

# VALLIBONA

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A breathtaking valley



**ELS  
PORTS**  
és Autèntic



## A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

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Vallibona is located in the north of the province of Castellón between the mountains of Els Ports and La Tinença. It has a municipal area of 91.4 km<sup>2</sup>, very mountainous and dotted with numerous farmhouses, as well as buildings of great ethnological value such as old mills, huts, corrals and dry stone walls; buildings that bear witness to a past in which agriculture, livestock and charcoal production were the basis of Vallibon's economy. This environment will surprise you with places of great natural interest such as El Turmell, Les Ferreres and La Vall del Cervol.





## CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Built in the second half of the 13th century, it is a typical repopulation church, with a single nave, flat chancel and a wooden gabled roof with diaphragm arches. The entrance, preceded by a porch, opens through a simple vousoir doorway in the Romanesque tradition. On entering, there is a Baroque interior from the beginning of the 18th century, covered by a vault decorated with sgraffito work that reveals a very interesting iconographic programme.



## TOWN CENTRE

Strategically located on the hillside where the river Cervol and the Barranco de la Gatellera ravine meet, it preserves its medieval appearance, which is why it was declared a Historic-Artistic Site, being one of the best preserved examples of popular architecture in all the Community.

It is structured around the parish church with streets that follow the contour lines horizontally and are crossed by others with a steep slope. The porticoed church and the gateway in the wall that no longer exists are two examples of this past.

Strolling through its streets you will find charming corners.



## MUSEO DE LA TECHUMBRE MEDIEVAL

The Communion Chapel of the Parish Church of the Assumption houses the museum of the old medieval ceiling. The Baroque covering of the church has allowed the conservation of a magnificent polychrome ceiling from the beginning of the 14th century which remains hidden. After restoration, the museum exhibits part of the beams, corbels, joists, partitions, etc.

That make up this ceiling. The extraordinary decoration combines Mudéjar decorative themes (engravings, kufic inscriptions, etc.) with others from the linear Gothic style (chivalric scenes, animals, etc.).



## Punts d'interès / Pontos de interés / Interest places

- 1 Ajuntament**  
Ayuntamiento  
Town Council Building
- 2 Consultori Mèdic**  
Consultorio Médico  
Medical centre
- 3 El Portal**  
El Portal  
The portal
- 4 Punt d'informació turística**  
Punto de información turística  
Tourist info point
- 5 Llavadors**  
Lavaderos  
Washing places

- 6 Església de l'Assumpció-Campanar mudèjar**  
**C. Interpretació sostrada medieval**  
Iglesia- Campanar-C. Interpretación  
Church- Bell tower-Interpretation centre
- 7 Antic Hospital**  
Antiguo Hospital  
Ancient Hospital
- 8 Antiga Presó**  
**C. Interpretació del Carboneig a la Vall del Cérvol**  
Antigua Prisión- C. Interpretación Carboneig  
Ancient Prison- Interpretation centre
- 9 Àrea recreativa de la Font Vella**  
Área recreativa de la Font Vella  
Recreational area of the Font Vella



## MEDIEVAL PRISON

Located on the ground floor of the Town Hall, it is accessible through a door with a semicircular arch. The interior is divided into several rooms with masonry walls and vaulted ceilings: a room for the jailer and three cells that still have doors with original locks and small latticed openings. It has been restored and now houses the Coal Museum.



## MUSEUM OF COAL

In the space of the medieval prison, the “Carboneig” Interpretation Centre has been set up. The manufacture of charcoal was, until recent times, fundamental to the economy of Vallibona, which took advantage of the abundance of raw material in the forests of the municipality. You will find in this museum explanatory panels and different tools that were used in the charcoal production process.



## HERMITAGES

**Santa Águeda Hermitage:** At an altitude of 1175 metres, this hermitage is considered to be one of the best examples of the Romanesque style of the Reconquest. The doorway of regular ashlar leads to a nave covered with a barrel vault.

**Santo Domingo Hermitage:** A superb monastic complex, comprising a church and guest house, organised around a quadrangular square with a well in the centre. 10 km from Vallibona in the direction of Rossell.





## NATURE

### AND ONLY NATURE

Vallibona covers an area of 91.4 km<sup>2</sup> of great ecological value. With a Mediterranean-continental climate, it is protected from the north winds and at the same time receives the maritime influence through the Cervol river ravine, which makes it a privileged enclave with a variety of natural habitats, which are unique in the region of Els Ports. Its highest altitude is 1276 m and its lowest altitude is 390 m; this abrupt terrain, with steep slopes, favours the existence of an environmental space with a variety of flora, fauna and endemic species.



## NATURAL PARK

### OF LA TINENÇA

Due to its high environmental value, Vallibona was incorporated into the Tinença de Benifassà Natural Park when it was created in 2006. In the north of the province of Castellón and bordering with Catalonia and Teruel, it includes the historical territory of the Monastery of Santa Maria de Benifassà's Tinença. It is a rugged park with a marked geomorphologic profile of falt top hills and ravines that have preserved an environment of great botanical and faunal biodiversity. Strolling through its grounds, you can enjoy a protected space almost in its purest state.



## FAUNA

These ecosystems provide home and food for a wide variety of fauna specific for each of them. It has been possible to catalogue 137 species of birds (griffon vulture, golden eagle, short-toed and booted eagle, peregrine falcon, eagle owl, rock eagle...), 40 mammals (mountain goat, genet, marten, badger, fox...), 13 amphibians, 4 species of fish and 14 species of reptiles, to which we should add a great variety of insects. Invertebrates include butterflies and the native crayfish.



## FLORA

An infinite number of species coexist in the lands of Vallibona.

At every step we enjoy forests of holm oaks and oaks, black pines, yews, maples, boxwood undergrowth, holly trees; Juniperus scruba, mastic trees, Asparagus, Thymus, Lavandula, etc.

The surrounding area is also dotted with a dozen catalogued monumental trees and important micro-reserves of flora with the presence of orchids, among other species.





## HIKING ROUTES

Vallibona is the ideal place for nature lovers. Several hiking routes start from Sant Antoni square.

### BOTANICAL ROUTE

Saliendo del pueblo hacia la Font Vella seguiremos un recorrido, marcado con paneles explicativos, de poco más de 1 km de longitud. Pasearemos por diferentes ecosistemas como el bosque de ribera a la orilla del río Cérvol, el bosque mixto de carrascas y antiguos campos de cultivo. Otras especies que veremos son: olmo de montaña, acebo, pino negral, madroño, arces, etc. Y disfrutaremos de una magnífica vista panorámica del casco urbano de Vallibona. (Nivel de dificultad: bajo; tiempo 50')

### FONT VELLA RECREATIONAL AREA

In the municipality of Vallibona, several fountains have provided the town with water throughout its history: the Fountain of Santa Águeda, the Fountain of Noto, the Fountain of Mas d'en Tena, the Fountain of Corral and the Fountain of l'Estret. It is worth mentioning the Font Vella, just a few metres from the town and surrounded by a recreational area. Next to this point is the viewpoint of the River Cérvol, from which you can enjoy beautiful views.

### The Rogation Road

This route starts in Vallibona and ends in Peñarroya de Tastavins (Teruel), following the traditional road that links these two sister towns. (Difficulty level: high; time 2 days)

### GR-7

The GR-7 long-distance footpath is part of the extensive network of European footpaths. From Vallibona we can head north to Fredes or west to Morella, both routes being of medium-high difficulty level and covering places of great interest and beauty.

### GR-311

The recently marked GR-331, called "Camino de Conquista", is a signposted and approved circular route of 166 km, which allows the visitor to enjoy nature and landscape through the old paths that traditionally linked some of the municipalities of this region. Walking through the mountains, you will discover the historical uses of the land and forests, the trades, as well as the cultural traditions and architectural remains preserved in its 15 stages.

Two stages of the GR 331 run through the municipality of Vallibona: Castell de Cabres - Vallibona and Vallibona - Vallivana.





## FESTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS

### ROGATION TO PEÑARROYA DE TASTAVINS

Every seven years “La Rogativa de Vallibona” is held in Peñarroya de Tastavins. It is a historical pilgrimage, dating back to 1347. Legend has it that after a plague there was hardly any population left in Vallibona, a few elderly people and seven young boys but no girls, so they decided to look for girls in the surrounding villages and when they arrived in Peñarroya they found a woman, “Aunt Petronila”, who had taken seven orphan girls into her home. The young men from Vallibona married the girls from Peñarroya, saving the village from extinction.

And in gratitude they returned to Peñarroya to give thanks to Petronila and the Virgen de la Fuente. Since then, every seven years, the day after the Ascension, the people of Valladolid travel this same path in prayer to meet up with their brothers from Peñarroya, who are waiting for them to celebrate a party and brotherhood dinner.

### SANT ANTONI

The festival of Sant Antoni is the most popular and deep-rooted celebration of the winter in the region, with its own characteristics in each town. Revived in the last decade, it is held in Vallibona on a weekend at the end of January or beginning of February. On the Saturday before the festival, the pine and juniper branches needed to set up the hut on the day of the festival are cut down, and a popular lunch is held for all the volunteers.

The day of Sant Antoni begins with the construction of the barraca, continues after mass and the blessing of the animals with the “dimonis”, “correfocs” and the “cremà de la barraca” (burning of the barraca) is performed to the rhythm of the bagpipers. A popular dinner and dance round off the celebration.

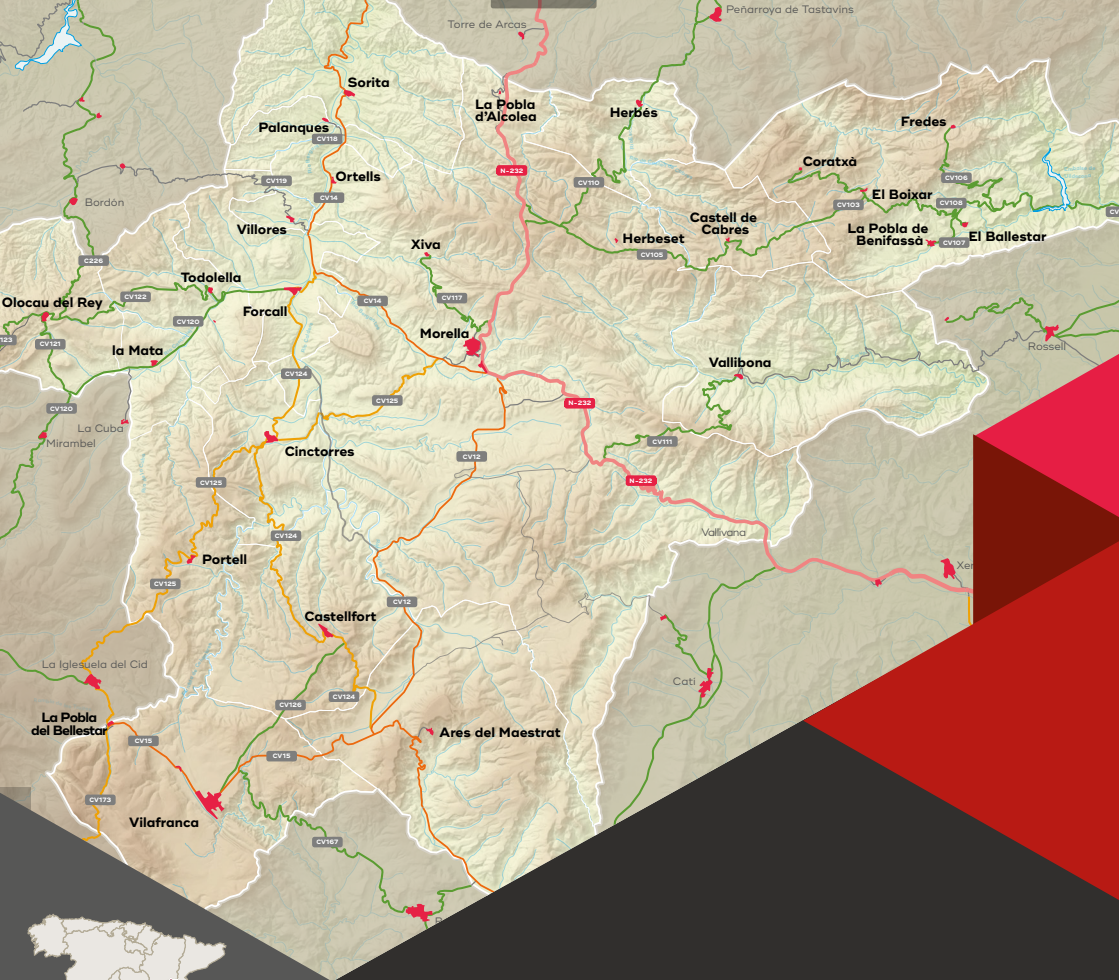


### PATRONAL FEASTS OF AUGUST

The patron saint festivities are currently held in August. On the first Saturday of the month, the people of Vallibona go on a pilgrimage to visit the hermitage of their patron saint, San Domingo, halfway between Vallibona and Rosell, and on the following Monday, they do the same by visiting their patron saint, Santa Águeda and celebrating a mass in her Romanesquestyle hermitage, located on the road leading to the town.







**ELS PORTS**  
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**AYUNTAMIENTO DE VALLIBONA**

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Plan de Dinamización y Gobernanza Turística de Els Ports



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