

THE ROUTE OF THE CASTLES ON THE RIO SEGARRA on the route of the castles on the rio segarra the route of the castles on the rio segarra



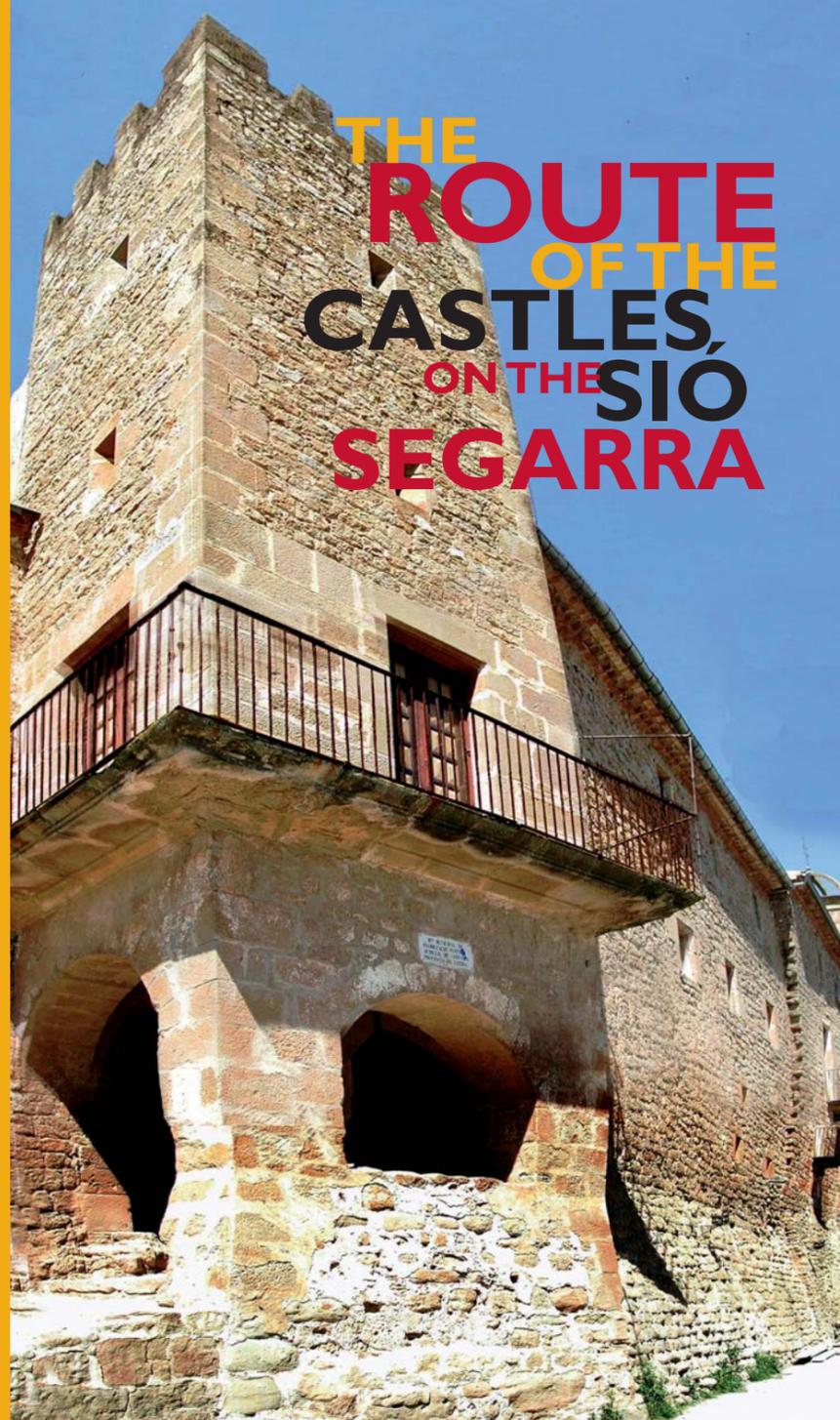
THE RIVER SIÓ In Gaver (Segarra), the water rises up through the substratum as a spring that starts to define the course of the River Sió, which winds its way down 77 km until flowing into the River Segre. It is a river with a rainfall regime, meaning that its flow depends directly on the volume of rainfall that it receives. As the Segarra region is a dry crop area with little rainfall, the flow of the River Sió is very sparse until it reaches the Noguera, an irrigated area where its volume noticeably increases. Since way back in time, the existence of water has been an essential, strategic feature for human settlements in one place or another, meaning that the banks of the River Sió have been the home to different cultures. In the period of the Christian re-conquest, there was a proliferation of defence towers and later of urban centres. Another characteristic feature is that the water of the River Sió was used as a driving force for different flour mills, being used at several points along its course. During the middle of the 20th century, the mills fell into disuse and many of the installations deteriorated.



Castells del Sió
In the middle of the 11th century, the bank of the River Sió was re-conquered from the Arabs and there was soon a proliferation of castles and churches that guaranteed Christian presence. This is how the River Sió became a frontier place in this land, as well as an area for social, cultural and economic communication.

The Route of the Castles on the Sió in the Segarra region basically runs along the course of this river, following an itinerary that coincides in full with the defence lines that were created in the Upper March or Ath-Thaghr al-Alà at the end of the 10th century and beginning of the 11th century. The route offers us a historic, monumental view of the border castles that were built during this period.

It is a flat route that goes into the dry crop landscape typical of the Segarra region, suitable for all kinds of family trips, whether by car, on foot or by mountain bike.



THE ROUTE OF THE CASTLES ON THE RIO SEGARRA

www.lasegarra.org

... CASTLES TO VISIT (NORTH OF THE RIVER) ...

MONTFALCÓ MURALLAT

Montfalcó Murallat is one of the architectural beauties of the land of Lleida: it is a small mediaeval village (11th century) built on top of a hill which occupied a strategic position for surveying and defending the area during the period of the Christian re-conquest. This exceptional site still preserves some fifteen stone houses which take shelter against the refuge of the walls.

Guided trips for groups and workshop trips for school groups (booking required).

Regional Tourist Information Office Tel. +34 973 531 303
CAT.Tel. +34 973 534 442



FLOREJACS CASTLE

Arnau Mir de Tost, the Lord of Àger, built this castle in the 11th century on top of an even older fort. In fact, its name has Iberian roots: loreac, "fortified elevation of flowers".

The castle is currently a large Renaissance style house which preserves some mediaeval features, such as the outer walls and a quadrangular tower. It also has a large collection of historic objects, ranging from toys and clothes from different periods to weapons.

Castles of Lleida
Tel. +34 973 40 20 45
www.castellsdelleida.com



LES SITGES CASTLE

The name Les Sitges (The Silos) can be found documented from 1025 and the castle of the same name is mentioned from 1116 (castrum de Ciges). Thanks to its strategic situation, it played a protagonist role during the Christian fighting and the advance towards the lands of Muslim Hispania.

The castle preserves a genuinely mediaeval appearance, with a narrow homage tower (13th century) in the centre of the ensemble which is more than 20 m tall. Inside, the castle has areas typical of an aristocratic residence and still preserves the wine cellars, the dungeons and the areas destined for the kitchen, foundry and stables.

Les Sitges Castle
Tel. +34 600 537 970
www.castelldellessitges.com



CONCABELLA CASTLE

The first information we have about this castle dates back to the beginning of the 11th century. The castle very soon passed to the hands of the Concabella lineage, who maintained its lordship until the 14th century, when it changed hands to a different family. The Erill family transformed the fort into a castle-palace in the 16th century.

It currently houses the Interpretation Centre of the Castles on the Sió, which provides us with the parameters to understand an essential part of our history: the feudal expansion over Al-Andalus, the creation of a Christian defence line and the survival of the seigniorial system during the modern period.

Regional Tourist Information Office
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LES PALLARGUES CASTLE

The first references to the Pallargues Castle date back to the mid-11th century, when it was mentioned as Espallargues. At that time, the construction consisted of a watchtower and defence tower and little more, and was isolated in the highest point next to the River Sió.

Today's castle belongs to the kind of castle-palace style that was found in abundance in the Segarra region, with a very irregular layout, as a result of various construction periods. Inside it, you can visit the rooms destined for service, the stately floor, the guardrooms, the ice house, the wine cellars, etc.

Les Pallargues Castle
Tel. +34 973 520 041
www.castelldepallargues.com



VICFRED CASTLE

The current building brings to mind a beautiful stately residence rather than a frontier castle. Although, in fact, its origins were just that. The place was first mentioned in 1079 as Bichfred and, later, as Castrum de Becfreit. It belonged to the Cardona lineage.

Throughout its history, the castle underwent many alterations as it lost its function as a defence building. Today, what we see is a large 17th- and 18th-century mansion with a huge collection of paintings, embroideries, costumes, etc.

Castles of Lleida
Tel. +34 973 402 045
www.castellsdelleida.com



... CASTLES TO VISIT (SOUTH OF THE RIVER) ...

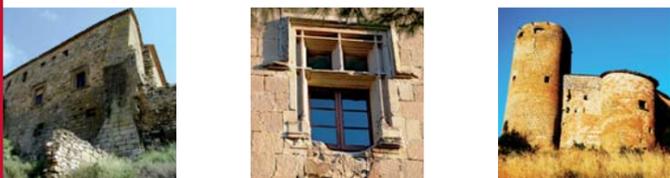
MONTCORTÈS CASTLE

The original Montcortès Castle was initially documented in the 11th century. However, as in the case of so many other frontier castles, at the end of the 15th century it was altered and replaced by the building that you can see today. The small centre of Montcortès is made up of 17th- and 18th-century farmhouses and the Church of Santa Anna (16th century).



CASTELLMEIÀ CASTLE

Castellmeià fort, with two circular towers which gave it a robust, majestic appearance, presided over the village of the same name and the small Romanesque church situated next to it. Castellmeià (castrum Midiani) already existed in 1044. During the 16th century, the ancient fort was transformed into today's castle-palace.



MEJANELL TOWER

All that is preserved of the ancient 11th-century castle is the circular defence tower to which, in modern times, a house was attached. Today, the tower and the 16th-century farmhouses are integrated and have been converted into rural accommodation.



VERGÓS GUERREJAT CASTLE

Although Vergós Guerrejat Castle was mentioned as early as the beginning of the 12th century, what you can see today mainly corresponds to the alterations done during the 16th century.



MOLÍ DE RATERA CASTLE

Ratera Castle existed in 1008, when it was most probably a secondary fortification of Concabella Castle. The castle, which in the 14th and 15th centuries had already been converted into a Gothic mansion, had a mill which worked thanks to the water of the River Sió (16th century). In this way, the old frontier castle became a military, residential and production complex.



LES OLUGES

The old town of Les Oluges was originally (in the 11th century) made up of two centres: Oluja Alta or Sobirana and Oluja Baja or Jussana, each of which has its own castle and church. Today, the main castle is the one in Oluja Baja, a notable Renaissance construction from the 16th century.



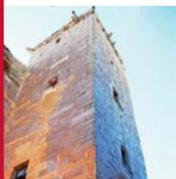
IVORRA CASTLE

All that is left of the original 11th-century mediaeval castle is the circular tower, in the highest part of the village, popularly known as the Torre del Moro. Below the main square, the ancient castle cistern (13th century) can be visited, now reformed and accessible.



ARANYÓ CASTLE

The current building is the result of the alterations that were started in the 16th century, which totally changed the appearance of the mediaeval fort. In fact, it is a genuine reconstruction that gave rise to a castle-residence in which the required defence systems were combined with the residential function. In the 19th century, it belonged to the family of the author Manuel de Pedrol, born in Aranyó in 1918.



TOURIST INFORMATION

Cervera Tourist Information Office.
Mayor, 115 (Cervera). Tel. +34 973 531 303

Segarra County Council. Pº Jaume Balmes, 3
(Cervera). Tel. +34 973 531 300

CAT. Av. President Macià, 78 (Cervera)
Tel. +34 973 534 442

Guissona Tourist Information Office. Pl. Vell Pla, 7 (Guissona).
Tel. +34 973 551 414

FESTIVALS

- Live Nativity in Sant Guim de la Plana
- El Brut i la Bruta of Torà, La Llordera Festival
- The Cervera Passion Play
- The Cervera Easter Festival
- Good Friday Market in Torà
- Florejacs Town Festival
- San Isidro de Cervera Trade Fair
- The Enramada Festival, Guissona
- The Egg Trade Fair, Sant Guim de Freixenet
- "Lo Cercacurts" Short Film Festival, Montornès de Segarra
- Ileso Roman Market, Guissona
- Cervera International Music Festival
- Aquelarre de Cervera
- Tres tombs of Sant Ramon
- Sanaüja Firework Castle
- Concabella and Ratera Music Festival

WEEKLY MARKETS IN THE SEGARRA REGION

Cervera: Friday
Guissona: Thursday
Sant Guim de Freixenet: Thursday (if the Thursday is a public holiday, it is brought forward to Wednesday)
Torà: Friday
Sant Ramon: Tuesday
Sanaüja: Sunday

ROUTES AND PATHS

- The Route of the Romans (path)
- The Pleta Route (path)
- The Route of the Castles of the Sió (mountain bike)
- The Route of the Castles of the Doll (mountain bike)
- The Two Valleys Route (mountain bike)
- The Monastery Route (mountain bike)
- The Ivorra Sanctuary Routes

More routes at www.lasegarra.org