

Girona and its region

The city of Girona is located in the northeast of Catalonia, in northern Spain. It is the capital of the region of the same name, a vast territory made up of more than 200 municipalities, from the beaches of the Costa Brava to the Pyrenees mountains.

With about 100.000 inhabitants, Girona has all the charm and services of a large city but without crowds, and is characterized by its high life quality. The main economic activities are services (public administration, tourism, shopping...), although its surroundings support as well a considerable and diverse industrial activity, especially in the food and gastronomy sector. Girona's University, with over 15,000 students, gives Girona as well all the dynamism and activity of a city with a university campus.

What to see

Girona's Old Quarter is one of the most evocative historical centers in Catalonia, with certain elements that are unique in Europe. Particularly outstanding is its old Jewish neighborhood, a labyrinth of fascinating alleyways and courtyards with buildings with Jewish remains, where you can feel the atmosphere of other times. In or near the Old Quarter you can visit a wide range of historic elements and buildings: The Cathedral, result of various superimposed styles (c. XI-XVIII) and with the widest gothic nave of the world; the churches of Sant Feliu, Sant Pere de Galligants and Sant Nicolau; the Arabian Baths, the recently restored birth house of Rafael Masó (local architect and creator who followed the early 20th century *Noucentisme* movement) and many other interesting places, such as the six museums which hold a patrimonial collection of great interest.

From the many bridges over the Onyar River, you can appreciate one of the most popular city views, the riverside colored houses, source of inspiration for many artists. On the other hand, the ancient walls dating from Charlemagne (9th century ad.) and early medieval times (14th-15th centuries ad.), bordering the historic centre on the east, will offer you a nice walk with spectacular views over the city.

Gastronomy and shopping

The modern city, lets you enjoy of a great and diverse offer of shops and boutiques, which combine traditional products with avant-garde designs, as well as a good variety of restaurants to enjoy of the Mediterranean and Catalan cuisine, and the most creative and fashionable dishes. As an example, just mention that Girona holds two restaurants with Michelin stars, El Cellar de Can Roca with 3 Michelin stars and run by the three Roca brothers and Massana with 1 Michelin star run by the chef Pere Massana.

Walking around the markets, you will discover the fresh and local products served in most of the city restaurants, and all along the year, you can visit the fairs and street markets of art, craftwork, painting, flowers, food, antiques...The ideal complement for enhancing a relaxed stroll around the city centre.

Girona all year round

Girona offers a very extensive range of things to do: the city, a great stage where centuries of history are captured in spectacular monuments, invites you to lose yourself in a walk around the Old Town, but Girona also has an intense cultural life, with strongly characteristic events taking place each month of the year. One special mention has to be made to Temps de Flors (*Flower Time*) in May, when the entire monumental city is filled with floral decorations. In addition, Girona is today a source of cultural production with regular, critically acclaimed seasons of theatre and music; and Girona, the Gironés region and Catalonia represent one of the main sources of world gastronomical creation.

A rich natural environment

Located at the confluence of four rivers, with much of its region catalogued as a protected area (PEIN [Plan for Areas of Natural Interest] and Natura 2000 network), the city of Girona has a great variety of landscapes, the ideal stage for active and nature-based tourist activities.

Supplement your visit to historic Girona by visiting the rich natural heritage that surrounds the city and make the most of the wide range of activities that will enable you to get to know and to enjoy Girona in a different way: hiking trails and activities, running and cycling, as well as excursions in kayaks, on horse-back and in balloons, along with many other activities.

As part of the European Project Res'pir, Girona and the local recreational sports businesses work with their French partners of the Ariège region to develop a quality charter for outdoor sports. The objective is to ensure the quality benefits of outdoor activities, under the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental).

How to arrive

Located midway between the sea and the mountains and close to France (65 km) and Barcelona (100 km), Girona boasts a privileged position. Girona is easily accessible by road, train and plane: the Girona-Costa Brava Airport is situated about 12 kilometers outside the city (offering good transport connections with the city centre), and offers since march 2012 a direction connection with Karlstad.

For more information, visit:

Oficina de Turisme de Girona
Rambla de la Llibertat, 1
17004 Girona
Tel. +34 972 01 00 01
turisme@ajgirona.cat

GIRONA EVENT CALENDAR

- Christmas and New-Year. December and begin January.
- Three Wise Man Ride. 5th January.
- Gastronomic Forum. February, every two years (next 2013).
- Gastronomic Week. March- April.
- Easter Week and Easter Friday procession. March-April.
- Sant Jordi Festival. 23rd April.
- Girona Temps de Flors (Flower Time). May.
- Guitar Festival. July-August.
- International Festival of Amateur Theatre- FITAG. August.
- Summer Season Guided Tours. July-August.
- Sant Narcís Fair, Girona's Patronal Fair. End October – begin November.
- 1st November Fair. 1st November.
- Girona Jazz Festival. October.
- Temporada Alta Theater Festival. October – December.
- Girona Film Festival. December.
- Permanent planning of the Auditorium –Congress Palace. All year.