

# TOWNS AND LANDS OF ART AND HISTORY

## INFORMATION



TOWNS AND LANDS OF ART AND HISTORY  
[www.vpah.culture.fr](http://www.vpah.culture.fr)

Cross-border Land of Art and History  
 Catalan valleys of Tech and Ter  
[www.valleescatalanes.org/](http://www.valleescatalanes.org/)

Perpignan Tourist Office  
 Tel.: +33 (0)4 68 66 30 30  
[www.perpignantourisme.com](http://www.perpignantourisme.com)

Heritage events  
 Tél. +33 (0)4 68 62 38 84

Sources and bibliography  
 'Laissez-vous conter en Ville et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire'

Websites  
[www.mairie-perpignan.fr](http://www.mairie-perpignan.fr)  
[www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com/en](http://www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com/en)

For the past 33 years, the French Ministry of Culture has been working on an initiative in partnership with local authorities (towns or urban communities) to encourage the development and enhancement of heritage sites and architecture. This initiative turned into a label called 'Ville d'Art et d'Histoire' and 'Pays d'Art et d'Histoire'.

An agreement is drawn up between the Directorate of Architecture and Heritage, the Regional Directorate for Cultural Affairs and the local authorities in question.

The French ministry provides financial and technical support and the local communities are expected to provide qualified staff (tour guides and heritage guides), approved by the French Ministry of Culture.

The 'Conseil National des Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire', created in 1995, participates in the development and general management of the initiative and has a role to play in decision-making regarding candidates for the label (filed with the French National Institute of Industrial Property) as well as in the event that membership is cancelled for breach of the regulations set by the agreement.

The Regional Directorate for Cultural Affairs is a decentralised department of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and is responsible for implementing the initiative for their region. They monitor the relevance of the project and integrate it into the region's cultural scene, and act as the main contact for providing the labelled towns and areas with information and instruction.

190 **Towns and Lands of Art and History** are members of the network.

The department of the Pyrénées-Orientales boasts one Town of Art and History and one cross-border Land of Art and History.

- ✓ **Perpignan** was awarded the 'Ville d'Art et d'Histoire' label in 2001. 'Laissez-vous conter Perpignan' (Learn all about Perpignan) is a programme of guided tours with a qualified guide: historic walking tours, tours of private mansions, to learn about fountains, tour-shows with the 'Nuits d'Art et d'Histoire', heritage workshops, storytelling tours, guided tours in Catalan, English and German. The heritage events department coordinates the related initiatives for the town of Perpignan. All year round, they organise events for locals, visitors and school groups.
- ✓ **The cross-border 'Pays d'Art et d'Histoire' the Catalan Valleys of Tech and Ter** created in 2010 groups together 31 towns (10 in Vallespir, 14 in Haut-Vallespir, 6 in Camprodon valley and 1 remote town). This label gives the villages the feeling of belonging to a territory, beyond the Pyrenees, with its very own distinctive features and personality. Vallespir valley covers a surface area of 50,000 hectares and Camprodon valley has a surface area of 24,000 hectares. They are both set around their own river and its various tributaries. Their sources come from the very same territory, with a certain range in altitude (from 85 m at Le Boulou to 1,392 m in Fabert). The cross-border Land of Art and History, 'The Catalan Valleys of Tech and Ter', focuses on safeguarding the natural, landscape, architectural and urban heritage, as well as a technical and ethnological heritage. This territory has a shared identity, topography and history, and cannot be divided by a mere administrative border. That is what led to the creation of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation, to be able to implement the Land of Art and History label across borders. With this original and unique tool, with its own legal status, the differences in legislation and national procedures between France and Spain can be overcome.
- ✓ The partners are the French Ministry of Culture, the French local authorities and the 'Generalitat de Catalunya'.

## MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

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