CATALONIA: WHAT’S NEW 2014

Catalan Tourist Board
press.act.uk@gencat.cat
Wine Tourism Catalonia

At eleven wine Denominations of Origin and one for sparkling wine, Catalonia is well established with a large offer not only in quality wines but also related to wine tourism. To foster visits and activities in cellars, the Wine Tourism Catalonia promotion programme has been implemented, which aims at positioning Catalonia as a landmark wine tourist destination.

According to a first inventory by the industry, almost 300 wine cellars offering tours have been identified, plus a network with basic services and a more sophisticated side offer related to wine tourism as well as several public and private tourist initiatives in connection with wine and vineyards.

www.catalunya.com

2014: 20th anniversary of the International Family Year

On the occasion of this commemoration, Catalonia has made a special programme focusing on promoting family tourism, one of the strategic products for Catalonia as a holiday destination. With 60% of its visitors being families, Catalonia is pioneering in Europe in creating a certified label for destinations that are especially receptive to family tourism: the Family Holiday Destination (FHD) brand. With the inclusion of Valls d’Àneu in the Lleida Pyrenees, there are already 14 municipalities certified as FHD by the Catalan Tourist Board. Valls d’Àneu is a mountain area with little villages that have kept their rural charm amidst pristine nature that has gone almost untouched by humans. It is the first inland destination included into the FHD list, which was so far made up of seaside municipalities only. Furthermore, Sant Feliu de Guíxols on Costa Brava is in the process of certification.

www.catalunya.com

Buy Catalunya 2014, a must on the agenda

Buy Catalunya has become Catalonia’s most important promotional and commercial event as well as a must on the agenda of global tour operators and Catalan tourist businesses. Every other year, the CTB organises a meeting upon appointment at which Catalan companies have the opportunity of presenting their offer not only to the biggest tour operators in Europe but also from some major emerging markets such as Russia and China. Furthermore, these tour operators will first enjoy a familiarisation trip allowing them to know the products and land of Catalonia on site.
Buy Catalonia will be held in October this year. Its previous edition in June 2012 welcomed 170 tour operators from over thirty international markets and 220 Catalan tourist companies, and around 3000 interviews were held.

http://workshops.catalunya.com

Hotels with gastronomic specialisation

The Government of Catalonia has created the gastronomic specialisation label for small hotels (50 rooms maximum). This voluntary option allows businesses to stand out for their quality offer, especially based on a large assortment of Catalan dishes made with local produce from protected geographical denomination and protected geographical indication. The process to obtain this label is on a voluntary basis.

Sports Tourism Destination (STD)

The Sports Tourism Destination brand is a label awarded by the Catalan Tourist Board to municipalities providing top-range resources and services aimed at sports-loving visitors. Besides complying with requirements related to the sport for which it has been certified, every destination is under one of the three categories created recently: European Reference Centre for having hosted international competitions, Multi-Sports Destination when more than four sports can be done and Pole of Excellence if providing facilities for doing sports at top level. There are currently 13 municipalities in Catalonia certified as STD.

www.catalunya.com

1st Business Tourism Forum in Catalonia

The Catalan Tourist Board is holding through the Catalunya Convention Bureau (CCB) the 1st Business Tourism Forum in the Disseny Hub Barcelona on 11 February. This working meeting with all companies within the Catalan business tourism industry shall provide training, information and networking opportunities. Its purpose is to provide the Catalan industry with tools to promote itself and the destination. The event has been designed based on the needs identified by the industry.

The main goal of the meeting is to identify needs, strengths and trends while paving the way to promote Catalonia and its industry in the business tourism market.

Another new feature of the Catalunya Convention Bureau for this year is the Catalonia, Conventions, Incentives & Events online catalogue including the
whole offer in an orderly manner for its use by tour operators and specialised agents.

The CCB will also promote several business platforms such as the Iberian Congress within the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) that will be held in Girona in early April and the Meeting & Incentive Forum Europa Autumn that will take place in Sitges from 21 to 25 October.

www.act.cat

2013-2014 ski season

With an investment of more than 5.5 million euros, Catalan ski resorts are prepared for a season they expect to be fine.

Catalonia has a long-standing skiing tradition since La Molina opened in 1943, being the first ski resort in Spain. It was followed by Vall de Núria four years later; both are located in the Girona Pyrenees. During the 1960s and 1970s, the number of resorts grew rapidly. There are currently 16, divided into ten alpine and six Nordic ski resorts. Together they feature 600 kilometres of slopes, making it Spain’s largest skiing area.

Recent investments have focused on artificial lighting for night skiing, purchasing state-of-the-art machines for snow conditioning and increasing the number of snow cannons for artificial snow production.

www.catneu.net

Sustainable Tourism – The Barcelona Declaration

Following the 7th International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Destinations held in Barcelona in October 2013, Catalonia joined the Signature of the Vision 2020 for Sustainable Tourism in Catalonia – The Barcelona Declaration. It engages the destination in fostering sustainable tourism by improving the impact on cities, facilitating integration of visitors and also strengthening the balance with residents. This allows entering a commitment towards the people and consolidating Barcelona and Catalonia as an innovative, leading, competitive, sustainable, differentiated first-rate tourist destination.

http://rtd7.org

NECSTouR Assembly in Barcelona and Girona

NECSTouR (Network of European Regions for a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism) is an open network of European regions with the aim of deploying and deepening initiatives to coordinate regional development programmes aiming at
a more competitive and sustainable tourism. In spring 2014, Barcelona and Girona will jointly host the annual assembly, the aim of which is to foster and strengthen cooperation among regional organisations taking part in this network.

www.necstour.eu

Commemoration of 1714

11 September 2014 will mark the 300th anniversary of the fall of Barcelona to Bourbon troops and the consequent loss of Catalonia’s freedom. Numerous events have been planned throughout the year to remember that date. The programme includes exhibitions, round-table discussions, seminars, publications, routes, festivals and artistic proposals spread over several venues.

One of these events was the opening of the Born Centre Cultural in September 2013. After some years of refurbishment, this former market has become a unique multiuse area amidst a vast pedestrian zone where the city of 1700 is revived. A unique archaeological site excavated underneath takes visitors back to the early 18th century as the old layout of medieval streets with their shops, recreational areas and noble houses has been recovered.

With several exhibition rooms and a gastronomic area, the Born Centre Cultural is like a time machine taking visitors to the dramatic battle of 1714. From an artistic perspective, the old Born Market is recovered, a true iron cathedral built in 1876 featuring prominently Catalan blacksmith tradition, otherwise visible in Gaudí’s work and numerous heritage buildings in Barcelona.

www.tricentenaribcn.cat - www.bcn.cat/elborncentrecultural
BARCELONA

Barcelona and Paris are closer

The cities of Barcelona and Paris have become closer since December 2013 thanks to the high speed railway. Trains link both cities within six hours and 25 minutes without having to change at Figueres-Vilafant, as it had been so far. The high speed link is operated jointly by Spanish Renfe and French SNCF. High speed trains will also run between Barcelona and Marseille, Toulouse and Lyon. The connection of both high speed networks links up to 17 Spanish and French cities. Barcelona is thus connected with the rest of Europe. Hence the Pyrenees are no barrier anymore as they are now pierced by the Pertús tunnel, allowing AVE and TGV trains to run on standard gauge.

www.renfe.com

Seatrade Med docks in Barcelona

For the first time, Barcelona will host Seatrade Med, the most important cruise trade fair in the Mediterranean. The Catalan capital has consolidated as the largest cruise port in the Mediterranean and the world’s fourth, while the industry continues growing in Catalonia every year. The offer in cruise destinations will increase in 2014 with the inclusion of the ports of Vilanova i la Geltrú and Sant Carles de la Ràpita, which will add to Barcelona, Palamós, Tarragona and Roses. Sant Carles de la Ràpita will welcome over a thousand cruise passengers of Star Clippers between 9 July and 13 August. This will promote tourist destinations in southern Catalonia, especially Terres de l’Ebre, for which the Delta Ebre Port brand has been created. In its strive to foster the cruise industry, the Government of Catalonia takes part in different international shows like that in Miami (March) and Hamburg (September).


The new Encants, bargains within everybody’s reach

The Glòries area with the Agbar Tower as its landmark has now a new unique building with the opening of the new Encants Vells market hall. Also known as Fira de Bellicaire, it is one of Europe’s oldest antiquity, collection, spare part, handcraft and clothing market dating back to the 14th century and welcoming 90,000 buyers every week. In this new venue with an area of 35,000 square metres, the 283 stalls are distributed across a space where auction areas, bars, a restaurant and food and beverage shops can also be found.

www.encantsbcn.com

www.encantsbcn.com
**Walks along the city beach**

Barcelona is not just any Mediterranean city. Its ten beaches from Barceloneta to the Fòrum are fully integrated into the urban fabric. Besides being very easy to reach by public transport and walking, the five-kilometre long seaside promenade is dotted with interesting services for pedestrians such as Wi-Fi connection. It is also a perfect addition to Barcelona’s cultural, shopping and tourist offer. Only a few minutes away from the beach, it is possible to visit the Gothic Quarter and the Picasso Museum, walk through the most central shopping area or look at the architecture by Gaudí. Otherwise, a tour on the Barcelona Bus Turístic can be done past Barcelona’s most relevant sights and its seafront.

[www.barcelonaturisme.com](http://www.barcelonaturisme.com)

**BCNShop, Barcelona just one click away**

BCNShop, the Turisme de Barcelona online shop, places hundreds of tourist and additional products and services provided by Barcelona in reach of everybody, anywhere on the world. Anybody interested in visiting the city has access to the offer of 590 companies. Some of it is managed by Turisme de Barcelona, such as the Barcelona Card, the Barcelona Walking Tours and the audio guides, while other services are shared with other operators, like the Barcelona Bus Turístic by TMB, which has recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. It is also possible to purchase nearly 140 products from companies within a large diversity of areas, such as mobile apps, car rental, organised tours and especially cultural proposals: museum tickets, concerts, sights, etc.

[www.bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.cat](http://www.bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.cat)

**The MNAC terraces, a new space for events**

The National Art Museum of Catalonia is one of Europe’s most important of its kind and boasts a great location on Montjuïc hill as well as a fine architecture. The areas currently used to host events—Sala Oval accommodating 1200 people, Sala de la Cúpula and Òleum restaurant—are now completed by the Terrassa, a new open-air space ideal for cocktails and receptions offering great views of the city of Barcelona and the light, sound and colour show of the Montjuïc Fountain.

[www.mnac.cat](http://www.mnac.cat)
Le Corbusier at CaixaForum

The historic CaixaForum building hosts an exhibition on the work of Le Corbusier from 29 January to 11 May 2014. Coproduced with the New York MoMA, it shows one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. It presents a complete retrospective on the author, from his early days in Switzerland to his death on the French Riviera.

http://obrasocial.lacaixa.es/nuestroscentros/caixaforumbarcelona_es.html
BARCELONA PROVINCE

Tourism Circle

It is a new tool for tourist promotion in the Barcelona province with the purpose of fostering participation of tourist companies in promoting their products and destinations. The Tourism Lab is a working tool that enables transfer of tourist knowledge from R&D&I to local tourist bodies, the business and society as a whole.

http://comunitatturisme.diba.cat/

Tourist quality

A total 390 tourist service companies in Barcelona province have been recognised by the Integrated System for Tourist Quality in Destinations (SICTED), a scheme allowing tourist destinations in all Spain an integral and ongoing quality management for the service they provide.

The Barcelona province is the area in Spain with most awarded companies, which proves the commitment of the tourist industry in becoming consolidated as a leading tourist destination and its engagement with tourist quality.

www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat/ca/sicted/

Golf and wine tourism very close to Barcelona

*Barcelona is much more* introduces the new golf destination that provides the unique opportunity of playing on nine different golf courses only 40 kilometres away from the city of Barcelona.

There are five wine Denominations of Origin in Barcelona province: Penedès, Alella, Pla de Bages, Catalunya and Cava. They all are implementing a large wine tourism programme that includes visits to cellars, tasting, routes through vineyards as well as music and theatre performances in wine cellars.

www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat

Accessibility to natural areas

Twelve protected natural parks and areas cover almost a quarter of Barcelona province. They all feature a wide programme of activities, and signposted routes and educational programmes are being adapted for people with physical and sensorial disabilities.

http://parcs.diba.cat/web/accessibilitat/
New booking centres

Berguedà and Alt Penedès counties have now new booking centres providing not only tourist information on their respective areas but also direct booking of accommodation, restaurants and activities.

www.berguedareserves.cat

Sustainable tourism

Montseny and Sant Llorenç del Munt i l’Obac natural parks have joined the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, an initiative of the Europarc Federation, the overall aim of which is promoting development of sustainable tourism in Europe’s protected natural areas.

Besides, the working methodology with the Montseny Biosphere Reserve has been included by the UNESCO into the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices of intangible cultural heritage. This is the first Catalan project included into the register, which confirms the good work done so far in safeguarding intangible heritage.

http://parcs.diba.cat

Catalonia Geopark

Over 36 million years ago, the geographical centre of Catalonia was underneath a sea that disappeared as the Pyrenees rose, a process that left us spectacular rock formations and a wealth in natural resources that have shaped Catalonia’s landscape and society. The Geological and Mining Park of Catalonia is a project that exploits the land’s geological and mining assets as well as its tourist attractions, placing them under the umbrella of geotourism, thus providing an interesting first-rate tourist offer that blends culture, nature, geology, mining and gastronomy. In this area in Bages county, tourist attractions include Coves de Salnitre in Collbató, Coves del Toll in Moià, Muntanya de Montserrat Natural Park and Muntanya de Sal Cultural Park in Cardona.

www.geoparc.cat

Open-air tourism in Anoia

A cooperation project by the Anoia County Council and Club Nordic Walking Catalunya Central provides for six annual Nordic walking activities in the county, plus other promotion actions. Featuring already several outdoor centres, the area is positioning itself as a reference for this type of sports in Catalonia.
COSTA BRAVA AND GIRONA PYRENEES

New Costa Brava and Girona Pyrenees portal

The new portal featuring the tourist offer of Costa Brava and the Girona Pyrenees will start working in February. It customises its contents according to the language and interests of the different markets of origin. Featuring many photographs and audiovisual contents, it will integrate the presence in social networks into all its pages and is available in seven languages. The event agenda will be updated on an ongoing basis, with a focus on communication with users in order to provide a web site with dynamic and agile contents.

www.costabrava.org

El Celler de Can Roca, the world’s best restaurant

With El Celler de Can Roca in Girona by the brothers Joan, Josep and Jordi Roca rated as the world’s best restaurant in 2013 by the British Restaurant Magazine, Catalan cuisine is experiencing its climax thanks to the pioneering task done by Ferran Adrià as well as young chefs and cuisine groups in Catalonia, besides the quality of local produce.

The Girona province boasts sixteen restaurants with a total twenty Michelin stars, among which El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, Miramar by Paco Pérez in Llançà and Les Cols by Fina Puigdevall in Olot. Wines and sparkling wines from Empordà DO are also noteworthy as they foster wine tourism in the area and underpin the quality of local produce.

www.cellercanroca.com

Masella, skiing by night in the Catalan Pyrenees

The five ski resorts in the Girona Pyrenees—La Molina, Masella, Vall de Núria, Vallter 2000 and Guils de Fontanera—have improved their services and facilities (ski lifts and cannons), while others have gone for innovation. This is the case of Masella, which offers the unique experience in the Catalan Pyrenees of skiing by night on Fridays and Saturdays along ten kilometres on thirteen slopes reachable through seven ski lifts. With this initiative, Masella follows the example of other ski resorts in Europe.

www.masella.com  -  www.pirineugirona.org
Empordà DO Wine Route

The revival of wine production in Empordà has led to the creation of the Empordà DO Wine Route Club, an association initiated by the Costa Brava Girona Tourism Board with the aim of blending the knowledge of wine and the land through wine tourism, thus promoting such experiences among nature and gastronomy lovers.

The route is made of 24 wine cellars, nine hotels, eleven restaurants, three bars and specialist wine shops, eleven outdoor activity companies, three museums, two wine therapy treatment centres, three booking centres and several information offices scattered around the territory, making it over 80 businesses to provide visitors with a 100% enogastronomic experience allowing them to get in touch with the winemaking tradition directly through the owners.

The Empordà DO Wine Route will be audited by ACEVIN in mid-2014 to be officially certified as a wine route.

www.doemporda.cat - www.costabrava.org

Exhibition space on Catalan cuisine

A space devoted to Catalan cuisine has just been opened in Palafrugell in Baix Empordà county on the Costa Brava, covering from Iberian times to Ferran Adrià, including medieval recipes, the contribution of bourgeois cuisine and the wisdom of grandmothers. This interactive space features 72 Catalan products with details on their origin, nutritional properties and growing season. There is also an area devoted to the most representative recipes of Catalan and Empordà cuisine, their history and relation with the land. The project is completed with a couple of films showing the past and present of tourism in this calm coin of the Costa Brava.

www.visitpalafrugell.cat
COSTA DAURADA

Cirque du Soleil in PortAventura

PortAventura will offer a new show in July and August 2014, performed by the renowned Canadian group Cirque du Soleil. Being called Kooza, it will be featured every day in a circus tent accommodating 2400 people. With this agreement, PortAventura will become the first European theme park hosting a show by Cirque du Soleil, who have performed only in cities so far.

www.portaventura.es

Catalan Sailing Week

The Club Nàutic de Cambrils will organise the 27th Catalan Sailing Week from 1 to 4 May 2014. This event, one of the most relevant in the Catalan regatta circuit, gathers around 600 boats in different classes with a thousand participants who will contend in different competitions in seven sailing areas located in the Gulf of Sant Jordi.

This will be the first of three editions to be held on consecutive years in Cambrils. The competition will be simultaneously the Spanish Catamaran Cup, the Catalan 420 Championship and a regatta counting for the official Catalan Sailing Federation level 1 ranking. Together with the sports event, numerous activities will also be organised for the public, both cultural and introductory to sailing.

RACC Catalonia-Costa Daurada Rally

One more year, the World Rally Championship will pay a visit to the Costa Daurada roads, a unique occasion for all motorsports fans to enjoy watching the best pilots of the circuit driving on asphalt and gravel. The event will take place from 24 to 26 October.

www.rallyracc.com

Early Christian necropolis in Tarragona

The early Christian necropolis in the city of Tarragona has been reopened recently, a unique site considered the most relevant open-air funerary area in the Western Roman Empire. Món de la Mort (World of Death) is the interpretive centre that explains how Romans approached the end of life. It also features an itinerary in braille.

www.tarragonaturisme.cat
Escaladei Charterhouse

In the Montsant range in Priorat county, this monastery founded in the late 12th century helped decisively developing culture and winemaking in the area. The central part of the minor cloister has been recently recovered with the original pieces found in the course of excavations. This action adds to other previous renovation works, thus making Escaladei one of the most relevant heritage sites in Priorat, a county especially known for its wines.

www.mhcat.cat/monuments/cartoixa_d_escaladei
TERRES DE L’EBRE

Terres de l’Ebre, a Biosphere Reserve

After the designation of the Montseny range as a Biosphere Reserve 35 years ago, Terres de l’Ebre is the second area in Catalonia obtaining this recognition. This confirms the degree of protection of this territory located in southern Catalonia where two protected natural areas are found, the Ports massif and the Ebro Delta.

www.terresdelebre.travel

New project at Pinell de Brai cellar

The modernist cellar in Pinell de Brai by architect Cèsar Martinell, nicknamed “the Wine Cathedral”, is planning a new project for 2014 that will offer not only visits but also wine tasting and possibly gastronomic proposals as one of the stakeholders in this new venture is young chef Francesc López from Torreó de l’Indià, a restaurant featuring one Michelin star.

www.catedraldelvi.com

Renaissance festival

Tortosa dresses up during the third July week to revive the times of Renaissance, when the city was visited by princes and noblemen. Over 3000 people dressed in historical costumes represent life as it was 500 years ago, while theatre groups perform around town, together with workshops, gastronomic proposals, handcraft and medieval markets.

www.festadelrenaixement.org
TERRES DE LLEIDA

Promotion of enogastronomy

The Lleida Tourism Board will promote and commercialise regional agrofood products and local gastronomy through the “Lleida Experience” packages, the idea of which is forging a permanent partnership between the agrofood and tourist industries. Several gastronomic gatherings with local produce will also be held between May and September.

www.turismedelleida.com

Pirineus-La Seu d’Urgell airport

The Government of Catalonia, the Government of Andorra and the Spanish Ministry of Public Works have reached an agreement to develop the airport into a public infrastructure able to handle regular flights. Pirineus-La Seu d’Urgell airport, reopened in June 2010 and currently handling private flights only, shall thus become a good option for tourists visiting the Catalan Pyrenees and Andorra. The installation of a customs post has been requested to allow operating flights from non-Schengen countries, mainly the United Kingdom and Russia.

www.aeroportlaseu.cat

Montsec has obtained the Starlight certification

The Montsec Astronomic Park continues growing in visitors and has recently been given the Starlight Destination and Reserve certification under the UNESCO. This is an acknowledgement of the quality of its sky for night observation, although there are also programmes for day sky watching. A total 24 municipalities (18 in Noguera, 6 in Pallars Jussà county) boast excellent properties for stargazing, a tourist offer completed with interesting heritage and well preserved nature.

www.montsec.cat

Granyena de Segarra natural area

Four recently signposted routes exploit the value of this natural area combining croplands with endemic vegetation. Granyena has the largest forest area in the Lleida Plain, its main crops being vine, olives and almonds. It is a good place to watch steppeland birds and some raptor populations.

www.lasegarra.org
CollitaSegarra

Segarra county has always stood out for its cereal crops. Mechanisation of agriculture starting in the second half of the 20th century brought a big change into the rural way of life. The CollitaSegarra brand intends not only to recover traditional mowing activities but also hold photograph exhibitions, lectures, events, etc. The whole initiative lasts from the Mowing Festival in June to the Threshing Festival in August.

www.lasegarra.org

Cistercian Route

This route of little more than 100 kilometres can be done walking or by mountain bike and covers the three Cistercian monasteries, Santes Creus, Poblet and Vallbona de les Monges. A map with both cultural and tourist information and services is currently being made, which will be of great help to visitors who wish to know this great cultural heritage.

www.urgell.cat - www.larutadelcister.info

Verdú castle

After staying closed for many years, this medieval fortress reopens with fully renewed rooms, ready to host any sort of event. Verdú in Urgell county has been inhabited for a long time in history as prehistoric, Iberian, Roman and medieval remains have been found there.

www.verdu.cat - www.urgell.cat
**VAL D’ARAN**

Val d’Aran goes for sustainable tourism

Val d’Aran has signed the UNESCO Charter for Sustainable Tourism, an important step towards obtaining the Biosphere certificate as a guarantee to become a sustainable and responsible tourist destination. It is a further recognition for this exciting county in the Lleida Pyrenees that offers tourism in connection with nature, gastronomy, skiing and adventure sports.

www.visitvaldaran.com

**Aran Park**

This new recreational and educational area aims at teaching the local fauna and flora of Val d’Aran. The park is located in Bossòst and features an interpretive centre, a shop, a learning room, a restaurant and a picnic area.

www.aran-park.es

**Wildlife watching**

One of the attractions to be promoted in Val d’Aran, wildlife watching lures specialist, environmentally friendly tourism as observations are done from great distance under the supervision of specialised guides. Capercaillies, bears, deer and groundhogs can thus be watched in their natural habitat under the guidance of specialist companies.

www.visitvaldaran.com

**Aran Bike Park**

It is a circuit especially laid out for mountain bike descent lovers, including two routes through great scenery, among which Varicauva forest. In summer it is also possible to ride down the Blanhiblar slope in Naut Aran, which is accessible from the Blanhiblar ski lift in Pla de Beret.

www.visitvaldaran.com

**Naturaran**

Located in Les, Naturaran gives the opportunity of enjoying an adventure park integrated into the scenery. Divided into several circuits by degree of difficulty, Naturaran offers more than 200 games, featuring prominently zip wires crossing the forest. The area is suitable for all sorts of public and includes night routes.

www.naturaran.com
Aran Natura Convention Bureau

Aran Natura Convention Bureau has been created to serve the needs of a specific audience, thus becoming a reference in congress, meeting and incentive tourism.

www.visitvaldaran.com
PYRENEES

Mountain routes in English

After the success experienced with the Camina per l’Alta Ribagorça (“Walking through Alta Ribagorça) guide, 21 routes will now be published in English, describing the ancestral communication paths used in the past. Each route consists of a technical sheet with a small description of the itinerary, a QR code and tracks for those who wish to do it with GPS. All the information will be available on the Alta Ribagorça County Tourism Board portal.

www.turismealtaribagorca.com

Epicentre, a new visitor centre

Epicentre in Pallars Jussà county has become the meeting point where visitors can gather information on cultural, heritage and natural sites in this area located in the Pyrenees as well as on places to eat and stay overnight.

www.pallarsjussa.net

Museum of Isona and Conca Dellà

This museum with plenty of paleontological sites located in Isona has just renewed its presentation. It features an exhibition of the remains found in the area, including a real-size reproduction of the Pararhabdodon isonense, a species that inhabited Conca Dellà over 65 million years ago.

www.pallarsjussa.net - www.parc-cretaci.com

Camí del Sol

This circular track, the name of which translates “Sun Way”, crosses Cardós Valley in Pallars Sobirà county in two stages through Alt Pirineu Natural Park between Estaon and Pleta del Prat huts in Tavascan. It is 34 kilometres long and has an accumulated altitude gain of 4800 metres, leading past high mountain lakes such as Llac del Diable and Llac de Soliguera and crossing lush pine and fir forests.

www.refugipletadelprat.com/camidelsol.html
Alt Pirineu Natural Park, activities for everybody

This natural park, Catalonia’s largest, has planned several activities throughout the year. They are aimed at all sorts of public, especially children. With the “Explora el Parc” (Explore the Park) passport, they will have the opportunity of visiting museums, exploring areas specifically designed for them and climbing vantage points, all of which will be registered in their personal passport.

www.gencat.cat/parcs/alt_pirineu

The Voices of Pamano

The novel and subsequent TV series have made known several corners in Pallars Sobirà in the Pyrenees that can now be visited with specialist guides in what can become a new ecotourism experience.

www.sortturisme.com

Mountains of freedom

This high mountain track follows the routes through the Pyrenees the people were forced to take on their way to exile. The landscape of Alt Pirineu Natural Park and the mountains of the French department of Ariège saw countless refugees passing through during the Spanish Civil War and World War II. Today they are a space of freedom.

www.muntanyesdellibertat.com

Salt Museum

The curious town of Gerri de la Sal in Pallars Sobirà, known for its salt obtained through handcraft over ages, has now opened a museum to remember this industry. A tribute will be paid to all those who worked in the salterns with an audiovisual film showing the whole salt production process from the water flowing out of the well to its transformation into salt in the ponds located along the Noguera Pallaresa river.

http://baixpallars.ddl.net

Kayaking in the Noguera Pallaresa

This river is widely known to be one of Europe's finest for wildwater sports. Out of the numerous competitions to be held there in 2014, the 51st International Noguera Pallaresa Rally in July and the Freestyle Kayaking World Cup from 8 to 13 July stand out.

www.kayaksort.cat