí wanted to create a centre that would awaken and arouse the interest of all visitors. This museum, which occupies the space of the old municipal theatre of Figueres, presents Dalí's work: impressionist, cubist, pointillist, fauvist canvases, up to surrealism, his classicist and mystical-nuclear period, works related to the advances of science,

and his works of art from 1980 to 1983, in which he touches on the great classics, especially of Michelangelo and Velázquez. The spectacular geodesic dome, designed by the architect Emilio Pérez Piñero, must be mentioned. The central courtyard is also notable with the work known as the Rainy Taxi. As the painter said: "It is obvious that there are other worlds, that's for sure; but, as I have said many times, those other worlds are in ours, they reside on Earth and precisely in the centre of the dome of the Dalí Museum, where the whole unsuspected and hallucinating new world of surrealism is.

Dalí Theatre-Museum
Plaça Gala-Salvador Dalí, 5
17600 Figueres
www.salvador-dali.org

29 VAL D'ARAN MUSEUM



© 79

In the tower of General Martinhon, a manor house from the 17th century, where the headquarters of the Musèu dera Val d'Aran are housed, you can see a collection of archaeological, artistic and ethnological objects of the valley that allows you to learn the history of the Aranese people, as well as their customs, trades and traditions.

The visit goes through different areas: the cradle of the Garona, the conquest of the mountain and the first evidence of human presence in the Val d'Aran; Romanisation;

fortifications and the defence of the border because of its geostrategic location; the evolution of agriculture and livestock, to the industrial era of the time of the mines and hydroelectric power stations, and the road towards the present era, with a mention of the festive and cultural traditions of the Aranese people. In addition to guided tours, the museum offers workshops and activities, especially for families with children, such as track games and tests or archaeological workshops.

Val d'Aran Museum
Carrèr Major, 26
25530 Vielha
www.visitvaldaran.com

30 ÇÒ DE JOANCHIQUET ECO-MUSEUM



© Turismo Verde SL ACT

Vilamòs, in the Val d'Aran, still preserves the typical qualities and traditional architecture of yesteryear. In one of the houses on Carrer Major is the Ecomusèu Çò de Joanchiquet, a museum that takes visitors back in time to a not-too-distant past and into the day-to-day life of the Aunòs, a well-to-do family who lived in the farmhouse until the 1960s. It is a traditional house, in Catalan called an *auviatge* or *còto*, with an interior courtyard around which the different spaces are distributed: the family house, the stables, the orchard, the allotment..

The route through the exhibition space allows visitors to get to know the valley's landscape and its activities: use of the forest, livestock, agriculture, social and family organisation, and customs. The first known owner of this house was Joan Aunòs, who arrived there in the second half of the 16th century. The Aunòs lineage was formed by a family of peasants who enjoyed a privileged social and political position. Some of its members came to hold important political posts in the Conselh Generau d'Aran in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Çò de Joanchiquet eco-museum
Carrer Major, 2
25551 Vilamòs
www.visitvaldaran.com

31 EPICENTRE-EL PALLARS JUSSÀ VISITORS' CENTRE



© Consell Comarcal del Pallars Jussà

There is nothing better than visiting this visitor centre to discover the landscape, geology, history, customs and activities in this Pyrenean region. It functions as an information point and also as an exhibition space where the values of cultural and natural heritage are explained in a pleasant and interactive way for visitors of all ages.

On the first floor, the route passes through four different areas: Geology and the land of dinosaurs, the spectacle of nature, the

dark sky of the Pallars and the vultures in the protected spaces of El Pallars Jussà. To finish the tour of the building, on the second floor it is possible to visit four other areas on the cultural heritage of the region: The passing of cultures, a story, stories of Pallars and those persecuted and saved. In addition to visits, the centre functions as a tourist information office, a shop and also offers guided visits to different places in Tremp and the region, as well as educational workshops and various cultural activities.

Epicentre - El Pallars Jussà Visitors' Centre
Passeig del Vall, 13
25620 Tremp
www.pallarsjussa.net

32 TAVASCAN UNDERGROUND HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION AND WATER INTERPRETATION CENTRE



© Ana Meneses_GZ

This large-sized work is inside a cavern 500 meters inside the mountain of Pico de Guerón, in the valley of Tavascan. It is one of the largest underground hydroelectric plants in Europe. In addition, it is a reversible installation, i.e. during the day it collects the water from the lakes to produce electricity, and during the night it is a pumping station that returns the water to the upper lakes. Although still in operation and owned by the Endesa electricity company, its facilities can be visited in a guided and concerted manner through an itinerary throughout the plant and a visit

to the Water Interpretation Centre, where the history of the plant and its peculiar characteristics are explained. To access the power station, you have to go through a tunnel. Once inside the cave, a guide explains the how the turbines operate and the process used to obtain electricity. The tour ends in the large hall. Currently, the operation of the plant is automated and remote controlled from the Fecsa/Endesa control centre in Lleida, from where the valves and gates are opened and closed and the water that moves the turbines is regulated.

Tavascan Hydroelectric Power Plant
25577 Tavascan
www.tavascan.net http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat

33 VALLS D'ÀNEU ECO-MUSEUM



© Oriol Clavera. Patronat de Turisme de la Diputació de Lleida

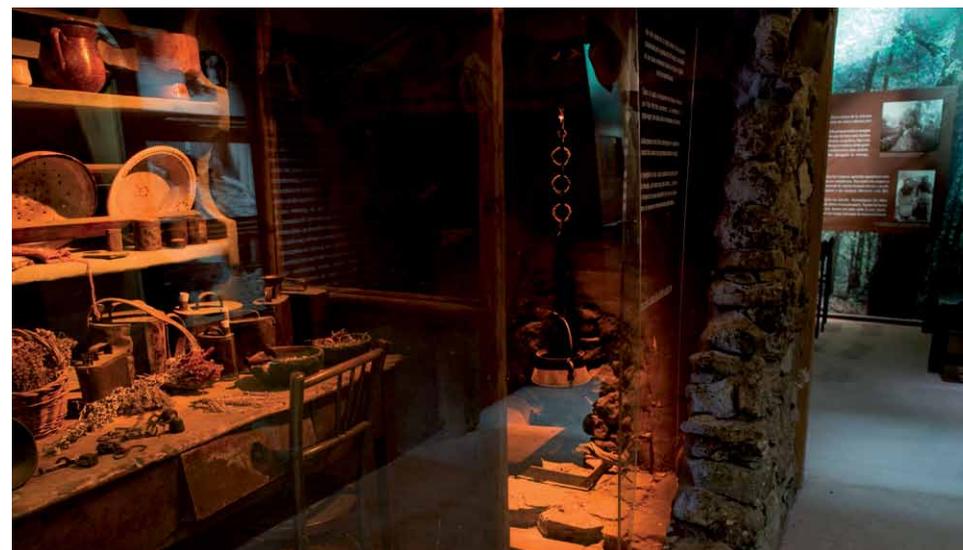
This is not a traditional museum. The difference is that its exhibition space is not limited to the four walls of a building, but is spread throughout the territory of the Valls d'Àneu. Its purpose is to give insight into life in the towns and villages of the small valleys of the area. The main headquarters of this great museum is the Casa Gassia, in Esterrí d'Àneu, a restored traditional house, where guided and dramatised visits are held to show how people lived in a mountain house at the beginning of the 20th century. In the eco-museum the "Game

of Ladies" can be followed, a patrimonial route that follows the steps of the ladies Arsenda d'Àger, Valença de Tost, Llíucia de la Marca and Eslonça Martínez four places of interest: the castle and canonical of Mur, Santa Maria de Gerri, Sant Pere del Burgal and Santa Maria d'Àneu.

The museum also organises activities and proposes new cultural products that bring together the recovery of the Pyrenean cultural heritage and the economic and social development of the territory.

Valls d'Àneu eco-museum
Carrer del Camp, 22-24
25580 Esterrí d'Àneu
www.ecomuseu.com <http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat>

34 MUSEUM OF THE TREMENTINAIRES



© Oriol Clavera. Patronat de Turisme de la Diputació de Lleida

The trade of *trementinaire* occupied most of the female population of the valley of Tuixent for more than 100 years. It was an itinerant trade, with knowledge passed down from generation to generation. With herbs, flowers, plants, turpentine (extracted from the resin of the Scots pine tree) or dried mushrooms they created ointments and infusions with which to treat people and animals with colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, diphtheria or other diseases and to cure wounds or broken bones. The museum shows the routes of the *trementinaires*, trails from Tuixent to the

interior and coast of Catalonia. Anyone who visits the museum will learn some interesting stories and facts, such as that the last trip made by a *trementinaire* was made by Sofia de Ossera in 1982 or that the famous turmentine, which gives its name to the popular trade, was used to soothe pain, and to cure spider bites and ulcers.

On the outskirts, the Botanical Garden of the Trementinaires is a small natural space ideal for discovering mountain plants and learning their properties and characteristics.

Museum of the Trementinaires
Plaça de la Serra del Cadí, 1
25717 Tuixent
www.trementinaires.org

35 LA VALL DE LORD MUSEUM AND INTERPRETATION CENTRE



© Servicios Editoriales Georama, ACT

In the heart of the Vall de Lord, in the Solsonès, is the monastery of Sant Llorenç de Morunys. The museum there is organized into four rooms dedicated to different materials. In the wood room, the value of the forest and the use of this material in the different populations of the area is described. The visit allows you to discover the *barrals*, curious wooden containers used to store water, or to contemplate works related to one of the baroque gems of the region, the Altar dels Colls. In the stone room, small

fossils 40 million years old can be discovered, as well as prehistoric tools or Romanesque sculptures. In the area dedicated to plaster you can see different samples of pieces of this material, which was used to build moulded ceilings, among other interior decorations. The visit ends in the textile room. From the 13th century until the middle of the 19th century, the main economic activity of the village was the manufacture of the traditional Piteu cloth, a woollen fabric with a characteristic weave that made it very resistant.

Museum - Interpretation Centre of the Vall de Lord
Carrer Estret, 1 - Cloister of the Church of Sant Llorenç
25282 Sant Llorenç de Morunys
<http://museuvalldelord.com>

36 MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF LLÍVIA



© José Luis Rodríguez, ACT

The village of Llivia is a Catalan enclave in France made up of stone houses, slate roofs and wooden balconies full of flowers. They are grouped around squares and streets that still preserve the charm of the typical towns of La Cerdanya and are ideal for a pleasant stroll. In the centre is the Municipal Museum, which houses a unique collection of objects from the Esteva pharmacy, dating from 1415, the oldest in Europe. You can admire ceramic jars decorated in blue, 17th and 18th century wooden boxes with portraits of scholars and scientists, science books, recipes of the

time, formulas, a world map with the origin of the products, laboratory instruments and a medicine cabinet, a polychrome piece of furniture from the 18th century where pharmaceutical products were kept. The collection is one of the most impressive in the world in this field and has been preserved thanks to the Esteva family, who kept the pharmacy open until 1926.

In addition to the Esteva pharmacy collection, in the museum you can enjoy a small sample of archaeological remains found in the area.

Municipal Museum of Llivia
Carrer dels Forns, 10
17527 Llivia
www.llivia.org/museu-municipal.com

37 MUSEUM OF THE MINES OF CERCS



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

At the beginning of the 20th century, Catalonia experienced coal fever. The village of Cercs, in the Berguedà, was transformed thanks to the coal mines that were made use of in its territory. Next to the mines where the ore was extracted, colonies were established such as Sant Corneli, Sant Salvador or Consolació, where the mine workers lived. In 1989, after a few decades of activity, the company Carbons de Berga announced its closure. The company reopened its doors a few years later, this time to show its visitors in the form of a

museum. The mining colony of Sant Corneli is one of the best preserved in Catalonia. It is situated at an altitude of 960 metres and consists of houses, a school, a church, a cinema and even a cemetery. The museum includes access to the Sant Romà gallery. To gain access, a mining train must be taken that crosses the 450 meters length of the deposit. Inside, the machines, instruments and figures which represent the miners are displayed. At the end, the lights and noises that a coal makes are displayed as a surprise.

Museum of the Mines of Cercs
Plaça Sant Romà, s/n
08698 Sant Corneli
www.mmcercs.cat

38 ASLAND CEMENT MUSEUM



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

In Castellar de n'Hug, in the Clot del Moro area, the old Asland cement factory can be found, now a museum. It is part of the MNACTEC (Science and Technical Museum of Catalonia). It was inaugurated in 2002, and in 2005, it was declared a cultural property of national interest as a historical monument, as it is a modernist building. The use of the Catalan vault (or flat brick) and the wrought iron structures make it stand out from the rest of the complex. The founder of the factory was Eusebi Güell, a businessman who hired the architect Rafael Guastavino. The visit to the museum includes an

exhibition that explains the history of the factory through various resources, such as an audiovisual about a film from 1920 when the factory was in operation. The space is also used for temporary exhibitions.

It is advisable to arrive at the museum in the Tren del Ciment, a tourist train that connects La Pobla de Lillet with the Cement Museum. The tour passes through the Artigas Gardens, an architectural complex designed by Antoni Gaudí for a family that owns one of the main textile factories in the area.

Asland Cement Museum
Paratge del Clot del Moro, s/n
08696 Castellar de n'Hug
www.museuciment.cat

39 RIPOLL ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM



© Diego Espada - Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona

This museum was founded in 1929 and continues to document, study, disseminate and conserve the material and immaterial ethnological heritage of El Ripollès and the neighbouring regions of Osona, El Berguedà and La Cerdanya. It was reopened in 2011 and is now a modern museum with 12 areas devoted to the history of this area of the Catalan Pyrenees, the old museum and its history, work in the fields and at home, life

at home, religion, games, trade, wool and hemp, forgery and iron, arms and society today. Some of the most notable pieces are those belonging to the collection of objects related to shepherds (the shepherd's bed, sheep marks, hand guards and staffs), barretines, antique furniture, manger figurines, votive offerings, medicine pots, the weaver, the nail collection, portable firearms or the shoe-making bench.

Ripoll Ethnographic Museum
Plaça de l'Abat Oliba, s/n
17500 Ripoll
www.museuderipoll.org

40 SANTS D'OTLOT MUSEUM



© Maria Geli - Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona

The Museum of the Saints, in Olot, is unique in its subject matter: religious imagery, that is to say, the carving, sculpture and painting of images of saints. It is located right in the neo-Gothic building that housed the city's first workshop, Christian Art, founded in 1880 by Joaquim Vayreda, Josep Berga and Valentí Carrera, and which is still in operation. Recently restored, the museum uncovers the secrets of the traditional production of religious imagery, its history and techniques. On the

ground floor and in the basement, large windows that connect the museum with the workshops allow visitors to see the work of the artisans. The visit continues on the first floor, where the permanent exhibition with different areas is displayed. The upper floor of the museum is dedicated to educational activities, educational workshops and temporary exhibitions to bring religious imagery closer to the public of all ages. Today, the works produced in the Olot workshops can be seen all over the world.

Sants d'Olot Museum
Carrer de Joaquim Vayreda, 9
17800 Olot
<https://museus.otlot.cat/museu-dels-sants>

41 CONCA DELLÀ MUSEUM AND CRETACEOUS PARK



© Imagen M.A.S. ACT

There is no better way to imagine what the Catalan Pyrenees were like 70 million years ago than visiting the paleontological sites of the Cretaceous Park, in the municipalities of Abella de la Conca and Isona i Conca Dellà, in the region of El Pallars Jussà. The Conca Dellà museum in Isona can be the base camp for a stay in the area. In this museum, in addition to the exhibitions, there is a tourist office where you can find information about all the visits that can be done in the

area, from sites of ichnites (footprints) and eggs, to Romanesque hermitages, castles, natural spaces or the most picturesque areas. In total, the Cretaceous Park includes 10 sites: the Conca Dellà Museum, the Posa ichnites site, the Basturs dinosaur egg site, the Roman city of Aesso, the Llordà castle, the Orcau castle, the Santa Maria de Covet church, the Sant Andreu de Biscarri church, the Sant Miquel de Conques church and the Basturs lakes.

Conca Dellà Museum and Cretaceous Park
Carrer del Museu, 4
25650 Isona
www.parc-cretaci.com

42 BÚNQUERS DE MARTINET I MONTELLÀ PARK



© Turisme de la Cerdanya, Gonzalo Sanguinetti

In the Cadí mountain range, the Búnquers de Martinet i Montellà Park offers a close-up view of some of the buildings that were erected in this corner after the Spanish Civil War. It is a museum space with the aim of rescuing the memory of different historical episodes (the Second World War, the post-civil war and Francoism), a part of history quite unknown and surrounded by controversy and military secrets. During the 1940s, the so-called P Line (or Pyrenees Line) was built, a defence made up of some

10,000 bunkers spread throughout the Catalan Pyrenees, a project of the Franco dictatorship in preparation for an eventual allied invasion. Today, the visit offers an outdoor walk that allows you to see points of combat and artillery, machine gun emplacements and even enter a labyrinth of underground passages. In addition, the park recreates the atmosphere that surrounded these buildings and tries to explain one of the darkest periods in history, aiming to make visitors reflect.

Búnquers de Martinet i Montellà Park
Paratge de Cabiscol, Road LV-4055 from Martinet to Montellà
25725 Martinet
www.bunquersmartinet.net

43 INTERPRETATION CENTRE OF THE MYTH OF COUNT ARNAU



© ZD

The interpretation centre of the myth of Comte Arnau is located in an ancient palace built in the 14th century, just next to the monastery of Sant Joan de les Abadesses. It is an exhibition space to discover the figure of Comte Arnau, a mythological character. Who was he? How has his myth influenced the history, literature, folklore and even the music of this corner of the Pyrenees? The exposition answers these and other questions.

It forms part of the "Land of Counts and Abbots", a project whose main protagonists

are the monasteries of Ripoll and Sant Joan de les Abadesses, as well as the sanctuary of Montgrony.

The route passes through several areas, divided into three sections dedicated to the well-known song that gives rise to the legend, to the story of its expansion and, finally, to the construction of Comte Arnau as a myth, with its corresponding cultural effect, in which the exhibition focuses on the works of great writers of the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Joan Maragall and Josep Maria de Sagarra.

Interpretation Centre of the Myth of Count Arnau
Palau de l'Abadia
17860 Sant Joan de les Abadesses
www.terradecomtes.cat

44 MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY OF CATALONIA. EMPÚRIES



© Aquenaxxa, Jordi Casanova

Empúries is one of the most important archaeological sites on the Iberian Peninsula, representing the connection with the ancient Mediterranean cultures. Today it is possible to visit the remains of the city of Emporion, founded around 575 B.C. by Greek Foceos merchants, and the Roman city of Emporiae, built at the beginning of the 1st century B.C. Different types of guided tours, audiovisuals, virtual experiences with 3D reconstructions and educational workshops are given.

In the site, the wall and sanctuaries attributed to the cult of Asclepios (from the sculpture identified with the god of medicine, which can be seen in the museum), and to the Greek-Egyptian god Zeus Serapis; the new museum spaces of the stoa (in the agora square of the Greek city), the forum of the Roman city (with the main public and religious buildings) as well as the cryptoportico of one of the great Roman houses, which also preserves an outstanding set of mosaics of one of the great Roman houses.

MAC Empúries
Carrer Puig i Cadafalch, s/n
17130 L'Escala
www.macempuries.cat

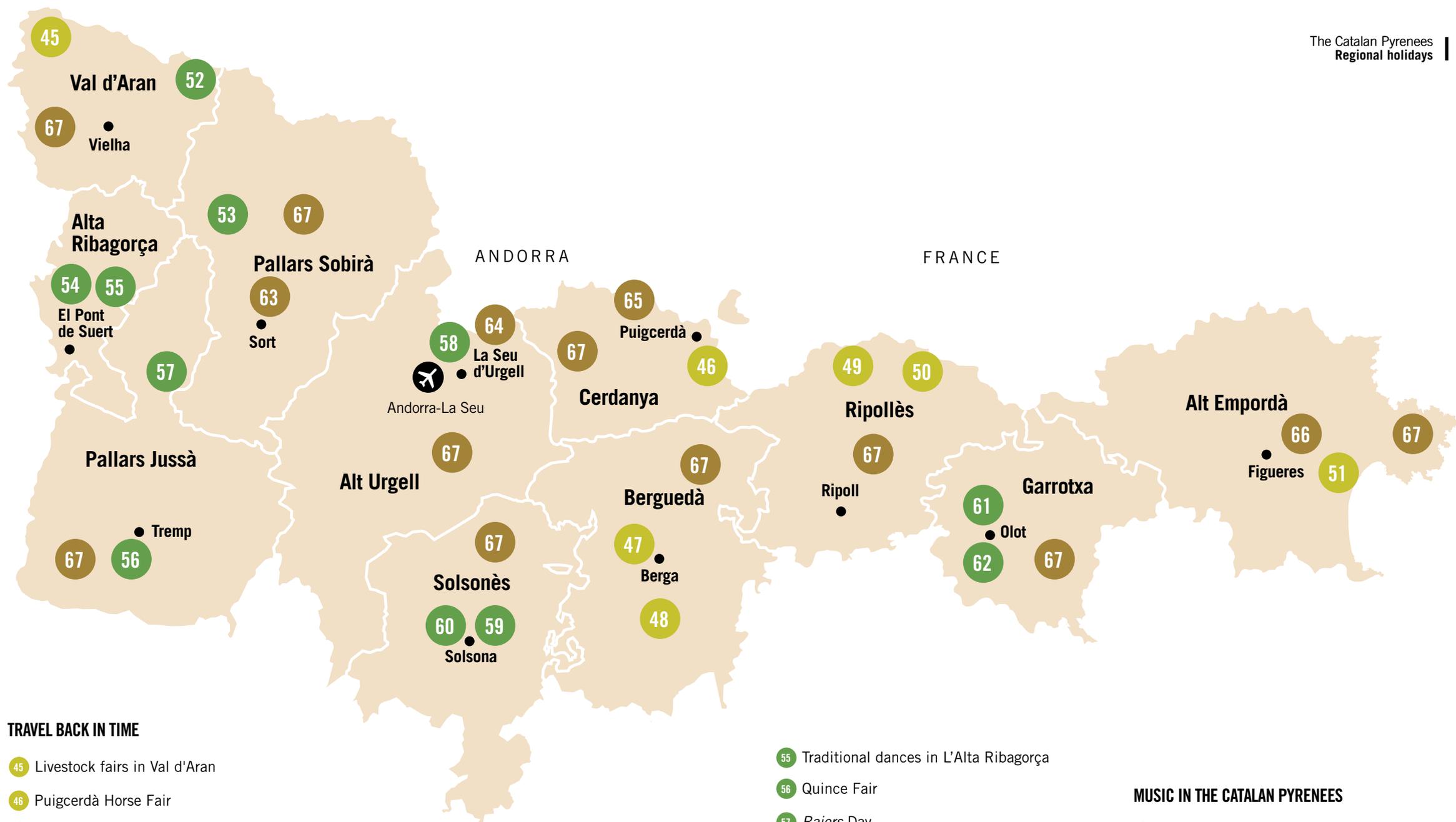


© Gemma Miralba. ACT

The Catalan Pyrenees

REGIONAL HOLIDAYS

Fire, animals, products from the earth... Throughout human history they have been and continue to be celebrated for the same reasons. And we all like to imagine that **time travel** is possible and that we can relive experiences from another era. Other events have remained unchanged over time and it is necessary to **celebrate tradition** to keep our cultural heritage alive. At no party in the **Catalan Pyrenees** is **music** not present, whether it is traditional music, transmitted from generation to generation, or academic music that we can enjoy in spaces with a special magnetism.



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

- 45 Livestock fairs in Val d'Aran
- 46 Puigcerdà Horse Fair
- 47 Festival of the wheat harvest in Avià
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- 50 Espinavell Horse Fair
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CELEBRATING TRADITION

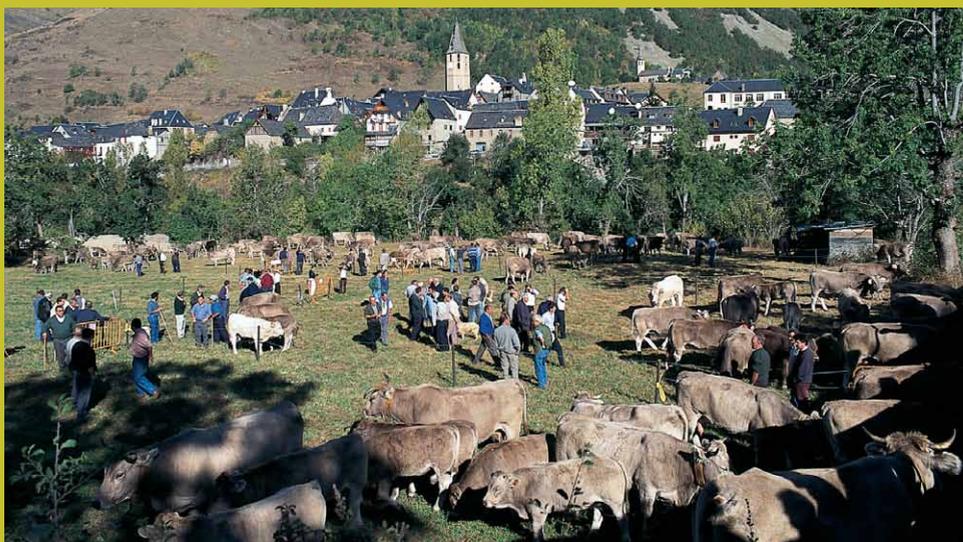
- 52 Pilgrimage in the Sanctuary of Montgarri
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- 55 Traditional dances in L'Alta Ribagorça
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- 66 Peralada Castle Festival
- 67 Festival of Ancient Pyrenees Music

45 LIVESTOCK FAIRS IN VAL D'ARAN



© visitvaldaran.com

The Val d'Aran is rich in traditions. One of them is their livestock fairs. These are celebrations of centenary origin that are filled with visitors and activities for the main Aranese communities, such as Les, Salardú, Vielha and Bossòst. The fairs are held when the animals come down from the mountain, before going to the bordas (typical huts of the shepherds in the mountains). In all the villages that host them, they are one of the

most anticipated events throughout the year, not only by the Aranese, but also by visitors.

During the fairs the animals that are still used to work in the field are displayed. The act of buying and selling typical animals is complemented by other offers focused on trade of all kinds and recreational events are organized such as musical entertainment, tastings of local produce and popular meals.

Val d'Aran Tourist Information Office
Carrèr Sarriulèra, 1
25530 Vielha
www.visitvaldaran.com

46 PUIGCERDÀ HORSE FAIR



© Patronat de Turisme de la Cerdanya

On the first weekend of November, the closest to All Saints' Day, the city of Puigcerdà celebrates one of the most important horse fairs in Europe. For a whole weekend you can see more than 1,000 specimens of the native horse breed of the Catalan Pyrenees as well as other breeds. The most eagerly awaited event is the horse and livestock competition, where the best horses that come to the fair

are presented to the audience and compete to win prizes in different categories. In addition to the horse and livestock fair, the multi-activity fair is held in different areas of the town. It is, without a doubt, one of the most important commercial events of the year in the region. The city of Puigcerdà has a thousand-year-old tradition of fairs and markets dating back to the 12th century.

Puigcerdà Town Council
Plaça de l'Ajuntament, s/n
17520 Puigcerdà
www.puigcerda.cat

47

FESTA DEL SEGAR I EL BATRE DE AVIÀ (FESTIVAL OF THE WHEAT HARVEST IN AVIÀ)



© Anna Selga. Concours Instagram Festes del SIR

The goal of this festival is to honour the people who work in the fields and all their daily tasks, and it is celebrated every second Sunday in July, coinciding with the harvest and threshing season (from San Juan to the end of June). The meeting point is the esplanade near Santa Maria d'Avià, a beautiful 12TH century Romanesque church one kilometre from the village. There, the Colla de Segadors, an association formed by peasants from the area, in collaboration

with the Ateneu and the Avià Town Hall, organise a festive event, the main part of which are practical demonstrations of the mowing and threshing work are carried out, as they were done in the past, with animals and implements. This festival was born in 1989 as the idea of an inhabitant of Avià. In addition to recreation, there are concerts, group breakfasts, haystack construction, lacemakers' meetings, craftsmen's fairs and the tasting of the reaper's cake.

Avià Town Council
Avinguda Pau Casals, 22
08610 Avià
www.avia.cat

48

LA CORRIDA IN PUIG-REIG



© Comissió de la Corrida de Puig-reig

One of the most traditional celebrations in the town of Puig-reig is La Corrida, a tradition that is celebrated every year on the weekend after the celebration of San Antonio, on 17 January. This festival, which has been celebrated for more than 125 years, is centered around horses, carts, sausage and food from pigs. The main act is a parade in which the image of San Antonio is walked, headed by the flag bearer and formed by a parade of horses and carriages that run through the streets of the centre of the village. The most eagerly

awaited moment is the three rockets and the firecracker that begin La Corrida on the Sunday. It begins with a popular lunch of sausages, as for many years the festival coincided with the slaughter of pigs. Blood sausage, *bulls*, fuets, llonganissa, pancetta, bacon, sobrassada and ham are eaten, accompanied by good wine. It is the preamble to the parade in which horses, mares, donkeys, mules and ponies parade, and carriages reminiscent of the old fieldwork as well as other, more fancy ones decorated with all kinds of detail.

Puig-reig Town Council
Carrer Pau Casals, 1
08692 Puig-reig
www.lacorrida.cat

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

49 RIBES DE FRESER INTERNATIONAL HERDING
DOG COMPETITION

50 ESPINAVELL HORSE FAIR



© Consorci Ripollès Desenvolupament, Archivo Indígenas PTCBG



© Joan Castro, GZ

The Catalan Sheepdog (*gos d'atura*) is the breed dedicated to guarding the flocks of sheep in the Catalan Pyrenees, especially nomadic periods. In some villages there are traditional contests where shepherds test the skills and abilities of their best dogs. One of the most popular is Ribes de Freser, in El Ripollès region. It has been held on the first Sunday in September since 1948. It was promoted by the Cattlemen's Guild and the Ribes de Freser Town Council and, later, it was exported to Oñate (Guipúzcoa), where it continues to be celebrated. From 1962

to 1988, competitions took place in other towns and statutes were signed to make up the Federació de Concursos de Gossos d'Atura dels Països Catalans (Federation of Herding Dog Competitions of Catalonia) that organises a championship every year in which shepherds and dogs of various origin participate. Currently, the Ribes competition is being turned into a reference event and different complementary activities are being organised to raise awareness of shepherding, sheep products, promote the Catalan Shepherd dog breed and keep the trade alive.

In Espinavell, a small village that belongs to the municipality of Molló, in the Camprodon valley, the "Tria dels Mulats" is celebrated every 13th October. For one day, people from different parts of the Catalan Pyrenees come to this horse fair, of large importance, which has become a tourist event.

The animals have spent the whole summer in the mountains and the migration of livestock is carried out from the festival of San Juan from the centre of Molló to the mountain of Rojà, near the Canigó massif, in the French region

of Conflent, where they still retain the rights of pasture, recognised by the Acts of the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659). On the day of the fair, the farmers accompany their animals to Les Planes de Espinavell, where they will spend the day. At approximately 11 a.m. the mares, horses and colts or *mulats* arrive and begin the business of selling them. After closing the sales, the babies are separated from their mothers (called the *tria dels mulats*) and the adult animals return to the mountain, where they will live until the cold arrives and their owners shelter them in their farmhouses.

Ribes de Freser Town Council
Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 3
17534 Ribes de Freser
www.ajribesdefreser.cat

Molló Town Council
Carrer de Sant Sebastià, 2
17868 Molló
www.mollo.cat

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

51 TERRA DE TROBADORS DE CASTELLÓ D'EMPÚRIES FESTIVAL



© Ajuntament de Castelló d'Empúries

The second oldest historic festival in Catalonia is called Terra de Trobadors and is held in Castelló d'Empúries. After several editions, it has become a large event organised with great historical rigour, during which the town revives its medieval splendour. The initiative arose from cultural links with the Occitan lands, after a proposal by a group of troubadour musicians. Every second weekend in September, Castelló becomes the capital of Empúries County. The knights fight

for their honour in the medieval tournament, and the Palau dels Comtes and the convent of Sant Domènec host a medieval dinner. In the streets and squares there is music and performances by troubadours, jugglers, jesters and clowns, and in the historic centre there is a large medieval market with artisan stalls and food. Other activities are also organised such as workshops, conferences, exhibitions, guided tours and other offerings to make the most of medieval recreation.

Castelló d'Empúries Town Council
Plaça Joc de la Pilota, 1
17486 Castelló d'Empúries
www.terradetrobadors.com

CELEBRATE TRADITION

52 PILGRIMAGE IN THE SANCTUARY OF MONTGARRI



© Rafael López Mome - visitvaldaran.com

The sanctuary of Montgarri, at an altitude of 1,645 metres, is a building of Romanesque origin, surrounded by high mountain meadows next to the river Noguera Pallaresa. It is located between the regions of El Pallars Sobirà and Val d'Aran, between Bonabé and Pla de Beret. Montgarri was a rural centre until the 1960s, when its inhabitants left the village because of the harsh living conditions. Today, we can still see the remains of the typical embroidery and the sanctuary, of which the octagonal bell tower stands out.

Montgarri can be visited at different times of the year, but there is no doubt that a good option is to do so on 2nd July or 15th August, when the locals gather to celebrate the traditional pilgrimage, with mass, good food and dancing. Most of the people who attend this pilgrimage do so on foot from the Pla de Beret. This is a walk of about six kilometres through forests and landscapes of great beauty.

Vall d'Aran Tourist Information Office
Carrèr Sarriulèra, 10
25530 Vielha
www.visitvaldaran.com

53 **FAIES BURNING IN EL PALLARS JUSSÀ
AND EL PALLARS SOBIRÀ**

© Associació de Fallaires de la Pobla de Segur

As every year, with the arrival of good weather, different villages in the Catalan Pyrenees celebrate the summer solstice by carrying *faies*, trunks or branches which the young people prepare a few days before the event. In an elevated place, they put the beacon, made up of a group of trunks that serves to light all the *faies* and is the point of origin from where they begin to descend the mountain. Arriving at the village, the *fallaires* place their trunks in a bonfire and they are received with great joy.

During the night of San Juan the *faies* are taken to Isil and Alins, in El Pallars Sobirà.

Falles d'Isil www.fallesisil.cat
 Falles d'Alins www.fallesalins.cat
 Falles de La Pobla de Segur www.fallairespobla.cat
<http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat> www.pallarsjussa.net

At midnight, the men and women who have decided to participate in the party go down the mountain with their trunks lit on their shoulders until they reach the village, forming a luminous line that attracts the attention and photographs of visitors. A week before, in La Pobla de Segur in El Pallars Jussà, the *faies* de la Mare de Déu de Ribera are celebrated. All this *faia* bearing, together with those of València d'Àneu by San Pedro and those of Alós d'Isil on the first Saturday of July, have been declared as Patrimonial Festivals of National Interest and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

54 **FAIES BURNING IN L'ALTA RIBAGORÇA**

© Manel Puyjo

Every year, the festival of the *faies* in the region of L'Alta Ribagorça attracts a good number of visitors coming from different places to attend a party for the ancestral ceremony of giving thanks for the harvest and the arrival of good weather. The festival takes place in several villages, and in each one the young people light the *faies*, resin-filled trunks about two meters long, in a high place in the mountain. When it gets dark, they begin to descend in line until they reach the town square, where they are greeted with

music and the traditional ringing of bells. With the *faies* half burnt, they make a large bonfire and dance traditional dances.

During the first fortnight of June, the festival of the *faies* is celebrated in Durro and Senet. On 23 June, it is celebrated in Boí, Casós, el Pont de Suert and Vilaller. During the second fortnight of June, those of Barruera are carried down; in the first fortnight of July, those of Erill la Vall and Taüll and, during the second fortnight of July, those of Llesp.

La Vall de Boí www.vallboi.cat
 Alta Ribagorça www.turismealtribagorca.cat

CELEBRATE TRADITION

CELEBRATE TRADITION

55 TRADITIONAL DANCES IN L'ALTA RIBAGORÇA

56 QUINCE FAIR



© Manel Viadrich, Patronat de Turisme de la Diputació de Lleida



© Ajuntament de Tremp

The folk dances, each with its own particular history, are passed down from generation to generation and are repeated year after year in the folk festivals. They are the essence of tradition and folklore in each of the towns where they are represented.

One of them is the *ball de bastons* (cane dance). It is held at the Festa Major de Sant Pere, on the 29th July, in the town of Malpàs. Other popular dances can be seen at the Sant Isidre festival in Taüll, which is held on the third Sunday in July. Only on this day can you see the *ball pla*, which

is danced together with the Ball de Sant Isidre and in which the traditional *pila* is also done, a human tower where only men participate and which has a unique aspect: whoever tops the tower does it upside down.

In Vilaller, on 15th August, you can observe a unique dance with a lot of history and tradition: the *tatero*. This is a dance performed by four male couples. In the village of Durro, the Festa Xica is held in September to see the *ball pla* of Durro, in which two single people and two married people participate.

Alta Ribagorça Regional Tourist Board
Avinguda Victoriano Muñoz, 48
25520 El Pont de Suert
www.turismealtaribagorca.cat

Quince is one of the typical products of the counties of El Pallars. In the Catalan Pyrenees, *alloli de codony* (quince aioli), is a typical food, widely used to accompany grilled meats.

Every autumn, the town of Tremp organises the Quince Fair, an event that fills the squares and streets of this town in El Pallars Jussà with visitors. The fair is held on All Saints weekend and is organised jointly by Tremp Town Council and Tremp Associated Commerce. For a couple of days, stalls are

set up where quince jam, *alloli de codony* and other products made from this fruit are sold. There is also a programme of activities for all ages, such as the traditional *alloli de codony* competition, tastings of other typical Pallars products such as artisan sausages, the food fair, concerts, and entertainment for the youngest members of the family or parades. Throughout the fair you can see the typical *mocador de farcell*, a bundle scarf of small paintings that has become a symbol of the region and Catalonia.

Tremp Town Council
Plaça de la Creu, 1
25620 Tremp
www.ajuntamentdetremp.cat

57 **RAIERS DAY**



© Oriol Llaureadó, ACT

The first Sunday in July is one of the most eagerly awaited events in El Pallars Jussà festive calendar. This is the feast of the *raiers*, a unique day to discover the profession of the *raier* or *almadiero*, who was the person in charge of transporting goods along the river, defying its dangers. During this day, the *rais* or rafts go down the river Noguera Pallaresa loaded with firewood as it was done in the past

This tribute to the fluvial transport that allowed the wood from the Catalan Pyrenees

to be brought to the coastal lands takes place in La Pobla de Segur. One day before the festival, four three-stretch rafts are built and the *raiers* prepare the traditional costumes. In the morning, in front of thousands of visitors, they descend the river, from the Llània dam to the Claverol bridge, a five-kilometre route. The festival was declared a Traditional Festival of National Interest in 2002 and lasts three days with concerts, well-known meals, the *espardenyada* (a hike), a mountain race and a dance at the end of the festival.

Cultural Association of the Raiers of Noguera Pallaresa
Plaça dels Pobles, s/n
25500 La Pobla de Segur
www.elsraiers.cat

58 **SANT ERMENGOL FAIR**



© Servicios Editoriales Georama, ACT

Visiting La Seu d'Urgell during the Sant Ermengol Fair is a perfect excuse to get to know the best cheeses in the Pyrenees. It takes place every year on the third weekend of October in the center of the capital of l'Alt Urgell. Here, artisan cheeses are presented not only from the Catalan Pyrenees but from many places on the Peninsula. It is possible to taste different types of cheese, mostly from cows, goats or sheep. One of the most popular events in the competition is the artisan cheese competition. The exhibition has been consolidated and the city has become known worldwide as the driving force

Sant Ermengol Fair
Plaça dels Oms, 1
25700 La Seu d'Urgell
www.firasantermengol.cat

behind the promotion, diffusion and external projection of cheeses made in the Catalan Pyrenees. In addition, throughout the city you can visit monographic spaces dedicated to different products from the Catalan Pyrenees: the livestock show, the crafts fair, the Espai Tast Km 0 (Km 0 Tasting Area), the Encants dels Canonges, the Autofira or the fair for ecological products from the Catalan Pyrenees.

This event is considered the first documented fair in the Iberian Peninsula, since it was first mentioned in 1048.

CELEBRATE TRADITION

CELEBRATE TRADITION

59 SOLSONA CARNIVAL

60 FESTA MAJOR (LOCAL FESTIVAL) IN SOLSONA



© O. Creus, GZ



© GZ

Carnival is one of the most eagerly awaited celebrations in Solsona. For a week this city is full of people, music and round-the-clock partying.

The programme of events is rich, varied and very traditional. They emphasise the dance of the Gegants Bojos (crazy giants) to the *ritmo del Bufi* (the anthem of the Carnival), the Penjada del Ruc al Campanar (in which they hang a cardboard donkey from the bell tower), the Contradances, the arrival of his majesty the Carnival King, the sermon, the Children's Carnival, the Comparsas...

Thanks to its originality, this festival has been declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest. And although it was reestablished in 1971, its origins are ancestral.

Its main characteristics include a satirical carnival, a burlesque and more open recreation of the Festa Major, with a very defined protocol, which criticises the authorities and contains jokes about popular characters. Every year it is organised through the Associació de Festes del Carnaval de Solsona.

Tourist Office of Solsona
Carretera de Basella, 1
25280 Solsona
www.carnivalsolsona.com

On the 8th and 9th of September Solsona dresses in its best clothes to celebrate the Festa Major, a traditional festival in honour of the Mare de Déu del Claustre, patron saint of the city. The inhabitants of Solsona go out into the street to enjoy a whole programme that includes religious acts, traditional activities, fireworks, music, children's entertainment and all kinds of celebratory events. In 2008, the festival was declared a Heritage Festival of National Interest. Of all the figures that march in the parades, the

Tourist Office of Solsona
Carretera de Basella, 1
25280 Solsona
www.solsonalafesta.net

giants stand out. In fact, the term serves to refer to all the elements of the city's festive folklore, which in addition to the giants include the Eagle, the Mulassa, the Dragon, the Cavallets, the Aguilons, the Bears, the Bull, the Nans, the *trabucaires* or popular dances such as the *ball de bastons*. It is the celebration of a ritual and acts of a city given generation after generation to the festival which goes back to 1653 and nowadays maintains the basic structure and the same agenda of the 17th century.

61 DANCE OF HORSES, GIANTS AND THE MULASSA



© Oriol Llauredó, Sant Feliu de Pallerols

In Sant Feliu de Pallerols you can see a unique dance every year of great interest, both folkloric and anthropological: El Ball de Cavallets, Gegants i la Mulassa (the Dance of Horses, Giants and the Mulassa). This traditional dance is the most famous event of the Festa Major, and was declared a Traditional Festival of National Interest in 1999.

The dance, popularly known as the Matadegolla, is a dance considered by scholars as a living testimony of traditional Catalan dance. Its first written references

date back to the 18th century and, as its name indicates, the elements in the ritual are a figure representing a mule, a pair of giants and eight little horses. You have to wait until the week of the Festa Major, at the beginning of June, to see the dance live. On this occasion it is accompanied by a melody played by a violinist. It can also be seen in the traditional ballads, during the same week, specifically on Sunday and Monday afternoon, in the Plaça de la Iglesia and Plaça el Firal, respectively. In this case the dance is accompanied by copla music, the traditional Catalan formation.

Sant Feliu de Pallerols Town Council
Plaça el Firal, 23
17174 Sant Feliu de Pallerols
www.santfeliudepallerols.com

62 FESTIVAL OF EL TURA



© Gemma Miralda, ACT

The Virgin of Tura is the patron saint of the city of Olot and every year on September 8th, the streets and squares of the city are filled with music and people. It is a celebration documented from the 14th century that over the years has transformed without losing its traditional essence. One of the most notable acts of the week is the Baile de Gigantes, Cabezudos y Caballitos (a dance with giants, big-headed characters and small horses) in the Plaça Major. The Gegants d'Olot couple are the most emblematic and beloved figures, true sculptural works created by the artists Miquel Blay and Celestí Devesa. They are accompanied

by the famous Lligamosques, one of the oldest figures documented in Catalonia.

In addition to the popular dances and parades, the festival has other important events, such as the float competition, the sardanas (a Catalan dance), the Correfoc or the popular Tornaboda (a post-wedding event) and Correbou, the Turinada, the Baile de la Hora, the flower battle, sports competitions, running of the bulls, as well as all kinds of children's entertainment events, open-air concerts, fireworks or the curious olive stone throwing competition.

Festival of El Tura
Sant Esteve, 29
17800 Olot
<http://festesdeltura.olot.cat>

63 VILA DE RIALP MUSIC FESTIVAL



© Ajuntament de Rialp

The Rialp Music Festival is held every summer in this town of Rialp, in El Pallars Sobirà. This is a benchmark for classical music festivals in Catalonia, and in each edition musicians from different parts of the world offer their concerts on different stages spread throughout the city. The festival was inaugurated in 2000 and in almost a couple of decades it has consolidated itself as one of the most important musical events in the Catalan Pyrenees. One of the festival venues is the Rialp parish church, dedicated to Nostra Senyora de Valldeflors, which has

a valuable Gothic carving of the Virgin of Valldeflors. It is an imposing stage where musicians such as Carlos Núñez, Ludovica Vincenti, the Casals Quartet, Mayte Martín and Andrea Motis & Joan Chamorro, among many others, have performed.

Without a doubt, the festival is a unique opportunity to visit this town, which preserves corners of great beauty, such as Carrer del Mig, a road that preserves the structure and aesthetics of the old arched streets of medieval origin.

Rialp Town Council
Plaça del Tornall, 1
25594 Rialp
www.festivalrialp.com

64 MEETING OF THE PYRENEES ACCORDIONISTS



© Marc Castellat, ACT

Arsèguel is a charming village situated under the Cadí mountain range. The church of Santa Coloma, of Romanesque origin, serves as the entrance the village. And the church street, with stone houses on both sides, ends in the square where the Pyrenees Folk Music School is located. The town is known for its beauty, but also for being the setting for Catalonia's oldest music festival: the Meeting of the Pyrenees Accordionists. In addition to being one of the most eagerly awaited musical events in the region, it is considered the most important diatonic accordion festival in

Europe. It has been held every last weekend in July since 1976.

On Saturday, music fills the corners of the village and, in the afternoon is the meeting of musicians from different parts of the world, which ends with a great concert that lasts until dawn. On Sunday afternoon there is a concert of folk music and on Monday, a festival of traditional music and dance. It is worth visiting the Accordion Museum, dedicated to the history of this traditional instrument and its relationship with the people.

Arsèguel Town Council
Plaça Doctor Llangort, 3
25722 Arsèguel
http://arseguel.ddl.net www.alturgell.cat

MUSIC IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES

MUSIC IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES

65 TRAMA FESTIVAL MUSIC EXHIBITION FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF EUROPE

66 PERALADA CASTLE FESTIVAL



There is always a good reason to visit Bellver de Cerdanya: the castle ruins, the narrow streets of the old quarter, Carrer del Cadell, Carrer Bonaire or Plaça Portalada. It is advisable to visit all year round, but the town is especially lively during the Sant Llorenç fair. It is held every 10th August in the heart of the old quarter. It is the great market of artisan food products of the Catalan Pyrenees in which there are Pyrenean producers who display their products. In this contest you can find producers of

honey, bread, cakes, jams, fruit juices, preserves of duck and goose, goat, sheep and cow cheeses, sausages, aromatic herbs or liqueurs, a real showcase for the most typical and artisan products of La Cerdanya and the Catalan Pyrenees. In recent years, the fair has also become a small festival of traditional music, a meeting between musicians from the village and the valley who come together to play their instruments and offer concerts during the fair.

The Peralada Music Festival is undoubtedly one of the most eagerly awaited musical events of the summer. It is held during the months of July and August in Peralada, a charming town in L'Alt Empordà where about 1,500 inhabitants live. It is a very visited village, known for its very well preserved streets of medieval origin, its casino and its castle. It is precisely within the medieval ensemble of the Castle of Peralada where the festival is held, a special stage that welcomes the most renowned national and international

artists of different genres and musical styles. The Auditorium, located within the gardens of Parque Castillo, is the ideal venue for concerts on summer nights. The Church and the Cloister, for their part, host recitals, indoor concerts and small-scale operas. The festival has been held since 1987 and has hosted different types of shows, from concerts of great singers, symphonic concerts, operas, musical theatre shows, dance, jazz, pop, to indoor concerts or family shows.

Bellver de Cerdanya Town Council
Plaça Major, 12
25720 Bellver de Cerdanya
www.bellver.org

Peralada Castle Festival
Carrer Sant Joan
17491 Peralada
www.festivalperalada.com

MUSIC IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES

MUSIC IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES

67 FESTIVAL OF ANCIENT PYRENEES MUSIC



© Roger Sagarra GZ



© Quartet Casals



© ZG

The Ancient Music Festival of the Pyrenees is a musical event organised jointly by about forty towns in the Catalan Pyrenees. Its aim is to link ancient music with the rich architectural heritage of the area, especially the Romanesque style. And this goal is achieved through the music performed in different places of great architectural and historical value. In recent years, FEMAP has become a platform for the international projection of Catalan musicians who dedicate themselves to this historical period, and also a space for the

recovery and dissemination of Catalonia's musical heritage. The Festival is held from the beginning of July to the end of August and offers more than 50 concerts in different places in the Pyrenees. It is establishing itself as the most important ancient music event in Europe, capable of bringing together very high quality performances with other cultural tourist offerings, such as guided tours or tastings of gastronomic products, at the same time devoting special attention to groups at risk of social exclusion.

FEMAP
Carrer Lluís de Sabater, 2
25700 La Seu d'Urgell
www.femap.cat

WINE GASTRONOMY PROPOSALS

ERA ÒLHADA

In more than 12 towns in the Val d'Aran, in the last week of March or the first week of April, Era Òlhada is organised, a gastronomic event in which the restaurants design a menu, with the main feature being Aranese cuisine, and various gourmet products from the area.

Val d'Aran
www.visitvaldaran.com

FAIR OF THE GIRELLA

In El Pont de Suert, every third or fourth Sunday in October, this mountain fair is held, offering a free tasting of *girella*, a sausage made from rice and traditional lamb meat from the Pyrenees.

L'Alta Ribagorça
www.elpontdesuert.com



© ANA MENESSES. GZ

CORDEVI

Tasting sessions, workshops, walks, visits to producers, special menus, guided tours, dinners in typical places... all these offerings take place in La Pobla de Segur, in October and November, with the aim of promoting the rich gastronomy of the area.

El Pallars Jussà
www.lapobladeseegur.cat

SAMPLE OF CATALAN ARTISAN CHEESES

Organised by the Catalan Association of Artisan Cheese Producers and the Town Hall of Sort, this exhibition has established itself as a platform for the spread and promotion of local cheeses from the Catalan Pyrenees.

El Pallars Sobirà
www.lamostradesort.com



© LLUÍS CARRO. ACT

CALDERADA OF SAN ANTONIO

In La Seu d'Urgell, every 17th of January, as part of the festivities of San Antonio Abad, the Calderada is celebrated in homage to traditional farmers, butchers and specialised butchers. Up to 3,000 portions of this stew are given out, made from vegetables, legumes, veal and bacon.

L'Alt Urgell
www.laseu.cat

TRUMFO AND TRUFFLE FAIR

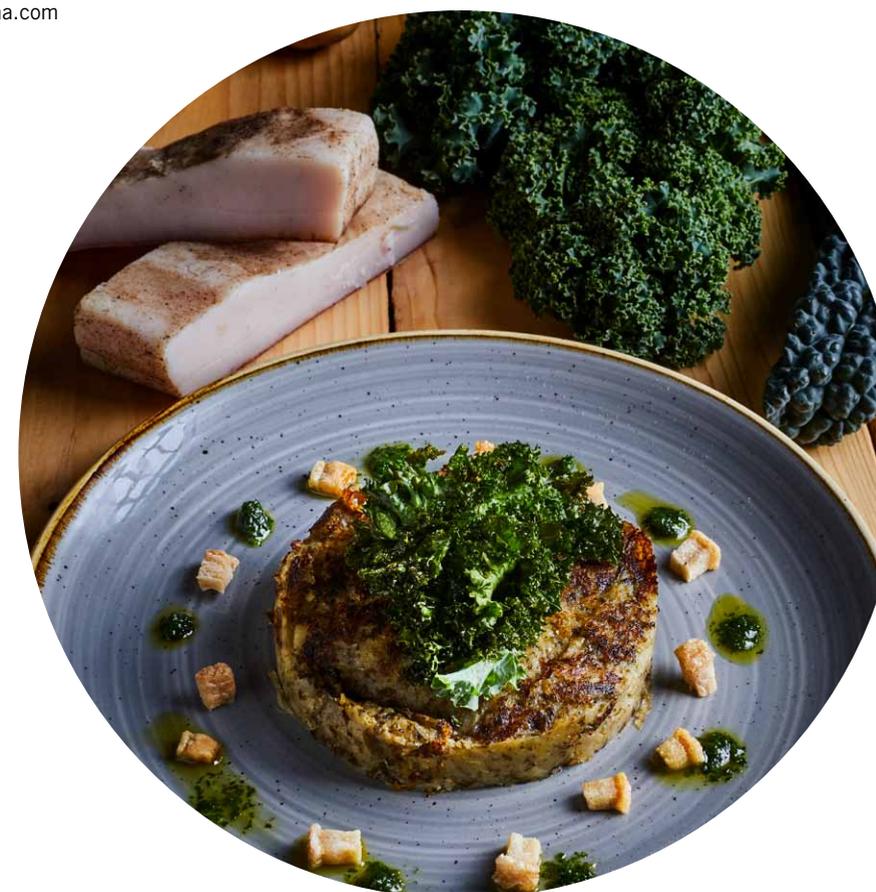
A must for potato growers, truffle pickers and lovers of these gastronomic products. The first weekend in March, provided that it does not coincide with Carnival, the wine festival is also held, making Solsona a destination for gourmets who will enjoy tastings, workshops, special menus and the sale of the main root vegetables.

El Solsonès
firadesolsona.com

TRINXAT FESTIVAL

On the last Saturday in February, in Puigcerdà, a gala dinner is held with the *trinxat* as the star dish. This mountain recipe, based on potato, cabbage and toasted bacon, is high in the list of exquisiteness for the cooks of the region. In addition to *trinxat*, products from the excellent mountain cuisine of the area can be tasted.

La Cerdanya
www.puigcerda.cat



© MARC CASTELLET. ACT



© ACT

**GASTRONOMIC SEASONS
OF THE FOAL AND THE POTATO**

In May, the Cuines de la Vall de Camprodon association organises the colt meat season and, between September and October, the local trumfa or potato season. They are two products of the highest quality, closely linked to the area by their natural production. In both seasons, catering establishments from different corners of the valleys of El Ripollès region take part.

El Ripollès
www.productesdelripolles.com

LA GARROTXA GASTRONOMY EVENT

At the end of October and during most of November, various gourmet restaurants prepare tasting menus with local products to delight lovers of good food. The exhibition is organised by various local cooking associations with the aim of making their excellent cuisine known.

La Garrotxa
www.garrotxahostalatge.cat

L'EMPORDÀ WINE FAIR

An fully packed sample of the wineries of the DO Empordà that, for four days, turn the city of Figueres into the scene of a wine event, with tastings, children's workshops, guided tours, themed tastings, small-scale concerts and discounts in the shops of the capital of the Alt Empordà.

L'Alt Empordà
www.mostradelviemporda.cat

GOURMET TASTING OF THE BLACK PEA

Gósol is a small mountain village that, on the last Saturday in October, shows its most valuable treasure, the black pea, a legume of artisan cultivation that only grows at a certain altitude. Tasty and dark in colour, it can be bought directly from the producers in the market of the Plaza Mayor and eaten in local food or any of the restaurants in the area.

El Berguedà
www.pesolnegre.com



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Tourism promotion entities

Tarragona Provincial Authority Tourist Board
www.costadaurada.info
www.terresdelebre.travel

The Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona
www.en.costabrava.org

The Patronat de Turisme (Regional Tourist Board) of the Diputació de Lleida
www.aralleida.cat

The Barcelona Provincial Council
www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat

The Turisme de Barcelona Consortium
www.barcelonaturisme.com

For more information on Catalonia

www.catalunya.com

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@catalunyaexperience

 www.twitter.com/catexperience
@catexperience

 www.instagram.com/catalunyaexperience

 www.youtube.com/user/CatalunyaExperience

Palau Robert
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+ 34 93 238 80 91 / 92 / 93
www.gencat.cat/palaurobert

Opening hours:
from Mondays to Saturdays: 10 AM to 8 PM;
Sundays and public holidays: 10 AM to 2:30 PM.

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Experience Catalunya
https://experience.catalunya.com

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Legal Deposit: B-13774-2019

Published by
©Catalan Tourist Board. Passeig de Gràcia, 105, 3.ª planta. 08008 Barcelona
Published by: Ediciones Reunidas, SA www.grupozeta.es

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