

ORÍGENS GEOPARK, A TRIP IN TIME

There are trips inspired by singular landscapes and there are others that go even beyond.

We invite you to take a trip in time to discover the origins and evolution of the Earth and life itself up to the present day.

Located in the Catalan Pyrenees, Orígens Geopark is a territory of great geologic wealth.

Here the stones speak, but don't just listen to them: you have to feel them with all five senses to

www.geoparcorigens.cat

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Home page photo: reservoir of Sant Antoni. © Oriol Clavera. Archive Ara Lleida

connect with the immense and authentic nature, escape, savour the gastronomy and chat with the people who live here, who will tell you how this natural treasure has shaped their lives.

2! Epicentre, the geopark's visitor centre, is the space for welcoming visitors and the interpretation centre where the values of the geopark are explained with over 700 m² of exhibition space.

Welcome to Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark.

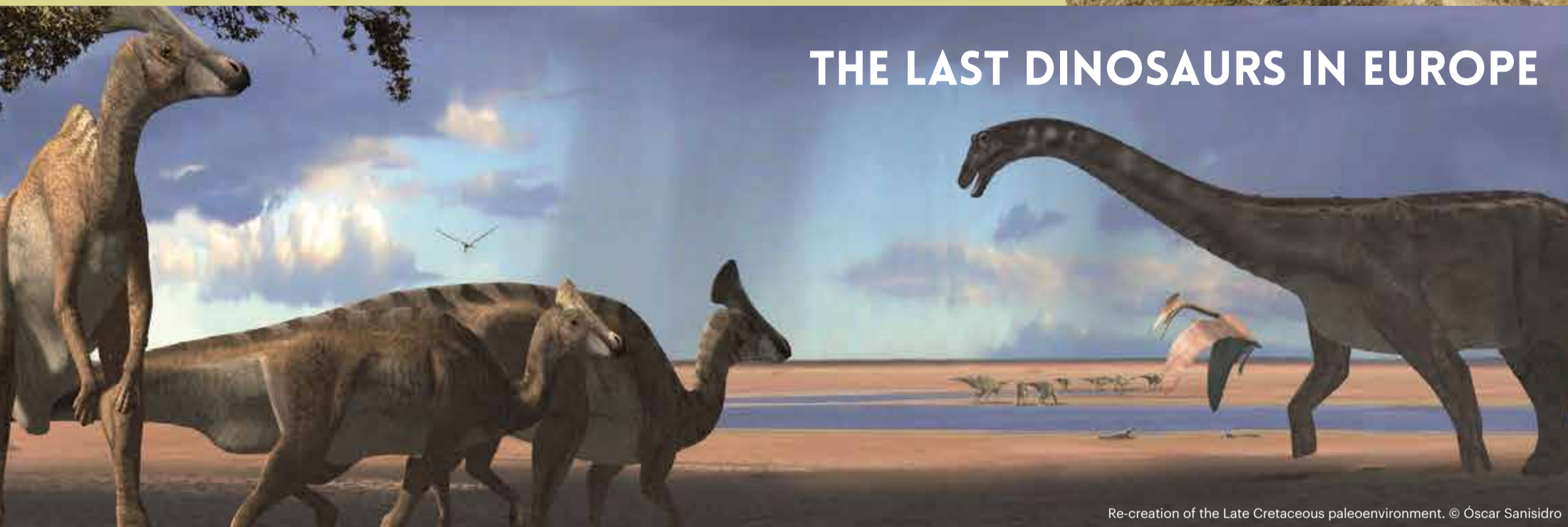


ORÍGENS GEOPARK

in the Catalan Pyrenees



THE LAST DINOSAURS IN EUROPE



Re-creation of the Late Cretaceous paleoenvironment. © Óscar Sanisidro

The last dinosaurs in Europe lived in the geopark. These great giants have left us multiple traces of their existence, like bones, footprints and eggs, which you can see today at various museums and archaeological sites open to visitors.

The dinosaurs inhabited the territory of the geopark until they suffered the consequences of the meteor fall about 66 million years ago.

Let your imagination fly you into that period, and watch these impressive animals moving freely through an environment which, at that time, had a tropical feel, with areas of beaches and full of exuberant vegetation. Are you ready for this adventure?

www.dinosauresdelspirineus.cat

1 **Museum of Conca Dellà**
C/ Museu, 4.
Isona
Tel.: +34 973 66 50 62
www.parc-cretaci.com

2 **Dinosfera**
C/ Escoles, s/n.
Coll de Nargó
Tel.: +34 636 417 678
www.dinosfera.com

THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

To know how life started, you have to look up at the sky. At the geopark, you'll be marvelled by a spectacular, pollution-free sky!

The best place to see it is the Universe Observation Centre (COU). The COU offers day and nighttime visits to its three spaces: the Eye of Montsec, Telescope Park and exhibition rooms. The Eye of Montsec is a digital 3D multimedia planetarium with a one-of-a-kind mobile dome, where audiovisual shows are projected and the night sky can be discovered from any point on the planet and in time.

3 **Universe Observation Centre**
Camí del Coll d'Ares, s/n. Àger
Tel.: +34 973 053 022
www.parcrastronomic.cat

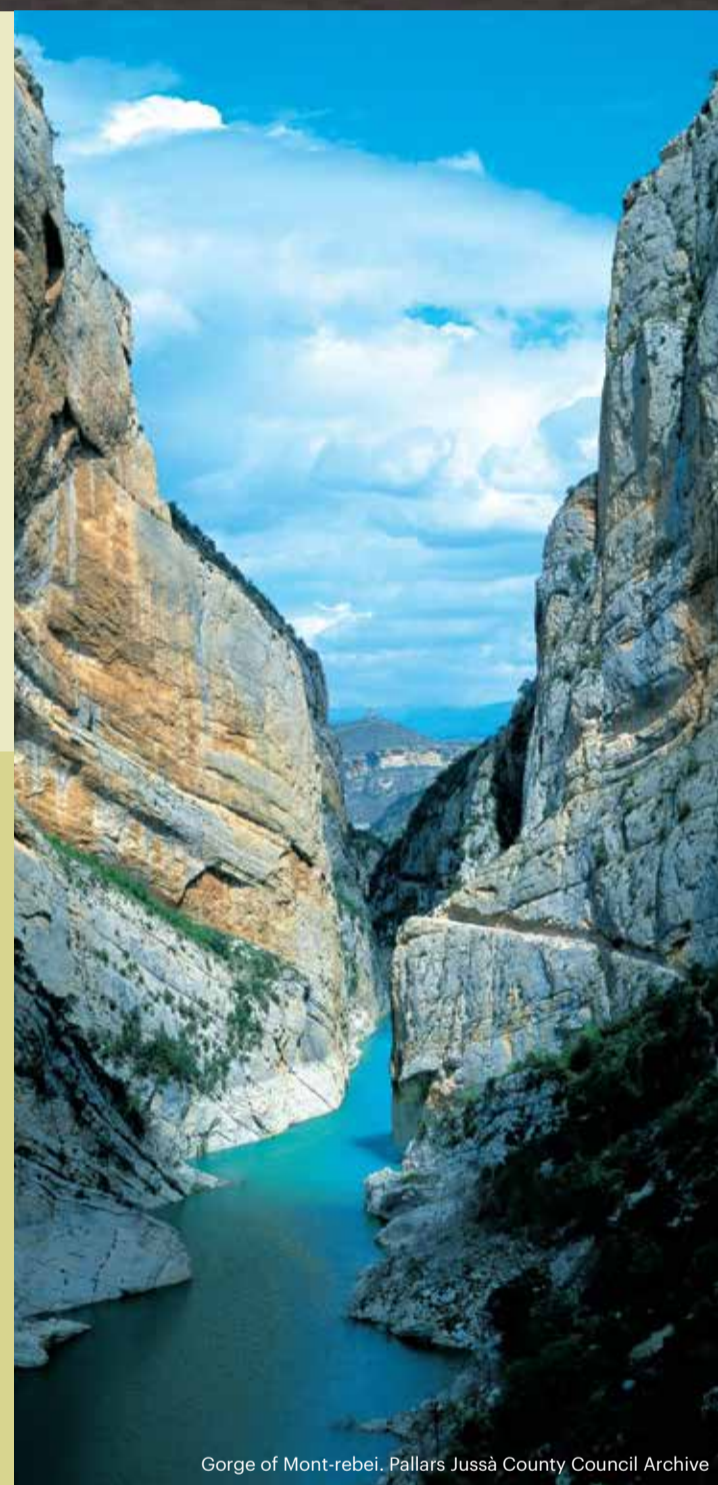
THE FORMATION OF THE PYRENEES

Our next stop on this trip in time will show you a key moment in geologic history, the formation of the Pyrenees.

All along the Flamisell and Noguera Pallaresa rivers, which cross the geopark from north to south, you'll find various spots which illustrate the chapters of this history.

One of the most relevant locations is the gorge of Collegats, a fascinating spot full of geology, nature and legends. You can reach it by car and from there take various routes on foot. The explanatory panels throughout the itineraries will give you tips to help you understand the formation of the Pyrenees.

4 **Collegats gorges**



Gorge of Mont-rebei. Pallars Jussà County Council Archive

THE MOST AUTHENTIC NATURE

El gorge of Mont-rebei

It is the most impressive gorge in Catalonia, with 500 metres of calcareous rock cliffs. You can traverse it by water, along the Noguera Ribagorçana River, or on foot following a horseshoe trail carved from the rock which crosses it from end to end.

Do you dare to walk through this vertiginous spot?

5 **La Masieta**
La Masieta, s/n. Sant Esteve de la Sarga
Tel. +34 608 292 044
www.fundaciocatalunya-lapedrera.com

The Boumort Reserve

Delving into the Boumort Reserve is a way of relinquishing oneself to nature in its purest state.

It is home to the most important deer population in Catalonia, which offers its sound performance in the fall (the mating call). The four European vulture species live there as well.

A paradise for lovers of fauna and photography, which you can enjoy through trips on foot or guided 4x4 tours.

6 **Boumort Reserve**
www.pallarsjussa.net/ca/boumort

La Terreta

In the zone of La Terreta you'll be able to admire the great birds of prey. At the Vulture House, you can see them live on camera and on scheduled visits to the observatory.

7 **The Vulture House**
C/Major, 9. La Torre de Tamúrica
Tel. +34 973 05 79 47

THE HUMAN HISTORIES OF THE GEOPARK

The first human settlers

This journey through time has another must-see stop in the prehistoric era.

From Space Orígens, in Camarasa, you can visit Oxen Rock, the Archaeological Park of Sant Llorenç de Montgai, or Tobacco Cave, whose paintings represent a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. These three informative spots will give you a complete and very educational vision of the lifestyle of the geopark's first inhabitants.

8 **Space Orígens**
Carretera C-13, km. 44.
Camarasa
Tel.: +34 973 420 427
www.espaiaorigens.cat

Water and the Industrial Revolution

Water and nature have shaped the identity of Vall Fosca, in the north zone of the geopark.

In this valley sculpted by ice, the first large hydroelectric plant in Catalonia was set in motion in 1914.

The plant, still in operation, is also a museum where all the changes caused by this immense construction in a tiny valley are explained.

To round off the visit, you have an unbeatable ally: the Vall Fosca cable car, which will transport you –with spectacular views– to Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park.

12 **Hydroelectric Museum of Capdella**
La Central de Capdella, s/n. Capdella
Tel.: +34 973 663 001
www.vallfosca.net

Gerri de la Sal

The history of the walled town of Gerri de la Sal and its monastery is closely linked to salt production.

It is one of the few places in Catalonia where salt is produced without seawater. Do you know why it's possible?

At Reial Alfolí de Gerri, a former salt warehouse turned museum, you'll find an exhibition to discover it and learn the extent of the role salt mining played in this town's past.

9 **Museum of Gerri de la Sal**
Plaça de l'Àngel Esteve, 10.
Gerri de la Sal
Tel.: +34 630 056 138
<http://baixpallars.ddl.net/museu-de-gerri/>

Traditions of fire and water

In the geopark, a number of diverse ancestral cultural traditions have been preserved.

The Falles, the festival of fire which marks the start of summer, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, is held each year on 17 June in La Pobla de Segur.

The festival of Els Raiers (the rafters) commemorates a historical vocation which consisted in transporting wood down the river on rafts made out of the wood itself. It is held in La Pobla de Segur, in early July, and Coll de Nargó, in mid-August.

13 **Raiers**
La Pobla de Segur
www.elsraiers.cat
Coll de Nargó
<http://alturgell.orgfree.com/Raiers.html>

14 **Falles**
La Pobla de Segur
www.fallairespobla.org

The Salàs Shops Museum

Nostalgia awaits you behind the counter at the Salàs Shops Museum.

The various spaces will help you explore the national history of everyday commodities, advertising and packaging over the course of a century, from 1870 to 1970.

All in all, eight shops comprise the historic town of Salàs de Pallars. Take a guided tour to relive not-so-distant ways of doing things at the barbershop, café or haberdasher's.

10 **Salàs Shops Museum**
Plaça del Mercat.
Salàs de Pallars
Tel.: +34 973 676 266
www.botiguesmuseusalas.cat

Mur Castle and Church

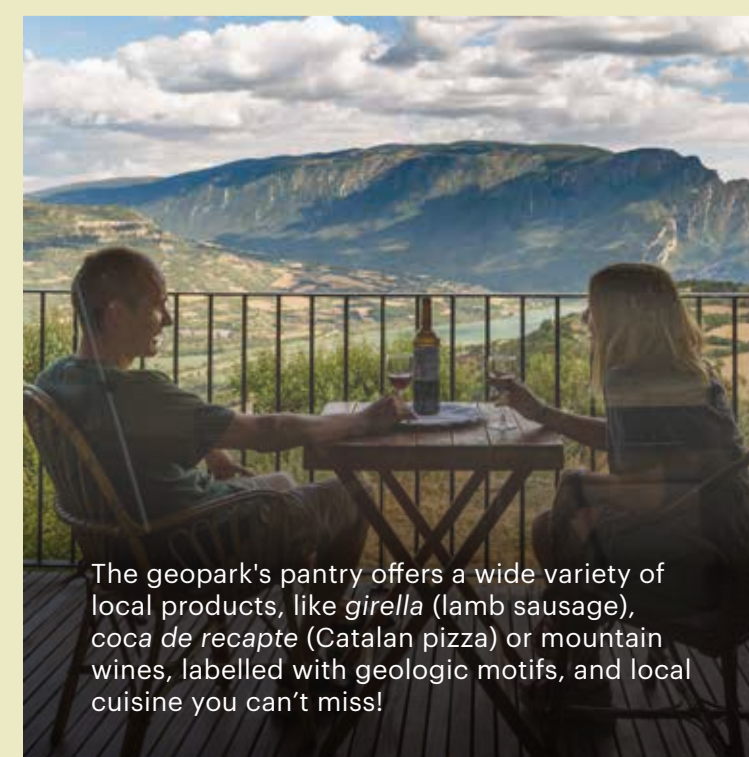
In the geopark, the stones speak..., and at Mur Castle, they'll tell you the story of an ancient sea, the pigments imprinted on the frescos or the knightly legends from this area, a border zone with Arab lands during the Middle Ages.

Placed on top of a hill at nearly 900 metres, you will be able to enjoy magnificent views of this territory.

11 **Mur Castle**
Tel.: +34 677 701 820
www.castellmur.cat

Mur Castle and Church. © Jordi Peró

Collmorter. © Jordi Peró & Llibert Cases



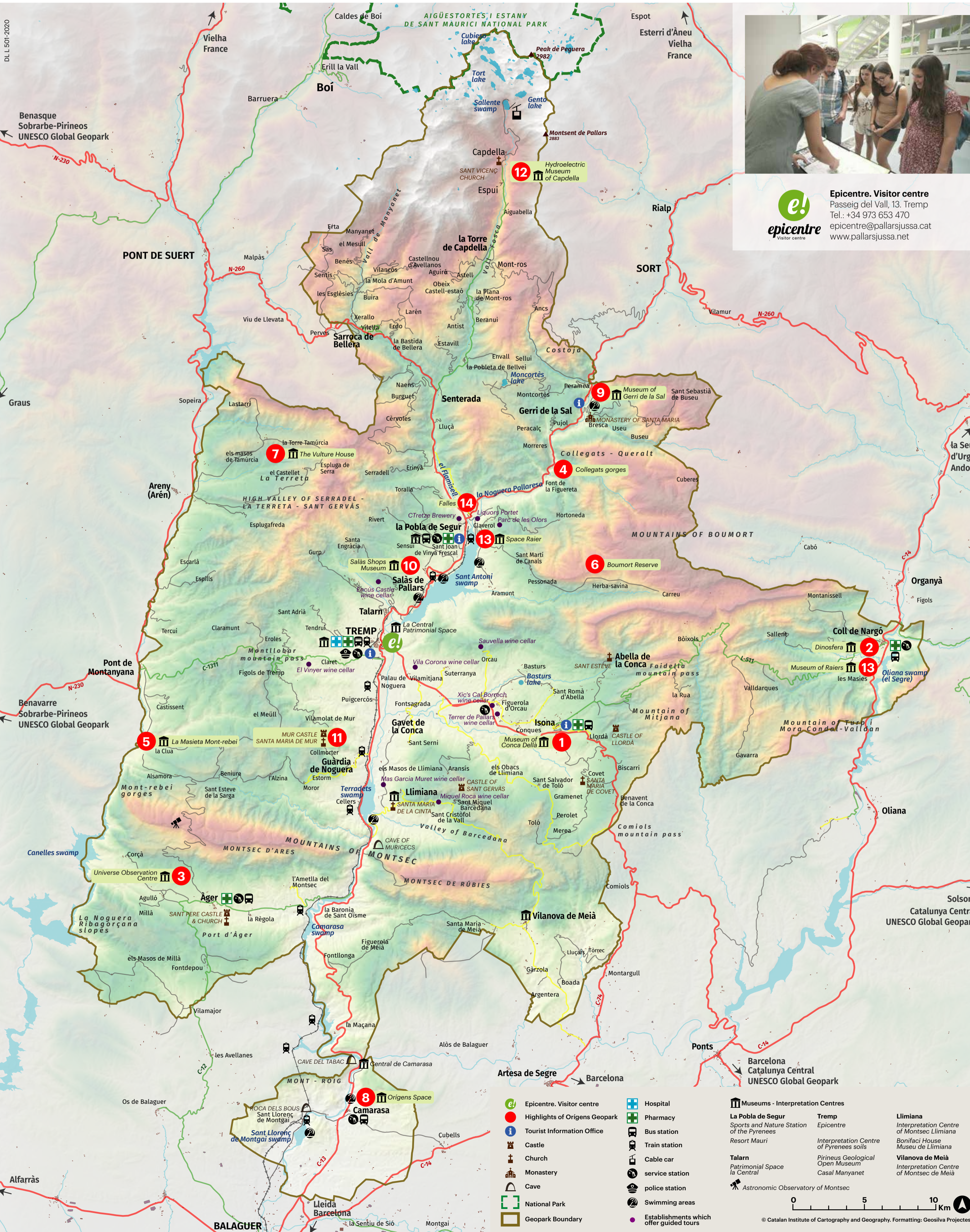
The geopark's pantry offers a wide variety of local products, like *girella* (lamb sausage), *coca de recapte* (Catalan pizza) or mountain wines, labelled with geologic motifs, and local cuisine you can't miss!



A RESPONSIBLE VISIT TO ORÍGENS GEOPARK

- Respect, appreciate, enjoy. Make these words your philosophy at Orígens Geopark.
- Preserve its geologic heritage. Respect places of geologic interest and conserve them in a good state.
- Take care of the wildlife. Observe the animals at a safe distance. Respect the flora and fauna.
- Support proximity. Consume products from the area and enjoy the local gastronomy.
- Engage in sustainable tourism and help maintain the identity and well-being of the geopark's inhabitants.
- We encourage you to spread the word about the geopark's charm.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are territories with geological features that are relevant on an international scale, where natural and cultural heritage are linked. They aim to promote conservation, education and sustainable development to benefit the local population. The Global Geopark Network is made up of over 150 geoparks, a figure which grows each year.



epicentre Visitor centre
 Passeig del Vall, 13. Tremp
 Tel.: +34 973 653 470
 epicentre@pallarsjussa.cat
 www.pallarsjussa.net

Epicentre. Visitor centre	Hospital	Museums - Interpretation Centres
Highlights of Orígens Geopark	Pharmacy	La Pobla de Segur Sports and Nature Station of the Pyrenees Resort Mauri
Tourist Information Office	Bus station	Tremp Epicentre Interpretation Centre of Pyrenees soils
Church	Train station	Talarn Patrimonial Space la Central Astronomic Observatory of Montsec
Monastery	Cable car	Llimiana Interpretation Centre of Montsec Llimiana Bonifaci House Museu de Llimiana
Cave	service station	Vilanova de Meia Interpretation Centre of Montsec de Meia
National Park	police station	
Geopark Boundary	Swimming areas	
	Establishments which offer guided tours	

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