



Press dossier





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The Terres de l'Ebre



www.terresdelebre.travel

The Ebro region, located in the most southern part of Catalonia, is characterized by its high ecological value and low density in the touristic activity. This has led to it being recognised by the international organisation Green Destinations as one of the **Top 100 Sustainable Destinations of 2016**. In addition, the identity of its inhabitants, through their

traditions, history, folklore and gastronomy, makes Terres de l'Ebre an unique land. It covers four counties, which have some of the most incredible, unbeatable countryside, and a rich cultural and historical heritage. Even today, the greatest flowing river on the Iberian Peninsula, the Ebro, shapes this unique area declared **Biosphere Reserve** by UNESCO.

Technical file

Surface	3.308 Km2
Inhabitants	191.568
Languages	Catalan/Castilian
Kilometres of coast	142 Km
Motorways	N-340, N-420 i C-12
Dual carriageways	AP7 (exits 39-42)



Terres de l'Ebre

www.obsebre.es

The climate in **Terres de l'Ebre**, which is located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Catalan Pre-coastal Mountain Range, is typical of the Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild winters with very little rain. This stable climate is perfect for doing outdoor activities

throughout the year. As far as rain-fall is concerned, there is an average of about seven days a month during the autumn and spring, whereas the summer is renowned for being the sunniest, hottest season of all.

Temperature Chart

	Maximum	Minimum	Rain days
January	23	-1	12
February	21,3	1,8	7
March	26,8	3	8
April	30,2	6,4	15
May	34	9,3	4
June	37,5	13,7	7
July	39,4	16,7	2
August	38,5	19,4	3
September	38	12,4	8
October	31	7,2	5
November	26,8	5,2	4
December	24	-1,7	12



www.greendestinations.info

...How to get to Terres de l'Ebre

by car

One of the main thoroughfares of the road system in Terres de l'Ebre is the AP-7 motorway, which goes from La Jonquera all along the Mediterranean coast to the south of Spain. Another important road is the C-12, which is known as the Eje del Ebro (axis of the Ebro), and crosses the region from south to north connecting Terres de l'Ebre to Lleida. The N-340 and AP-7 motorway both come from Barcelona and follow the coastline. Lastly, the N-420 connects Zaragoza to Teruel, crossing the Terra Alta and Ribera d'Ebre regions. Furthermore, there is a whole network of secondary roads which allows communication by car to the different villages in Terres de l'Ebre.

by bus

Terres de l'Ebre has a regular bus service connecting the cities, towns and villages in Catalonia and also the rest of Spain.

www.hife.es

by train

As far as trains are concerned, there are three different train services. Two of them are Regional railway lines (RENFE), which cross Terres de l'Ebre, the first follows the coast and links the border with France and the south of Spain; the second joins Tarragona and Zaragoza, passing through the Ribera d'Ebre region. There is also a high speed train (called the AVE) which joins Madrid to Lleida and Tarragona.

www.renfe.es

by air

Furthermore, Reus Airport is a few kilometres north of Terres de l'Ebre, and there are regular flights from there to different European capitals, as well as other parts of Spain. Barcelona and Valencia international airports, two of the most important in Spain, are both around 150km from Terres de l'Ebre, Barcelona to the north and Valencia to the south.

www.aena.es



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Terres de l'Ebre Tourist Board



Tourism is one of the biggest ways to create economic impact and bring new resources to the region. The Tarragona Regional Tourist Board is in charge of managing the Terres de l'Ebre tourist brand, and their aim is to propose and co-

ordinate activities which boost tourism in the area, as well as supporting all of the promotional activities being developed in Terres de l'Ebre.

Almost 62% of tourists who visit Terres de l'Ebre are families with children. More than 60% come from Catalonia, mainly Barcelona, and 23% from the rest of Spain. The largest foreign market is French tourists.

Terres de l'Ebre is more renowned for its natural areas than anything-else, and this is one of the main reasons for visiting. 35% of the land it covers is protected by the Xarxa Natura 2000 (Nature Network 2000) (<http://xarxanatura2000.com/>) and comprises 115,000 hectares.



Mariano Cebolla



Guillermo Barberá

Ebro Delta National Park

www.gencat.cat/parcs



The Ebro Delta National Park is one of the most visited natural areas in Catalonia, and also one of the best managed, as can be seen by provisions for the physically disabled and the quality of their services, basic factors when including this National Park as one of the twenty-one parks in Spain with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism Certificate.

Where the Ebro River and the Mediterranean meet, there are more than 320 kilometres of sand dunes, bays, salt marshes and lagoons, forming an area of incomparable landscapes, which is only exceeded by the importance of the fauna and flora there. The bird and vegetable species, as well as salt water

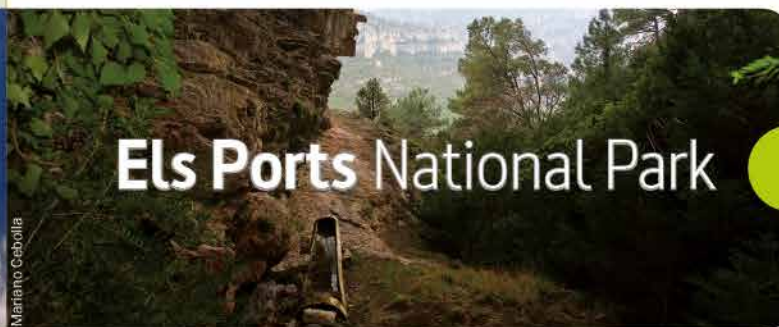
and fresh water eco-systems are one of the biggest attractions. In fact the importance of the Ebro Delta eco-system has been clearly acknowledged, by the declaration of this National park as an area of special protection for birds on an international level (ZEPA).

Visitors to this area, which was declared a National Park in 1983, can enjoy some really privileged views from the watch towers and observation points in the Park.

Proceedings are currently underway for the Park to be declared a Biosphere Reserve.



Mariano Cebolla



Mariano Cebolla

Els Ports National Park

Monumental Trees:

- Pi Gros (Great pine)
- Pimpoll (Black pine)
- Pi de Balijsa (Balijsa pine)
- Lo Parot (Olive tree)
- Faig Pare ("Father" beech)
- Pi Ramut (Ramut pine)
- Teix del Marturi (Marturi Yew)



This was declared a National Park in 2001, and covers 35,050 hectares. From the peak of Mount Caro, the highest in Els Ports massif, you can see a whole mosaic of landscapes making up Terres de l'Ebre. This group of rugged, limestone mountains which covers so much land, is home to more than 1,200 different vegetable species, including some monumental trees, which have witnessed environmental history in this high,

wild land. This rich phytogeography also includes an abundance of varied fauna, covering more than fifty percent of all the reptiles and amphibians in Catalonia. **Els Ports** form a natural border between Catalonia, Aragón and Valencia.

www.gencat.cat/parcs
www.elsports.org

Cardó Mountain Ranges-El Boix

Medicinal waters can be found in the **Cardó** Mountain Range, which is why a large spa was built at the end of the nineteenth century, bearing the same name as the mountain range, however, it is no longer open to the public. This area seems to have been specially designed for lovers of speleology and hiking. You can visit La Raposa Cave, Ortigas Cave, the spectacular Maravi-

llas Caves in Benifallet which are open all through the year, or take a look at the fourteen hermitages, now in ruins, which the Carmelite friars built bare-foot in 1606.

In **El Boix** mountain range, at the highest point of Nines Ravine, you can find Cabrafreixet Cave with its cave paintings, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.



Sebes and Flix Meander Nature Reserve

This reserve was created in 1995 to preserve the large amount of vegetation and wild fauna. It covers more than 200 ha and has one of the largest reed beds in Catalonia. It has been adapted for visitors, who can observe more than 200 species of birds, like the Egyptian Vulture (a symbol of the reserve), the

Golden Oriole, Kingfisher and the White Stork which has been reintroduced to this area, as well as horses from the Camargue which are common to wetlands, and have been introduced to preserve the flora and fauna.

www.reservanaturalsebes.org



Pàndols and Cavalls Mountain Ranges

Hiking around these mountain ranges is like following in the footsteps of the Battle of the Ebro, one of the bloodiest chapters of the Spanish Civil War. The highest peak in this group of mountains stands at 705 metres, and was one of the main strategic points of the

last battle in the war. To make a historical reconstruction, you only have to follow the course of Canaletes River. In the beautiful, fourteenth century La Fontcalda Sanctuary, there is a spring of medicinal mineral waters at 28 °C.





Guillermo Barberá

www.blueflag.org



The Coast

You can travel along this coast by using the GR-92 trail, which crosses the Catalan coast from north to south, and discover attractive fishing villages like l'Ametlla de Mar, l'Ampolla, Sant Carles de la Ràpita and les Cases d'Alcanar. The countryside along the coast culminates in a series of colours which are

closely linked to rice farming, an activity which has been going on in the Delta for many years.

Due to the high quality of the waters here, the beaches and harbours in Terres de l'Ebre, have received the distinction of the blue flag year after year.

The Terres de l'Ebre offers a wide variety of open-air activities in which to enjoy the natural surroundings. They include canoeing, climbing, hang-gliding, and hiking and cycling in the mountains or on "green ways".



Guillermo Barberá

Activities on the river

It is possible to sail all along the Ebro as it passes through this region. Anyone wishing to do some sport, can sail by canoe or kayak, those wanting to take part in a nostalgic trip can get on a tourist skiff boat, which serves as a

reminder of how people used to travel down the river in days gone by.

www.ebrenavegable.com



Xapi

Canyoning

Narrow gorges and streams are a part of the landscape which usually go unknown, normally because access to them can be really complicated. Often, canyoning is the only way to discover

them. Most of the places for doing this sport in Terres de l'Ebre can be found in Els Ports massif.



ATB

Els Ports National Park, Montsià mountain range and the more mountainous areas of Terra Alta and Ribera d'Ebre, have lots of great routes for lovers of nature and mountain biking. There are

tracks across mountain ranges, through ravines, fields of olive trees and also through quiet villages which are full of history.

Cycling

Cycling is a peaceful way to really get to know all of the different landscapes in Terres de l'Ebre. Families and groups of friends can go cycling in the wildest corners of the Ebro Delta National Park,

along rural paths and narrow local roads which go past reservoirs, rice fields and isolated beaches.



Climbing

Terres de l'Ebre has lots to offer for those who love climbing. Els Ports massif, the Montsià and Llaberia mountain ranges are areas with almost virgin rock faces —mainly craggy limestone — and in recent years many different climbing

routes have been created. A real paradise for adventurers who want to discover new rocks whilst holding onto a rope.



www.feec.org

Scuba diving

Those wishing to dive or snorkel and discover the beautiful coastal fauna and contemplate one of the most important Neptune Grass colonies on the Mediterranean

coast, can choose from a wide variety of companies and organizations offering underwater activities, for all levels.



Trekking

Those with a curious nature, who are attracted by sport, local history and the environment, will find lots of different paths to follow through Terres de l'Ebre, because Els Ports Massif, the Ebro Delta,

Montsià mountain range and the cliffs bordering the coast offer thousands of possibilities for walkers to enjoy themselves.



www.feec.org

Sailing

The wind, which can prove problematic in other places, in Terres de l'Ebre gives great enjoyment, since the two bays forming the Delta reduce the force of the waves and allow safe sailing, while the

sails can use all the strength of the wind. This is why sportsmen and women from all over come here to sail.



Horse riding

Routes on horseback are one of the best ways to get really close to nature in Terres de l'Ebre. The spectacular countryside of Els Ports massif and the Montsià

mountain range or the deserted beaches on the Ebro Delta, acquire a new meaning and make you feel at one with your surroundings.



Water Sports Centre Sant Carles de la Ràpita

Is an association of companies, institutions and collectives which have joined together to offer you a wide range of leisure ideas, including nature, sports,

family, business, cultural, and cuisine tourism in Terres de l'Ebre.

www.enlarapita.com





Vía Verde (The green Trail)

www.viasverdes.com



The green trails are a new way to enjoy sport in the open air, by moving without engines in a natural environment. Whether by bike, on horseback or on foot, Terres de l'Ebre offers the chance to cover a route which separates the towns of Tortosa and Arnes, by following the old railway track through

the Zafán valley, in disuse since 1973. This path has been adapted for disabled people, and goes through forty train tunnels, and has some extremely interesting, attractive countryside worth photographing, such as the old railway stations, bridges and leisure areas.

The green train file

Route total	49 Km
Location	between Tortosa and Arnes-Lledó
Towns	Tortosa, Roquetes, EMD Jesús, Aldover, Xerta, Benifallet Pinell de Brai, Prat de Compte, Bot, Horta de Sant Joan & Arnes
Gradient	400 m
Difficulty.....	Low
Uses.....	on foot, horseback or by bike
Accessibility.....	suitable for the physically disable
Type of surface	tarmac
Points for drinking water.....	Aldover, Xerta, Bot and la Fontcalda



Birdwatching

There is a great variety of natural landscape in Terres de l'Ebre, with important, interesting habitats for birds, such as the ravines, coast, agricultural

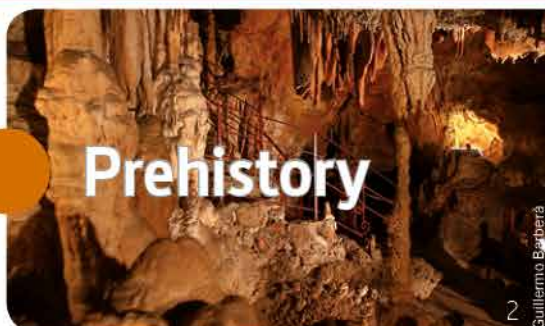
areas and steppes, swamps, marshes etc., making it a privileged observation point for a multitude of different bird species.

Some species which can be found there:

- . Audouin's Gull
- . Black Wheatear
- . Bonelli's Eagle
- . Squacco Heron
- . Red-necked Nightjar
- . Slender-billed Gull
- . Red-rumped Swallow
- . Collared Pratincole
- . Flamingo
- . Short-toed Eagle
- . Griffon Vulture

The river has been a key element for all of the civilizations which have settled on the Iberian Peninsula. These civilizations have left a unique historical and architectural legacy, giving personality and character to these four regions of Catalonia. Terres de l'Ebre is culturally diverse, and this is reflected in the variety of different things on offer for visitors during their stay there.

Prehistory



The first signs of art are found in **cave paintings in Ulldescona (1)**, **Perelló and Freginals**, and were declared World Heritage Sites in 1998 by Unesco. **Maravillas Caves (2)** in Benifallet show important remains of the Neolithic Age, and are situated in incomparable geological surroundings, where water has shaped the passage of time.

The Iberians were also present, most surely attracted by the mouth of the river. Impressive sites are those such as, La

Moleta del Remei and Sant Jaume/Mas d'en Serra, near to the **Interpretation Centre on Iberian Culture** in Alcanar, also known as the **O'Connor House (3)**. One of the most well-known Iberian villages in Catalonia, **El Castellet de Banyoles**, is in Tivissa, and to finish, is the **Coll del Moro** site in Gandesa.

www.turismeulldecona.com
www.benifallet.org
www.alcanarturisme.com
www.tivissa.cat
www.elperelloturisme.com



The Middle Ages



Miravet Castle (1) is one of the most important Templar remains in the area. The castle, which overlooks one of the meanders of the Ebro River, has an exceptional panoramic view, allowing the imagination to wander how life

might have been in mediaeval times, a trip back in time, which is also possible if you visit **Sant Salvador Convent (2)**, in Horta de Sant Joan.

www.miravet.altanet.org
www.hortadesantjoan.cat

Modernism



Pinell de Brai and Gandesa Cooperatives (2) were built by Cèsar Martínel·l during the nineteenth century, and show the link between Modernist architecture and Oenological art, and as

such, are named Wine Cathedrals. The **Old Slaughterhouse (1)** in Tortosa are other examples of Modernist architecture in the region.

www.catedraldelvi.com
www.coopgandesa.com



Guillermo Barberà



Guillermo Barberà

The Spanish Civil War

www.batallaebre.org

History in Terres de l'Ebre cannot be explained, without speaking about the last battle of the Civil War, which took place in the Ebro area, and the remains of the village, Pueblo Viejo in Corbera d'Ebre are testimony to

this. The Memorial Consortium of the Battle of the Ebro Sites (COMEBE) have organized full visits to Interpretation Centres in the area, as well as routes covering historic sites of the Battle of the Ebro.



Grup abs



Guillermo Barberà

Guillermo Barberà

Museums and Cultural Centres

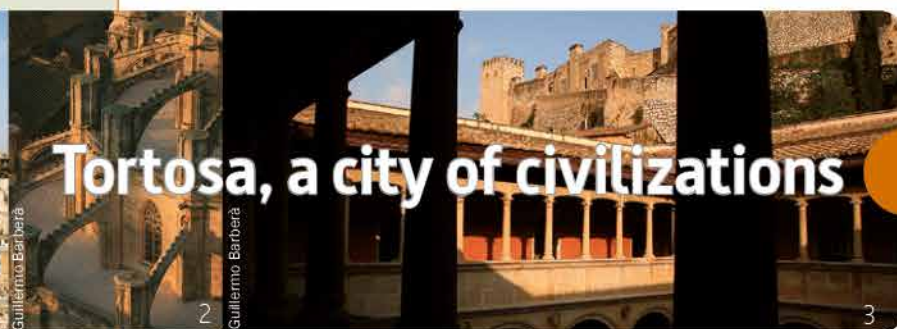
www.centrepicasso.cat
www.museuterresebre.cat

There are more than forty museums and numerous education centres on regional culture in Terres de l'Ebre, like **Terres de l'Ebre Museum (1)**, which is going to house all of the archaeological material from the four Ebre regions, or those which dedicate space to giving information on the civil war, sailing along the river, trades and cuisine. As for nature, interpretation centres in

protected natural areas are well worth a visit. Another place not to be missed is the **Picasso Centre in Horta de Sant Joan (2)**, where the painter stayed in 1998 and returned again in 1909. This museum has facsimile reproductions of work by the painter during his stays in Terres de l'Ebre, which marked the start of Cubism.



Guillermo Barberà



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Tortosa, a city of civilizations

www.tortosaturisme.cat

The capital of Terres de l'Ebre boasts one of the most varied artistic monumental heritages in Catalonia. There are various buildings in the old quarter, which are a reminder of the rich past in this city, like for example **Suda Castle (1)** of Arab origin, the Bishop's Palace in Gothic style, **the Cathedral (2)** with Romanic, Gothic and Renaissance

influences. **The Royal Schools (3)** are a symbol of what the Renaissance influence and the Humanist Movement left on the city, based in a building which was designed for exchanging ideas and thoughts, and it also has a beautiful interior courtyard.

The cultural, historical and festive richness in Terres de l'Ebre is expressed to the utmost in its cuisine, an assortment of the best Mediterranean tradition where rice plays a leading role, as well as local fish, shellfish, vegetables, fruit and products from the land like wine, olive oil and honey.

Many of these high quality products have been recognized with the following distinctions:



Products with DO (designation of origin)



Wine protected with the **"Terra Alta" Designation of Origin** is subjected to rigorous qualifying procedures. Terra Alta makes white wines: young ones which are fresh and well-balanced, while those produced in oak barrels are rich and unique. The red wine is

modern, potent, with lots of body and a predominance of grape flavour. Terra Alta wine is prestigious and internationally renowned.

www.doterralta.com



Products with DOP (protected designation of origin)



Baix Ebre Olive Oil– Montsià, extra virgin olive oil. This is a clear, transparent, oil. The colour varies, depending on harvesting and the area of production, from a greenish to golden yellow. The oil is tasty and very aromatic, as it is made in one of the oldest, most extensive olive farming areas in Catalonia.

Terra Alta extra virgin olive oil, is a clear, transparent oil. It is yellow in colour with pale yellow and old golden yellow overtones. It is fruity at the beginning of the season and slightly sweeter later.

Rice from the Ebro Delta. Rice from the *Oryza sativa* L. specie, exclusive to Bahía, Tebre, Sénia, Fonsa, Bomba and Montsianell varieties, for human consumption. The rice producing area protected by the Ebro Delta DOP corresponds to land located in Amposta, Camarles, Deltebre, l'Aldea, l'Ampolla, Sant Carles de la Ràpita and Sant Jaume d'Enveja.

www.acobem.com

www.dopoliterralta.com

www.do-deltadelebre.com



Products with IGP (protected geographical indication)



The clementine from Terres de l'Ebre is a hybrid of the common mandarin and bitter orange, and is tastier and sweeter. The production of these clementines is carried out under integrated systems. They have a distinctly orange skin, which is more elastic, not very thick and are long-lasting, they are balanced with lots of flavour, juicy and sweeter

than normal. The geographic area of production covers land located in the Baix Ebre and Montsià regions.



Cakes and desserts



Cakes and desserts also have an important place on the table of inhabitants of Terres de l'Ebre. In fact, almost every village has their own speciality, which is accompanied by a sweet wine and marks the end of a meal. Look out for the **cóc de brossat** and **garrofetes del Papa** (3) (Tortosa),

periquillos (Ulldecona), **punyetes** (2) (Roquetes) and pastries made with lard, such as the **coca de panoli** and **pastissets** (1) (in Terres de l'Ebre).

The incredible range of cultures who have inhabited Terres de l'Ebre, are evident in the rich popular culture of its people. Nowadays, in this area there are many well-known festivals of tourist interest, which take both the villagers and tourists back in time.



Tortosa Renaissance Festival

Guillermo Barberà



Festa del Renaixement

The **Tortosa Renaissance Festival**: a festive weekend at the end of July, when the capital of Terres de l'Ebre honours the mark that this historic period left on the city during the sixteenth century, with spectacular processions, plays, concerts, nighttime ac-

tivities and routes around the taverns. This festival has been declared a Local Festival of Tourist Interest in Catalonia, a Festival of National Tourist Interest, and was awarded the Plaque of Honour for Tourism in Catalonia.

www.festadelrenaixement.org



The Passion of Ulldecona

Patronat de la Passió



Patronat de la Passió

The **Passion of Ulldecona**: a religious festival of great interest, related to Easter. This is a cultural and festive demonstration which is renowned in Ca-

talonia and the rest of Spain.- almost all of the village take part in a performance based on the biblical evangelists.

www.passioulldacona.org



Other traditional festivals



Meriàns Capella

Other traditional festivals show the intensity and permanence of traditions in Terres de l'Ebre. As is such with the bulls, festivals in the fields, the hoeing and the harvesting in Deltebre, which are all related to traditional rice farming, the Eau-de-vie Festival and the «Cresol» race in Prat de Compte, the

Godall Carnival, the **San Antonio Festival in El Perelló and Ascó**, recently declared a festival of national interest and the **San Galderico Festival**, which takes place year after year in a different place in the Ribera d'Ebre or Terra Alta regions, are all clear examples.

www.turismedeltebre.com
www.pratdecompte.altanet.org
www.godall.altanet.org
www.elperelloturisme.com
www.ascoturisme.com

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Patronat de Turisme



Diputació Tarragona