



WHAT'S NEW 2019



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Six routes to discover Catalonia's cultural gems

Catalonia is a destination with a large geographic variety, featuring relevant heritage sites of additional high gastronomic interest. As the Year of Cultural Tourism is celebrated in Catalonia, six big routes have been created to discover the whole of the territory according to the traveller's choice. *The Pyrenees from the Peaks to the Sea; Along the Mediterranean; World Heritage from the Mountains to the Sea; What Catalonia Hides: from the Coast to the West; Culture Shows the Way* and *From Barcelona to the Catalan Pyrenees* are the names of the car routes that allow an end-to-end experience of the land.

www.catalunya.com

Legends of Catalonia, the virtual reality videogame to experience Catalonia

This interactive virtual reality experience takes players on an exceptional hands-on journey. You can become the main character of Catalonia's history and legends, where your power and instinct will be equally demanded to overcome all challenges and fight the millenary dragon. This time journey will take players to 1st century AD Tarraco, the summit of Montserrat, the submarine magic of Cadaqués and the secrets of the city of Barcelona. Former FC Barcelona captain Carles Puyol, climber Ederne Pasaban and the Roca chef brothers will take you through this videogame to discover Catalonia and have it come true.

www.legendsofcatalonia.com

Cities and Towns with Character & Charming Villages

The *Cities and Towns with Character* brand aims at showcasing Catalonia's urban heritage and promoting those towns and villages combining different features (culture, arts, gastronomy, architecture, innovation, etc.) to provide visitors with a full experience. Calella de Palafrugell and Montsonís are the first *Charming Villages*, while Manresa and Montblanc are the most recent *Cities and Towns with Character*, adding to the already certified Lleida, Tarragona, Girona, Terrassa, Vic, Reus, Vilafranca del Penedès and Tortosa.

www.catalunya.com

Maritime Towns

The Catalan Tourist Board is launching this new tourist brand to promote and market municipalities up to 70,000 inhabitants with a strong maritime personality. Eligible towns need to comply with specific requirements, such as a harbour, activity related with the sea or fishing (fishermen's guild and/or fish market), obvious traces of their relationship



with the sea (e.g. towns of emigrants returned from America) or sea-based tourist activity. Around twenty municipalities have shown their interest in this project aiming at positioning them as tourist destinations at both national and international level.

www.catalunya.com

2018-2019 winter sport season in Catalonia

Catalonia has 16 ski and mountain resorts with almost 700 km slopes in total. The sun and nice temperatures throughout the Pirineus territory, together with a good gastronomic offer, also away from the ski fields, make a key feature for winter tourism in Catalonia. The Catalan ski resorts also host different national and international winter sport competitions, including downhill, super-G, slalom and combined (downhill & slalom). The Catalan Tourist Board has certified several ski and mountain resorts with the Family Holidays label: Espot, Port Ainé, Vallter 2000, La Molina, Vall de Núria, Boí-Taüll and Masella. They have facilities and services such as skiing schools, snow gardens for the youngest kids who still do not ski or playgrounds with tubes. Other activities beyond alpine and Nordic ski or snowboard include routes with snowshoes, Segway, dog sleds, horse-drawn sleigh, ice diving, guided snowmobile trips or igloo building.

10 alpine ski resorts:

- Baqueira Beret
- Boí Taüll
- Espot Esquí
- La Molina
- Masella
- Port Ainé
- Port del Comte
- Tavascan
- Vall de Núria
- Vallter 2000

6 Nordic ski resorts:

- Aransa
- Guils Fontanera
- Lles
- Sant Joan de l'Erm
- Tuixent-La Vansa
- Virós Vallferrera

<http://www.visitpirineus.com/ca>

COSTA BRAVA

Lloret de Mar, a role model for upgrading a leading destination



Both public authorities and businesses at Catalan coast destinations with a long-standing tourist tradition, like Lloret de Mar on the Costa Brava, have been working for a long time in renewing and updating their accommodation offer and other fields of the tourist industry.

The public and private sector have partnered to fulfil our tourists' expectations, considering the increased requirements in demand and raising quality standards imposed by the market. The aim is to generate new experiences that satisfy visitors, with value-added proposals to attract and retain them.

Lloret de Mar has launched a specific operative plan for renewal. The need to upgrade part of its current offer has been identified, in order to create new, sophisticated tourist products focused on specialisation in segments, excellence of the facilities and high value. This is why both public authorities and businesspeople have been promoting the integral plan to modernise the tourist offer since 2015.

In this respect, Lloret de Mar has invested over 54 million euros between 2018 and early 2019. The funds are devoted to:

- Complete renewal and upgrade of obsolete hotels, e.g. the HTOP Casino Royal, which will become the 4* Azure, and the Hotel Athene, which will become the 4* Boutique GHT Sa Miratge.
- Segmentation and specialisation:
 - New splashing facilities at family resorts, e.g. Selvamar and Fenals Garden
 - Specialisation of the 4* Hotel Alegria Santa Cristina as a gastronomic hotel and private hotel school
 - Profile segmentation of new adults-only urban hotels, such as the new Rosamar Es Blau

<http://lloretdemar.org/es/>



The Gold Museum: jewellery and craftspeople

The Dor Museum – Jewellery Museum and Arts Centre has opened in the old castle in Sant Julià de Ramis, very close to Girona. It is devoted to the world of jewellery and the craftspeople making such pieces as an expression of a feeling. The first floor displays exhibits related with 20th-century jewellery, while the second floor hosts temporary art exhibitions with works by Josep Maria Subirachs and Apel·les Fenosa. The Quim Hereu Centre shows the artist's creative process.

This site, called La Fortalesa de Sant Julià de Ramis, includes facilities for meetings and events, a five-star hotel and a restaurant by the award-winning chef Jordi Cruz.

www.dormuseum.com/es/ www.lafortalesa.com/es/

AQUAE Centre

Camp dels Ninots archaeological site just outside Caldes de Malavella features unique remains dating back 3.1 million years. Full skeletons of tapirs, bovids and rhinoceros, together with fish, tortoises, amphibians and vegetal fossils make the embryo of the future AQUAE, an interpretive centre opening in the first quarter of 2019, where research will be combined with the dissemination of water-related historical heritage.

www.caldesdemalavella.cat

Astronomic observatory

In Albanyà, on the limit between Alt Empordà and Garrotxa counties, an astronomic observatory has been built, where visitors can watch the sky under the guidance of scientific experts.

An open-air heated stand seating 124 people takes visitors to a journey of senses through space and time, with purpose-written music by Catalan composer Pep Sala. The aim is unveiling the secrets of the crystal-clear sky—Spain's only International Dark Sky Park—over different seasons. The experience combines live pictures captured by the telescope of the observatory with audiovisual content on astronomy.

www.observatorialbanya.com/es/observatorio-astronomico-albanya

Virtual Empúries

Virtual Empúries, a new way of visiting the forum of the ancient Roman city with 3D recreations, has been launched. This application allows visitors to interact between the past and the present with the aid of specific glasses, thus enjoying a unique experience along a tour through the ancient Greek and Roman site that finishes with a visit to the Roman forum of Empúries.

<http://patrimoni.gencat.cat/es/coleccion/empuries>



Cúpula de les Arts, a new cultural centre in Girona

Girona features a new multi-purpose centre to hold shows, corporate events and different activities. This is Cúpula de les Arts, an igloo tent with stands allowing for different set-ups and various stages, with a capacity for over 800 people.

<https://cupuladelesarts.com/>



COSTA DAURADA

More than 140 million euros to upgrade the tourist offer in Salou, Cambrils and La Pineda

Costa Daurada sets out to upgrade its tourist offer. Hotel owners in Salou, Cambrils and La Pineda have invested 142 million euros into improving and creating new products in the 2015-2018 period.

Thus, some refurbished hotels have been upgraded from 3 to 4 stars, such as Oasis Park from the Best Hotels chain. Other renewed hotels include Playa de Oro and Villa Dorada from the Oh!tels chain. The Los Ángeles, San Francisco, Playa Margarita, Salou Park, Acqua Hotel Salou, Oasis Park, Mediterráneo, Playa de Oro, Villa Dorada, Calypso, H10 Delfín and Best Negresco hotels in the Carles Buïgas area in Salou have modernised their facilities. The H10 Vintage Salou and Salou Suite have undergone complete refurbishment, the latter having changed its name for Pierre & Vacances Salou Beach****, with 106 new rooms focusing on families.

Golden is also investing in a new hotel in the Cap Salou area, whereas PortAventura is preparing to open a new 150-room hotel in the Far West area.

<https://www.costadoradahoteles.org/>

<https://www.portaventuraworld.com/>

Tourist wristband to discover the five most relevant sites in Reus

The “Visit Reus” tourist wristband is the city’s first multi-ticket providing access to five of the most relevant sites in Reus: Gaudí Centre, Pavelló dels Distingits at the Institut Pere Mata (by Lluís Domènech i Montaner), the bell tower of Sant Pere priory church, the Museum of Art and History and the Archaeological Museum.

The reduced price and the six-month validity of the wristband aim at increasing customer satisfaction, extending the stay at the city and retaining visitors as this scheme shall facilitate their return to Reus.

www.reus.cat/turisme

Vies Braves in Salou

These are maritime ways signposted by means of buoys and beacons to allow swimming in unique, safe areas.

Of the two first ways opened, one leads from Cala Font to Platja Llarga along 970 metres, taking an estimated 15 to 22 minutes, allowing for both swimming and snorkelling. It provides opportunities to watch the seabed of sand, rocks and seagrass and is recommended from May to November. The second way is the Via Brava Salou



from Platja Llarga to Platja Capellans along 962 metres, with a similar seabed and taking roughly the same time as the former.

www.visitsalou.eu

First dark ride in PortAventura

PortAventura Park will have a great new attraction in 2019. It is the park's first dark ride, located in the SésamoAventura area for the youngest kids. This new attraction is for all family members and will feature prominently the famous characters from Sesame Street.

Another project under way at PortAventura World is the enlargement of its accommodation offer. The 2019 season will feature a new four-star superior hotel at the resort, located in the Far West area. The new hotel is planned to open in June 2019.

“Iglús dels estels” at Xalet de Prades rural resort

Xalet de Prades, a rural resort made of several wooden eco-houses located amidst Muntanyes de Prades Natural Park, inaugurates a new room concept named “star igloos”. These are charming, romantic igloos with a wooden geodesic structure to enjoy and sleep under the stars. Accommodating 2 people, they have a fully-equipped bathroom and air conditioning.

<http://www.xaletdeprades.com/>



COSTA BARCELONA

Barcelona Pass Modernisme

Barcelona and its hinterland position themselves as an Art Nouveau destination with a pass aimed at taking visitors not only to the specific heritage located in the city of Barcelona but also a whole set of Art Nouveau markets and festivals held along the year in the Barcelona province. Apart from the extraordinary heritage bequeathed by Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner in Barcelona, Catalan Art Nouveau would not be the same without Gaudí's works located outside, such as the Colònia Güell Crypt in Santa Coloma de Cervelló and the Artigas gardens in La Pobla de Lillet in Berguedà county. Likewise, Domènech i Montaner's work would be incomplete without his private home in Canet de Mar. Jujol's buildings in Sant Joan Despí are also worth a visit. The pass is valid for 7 days and allows access to 15 Art Nouveau buildings in Barcelona, Sitges, Terrassa, Mataró and Canet de Mar plus a mini-guide for 90 €.

<https://bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.com/shopv3/es/product/25163/barcelona-pass-modernista.html>

Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, much more than just motorsports

The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya places Catalonia in the worldwide focus, making it a motorsports hotspot as it hosts the best of car and motorbike racing. As usual, its agenda features prominently Formula 1 and MotoGP. The F1 Grand Prix of Spain will be held on 10-12 May and the MotoGP Grand Prix of Catalonia on 14-16 June.

However, the two Grand Prix are not only about motorsports, they also come along with different gastronomic and leisure offers for individuals, groups and families. Fans can also approach their heroes, some of the world's best drivers, at the autograph session in the pit lane of the track. Excitement, speed and adrenaline have been combining for over two decades to provide the greatest show in motorsport.

www.circuitcat.com

Visit Torres Vista! in Santa Susanna

Santa Susanna features the remains of constant pirate attacks on the Catalan coast between the 15th and 18th centuries. The inhabitants of Santa Susanna built large towers and fortified their houses to protect themselves from this danger. The towers served for watching the sea and alerting of pirates. Some of them are still standing and can be visited, allowing a glimpse into the world of pirates. The Santa Susanna Tourist Office offers guided tours to different towers, alongside the paintings of the church and Masia de Can Ratés. To finish this unique experience, a tasting of local products is offered.

<http://stasusanna-barcelona.uk/santa-susanna-news/visit-torres-vista-and-local-souvenirs/>



New B&B in Sant Pol

Bed and Breakfast Sant Pol de Mar is nestled in one of the most quiet and charming villages on the Maresme coast. 45 minutes north of Barcelona, Sant Pol B&B offers a cosy and relaxing place to enjoy a pleasant stay. Its beautiful surroundings offer many different options for leisure: the best of Mediterranean beaches, natural parks such as Montnegre and Montseny, and of course the excellent local cuisine.

www.bandbsantpol.cat



PAISATGES BARCELONA

Stone huts in Valls del Montcau

Thirteen groups of vaults and dry-stone huts located in Talamanca, Mura and El Pont de Vilomara i Rocafort have been declared Sites of Cultural Interest. Many of these stone constructions are scattered in Valls del Montcau in Bages county, a land with a long wine-growing tradition, where the huts were used to store fieldwork tools, the grape harvest and pressed wine. This helped avoid long journeys through rugged territory.

Many of these sites of great architectural and ethnographic interest have been restored by the Barcelona Provincial Council and are part of the hiking and wine routes created to foster local tourism.

www.manresaturisme.cat/esp/article/6623-les-valls-del-montcau



PIRINEUS

Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, a Starlight Reserve

Catalonia's only national park has been distinguished as a Starlight Reserve thanks to the quality of its night sky and the noise emission levels inside the park and its peripheral zone. This certificate will help enlarge the amount of activities in the area and is expected to create more business through astrotourism. There are currently 10 Starlight Reserves in the world, one of which is Montsec in Catalonia.

<http://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/es/aiguestortes>

Alt Pirineu Natural Park is extended

With the enlargement of almost 9,500 hectares of protected area, this natural park in the Lleida Pyrenees extending over Pallars Sobirà and Alt Urgell counties becomes consolidated as Catalonia's largest protected area. The **Jardí de les Roques** has been opened in Rubió, the highest inhabited village in Catalonia. It is the first open-air museum aimed at disseminating the local geological heritage and display the geological diversity in the park along 265 million years, especially the unique "terres roies" from Siarb valley. The **Mollera d'Escalarre path** taking from La Guingueta d'Àneu to Esterri d'Àneu has been adapted for persons with reduced mobility, having it widened, the ground levelled and safety railings placed.

<http://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/es/alt-pirineu>

The Noguera Pallaresa, one of the finest rivers for rafting

The Noguera Pallaresa has an uninterrupted 50-km stretch for rafting, kayaking and other water sports between Llavorsí in Pallars Sobirà county and La Figuereta area in La Pobla de Segur in Pallars Jussà. Further works this year shall add another 6 km down to the Sant Antoni reservoir in Tremp, Pallars Jussà. This initiative places the two Pallars counties amidst the world's best whitewater areas, creating great perspectives for tourism in general, and more specifically for adventure sports and active tourism, as the new activity offer extends the navigable stretch for boats from currently 15 km to 56 km between Escaló and the Sant Antoni reservoir.

<http://www.visitpirineus.com/es>

Romanesque Interpretive Centre in Pallars Sobirà

The Pallars Sobirà Romanesque Interpretive Centre located in Son del Pi has opened. It is the first such site in the county and aims at contributing to the recovery of the local heritage.



Interactive technologies, static and dynamic panels, films, soundtracks and projected sensations, a virtual journey through Romanesque architecture, painting and sculpture in Pallars Sobirà, a guided tour to the Romanesque church in Son—all this makes a place where the abundant local Romanesque heritage can be experienced.

www.pyrenea.com

The Cement Museum features a new space

The Asland Cement Museum in Castellar de n'Hug opens a new space with a new trial cement kiln. This semi-industrial kiln, made at the Asland factory in 1967, has now been restored. Visitors can operate the kiln and see how cement rotary kilns worked as they processed the rawmix (such as limestone and clay) to clinker in a heating process at temperatures between 1500°C and 1800°C.

<http://museuciment.cat/es/inicio/>

Horrorland Park

The facilities close to the former Cercs coal-fired power plant, now out of service, host Horrorland Park, a horror theme park with different programmes adapted to every season and festivity of the year. The scenes shown are so mind-blowing that they have earned an unprecedented success just a few months after the park opened.

www.horrorlandpark.com

Dinosaurs in Fumanya

The opening of the Dinosaur Interpretive Centre in Fumanya in Fígols, Berguedà county, has completed the last stage of the process in the course of which an impressive paleontological site has been laid free, featuring over 3500 dinosaur footprints dating back more than 65 million years. There is a direct relation between dinosaurs and coal: the former disappeared 65 million years ago, towards the end of the Cretaceous, when lignite was formed and the geomorphological formation of the Pyrenees raised on a former river plain. This is the extraordinary relation between geology, mining and paleontology—the Pyrenees, dinosaurs and coal.

The site, located close to the Cercs mining area, which is open for visitors, was declared a Cultural Site of National Interest (BCIN) in 2014 and is part of the UNESCO Natural World Heritage bid together with other ichnite sites on the Iberian Peninsula.

www.dinosauresfumanya.com



VAL D'ARAN

Val d'Aran Walking Festival

Hiking and nature lovers have the opportunity to meet in Val d'Aran from **1 to 7 July 2019** to get in touch, share and enjoy the local mountains, gastronomy, culture and heritage. Professional certified guides will lead the routes through idyllic places in several languages. Three different trips with various difficulty levels (high, medium, low) along scenic places have been designed, combined with tastings and cultural visits for everybody to enjoy and discover Val d'Aran.

www.camins.net

Trail running and mountain bike races

Many mountain competitions take place in Val d'Aran every year, when the county's trails and routes become an ideal backdrop for trail running and mountain bike race lovers for some days. The sports events with the highest media coverage and participation include:

- **Trail Vielha-Molières 3010.** This marathon climbs five summits above 2000 metres in Val d'Aran, including Molières, which at 3010 metres is the area's highest peak. More than 1200 participants took part in its second edition held in 2018.
- **Pedals de Foc Non Stop MTB Ultramarathon** will hold its 14th edition this year, being once again the **European MTB Ultramarathon Championship**, at which around 800 cyclers will race along the mythical Pedals de Foc route.
- Other competitions taking place in Val d'Aran include Trail Carlac, Ultra Trail Naut Aran, Corsa e Caminada des 15 Pòbles, Era Nocturna de Vielha and La Vertical d'Aran.

www.visitaldaran.com

FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup

Being held in Beret on 1 and 2 March 2019, Val d'Aran will host the world tour of this spectacular discipline for the second time. The competition will feature the world's best snowboard crossers, among which Spain's two biggest stars, Olympic bronze medal winner Regino Hernández from Andalusia and world runner-up Lucas Eguibar from the Basque Country. Starting this season, the Aranese ski resort offers up to a total 165 km of slopes (160 km marked, 5 km trails) with the creation of the new Baciver area for experts, including five new red slopes. Cap de Baciver thus becomes the new highest peak in the resort at 2610 m, thus allowing descents of more than 1100 metres down to the Baqueira 1500 base. With this enlargement, the skiable area in Baqueira Beret grows to 2273 ha. The new FunPark slope for the youngest has opened in the Beret area.

www.baqueira.es



New mountain hut in Era Artiga de Lin

This project adds to the offer of Era Artiga de Lin natural area for the thousands of people coming year after year to Val d’Aran to discover its spectacular “Uelhs deth Joeu” as well as the local Nature Interpretive Centre opened last summer. The **Era Artiga de Lin hut** brings visitors closer to any of the beautiful summits framing this landscape, the most notable being the Aranese Aneto route. It leads through Còl de Toro (2236 m) to Pla d’Aigualluts in the Aragonese Pyrenees, from where it takes to the Aneto summit (3404 m) after crossing the glacier.

www.visitvaldaran.com

Val d’Aran enlarges its offer in climbing and via ferratas

Val d’Aran will soon have a new climbing area in the surroundings of **Bagergue**, with different difficulty levels and several equipped stretches amidst a spectacular scenery. In Arties, there is also the 330-metre long **Taro d’Arties via ferrata** with a 100-metre vertical drop. This offer adds to the already existing via ferratas in **Les**, with 450 m length and 150 m vertical drop, and **Torre de Cledes**, with 125 m length and 180 m vertical drop, in Baish Aran. In Naut Aran, lovers of this sport have been enjoying for several years the **Poi d’Unha via ferrata**, with 775 metres length and 500 metres vertical drop.

www.visitvaldaran.com

Interpretive Centre of the Fire Festivals in Les and Arties

Val d’Aran will feature the **Hèstes deth Huèc (Fire Festival) Interpretive Centre** from 2019 with year-round information on the **Haro** and **Taro Festival** in Les and Arties, respectively. These festivals featuring ancestral traditions take place on the night of 23 June, when the summer solstice used to be celebrated by burning a fir log, asking for purification of the land. Despite the course of time, this tradition has remained almost intact. These festivals were declared **Immaterial Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO in 2015**.

www.visitvaldaran.com



TERRES DE L'EBRE

Forest Bathing in Els Ports Natural Park

Forest bathing is an ancestral technique developed in all ancient cultures. Here we will visit Els Ports Natural Park for three days and enjoy its great environmental quality and get in contact with the particles of its trees and plants that are able to strengthen our body's defences to fight against all sorts of diseases and make our immune system stronger.

www.portsexperience.com/banos-de-bosque/

Hiking and cycling in La Sénia

La Sénia is one of Catalonia's southernmost municipalities, located in Montsià county in Tarragona province. It boasts an excellent trail network encouraging the practice of sports such as hiking, running and cycling. Its inclusion into The Trail Zone brand shall foster all these sports on short, medium and long-distance trails, mountain bike routes with big vertical drops and cycling paths with 1441-metre Mont Caro as their highest peak.

www.thetrailzone.com/la-senia/

TERRES DE LLEIDA

Enlargement of “Espais Naturals de Ponent”

This project to disseminate the natural areas located in the western part of Terres de Lleida will increase the number of municipalities and activities involved. It encompasses twenty natural areas distributed in Noguera, Segarra, Les Garrigues, Segrià Nord, Segrià Sud, Urgell and Pla d’Urgell counties, all of them being part of the Natura 2000 network. A total 46 different activities will take place between March and September, attracting families and a professional audience to inform on the flora, the fauna and especially birds, which are very important to regional tourism.

www.espaisnaturalsdeponent.cat

Conca de Tremp has been declared a Geopark

Geoparc Orígens-Pirineus Catalans is the name chosen for the Conca de Tremp-Montsec area, Catalonia’s second geopark recognised by the UNESCO, which emphasises the importance of the area to understand the evolution of life through the geological heritage. This geopark encompasses 19 municipalities in 4 counties—Pallars Jussà, Noguera, Pallars Sobirà and Alt Urgell—on more than 2,000 km². The area is of high geological and natural value, allowing to explain how ranges like the Pyrenees were formed. There are other aspects that help explain the evolution of life, such as fossil remains of the last dinosaurs that inhabited Europe. This new geopark adds to the Geological and Mining Park of Central Catalonia, which became a member of the European geopark network in September 2012.

<http://www.projectegeoparctrempmontsec.com/>

<http://www.geoparc.cat/es>

The pharmacy in Vallbona de les Monges is open to the public

The old pharmacy of Santa Maria de Vallbona de les Monges monastery, one of the three pillars of the Cistercian Route together with Poblet and Santes Creus, has been opened to visitors. Considered one of the monastery’s gems, it has become a museum and contains all sorts of pharmaceutical items, products and utensils, mostly dating from the 18th century. Located in a large gothic hall, the pharmacy displays china pots, mortars, scales, medicinal plants, green glass bottles with curious shapes to distil ointments, and there are even glass flaskets that still contain some medicinal product. The pharmacy can be visited as part of the daily guided tours offered at the site.

<http://www.monestirvallbona.cat>



The Lleida Jewry, a new tourist attraction of the city

After more than 500 years in oblivion, Lleida has recovered the area of the new La Cuirassa gardens, where the old medieval Jewish quarter, one of Catalonia's largest, once stood. Between Christian conquest of the city in the mid-12th century and the final expulsion of the Jews in the late 15th century, La Cuirassa was home to one of the biggest Jewish communities in the old Kingdom of Aragon. After three years of work by archaeologists, historians and architects, the old Jewry has been laid free and different pathways have been placed to provide a view of the remains of a part of the city's medieval layout, including walls, houses, streets, deposits of an old parchment workshop and the sewage system, as well as the remains of the home of a rich Jew, with household items unique on the Iberian Peninsula, such as a large jar of Andalusian origin, remains of folded cloth, tableware, a spade, a copper cauldron and part of a stone door jamb with three Stars of David engraved. Information panels have been placed along the signposted path to provide interaction with the different areas of the site.

www.turismedelleida.cat



BARCELONA

The Year of Cultural Tourism 2019 continues with a top programme of activities

UNESCO World Heritage human towers (“Castells”) will of course be present at the city’s many traditional festivals. As a UNESCO City of Literature, Barcelona will host different festivals and activities such as Sant Jordi and the 10 literature itineraries through Barcelona.

As regards exhibitions, “Velázquez & the Golden Century” from the Prado Museum and a retrospective dedicated to Max Beckmann will be shown at CaixaForum. Meanwhile, MACBA will host a Plensa exhibition with several works of the Catalan artist. The Mapfre Foundation plans two photography exhibitions dedicated to Berenice Abbott and Richard Learoyd. Furthermore, the Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya will be featuring an exhibition dedicated to Bartolomé Bermejo. Music, design, art, cinema—Barcelona will host more than 180 festivals from different disciplines like the Sonar advanced music festival, which will be held in July this year, and Primavera Sound. Moreover, classical music lovers must not miss the [Barcelona Obertura Spring Festival](#) in March.

Barcelona Obertura Classic & Lyric. Spring Festival

Three stunning venues, Palau de la Música, Liceu and L’Auditori, will welcome the most renowned artists and orchestras from all over the world, making Barcelona the place to meet for all classical music lovers. The festival, which will be held from 4 to 17 March 2019, also includes free concerts throughout the city.

Barcelona Pass Modernisme

Tourists looking to visit Art Nouveau-style Modernisme buildings now have a new all-inclusive product: the Barcelona Pass Modernisme. The idea is a pass offering 7 days of free access to Art Nouveau buildings in Barcelona and surrounding towns like Sitges, Mataró, Canet or Terrassa, including top cultural sites like Casa Amatller, Casa de les Punxes, Palau Baró de Quadras, Palau de la Música, Casa Vicens or the Sant Pau heritage site as well as other places off the beaten track.

<https://www.barcelonaturisme.com>

Casa Batlló opens restoration works to visitors for the first time

At Casa Batlló, Antoni Gaudí’s architectural gem, the original overlay of the walls and ceilings in the first floor have been laid free. This is the first milestone of the “Explore Restoration” campaign inviting visitors to experience first-hand the great findings and the scientific and historical work of restoration experts. During the coming months, visitors can take a direct look at the artisan and artistic restoration works while having specialised staff available for deepening into the subject.

<https://www.casabatllo.es/restauracion/>



FC Barcelona presents the Players Experience Tour, its most exclusive offer

FC Barcelona is launching the Players Experience Tour, a new experience taking fans on a guided tour to the most private areas only accessible to players. This tour, Barça's most exclusive, is done in small groups and visitors will enjoy highlights such as entering the FC Barcelona changing room and a walk on the pitch.

The experience also provides visitors with the Barça Virtual Experience, an innovative way of approaching the facilities and remembering the team's best goals from a virtual reality perspective. The tour finishes with an aperitif in one of the VIP rooms at the Camp Nou. Those who wish can close the experience by visiting the museum and taking the regular tour with the official multimedia guide.

This new proposal adds to the already existing Basic Tour, Flexible Tour, Camp Nou Guided Tour and Camp Nou Tour Plus.

<https://www.fcbarcelona.cat/tour/comprar-entrades>