

DISCOVER GANDESA



Gandesa stands on the ancient crossroads between Catalunya, Aragon and the Community of Valencia, from where the vast plain of vineyards, olive and almonds groves, welcomes us.

Gandesa, the capital of the Terra Alta is renowned for the preparation of high quality wines with Designation of Origin.

To traditional varieties of black and white Grenache, Carignan and Macabo vines were added new varieties such as Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

The architectural layout of the city has been adapted to the needs of the modern life without losing the nobility of its origins.

If you walk through the old quarter of the town you can see the porches of the gothic windows of the old Town Hall, dating from the 15th Century. You can also see the old Prison and several manor houses such as Casa Liori, Casa Pairal dels Sunyers, the Casa Pairal dels Barons del Purroi (neoclassic) and Ca l'Inquisidor.

It is essential to visit the Agricultural Co-Operative, voted the fifth wonder of Catalunya, designed by Cesar Martinell a disciple of Gaudi and where the wines and oils are made.

In this modernist building Martinell combined imagination and aesthetics, its turrets, external decoration on the tiles and ceramics and the use of the bricks on doors, shutters and vaulted interior make this building a masterpiece of modernist industrial architecture.

On the other side of the Catalonia, is the Centre for the Battle of the Ebro. The institute brings together sounds and graphic evidence of this dramatic episode of the Civil War that forced people to evacuate their homes in August 1938.

All of Gandesa appears riddled with the memories of Battle. Some of them located in breathtaking landscapes which add interest to a special journey.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Gandesa attractions include some very special places, some of them unique. They combine serene landscape and wild terrain, all of them vivid and alive, some of them fascinating.

Just 5km towards Alcañiz you will find the Coll del Moro an archeological feature formed by the Iberian Settlement and necropolis dating from the three centuries 500-800 BC.

The visit is worthwhile, because from the highest point of the village you can see a large part of the Terra Alta.

Another important site, from a historical point of view, is the old villages of Corbera d'Ebre 4km towards Tarragona at the top of the Hill of Montera.

Its streets and houses are in ruins today, a silent witness to the violence and the brutal consequences of artillery and aerial bombardment suffered during the Civil War.

In addition, from the spectacular Church of St. Peter there are magnificent views of the Sierras of Cavalls and Pandols.

For those interested in Geology it is essential to visit Fontcalda, 24 km from Gandesa towards Tortosa.

The valley is in the heart of Navarro where the landscape explodes and becomes a visual spectacle and a feast for the senses. The Crest of Vollandins and the shade of the Sierra del Crestell cannot fail to impress you.

Once you reach the neoclassical 14th century Sactuary of the Virgin of Fontcalda you can bathe in mineral water springs known as "xorros" and discover a place where time stands still.

Crossing the river, on the other side of the thermal water springs, you will find the old railway line from La Vall de Zafan, now converted into a stretch of Greenway.

Here you will enjoy beautiful landscape as well as old mysterious railway tunnels. It is an ideal route to go with children of all ages and can be a perfect complement to the day.

In the direction of Fontcalda take the first turnoff to Santa Magdalena and reach the chapel of the same name, and then take the shortcut which will bring you quickly to Punta Alta.

Here there is a concrete block carved with the Dove of Peace, in relief. This is a memorial to the missing and dead of both sides during the Battle of the Ebro.

Head east, following the course of the river and you will see towns built in the valley and arrive eventually at the mouth of the river, in the southeast, passing along the way the rocky peaks of the Ports of Beseit that emerge the pines in the north and the rugged Sierra de Cavalls.

If you take the cami el Calvari (Road to Calvary) just before the Bassa d'en Graire, you get a wonderful view of the Terra Alta.

Puig Cavaller (709m) is the highest point of the Sierra de Caballos and a great place from which to contemplate the "Solzida", the "Volaadins" and finally "The Breast", named for their shape.

ACTIVITIES

The Gadesa Route

The Gadesa Route allows you to learn the history of the local Manor Houses with noble and stately pasts.

Houses such as Ca l'Inquisidor, a house of medieval origin with major modern reconstruction. You will also hear the legend of the Baroness of Purroy and visit a small exhibition of ancient traditional crafts.

You will visit the Palacio del Castella, a building dating back to the Knights Templar, during the Middle Ages.

The tour ends at the Co-Operative Winery, a building designed by Cesar Martinell, a discipline of Gaudi. Here you will enjoy a wine tasting in the winery cellar, where even the most demanding palates will enjoy the wine the cellar will offer.

The visits can be arranged by the Tourist Office in Gadesa.

The Terra Alta Greenway

The Terra Alta Greenway is a route that follows part of the old train track that once linked Puebla de Hjar and Tortosa. The route can be explored on foot or by bicycle. It begins at Arnes station and its second point of interest is the town of Horta de Sant Joan 1 km off the route.

Among the beautiful landscape of the Sierras, the Green Route follows Bot, passes near Prat de Compte and the Sanctuary of Fontcalda and ends in Pinell de Brai.

Bicycle Hire and Group Activities:
Bicisport Aubanell www.bttterraalta.com
Tel. 0034 977420550
0034 660532346

Vinyards and Wineries

The region of Terra Alta is traditionally wine producing and since 1982 it has had Designation of Origen.

The limestone and clay soil, sunshine and rain all provide conditions perfect for the cultivation of vines which produce rich, fruity, full bodied wines.

For more information contact:-
Centre for Interpretation of Wine and Oil www.doterraalta.com
Tel: 0034 977421278

The Peace Route

This route covers the various stages of the Battle of the River Ebro that shaped the population of the Terra Alta. The route is marked with small monuments to commemorate the various stages of the battle.

The Peace route forms part of the Green Route and both sections are well marked.

GR Green Route

PR Peace Route

One includes the Corbera d'Ebre, it continues to Gandesa and the Sierra de Pandols up to the Punta Alta (705 km) and on to part of Fontcalda.

Following the foothills we can approach the Coll del Moro and Villaba dels Arcs.

For more information contact:

The Centre of Studies of the Battle of the Ebro

Gandesa Tourist Office.

Other Places of Interest and Activities

- Route of the Three C's: Castle of Miravet, Caves of Benifallet, Co-Operative of Pinell de Brai (10km)
- Ports d'Horta (20km)
- Region of the Matarrana (20km)
- Tortosa (35km)
- Walk along the Delta del Ebro (24km)
- Descend the Ebro (24km)
- City of the Engine (Alcaniz) (60km)