

MORELLA

One of the most beautiful villages in Spain













MEDIEVAL BEAUTY

Nestled in an ocean of mountains stands a small, fortified town, an image that captures and takes the visitor to the Middle Ages. Morella is the medieval jewel of the Mediterranean arch. Surrounded by two kilometres of walls and crowned by the imposing castle, a fortress that has seen Iberians, Romans, Arabs and Christians pass through...

Morella hides different stories in each of its cobbled streets. Morella hides different stories in each of its paved streets. Morella vibrates every day of the year. Morella offers an amazing cultural combination, from the excellent and innovative gastronomy, the beautiful local handicrafts, to the impressive monuments or its unique festivals. Outside the walls, within the more than 400 km2 municipality, you will find amazing forests where you can get lost and enjoy nature while hiking along the many existing routes or mountain bike trails.

"Don't just look for palace facades, Gothic windows, the splendid portals of the basilica, the cloisters, the gates of the wall – that's already a lot, but you have to look for something else, to breathe it: the urban air, the thickness of history, a balance, preserved harmony. These things are intangible, they create another dimension of beauty."

Joan Francesc Mira

MONUMENTS OF MORELLA

The monumental character of Morella is extraordinary. The castle, the Santa María la Mayor basilica and the walls, with their seven gates and ten towers, declared historical and artistic monuments in 1931, stand out among the various architectural works that can be appreciated in the streets. The splendour of Morella's architecture dates to medieval times, with a prevalence of the Gothic style in many buildings. The Towers of San Miguel, majestic at the entrance of Morella; the numerous manor houses and palaces of the old town, such as Casa Piquer or the palace of Cardinal Ram; the Jewish quarter, its Jewish settlements and architectural structure; the Casa del Consell, dating from the 13th century and awarded with the Europa Nostra de Restauración in 1997; the Convent of Sant Francesc which retains a unique Gothic cloister and the paintings of the Dance of Death in the chapter house, one of the few examples of medieval macabre Mediterranean art, and Blasco de Alagón Street, with its low porticoes is one of the most characteristic images of Morella.

CASTLE

One of the most important fortresses in the Mediterranean that was built taking advantage of natural stone, inhabited since the Neolithic and taking shape with the passage of Visigoths, Arabs and Christians. The governor's palace stands out among the rocks, the highest point being the Plaza de Armas.



CONVENT SANT FRANCESC

Construction of the 14th century that currently serves as access to the castle. A building that conserves the beauty of the nakedness of the first Mediterranean Gothic style, with spectacular ribbed vaults in the convent church, as well as in the cloister with its ogival arches. The fresco paintings of the Dansa de la Mort, from the 15th century, are ones of the most important in Spain.



BASÍLICA

It is a religious Gothic jewel built between the 13th and 14th centuries. The two access doors of great sculptural and architectural value, the unique 15th century staircase of the choir, made of polychrome wood carving, the scene of the final Judgement of the transcorum, the altar shaped after the Churriguera style and the organ with more than 3000 pipes, considered to be one of the most important in the country, are outstanding.





BLASCO DE ALAGÓN

In Morella it is known as "La Plaça" and it is its most characteristic street. Composed of dozens of medieval arcades, where the houses are sheltered from the cold winter of Morella, they represent the perfect image of the day-to-day life of the city. It concentrates the most important commercial area of the municipality with shops, bars and restaurants on its porches.

AQUEDUCT

Medieval construction from the 14th century that, in addition to its beauty, is an important hydraulic work in the Gothic style that served to supply the urban nucleus. The succession of semicircular and ogival arches marks the landscape outside the city.



PREHISTORY

The first populations recorded in Morella left their mark thousands of years ago. The Cave Paintings of Morella la Vella are located a few kilometres from the city. They were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998, as an example of Levantine cave art. They are representations of hunting and schematic representations located in various rock shelters.

Morella is also a great paleontological site. It records numerous strata of marine fauna and dinosaur remains formed between the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, between 146 and 98 million years ago. In addition, a new species has recently been found, called the Morelladon Beltranis. You can see the remains found in the area, as well as travel millions of years ago in the Temps de Dinosaures museum.

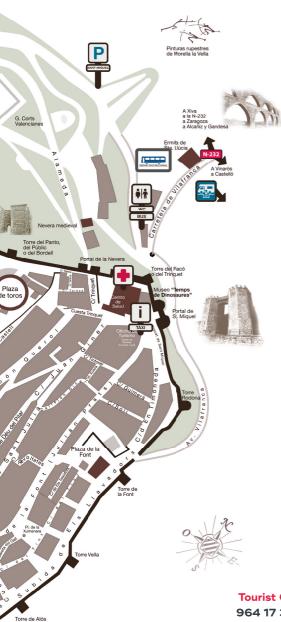
CULTURE

Casa de la Vila, del Consell, Cort de Justícia i Presó: this 14th-century building, now the Town Hall building, contains various areas of interest that host a continuous calendar of cultural and artistic activities. The two Gothic halls, the Justice Hall and the Council Hall, where legislative and judicial powers were exercised, respectively, the Market and the old prison, where paintings of the prisoners are still preserved, hold very unique stories.

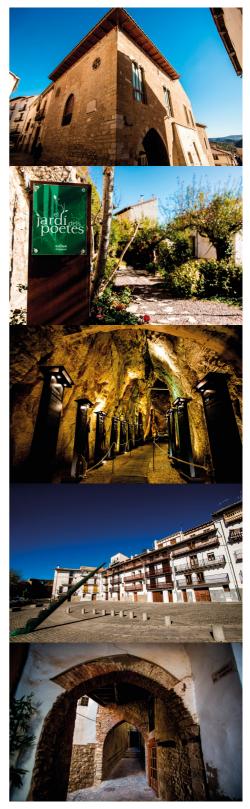
Sexenni Museum: Dedicated to the quintessential Morella festival. Here you can discover what a characteristic and unique festival such as the Sexenni, celebrated every six years, is celebrated. The museum area invites the visitor to walk through the paper-decorated streets and enjoy the rich cultural and artistic elements of this unique celebration, which has been held since 1678.

Torres de Sant Miquel and wall walks: These two octagonal towers from the 15th century shape the monumental entrance to the city. In addition, at the top you can access the wall walks and explore a part of the wall as the ancient defenders of the fortress did. There are different games inside for the younger audience.









IN CONTACT WITH NATURE

The 413.5 km2 of municipal area provide a lot of space. Morella is surrounded by extensive forests where you can breathe fresh mountain air and peacefulness. There are numerous hiking routes to get lost among pines and holm oaks and enjoy the Mediterranean flora. Mount Pereroles, one of the best known, offers the possibility of sleeping in the middle of the forest in one of its shelters. In addition, depending on the season, it is quite easy to find mushrooms in their surroundings. Another way to disconnect and experience the landscape is the green walk along the Alameda that surrounds the city.

ACTIVE TOURISM



MORELLA SINGLETRACKS

This ambitious project is based on the recovery and adaptation of old paths to enjoy sport in nature. The orography of the area is perfect for MTB lovers. Different routes can be downloaded at www.morellasingletracks.com



ADVENTURE PARK SALTAPINS

Saltapins, enclosed in the complex of the Giner factory, a former textile factory converted into a tourist area just 3 km from Morella, is a multiadventure park for all ages. Unload adrenaline by going down the long zip wires, crossing the Tibetan tunnels, moving through the vines... There are several circuits of different difficulty to enjoy an exciting day above the trees. The area is surrounded by a pleasant environment in the midst of nature and you can also spend the night at the Francesc de Vinatea Hostel. More information at www.saltapins.com



GASTRONOMY

Traditional and innovative. The gastronomy of Morella has evolved placing it on the top of the map for its quality and diversity. New elements have been incorporated that make it a modern and very elaborate cuisine, without losing sight of the traditional local products of Morella's cuisine, such as its meats and sausages, spoon dishes like Morella's soup or sweets like flaó or the typical curd.

If there is a product that stands out in the kitchens of Morelan restaurateurs, it is the black truffle. This precious product can be tasted during the Truffle Days, which take place from the end of January to the beginning of March. It is also worth noting the mushroom picking season, during the autumn if the weather permits. This is when restaurateurs transform mushrooms into tasty creations.

SHOPS AND CRAFTWORK

Morella has a diverse commercial and artisan offer. Based on local products, it offers an open and hospitable trade that has become a mandatory stop for anyone visiting the city. Food products such as sausages, jerky, ham, cheese, honey or the local pastry that has in the flao the Morella sweet par excellence. The craft tradition is another of the commercial characteristics of Morella with products such as canvas shoes, spirit of Morella or the famous Morella's blanket. The street of the "Porches" is the commercial nerve centre, which is flanked by the other adjacent streets. Within it,since King Jaume I granted this privilege, there is a market every Sunday of the year. CC

FESTIVALS

Our cultural identity

and a Festival of National Tourist Interest, for nine days, in the second half of August, the streets are decorated with curly paper tapestries, and there is a parade of different dances and biblical characters. 2018, 2024, 2030... These are Sexenni years.

SEXENNI

The festival par excellence of Morella. Unique and exceptional, it has been held every six years in honour of the Virgin of Vallivana since 1678. Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest





The most representative dance of the city are the Torneros, noted for their acrobatic jumps and juggling, being one of the oldest in the Valencian Community. The Llauradors, the Teixidors, Arts i Oficis, Les Gitanetes and the Corronquina enrich the dances of Sexenni.

L'ANUNCI

It is the festivity that announces the arrival of a new Sexenni and is celebrated a year before. This festival contrasts with the solemnity of the Sexenni and shows the more

of the Sexenni and shows the more carefree side of Morella society in a fun battle of confetti where they throw around 60 tons in the parade of floats, on which they work for a whole year.



SANT ANTONI

The medieval fire festival is one of the most shared pagan traditions in the entire region. It is the outstanding celebration of winter that contrasts with the huge bonfire that is lit every year. It is celebrated the weekend after January 17.



MUSIC

Different music festivals share the stage throughout the year. Among the most notable are the Early Music, an academy and festival of medieval and renaissance music that is held at the end of July and is renowned throughout Europe, and the International Festival of Organ Music that takes place at the beginning of August.

EXHIBITIONS

The Agricultural and Livestock Fair, which is held every second weekend in September, is over 750 years old. It is a benchmark within the sector, although every year it is modernized by increasing the type of exhibitors. On the other hand, the hunting fair is held at the end of May.





SOLEMN CELEBRATIONS

Corpus Christi and Easter are two outstanding events within the religious festive calendar of Morella. The Corpus Christi of Morella is, along with the one of Valencia, the oldest in the Valencian Community, dating back to 1358. Meanwhile, in the processions on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, organised by the Brotherhood of the Vestes, the Nazarenes with their images parade through the streets of the city.

POPULAR CELEBRATIONS

San Roque and Carnival festivities. Partying is the common denominator of these celebrations. One in summer and one in winter, but with the same goal: to have fun.





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