

**CASTELLÓ
D'EMPÚRIES**
MEDIEVAL
CAPITAL OF
THE EMPORDÀ

**A
MONUMENTAL
TOUR**



**Castelló d'Empúries
Empuriabrava**

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Castelló d'Empúries, County Village

For several reasons, the counts of Empúries moved their residence, and hence the county capital from Greek and Roman village Sant Martí d'Empúries to the "Vila Castilione" and new County Capital: Castelló d'Empúries.

This was in the 11th century. Also in this century was the official consecration of the Santa Maria church: this was held on the 9th of September 1064, when the structure of the temple was still in the roman style. In time, at the end of the 13th century, the Gothic style prevails and the three knaves are built on lateral columns. The magnificent façade dates from the beginning of the 15th century, and the "Mare de Déu de la Candelera" altarpiece, from the end.

Also dating from the first medieval period are the bell tower (from the Roman and Transitional periods), the christening front (11th century), the "Gallarda" portal, the base of the surrounding walls, and the "Vell" (Old) bridge, which belongs to the end of the 13th century. There are also several other buildings whose construction was begun in Medieval times and finished during the 17th and 18th centuries. Amongst them, both convents and civilian buildings. The historic monumental centre still keeps most of its original design and aspect, with veranda squares and street names that clearly refer to their main activities of olden times: Bordell (Brothel) street, Cols (Cabbage), Vi (Wine), Oli (Oil), and Gallines (Chickens) squares, etc. And amongst today's neighbourhoods there are also el Call Jueu (the old Jewish Quarter), el Temple (the Temple, in honour of the knights of the Order), el Botxí (the executioner), Sant Llàtzer (Saint Llàtzer) etc.

You may continue your visit by following the corresponding numbers on the map, which appear next to each monument's name.

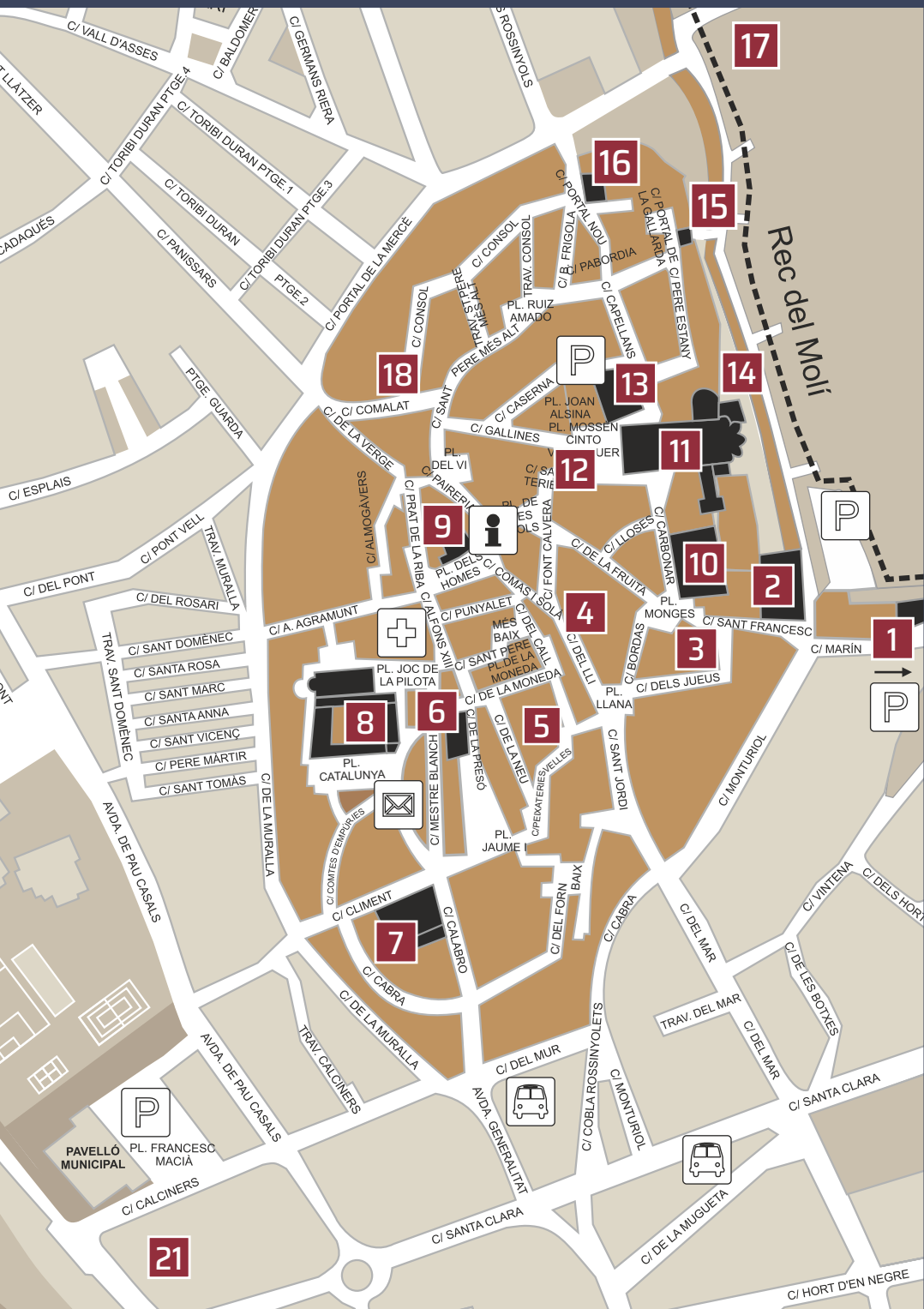
ENJOY YOUR VISIT !

Tourist Department

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Interest points

1 Public laundry

The public laundry is an attractive construction from the XIX century that incorporates features of the former Franciscan monastery, erected in 1264 near to this site. Its Tuscan columns (XVI or XVII century) that form a part of the cloister are particularly impressive. They are integrated into the porched galleries that surround the tank and its water outlet.

2 Mill irrigation and Ecomuseu-Flour mill

The Flour Mill of Castelló was created on the site of the Molí del Mig, one of the three medieval mills of the town, using the former mill irrigation channel. It is a large industrial three-storey building constructed around 1905 on the site of the original building. One can still see the original machinery, which is mainly made from wood, and was partially renovated in the middle of the XX century.

Nowadays, the Ecomuseum-Flour Mill is assigned to the Museum of Science and Technology of Catalonia and shows how wheat is transformed into flour using the Austro-Hungarian system.

3 Old Synagogue

In this building, in the street dels Jueus on Era Mala hill, in the original medieval Jewish quarter, was the first synagogue or school of the Jewish community of Castelló. It recuperated its function in 1442, and maintained it until the expulsion of the Jews in 1492.

4 Jewish Quarter

The important Jewish community in Castelló d'Empúries is documented from the middle of the XIII century. It enjoyed privileges granted by the counts and grew to have around 300 inhabitants. It was practically wiped out by the 1492 decree of expulsion issued by the Catholic Monarchs.

The old Call was the area made up by the streets de la Muralla, dels Jueus, del Call, del Calabró, Peixateries Velles and the plaça de la Llana, and it still has the irregular format from the medieval era.

Ecomuseu
flour mill
-1990-



5 New Synagogue

The school or new synagogue was founded in the building known as casa Forns, later known as Can Comas, in Peixateries Velles (old fishmongers) street, on the Mercadal hill, for the Jewish community of Castelló. It is documented towards the end of the XIII century. The portal to the left of the facade was the access point to the praying area.

6 Bar - Prison

A Gothic building constructed around 1336 that combined two functions of the medieval town: the Curia, which was the court, and the Prison, where the condemned were sent. On the south side, the facade of the Curia, which overlooks the plaça (square) of Jaume I, formerly known as the Plaça del Gra (or grain square), has restored Gothic windows and some outstanding corbels in its interior.

The Prison's facade, on the north side, has a voussoir portal and two barred windows. In the interior, small cells are distributed around the courtyard. Here one can still see the curious graffiti written by prisoners at different periods in history.

7 Convent of Saint Agustí

The Augustinian friars installed themselves on the outskirts of Castelló in the XIII century and they moved into the town due to the wars in the XVII century. The church (built over some cellars) has the year 1749 engraved on its entrance and has an outstanding belfry. Since the disentailment of the XIX century it has been privately owned, together with the conventual building (Torrecabota House). On the church's facade one can see a fragment of a Jewish sepulchral tablet.

Bar
and Prison
-XIV-



8 Convent of Sant Domènec and County Palace

The Dominicans founded their convent in 1317 near to the wall ("the Strength of the Preachers"). The county palace, built in the second half of the XIV century, was lent to the friars by Count Pere II in 1401. The reconstruction of the convent, in the XVII-XVIII centuries, incorporated a tower in the wall and other parts of the medieval construction, such as the "Gothic room". The church's facade is classic Baroque style and dates from 1701. To its side there is a cloister, a type of covered courtyard, where there are some ancient, decorative and epigraphical pieces exhibited. Nowadays, the surrounding offices house the Town Hall and various municipal services.

9 The Llotja (exchange) and ancient Town Hall

The Municipal Council Hall of Castelló or medieval Sea Exchange, later on continued as the offices of the Town Council. It still conserves the structure from the end of the XIV century (around 1393), with some renovation work completed in the XVIII century. Outstanding features include the facade with its large embossed shield, the internal space with its gothic crosspiece arch featuring the emblem on the lock and the lateral openings with columns and capitals.

10 Saint Clare convent

The Castelló convent for the nuns of the order of St. Clare of Assisi was founded outside the town in 1260. It was moved within its boundaries at the end of the XVII century as a result of the disastrous effects of the wars.

The buildings were constructed around 1683 and consist of a church with a single nave and a simple cloister with semicircular arched galleries, around which were the monastic rooms.

Moneda house -1994-



11 Basilica of Saint Maria

"The Gothic parish church of Saint Maria has the structure and dimensions of a cathedral, an honour which it did not achieve despite various attempts by the counts of Empúries. It is one of the most interesting examples of Catalan Gothic religious architecture.

Its construction started in the XIII century, continued throughout the XIV century and finished at the beginning of the XV century, when the facade with the outstanding marble porch was built.

The Gothic Mediterranean interior contains single Romanesque baptism fonts, an outstanding alabaster main altarpiece from the XV century, two sarcophaguses of local Counts, a Gothic stained glass window, an altarpiece from the XVIII century, an organ from the XIX century and many other fascinating features.

The belfry has Gothic decorations, although its architectural composition is influenced by the Romanesque belfries of Lombardy. It was probably built in the XIII century.

The Parish Museum exhibits, amongst other pieces, images, gold and silver objects, liturgical ornaments and archaeological pieces throughout its history."

12 The District Cross

The Gothic district cross from the XV century is outstandingly sculptured. It was originally on the outskirts of the town and was also in the cemetery for some time, until it was moved in 1963 to its present site.

On one side of the cross there is the Crucifixion, with the Virgin and Saint Joan on its extremes, the pelican, allusive to the compassion and love of Christ, at the top, and the resurrection of Adam, which symbolises the redemption, at its base. On the other, there is the Mother of God with the Son, accompanied by the Tetramorph: the symbols of the evangelists. On its centre or octagonal capital there are small images of eight apostles under canopies.

Basilica
of Santa Maria
-1988-



Josep Pla,
La Catedral de l'Empordà

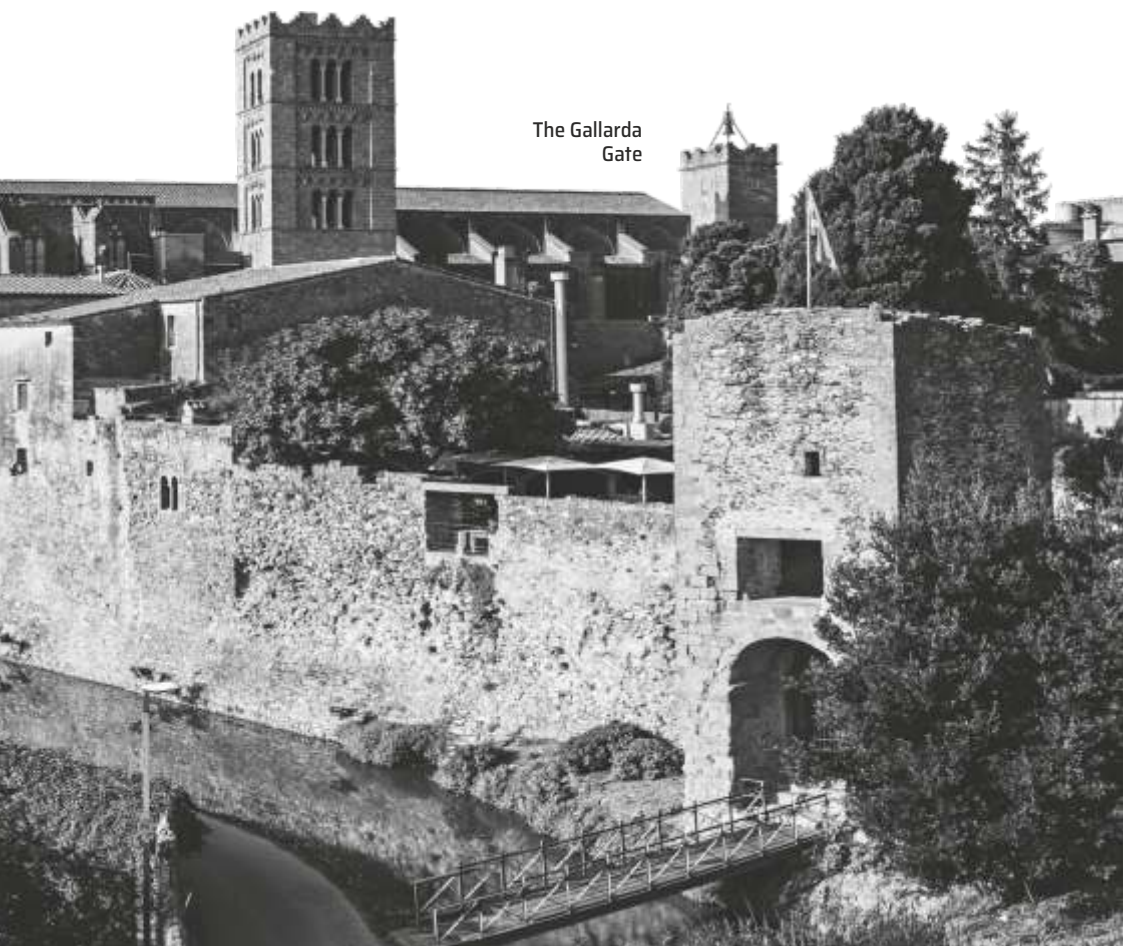
13 Contracting House

A set of Gothic arcades, partly rebuilt and often called “la Llotja” (the exchange). It could have formed part of the medieval customs house of Castelló, or the wards of the Hospital Major (the hospice for the town's poor that was founded on this site in 1252).

14 Jewish Converted's cemetery

15 Walls of Castelló (Gallarda Gate)

The Gallarda Gate, at the base of the rectangular or Gothic portal-tower, was the entrance to Castelló's fortified enclosure from the upper side. It is above the mill irrigation channel which makes use of the ancient moat in the town's best conserved section of wall. It follows the high-medieval line and was renovated in the XIII-XIV centuries. One can see this fortified section running up to the apse of the cathedral from outside of the wall.



The Gallarda
Gate

16 The Grand House

A residential building of the Castelló nobility in the Early Middle Ages. It is the outstanding centrepiece of the town's historical-artistic heritage.

Its austere facade, with portal and two slim corniced windows, marks this house out as a remarkable example of Catalan Gothic civil architecture (XIV or XV century).

17 Jewish Burial Ground

18 Convent of Saint Bartomeu or of Mercè

The convent of Saint Bartomeu of Mercedarian friars was founded by Saint Pere Nolasc in 1238 on the outskirts of the town, near to the "Bridge of la Mercè" on the Mill irrigation channel, in the era of Count Ponç Hug III.

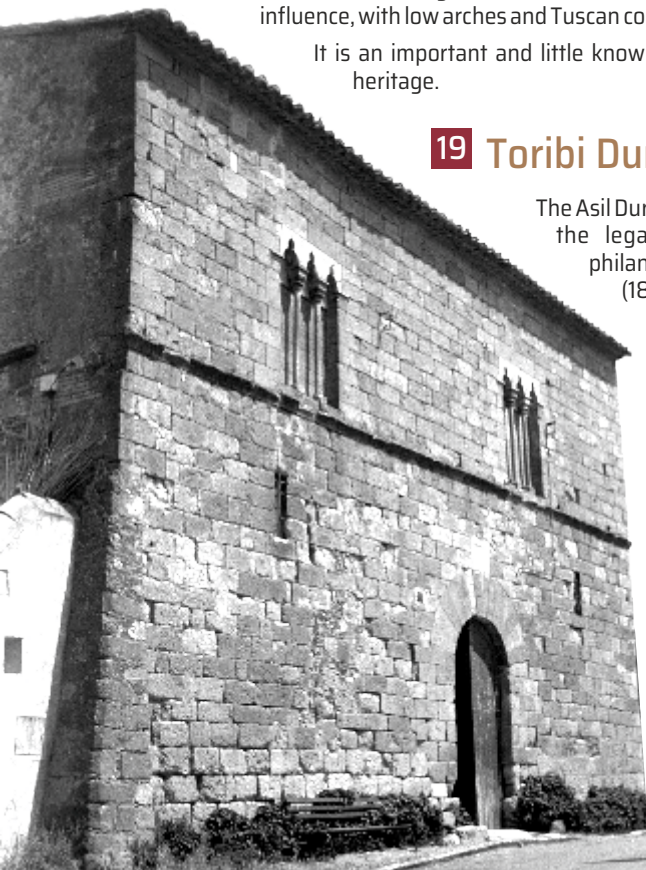
In the XVIII century it was moved into the town, near to the portal of the Virgin Mary, where it survived until the disentanglement of the XIX century. In the courtyard of the Nouvilas house there are two galleries conserved of the elegant cloister of renaissance influence, with low arches and Tuscan columns.

It is an important and little known monument from Castelló's cultural heritage.

19 Toribi Durán residence

The Asil Duran was inaugurated in 1898 thanks to the legacy from the Castellon industrial philanthropist Toribi Duran i Garrigolas (1814-1888), who had made his fortune in America and also founded the Asil Duran in Barcelona.

The large eclectic building, which incorporates a chapel, is very characteristic of the era. The project is attributed to the Barcelona architect Enric Sagnier i Villavecchia. Nowadays, duly restored and modernised, it continues its social function.



The Grand House
-1985-



Old Brige -1994-

20 The Old Bridge

The “Old Bridge”, over the Muga, touches the ancient quarter of Saint Marc. It was originally named Major Bridge or New Bridge, although as there was not another older bridge, the name disappeared. This medieval bridge has seven unequal eyes and appears to have been built in the XIV century in the era of Count Pere I. It has been repaired at various times due to the damage caused by wars and floods.

21 Carlina Tower

The tower or fusilier fort was built at the entrance of Castelló, next to the river, in the second half of the XIX century by the “Regiment of Toledo”, to renovate the town’s defences against the Carlins.

It is a cylindrical and battered tower, with loopholes and embattlements.

In November 1874 “the Fire of Castelló” took place, the bloody battle which was won by the Carlin forces of General Savalls. It is notorious that half the town was destroyed and burnt.



AIGUAMOLLS DE L'EMPORDÀ

Natural Park "Aiguamolls de l'Empordà" covers a large part of the municipality of Castelló d'Empúries. It is famous for the large number of birds that nest there, around 330 species. The landscape, the fauna and the flora found there make it one of the most important nature reserves in the Mediterranean.



**Parc Natural
dels Aiguamolls
de l'Empordà**

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Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Medi Ambient i Habitatge
Direcció General del Medi Ambient
Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà
Direcció General de Turisme

EMPURIABRAVA

The marina at Empuriabrava is the residencial area of the municipality of Castelló d'Empúries. Genuine in its design and unique in Europe, it has more than 24 km. of navigable canals making it the ideal place for any lover of the sea and nautical sports, being able, as they are, to moor their boats in front of their houses.

EMPURIABRAVA



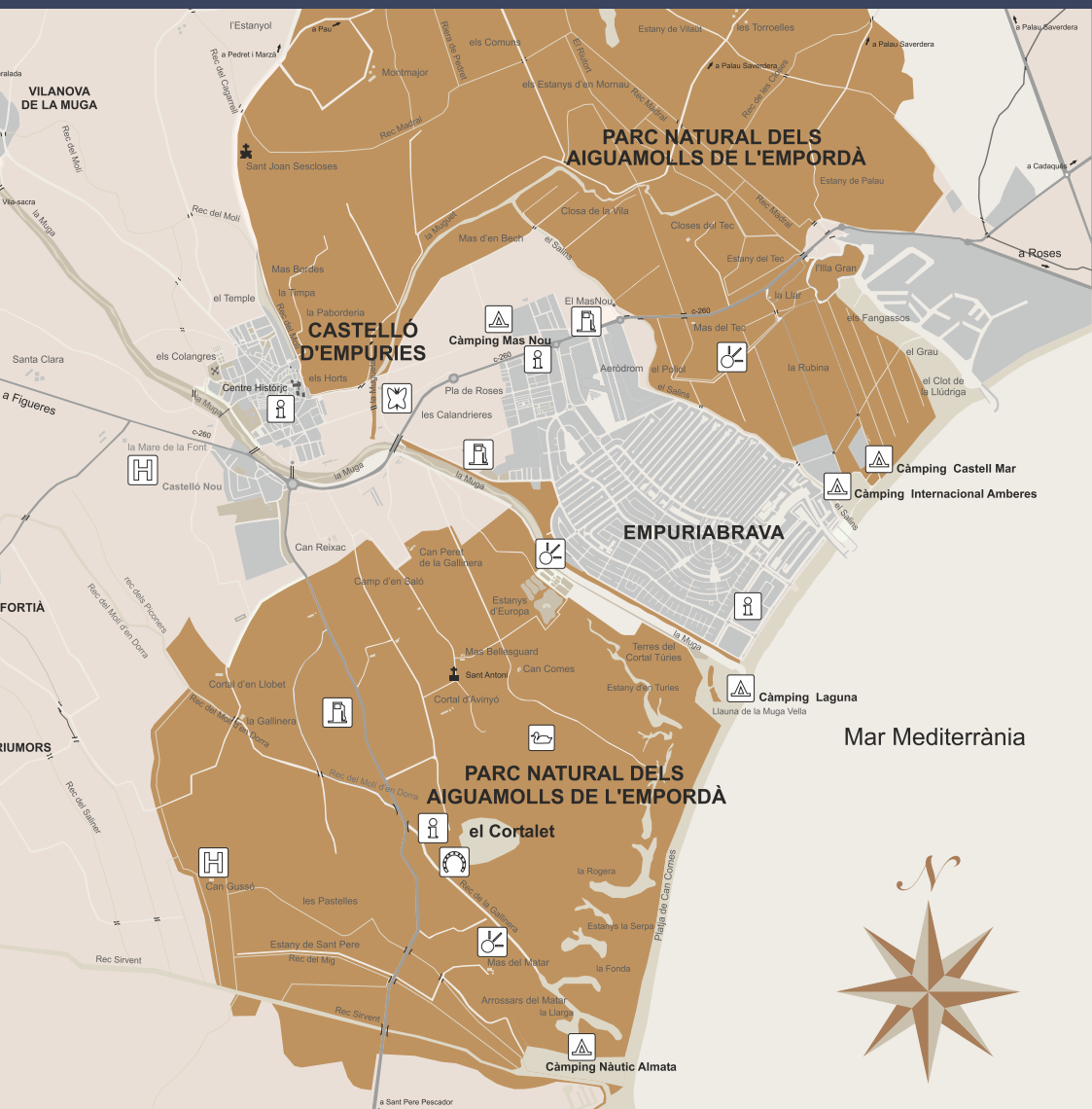
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PLAN



GUIDED VISITS

all year round guided visits

*previous booking needed

MUSEUMS

Basilica Treasure

Medieval History Museum

Ecomuseum Flour-Mill

informatiOn

 972 156 233

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TO KNOW MORE

Castelló d'Empúries.

Tot el que cal saber

sobre la Vila Comtal empordanesa.

Josep Maria Gironella i Granés

(Catalan, Spanish and French editions)

Text: JOAN BADIA-HOMS

Photographies: ARXIU MUNICIPAL et SANTI FONT



édite:



INICI DE LA
EXCAVACIÓ
DE LA TORRE



Castelló d'Empúries
Empuriabrava



ALT EMPORDÀ TURISME
CATALUNYA-COSTA BRAVA



XARXA DE TURISME INDUSTRIAL DE CATALUNYA



Costa Brava



CULTURA