

## PARKS AND GARDENS



### INFORMATION AND LINKS



[Canet en Roussillon Arboretum and gardens](#)

+33 (0)4 68 64 32 82

[Elne Tropique du Papillon](#)

+33 (0)4 68 37 83 77

[Port-Vendres Paulilles Bay and the 'Director's' garden](#)

+33 (0)4 68 95 23 40

[Saint-Cyprien Jardin des Plantes des Capellans](#)

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[Edulla - Botanical Garden in Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines](#)

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[Eole Garden in Sainte-Colombe-de-la-Commanderie](#)

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Between the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean, surrounded by unspoilt nature, the French department of the Pyrénées-Orientales, with its sunny climate, offers a beautiful range of lush landscaped gardens that can be explored and enjoyed during the *Rendez-vous aux jardins* festival.

The *Rendez-vous aux jardins* is an annual event organised by the [Ministry of Culture and Communication](#) and the Parks and Gardens Committee since 2003. The festival is managed and promoted throughout the country by the Regional Directorates of Cultural Affairs, and the goal is to make visitors aware of everything that is done to 'promote, conserve, restore and create gardens and to train gardeners and landscapers'.

The owners of public and private gardens are invited to open them to the public and, with the help of professionals, institutions and associations, to organise special events, entertainment and educational activities.

In 1995, at the request of the State, the Regional Directorates for Cultural Affairs (DRAC), and the DIREN (Regional Directorate for the Environment and Ecological Issues), the Parks and Gardens Association was created in order to coordinate the first Rendez-vous aux Jardins festival (known at the time as the "temps des jardins"). The association is open to owners and managers of private and public gardens, and is chaired by the Nîmes-based agricultural engineer Jean-Louis Douillet. It aims to protect, improve, promote and help manage the heritage of the parks and gardens in the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

The festival is becoming more and more significant and the number of gardens open to the public is increasing every year, from 930 in 2003 to nearly 2,000 in 2008 and to over 2,300 in 2017 with some 3,500 events. That year almost 2 million visitors enjoyed the delights of the region's gardens.

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

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**PYRÉNÉES MÉDITERRANÉE EN PAYS CATALAN**

Agence de Développement Touristique des Pyrénées-Orientales

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A theme is chosen each year for the various events during the festival. The subjects of inspiration over the years have been as follows:

- ✓ 2021 The transmission of knowledge
- ✓ 2019 Animals in the garden
- ✓ 2018 The Europe of gardens
- ✓ 2017 Sharing in the garden
- ✓ 2016 The colours of the garden
- ✓ 2015 Walks in the garden
- ✓ 2014 Children in the garden
- ✓ 2013 The garden and its creators
- ✓ 2012 The garden and its images
- ✓ 2011 The nurturing garden
- ✓ 2010 Gardeners and their tools
- ✓ 2009 Earth, land, territory
- ✓ 2008 Journey of plants
- ✓ 2007 Water
- ✓ 2006 Perfume
- ✓ 2005 The tree
- ✓ 2004 Knowing and loving gardens better
- ✓ 2003 The gardeners

The following gardens in the Pyrénées-Orientales are taking part in the festival: Elne, Saint-Cyprien, Canet-en-Roussillon, Saint-Génis-des-Fontaines, Sainte-Colombe-de-la-Commanderie, Port-Vendres

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[Villa des Tilleuls garden in Perpignan](#): this garden was designed by landscape architect Adolphe Raveau, and is well preserved with a large circular path around a lawn, a pond and boxwood border, tall palm trees and lime trees.



[Tropique du Papillon in Elne](#): a private 800 m<sup>2</sup> garden with a collection of rare tropical plants that hosts 60 species of butterflies roaming freely around a large pond with aquatic plants.



[Paulilles Bay in Port-Vendres](#): between Cap Béar and Cap Oullestrell, the former industrial wasteland of the Nobel dynamite factory is a 32-hectare site developed by the coastline conservation agency and managed by the departmental council. The garden known as the “Director’s garden” is made up of various square-shaped formations, including the exotic garden with a terrace overlooking the Albères mountains, and the strawberry tree wood with shaded canopies and maze.



[Jardin des Plantes des Capellans in Saint-Cyprien](#): English-style landscaped garden covering 5 hectares. Over 800 plant species, ancient oak trees, collection of ancient roses, fish pond, large-scale sculptures, etc.



[L'Arboretum in Canet-en-Roussillon](#): managed by the Catalan Centre of Studies for Mediterranean Agronomy and the Environment with around a thousand species across an area of 14 hectares. The four plots include an organic aquatic garden, a collection of eucalyptus trees, collections of grape varieties, citrus trees, almond trees and olive trees, various species of oak and camphor trees as well as a conservatory of ancient fruit varieties.

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[Edulla - Botanical Garden in Saint-Genis-des-Fontaines](#): A private one-hectare site featuring a botanical garden and greenhouse and edible plants from around the world.



[Eole Garden in Sainte-Colombe-de-la-Commanderie](#): A landscaped garden set out over 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> around a villa with breathtaking views of the Canigou mountains. The garden is home to 580 species of plants including small collections of irises, roses, peonies, perennials and Mediterranean plants.


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