

A LAND OF CONTRASTS

Segarra (721.2 km²) is a region in the Catalan Central Depression and is bordered by Anoia, Conca de Barberà, Urgell, Noguera and Solsonès. Formed by 20 or so municipalities, it can be divided into two sub-regions: the Guissona plain to the north and the Cervera plain to the south.

The landscape of Segarra is very varied, with plateaus in the surroundings of Cervera, wide valleys in the north of the region and a terraced plain that extends to the east. The mountain ranges of Montclar (489 m), Pinós (931 m) and Boixadors (840 m) contribute to creating an even more diverse landscape, together with the plateaus, hills, mountain ranges and gorges created by rivers and streams. The most important river courses, despite their irregular flow, define four subsidiary basins of the Segre: the rivers Llobregós, Sió, Ondara and Corb.

The Segarra climate is Mediterranean with influences of a continental climate. The little influence of the sea causes severe winters and hot dry summers, as well as significant variations in rainfall, gentle winds and fog. The vegetation, according to this climate, is more steppe-like mixed with southern influences.

Segarra has a landscape and rural life that has been relatively untouched by urbanisation and industrialisation, which is concentrated in the main towns of the region. For this reason, apart from being a land of contrasts, Segarra is characterised by its inherent beauty, capable of satisfying those who are sensitive to the values of nature, rural life and history. People who search for new experiences, which they will find in Segarra.

DISCOVER A RICH AND DIVERSE HERITAGE

Segarra's heritage extends to its name, as it preserves almost unaltered the name of the Roman town of *Sigarra* (1st century AD), which was located outside the region's current border, towards Anoia. The name moved westwards with the feudal conquest of the Hispanic March territory or upper border of Al-Andalus, between the 10th and 11th centuries, until it became established in the present regional territory.

The history of the name is just one indication of Segarra's long and intense history. The land of the region has been continuously inhabited since Neolithic times and this has created a heritage that includes the remains of **Roman cities** (Ilesso-Guissona), watchtowers (Vallferosa, etc.), **walled towns** and **mediaeval castles** (Montfalcó Murallat, Sanaüja, les Sitges, Florejacs, etc.), **Renaissance castle-palaces** (Castellmeià, Concabella, etc.), large **sanctuaries** and small **chapels** (Sant Ramon de Portell, Sant Dubte d'Ivorra, Sant Esteve de Pelagalls, Sant Pere Gros, etc.), **Catalan modernisme buildings** (Serradora Martí, wine warehouses and private homes in Cervera, Sindicats Agrícoles of Cervera and Sant Guim de Freixenet, etc.), among other sites that always amaze visitors.

Other heritage elements of Segarra include **boundary crosses** (Florejacs, Hostafrancs, Torà, etc) and dry-stone constructions, such as the agricultural **terraces**, **barns** and **sheepfolds** for animals. Traditional architecture can be found everywhere and speaks of the wisdom passed down through the centuries (Sanaüja, Plans de Sió, etc.).

Aware of its rich and varied heritage, Segarra provides visitors with the tools to understand and enjoy it, in the form of modern museums, collections open to the public and other cultural facilities.

Museums and collections in Segarra:

- ✓ **Museu Comarcal de Cervera**
- ✓ **Museu Eduard Camps de Guissona**
- ✓ **Parc Arqueològic Ilesso de Guissona**
- ✓ **Museu de la Pagesia de Sisteró**
- ✓ **Museu del Pa de Torà**
- ✓ **Sanctuari Sant Ramon de Portell, collection of votive offerings**

SHARING TRADITIONS AND FESTIVALS

The ways of life that have evolved over the centuries have resulted in many **traditions and festivals**, deeply rooted in the ancient ways, which express the region's identity.

Alongside these expressions of traditional culture, Segarra continues to create new festivals and forms of leisure in keeping with the times, new cultural representations experienced by the entire population, which are destined, over time, to become traditions themselves.

The Segarra offers visitors the chance to experience these cultural expressions with the local population and to take part in them. The people of Segarra, together with the *gegants* (giants), *capgrossos* (big heads), *cavallets* (little horses), *dracs* (dragons) and *cuques feres* (carnival dragons), look forward to welcoming visitors with open arms!

Traditions and festivals that have something for everyone:

- ✓ **Aquelarre de Cervera**
- ✓ **Passió de Cervera**
- ✓ **Sant Magí de Cervera**
- ✓ **Completes de Cervera**
- ✓ **Curs Internacional de Música de Cervera**
- ~~✓ **Fira de Sant Isidre de Cervera**~~
- ✓ **Festa del Brut i la Bruta de Torà**
- ✓ **Festa del Roser de Torà**
- ✓ **Festa de l'Enramada de Guissona**
- ✓ **Mercat Romà de Guissona**
- ✓ **Castell de focs de Sanaüja**
- ✓ **Pessebre Vivent de Sant Guim de la Plana**
- ✓ **Fira de l'Ou de Sant Guim de Freixenet**
- ✓ **Festival de música de Concabella**
- ✓ **Concurs de carbasses gegants de Sedó**

REGIONAL GASTRONOMY AND PRODUCTS

The historical heritage, traditions and festivals combine well with good food and drinks and quality products from the land, produced by the work of the local people. In Segarra, the combination is perfect. The bakeries, kitchens and tables offer visitors good healthy products: **pork and dairy products, good cuisine, pastries**, sweets and **alcoholic drinks** (ratafia, wines and liqueurs) that re-energise visitors who have spent the day enjoying the landscape, discovering the region's heritage and sharing its traditions.

Segarra offers traditional foods and products that not only have never been lost, unlike in other regions, but are treated with the creativity and quality demands of the 21st century.

There are also craftspeople in Segarra who handmake **espadrilles** (Cervera), **puppets** and **capgrossos** (Guissona), **ceramics** (Castellnou d'Oluges, Guissona, Sant Pere dels Arquells, Talavera) and other products known and appreciated in and outside the region.

SEGARRA, AT YOUR LEISURE

Segarra stretches across a gently rolling landscape that preserves an eminently rural character, where every bend in the road and every piece of farmland conceals a piece of the region's rich heritage. It's an area where good food and drink allow you to regain your strength quickly and is ideal for exploring on foot or by bike.

At a leisurely pace, visitors can enjoy a landscape of features that transform with the rhythm of the seasons, capable of changing from the harshness of summer and winter to the gentleness of spring and autumn. These latter two seasons are the best time to travel through Segarra and discover how the same countryside can change, within a few months, from the intense green that reaches as far as the eye can see to all the shades of ochre, with each step or push of the pedal.

Segarra has many **hiking and mountain bike routes**, perfectly signposted and adapted to all possibilities and interests. Some of the routes are more scenic and others are more heritage-oriented but they all propose the discovery of the greatest range of contrasts in the area.

Hiking routes in Segarra:

- ✓ Ruta del Cercavins
- ✓ Ruta de la Pleta
- ✓ Ruta dels Romans

Mountain bike routes in Segarra:

- ✓ Ruta dels Castells del Doll
- ✓ Ruta dels Castells del Sió
- ✓ Ruta de les Dues Valls
- ✓ Ruta del Monestir
- ✓ Ruta de la Torre de Vallferosa
- ✓ Ruta de les Torres de Guaita
- ✓ Ruta dels Turons