

THE WATCHTOWERS

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The watchtowers are defensive constructions that were intended to alert and pass information from one place to another, day or night. Watchtowers (Turrís Speculatoria)

Watchtowers (Turrís Spéculatoria) first appeared in Roman times and were cited by historian Titus-Livius who described them as follows: “Multas et locis altis positas turres Hispania habet, quibus et speculis et propugnaculis adversus latrones utuntur” (In Hispania, there are many of these tall towers that are used to observe and fight bandits)

Watchtowers were also used by the Carolingians.

In the Pyrénées-Orientales, the distinguishing feature is that they were all built in the same period, between the 12th and 14th centuries, by the Kings of Majorca and then the Kings of Aragon.

These towers were divided into 2 categories: defence and observation: main tower (with a wider visual range) and a secondary tower (with a more restricted but still essential view).

The main towers could house a small garrison who could defend and observe (e.g. Goa Tower, Rabastanys Tower (Villefranche de Conflent), Bellegarde Tower replaced by Bellegarde Fort).

The ‘secondary’ towers were not used primarily for defence reasons and so there was not enough space for a lot of people: Mir Tower, Batère Tower, Cos Cabrenç Tower and other similar constructions such as Madeloc and Quer Roig.

According to the inventory requested by Peter the Ceremonious in the 14th century, there were around fifty towers in the 3 counties (Roussillon, Cerdagne and Besalu), some of which can still be seen today. Of these towers, some have been transformed into fortresses, and were still used for passing on information (Madeloc, El Far, Goa), others were demolished by Vauban and a citadel was built in their place (Bellegarde, Largarde Fort, Puig dels Banys d’Arles).



Positions of the towers

- ✓ Viscounty of Castelnou (4 parallel and deep valleys with a much more complicated system of signals): Bellegarde demolished in the 18th century when the fortress was built in its place, Cabrenç, Mir, Cos, Lagarde, Montalba, Corsavy, Puig des Bains, Batère, Castelnou, Majorca, Montner, El Far.
- ✓ Viscounty of Conflent: Rigarda, Balessa, Mascarada, Rabastany, Goa, Torren, LLar, Olette, Prats Balaguer, Sauto and Orvensa
- ✓ Viscounty of Fenouillèdes: Trémoines, Lansac, Corbos, Caudies, Prats de Sournia, Sabarda
- ✓ County of Cerdagne: Egat, Vacaro, Cerdana, Creu (only ruins)



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PYRÉNÉES MÉDITERRANÉE EN PAYS CATALAN

Agence de Développement Touristique des Pyrénées-Orientales

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pro-tourismeadt66.com - tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com - visitpo.fr -    #visitpo

INFORMATION

Badabany Tower - Goa Tower - Niobols Tower
Conflent Canigó Tourist Office - Villefranche de Conflent
Address: 33 Rue Saint-Jacques, 66820 Villefranche-de-
Conflent
Telephone: +33 (0)4 68 05 41 02
<https://www.tourisme-canigou.com/>

Batère Tower - Cabrenç North Tower - Madeloc Tower -
Saint Elme Fort
Vallespir Tourist Office
Address: 5 Rue Saint Ferréol - 66400 Céret
Telephone: +33 (0)4 68 87 00 53
<http://www.vallespir-tourisme.fr/>

Cabrils Tower - Cos Tower - Ovança Tower
Pyrénées Catalane Tourist Office
Telephone: +33 (0)4.68.04.49.86.
<https://www.pyrenees-catalanes.net/>

Del Far Tower - Montner Tower
Perpignan Méditerranée Tourist Office
Telephone: +33 (0)4.68.66.30.30.
<https://perpignanmediterraneetourisme.fr/>

Massane Tower - Querroig Tower
Port Vendres - Pyrénées Méditerranée Tourist Office
Address: 1 Quai François Joly, 66660 Port-Vendres
Telephone: +33 (0)4 48 98 00 08
<https://www.tourisme-pyrenees-mediterranee.com/>

Maures Tower, Del Vacaro Tower
Pyrénées Cerdagne Tourist Office
Telephone: +33 (0)4.68.04.15.47.
<https://www.pyrenees-cerdagne.com/>

Trémoine Tower
Fenouillèdes Sud Cathare Tourist Office
Address: 21 av. Georges Pézières, 66220, Saint-Paul-de-
Fenouillet
<http://www.cc-aglyfenouilledes.fr/tourisme/preparez-votre-sejour/office-de-tourisme-intercommunal-fenouilledes-sud-cathare>

Mir Tower
Sud Canigó - Haut Vallespir Tourist Office
Address: 8 Bd du Riuferrer 66150 Arles-sur-Tech
Telephone: +33 (0)4 48 07 08 72
<https://www.sudcanigo.com/>

Prats de Sournia Tower
Communauté de Communes Agly-Fenouillèdes
Address: 14 rue de Lesquerde 66220 Saint-Paul-de-
Fenouillèdes
Telephone: +33 (0)4 68 59 20 13
<http://www.cc-aglyfenouilledes.fr/>

To find out more, check out the following website: [Tourism Pyrénées-Orientales](https://www.tourisme-pyrenees-orientales.com/)

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List of watchtowers in the Pyrénées-Orientales

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Badabany Towers (2 towers side-by-side)

GPS Coordinates: 42°34'38"N.

Batère Tower (Corsavy)

GPS Coordinates: 42°30'30"

Cabrenç Tower (Lamanère Serralongue)

GPS Coordinates: 42°21' 56"

Cabrils Tower (Ayguatébia-Talau)

GPS Coordinates: 42°55'23"

Cos Tower (Le Tech)

GPS Coordinates: 42°25'20"

Del Far Tower (Tautavel)

GPS Coordinates: 42°48'19"

Goa Tower (Sahorre)

GPS Coordinates: 42°31'22"

Madeloc Tower (Collioure)

GPS Coordinates: 42°29'26"

Massane Tower (Argelès-sur-Mer)

GPS Coordinates: 42°29'53"

Maures Tower (Egat)

GPS Coordinates: 42°30'02"

Mir Tower (Prats de Mollo)

GPS Coordinates: 42°23'40"

Montner Tower (replaced by Força Real)

GPS Coordinates: 42°43'38"

Niobols Tower (Nyer)

GPS Coordinates: 42°31'56"

Ovança Tower (La Cabanasse)

GPS Coordinates: 42° 30'21"

Prats de Sournia Tower (Prats de Sournia)

GPS Coordinates: 42°44'41"

Querroig Tower (Cerbère)

GPS Coordinates: 42°26'18"

Saint Elme Fort (Collioure)

GPS Coordinates: 42°31'07"

Tremoine Tower (Rasiguères)

GPS Coordinates: 42°46'35"

Del Vacaro Tower (LLO)

GPS Coordinates: 42°27'17"

[See a map of the watchtowers](#)



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