



Addresses of Interest

ACCOMMODATION

RESIDÈNCIA MARIÀ - Pl. de la Llibertat, 4	972 590 106
HOTEL ELS JARDINS DE LA MARTANA***	972 590 009
C/ Pont, 2	651 830 997
HOTEL SIQUÉS* - Av. Lluís Companys, 6 i 8	972 590 110
HOTEL COMTE TALLAFERRO***	972 591 609
C/ Ganganell, 2	972 591 123
APARTAMENTS RURAL CAN FRUITÓS	972 591 123
C/ Rocafort, 10	626 101 535
ELS TRES ARCS*Traditional	C/ Ganganell, 15 972 590 587
APARTAMENTS SALTARELLLO	C/ Tallafarro, 3 972 687 783
	609 763 755
CAMPING BESALÚ	
Path from Besalú to Sant Ferriol Chapel	972 591 801
APARTAMENTS CAL FUSTER -C/ Comte Tallafarro, 13	600 446 276

RESTAURANTS

CÚRIA REIAL	972 590 263
PONT VELL	972 591 027
FONDA SIQUÉS	972 590 110
LA CASSOLETA	972 590 300
CAN QUEI	972 590 085
RESTAURANT OLIVERAS	972 590 392
ELS FOGONS DE CAN LLAUDES	972 590 858
CAL TRONC	972 590 083

ESTACIÓ DE SERVEI BESALÚ

972 590 158

PUBLIC SERVICES

TOWN HALL

Pl. de la Llibertat, 1
17850 BESALÚ
Tel. 972 590 225
Fax 972 590 411
besalu@ddgiles
www.besalu.cat

Public attention hours:

Monday-Friday, 9.00-14.00, and Saturdays, 9.00-13.1h

BESALÚ MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE

Pl. de la Llibertat, 1
17850 BESALÚ
Tel. 972 591 240
Fax 972 591 150
turisme@besalu.cat
www.besalu.cat

Public attention hours:

Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from
4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed on December 25th and 26th and January 1st and 6th

MINIATURES and MICRO-MINIATURES MUSEUM 972 591 842

PARISH CHURCH

972 590 055

DISPENSARY

902 111 444

AMBULANCE

972 294 118

PHARMACY

972 572 450

RENFE

972 591 273

AIRPORT

972 202 350

CAL CAMPANER (Youth Information Point)

972 590 097

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

972 591 162

SCHOOLS

972 590 109

POLICE

088

COSTA BRAVA-GIRONA

TOURISM BOARD

www.pirineugirona.org

972 208 401

EMERGENCY PHONE LINE

112

Festivities and Activities

FESTIVITY OF SANT VICENÇ

January 22nd (nearest weekend). *Sardanes* and mass.

BESALÚ, JEWISH TOWN

In March.

Trades market, entertainment in the streets of the Jewish quarter, guided visits, conferences, theatre, concerts and gastronomy.

PROCESSION OF THE VIRGIN OF SORROWS

Friday before Palm Sunday at 9.00 p.m.

A procession with over 300 years of tradition (1699). It consists in a representation of Christ's passion and death, centred on the image of the Virgin. The most popular and spectacular manifestation of the Order of the Virgin of Sorrows.

BLACKSMITHS' AND IRON ARTISTS' FAIR

Every day during Easter Week. Cornellà House

MEDIEVAL BESALÚ

First weekend of September

For two days the old centre of Besalú is transformed into a medieval town.

NIGHTTIME VISITS (TONIGHT, BESALÚ)

Every Wednesday in July and August

A nocturnal tour with characters from medieval times.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

(SAINTS PRIMUS AND FELICIAN)

September 25th (nearest weekend)

Exhibitions of photography and lacemaking.

Dances, concerts, *sardanes*, fishing and clay-pigeon shooting competitions.

REMIGIUS FLUVII - FLUVIÀ REGATTA

At 12 noon on the Sunday of the Annual Festival

Descent of the river on home-made boats.

RATAFIA FAIR

Last Sunday in November or first in December

Craft market and exhibition, tasting and sale of *ratafias* (walnut liqueurs) from all over Catalonia.



1 GOTHIC HALL - CÚRIA REIAL	5 CHURCH OF SANT VICENÇ	10 PLAÇA DE LA LLIBERTAT	Public transport	PU Cal Campaner
2 HOSPITAL OF SANT JULIÀ	6 MIQVAH	11 CHURCH OF SANT MARTÍ	Library, senior citizens' centre	Youth Information Point
3 MONASTERY OF SANT PERE	7 FORTIFIED BRIDGE	12 SYNAGOGUE	Municipal swimming pool	Car park
4 CORNELLÀ HOUSE	8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	13 PERE IV GATEWAY	Sports hall	Accommodation
		14 RIVERSIDE PATH	WC Toilets	Health centre
		15 FORMER FLOUR MILL	Tourist train	Post office
			Walking route	One-hour route on foot
			Information office, Town Hall	Miniatures and Micro-miniatures Museum



www.pirineugirona.org

AJUNTAMENT DE LA COMITAL VILA DE BESALÚ

BESALÚ MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE

Pl. de la Llibertat, 1

17850 BESALÚ

turisme@besalu.cat

www.besalu.cat

Costa Brava
Pirineu de Girona

Pacte Territorial
per a l'ocupació de les
comarques de Girona

Generalitat de Catalunya
Servei d'Ocupació de Catalunya

Unió Europea
Fons Social Europeu

Diputació de Girona

CATALUNYA

Welcome

Our town began to gain importance as the capital of an independent county after the death of Count Guifré el Pilós, but it lost this status when Bernat III, the son-in-law of Ramon Berenguer III, died leaving no successor.

The origin of the town was its castle, which is documented as early as the 10th century. It was located on the top of a hill where the remains of the collegiate church of Santa Maria can also be found.

In 1966 Besalú was declared a National Historical-Artistic Site for its

great architectural value, as the town's buildings make up one of the most notable monumental legacies of the medieval period in Catalonia.

Nowadays the town's economy is based on the textile, metalworking and plaster industries, but thanks to the state of conservation of its historic buildings, tourism is becoming increasingly important.

The municipality is situated 150 metres above sea level, and it has a surface area of 4.81 km² and a total of 2,200 inhabitants.



Tourist Attractions

MONASTERY OF SANT PERE

Of the Benedictine monastery there only remains the church, notable for its grandiosity. It was founded in 977 by Count-Bishop Miró and consecrated in 1003 by the most important count in the history of our county, Bernat I, known as 'Tallaferro.'

The Benedictine community was initially made up of twelve monks, and in 1111, the year when the county was abolished, the abbot became the town's highest authority. The monastery enjoyed great political influence during the 12th and 13th centuries.

This church is unusual in having an ambulatory or aisle used exclusively by pilgrims in medieval times, where

the relics of Saints Primus and Felician were venerated. In those days the town was an important pilgrimage point, and the old hospital of Sant Julià was a hostel for pilgrims. The eight columns separating the ambulatory from the main altar are crowned by capitals engraved

with biblical scenes, plant motifs and mythological animals. Inside the church lie the tombs of the most notable abbots of the monastery and a common grave for the monks. The stone used to build this church and other medieval buildings in the town is travertine, widely used in Italy and in this case extracted from quarries in Serinyà.

The façade of Sant Pere has a unique large window where two lions symbols of the strength, power and protection offered by the church can be seen opposite evil and paganism, represented by an ape and a snake. People were protected from evil once they entered the church.

In this same square there is a very important building: the Cornellà House.



HOSPITAL OF SANT JULIÀ

The hospital conserves the 12th-century outer façade formed by six archivolts and four capitals, two of which display animal figures. It formerly had two parts: the one closer to the river, which was the hospital itself, and the front part, which was the single-naved church dedicated to St Julian, with a vault and no apse. It was built by the counts of Besalú to attend to pilgrims, but the monks of the monastery of Sant Pere had exclusive jurisdiction over it. In 1336 the position of hospitaller was created. In the early 20th century the building was again used as a hospital, but now it is a socio-cultural centre

CORNELLÀ HOUSE

Considered one of the best-conserved Romanesque civil buildings in all Catalonia, this mansion dates from the late 12th century and has a classic Romanesque civil structure. On the ground floor were the stables and servants' quarters; the first floor, with its magnificent round-arched gallery, was the living area of the Cornellà family; and the top floor held the granary. One of the house's distinguishing features is its structure, organised around a courtyard that allows daylight to enter all of the rooms. The house passed from the Cornellà family to the Llaudes family, and is now owned by the Solà-Morales family.



CHURCH OF SANT VICENÇ

Documented in the year 977 in the time of Count-Bishop Miró, this is the town's parish church. It is a Romanesque construction with certain elements of the transition to Gothic, such as the rose window and the main window. Inside we find the Gothic tomb of Pere de Rovira, who brought the relics of St Vincent to Besalú in 1413.

A Gothic side chapel contains the True Cross, presented by Francesc Cambó in 1923 to replace the original one, brought from Rome by Bernat Tallaferro in 1017 and stolen in 1899.

the ten still conserved in Europe.

It is an underground hall in Romanesque style, built with hewn stone. It has a loophole window in the east wall, a barrel vault and a ritual cleansing pool. Each *miqvah*, depending on its location, was filled with water from a fountain, a river, a lake or the sea, with no piping or channelling involved, which is why they are all located a few metres below ground level. Their function was the purification of the soul through the total immersion of the body. Jewish women used to cleanse themselves a few days after each menstruation, after childbirth and before marriage. Religious men usually cleansed themselves every Friday before sunset, that is, before the start of the Sabbath, and whenever they had been in contact with a dead person.

This building is situated at the point where the "Jews' square" is documented and where archaeological research has recently uncovered the remains of the wall of the old Synagogue of Besalú, documented in 1264.

From this small square there is a view of the symbol of the town:



JEWISH COMMUNITY

Within this Christian township there was also an important Jewish community. The town had a total of around 1,000 inhabitants, 190 to 200 of whom were Jews, according to Dr. Manuel Grau i Montserrat. Relations between the two groups were good: they lived and traded together until 1415, when the Jewish quarter was established in the main streets of the town, where we now find one of Besalú's most emblematic buildings:

MIKVAH AND SYNAGOGUE

The *miqvah* was unexpectedly discovered in 1964, beginning with the upper part. It is the first and only building of this type found in Spain and is the third largest of

OLD BRIDGE

The first reference we have to the bridge dates from the 11th century, and it has been rebuilt a number of times over the years. It has seven arches and is particularly notable for its dogleg layout, due to the pillars being sited on natural rocks of the river bed. It is 105 metres long and 30 metres high, including the sentry tower. In medieval times the county *pagus* was installed in the fortified tower.

The bridge was dynamited during the Civil War and subsequently rebuilt by the architect Pons Sorolla under the aegis of the Architectural Board. It is now the symbol of the town and the most suitable entry point into the old nucleus.



CÚRIA REIAL

A noble building dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. It was inhabited by various families, first Christian and then Jewish (Astruc David, 1300-1362), finally passing into the hands of the family of Bernat Cavaller, the King's chancellor.

The building is divided into three floors. In the upper part is the Gothic hall, which conserves a wooden ceiling from the 14th century and magnificent lancet arches. On the ground floor there is a cultural space that enables visitors to learn more about Besalú through an audiovisual presentation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

The Town Council has recently carried out a programme of archaeological digs that have revealed Besalú's importance at different times before the Middle Ages. The following points are of interest to tourists:

- THE DEVESA
- THE JEWS' SQUARE (Synagogue)
- THE CÚRIA REIAL
- THE MILL