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GPS TOURISM: objectives, partners and territories

Green Pyrenees Slow Tourism (GPS Tourism) is a project of tourism revitalization based on the principles of sustainable mobility that was launched by nine partners from five territories located on both sides of the Pyrenees.

The project was funded by the POCTEFA 2014-2020 European Programme (acronym of the INTERREG V-A Spain-France-Andorra Programme), aimed at encouraging the sustainable development of the border area through territorial cooperation.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are the following:

- Promote the natural and cultural heritage of the Pyrenees through the development of a comprehensive cross-border model of tourism linked to ecomobility.
- Reinforce the visibility and promotion of the mountain destinations of the Pyrenees linked to ecomobility on international markets.
- Adapt infrastructure and equipment in order to improve the access to the natural and cultural sites of those destinations.
- Design and carry out common strategies of public and private cooperation.

The project has given the opportunity to develop tourist strategies linked to ecomobility, to create cross-border tourist products and to train public and private actors on ecomobility.

Partners of the project

The project is led by the *Consell Comarcal del Pallars Jussà* (Regional Council of Pallars Jussà) together with 8 other partners:

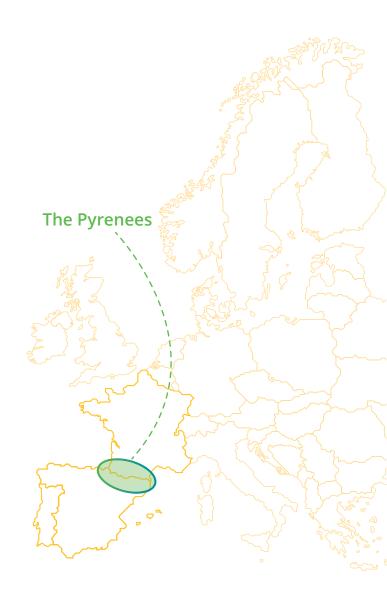
- Consell Comarcal del Pallars Sobirà (Regional Council of Pallars Sobirà)
- Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes
- Communauté de Communes Pyrénées Vallées des Gaves
- Syndicat Mixte du Train Rouge Train touristique du Pays
- Cathare et du Fenouillèdes
- Communauté de Communes Agly Fenouillèdes
- Syndicat Agly Verdouble
- Association du Pays de la Vallée de l'Agly
- Office de Tourisme Communautaire-Perpignan Méditerranée

Territories involved in the project

The GPS Tourism project includes five Pyrenean territories located on both sides of the mountain chain:

- Pallars Jussà
- Pallars Sobirà
- Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes
- Vallée de l'Agly
- Val d'Azun Vallées des Gaves

This dossier describes these five territories and their respective options of ecomobility as well as their main natural and cultural resources, tourist equipment, most representative tourist activities and accommodation offer.





Sustainable mobility and ecomobility

GPS Tourism project is based on sustainable mobility and ecomobility. But what do these concepts mean, actually? Here is a succinct description.

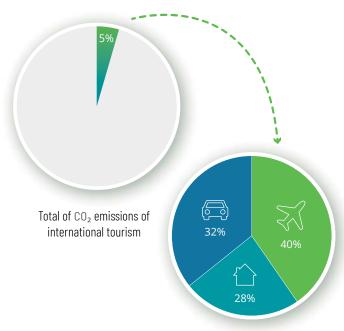
A trend that is transforming the future of tourism

The commitment to a sustainable and responsible tourism is one of the trends that most clearly emerged during the last few years and that will undoubtedly mark the future model of tourist development.

This is what is stated in the report "Analysing megatrends to better shape the future of tourism" published in 2018 by OECD on the megatrends that will have a direct impact on tourism by 2040. (Studies on tourism by 0ECD, 2018/02, 0ECD editions, Paris, http://bit.do/0CDE-megatendances).

Considering the environmental impacts generated by the increase of visitor flows –including the greenhouse gas emissions– will be a factor of competitivity in territories and companies as well as an element to improve the quality of life of the local population.

Graphic with the $\rm CO_2$ emissions of international tourism



CO2 emissions of international tourism

The $\mathrm{CO_2}$ emissions generated by international tourism actually represents 5% of the total, and about three quarters of these emissions are produced by the transports used to get to the destination and to move around. The plane represents 40% and the car 32%, while the emissions generated by accommodation facilities are more than 20%.

In this context, **ecomobility** is a key factor for the management of destinations and tourist companies, because it can generate the following positive consequences, among others:

- Efficiency and savings regarding resource management.
- Better quality of life for both residents and visitors.
- Higher prestige of the destination, which uses ecomobility as a marketing element to attract visitors, who are getting more receptive to this concept.

One of the key instruments to promote ecomobility is the creation of **tourist experiences and products** that:

- Consider the way to get to the destination and to move around the territory.
- Prioritize collective transport over private options.
- Promote activities that generate less CO₂.
- Calculate the emissions generated and use mechanisms to compensate them.

Definitions

According to the French ADEME (Agency of Environment and Control of Energy), the concept of *tourist ecomobility* is a recent term that combines several definitions and embraces different issues.

Sustainable mobility

This type of mobility uses human energy as propulsion method to move around and travel, such as walking, cycling, skating, horse-riding, pony-riding, donkey-riding as well as kayaking or canoeing, for example.

Ecomobility

In addition to sustainable mobility, it refers to motorized means of transport that intend to be eco-friendlier and to alternative transport systems used instead of private vehicles. The most common are the collective means of transport, the train, the boat and the systems of carsharing and bikesharing.

The use of private car in European urban areas is decreasing:

Paris Only 36,8% of the households have their own car.

London Only 40% of the households have their own car.
Only 12% of the households have more than one ca

97: 97: 97: 97: 97: 97: 97: 97: 97: 97:

Copenhaguen Only 29% of the households have their own car.

Pallars Jussà Pastillo del Mur, Mur-Pallars Jussà

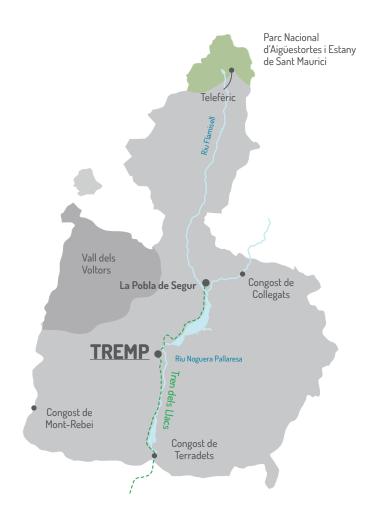
Pallars Jussà is a region located in the northwest of Catalonia. It is characterized by its wide range of contrasts, from Mediterranean to high mountain sites. A genuine territory with a strong personality.

These contrasts allow you to discover from agricultural plains to extended forests, by way of steep crags, high mountains (included Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park), glacial and karstic lakes, and wild rivers. Landscapes that host a wealth and diversity of flora and fauna, especially scavengers and birds of prey.

Water is the main character in most parts of the region. The presence of reservoirs, lakes and rivers offers incredible postcards. The abundance of water was actually the origin of the huge social and landscape transformation of the region in the early 20th century, as the wide hydroelectric heritage currently shows.

Those landscapes have conserved footprints of both distant (millions years ago) and near past. Visitors will get the opportunity to travel through the time of dinosaurs and funerary rites (megalithic tombs), to revive the arrival of the Roman and their expansion, to admire castles, Romanesque churches and closed cities (walled cities) built in the Middle Age, when Pallars Jussà used to be a border area.

Pallars Jussà also rimes with living memory, celebrated through ancestral traditions such as the Fallas (descent of torches), the Raiers' day (descent of rafters on the river Noguera Pallaresa) and the cattle fairs (so important in the past). Gastronomy is another example of tradition. Its products have kept the best elements of the past and innovated to adapt to modern times.



Pallars Jussà all year round!



Tren dels Llacs



Museums



Paddle surf



Mountain ski



Trekking



Kayak and enokayak



Romanesque art



Horse riding



Local food



Natural areas



Fairs and local festivities



Canyoning



MTB



Birding



Stargazing



Climbing

Get to and move around in ecomobility mode

The following chart shows the different options that allow you to get to Pallars Jussà as well as the possibilities of sustainable mobility in the region.



Train - Tourist Train

Lérida - La Pobla de Segur Line

The "Train of the Lakes" has both conventional and tourist use, with panoramic carriages. Daily basis. A historic train also runs on Saturdays, from spring to autumn.

www.lleidalapobla.fgc.cat/home www.trendelsllacs.cat/en/index/

In Lérida, connection with conventional train lines and High speed train to Barcelona and Madrid.



Bus

Lérida - València d'Àneu Line.

Barcelona - València d'Àneu Line.

https://www.alsa.es/en



Park Bus

Service of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, available from June to September.

Connection to Lérida-La Pobla de Segur train line and to Vall Fosca cable car.

http://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/en/aiguestortes and https://www.alsa.es/en/home



Taxis

Taxi service available.

Further information:

https://www.pallarsjussa.net/en/information/public-transport



Carshare

Through the social networks and online carsharing platforms. Especially active at weekends.



Cable Car

Vall Fosca cable car, the entrance door to Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park.

Available from July to September.

http://www.vallfosca.net/en/things-to-do-and-see/cablecar/



Walking

Information on paths and routes on: https://pallarsjussa.net/en/hiking



Cycling

Some hiking routes and local roads with little traffic are also suitable for bicycles.

https://www.pallarsjussa.net/en/information/walks-and-hikes-map



Electric bicycles

Several rental points available in the region.



MTB Routes

Information on trails and routes on: https://www.pallarsjussa.net/en/what-to-do/mo untain-bike

Some hiking routes are also suitable for MTB.



Horseriding

Some hiking routes are also suitable for horseriding.

https://www.pallarsjussa.net/en/what-to-do/horse-riding



River mobility

Water activities in lakes and rivers.

Information on:

https://www.pallarsjussa.net/en/what-to-do/water-adventure



Move on the snow

Activity concentrated in Vall Fosca, the high part of the region.



Natural and cultural resources



- Sierra de Montsec, Mont-Rebei and Terradets Canyons
- Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park
- Boumort mountain range
- Collegats Canyon



- Basturs Lakes Tremp Bassin
- Terradets Lake
- Sant Antoni Lake



- Vall Fosca (Dark Valley)
- Manyanet Valley
- La Terreta and Sant Gervàs mountain range



- River Noguera Pallaresa
- River Flamisell

Pallars Jussà Embassament de Terradets, Cellers - Pallars Jussà



Tourist activities

Here are the five best tourist activities and experiences offered in the region:

Vall Fosca Cable Car

Board this cable car and get easily up to the only National Park of Catalonia. From there, you will enjoy spectacular mountain landscapes.

Hiking and nature

Enjoy the wide network of local paths all year round. Contrasted landscapes, routes for all levels, historical itineraries, untouched nature...

Border castles

Come and discover the medieval castles and the stories of the time when people used to fight for thrones in Pallars Jussà.

Geological past

The whole Pallars Jussà is included into the Conca de Tremp-Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark, which is a guarantee of the presence of activities aimed at discovering the geological heritage of the region, especially the famous remains of dinosaurs.

Water activities in lakes and canyons

Sant Antoni and Terradets lakes offer several options to sail in a wonderful and quiet environment. If you prefer strong feelings, the region is full of canyons!



Cultural resources

- Train of the Lakes
- Border Castles
- Shops-Museum in Salàs de Pallars
- Dinosaurs in Isona and Conca Dellà
- Casa Mauri modernist ensemble
- Raiers (rafters) in La Pobla de Segur
- Falles (torches) in La Pobla de Segur
- Romanesque art in Vall Fosca



Here is a brief description of the main tourist facilities of the region.

Sports and nature Centre in the Pyrenees - La Pobla de Segur

Located in the former train station of La Pobla de Segur, this centre born thanks to the GPS Tourism project is a Tourist Office, a Trekking & bike Centre and an exhibition space of local nature.

Further information:

www.lapobladesegur.cat/en/fitxa/tourism-office

Shops-Museum in Salàs de Pallars

Old Trade Interpretive Centre. This original museum proposal is a recreation of eight period shops and spaces based on the exposure and dissemination of daily consumer goods.

Further information: botiquesmuseusalas.cat/es

Epicentre, Geopark's visitor centre – Tremp

Core of the local tourist information of Conca de Tremp-Montsec UNESCO Global Geopark and space where the values of its cultural and natural heritage are explained.

Further information:

www.pallarsjussa.net/en/cultural-heritage/epicentre-visitors-center

Conca Dellà Museum - Isona

Discover an area that used to be occupied by some of the last dinosaurs in Europe and then by Roman culture.

Further information: www.parc-cretaci.com/en

Vall Fosca Hydroelectric Museum – Capdella

A trip that starts from the very first idea of the hydroelectric power station to its launch in 1914, by way of the economic, social and infrastructural changes it involved.

Further information:

www.vallfosca.net/en/things-to-do-and-see/capdella -hydroelectric-museum

Little farm in Mont-rebei

The remains of the old farm are used to welcome all the visitors who come and discover the impressive Mont-rebei Canyon.

Further information:

www.fundaciocatalunya-lapedrera.com/es/congost-d e-mont-rebei/la-masieta

Espai Raier (Rafter Space) - La Pobla de Segur

This museum allows you to learn about the former profession of *raier* (rafter) linked to the wood manufacturing and its transportation through the river

Further information:

www.lapobladesegur.cat/en/fer_visitar/espai-raier-timber-raftsmen

The House of Vultures -Tamúrcia Tower

Tourist Desk and Interpretive Centre of the scavengers you can watch in the Pyrenees and in the impressive area of La Terreta.

Further information: www.viujussa.cat/en/casal-dels-voltors

Casa Bonifaci - Llimiana

This house tells the visitors about the local past and the history of the Bonifaci family, four generations of doctors, from the early 19th century on, whose most famous member was Josep Bonifaci Mora, because of his medical and political career during the Spanish Civil War.

Further information: www.llimiana.com/bonifaci.php

Hydroelectric Power Station - Talarn

Together with Capdella Hydroelectric Museum, this exhibition and visit will broaden your knowledge of the hydroelectric heritage of the region.

Further information:

 $\underline{www.pallarsjussa.net/es/patrimonio-cultural/central}\\ \underline{-hidroelectrica-de-talarn}$

Casal Manyanet - Tremp

This house allows you to revive the atmosphere of Tremp in the 19th century and to know more about Saint Josep Manyanet's life, a famous priest and educator.

Further information:

www.pallarsjussa.net/en/cultural-heritage/casal-man yanet

Accommodation



Tourist information sites and offices

- Pallars Jussà region | <u>www.pallarsjussa.net/en</u>
- Activities and accommodation in Pallars Jussà | www.viujussa.cat/en
- La Vall Fosca | www.vallfosca.net/en
- Conca de Tremp-Montsec Geopark | www.projectegeoparctrempmontsec.com/en/
- Province of Lleida | www.aralleida.cat/en
- The Catalan Pyrenees | www.visitpirineus.com/en
- Tourism in Catalonia | www.catalunya.com



Pallars Sobirà is a Catalan region located in the heart of the Pyrenees. From Collegats Canyon northwards, this territory stretches along the river Noguera Pallaresa and its tributaries, forming a series of valleys that have their own character.

The region combines wild high mountain landscapes, lakes and Alpine meadows in the higher parts (temporarily settled by shepherds and forest rangers) together with lively and active valleys, such as Àssua, Cardós, Ferrera, Siarb, Burg and Àneu valleys.

Pallars Sobirà also hosts the largest lake in the Pyrenees (Certascan) as well as the highest peak (Pica d'Estats) and the highest inhabited village in Catalonia (Rubió).

The lushness of nature in the area may be the reason why this is the Catalan region with most protected surfaces, such as Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park (the only one in Catalonia) and Alt Pirineu Natural Park (the largest in Catalonia).

This landscape has witnessed a 500-year medieval history, during the Pallars County. The splendour of that period is expressed by the architectural remains, both civil and religious. The main cultural heritage is the Romanesque architecture, whereas the ethnographic one lies in the mountain areas that still preserve popular memory as well as old tools and machines used for the Pyrenean traditional professions.

Pallars Sobirà region also has delicious restaurants where you can taste local wines and a wide range of organic food. Due to the enthusiasm and innovation of its cooks and to the commitment of its restaurateurs, who are all part of an association called "La Xicoia", the *pallaresa* cuisine rimes with wealth, quality and creativity.



Pallars Sobirà all year round!



Trekking



Snow tourism



Mountain ski



MTB



Running



Kayak



Rafting



Romanesque art



Industrial heritage







Naturales areas



Horseriding



Canyoning



Fairs and local Festivities



Local food

Get to and move around in ecomobility mode

The following chart shows the different options that allow you to get to Pallars Sobirà as well as the possibilities of sustainable mobility in the region.



Train + Bus

Train - Bus combination that connects Lérida-La Pobla de Segur line to Pallars Sobirà.

In Lérida, connection with conventional train lines and High speed train to Barcelona and Madrid.

http://lleidalapobla.fgc.cat/documents/20181/0/ Horaris_Lleida_V+_Aneu_2018.pdf



Bus

Lleida - València d'Àneu Line.

Barcelona - València d'Àneu Line.

https://www.alsa.es/en/home



Park Bus

Service of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, available from June to September.

Connection to Lérida-La Pobla de Segur train line and to Vall Fosca cable car.

http://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/en/aiguestortes and www.alsa.es/en/home



Snow Bus

Snow Bus and Ski Bus.

Further information on: http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/ and http://www.skipallars.cat/en/



Taxis

Regional Taxi service available.

Connections to La Seu d'Urgell, Barcelona and other destinations.

Taxi service from several towns to Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, Alt Pirineu Natural Park and other natural sites.

https://otpallarssobira.wordpress.com/bus/taxis-2/



Taxis

Taxi service from Espot to Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park.

http://www.taxisespot.com

Further information on:

http://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/en/aiguestortes/ visiteu-nos/acces-parc-00001/index.html



Walking

Information on trails and routes on: http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/things-to-do /hiking/



River mobility

Different options of activities on wild and calm waters

http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/things-to-do/outdoor-adventure/



Cycling

Unmarked mountain passes: Port de la Bonaigüa, Port del Cantó, ...



MTB Routes

Information on routes on:
http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/things-to-do
/outdoor-adventure/mountain-biking/



Horseriding

Information on trails and routes on:
http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/things-to-do/outdoor-adventure/horseback-riding/



Move on the snow

Activities of ski mountaineering, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

http://turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/things-to-do/snow-activities/





Tourist activities

Here are the five best tourist activities and experiences offered in the region:

Snow tourism

Practice Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ski mountaineering, ... and have fun in the snow parks, ski kindergartens and snow ratracks in one of the many ski resorts of the region: Espot, Port Ainé, Tavascan, Baqueira-Beret (Bonaigua-Pallars section) and Virós-Vallferrera.

Hiking and nature

Follow the paths of Pallars Sobirà, from the old network of traditional tracks to the wide range of trails of the Parks. Enjoy great experiences accompanied by an official guide who will help you to find the best landscapes, to watch the flora and fauna and to find out about the most singular elements of traditional architecture.

Activities in nature

MTB routes through forest tracks, horse-riding itineraries and, if you like running, don't miss the mountain races!

Water activities in rivers and canyons

The river Noguera Pallaresa and several local canyons are prefect places to practice canyoning, rafting and kayaking in wild waters. For more peaceful activities, La Torrassa lake is an ideal option.

Culture, heritage and literature

Romanesque churches, medieval bridges, castles and watchtowers, bunkers from the Spanish Civil War, historical industrial heritage, ... The endless number of remains you can visit here will take you to the past and let you discover some legendary sites and a millenary history. The territory also hosts literary routes that allow you to discover or revive the scenes of some popular books.



Cultural resources

- Craftspeople / Workshops
- Towers, castles, closed cities and medieval bridges
- Romanesque art: churches, chapels and monasteries
- Gothic and baroque influence: altarpieces and religious monuments
- Mountain ethnographic heritage
- Events related to popular and modern culture
- Charming villages
- Elements of historical memory



Here is a brief description of the main tourist facilities of the region.

Regional Tourist Office of Pallars Sobirà - Sort

Presentation of the resources of the region. Permanent and temporary exhibitions.

Further information: turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/

House of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park – Espot

Information Centre and permanent exhibition of the National Park.

Further information:

parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/en/aiguestortes/visiteu-nos/equipaments-itineraris/equipaments/

House of Alt Pirineu Natural Park - Llavorsí

Head office and Information Desk of the Natural Park.

Further information:

parcsnaturals.gencat.cat/en/alt-pirineu

Ecomuseum of the shepherds of Àssua Valley – Llessui

Explanation of the tasks carried out by the shepherds during the different cycles of year.

Further information:

turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museum s-places-of-interest/

Ecomuseum of Àneu Valleys - Esterri

Come and find out about the natural and cultural reality of Àneu Valleys and how it has evolved during the last decades. The Ecomuseum is also in charge of the management of all the aspects of the heritage of the valleys.

Further information: www.ecomuseu.com/es

Museum, Salt Mines, and Santa Maria de Gerri Monastery – Gerri de la Sal

The importance of salt in history: salted water spring, salt mines and monastery.

Further information:

<u>turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museums</u> <u>-places-of-interest</u>

House of the Pyrenean Brown Bear - Isil

Interpretive Centre of the brown bear's natural habitat, unique in Catalonia.

Further information:

<u>turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museums</u>_places-of-interest

Prison-Museum Paths to freedom - Sort

A museum dedicated to border peace.

Further information:

camidelallibertat.cat/cast/index-cast.html

Santa Creu de Llagunes Medieval Village – Port del Cantó – N-260

Remains of the fortifications built on an old village of Bronze Age.

Further information:

turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museums _places-of-interest

Interpretive Centre of Romanesque Art – Son

Permanent interactive exhibition of Romanesque Art in Pallars Sobirà.

Further information: www.pyrenea.com

Butterfly Museum of Catalonia – Ribera de Cardós

Discover all the butterflies you can see in Catalonia and how they interact with the environment.

Further information: www.papallones.net

Àreu Sawmill

This witness of the wood industry could be anywhere in the Pyrenees.

Further information:

 $\label{turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museums-places-of-interest} \underline{\mbox{turisme.pallarssobira.cat/en/plan-your-trip/museums}}$

Tavascan Hydroelectric Power Station

Guided tour in one of the largest underground hydroelectric power stations in Europe.

Further information: www.tavascan.net

Accommodation





Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes

Train Jaune - Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes

The Regional Natural Park of the Catalan Pyrenees is located on the French slope of the Pyrenean range, along the Spanish and Andorran border. Its 138,000 hectares take up a great part of Haute Cerdagne, Capcir and Haut Conflent, three areas that have a strong personality.

Capcir presents a mountain landscape made of large forest areas, wonderful lakes and generally snow-covered peaks. Cerdagne forms a wide high plain where you can see grazing flocks and flowered meadows in spring and huge snow-covered extensions in winter. Conflent has a rather Mediterranean climate and endless valleys with terraces and dry stone walls, gardens and vegetable gardens along irrigation canals as well as hanging villages.

This mountain area hosts thus a wide variety of exceptional landscapes located between 300 and 3,000 metres above sea level. These massifs in contact with the Mediterranean climate also host a big range of fauna and flora.

The territory is crossed over by the popular *Train Jaune* (Yellow Train), which has travelled the 62 km between Villefranche-de-Conflent and Latour-de-Carol since 1910. In addition to this important tourist resource of sustainable mobility, the Regional Natural Park hosts 7 ski resorts and 5 spa resorts.

Another great characteristic of the destination lies in the high number of sunny days. This mild climate invites you to hike through the Park all year round using the wide network of marked paths such as the GR-10 long-distance hike, among others.

The historical and cultural wealth of the region is present at every corner. Dry stone walls and huts, Romanesque churches, baroque art and all the history linked to the Treaty of Pyrenees of 1659 are just a few examples of it.



Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes all year round!



Trekking



Swim in open water



Solar furnace



Train Jaune



MTB



Heritage and guided tours



Thermal baths



Snow tourism



Road cycling



Windsurf



Water activities

Get to and move around in ecomobility mode

The following chart shows the different options that allow you to get to the PNR des Pyrenées Catalanes as well as the possibilities of sustainable mobility in the region.



Train

SNCF

TER (Regional Express Train) from Perpignan to Villefranche-de-Conflent (temporarily out of order). TER from Toulouse to Latour de Carol/Enveitg. Direct night train from Paris to Latour de Carol.

Connection to high speed train in Perpignan and Toulouse https://en.oui.sncf/en/

Rodalies de Catalunya (Commuter trains) - RENFE.

R3 Line Barcelona / Puigcerdà / Latour de Carol http://rodalies.gencat.cat/en/



Train - Tourist Train

Train Jaune (Yellow Train).

Tourist train line from Villefranche-de-Conflent to Enveitg / Latour de Carol. https://www.ter.sncf.com/occitanie



Bus

From Perpignan: line 260 Perpignan / Mont Louis / Porté Puymorens.

Others lines in the area of the Natural Park https://www.laregion.fr/transports-pyrenees-orientales-regulier



Taxis

Several taxi companies available in the region.



Carshare

blablacar (in France): https://www.blablacar.fr

Local hitch-hiking stops with "rezopouce": http://www.rezopouce.fr



Walking

Main trails : GR-10 and Pic du Canigou. https://www.canigo-grandsite.fr/

Others trails:

Catalan Pyrenees:

https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net/fr/sortir-et -decouvrir/au-fil-des-sentiers-toutes-nos-rando s/randonnee-pedestre-en-pyrenees-catalanes

Pyrenees-Cerdagne:

https://www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en/activite s-english/land-of-hiking

Conflent-Canigou:

 $\frac{\text{https://www.tourism-canigo.com/organize/not-t}}{\text{o-be-missed/hiking}}$



Move on the snow

Possibility to practice cross-country skiing, ski mountaineering and snowshoeing.



Trail running

Several trails:

Catalan Pyrenees:

https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net/fr/sortir-et-decouvrir/le-trail-en-pyrenees-catalanes



Cycling

Network of secondary roads.

Electric bicycles: several rental points in the region.

Service available on arrival of the Train Jaune (Yellow Train) in Mont-Louis/La Cabanasse.



MTB Routes

FFC marked routes in:

Vernet-les-Bains

http://www.vernet-les-bains.fr/page/vtt

Madres Coronat

https://sitesvtt.ffc.fr/trace-vtt/espace-vtt-madres-coronat/

Catalan Pyrenees

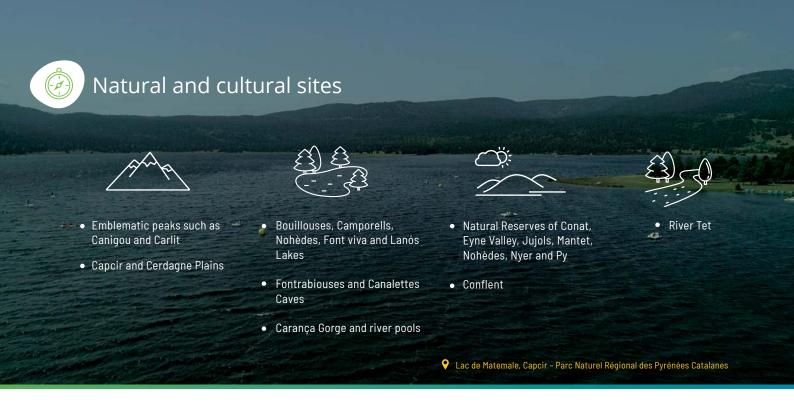
https://sitesvtt.ffc.fr/trace-vtt/capcir-haut-conflent-6/

Pyrenees-Cerdagne

https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net/fr/sortir-et -decouvrir/au-fil-des-sentiers-toutes-nos-rando s/circuits-vtt-des-pyrenees-catalanes

Fathike

https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net/fr/sortir-et -decouvrir/le-fatbike-en-pyrenees-catalanes





Tourist activities

Here are the five best tourist activities and experiences offered in the region:

Hiking for all levels

Climb emblematic peaks such as Canigou and Carlit and walk through amazing high mountain landscapes full of forests and lakes (Bouillouses, Nohèdes, Camporells, etc.). Whatever your level, the wide variety of routes will make you enjoy the trip!

Alpine and cross-country skiing

Do winter sports amid a dream environment. Discover the ski resorts and enjoy the pleasures of downhill skiing, cross-country skiing or ski mountaineering. And if you like walking through snow-covered forests, enjoy some of the snowshoe trails.

MTB routes

Choose one of the FFC Marked Routes (French Cycling Federation) of Vernet-les-Bains, Madres Coronat and Catalan Pyrenees.

Medieval cities

Discover the fortifications that were designed by architect Vauban at the time of the Treaty of the Pyrenees and declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO such as the medieval city of Villefranche-de-Conflent and the citadel of Mont-Louis.

Hot springs

Another way to enjoy the region is to relax in one its hot springs spa resorts, some of them dating back to the Roman period. The baths of Dorres (with wonderful views), Llo, Saint-Thomas, Molitg-les-Bains or Vernet-les-Bains will take you to a world of sulphurous waters with curative properties.



Cultural sites

- Train Jaune (Yellow Train)
- Villefranche-de-Conflent (Walls/Fort Liberia and caves)
- Mont-Louis (walls, citadel and solar oven)
- Solar oven in Odeillo
- Saint Michel de Cuxa and Saint Martin du Canigou Abbeys
- Cerdagne Museum
- Animal Park in Les Angles



Here is a brief description of the main tourist facilities of the region.

House of the Regional Natural Park - La Bastide - Olette

Head office of the Park located in an "eco" building built on a fortress dated 14th century that still preserves the two original towers and part of the wall that used to join them. The House includes an Interpretive path about local history, a vegetable garden with ancestral species and a space dedicated to a colony of small rhinolophidae, a protected species of bats.

Further information:

www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr/producteur/maiso n-du-parc-accueil-informations

Mont-Louis - Villefranche-de-Conflent - Fort Liberia

Mont-Louis is one of the 9 cities that were totally designed by architect Vauban in the 17th century. Villefranche-de-Conflent is a medieval town that dates back to the 11th century whose walls were enhanced and reinforced by Vauban, who also built the hospital, the quarters and other fortifications, especially the citadel, Fort Liberia.

Further information:
www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en and
www.tourism-canigo.com

Solar ovens in Mont-Louis and Font Romeu-Odeillo-Via and Thémis Solar Station

With more than 3,000 sunlight hours a year, the solar oven of Mont-Louis (the first in the world, built in 1949) and Font Romeu-Odeillo-Via (1970, focused on research) are part of the landscape and two mandatory visits. Do not miss Thémis Solar Station and its research projects!

Further information: www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en

Spa Centres of Dorres, Llo and Saint Thomas

Saint-Thomas Health Centre allows you to enjoy 37-degree sulphurous baths in the middle of a stone circus. In Dorres and Llo, you can do it in a wonderful environment. Two towns owe their names to their spa centres: Vernet-les-Bains and Molitg-les-Bains (in French "bain" means "bath").

Further information: www.tourism-canigo.com and www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en

Natural Reserves of Conat, Eyne valley, Jujols, Mantet, Nohèdes, Nyer and Py

Some of these reserves host Information Desks and exhibitions and offer guided tours as well as activities aimed at discovering the natural, historical and archaeological heritage of the region.

Further information: www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, <a href="https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, <a href="https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, <a href="https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net, <a href="https://www.pyrenes

Museum of Cerdagne - Sainte-Léocadie

This ethnological and historical museum is located in the old farm of Cal Mateu (18th century). It offers a wide range of pedagogical activities, mainly focused on the cultivation of a mountain vegetable garden.

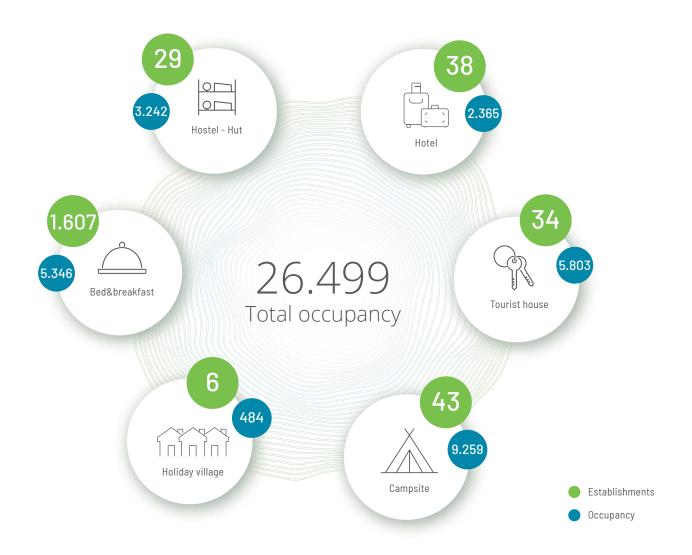
Further information: www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en

Caves of Fontrabiouse and Grandes Canalettes

These caves are open to the general public. The first one is located in Fontrabiouse, in the Capcir region, and has its origin in a marble and onyx quarry. The entrance of the latter is located just 300 metres distance from Villefranche-de-Conflent.

Further information: www.pyrenees-catalanes.net and www.tourism-canigo.com

Accommodation



Tourist information sites and offices

- Parc Naturel Régional des Pyrénées Catalanes | www.parc-pyrenees-catalanes.fr
- Tourism in French Cerdagne | www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/en
- Tourism in Conflent-Canigou | www.tourism-canigo.com
- Tourism in the Capcir region | www.pyrenees-catalanes.net
- Tourist Offices linked to ski resorts | hiver.font-romeu.fr ete.font-romeu.fr www.pyrenees2000.com/fr www.lesangles.com/fr
- Tourism in the Eastern Pyrenees | www2.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com/en
- Tourism in Occitany | www.turismo-occitanie.co.uk

In the east of the Pyrenees, near the Mediterranean, the river Agly forms a valley that stretches from west to east. This clearly rural territory offers a wide range of landscapes and panoramic views, especially the Gorges of Galamus, the forests of holm oaks, the chalky cliffs, Agly Lake, Roussillon Plain as well as some Mediterranean lagoons.

Those natural sites mix with the main distinguishing marks of Agly Valley: its landscape and its wine-making activity. The geological diversity of these areas, the long tradition of cooperative societies, together with the three certificates of origin (Maury, Rivesaltes and Côtes Roussillon Villages) have turned this region into a prestigious enotourism destination that has a lot to offer: wine routes and tastings, visit of wine cellars, walks through the vineyards, etc.

History is another important attraction of the territory, partly because it is a border area between the Treaty of Corbières and the Treaty of the Pyrenees. It is said that the valley allows

you to revive different historical periods throughout 450,000 years. The landscape hosts several witnesses of the past such as prehistoric dolmens, chapels and churches, guard towers, border posts, Cathar castles, etc.

These elements of historic interest are enhanced by a rich heritage linked to rural and wine-making activities: shepherd huts, dry stone walls, historical trails, etc.

Regarding heritage and sustainable mobility, the Train Rouge (Red Train) is a very singular option. This tourist train follows the old railway that used to link Rivesaltes to Carcasonne.

With a great number of craftspeople and local markets, gastronomy is also quite mouthwatering. Seasonal fruit and vegetables, goat cheese, honey, olive oils, figs, the famous Roussillon apricots and the delicious jams are just a few examples of the gastronomic wealth of the Agly Valley.



Vallée de l'Agly all year round!



Train Rouge



Cycling tours



Water activities



Local road trips



Prehistoric heritage



Trekking



MTB



Fishing



Wildfire



Vineyards



Trail running



Horse riding



Heritage and guided tours



Panoramic belvederes



Winery tours



Climbing and via ferrata



Markets



Picnic area

Get to and move around in ecomobility mode

The following chart shows the different options that allow you to get to Vallée de l'Agly as well as the possibilities of sustainable mobility in the region.



Train

SNCF.

"TER (Regional Express Train) - Rivesaltes Station https://www.ter.sncf.com/occitanie"

TGV (High speed train) - Perpignan Station https://en.oui.sncf/en/



Train - Tourist train

Train Rouge (Red Train).

Tourist train line from Rivesaltes to Saint Martin-Lys. 60 km. From April to October and some winter public holidays. Also available on request.

https://www.letrainrouge.fr



Bus

LIO Lines 100, 150

https://www.laregion.fr/transports-pyrenees-orientales-regulier

Transport available on request in all the towns of the Communauté de Communes Agly Fenouillèdes. Tel. (+33) 806 80 80 90

Bus from Perpignan Méditérranée Métropole. Lines 7, 24, 23, 25, 10, 12, 21, 31.

Possibility of transport on request on Sundays and public holidays for lines 10,12,23,25.

http://www.sankeo.com/511-Transport-alademande.html



Taxis

Several taxi companies available in the region



Carshare

blablacar (in France): https://www.blablacar.fr

Area of carshare at Motorway Exit 21 that connects to Bus lines 21 (to Rivesaltes) and 31 (to Perpignan).



Horseriding

Several options of horseriding and donkeyriding.



Electric cars

Regular service in summer in the Gorges of Galamus.

Charging points in all the towns.



Walking

Cathar Route (GR). From Foix to Port-la-Nouvelle. Connects to the Tour des Fenouillèdes. http://www.lesentiercathare.com/

Tour des Fenouillèdes.

https://www.france-randos.com/randonnee/arb oussols/pyrenees-orientales-66/grp-le-tour-desfenouilledes

Other routes on <u>www.agly-tourisme.fr</u> and <u>www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en</u>



Trail running

Trail site Corbières-Fenouillèdes.240 km.

https://stationdetrail.com/en/stations/sud-cath are-corbieres-fenouilledes



River mobility

 $\label{eq:comparison} \begin{tabular}{ll} Information on: $\underline{www.agly-tourisme.fr}$ and $\underline{www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en}$ \end{tabular}$



Cycling

Scenic route - 20 km. Between Le Barcarès and Rivesaltes.

Marked routes on

http://www.agly-tourisme.fr/les-randonnees

In the pipeline: V81 European Route across the Pyrenees - Section Rivesaltes-St Paul de Fenouillet.

La Méditerranée à vélo - French part of Eurovelo 8 http://www.lamediterraneeavelo.org



Electric bicycles

Several rental points available in the region.



MTB Routes

Marked routes (certified FFCT). http://www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en

https://ffvelo.fr/randonner-a-velo/vtt/bases-vtt/ pyrenees-orientales/base-vtt-vallee-de-lagly/

MTB Rental: several points available in the region.





Tourist activities

Here are the five best tourist activities and experiences offered in the region:

Train Rouge (Red Train)

Travel across Agly Valley from village to village aboard this panoramic train and enjoy its "sensory trip". You can also combine it with cycling routes, hiking itineraries and heritage tours.

Enotourism

Discover and taste this prestigious enotourist and gastronomic destination and its wide range of activities labelled "Vignoble and découverte" (vineyards and discovery), a quality seal shared by more than 100 companies.

450,000 years of history

Tautavel Museum is a real must, as well as the many historical remains you can find in the region, especially the well-known Cathar castles.

Hiking, racing biking, MTB and horseriding

The region hosts more than 500 km of marked hiking trails and 42 km of cycling tracks for all levels that allow you to enjoy fantastic landscapes of vineyards and forests.

Trail Running

In Saint-Paul-de-Fenouillet, the *Train Rouge* (Red Train) allows you to reach the Station de Trail Sud-Cathare Corbières-Fenouillèdes, a resort aimed at trail running lovers and at anyone who would like to start out in it.



Cultural resources

- Saint-Pierre de Fenouillet Castle
- Saint Paul de Fenouillet Collegiate Church
- Ansignan Aqueduct Bridge
- Tautavel Museum of Man
- Belesta Castle-Museum
- Latour de France and Vivier Castles
- Watchtowers (Tautavel, Prats de Sournia, Rasiguères)
- Hermitages and Chapels (Saint-Vincent, Notre-Dame-de-Pène, etc.)
- Notre-Dame de Laval Chapel Historical Altarpiece
- Dolmens
- Border Stones Treaty of the Pyrenees Corbeil
- Puilaurens Castle
- Rivesaltes Memorial



Tourist facilities

Here is a brief description of the main tourist facilities of the region.

Train Rouge (Red Train)

The current journey between Rivesaltes and St. Martin-Lys rimes with vineyard landscapes, viaducts, canyons, ... and access to a series of natural and cultural sites.

Further information: www.letrainrouge.fr

Museum of the Man in Tautavel

The site retells the history of humanity in Europe since the first Europeans through some examples of the area that lies near Tautavel, especially the discovery of Tautavel people (450,000 years ago).

Further information: 450000ans.com/?lang=en

Rivesaltes Memorial

This impressive memorial is a real reference of the history linked to forced internment and displacement in France since 1941. The site hosted Spanish republicans, foreign Jews, French gipsies, etc.

Further information: www.memorialcamprivesaltes.eu

Tasting cellars

There are different ways to taste the delicious wines of the valley: in some of the many cellars that are open to the public, during the activities focused on local gastronomy or in an introductory workshop to wine tasting.

Further information: www.agly-tourisme.fr/le-vignoble and www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en

Galamus Hermitage - St Paul de Fenouillet

The troglodyte hermitage of Saint-Antoine de Galamus was directly carved in the rock, next to the gorges, in the 12th century. Originally, there was only one cave. The chapel was built in 1782. Free entrance.

Further information: www.gorgesdegalamus.fr

Fenouillet Castle

These are the only Cathar vestiges that remained unchanged after the annexation of the French crown. The archaeological excavations carried out since 1986 have brought to light a monastery dedicated to Saint Peter. Free entrance.

Further information: www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en

Royal Fortresses of the Cathar Country

Deeply settled in the reliefs of the Corbières region and accessible via Agly valley and the *Train Rouge*, Quéribus, Peyrepertuse and Puilaurens castles and their impressive profiles emerge out of the landscapes.

Further information:
www.agly-tourisme.fr/les-chateaux-cathares y
www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en



Accommodation



Tourist information sites and offices

- Tourism of the municipalities of Agly-Verdouble | www.agly-tourisme.fr
- Tourism of the municipalities of Agly-Fenouillèdes | www.tourismefenouilledes.com/en
- Enoturism in Roussillon | www.tourismedeterroir.fr
- Rural accommodation | www.gites-de-france-66.com
- Tourism in the Eastern Pyrenees | www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com/en
- Tourism in Occitany | www.tourism-occitanie.co.uk



Located in the heart of the French Central Pyrenees, Val d'Azun is part of one of the main natural treasures in the mountain range: the Pyrenees National Park, created in 1967. This extended protected territory, also known as "the valleys of Gavarnie", is a top destination that has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and International Starlight Reserve thanks to the quality of its night skies.

The sphere of influence of the National Park includes famous (partly due to the Tour de France) valleys and sectors such as Cauterets, Argelès-Gazost valley, Barèges-Tourmalet and the emblematic Cirque de Gavarnie. Further north, the city of Lourdes is another destination of worldwide reputation.

Val d'Azun's landscapes are so wonderful, that one of the very first explorers of the Pyrenean mountain range, the famous Louis Ramond de Carbonnière, christened the valley with the name of "The Eden of the Pyrenees". Two famous passes -Soulor and Couraduque- are the entrance or exit gateways to the valley.

In the higher part of this former glacial valley, one of the most mythic summit in the Pyrenees stands majestically: Balaïtous Peak, 3,144 m above sea level, in the very heart of the National Park. The high mountain landscapes host a rich fauna and flora as well as superb lakes such as Estaing and Suyen, among many others.

Val d'Azun has eight small villages made of stone walls and slate roofs. The landscapes perfectly fit with the traditional activities, especially with the stockbreeding. The farms -mainly sheep and cows- are focused on the production of meat, milk and delicious handmade cheese. The farmers have actually created an association in order to create the "Val d'Azun-Pyrénées" cheese certification label, which guarantees a quality product based on pastoral knowledge and tradition.



Val d'Azun all year round!



Electric kick scooter



Mountain ski



Natural parks



Shepherd experiences



Trekking

MTB



Trail running





Paragliding



Interpretive trails



Fishing

Get to and move around in ecomobility mode

The following chart shows the different options that allow you to get to Val d'Azun as well as the possibilities of sustainable mobility in the region.



Train

SNCF

Lourdes Station, 25 km distance to Val d'Azun https://en.oui.sncf/en/



Bus

Transport on request in Lourdes-Argelès Gazost-Arrens Marsous.

Book on (+33) 800 656500 (free call).

https://www.valleesdegavarnie.com/ete/comme nt-venir-en-val-d-azun

<u>https://www.laregion.fr/transports-hautes-pyre</u> nees-regulier



Taxis

Several taxi companies available in the region, in Val d'Azun and Lourdes.



Move on the snow

From the Nordic Site of Val d'Azun https://www.valleesdegavarnie.com/hiver/espac e-nordique-du-val-d-azun



Walking

http://www.randovalleesdegavarnie.com/

5-stage hike around Val d'Azun and other marked trails.

https://www.valleesdegavarnie.com/ete/ma-destination/val-d-azun

Trail running routes on https://www.valleesdegavarnie.com/ete/mes-aventures/station-de-trail



Cycling

Different types, especially road bikes, due to the label "Les Pyrénées mythiques à vélo".

http://www.pyrenees-cyclo.com/uk/

Project of connection of Val d'Azun to the Voie Verte (Scenic route) Lourdes-Argelès Gazost-Cauterets.

Electric bicycle rental in Argelès-Gazost.



MTB routes

"Les Pyrénées mythiques à vélo" routes.

http://www.pyrenees-cyclo.com/fr/il4-info_i81-nouvelle-offre-vtt-enduro.aspx

Enduro routes also available.



Electric scooters

Electric scooters through mountain routes.





Tourist activities

Here are the five best tourist activities and experiences offered in the region:

Hiking in the heart of nature

The offer of routes is wide in both low-medium and high parts of the region, where you can find several mountain huts. The two main entrances to the National Park are Estaing Lake and Aste Plain, which allows you to get to Suyen Lake. From there, the possibilities are endless.

Cycle touring, MTB and electric scooters

Val d'Azun allows you to follow the wheel of the famous cyclists of the Tour de France. The two most legendary passes are Soulor (1,474 m, that allows you to connect with Aubisque pass, also very popular) and Couraduque (1,367 m, with spectacular views of Midi de Bigorre and Balaïtous peaks). The famous Tourmalet and Hautacam mountain passes are also nearby. The region has a great offer of MTB and electric scooters (trottinettes électriques).

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and biathlon

In winter, the main activity centre is the Espace Nordique du Val d'Azun – Soulor, located at the Couraduque pass. This Centre allows you to practice cross-country skiing and snowshoeing and to learn the basics of an emblematic Olympic discipline: biathlon, a combination of cross-country skiing and rifle-shooting.

Villages of Val d'Azun

Getting lost in the small villages of Val d'Azun and discovering their secret spots and their ethnologic heritage is really worth it. The art expressed in the streets of Arras-en-Lavedan (called "Artitude" village) is particularly curious.

Natural icons and cultural monuments of the nearby valleys

The different valleys of Gavarnie and the Pyrenees National Park offer endless emblematic sites that welcome thousands of visitors a year, especially the waterfall and the circus of Gavarnie, the Bridge of Spain (Pont d'Espagne) and its waterfalls and lakes, and the historical city of Lourdes.



Cultural resources

- The villages of the valley
- Arras-en-Lavedan, "Artitude" village (mix between "art" and "altitude")
- Abbadiale House of Arts
- Pouey Laun Chapel
- Arcizans-Dessus Mill



Tourist facilities

Here is a brief description of the main tourist facilities of the region.

Tech Valley - Arrens-Marsous

This interpretive project regarding accessible tourism (*Tourisme et handicap*) in the whole valley embraces four types of disabilities: motor, visual, auditive and mental. The facilities allow all kinds of public to access the heart of nature and discover some exceptional mountain sites in a totally self-sufficient way.

Further information:

www.pyrenees-parcnational.fr/fr/videos/la-decouver te-de-la-vallee-du-tech_

House of Val d'Azun. Interpretive Centre of the Pyrenees National Park – Arrens-Marsous

Val d'Azun Tourist information Centre, permanent exhibition of the works of local artists and craftspeople. Sale of products and booking of mountain/cycle touring/MTB guides.

Further information:

www.valleesdegavarnie.com/ete/ma-destination/val-d -azun

Pyrenean Animal Park - Argelès-Gazost

Located in the village that leads to Val d'Azun, this animal park is considered as one of the three best zoos in France. Among its 100 species and 600 animals, you will particularly enjoy the amazing collection of birds, the large mountain hoofed animals, and the stars of the park: the marmots.

Further information: www.parc-animalier-pyrenees.com

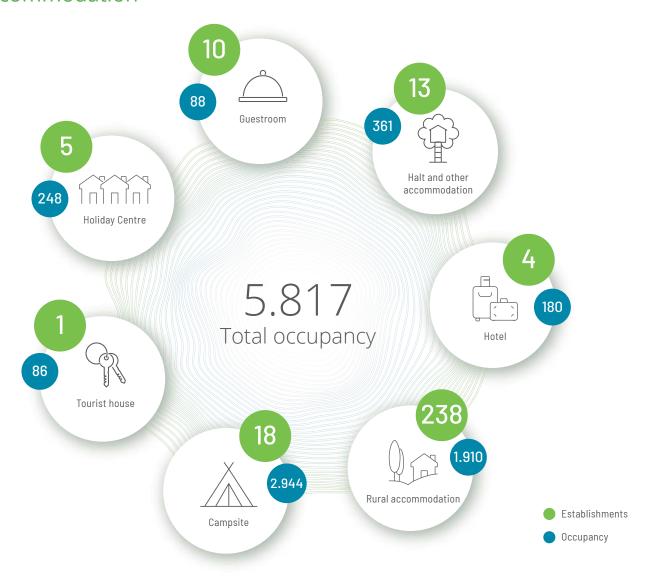
Dungeon of Eagles - Beaucens

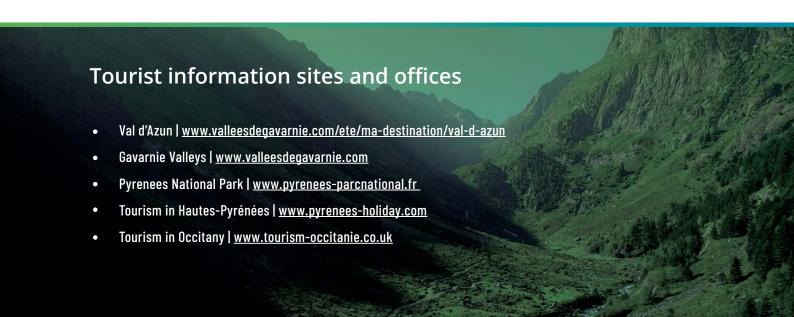
The medieval castle of Beaucens hosts one of the most prestigious collection of birds of prey in France: kites, vultures, eagles, falcons, sea eagles as well as parrots (in summer). Open from spring to late autumn.

Further information: www.donjon-des-aigles.com/?lang=en



Accommodation











The GPS Tourism project has been 65% cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Interreg V-A Spain-France-Andorra programme (POCTEFA 2014-2020). POCTEFA aims to reinforce the economic and social integration of the French-Spanish-Andorran border. Its support is focused on developing economic, social and environmental cross-border activities through joint strategies favouring sustainable territorial development.