

# HERBERS

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Small medieval streets



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## INFORMATION

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Herbés is the most northeastern town in the Valencian Community. Its municipal district offers spectacular scenery, where the mountains of La Tosa, Roca Mola, El Botado or Costa del Ginebra stand out, with spectacular views of the valley and the surroundings of the municipality. This is why its orography is very uneven, ranging from 750 metres above sea level in the town centre to 1,236 metres above sea level. The town rests on the slopes of a hill, where the majestic palace of the Baron of Herbés rises. This is a refurbished 14th century building, which has all the rooms of a feudal castle, with beautiful Gothic windows.

Walking through Herbés is to enjoy small streets with a medieval layout and traditional stone architecture, to immerse oneself in a land that seems to be from another era and that still preserves some traditional trades, such as the distillation of brandy, from which a high quality liqueur is obtained.



## CASTLE OF EL BARÓ

A palace dating back to the 14th century. It has interesting rooms from different periods and styles, offering a journey through its history, from the enormous medieval refrigerator and the tithe room, to an impressive wine cellar, Renaissance rooms from the 16th century, gloomy prisons and the majestic noble hall.

## THE LORDS OF HERBERS

During medieval times, Herbers was a small Muslim farmstead, conquered in 1233 by the troops of Blasco de Alagón, who granted a town charter to Joan Garcés, an Aragonese member of the lower nobility who is considered to be the first of the lords of the town. In the following centuries, different lineages would be the owners of the manor and, from the 14th century onwards, they built a palace in the highest part of the town, known as “el castell” (the castle).

The most famous figure of the historical barony of Herbers was Rafael Ram de Viu y Pueyo, Baron of Herbers, Count of Samitier, Grandee of Spain and Knight of the Order of Charles III. Although he was born in Alcañiz, he had strong links with the town, as he owned its castle, where he stayed for some periods during his life.





Thus, Rafael Ram de Viu was a military man and politician, commissioned by the Central Junta in the Spanish War of Independence at the beginning of the 19th century. He was the corregidor of Teruel (1824–28) and Corregidor governor of Valencia (1828–33). He is remembered for having led the Carlist uprising in Morella in November 1833 in favour of the pretender to the Spanish throne, Carlos María Isidro de Borbón (known as “Carlos V” by his followers).

For this reason, he was captured by the liberals and shot in Teruel in January 1834. The farewell letter he wrote in the days before his execution is a clear manifestation of his religious and political ideals.



## A TOUR OF THE CASTLE

A tour of the castle of Baron Herbers is a journey through history, following at every step the traces left by its former owners in its great halls and strange rooms. During the visit you will enjoy a building frozen in time, with interesting furnishings and elements from different periods, rooms with attractive decorations, stone walls covered with old mouldings and decorated with Latin phrases and heraldic motifs, reminiscent of the splendour of the place.

Currently: it can be visited by appointment to a guided tour.

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## Interest places

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Barón de Herbers Castle | 10 Social Hall        |
| 2 Ice well - Tithe Room   | 11 Washing places     |
| 3 Sant Bertomeu Church    | 12 Old schools        |
| 4 City hall               | 13 Facade             |
| 5 Calvary                 | 14 Pools              |
| 6 Old Market - Inn        | 15 Shop               |
| 7 Bassi                   | 16 Hotel              |
| 8 Spirit Distillery       | 17 Spring             |
| 9 Medical practice        | 18 "El Botadó" Museum |





## ANTIQU MARKET

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Located in the centre of the village of Herbés, on the way up Calle del Horno, is the building that was once the village's old commodities exchange. It is a voluminous building, built of carved stone, in which you can still see some robust Gothic arches from the 16th century. Nowadays, it is in excellent condition and is used as the town's inn and as a lounge-bar for social gatherings by the inhabitants of Herbés.

## ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF THE BOTADOR

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Herbers has been a village of craftsmen. The skilled hands of its inhabitants led to the development of a considerable number of professions, which helped the people to live and sustain the subsistence economy that prevailed in the past centuries in the county.

The village of Herbers wanted to preserve the memory of these traditional trades by creating a very special ethnological museum, in which you will find a journey through the history and tradition of craftsmanship.

## CITY HALL

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The Town Hall of Herbers is located in the highest part of the town, very close to the Church Square. It is a renovated building that has retained its traditional structure, with its large eaves and wooden balconies. The building also houses the Herbers Municipal Archives.





## PARISH CHURCH OF HERBERS

The Parish Church of Herbés is located at the highest point of the village and is dedicated to San Bartolomé Apóstol. It was built in the first half of the 14th century, and its style is indeterminate (Gothic, Corinthian and Neoclassical). It is a small, rectangular church with three naves and a choir loft. It has a side chapel, in which Baroque details can be seen. It also has an interesting ashlar porch with a Gothic semicircular doorway. Inside, sacred ornaments from the Royal Monastery of Santa María de Benifassar, which arrived here when the Religious Orders were secularised, are preserved.



## HERMITAGE OF LA MARE DE DÉU DEL SARGAR

The hermitage of the Virgen del Sargar is located about 3 km east of Herbers, next to the ravine of the same name, so called because of the abundance of sarga, a kind of bush used to make wicker baskets.

It was built at the end of the 13th or beginning of the 14th century, shortly after the town charter of Herbers was issued by Blasco de Alagón, and was originally fortified.

The hermitage complex is made up of three main buildings built in masonry arranged around a courtyard with a fountain in the centre. On one side is the church, inside which you can admire some interesting paintings, the work of the Morella painter Juan Francisco Cruella, made in 1836 and restored at the beginning of the 20th century.

## NATURE

The Herbés area is a place of great natural beauty that is worth discovering, with calm and respect for the natural environment, due to its unique landscape. We can highlight the following:

### A unique place: EL BOTADÓ

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### A especial mountain: LA TOSSA

It is one of the mountains surrounding Herbers and from its 1,101 m. you can enjoy magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding area. This place is visited by the locals around the 3rd of May, the celebration of the Holy Cross. There is a small stone dedicated to St. Macarius and St. Helena. EOn the way down from La Tossa to Herbers you will find the 'Coves Foradades' (caves), which are very curious because of their large openings.



## FESTIVALS, TRADITIONS AND FAIRS

### SANT ANTONI ABAD

Main winter festival, with fire as the main protagonist. It is celebrated on a Friday around 17th January.

### ROMERÍA DE LA TOSSA

Penitential pilgrimage to the wayside cross of La Tossa. On the way back there is a solemn entrance procession.

### SANT MARC

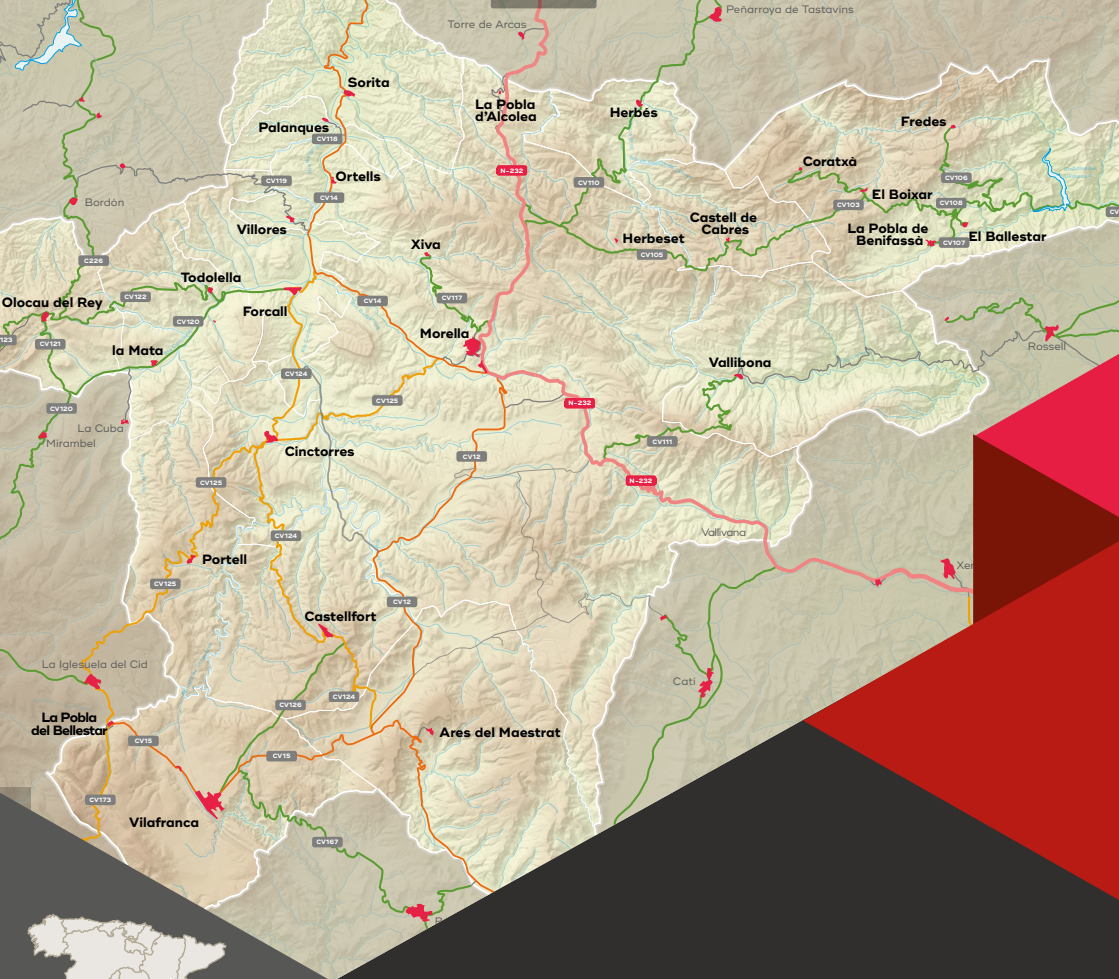
Rogation days of Sant Marc at la Mare de Déu del Sargar. It is held on the Saturday closest to 25th April.

### PATRON SAINT'S FEASTS

They are held at the end of August, coinciding, among others, with the 24th and 25th August, the festivities of Saint Bartholomew and the Virgin of Sargar, patron saints of Herbers.







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