

Addresses of Interest

| ACCOMMODATION | |
|---|------------|
| RESIDÈNCIA MARIÀ - Pl. de la Llibertat, 4 | 972 590 10 |
| HOTEL ELS JARDINS DE LA MARTANA*** | 972 590 00 |
| C/ Pont, 2 | 651 830 99 |
| HOTEL SIQUÉS* - Av. Lluís Companys, 6 i 8 | 972 590 11 |
| HOTEL COMTE TALLAFERRO*** C/ Ganganell, 2 | 972 591 60 |
| APARTAMENTS RURAL CAN FRUITÓS | 972 591 12 |

C/ Rocafort, 10 626 101 535 ELS TRES ARCS*Traditional C/ Ganganell, 15 972 590 587 APARTAMENTS SALTAREL·LO C/Tallaferro, 3 972 687 783 609 763 755

CAMPING BESALÚ 🛣 Path from Besalú to Sant Ferriol Chapel 972 591 801 APARTAMENTS CAL FUSTER -C/ Comte Tallafero, 13 600 446 276

| RESTAURANTS | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| CÚRIA REIAL | 972 590 26 |
| PONT VELL | 972 591 02 |
| FONDA SIQUÉS | 972 590 11 |
| LA CASSOLETA | 972 590 30 |
| CAN QUEI | 972 590 08 |
| RESTAURANT OLIVERAS | 972 590 39 |
| ELS FOGONS DE CAN LLAUDES | 972 590 85 |
| CAL TRONG | 972 590 08 |

ESTACIÓ DE SERVEI BESALÚ

PUBLIC SERVICES

TOWN HALL
Pl. de la Llibertat, 1 17850 BESALÚ Fax 972 590 411 besalu@ddgi.es

Monday-Friday, 9.00-14.00, and Saturdays, 9.00-13.hh

BESALÚ MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE Pl. de la Llibertat, 1 17850 BESALÚ Tel. 972 591 240 Fax 972 591 150

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 902 111 444 972 294 118 972 572 450

972 202 350 972 590 097 972 591 162 972 590 109

088 ww.pirineugirona.org 972 208 401

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)

972 590 158

Every Wednesday in July and August A nocturnal tour with characters from medieval

times.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

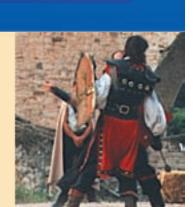
(SAINTS PRIMUS AND FELICIAN) September 25th (nearest weekend) Exhibitions of photography and lacemaking. Dances, concerts, sardanes, fishing and clay-pigeon

REMIGIUS FLUVII - FLUVIÀ REGATTA At 12 noon on the Sunday of the Annual Festival Descent of the river on home-made boats.

RATAFIA FAIR

shooting competitions.

Last Sunday in November or first in December Craft market and exhibition, tasting and sale of ratafias (walnut liqueurs) from all over Catalonia.











AJUNTAMENT DE LA COMTAL VILA DE BESALÚ

BESALÚ MUNICIPAL TOURIST OFFICE Pl. de la Llibertat, 1 17850 BESALÚ turisme@besalu.cat















www.besalu.cat

Welcome

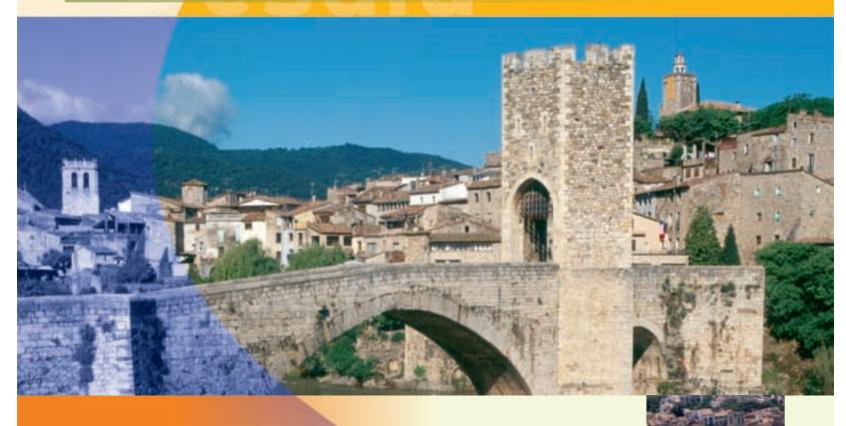
Our town began to gain importance as the capital of an independent county after the death of Count Guifré el Pilós, but it lost this status when Bernat III, the son-in-law of Ramon Berenguer III, died leaving no successor.

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

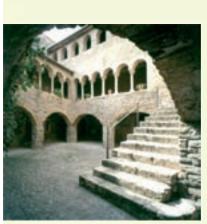
from the main altar are crowned by capitals engraved

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.

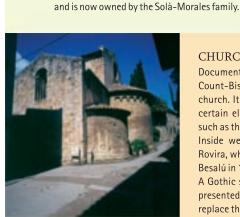


CORNELLÀ HOUSE



HOSPITAL OF SANT JULIÀ

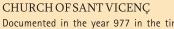
The hospital conserves the 12th-century outer façade formed by six archivolts and four capitals, two of which display animal figures. It formerly had two parts: the one closer to the river, which was the hospital itself, and the front part, which was the single-naved church dedicated to St Julian, with 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



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' guarters; 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,

> 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.

> replace the original one, brought from Rome by Bernat Tallaferro in 1017 and stolen in 1899.



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

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

JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

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:

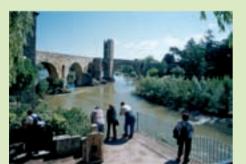




OLD BRIDGE

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

