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Sources and bibliography
Guide Bleu Languedoc Roussillon
Hachette;
L'Encyclopédie du Pays Catalan,
published by Privat,
L'Art Gothique en Pays Catalan,
Jean Reynal and Michel Castillo
(photos), Published by Privat

Links
[www.tourisme-
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VOCABULARY

Tomb niche: a cavity in a
chapel where a tomb is placed.
Nave: Longitudinal central part
of a church.
Altarpiece: a large worked
panel set behind the altar.

The expansion of [Gothic art](#) is directly linked to the evolution of the towns. That is why we find many examples of Gothic art in Perpignan, from the end of the 13th century and first half of the 14th century. At that time, civil construction was booming, from private mansions for important senior officials and wealthy merchants to the Palais Royal and churches. The churches were often built as convents (Franciscan, Dominican and Carmelites), and there was also the new church of Saint-Jean that progressively became the bishop's residence, even though the official location was Elne. On the south side of the collegiate church, a vast cloister-cemetery was built in the 14th century, with galleries that house a set of marble tomb niches that are among the most beautiful in Europe. La Loge de Mer, the construction of which also began in the 14th century, is a magnificent example of civil architecture. The ramparts - no longer standing today - and the Castillet that protected the Porte Notre-Dame and Porte de France are beautiful examples of military architecture. Watchtowers were built across the whole region (Madeloc, La Massane, Tautavel).

The Catalan gothic style is characterised by its very simple construction and elegant arcatures with pointed arches. The churches have a single nave with rib vaults opening onto side chapels where worshippers can come for a moment of silence before the painted and sculpted altarpieces, that contribute to the originality and wealth of these monuments (altarpiece of the Virgin of Corneilla-de-Conflent from Sainte-Marthe d'Yrivals, dating from 1345, painted in 1350 by Ramon Destorrents, etc...). The admirable painted sections of the great organ of Saint-Jean de Perpignan also date back to this period. Crosses, reliquaries, ironwork (door hinges, railings) are also worth mentioning. So even though this was a period of economic decline, there were still many examples of Gothic art. In 1454, Arnau Gassies painted the altarpiece in Palau del Vidre. The ultimate masterpiece of Roussillon painting is the altarpiece of La Trinité, painted in 1489 by the Maître of Perpignan or Maître of Canapost for the chapel of La Loge de Mer.

Where can we see Gothic art in the Pyrénées-Orientales?

- ✓ Arles-sur-Tech: [Abbey church of Sainte-Marie](#) (Romanesque). Cloister from the 12th and 13th centuries, transitional artwork between Romanesque and Gothic styles.
- ✓ Collioure: adjoining capitals [cloister of the Dominicans](#), early 14th century. [Church of Notre Dame des Anges](#). [Château Royal](#) in Collioure.
- ✓ Elne: [Cathedral](#) and [Cloister of Elne](#).
- ✓ Millas: Church of Sainte Eulalie.
- ✓ Passa: [Cloister of the Monestir del Camp](#), early 14th century.
- ✓ Perpignan: [Saint Jean Cathedral](#), a magnificent monument, 80 m long, 22 m high and 18 m wide, built according to the traditional southern Gothic style and a veritable museum of Catalonian religious art. [Organ case with remarkable woodwork added in 1504](#), a very beautiful Gothic-style altarpiece of Notre Dame de la Mangrana in the apse chapel on the right-hand side, paintings on wood, [Chapel of the Palace of the Kings of Majorca](#), late 13th century. Chapel of Notre Dame des Anges. Churches of [La Réal](#) and [Saint Jacques](#).
- ✓ Prats-de-Mollo/La Preste: Church of [Saints Justine and Ruffine](#), built mainly in a southern Gothic style. Significant collection of sculpted and gilded altarpieces from the 17th and 18th centuries.

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