

Start enjoying the journey again

# Great routes in Catalonia



BOOK NOW AND  
LIVE DIFFERENT  
EMOTIONS



PARTNERS



www.catalunya.com



## Road routes: let the road lead the way

Just pick a direction and get behind the wheel. Fate will steer you through picture postcard scenery which is welcoming and full of things to do including, of course, the Pyrenees, with panoramic mountain passes and nature in all its splendour, the Mediterranean and its infinite blues, and an interior peppered with castles, monasteries and vineyards.

The following six routes are only suggestions: come and experience the Catalan landscape and enjoy nature, culture, fine food and, above all, the journey. Step off the beaten track and try variations and additions which open up new possibilities and offer unmissable visits. Surprises await you around every corner. Charming villages, breath-taking landscapes, film locations and a myriad of activities which crop up in an astonishingly natural and accessible fashion, interweaving different routes and extending the journey as much as time and commitments allow. And Catalonia's road network really offers it all: from travelling peacefully alongside leafy woodland, or driving so close to the sea that you could almost dip a finger in, to the fact that it is possible to cross the country from north to south in a single afternoon. Come and lose yourself among us.

MORE INFORMATION TO  
CUSTOMISE YOUR JOURNEY



### Tourism promotion organisations

**Tarragona Provincial Authority Tourist Board**

[www.costadaurada.info](http://www.costadaurada.info) [www.terresdelebre.travel](http://www.terresdelebre.travel)

**The Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona**

[www.costabrava.org](http://www.costabrava.org)

**The Patronat de Turisme (Regional Tourist Board) of the Diputació de Lleida**

[www.aralleida.cat](http://www.aralleida.cat)

**The Barcelona Provincial Council**

[www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat](http://www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat)

**The Turisme de Barcelona Consortium**

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

### For more information on Catalonia

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

@catalunyaexperience

[www.facebook.com/catalunyaexperience](https://www.facebook.com/catalunyaexperience)

@catexperience

[twitter.com/catexperience](https://twitter.com/catexperience)

@catalunyaexperience

[www.instagram.com/catalunyaexperience](https://www.instagram.com/catalunyaexperience)

[www.youtube.com/CatalunyaExperience](https://www.youtube.com/CatalunyaExperience)

[www.pinterest.com/catexperience/](https://www.pinterest.com/catexperience/)

### For further information about Heritage

**Departamento de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya**

[patrimoni.gencat.cat](http://patrimoni.gencat.cat)

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Map: Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya and Eric Sombasi

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[www.gencat.cat/palaurobert](http://www.gencat.cat/palaurobert)

Timetable: From Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 8pm;

Sunday and public holidays, from 10am to 2.30pm

**Tourist information**

012 from Catalonia

902 400 012 from outside Catalonia

+34 902 400 012 from outside Spain





UNHA, IN THE VAL D'ARAN



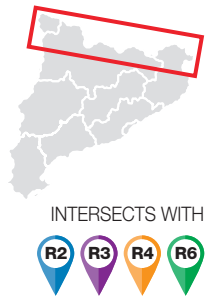
CADAQUÈS, ON THE COSTA BRAVA



## R1 The Pyrenees, from summit to sea

Mountain roads, wild animals, totally authentic fine food, age-old architecture... welcome to the kingdom of silence

The unique qualities of the **Vall d'Aran** mark the start of this route, before venturing on to the **Vall de Boi**, where you can enjoy nine jewels of the international Romanesque world, classed as Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Then you need to cast your eyes downwards to the **Noguera Pallaresa River** and its 154 kilometres of opportunities for adventure, before entering **Seu d'Urgell** and carrying on towards **Cerdanya**. For company along the way you can count on Romanesque architecture and typical mountain dishes. You absolutely must find the time to pull over and try them. **Ripoll** then opens the doors to its monastery to you and directs you onwards to **la Garrotxa**, a volcanic zone which is full of impressive forests. When you can smell the sea, you'll know you are entering **l'Empordà**, Dali territory. You need to feel the wind from the mountains, known locally as the tramontana, on your skin to be able to understand surrealism.



### Gastronomy and wine

Traditional dishes like *pa amb tomàquet* ('bread with tomato') and the local green onions known as *calçots* already make the journey worthwhile. But Catalonia offers much more in terms of rich and varied gastronomy, including excellent products, a vast culinary tradition, twelve winemaking denominations of origin, avant-garde chefs and restaurants which are renowned at an international level. [www.catalunya.com/what-to-do/savour](http://www.catalunya.com/what-to-do/savour)



### Nature

Two big parks: in the north Aiguestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici, and in the south of the country, the Ebro Delta. They give you an idea of the wealth of nature which can be enjoyed in Catalonia. Protected natural spaces make up more than 30% of the land area and more than 10% of the marine environment, with exceptional biodiversity. [www.catalunya.com/what-to-do/get-active](http://www.catalunya.com/what-to-do/get-active)  
[www.visitpirineus.com/en](http://www.visitpirineus.com/en)



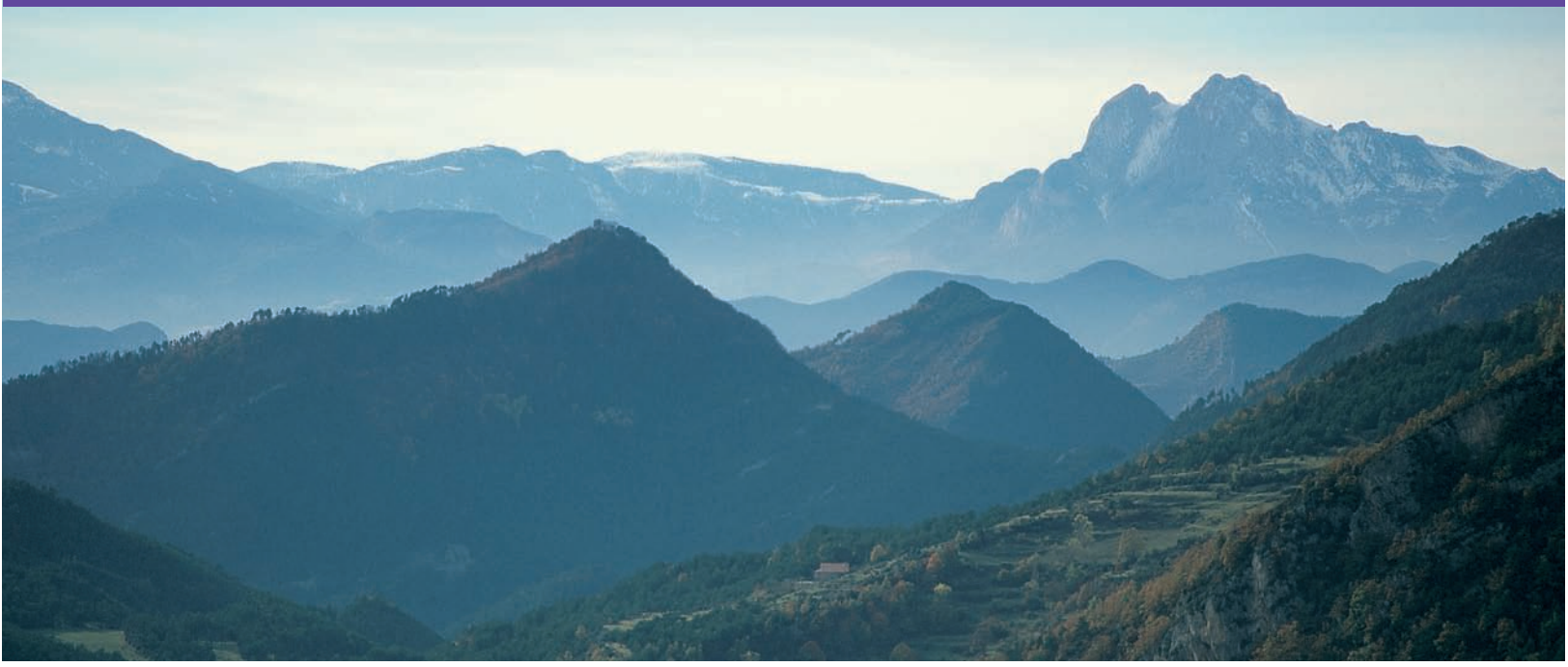
### Sustainability

Travelling these routes while thinking about the planet is an option with mutually beneficial aspects: the more you care for the environment, the better you enjoy it and the longer it will be there for you to enjoy. In Catalonia there are 2,000 charging points for electric cars plus advantages and discounts on services for this type of vehicle. [www.catalunya.com/dont-miss-it/recommended/tourism-with-values](http://www.catalunya.com/dont-miss-it/recommended/tourism-with-values)



### Accessibility. Tourism for everyone

To enjoy a road trip, whatever your accessibility needs may be, it is just a question of informing yourself and choosing one of the many options that Catalonia offers, with all people in mind. [turismeperatothom.catalunya.com/en/](http://turismeperatothom.catalunya.com/en/)



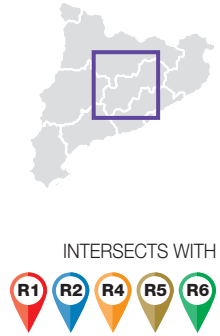
THE CADÍ MOUNTAIN RANGE, WITH THE PEDRAFORCA MOUNTAIN ON THE RIGHT



## R3 From Barcelona to the Catalan Pyrenees

This route takes you on a journey from the blue of the sea to the green of the Pyrenean meadows

Before starting your journey, there is time for a final trip into **Barcelona**. From here, you start a journey into tranquility. **Sant Cugat del Vallès** and **Terrassa** hold secrets from Roman, Gothic and modernist eras, the latter due to their significant industrial past. The park at **Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac** is the preamble to another protected natural area, the **Montserrat Massif**. Both mountain ranges are established climbing areas. From **Montserrat** head to **Navarces** and visit **Mon Sant Benet**, the headquarters of the gourmet food organisation Fundació Alicia. The next mountain is the **Pedraforca**, in the **Cadi mountains**, the authentic gateway to the Pyrenees.



MONTSERRAT MOUNTAIN AND MONASTERY



THE FAGEDA D'EN JORDÀ BEECH FOREST, IN LA GARROTXA



## R4 Hidden Catalonia: from the coast towards the west

With the sea behind you, this route helps you discover the jewels at the heart of a land and its age-old culture

From the **Costa Brava**, it doesn't take much time to travel to three medieval villages: **Pals**, **Peratallada** and **Monells**. The route takes you through **las Gavarras**, an area full of megalithic monuments. **Sant Hilari Sacalm** offers the opportunity of some spa tourism, before choosing your Christmas tree in the neighbouring village of **Espinelves**. **Vall d'en Bas** boasts fairy-tale scenery and another place which seems to leap straight out of a story is **Rupit i Pruit**, an enchanting place. Next stop is **Vic**, a town with its own character and renowned for fine food. The same can be said for **Cardona**, another town on the journey west. As you near the **Montserrat Massif**, the road takes you through **Manresa**. On the other side of the mountains, and continuing along the road to the sun, enjoy the sunset at the old cathedral in **Lleida**.



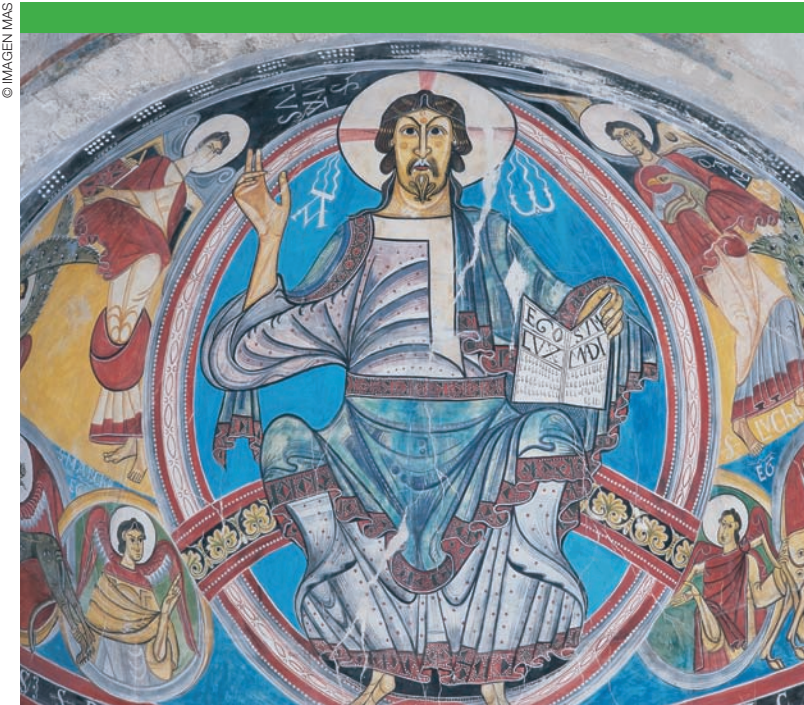
SIURANA, IN PRIORAT



## R5 Let culture show you the way

From Barcelona to infinity: the capital is just the stepping stone to everything the country has to offer

Go from admiring modernist buildings to losing yourself amongst grape vines. This is the experience you can expect if you travel across **el Penedès**, just outside of **Barcelona**. Staying with the wine culture theme, the route continues to **Poblet**, **Santes Creus** and **Vallbona de les Monges**, the three monasteries on the Cister route. And between them and the **Priorat DOP** region, the medieval town of **Montblanc** welcomes travellers. Again surrounded by vineyards, discover the cathedrals of wine before moving on to the **Terras de l'Ebre**, following in the footsteps of the painter Pablo Picasso in **Horta de Sant Joan**. Spend as much time as you need, nature is always there quietly waiting for you in the **Ebro Delta National Park**.



ROMANESQUE MURAL IN SANT CLIMENT DE TAÜLL



## R6 Discovering World Heritage

UNESCO recognises places of outstanding international value and each landmark on this route is such a place. Discover them and explore them

**Sant Climent de Taüll** is one of the nine churches which form the Romanesque group of the **Vall de Boí**. A little further south, in **Pont de Suert**, you can discover the story of the *rai*ers, the river raft riders, the same river that takes you to the **Montsec mountain range** to enjoy the impressive **Mont-rebei** gorge. Heading downwards, after visiting the **Poblet monastery**, you enter the most-recognised wine region in the country, **Priorat DOP**, surrounded by **DO Monsant** and very close-by are **DO Costers del Segre**, **DO Conca de Barberà**, **DO Tarragona** and **DO Terra Alta**; a paradise for wine lovers. The route takes you from here towards the coast, passing through modernist **Reus** and **Tarragona**, the provincial capital of the Roman Empire.

