

PORTELL

With the Bergantes making its way through the mountains



**ELS
PORTS**
és Autèntic



INFORMATION

Portell is a town located in the north of the province of Castellón and at the western end of the Ports region. The town centre is located at an altitude of 1,070 metres, in a mountainous and abrupt environment, with numerous ravines. Access is via a winding road that links Cincorres with La Iglesuela, through a landscape of great natural beauty.

The climate of the area is a transition from Mediterranean to continental, with very cold winters and warm summers, with very short springs and autumns. The maximum altitude is 1,320 metres at Puerto de Cabrillas, which is the gateway to the Maestrazgo region. Portell also has a series of places of great tourist interest that are still unspoilt today. These are places that have a great ethnographic richness due to their autochthonous values, among which we can highlight: the uninhabited village of Les Albaredes, the Rambla Celumbres, the Roca Roja, the Barranc de les Clapises, the Pla de Ramonas or the Pont de la Rambla...



ORIGINS

It seems to be a known fact that Portell was conquered from the Muslims by Blasco de Alagón in 1233. New discoveries and the existence of the Muslim settlement of Portell el Vell raise doubts about this matter.

The town charter granted by Pedro II in 1212 to the Knights Templar of Cantavieja includes the current territories of La Mata, La Cuba and Portell up to the Muslim castle of Celuma. In the 13th century, the Templars built a powerful defensive tower (nowadays a bell tower) to control the road to the highlands of Teruel and to defend the border.

The defensive nucleus made the development of the village possible. Portell is not of Islamic origin, it is Christian and newly created.

SQUARE AND TOWN HALL

In the 17th century, following the guidelines of Baroque town planning, a major reform took place, eliminating Gothic buildings to create public spaces.

The Town Hall building is similar to others in the region and together with l'Escoleta, the current doctor's house and the old nursery school, it creates a space to centralise collective life and host festive activities.



ABBEY HOUSE

House attached to the church built around 1750 as a residence for the clergy.

Attached to the walls and to a tower, it presents a typology of a residential house for wealthy families. A wide wooden balcony visually connects it with the exterior. At the top, a spiral staircase leads to the sacristy.



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Built in the first half of the 18th century, it is one of the first church-hall temples in the Valencian Community. With a rectangular floor plan, it has three naves of the same height and perimeter walls without chapels except at the chancel where the semicircular presbytery is located. It has a barrel vault roof with lunettes in the central nave and a groined roof on the side naves. The transept and the sacristy, with interesting frescoes, are covered with a dome. The bell tower, formerly a defensive tower, has an interesting Baroque door.



SANT MARC HERMITAGE

A single-nave church that uses the traditional civil construction system with a gabled roof over pointed diaphragm arches.

It is a system used in the Mediterranean countries, and in Valencia it is related to the Christian repopulation, hence the name Gothic-reconquest. The sanctuary is flat with a voussoir-shaped doorway.



LA MARE DE DÉU DE LA FONT HERMITAGE

Probably built on the site of an Ibero-Roman sanctuary, it maintains the constructive formulas of late Gothic associated with Renaissance taste.

A single nave, on different levels with buttresses attached to the wall and covered with a Gothic vault. In 1719, the Baroque style covered the sanctuary with paintings that decorate the ribs and walls. The geometric façade and the Renaissance door complete the ensemble.



CALVARY

Built in 1849, with a whole set of chapels of the Way of the Cross, depicted in ceramic prints.

Inside, there is a small church with an masonry stone façade and a four-sloped roof. It has an altar, a dome and four decorated columns.





LA RAMBLA BRIDGE

It is a construction of the so-called water architecture. Many authors have pointed to the Roman origin of the bridge.

If the medieval origin is ruled out, as it is not a pointed arch, other experts place its construction in modern times and related to the wool trade.

PUBLIC WASHING PLACES

Built to facilitate the washing of clothes by taking advantage of a nearby spring, they appeared in the mid or late 18th century, with the hygienist measures taken by the Enlightenment. They are formed by walls topped by slabs of inclined stones. In order to ensure maximum lighting and ventilation, they are covered in a bay that is made of beams. The roof is usually made of Arabic tiles. They were and still are an important centre of conviviality and social contact.



NATURE

Portell has an extraordinary attraction in its natural resources, especially for the diversity of existing habitats.

The Alt Maestrat is a Site of Community Importance, with the presence of habitats, endemic species and outstanding ethnographic elements, such as the heritage site of the “pedra en sec” (dry stone).

The Municipal Natural Park of the Rambla de Celumbres will surprise us with its luxuriant pine and coniferous forests.

La Roca Roja (the red rock), unique geological canyon, whose vertiginous walls rise to a height of more than 300 metres. Colonies of black vultures and mountain goats nest on its inaccessible walls.

Els Plans, located at 1,262 metres, but easily accessible. There you can enjoy impressive views of the Roca Roja and the rugged Celumbres ravine.

The Clapisses Ravine, has several pools which, in the rainy season, are a great scenic spectacle, especially the one called Toll Negre.

Las Albaredes, in the valley of the river La Cuba, dominated by spectacular vegetation and the flight of vultures and eagles. It became a district of Portell, including a school and hermitage.

The monumental trees of Pi de Maiianet and Roure de Portell sare examples of singular trees of unquestionable antiquity.



Punts d'interès / Puntos de interés / Interest places

- 1 Ajuntament**
Ayuntamiento
Town Council Building
- 2 Centre de Salut**
Centro de Salud
Medical Centre
- 3 Farmàcia**
Farmacia
Pharmacy
- 4 Castell de Portell de Morella (BIC)**
Castillo
Castle
- 5 Església parroquial de l'Assumpció**
Iglesia parroquial
Church

- 6 Museu Templer**
Museo
Museum
- 7 Casa Abadia**
Casa Abadía
Abbey house
- 8 Ermita de N S de l'Esperança (s. XV s. XVI)**
Ermita
Chapel
- 9 Museu Tèxtil la Rosaleta**
Museo
Museum



PORTELL

TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS

Products that have been used since time immemorial and many have medieval origins.

Portell bread is appreciated for its flavour, now forgotten in the cities. Perhaps it is because of the ingredients and the artisan methods used in the old Portell oven, of Muslim heritage.

The black truffle has been cultivated in Portell since ancient times, which allows us to taste dishes as tasty as “truffled pâté in warm blueberry sauce” or “truffled shoulder of lamb wrapped in puff pastry”.

The natural environment of Portell offers a wide variety of mushrooms that can be collected and a wide variety of edible mushrooms can be found.



The honey made from the flowers of the holm oak or lavender is produced from by local beekeepers. It can be enjoyed mixed with milk, in the “colla”, with soft cheese in various pastries, such as “flaó”.

Wild and aromatic plants are abundant in Portell which, in addition to their botanical interest, have traditionally been used for their medicinal properties, such as “rock tea” or “camomile”.

Portell still preserves textile production as one of its main traditional activities, using quality products from the area to make knitwear or scarves, which today are used in the Sanfermines in Pamplona, Easter Week in Seville or the Castellers in Catalonia.

POPULAR FESTIVITIES

SANT ANTONI ABAD

It is celebrated on the Saturday closest to 17th January, with a representation of the Saint's life, a representation of the life of the Saint, the "mayo", the bonfire, the barraca and the blessing of the animals.

FIESTAS PATRONALES

Patronal feasts dedicated to Santo Tomás, San Roque and La Asunción. It is held in mid-August, with bullfighting, dances with orchestra and various petitions.

SANT MARC

It is celebrated on the Saturday closest to 25th April, with a pilgrimage to Las Albaredas, where a popular mass is held, a "rollo" is handed out to those attending and a brotherhood meal is held..

PATRON SAINT'S DAY

It is celebrated on December 18th. After a procession, the "quintos" hand out the "coqueta" (typical pastry) to those present and the younger ones recite poems, popularly known as "dichos" (sayings), in honour of the Virgin.

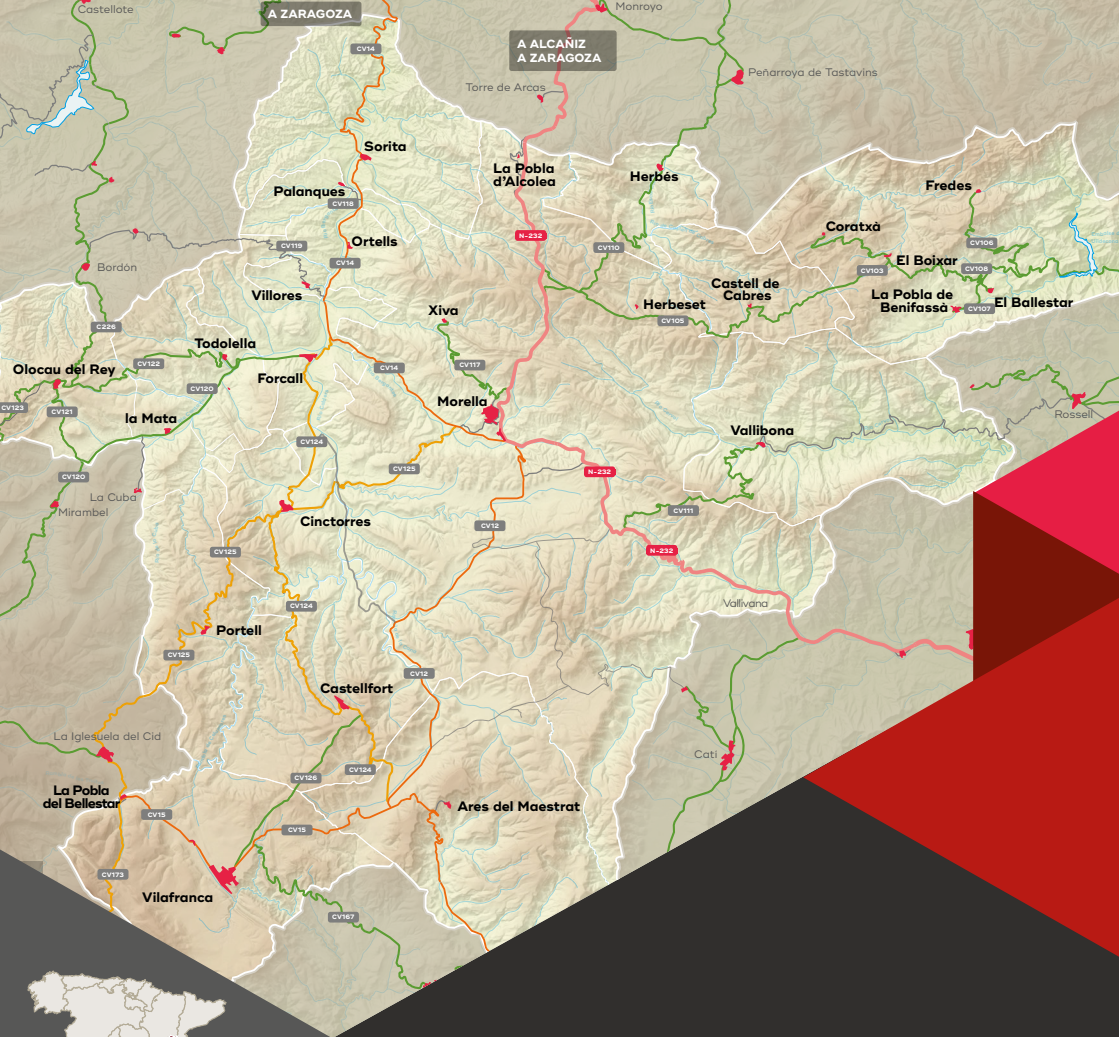
SANT QUIRICO AND SANTA JULITA

It is held between the end of June and the beginning of July in the Albaredes.

ROGATION TO SANT PERE

Of medieval origin, it maintains the mysticism, religiosity and strictness of its rules. Legend has it that the origin of the pilgrimage lies in the march of 12 men who walked to Rome to ask the Pope for a blessing that would bring health and water to the town. Only one returned 14 years later, with the mandate to go to the hermitage of Sant Pere de Castellfort. Since then, 12 pilgrims from the town, separated by 50 steps each, make the pilgrimage in silence to Sant Pere de Castellfort and return in the afternoon. Upon arrival in the village, the pilgrims are greeted by the pedestals and banners of the parish, and the procession goes up to the church.





ELS PORTS
Portell



Ajuntament de Portell

www.elsports.es/portell · www.portelldemorella.es

Plan de Dinamización y Gobernanza Turística de Els Ports



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