

Summer 2025

P-O Life

Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales

N° 84
FREE / GRATUIT



www.anglophone-direct.com

© Romer Kitching: On the beach at Argelès

WALK
the **REGION**
Banyuls Coast &
Rocky Ridge

OUT for
the **DAY**
Take Two Forts:
Salses & Liberia

FOOD
and **DRINK**
Your Restaurant
Reviews

TEST your
FRENCH
AMÉLIOREZ
votre **ANGLAIS**



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Rencontres photographiques

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**FOR THE FRENCH STUDENTS
AMONGST YOU...**

What do you call a Frenchman
wearing sandals?
Philippe Floppe



FOR THE SPANISH STUDENTS...

What do you call a Spanish
streaker?
Señor Willy

**EST-CE QU'UNE POULE
PEUT PARLER ANGLAIS?
YES CHICKEN**



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benefit from advertising in P-O Life, contact us
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Would you believe it, P-O Life is 20 years old this summer - and what a ride! It's still brought to you with as much love and passion, even if the editor is a little more wrinkled and the jokes haven't improved a jot!

We've provided information and fun discovery and brought many people together over the years, via the mag, the website, the newsletter and our growing social media, and built up a competent and loyal directory of advertisers to keep us in gin (and pay the printer)

So here we are again! As usual, P-O Life brings you walks, restaurant reviews, days out, airport news, French and English language exercises, terrible jokes... and some very talented guest writers. My grateful thanks to them all - they are what make P-O Life special!

And if all that doesn't keep you busy, there's always loads happening on our website at www.anglophone-direct.com where you can leave us your comments, good, bad and ugly. Oh, and have you registered for our free weekly newsletter...the P-O directly into your virtual mail box? Just pop your email into the space et Robert est ton oncle Please support our advertisers, and tell them how much we appreciate them when you meet them. P-O Life is funded entirely by their adverts. Without them, we would quite simply not exist.

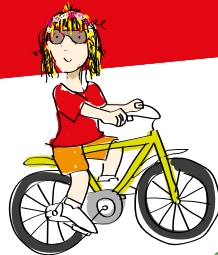
**GO STEADY ON THE SUN AND HEAVY
ON THE SUN CREAM.... AND HAVE A
GREAT SUMMER**

Kate

EDITORIAL

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DO YOU LOVE OUR FRONT COVER AS MUCH AS WE DO?

A little bit cheeky this time? Talented English artist/painter **Romer Kitching** takes much of his inspiration from his adopted home town

of Céret.... but this edition finds him on the beach in **Argelès-sur-Mer**.

Romer trained in Florence and works exclusively from life and imagination.

Check out his exhibition in Céret at the Castellás in Pierre Brune's old studio from 6-22 June. www.romerkitching.com

Impression: **ROTIMPRES** (Girona): 12.000 ex.
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RUGGED COAST AND ROCKY RIDGE, *Banyuls*

A stunning 3 hour 6.5km coast walk combined with return via the hills. A reasonable level of fitness is needed as the walk has a number of ascents and descents.

Approximately 450m of ascent. The views over land and sea are superb. Walking boots essential and walking poles highly recommended. Much of route is yellow waymarked



Access: map IGN 1:25000
Banyuls, Col de Perthus, Cote Vermeille 25490T

START

Park in Banyuls (Free from October to March) and head to the Tourist office on the promenade.



The original **Banyuls aquarium**, created in 1885, was a serious affair, based around education and science. Today, after a state-of-the-art make-over, the aquarium is still educational, still scientific - but also a whole lot of fun! Bright corals, octopus, eels, fish of all shapes, sizes and hues, an exciting glimpse of local underwater life in a milieu created with care, the fish released back into their natural habitat when they grow too big for comfort in tanks. The 'Jardin Méditerranéen' of the Biodiversarium, hanging from the cliffs above the valley of Baillaury, gives a fascinating insight into Mediterranean plant life on the surface. www.biodiversarium.fr

THE WALK

Walk in direction of Cerbère towards large cream building, the former Aquarium/Laboratoire Arago, **now marked Sorbonne Université**.

Follow a walkway to steps at the far end of the building on right (**signpost Tombeau d'Henri de Lacaze-Duthiers**) Walk up and pick up footpath behind building. Emerge on D914. Cross at zebra crossing and turn left to follow pavement to roundabout, turn right and continue briefly along road to entrance of **Hotel Côte Thalasso**. Cross back to coast side of road to enter footpath behind low wall beside a lotissement. (housing estate) Path descends to contour above a creek accessible to the white properties alongside.



In 1870, **Abbé François Rous**, new Curé at the Chapelle de la Rectorie, tasted the local wine and promptly started to market it throughout France as '**l'œuvre du vin de messe**', communion wine. When the railway reached Banyuls, the naturally sweet Banyuls wine was soon being drunk in some of the best restaurants in the land. As the money rolled in, he was able to donate funds to other needy causes including a young and talented artist called **Aristide Maillol**. Later, to express his gratitude, **Maillol was to paint the curé's portrait**, hanging today in the Abbé Rous wine cellar.

In 1879, the venture was banned! A victim of his own success, our clever curé was providing too much competition for the local vigneron!



Join broad track at far side of creek. Follow, taking right fork at junction, to emerge at small parking area near water pumping station. (30 mins from start)

Continue past the building. Footpath descends quickly into a valley and climbs up the other side.

Continue along way marked path, turning uphill away from the sea.

Emerge at top to look across bay towards viewpoint. **Oops - you now have to descend to sea level and climb up the other side!** Follow narrow stoney path down to bay then walk up broad track from beach to quickly find yellow way marking post.

Turn left uphill to reach the car park with viewpoint and table d'orientation beside D914. (1h 30mins from start).

Look across the bay of Peyrefite (site of marine national park/sentier sous marin) to Cerbère in the distance.



A swim around the underwater fauna and flora of the **Réserve Naturelle Marine de Cerbère-Banyuls** can be accompanied by a commentary - with a special snorkel that transmits good quality sound by bone conduction - through the teeth! Bone conduction was actually discovered by Ludwig van Beethoven. He was almost completely deaf but managed to hear the piano through his jawbone by attaching a rod to his piano and clenching it in his teeth, bypassing the eardrums and 'transmitting' directly to the Cochlea..

www.banyuls-sur-mer.com

The next section of route has no way marks, except at start, but is on well defined paths. **Walk 20 paces down D914** (direction Cerbère) Carefully cross road where white, angled way mark on roadside indicates start of narrow path.

This reaches a double track after 20 metres. Follow track uphill to pass below mast, **ignoring track to right.**



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ref 1677M



SOREDE

Comfortable and characterful 150 sqm 5 bedrooms house in excellent condition, on a 608 sqm low maintenance land with private pool and fruit trees, close to all amenities. Double height ceiling entrance hall, bright living room with fireplace, spacious fitted kitchen, **tiled garage and cave.**

PRICE: 249 000 €

ref 247V541A



BANYULS SUR MER

Village centre, close to beach and shops, beautiful and bright 65 sq.m fully renovated 2 bedrooms apartment comprising living room with open plan kitchen, shower room, toilet and large cellar. **In perfect condition !**

PRICE: 1 490 000 €

ref 1675M



SOREDE

Unique luxury design villa with high-end fittings, rare in our area! This 280sqm property is ideally located close to all amenities on 1814 sqm low maintenance land with 15x5m private pool. Two spacious primary bedroom suites, stream, spa, two further guest bedrooms, 77 sqm bright living room, summer kitchen, tiled garage. **Outstanding!**

PRICE: 212 000 €

ref 247V513A



BANYULS SUR MER

Village centre, in secured residence with lift, very pleasant one-bedroom apartment comprising living-room with open plan kitchen, shower room with toilet, **very pleasant south facing terrace and private parking.**

PRICE: 630 000 €

ref 1667M



LAROQUE DES ALBÈRES

Great location for this 178 sqm 4 bedrooms detached villa, in quiet setting, a short walk to all amenities. 66 sqm living room, study, large tiled garage, 875 sqm low maintenance garden with private pool, summer kitchen, **covered terraces and fruit trees!**

PRICE: 274 000 €



BANYULS SUR MER

Close to the beach and shops, charming 103 sq.m village house with terrace, living room, separate kitchen, 2 bedrooms as well as self-contained 1-bedroom apartment with living-room, kitchen and shower-room. Large cellar.

Contact us to successfully market your property now!



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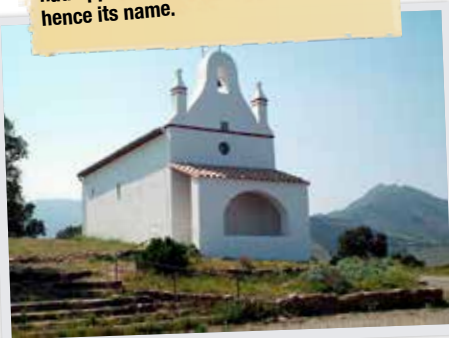


Did you know that the first successful industrial strike by women in France took place in Cérbère? A difference in width between Spanish and French railway tracks meant that goods had to be unloaded and loaded onto different wagons when they crossed the border. Oranges, an important import, were transferred in baskets weighing 15 – 20 kilos, by women known as 'transbordeuses d'oranges'. In February 1906, poor pay prompted an on and off strike which lasted until December, when a group of militant women, refused employment in favour of more 'pliant' workers, lay on the track. The train carrying 'scab' workers stopped just in time, the women received an extra 50 centimes per wagon load, and the militants were offered equal employment rights!

Just after mast, the track ends to continue as a footpath. Continue along ridge and eventually drop down to double track. Turn right to reach crossroads at Coll de Gran Bau. Cross the tarmac road and strike diagonally uphill on narrow footpath rising from corner of track on other side of road. Climb steadily to reach ridge.

Footpath continues along ridge to meet yellow way marked routes at **Col de la Creu (275m)**. Turn right to descend. Reach a tarmac road and descend 200 metres to another road. **Turn right and pass Torre d'en Pages.**

High above Banyuls, the little white chapel of **Notre Dame de la Salette** catches the first rays of the sun as it rises out of the bay. The chapel was built by Bonaventure Reig, staunch Catholic and owner of Mas Reig, on his return from a pilgrimage to **La Salette in Isère** where the **Virgin** had appeared to two young shepherds, hence its name.



Way marked route leads down into **Puig del Mas** the old village, and from there down to the river, across a bridge to turn right and return to Banyuls.

No problem finding refreshments as the town has many restaurants and cafes, and there's always something open, even out of season.

Markets are held on Thursday and Sunday mornings.



German Jewish philosopher **Walter Benjamin, (1892 – 1940)** fled south from Paris as the Germans swept into France. Short of breath, bad heart, heavy smoker, **he crossed over the mountains from Banyuls to Port Bou**, where he learnt that the Spanish government had ordered the police to return refugees to France. In despair, he took his own life. Outside the town cemetery lies his memorial, a **heavy metal passage containing a steep staircase sloped down to the freedom of the sea**. On it is written, "It is more difficult to honour the memory of the nameless than that of the renowned....."



YORKSHIRE DANCERS IN BANYULS

Banyuls-sur-Mer is the birthplace of **Aristide Maillol**, his curvy sculpture '**Jeune Fille Allongee**' relaxes on the seafront, with more of his work on view in the small museum just outside the town. But not all statues in Banyuls are by Maillol.

Also on the seafront stands **Les Danseurs de la Sardane** by Leeds-born lass **Pat Rowland**, in complete contrast to Maillol's voluptuous sculpture. Check out her webpage at <http://patrowland.fr>



GIRONA OR GERONA

Did you know that **Girona** is spelt '**Gerona**' in Castilian Spanish and '**Girona**' in Catalan.

not into walking?

TAKE A DRIVE TO THE COL DE BANYULS



A stunningly beautiful drive (or a pretty steep cycle ride of eight kilometres from Banyuls centre) will take you to the Col.

From the Town Hall head towards the Maillol Museum, taking the Route des Mas and follow the valley of the Baillaury.

The twisting road rises through the steep vineyards until, at 361 metres, you reach the Col. Stop there to enjoy the stupendous views: behind you France and the Côte Vermeille, ahead of you, Spain and the Bay of Roses.



During the **Retirada** at the end of the Spanish Civil War, streams of unfortunate republican refugees fled over the Col and, just a few years later, refugees from the Nazi occupation were fleeing in the opposite direction.



A small monument bears witness to their plight and reminds us that not everyone who crossed the frontier there had the luxury of merely admiring the view.



Take a minor detour and visit the **Maillol Museum**. (Admission: 7€) It is small and concentrated with displays of his best works as well as an insight into his life. His large thighed ladies tumble in the Tuileries in Paris and his 'Jeune Fille Allongee' relaxes on the seafront of Banyuls. His tomb lies beneath his beautiful 'La Mediterranee' sculpture in the garden of the museum. A sculpture of his last muse and model, **Dina Vierny**, stands beneath the huge jacaranda tree behind the town hall. She was one of the 'passeurs' who guided refugees to safety during the Second World War. The museum is run by one of the artist's great grandsons.

How to survive guests...

THE RULES

BY CATHERINE KING.

Because we live in such a beautiful part of the world, it's inevitable. **Family and friends love to visit!**

Many P-O Life readers will recognise the scenario: **summer arrives and so do the guests.** Much as we love our friends and family, it can be quite a marathon.

Of course a lot depends on the age of your guests and how well you know them!

I'm writing this at the end of September **after giving hospitality this summer to 12 different guests covering a total of 55 days.** The longest stayed 23 days. For 10 days, our two bedroomed house had six people sleeping, cooking and eating here.

Next year we need more rules so here goes

1 BE VERY CLEAR ON MEALS.

For example, "Whilst we are happy to offer free bed, breakfast and evening meal, if the evening meal is not actually required, please let us know before noon. We do not do lunches. If you make your own lunch from the fridge, please note what you have used so that we can replace it. Please feel free to add wine and beer to our supplies.

2 BE VERY CLEAR ON TRANSPORT.

Do not accept guests without a hire car; we are not a taxi firm.

3 TOWELS

Be prepared to provide beach towels or your best fluffy guest towel will be covered in suncream and sand. Do not keep your spare towels in the guest bedroom. We recently had two young guests for 11 days and when they left I found 14 damp towels in their room. Yes, they were barely more than teenagers and I may have said "make yourselves at home"....BUT...

4 DON'T SAY...

....make yourselves at home.

Show your guests how to use your washing machine, how to dry clothes and give them responsibility for their own washing.

5 STOCK UP ON....

.... washing machine products, dishwasher tablets, toilet paper.... Estimate how much you might need, then treble it.

6 TALK ABOUT DROUGHT...

.... and water conservation but expect incomprehension. Grit your teeth when showers and taps run for far too long.

7 USE & ABUSE

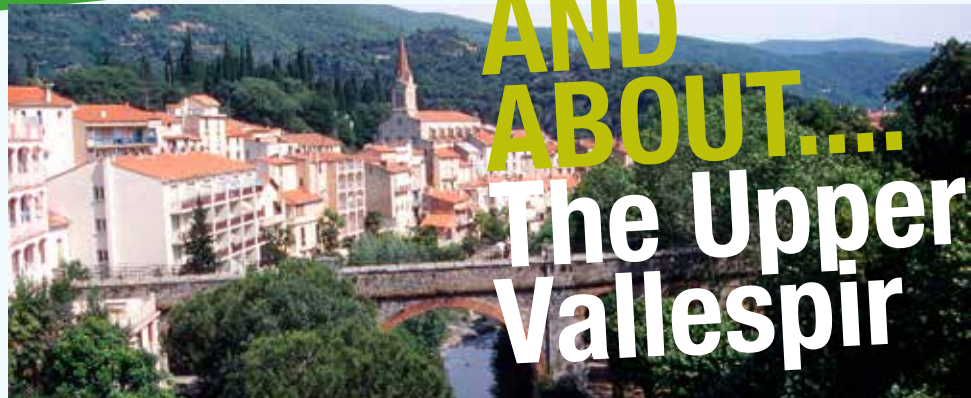
Remember to make good use of younger guests. They can be great for sorting out IT problems, new phones etc. **Make a list before they come and your problems will be solved in minutes.** Use them for climbing ladders, pruning high plants, DIY, flat pack furniture and sit back and enjoy. They may even be pleased to help (possibly).

8 TRY TO STAY POSITIVE

My French friends tell me they use the word 'CHICOUFF'! Chic when guests arrive and 'ouff' when they leave!

Always remember that autumn will come and we will still be in our beautiful corner of France.

ROUND AND ABOUT.... The Upper Vallespir



AMÉLIE LES BAINS PALALDA

The gentle, laid back spa town of Amélie les Bains and the picturesque medieval village of Palalda are well known on the tourist circuit....but there are many more charming villages, ancient chapels, great local restaurants and stunning views in the upper Vallespir. We can't fit them all in, but here are a few tasters.

ARLES-SUR-TECH

Small town just 4km from Amélie with pretty medieval centre.
TO SEE: 8th century Abbaye Ste Marie, la Sainte Tombe, Le Moulin des Arts et de l'Artisanat...



MONTBOLO

Stunning views, just 5km north west of Amélie.
TO SEE: Fortified 12th century church, 'jardin botanique' 'parcours géologique' of stones mined on Canigou.



When the mines closed down, many of these ancient villages were saved from ruin by second home and gite owners, immaculately restored remnants of the mining age.



MONTALBA

Follow signs up the Mondony valley to a cluster of abandoned-looking buildings, a church, a graveyard...that's Montalba!
TO SEE: 14th century chapel, massive views, dramatic walks



MONTFERRER

Mont de fer, iron mountain, village named after the iron mining in the region.
TO SEE: Roman church, ancient chateau ruins, Trabucayres museum...



ST MARSAL

Pretty medieval cobbled village, big views
TO SEE: 13th century church, ancient dolmens, ice well...



CORSAVY

Pretty mountain village built around an ancient chateau.
TO SEE: Tour de Batère signal tour, ancient churches and remnants of former iron mines



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OUT ^{for} THE DAY

ROUND
AND
ABOUT....
The Upper
Vallespir

LE TECH

Built along the 'Tech' river, the lower part of the village was destroyed during the floods of 1940.

TO SEE: Ste Cécile de Cos church, remains of 13th century signal tour, Tour de Cos, Chapelle de la Llau...



SAINT-LAURENT-DE-CERDANS

Pretty cluster of old village houses wrapped around church with tall steeple, home of the 'vigatanes' or 'espadrilles catalanes' and the vibrantly coloured Catalan stripy Toiles du Soleil fabric.

TO SEE: Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions, fabric and espadrilles workshops, great lunch, dinner, spa treatment at nearby Falgos golf.



COUSTOUGES

Picturesque medieval village on the border between France and Spain.

TO SEE: Eglise Ste Marie, Romanesque church built on the ruins of chapel dating back to 370.



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SERRALONGUE

Cobbled roads and old stone houses nestled in a hollow of mountains with panoramic views.

TO SEE: 'Conjurador' believed to appease the elements, fortified church.



LAMANÈRE

The most southerly commune in France, with pretty pink granite houses, nestled between two rivers, the Taix et the Lamanère.

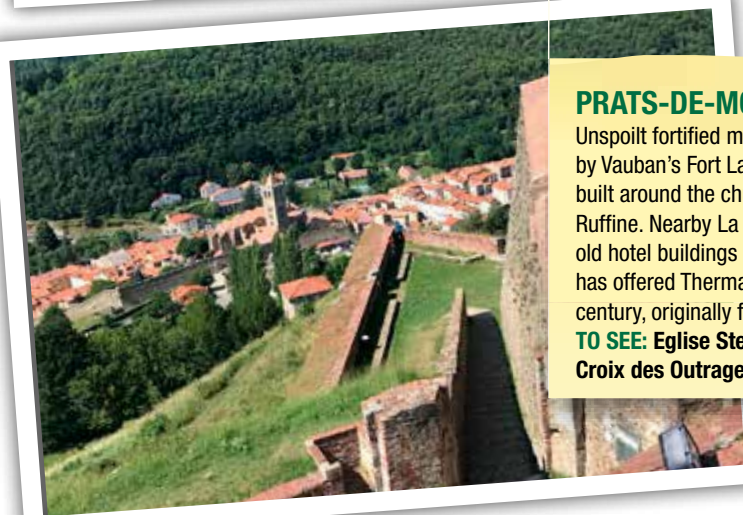
TO SEE: 14th century Eglise Saint-Sauveur, the three towers of Cabrenç, one of the oldest strongholds in Catalonia, medieval museum...



PRATS-DE-MOLLO-LA PRESTE

Unspoilt fortified medieval town dominated by Vauban's Fort Lagarde, walled and built around the churches of Stes Juste et Ruffine. Nearby La Preste with its grand old hotel buildings and natural beauty has offered Thermal Cures since the 14th century, originally for leprosy.

TO SEE: Eglise Stes Justes et Ruffine, Croix des Outrages, Fort Lagarde



Amélie-les-Bains Palalda Montalba

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WELCOME TO THE P-O



Next time you're on the A9 motorway heading towards Salses, look out for the "Porta dels Països Catalans", or 'Gate of the Catalan Countries'.

On a plateau of the Corbières, with panoramic views of sea and lagoon, visible from both the A9, this gateway to North Catalonia was created by sculptor Emili Armengol, a symbolic border between Languedoc and Roussillon. A giant arc of four open doors, its uprights symbolise the four bars of the Catalan flag. The monument was originally to be built in La Jonquera, but strong protest from the north Catalanians placed it resolutely in France, a first and last landmark for visitors arriving or departing the Roussillon.



Take two forts...

'The Pyrenees which anciently divide the Gauls from the Spains shall henceforth be the division of the two said kingdoms'
Taken from the Treaty of the Pyrenees, signed November 1659.

The Treaty of the Pyrenees ended 24 years of violent warfare between France and Spain.

The Roussillon went to France. So did the Catalan territories of the Vallespir, the Conflent, the Capcir, the valley of Le Carol, and 33 northern villages of the Cerdanya/ Cerdagne straddling the Pyrenean chain. The defensive forts, built to last, remain to this day to delight and educate.



FORTERESSE DE SALSES



CHATEAU FORT LIBERIA

1

FORTERESSE DE SALSES

Standing on the Roman-built Via Domitia, where French Catalonia melts into the Aude, the imposing **Forteresse de Salses** squats on the strip of land **between the Corbières hills and the Leucate lagoon.**



sentences in **Fort Liberia, Villefranche de Conflent** (another of Vauban's masterpieces).

The fort was classified a Monument Historique in 1886.

Massive walls, up to 10 metres thick, drawbridges and a huge central courtyard capable of sheltering 1200 men and 300 horses, remain, a fascinating glimpse into military history and architecture.

Take an interesting guided tour in several languages – or just a stroll round the outer walls.

Concerts, workshops, historical reenactments and events take place regularly at this imposing venue. There is a gift and bookshop... and even some rather un-medieval vending machines for the peckish!

Entrance 9€ (free for U26s)

Website: www.forteresse-salses.fr

GETTING THERE

Plenty of free parking out of season, including disabled, or take a bus (n° 135 Perpignan-Salses line) or a train from Perpignan to Salses-le-Château station, and enjoy the 15-minute walk to the fort.

The fort was of vital strategic importance to both French and Spanish in the XV century. Taken by the French in 1639, it was recaptured by the Spaniards in 1640, retaken by the French, returned once more to Spain in 1642, and **finally handed back to France in 1659, with the signing of the Treaty of the Pyrenees.** Phew! Hope the staff were bilingual!

Partially restored by Vauban, **it became a state prison, housing the unfortunate lady poisoners of Louis XIV's court, before they began their life**

Included in admission price

JULY & AUGUST - Exhibition



LE SILENCE DES PARTICULES

Guillaume Cousin, "expérimentateur constructeur" explores space and time.

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Chateau Fort Liberia is perched above the beautiful village of **Villefranche de Conflent**. We have passed it so many times over the years and after going up for the first time we were kicking ourselves that we didn't do it sooner.



THE EXPERIENCE

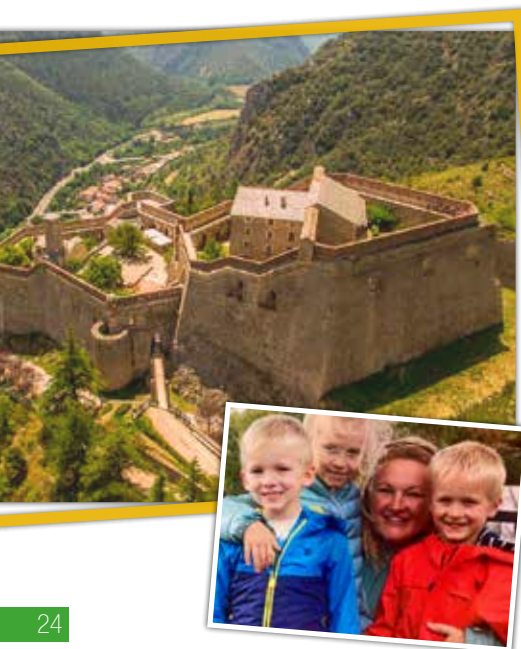
The ascent is part of the fun.

You can climb the stairs from the village, take the track up or for an extra fee you can get driven up from the village. The 4x4 pick up is from the side of the tourist office.

Once at the Fort, there is a guide in multiple languages. The information is numbered and you follow the route. Some can be a bit tricky to find so we gave the guide to the kids and we did it a bit like a treasure hunt.

The views when you get there are stunning. There are a few displays telling stories that add to the experience.

We were delighted to find a restaurant at the top and although we had packed a picnic, we treated ourselves to lunch. The kids menu is pretty standard. We had a drink of the local wine to go with the meal. This may not be open all year round so do check.



There are picnic tables and a few benches so you can bring your own food. The views over lunch are out of this world. **There is also a small gift shop selling souvenirs, snacks and drinks.**

LIVING HISTORY

In July 2008 both were listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list of twelve sites fortified by Vauban in France. Both of them testify to his architectural and military skill

As a Fort it held around **100 soldiers** and saw **battle only once.** It also served as a prison.

MUM TIPS

This experience is **truly an adventure for the children.** With corners to explore, history to hear and space to play, it was wonderful. **The walls of the fort have been left in their original state** and so the railings are not child proofed. Smaller children will need to be kept safe.



In warm weather an early start is advised to avoid walking up in the heat of the afternoon. However, **plan in time to walk around the village.** There are lots of lovely boutique shops. **Our favourite is L'Infante that is a collective of women making the products you see on sale.**

KID TIPS

Don't miss the prisons that are awesome!

You can read more of our adventures on my blog
www.theadventuresofamum.com



Marquise de Brinvilliers

Several infamous lady poisoners were chained up in the 'prison des dames' of the chateau Fort Liberia as a result of the 17th century murder scandal known as the 'affaire des poisons' (poison affair). **La Marquise de Brinvilliers allegedly conspired to poison her father and brothers in order to inherit their estates.** Her trial in 1676, where she was put to the 'extraordinary question' (forced to drink sixteen pints of water), beheaded and burned at a stake, caused paranoia amongst the nobility. **Louis XIV himself became alarmed and had his servants taste all his food before eating, leading to a period of hysterical pursuit of murder suspects.** Several prominent people were implicated and sentenced for poisoning and witchcraft. **Many of the condemned were transferred to France's safest fortresses such as Salses, Fort les Bains and chateau Fort Liberia, where they were chained up and imprisoned for life.**

The Valley of Flowers

Visit the charming **Nature Reserve of the Valley of Eyne**, perfectly nicknamed Valley of Flowers, from June to August, when it is at its most enchanting.

Wander amidst alpine flowers in the springy grass and skip amidst a riot of **daffodils, forget-me-nots, blueberries, dazzling blue gentians, buttercups, pale primrose alpine anemones, wild narcissi, golden kingcups...**

Enjoy the bright and fragile beauty of **more than sixty species of butterflies, and the largest concentration of bumblebees in the world, with at least 33 species out of 42 known in the whole of France!**

Keep your eyes peeled for mouflons, isards, the bearded and griffin vulture looking for updrafts, the snow vole, the water shrew, or a marmot sentinel guarding its warren....

It's wild, it's beautiful, it will make your heart soar.

The Nature reserve is a protected area. No dogs, no fires of course and **PLEASE DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS.**

To get there, **take the N116 to Mont Louis** and follow signs to **Saillagousse** turning off to **Eyne**. Drive straight through the village till **you come to a well-marked parking place with a small hut and map of walks.**



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Restaurant REVIEWS

SPRING-SUMMER 2025

MA MAISON

Sorède... **with** Damian

Run by an amazing and friendly family. **They always have a good set dinner menu and some fun cocktails.** The price is affordable and the wine list local and good quality, which is what we look for. We go there several times throughout the year but recommend booking as it's popular. Can't speak highly enough about it.



3 Rue Saint-Jacques, Sorède
Tel: 04 68 89 00 44

We love publishing your reviews. They're honest (mostly!) objective, (we hope) unrelated to advertising (bien sûr!) and cover a wide range of tastes, prices, and places. You might not always agree, the chef might be having a bad day, your standards might be higher....or lower – but they give you an idea of what's available.

PLANCHA MAMA

Argelès Village.. **with** Leigh and Merry

We have been twice now to this small Tapas restaurant, and remarked how good the food is. **A warm welcome from the hostess, and all the dishes were very fresh and tasty,** sourced from local suppliers, as were the wines. Excellent pan con tomate, superb plateau of charcuterie, fantastic grilled octopus tentacles, lovely calamars andalouse, finger-licking ribs etc... **If you ask nicely, you might get to try the owner's special ginger liqueur** which was delicious! **If Tapas is what you're after here in France, this is the place!**



3 Pl. Gambetta, Argelès village
Tel: 04 68 37 78 23

L'ÉTRILLE

Sainte-Marie-la-Mer... **with** Stephanie

Wonderful lunch here: the beauty is in the plate. The taste buds are excited. A full culinary experience. Fresh high quality ingredients cooked by a trained chef. La cerise sur le gâteau remains the price: 20€ fixed menu (appetizer, main dish, fancy dessert).

Today, the menu du jour was: salmon, fish and chips or duck magret, lemon Dessert.



43 Av. des Marendes,
Sainte-Marie-la-Mer
Tel: 04 68 63 82 21

VINCIELLO

Céret... **with** Wendy

New Deli place in Ceret, eat in, take out. Lovely Belgian couple **Fabrice and Angélique** are super friendly and their stuff is very good. Had an amazing coronation chicken baguette and a hot chocolate made with real chocolate. **Flipping delicious**



48 Av. de la Gare, Céret
Tel: 04 22 91 51 05

TWO RECOMMENDATIONS **with** Jane

LE RELAIS DE LA MASSANE

Argelès-sur-mer

Excellent, seasonal food. Good service.



32 Rue Marcelin Albert,
Argelès-sur-Mer
Tel: 04 68 29 53 12

CHEZ ANNE AND DIDIER

Port-Vendres

Down to earth, honest, good food with friendly service



4 Quai Pierre Forgas, Port-Vendres
Tel: 07 65 27 85 87



EL CORTAL

Corsavy... **with Beth**

Wonderful spot in Corsavy open year round! **Nice terrace with sweeping hillside views**, charming historic setting, and great value home cooked meals (with lovely presentation!) served up by friendly French-American husband and wife owners



400 Rte du Cortal de l'Aloy, Corsavy
Tel: 09 88 18 27 97

LE PATIO

Argelès village... **with Erika**

Very reasonable three course menu deals (as well as individual choices). **Fantastic food and great service. Highly recommend.**



59 Rue Victor Hugo, Argelès-sur-Mer
Tel: 04 68 84 91 61

OVER THE BORDER

We do like to encourage you to stick around and dine here in the P-O but we have to admit there are some great options over the border too.

CASA FLORA

Girona... **with Eliane**

Overlooking the river, right in the heart of the old town, with a very warm welcome (in French, English, Spanish or Catalan. We ate there **in the evening so "A la carte"** but a good value daily menu is available for lunch.

We started with grilled oyster mushrooms, wild asparagus and pedrones (thin green peppers) accompanied by a romesco sauce, croquetas (to die for, not your tapas average!), local beef fillet with foie (should have read "foie gras", just like a Rossini served on a superb sauce) for hubby. I went for the meatball and squid in ink sauce dish. Being catalan, a **"terra i mar"** is often my first choice. Yummy !!! The dessert and wine selection are both small but very good.

Great food, great service, worth driving to Girona for.



Carrer de les Ballesteries, 3, Girona
Tel: +34 685 27 66 16

AMADEUS

Besalú... **with Leigh and Merry**

The Amadeus, opposite the church in the main square, **provided us with a tasty €12.50 menu for a 3 course lunch today.** We arrived at about 2pm so had just missed the **Tuesday market but quite a few interesting gift shops were open.** Besalú is such a pretty place and not far over the border into Spain. We took a longer route to get there stopping for coffee in Prats de Mollo and over the Col d'Ares into Spain. A pretty trip in the sunshine.



Plaça del Prat de Sant Pere, 1,
Besalú
Tel: +34 972 59 11 95



**DO YOU KNOW A RESTAURANT
YOU WOULD LIKE TO
RECOMMEND?**

We'd love to hear from you.

**CONNAISSEZ-VOUS UN
RESTAURANT QUE VOUS
VOUDRIEZ RECOMMANDER?**

On serait ravis de vous entendre.

Send your comments to us at

info@anglophone-direct.com

No restaurant owners please ;-)

QUELQUES QUICKIES



LA PAUSE POLAR,

Perpignan... **with Maria**

I had a lovely coffee break with my friends at this beautiful café. The owner, Isabelle, is a lovely lady. **It's not a restaurant, just a café/ book shop, but they have coffee and cakes/ pastries I can highly recommend it!**

7 bis Rue de la Main de Fer, Perpignan
Tel: 04 11 64 88 74

L'AMPARO

Le Barcarès... **with Mary**

Excellent fresh fish, home cooking and family run.

Résidence la Sardane, Rue des Baléares
Tel: 04 68 86 10 44

LEDALI

Le Boulou... **with Michele**

Next to Lidl in the carpark! Simple, reasonably priced home cooking and service with a smile.

9 Carrer d'en Cavallès, Le Boulou
Tel: 04 68 36 20 98

FARIO

Céret... **with Jeanne Marie**

Not cheap but a truly gastronomic experience.

12 Rue Saint-Ferréol, 66400 Céret
Tel: 04 68 82 39 62

LA FERRERIA

Prades... **with Michael**

Had an absolutely fantastic lunch here. **May need to reserve, but amazing food.** Closes 1.30/2.00pm

Parking des tanneurs, 3 Trav. des Fabriques
Tel: 04 68 04 77 64

These are hard times for restaurant owners, particularly for those run by couples who work long hours and get little spare time off, to spend with their children and each other. The following restaurants support this magazine and help us to stay free. Please support them when you can.

Bon app.



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Plancha mama

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Facebook Instagram 3 Place Gambetta ARGELÈS sur MER - 04 68 37 78 23
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13, av. Michel Aribaud - CÉRET

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Regional specialtieswww.lejardindeceret.fr

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P-O Life



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Par un beau soir de printemps, un vieux couple partage une bonne bouteille de vin du Roussillon devant les cerisiers en fleurs sur fond de Canigou enneigé.

Emu, le vieil homme dit: "Je t'aime tellement, je ne sais pas comment je pourrais vivre sans toi...."

Sa femme lui répond: "C'est gentil mon chéri mais ça vient de toi...ou c'est le vin qui te fait parler..... ?

Le vieux répond: C'est moi...qui parle au vin.



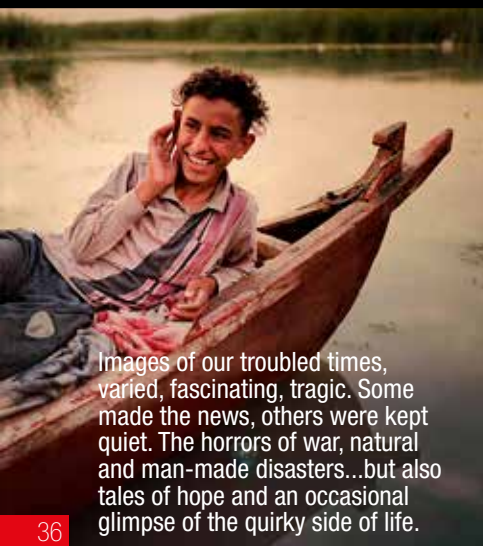
VOCAB

partage - share
fond - background
Emu - moved
tellement - so much
ça vient de toi -
is that coming from you
ou c'est le vin qui te fait parler -
or is it the wine talking

Bearing witness to some of
the world's biggest stories
30th August - 14th September

Free exhibitions in venues around
Perpignan, evening projections
on a giant screen, and **amazing
photography from up and coming
professionals** and skilled amateurs via
the "OFF" programme of fringe events
in local cafés, shops and other spaces.

And what a great
way to explore
Perpignan!



Images of our troubled times,
varied, fascinating, tragic. Some
made the news, others were kept
quiet. The horrors of war, natural
and man-made disasters...but also
tales of hope and an occasional
glimpse of the quirky side of life.



HOTEL PAMS...

the meeting place for photographers during Visa.
This art deco gem is one of several beautiful old
'hotels particuliers'. (SEE PAGE 38). Enormous
Art Deco Pre-Raphaelite paintings on the walls, a
stunning entrance hall with an amazing light well,
and a delightful hidden garden. Pop your head
around the door for a glimpse of how the other
half lived in Perpignan a century ago.



COUVENT DES MINIMES

Named after the order of 'Minimes' monks for
whom it was built, you will find many award
winning photos hung on the walls of the old monks'
dormitories, the grand corridors, the kitchens, the
cloisters and courtyard of this the 15th century
convent.



EGLISE DES DOMINICAINS

Here the Visa photographs are hung on long wires in
this impressive exhibition space, almost dwarfed by
the height of their surroundings. Part of the Cloisters
was sold to the army in the XVIII century and was,
until recently, the base of the French Foreign Legion.



CHAPELLE DU TIERS ORDRE

Another VISA venue, full of dramatic 19th century
art. The building took almost a century to complete.
The notorious "Trabucayres", Catalan highwaymen
who terrorised the roads of the Albères in the mid
19th century, were tried and condemned to death or
hard labour here.



ANCIENNE UNIVERSITE

The XVIII century 'university' was commissioned
by Marechal Mailly, commander of the Roussillon
in 1760, who personally donated 20,000 books. A
library, then a museum, today it is the home of the
city archives...
...and another venue for VISA.



LE CASTILLET

The city walls built by Vauban are long gone but
this former gateway, fortress and prison is today
a museum of Catalan History - and another Visa
venue. Climb the spiral staircase of La Casa Pairal
(entrance: 2€) to the terrace, added to support
cannons. The views across the city, the plain of
Roussillon, and the sacred Mount Canigou are
spectacular.



Particularly PERPIGNAN

WITH HENRY SHAFTOE

Perpignan is particularly well endowed with **'hotels particuliers'** No, we are not talking Holiday Inns and Novotels, but the **magnificent private mansions of well-to-do families constructed between the 16th and 19th centuries.** It is estimated that **there are over 100 of these buildings** in the historic core of Perpignan, mostly tucked away discretely behind anonymous frontages. Once you know the giveaway signs (large double doors, surmounted by a shallow arched stone lintel over an opening big enough to allow the entry of a coach and horses), you will spot them almost everywhere in the old city.

It all started with the **Casa Xanxo** (8 rue de la Main

de Fer), built around 1500 by a wealthy merchant. If you want to find out more about these hotels particuliers, this is a good starting point, as the Casa Xanxo is open to the public, is free to enter and has several rooms exhibiting the history of Perpignan.



The majority of these hotels particuliers have been converted into private apartments so are not accessible to the public, but you can sometimes go into the internal courtyards (for example: in rue du Théâtre and rue Font Froide). Other courtyards are open as cafés or restaurants, notably in rue de l'Incendie, rue Mailly and rue de l'Ange.



The rather gloomy, but truly ancient, **rue des Abreuvoirs** (tucked away between Castillet and the cathedral) apparently has the highest concentration of hotels particuliers in the city, including one where Georges Sand and Frederick Chopin stayed before eloping to Majorca!

The Natural History Museum (12 rue Fontaine-Neuve) is a perfectly preserved 'Hotel Particulier', free to enter with the benefit of a mummified resident (from Egypt, not from Perpignan!) The art museum Hyacinthe Rigaud (2 rue Mailly) consists of two 'Hotels Particuliers' knocked into one.



And the crowning glory has to be **Hotel Pams**, (18 rue Emile Zola - free entry) a gorgeously over-the-top former dwelling of the rich cigarette paper making family, Bardou Job.



As well as the dwelling, replete with delightfully kitsch and slightly risqué murals, you can visit the raised tropical garden at the back and part of the former cigarette paper factory, now used for modern art exhibitions.

So next time you are doing nothing in particular, why not go 'hotel particulier' spotting in Perpignan – I think you will be particularly impressed !

P-O Life

SUMMER

Saint-Cyprien



STYLE

JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS!

RENCONTRE DES CONFRÉRIES

Sunday 8th June

QUAI ARTHUR RIMBAUD, PORT

A unique trip into a delicious world of gastronomy and wine, highlighting the importance of preserving and promoting these culinary treasures.

There are hundreds of 'confreries' or brotherhoods throughout France, 'foodies' who 'worship' a particular food with passion. It may be wine, chocolate, regional cooked specialties, the humblest snails, pigs trotters, black pudding.... Led by a 'Grand Maître', often dressed in weird and wonderful regalia, it is all about gastronomy, regional produce and socialising, even though it may look a little like a Freemason meeting. When invited to join, members are sworn in and take an oath to uphold the glory of their local product, often with good-humoured 'initiation' tests. Many of these confréries go back a long way. They're called brotherhoods but sisters are apparently invited to join too!

FÊTE DE LA SAINT-PIERRE

27th to 29th June

QUAI ARTHUR RIMBAUD, PORT

Every year, the town pays homage to Saint Pierre, patron saint of fisherman and the sea and particularly those lost at sea. Bandas, correfocs, launching of Catalan barques, castellers, blessing of the boats and tasty and festive sardinade (sardines on the BBQ) followed by a spectacular pyrotechnic display.

BEACH NIGHT

Saturday 14th June

Big musical picnic for the people of Cyprianens.

All-white dress code, free aperitif, barbecue available — just bring your own picnic!

PINE GROVE ON THE NORTH BEACH SEAFRONT



MONSIEUR ARTHUR

5th July to 30th August from 6pm

QUAI ARTHUR RIMBAUD, PORT

Throughout July and August, food trucks, dance, music, big wheel, pétanque.... Party atmosphere for the merrymakers and zen for the chillers!



WHO IS ARTHUR?

Arthur Rimbaud was the enfant terrible of French poetry in the second half of the 19th century, a major figure in symbolism, a young rebel poet who liked to shock and was later heavily influenced by the wistful tenderness of his fellow poet and lover, Verlaine. He died at the age of 37.



EVERYONE LOVES A MARKET!

- Thursday morning: VILLAGE
- Tuesday and Friday: BEACH
- June – September:
 - Sunday morning BOULEVARD MAILLOL

L'HEURE BLEUE

16th, 23rd & 30th July.

6th & 13th August

JARDIN DES PLANTES DES CAPELLANS



Live classical music in the heart of nature, a macaron, a glass of champagne.... Classical & classy. (Admission: 15€)



LET'S GO FLY A KITE - Festival du Cerf Volant

23rd & 24th August

PLAGE NORD – SAINT-CYPRIEN

Mary Poppins would be in her element as the skies above Saint Cyprien fill with a spectacular range of multi coloured, multi shaped kites ...courtesy of the wind of course. Team flying, artistic & giant inflatables..... endless fun for the whole family.

SAINT-CYPRIEN TOURIST OFFICE

Quai Arthur Rimbaud, 66750 Saint-Cyprien Tel: 04 68 21 01 33
contact@otstcyp.com
www.tourisme-saint-cyprien.com



Argelès
sur-mer
la naturelle



May 23rd
June 1st

Urb'Art returns to Argelès-sur-Mer for the 3rd time. This colourful, eco-responsible festival, committed to food solidarity, brings together thirty-six artists around a common theme: "Mother Earth". Eight walls and a hundred recycled panels will be their canvas for wall art related to sustainable food and its impact of the agri-food industry... Graffiti to explore the meaning of our plates !

Highlights

Live painting' sessions

May 23rd – 28th : village

May 28th – June 1st : beach and port

Exhibition

"Urb'Art 3 artists' Portrait Gallery"

May 24th – August 30th,

Galerie Marianne (espace Liberté)

Open Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 a.m.

to 1:00 p.m. / 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Free

entrance

May 24th

8:30pm, Espace Jean Carrère : "Identités".

A musical journey with Catherine Lara and the Kumo Company.

Price : 15€ - boutique.ville-argelessurmer.fr



May 28th

- From 6pm, place Gambetta : **Big Urb'Art evening**, with 36 festival artists.

Live-painting on canvas, charity tombola in aid of the Le Soutien association (food solidarity), breakdance demos and auditions.

- 9pm : **Breakdance battle** with jury and prize-giving
- 11pm : **Dance the night away** with DJ RSK

May 31st : Beach Jam (South beach)

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: live-painting and 'Village des associations'

Stands and activities to raise awareness of food and sustainable development, spray-paint recycling workshop, food provided by local producers and even an area to do your own washing up!

House and techno music provided by DJ Polvorilla.



June 1st : Beach Jam - Port

From 9am to 5pm: **live-painting**, farmers' market, **concerts with B.A.A.D.** (11am and 1pm).

5pm: "L'abeille coule" show, by Jardin partagé Company

A bird flutters at the top of a tree... It's not a bird. There are no more birds, and no more bees, just the shadows of their translucent wings melting in the sun. Three characters, three eras bear witness.



More info on ville-argelessurmer.fr

The GREAT Port Vendres Tapestry

"Every picture tells a story"

The first panel of the Great Port Vendres Tapestry, the coat of arms, was created in 2015 by Jane and Juliette! Just 2 embroiderers. Gradually others joined. English, Irish, Russian, Scottish, Norwegian, American, French....a passionate group in love with the history of Port Vendres.

Some had never held a needle and thread before in their lives. Others were already quite skilled, one had been an embroidery teacher!

Since then, over many, many busy Wednesday afternoons, accompanied by gallons of tea and chat, the group have stitched the history of Port Vendres. Tapestry is 'in the blood' here. In fact, Maillol had a tapestry factory in Banyuls and the stitching in the group's panels is very similar to the tapestry produced there.

With around 80,000 stitches in each panel, countless hours were invested in the embroidery but also in raising funds to finance materials.

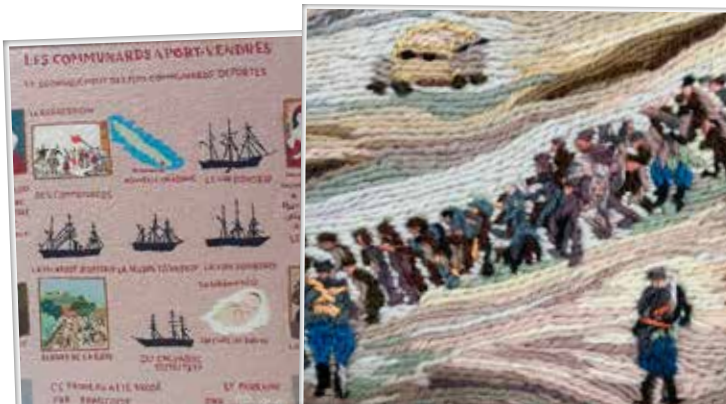


THE TAPESTRY

By 2020, a set of 21 completed panels each represented a part of the history of our town. Mission accomplished...and as all the original embroiderers had been at least retirement age when the project was started, arthritic fingers were relieved to go off duty.

However, **one visitor mentioned that they had omitted an important part of Port-Vendres' history, the 'Communards'** (No, not the group. They came much later!) A panel to reflect the group's admiration for their town of Port-Vendres was also suggested.

With a diminished number of embroiderers, **Francoise took up the challenge with the help of a local retired history teacher and the 22nd and 23rd panels were created.**



Come and see 'La Grande Tapisserie de Port-Vendres' in its permanent exhibition space, the Cultural Centre in Place Castellane. Travel through time and discover fascinating stories, from pre-history volcanoes to the modern port, from the Romans, whose sunken ships and amphorae have been discovered in our harbour to the possible journey of Hannibal over the Pyrenees to conquer Italy and atrocities wrought by Nazis as they exited the port towards the end of World War II.



The tapestry celebrates the stories of the history of Port-Vendres, lovingly rendered in colourful detail to delight residents and visitors alike. Enjoy.

For more info
www.port-vendres-tapestry.com



THE COMMUNARDS

The 'Paris Commune' was a short lived, radical government of 'common' **people who seized power between 18 March and 28 May 1871.** Ending in 'la semaine sanglante', its rule was brief and extremely bloody.

When France surrendered to Bismarck's Prussian army in 1871, after a three-month siege that brought Paris to its knees, a new, pro-monarchist government was elected to negotiate with the Germans. **The poor of Paris, to become known as the Paris Communards, rebelled, and on 18 March, they staged a bloody coup.**

"Never has a more terrible crisis unfolded in a great city"

Emile Zola.

Violence spiralled out of control on both sides. **Fires raged through the city, destroying the Tuileries, the Hotel de Ville and the Louvre amongst other public buildings.** In one bloody week,



thousands of men, women and children were slaughtered and the revolution subdued. **Thousands of communards were subsequently executed in public sites around Paris.** Many more were punished by deportation to France's penal colony in New Caledonia.

In March 1879, following a campaign led by Victor Hugo, a partial amnesty was granted, and around 1500 Communards sailed into Port Vendres.

Ironically, many of the communards' demands remain very relevant today. They asked for legitimate, accountable political representatives, the vote for women, (who played a large role in the Commune), equal pay, requisition of empty homes to house the homeless, citizenship to foreigners....Plus ça change!.



Robbie Shaw lives near Gatwick where he was an Air Traffic Controller and travels regularly to his place in Collioure.

His wife describes him as an 'aviation geek', just what we need in fact. :-)

He travels all over the world photographing aircraft, but manages to fit in many hours trawling local airport sites to keep us up to date with flights between the region and UK & Irish airports....and any other airport news that seems relevant.

FRANCE

PERPIGNAN



Sorry Kate, Leeds season is shorter this year.

If you are looking at the websites and find the fares to P.O. are very high look at the rugby fixture list and that could explain it. Often changing just a few days can reduce the fare, and car hire prices. **Also fares are generally cheaper midweek, especially in the summer months – or ridiculously expensive in school mid-term.**

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| BIRMINGHAM | 2 | RYANAIR 4 June - 27 Sep |
| DUBLIN | 3-4 | AER LINGUS 21 May-19 Sep |
| LEEDS BRADFORD | 2 | RYANAIR 4 May - 28 Sep |
| STANSTED | 5 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 24 Oct |

Unconfirmed but apparently the French Government have increased airport taxes, for those flying economy (most of us I think) meaning that each fare has gone up over €5. As a protest Ryanair has cancelled its flights from Paris / Vatry airport. At the time of printing, French media report that Ryanair may pull out of several French regional airports - including Carcassonne, Limoges and Perpignan.

If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport.

Anonymous

BEZIERS CAP D'AGDE



Like Carcassonne, **Ryanair** has a free run at this small airport. **Edinburgh** does not start till June, whilst **Stansted** this year has a shorter season – May to September.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| BRISTOL | 3 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 25 Oct |
| EDINBURGH | 2 | RYANAIR 1 June - 28 Sep |
| LUTON | 2-3 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 23 Oct |
| MANCHESTER | 3 | RYANAIR 1 Apr - 25 Oct |
| SHANNON | 2 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 22 Oct |
| STANSTED | 3 | RYANAIR 2 May - 29 Sep |

CARCASSONNE



Ryanair remains the sole operator here. Cork does not start till June.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| BOURNEMOUTH | 2 | RYANAIR 3 May - 25 Oct |
| EAST MIDLANDS | 2 | RYANAIR 2 May - 29 Sep |
| MANCHESTER | 4 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| STANSTED | 7 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| CORK | 2 | RYANAIR 3 June - 30 Sep |
| DUBLIN | 3 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 25 Oct |

CAR SHARE Visit our Facebook group P-O Life (Mediterranean Pyrenees) to offer or request lift shares to local and regional airports.

MONTPELLIER



easyJet did operate from both **Gatwick** and **Luton**, however it seems **Luton** has been dropped this year. **British Airways** operated a new Gatwick service last year and do so again this summer.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| GATWICK | 3-4 | BRITISH AWYS 23 May-27 Sep |
| | 5-6 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 25 Oct |

NIMES



Ryanair is the sole operator for P-O readers.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| DUBLIN | 2 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 24 Oct |
| STANSTED | 2 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 22 Oct |

TOULOUSE / BLAGNAC

There tends to be more flights to Toulouse from UK regional airport in the winter due to skiing opportunities, with **Andorra** not too far away. **Ryanair** have added service to **Birmingham** whilst **Manchester** will be introduced by **Jet2**.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| BIRMINGHAM | 2 | RYANAIR 1 Apr - 25 Oct |
| BRISTOL | 4-5 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| EDINBURGH | 3 | RYANAIR 1 Apr - 25 Oct |
| GATWICK | 4 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| HEATHROW | 20 | BRITISH AWYS 30 Mar-25 Oct |
| STANSTED | 10 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| DUBLIN | 3 | AER LINGUS 30 March-18 Sep |
| | 3 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 23 Oct |



SPAIN

BARCELONA / EL PRAT



Quite a few changes. **Ryanair** have restarted **Cork** and **Prestwick**. **Birmingham** has been added to the **easyJet** schedules – only four airlines on the route now ! This summer **Vueling** are no longer offering flights from **Edinburgh**, **British Airways** now operate a service from **London City airport**. **Jet2** are listing twice weekly to **Newcastle** for 2026, but nothing for 2025. Which I suspect is a mistake.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| BELFAST INT'L | 2-5 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 22 Oct |
| BIRMINGHAM | 2-4 | EASYJET 31 Mar - 23 Oct |
| | 2 | JET2 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| | 8 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 6 | VUELING 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| BOURNEMOUTH | 3 | 1 - 3 Apr ONLY |
| BRISTOL | 9-12 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 6 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| EAST MIDLANDS | 7 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| EDINBURGH | 11 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| GATWICK | 21 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 56 | VUELING 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| GLASGOW INT'L | 2 | EASYJET 2 Apr - 25 Oct |
| GLASGOW PRESTWICK | 5 | RYANAIR 1 Apr - 25 Oct |
| HEATHROW | 53 | BRITISH AWYS 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 14 | VUELING 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| LEEDS BRADFORD | 2 | JET2 31 Mar - 24 Oct |
| LIVERPOOL | 3 | EASYJET 31 Mar - 24 Oct |
| | 5 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| LONDON CITY | 5 | BRITISH AWYS 30 Mar-15 Oct |
| LUTON | 13 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 3-8 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| MANCHESTER | 8-9 | EASYJET 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 4-5 | JET2 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| | 11 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 11 | VUELING 30 Mar - 25 Oct |

| | | |
|-----------|----|----------------------------|
| NEWCASTLE | 4 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 25 Oct |
| STANSTED | 28 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| CORK | 2 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 22 Oct |
| DUBLIN | 14 | AER LINGUS 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 21 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 10 | VUELING 30 Mar - 25 Oct |

GIRONA

Subject to aircraft deliveries the number of flights listed could well change. **Ryanair** services to **Girona** have increased with several starting earlier than last season. **Stansted** is now twice daily. They also offer **Edinburgh** this summer. **Jet2 Stansted** flights doubled to four a week.

| FROM | NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS | AIRLINE |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| BELFAST | 4 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 25 Oct |
| BIRMINGHAM | 2 | JET2 7 Apr - 24 Oct |
| | 3 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 24 Oct |
| BOURNEMOUTH | 7 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| BRISTOL | 1 | JET2 3 May - 18 Oct |
| | 5 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| CORK | 3 | RYANAIR 1 Apr - 25 Oct |
| DUBLIN | 7 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| EAST MIDLANDS | 1 | JET2 4 May - 19 Oct |
| | 3 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 25 Oct |
| EDINBURGH | 1 | JET2 3 May - 18 Oct |
| GLASGOW | 1 | JET2 4 May - 19 Oct |
| KNOCK | 2 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 23 Oct |
| LEEDS BRADFORD | 2 | JET2 3 Apr - 23 Oct |
| | 5 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| MANCHESTER | 2-4 | JET2 4 Apr - 24 Oct |
| | 4 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 23 Oct |
| NEWCASTLE | 1 | JET2 6 Apr - 19 Oct |
| SHANNON | 2 | RYANAIR 31 Mar - 23 Oct |
| STANSTED | 4 | RYANAIR 30 Mar - 25 Oct |
| | 14 | JET2 3 Apr - 25 Oct |

READER TIP

If you can get a lift to Figueres bus station, and don't mind sitting through a few stops, you can actually get a bus directly to Barcelona airport, both terminals. It takes a bit longer, but if you have luggage that you don't want to hump on and off trains, it's much more practical.

Find out more at www.sagales.com



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Unbelievably BAD JOKE

(but good for your French)

Michael O'Leary, directeur général de Ryanair, arrive à Dublin. Il entre dans un pub et commande une Guinness.



"Ça vous fera un euro, monsieur" répond le barman.

"Wouah, c'est vraiment très raisonnable" dit Michael en lui tendant l'euro.

Le barman sourit et dit: "Notre objectif est de battre la concurrence. Nous sommes le pub le moins cher d'Irlande."

"Santé" répond O'Leary. "Je n'aime pas trop boire dans la bouteille. Un verre s'il vous plaît".

"Voilà Monsieur" dit le barman. Cela fera trois euros".

Avec un soupir, O'Leary paie et va s'asseoir.

"Désolé Monsieur, ajoute le barman, ça fait deux euros pour s'asseoir, sauf si vous avez réservé en ligne pour un euro seulement."



Agacé, O'Leary tente de s'asseoir mais trouve la chaise trop petite.

"Désolé Monsieur, vous êtes trop grand pour nos sièges. Vous aurez besoin d'une place supplémentaire pour quatre euros" lui explique le barman.

"C'est ridicule" dit O'Leary. Je veux parler au gérant!"

"Aucun problème Monsieur O'Leary" répond joyeusement le barman. "Vous pouvez le joindre entre 9h et 9h10 tous les jeudis et vendredis à ce numéro. Les appels sont gratuits mais coûtent 10 cents par seconde."

"Je ne reviendrai plus jamais dans ce bar!" s'écrie O'Leary.

"Comme vous voulez Monsieur... mais n'oubliez pas que nous sommes le seul pub d'Irlande à vendre une pinte pour un euro."

Useful Vocab

Ça vous fera...
that will be...

en lui tendant...
handing him

sourit
smiles

battre la concurrence
beat the competition

un soupir...
a sigh

va s'asseoir...
goes to sit down

ajoute...
adds

sauf...
unless

Agacé...
annoyed, peeved

tente...
tries

nos sièges...
our seats

Vous aurez besoin...
you will need

gérant...
manager

joindre...
get hold of, contact

plus jamais...
never again

SOME CATALAN TRADITIONS

WHEN IT'S TOO HOT FOR A DAY MARKET....WHY NOT VISIT A NIGHT MARKET?

(July & August, usually from around 19h – midnight)

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14th July
Fête de la Bastille
(Fête Nationale)

Symbol of the absolute power of the monarchy of Louis XVI, the day of the storming of the Bastille was declared a French national holiday in 1880, a celebration of the birth of the Republic.

15th August
Assomption

Commemorating the departure of Mary from this life and the assumption of her body into heaven.

Argelès
Tuesday and Friday (Port)
Every night - craft (Parking des Pins)

Banyuls sur Mer
Every Wednesday, allées Maillol

Canet
Every evening (sea front) and every Friday (port)

Céret
Every Tuesday (art & artisan)

Le Barcarès
Tuesday Thurs (Argonautes Plage)
Monday, Wednesday, Samedi (village)
Friday and Sunday (Coudalère)

Saint Cyprien
Every evening (port)

Ste-Marie-La-Mer
Monday, Wednesday and Friday (sea front)

Torreilles
Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday (beach)

CORREFOCS Tuck your Hair into your Hat!

Meaning “fire runs” and originating from a form of medieval street theatre called ‘Ball de Diables’, these spectacular shows of devils and fireworks represent the fight of good against evil. Dressed in red and black, wearing horns and masks, ‘colles de diables’ (groups of ‘devils’) dance amongst the crowds accompanied by loud music, waving sparklers, firecrackers, and roman candles, spitting fire into the crowd. Leave your health and safety training head at the entrance! Amongst other useful advice during a correfoC, the Generalitat de Catalunya suggests the following. “If by any chance your clothing catches fire, throw yourself on the ground and roll over to put out the flames. Above all, do not run, as this will spread the flames and make them burn more fiercely.”



GÉGANTS

Featuring in most Catalan parades, you will see giants (gegants) and big-heads (cap-grossos), enormous painted papier-mâché figures, sometimes 14 or 15 ft tall, wearing traditional clothing and carried by a person inside. They usually appear in couples during the patron saint holidays (Festa Major), carnivals and parades, often as king and queen, or some important person in the history of the town. They dance in the streets with comical little “big-heads” Some say that these giants represent the

eternal fight between Christians and Arab knights during the Middle Ages, others talk of a biblical, ‘David and Goliath’ possibility, but no-one is absolutely sure of their origin.

Wherever they came from, they are always an important part of any Catalan Festival.



CASTELLS I CASTELLERS

Rival bands of young people released their pent up energy by competing against each other in feats of strength and agility. The many unemployed formed ‘colles’, groups of human towers, to show off their strength and potential for work.

Today, these ‘castellers’ (castle-makers) are a treasured Catalan tradition requiring skill, discipline and organisation. As a building needs firm supports, so a successful castell needs a maximum of people pushing up against the base or ‘pinya’. The castellers shimmy up to the top quickly, the strain on the pinya is tremendous. The tower is only complete once the ‘anxaneta’, often the youngest and lightest child, climbs into place at the top and raises one hand with four fingers erect, in a gesture said to symbolise the stripes of the Catalan flag.



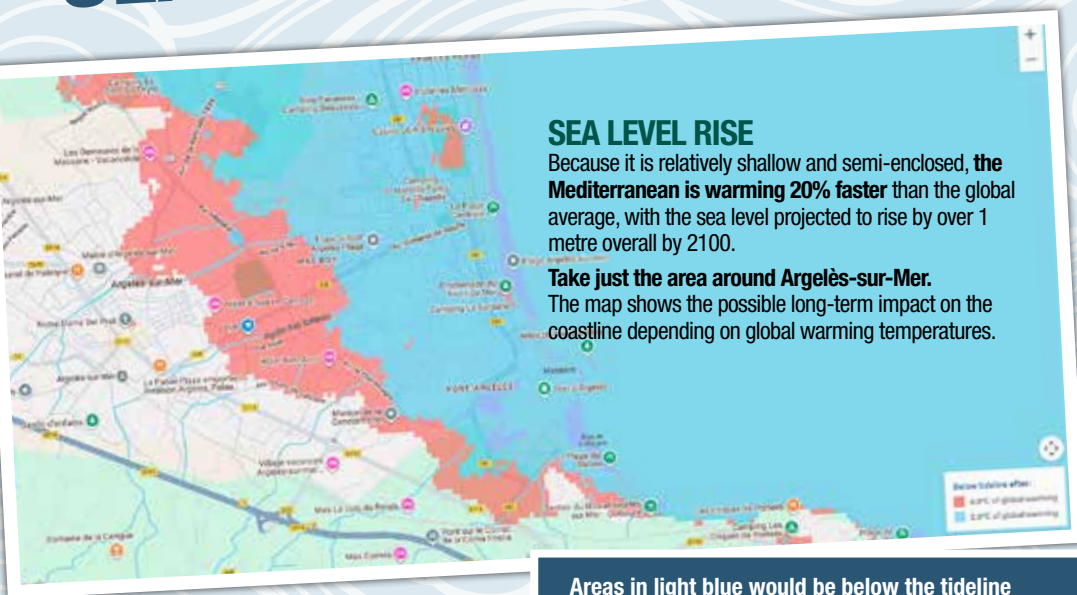
LA SARDANA

Circles within circles, hands raised and joined together, small, precise steps.....but don't be fooled. This ‘hokey cokey’ style dance may look like a sedate bit of hop, skip and jump but requires effort, muscle control and coordination. Music for the sardane is played by a ‘cobla’, a band of 11 people, including 10 wind instruments and a bass.

Franco resented the Catalan national pride and desire for independence. When he banned certain aspects of Catalan culture, the dance quickly became a powerful symbol of national unity. Today the Sardane is danced in villages and towns throughout Catalonia, by Catalan and non Catalan alike, and is a great way to make friends and take a little exercise at the same time.

mediterranean SEA CHANGE

With
Lesley McLaren



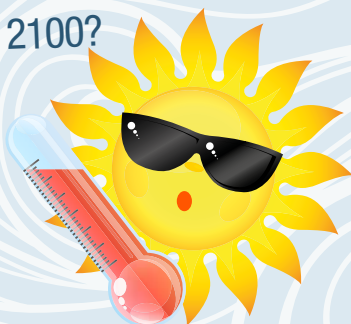
SEA LEVEL RISE

Because it is relatively shallow and semi-enclosed, **the Mediterranean is warming 20% faster** than the global average, with the sea level projected to rise by over 1 metre overall by 2100.

Take just the area around Argelès-sur-Mer. The map shows the possible long-term impact on the coastline depending on global warming temperatures.

Areas in light blue would be below the tideline at 2.0C of global warming; areas in red would be below the tideline at 4.0C of global warming

Global warming
is affecting all the
world's oceans.
What could our area of
the Mediterranean be
like by 2100?



Beach erosion and jellyfish blooms may deter visitors, while extreme heat reduces the summer tourism window. Plus, just a 20cm rise locally could magnify the destructive power of storms, threatening coastal urban areas, including Perpignan.

FRESHWATER DISRUPTION

The Pyrenees' rivers, critical for the region's freshwater supply, are projected to see **15% lower flows by 2040 due to warmer, drier conditions.** But also, in a 4°C global warming scenario, a **huge decline in nutrients from the Têt and Tech** will **disrupt plankton blooms** - the foundation of marine food webs - with knock-on effects on fisheries.

MARINE ECOSYSTEM CHANGES

Rising temperatures are reshaping marine biodiversity too. **In the P-O, it could mean a decline in a type of seagrass that stabilises sediments and supports fisheries.** And while native species such as **mussels are already declining due to heat stress and oxygen deprivation**, non-native species are thriving. **Blue Crabs have already invaded Canet lagoon.** Equally unwelcome and invasive - and potentially devastating to fishermen especially - some other creatures can also sting.

For now, some may have spread no further west than Sicily (from the Red Sea via the Suez Canal), **but we could find these in our waters too one day:**



© Alexander Vasinin
Common Lionfish
Le poisson lion

First invaded the Med about 11 years ago. A mature female releases about 2 million eggs a year. Beautiful, but armed with lots of venomous spikes. Worse, these general predators can wipe out local fish stocks and have no known natural predators.

Innocuous-looking but has venomous spines. Shoals overgraze algal forests in shallow coastal areas, leaving barren reefs. Native species cannot compete, and algal 'nursery' habitats disappear, upsetting the ecosystem.



© Roberto Pillon
Rivulated Rabbitfish
Le poisson-lapin à ventre strié



© Diego Delso

Bearded Fireworm
Le ver de feu

Up to 50cm long, these nature's recyclers, devour dead fish. Great! Until they find their way into fishing nets and decimate whole catches. Hard to kill: if cut in two, both halves regenerate. Not considered a threat to humans unless touched by careless swimmers. Their white bristles, easily detached, can penetrate skin and cause intense irritation and burning.

Will it really get so bad? Well, we're certainly not heading in the right direction. **2024 was confirmed as the warmest year on record globally** and the first calendar year that the average global temperature exceeded 1.5°C above its pre-industrial level. **March this year has been unseasonably wet locally but even after 250% more rain than normal for the month in Perpignan**, the water table is still at crisis level. Water restrictions continue.

Measures to protect infrastructure, restrict construction in high-risk areas, enhance ecosystem resilience and improve freshwater management are imperative, if costly.

Irrespective, for anyone in 2100 contemplating living or holidaying here, our stretch of the Med is likely to be very different from how we know it today.



Lesley McLaren is an amateur naturalist. She can be contacted via www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com



© Simon Brown

The round-towered church of Collioure

In the village of Collioure stands a round-towered church, **Notre-Dame-des-Anges**, so frequently drawn and painted that it is probably the most well-known round-towered church in Europe.

The bell tower or 'clocher' stands on a small outcrop of rock next to a sunny bathing beach. When the weather is inclement, it's battered endlessly by huge waves. Renovation is constantly on-going

Strategically important, possibly as far back as Roman times, **a lighthouse or beacon was built to protect commerce in the Bay of Collioure.** Functioning with smoke by day and flames by night, the lower part of the tower had narrow arrow-slits in a stout wall for defence.

It's thought that the structure was partially destroyed when the kingdom of Majorca fell, and towards the end of the fourteenth century a higher tower was constructed on its base.

In 1667 our tower became a prison, but in 1693 under Louis XIV's instructions, much of the original mediaeval town surrounding the castle **was demolished so that fortifications could be strengthened.** This demolition left the villagers without their church. **A new church was built, attached to the belltower, completed in 1693.**

The interior of the church is typically Catalan Baroque of the period with an ornate wooden gilded reredos and several similarly dressed side chapels.



© Simon Brown

The masonry of the tower can be best described in three sections. **The lowest third is the 13th century base**, which is about 7 metres high, faced with brown schiste and pierced by arrow-slits with white marble reveals. **The next level is white rounded stones set in cement.** Finally **the top story is topped with redbrick.**

It wasn't until 1810 that the pink dome was added.

Objects | the archeology of loss

Only fragments survive – a shard of pottery, a rusted electric switch, a twisted strand of barbed wire – to witness the passage of more than 60,000 people interned in the Camp of Rivesaltes between 1942 and 1966.



This year's exhibition, called **simply Objects**, marks the **tenth anniversary of the opening of the museum to honour the memory of Spanish Republicans, Jews and Gypsies as well as prisoners from colonial wars.**

Under **the director Céline Sala-Pons**, the memorial's mission is to transmit the lessons of history to inform the choices of the present.

Over the past 25 years the artist Nicole Bergé has combed the grounds of the camp collecting whatever was left behind. Her assemblages of fragments become witnesses to the life of the camp. In a wall of wooden crates full of miscellaneous rejects,

a single spot of colour - red and yellow flowers on an enamel pot - speaks out to us of hope.

Particularly poetic is a display of bottle bases lit from beneath to reveal images of a lone walker or a leafless branch.



The second part of the exhibition is devoted to a contemporary interpretation of the writing and artwork of internees: **a school notebook dated 18.11.1941, a watercolour of a visit to the camp barber, a print of three companions outside the barracks.** The exhibition is the fruit of the collaboration of ten local citizens under the guidance of **Claire Muchir** of the **museum of Collioure** and **Claude Faber** of the **Oxymore bookshop in Port Vendres** to present their impressions. Some of their conclusions:

***"I don't remember my dead.
I recall the living."***

"It is the collision of time and anger."

***"Reality is cobbled together
like a makeshift shelter."***

In 2025 as we continue to be potential **"objects"** of despotism, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, **this exhibition serves as a reminder of our common humanity.**



Objets de mémoires runs from 15 march 2025 to 20 February 2026.
For details: info@memorialcampprivesaltes.fr

ART life BAR IV

75 years of friendship.... at Céret Art Gallery

With Ellen Turner Hall

Friendship is the theme of the latest exhibition at the museum of modern art at Céret. To mark its 75th anniversary, the museum has gathered over sixty works of art which represent a variety of artists from all over the world.



led by Bioulès and Viallat. Notable are: a drawing by **Cocteau** "Tête d'homme" (1949) which gives "connecting the dots" a new meaning, **Marc Janson's** abstract "Tous les couteaux du vent" (1971) which will resonate with whomever has lived through days of unrelenting Tramontane and "Four horizons" (1989) by **Shirley Jaffe** whose flair for colour and form evokes Matisse's joyful cut-outs.



The adventure started in 1950 with Pierre Brune who called on his fellow artists to donate works to the first home of the collection in a small house in the centre of Céret. In the 1980s I remember climbing the stairs to the first floor and finding myself in a room surrounded by Picasso drawings of the artist and his models. Many of the paintings featured the artists' handwritten dedications to the museum.

Today you can relive the history of art in the 20th century from its beginnings with Picasso, Matisse and Chagall to the Supports/Surfaces movement



Two interactive installations steal the show.

"Du simple au double" by **Toni Grand**, conceived for the museum in 1993, is composed of 17 giant polyester cylinders. An adventure playground comes to mind, although while you are encouraged to walk among them, crawling inside and rolling around is not part of the program, alas!



As you enter the room containing **Tom Carr's** "Passage à Céret" photographs of the local countryside are projected onto the four walls. A series of mirrors "capture" you and place you in the shifting landscape. Your reflection in space as you move through the room "creates" the work.

75 ANS
CÉRET MUSÉE
D'ART MODERNE

The experience is both playful and profound, reminiscent of Machado's "the road is made by walking".

Plunge in and walk around. Make yourself at home. After all, you are among friends.



75 years of friendship runs from 12 April to 16 November 2025.

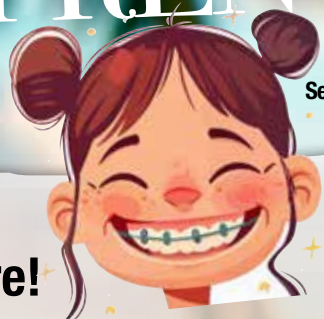
For details: www.musee-ceret.com

Test your FRENCH



Répétez trois fois
Ses six saucisses chères
sèchent sur sa chaise

See Page 69 for answers



1 S is for Sourire!

Match up the words, all beginning with S, with their definitions.
(Why not try to work them out first just from the definitions?)

- | | | | |
|------------|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| scarabée | 1 | a | outil avec lames et petites dents |
| siècle | 2 | b | venir à l'aide |
| semelle | 3 | c | mammifère qui ressemble à un humain |
| sensible | 4 | d | agiter dans tous les sens |
| sècheresse | 5 | e | période de cent ans |
| secourir | 6 | f | gros insecte volant aux antennes |
| sentier | 7 | g | chemin étroit |
| singe | 8 | h | facilement ému |
| scie | 9 | i | le dessous d'une chaussure |
| secouer | 10 | j | manque de pluie |

MY FAVE AFFECTIONATE INSULT
Nunuche...ninny, silly billy

FED UP!

J'en ai marre des gens qui se plaignent tout le temps du prix de tout. Ils râlent parce qu'il faut payer 2€ pour un café, ou 4€ pour une heure de parking et trouvent que c'est trop de payer 3€ pour une bière. Ce n'est vraiment pas si cher que ça de nos jours!
Je vais arrêter de les inviter chez moi.

J'en ai marre - I'm fed up - se plaignent - complain - Ils râlent - grumble
c'est trop - it's too much - de nos jours - these days



Trouvez la bonne définition

1 Une abeille

- a) gouffre très profond
- b) insecte qui produit le miel
- c) maison de retraite pour les religieux

2 Un casot

- a) chapeau à visière
- b) cabanon dans les Pyrénées-Orientales
- c) toit pliant d'une voiture décapotable

3 Une canicule

- a) une période de temps très chaud
- b) un chien à poil frisé
- c) une cabane pour abriter un chien

4 Un orteil

- a) une plante qui pique
- b) un doigt de pied
- c) un mammifère qui ressemble à un phoque

5 La dentelle

- a) Le cabinet de dentiste
- b) Un rinçage de bouche
- c) Un tissu très fin

6 Le littoral

- a) logique
- b) une collection de livres
- c) le bord de mer

INTERESTING EXPRESSION

Être au four et au moulin
To be in two places at once

Blague Bébête

Une mouette, assise sur un banc, mange un sandwich.
Un autre oiseau arrive, regarde son casse-croute et demande "On fait mouette mouette?"

mouette - seagull

casse-croute - snack

moit-moit - halves



USEFUL EXPRESSION

Mettre qn en porte à faux - to put someone in an awkward position

Vous me mettez en porte à faux Je ne veux pas vous mettre en porte à faux

NICE EXPRESSION

Add 'à gogo' to the end of something you have loads of!

eg J'ai des bonbons à gogo dans mon sac!

French fun from the Trotter brothers

Del: One of my most favourite meals is Duck à l'Orange, but I don't know how to say that in French.

Rodney: It's canard.

Del: You can say that again bruv!

LANGUAGE

Test your FRENCH

3

What a wet chicken!

Can you find the English equivalent of these French idioms, all rather odd if you translate them literally?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elle a une araignée au plafond 1 | a He's trying to avoid the issue |
| Un peu mon neveu 2 | b Of course! |
| C'est une poule mouillée 3 | c I won't last long (falling asleep) |
| Il est haut comme trois pommes 4 | d He's making a fortune |
| Il se fait des couilles en or 5 | e You're lucky |
| Il essaie de noyer le poisson 6 | f He a wimp/softie |
| Tous les 36 du mois 7 | g He's small |
| Je ne vais pas faire long feu 8 | h She's crazy |
| On n'est pas sorti de l'auberge 9 | i We're not out of the woods yet |
| Vous avez le cul bordé de nouilles 10 | j Never |

SILLY

HOW DO YOU TELL THE GENDER OF A TABLE? LOOK BETWEEN ITS LEGS!!



4

Give us a break!

The following expressions all use the verb 'casser' – to break. Can you find their English equivalents?

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Je me casse 1 | a Get lost! |
| Un casse-croûte 2 | b A puzzle or brain teaser |
| Casser la gueule à ... 3 | c He's a pain in the neck |
| Il faut casser le noyau pour avoir l'amande. 4 | d To give the game away |
| Casser le morceau 5 | e I'm off! |
| A tout casser 6 | f He's a daredevil |
| Casse-toi 7 | g No pain, no gain |
| Il me casse les bonbons 8 | h To smash someone's face in |
| C'est un casse-cou 9 | i At the very most |
| Un casse-tête 10 | j A snack |

BEING POLITE!

Vous (te) serait-il possible de + infinitive
Could you possibly.....?

Eg *Vous serait-il possible de me rembourser*
(would it be possible to give me a refund?)

BLAGUE BÊTE

Quelle est la peine encourue pour bigamie? Deux belles-mères! (with apologies to Victoire)
(une peine - penalty)

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- ✓ Reinforce vocabulary and grammatical elements
- ✓ Develop understanding of French culture and civilisation



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Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 69 for answers

Tongue twister (virelangue)

Repeat quickly x 3....

**Fred threw three
free throws**

1

WXYZ...

Trouvez les définitions des mots suivants, qui commencent tous avec les lettres W, X, Y ou Z

- zip 1 a yellow of an egg
yawn 2 b round toy with string wrapped around
wolf 3 c belonging to you
yoke 4 d disappear
yell 5 e to open or fasten something
yours 6 f wild animal like a dog
wage 7 g eager and ready
willing 8 h money paid for work done
vanish 9 i shout loudly
yo yo 10 j open mouth wide when tired or bored

Ouch, that English humour!
Got a little bit drunk last night and accidentally swallowed some scrabble tiles.

I fear my next visit to the toilet could spell disaster.

(fear – craindre
spell – épeler ou signifier)

IDIOME INTÉRESSANT

*A little bird told me
Mon petit doigt m'a dit*

2

Choisissez la bonne réponse

1. Where are you going?

- a) in the morning
- b) in Perpignan
- c) to the cinema

2. Thank you for the flowers, Olivier

- a) you're welcome
- b) I'm sorry
- c) 12 euros

3. Is Lulu there please ?

- a) I'm afraid he can't
- b) I'm sorry, he's not
- c) Really ?

4. Are you ready to go

bungee jumping ?

- a) OK Let's go
- b) Yes, we went
- c) Yes I have

5. Does this belong to you?

- a) yes, it is
- b) yes, it does
- c) yes it can

**ANOTHER BAD
JOKE! RÉFLÉCHIS!**
I asked my German friend
if he knew the square
root of 81.

He said no.



All the world's a stage

Les idiomes suivantes, rentrées dans le langage de tous les jours, sortent directement de la plume de M. William Shakespeare. Trouvez leurs équivalents en français.

- Green-eyed monster (Othello) 1 a dans de beaux draps
In a pickle (The Tempest) 2 b l'amour est aveugle
It's all Greek to me (Julius Caesar) 3 c montrer ses émotions
A heart of gold (Henry V) 4 d objet de risée
Wild goose chase (Romeo and Juliet) 5 e il y a de l'ordre dans sa folie
The world is your oyster (The Merry Wives Of Windsor) 6 f une fausse piste
Love is blind (The Merchant Of Venice) 7 g très gentil
There's method to his madness (Hamlet) 8 h le monde t'appartient
Laughing stock (The Merry Wives Of Windsor) 9 i c'est incompréhensible
Wear your heart on your sleeve (Othello) 10 j jalousie

**WHERE WERE YOU
BORN, SIR?**
In the United Kingdom
OK, which part?

My entire body.

4

AROUND AND AROUND

Trouvez l'équivalent en anglais pour ces verbes avec 'around'

- 1- To mess around a- changer de place
- 2- To shop around b- coucher à droite et à gauche
- 3- To sit around c- rester
- 4- To stick around d- chahuter
- 5- To hang around e- être assis sans rien faire
- 6- To swap around f- chercher le meilleur prix
- 7- To sleep around g- poireauter

Votre partenaire est stressé(e)? Voilà quelques phrases pour le/la calmer!
Cool it // Take a chill pill // Relax Max // Chill out // Take it easy // Loosen up
Hang loose // Mother Goose



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 - visit the UK for a permitted paid engagement
 - pass through the UK via UK border control
- It is not a visa but a sort of a digital permission to travel.

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WATER RESTRICTIONS CHEZ VOUS

Not sure whether there are water restrictions and hosepipes bans over your way? Check out government site <https://vigieau.gouv.fr> for the latest updates.



STINKING TO HIGH HEAVEN!

Getting fed up of those flipping stinkbugs? Here's a reader tip to send them to stinkbug heaven! Mix a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water and add a good squirt of washing up liquid in a screw top jar or a baking dish. The stink bugs hop into the solution and die. Very weird and slightly unsettling watching them do this as they just leap in. It's a bit of a pain but needs must as they have very few predators round here.



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Download **AlertCops**, free mobile app provided by Spanish Law Enforcement to assist you in case of an emergency by putting you in real time contact with the emergency services.

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(eg being followed in your car or threatened by muggers) and more.



ALERTCOPS



IN TRANSIT!

If your doctor asks you questions about your 'transit', s/he is NOT asking you about the state of your van! (transit - bowel movement)

BLACK OLIVES ARE NOT ALWAYS BLACK OLIVES!

Green olives are harvested before they're ripe, black ones ripen on the tree.

To hurry along the process, green olives are often processed so they darken to look black. In their natural state, both green and black contain oleuropein, a sort of bitter 'olive-defence system' that prevents birds and insects from pecking them off the tree. To enjoy your olives, the oleuropein must be completely removed via various chemical processes, or they are inedible.

Those perfect black olives that you buy in tins are very pretty and shiny because they are cured in an alkaline solution, and treated with oxygen and an iron compound (ferrous gluconate), which turns their skins black. This affects their flavour of course too.

If you're looking for healthy and tasty black olives, don't go for the shiny black ones, (marked 'confites' here in France) as they're the least natural of the lot!



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1. The traditional Catalan circle dance popular all over Catalonia is called ...

- a. La Sardine
- b. La Sardane
- c. La Sardinade

3. What is a vigatane?

- a. A Catalan espadrille
- b. A Catalan musical instrument
- c. A Catalan donkey

4. In 1466, Collioure was exempted from the much hated 'gabelle' tax. What was it?

- a. Tax on salt
- b. Tax on anchovies
- c. Tax on imported wine

5 Name the villains who terrorised travellers, particularly around the Spanish frontier near Maureillas and Le Perthus

- a. Les Trabucayres
- b. Les Routiers
- c. Les Bandits de Grand Chemin

6. Name the renowned Catalan apéritif made in Thuir

- a. Muscat
- b. Pastis
- c. Byrrh

LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

TEST YOUR FRENCH

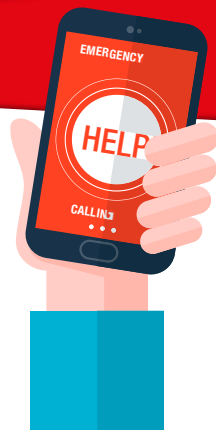
- 1 1f 2e 3i 4h 5j 6b 7g 8c 9a 10d
- 2 1b 2b 3a 4b 5c 6c
- 3 1h 2b 3f 4g 5d 6a 7j 8c 9i 10e
- 4 1e 2j 3h 4g 5d 6i 7a 8c 9f 10b

AMÉLIOREZ VOTRE ANGLAIS

- 1 1e 2j 3f 4a 5i 6c 7h 8g 9d 10b
- 2 1c 2a 3b 4a 5b
- 3 1j 2a 3i 4g 5f 6h 7b 8e 9d 10c
- 4 1d 2f 3e 4c 5g 6a 7b



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(medical emergency)
- 17 POLICE**
emergency
- 18 Fire service**
emergency

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- 114 Emergency number**
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