

« CATALANITÉ »

INFORMATIONS

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Catalan Dragons
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Sources and bibliography
L'Encyclopédie du Pays Catalan (Ed. Privat), tous les ouvrages des Editions Trabucaire, les Revues Terra Nostra, les magazines Terres Catalanes, Perpignan Mag et L'Accent Catalan (n° 29 sept/oct 2005, dossier Catalanité)

Links
www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com
www.perpignan.fr
www.llibreriacatalana.com
www.terres-catalanes.com



“Catalanité” is the feeling that you belong to a cultural identity, with an attachment to the Catalan language and history. This identity goes beyond the borders of the Pyrénées-Orientales. It is a part of your soul which is conveyed through festivities and cultural events, it is the Catalan “stamp” that carries a certain local identity, it is sport like rugby union or rugby league. It is also about the terroir, the gastronomy, the religious celebrations and the architectural heritage sites up to 1659.

The French department of the Pyrénées-Orientales is often called “Pays Catalan” (Catalan country). This department has a history that is linked to the history of France since the [Treaty of the Pyrenees](#) (1659), and this double identity (French and Catalan) that has been shaped throughout the centuries. The vast majority are devoted to the French Republic and the locals of this department are fiercely proud of their roots, striving to keep their cultural traditions alive, namely through the use of their mother tongue, the Catalan language, that of their ancestors.

It is the co-official language of the Generalitat de Catalunya (autonomous region of Catalonia) and the only official language of Andorra. The Catalan language is spoken by around 8 million people from the Catalan border in Tarragona, to the Balearic Islands, the region of Valencia and Alghero (north-western tip of Sardinia).

In the Pyrénées-Orientales, the Catalan language doesn't have an official status. Local assemblies and public authorities are fighting alongside many local associations and groups to ensure this “regional” language is protected and that France ratifies the European Charter for Regional Languages.

For several years now, the [Conseil Départemental des Pyrénées-Orientales](#) and the [City of Perpignan](#) have been displaying their “catalanité” by publishing a large number of their documents in two languages. The “Perpignan la Catalane” label is another example of this strong identity. To add to this, a certain “Catalan cultural society” has emerged with the creation of associations, special departments in publishing houses, the media, schools and more recently Catalan institutions.

Visitors to the Pyrénées-Orientales enjoy learning about this double identity and cultural diversity as it gives them an authentic experience

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