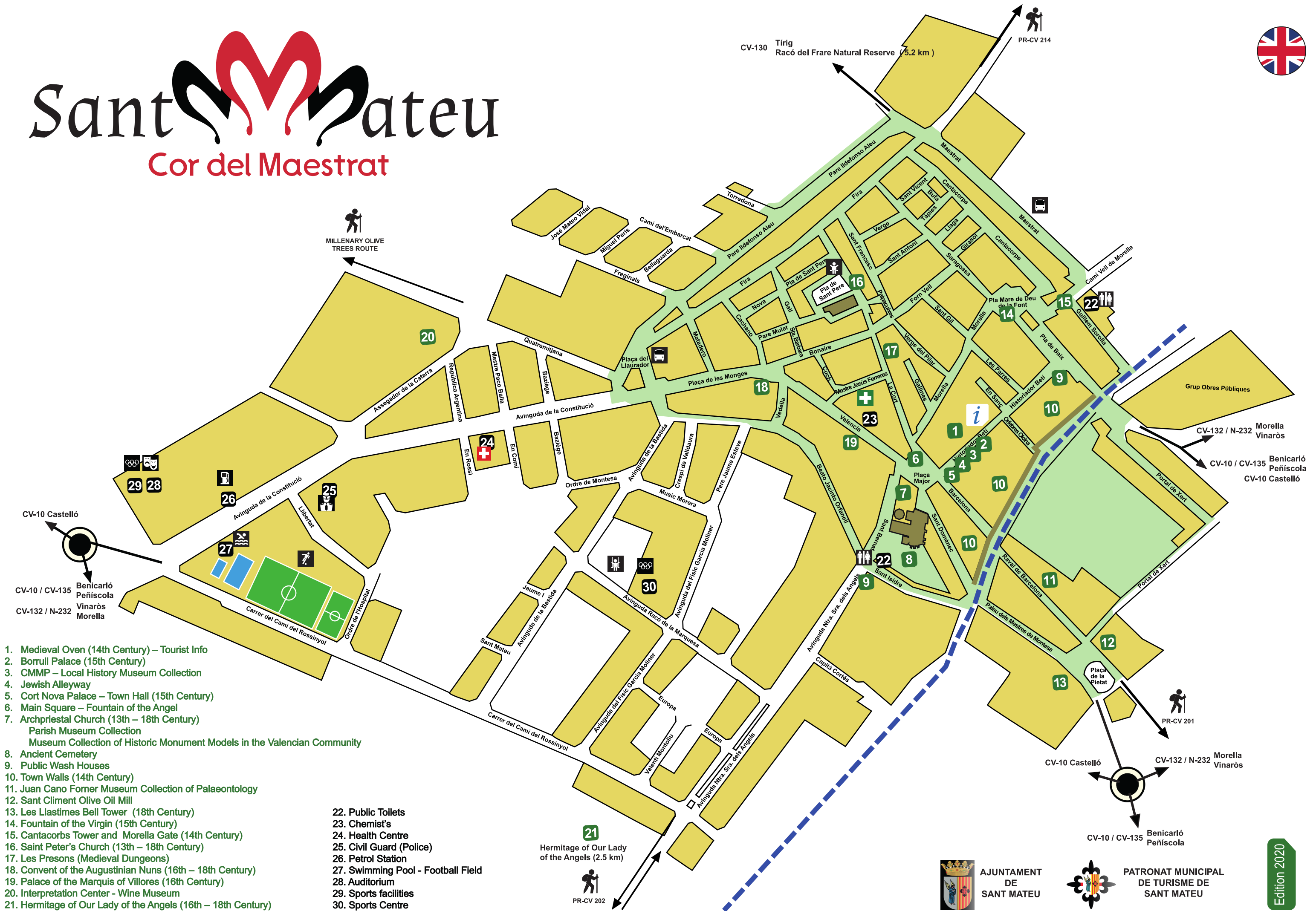


Sant Mateu

Cor del Maestrat



AJUNTAMENT
DE
SANT MATEU



PATRONAT MUNICIPAL
DE TURISME DE
SANT MATEU

Edition 2020

HISTORY

The origins of Sant Mateu go back to before the conquest of the region by King James I, who gave it to the Order of Knights of the Hospital. In 1237, Hugo de Follalquer, castellan of Amposta, granted the Town Charter to Sant Mateu.

In 1319, during the reign of James II, Sant Mateu became part of the Order of Montesa and was the residence of its Grand Masters, the main centre of the Maestrazgo and its capital.

This is the beginning of a magnificent medieval period in which Sant Mateu became a significant commercial, farming and artisan centre due to wool exports from the flocks in the area to the looms of Florence and the Tuscany region.

As a result of its political importance, Sant Mateu played a notable historic role, given that the Parliament of the kingdom was held in the town in 1369, 1370, 1421, 1429 and 1495. Some important personalities visited the town, such as San Vicente Ferrer, Pope Clement VIII, King Philip II and Benedict XIII, the famous Papa Luna, who was the temporal lord of the town.

The most important historic event that occurred in Sant Mateu was the End of the Western Schism. On August 15, 1429, in the Archpriestal Church of Sant Mateu, Clement VIII, the successor of Papa Luna, renounced the papacy to Pedro de Foix, papal legate of Pope Martin V, ending the schism in the Western Church.

TOWN TOUR

A walk around Sant Mateu reveals the historic importance of this welcoming town with monumental fountains, typical cubic houses with their characteristic balconies, magnificent religious buildings or splendid civil architecture. Furthermore, the visitors can relive the history of the Order of Montesa, Papa Luna, the last known Occitan Cathar Perfect (Belibaste), the visits of San Vicente Ferrer, the disturbance of the Germanies and a lot of other historic events.

The tour begins right in the Tourist Office, situated inside a medieval oven (14th century). In the same street, there are two beautiful examples of Valencian Gothic civil architecture, such as the Town Hall or *Cort Nova* (15th century) and the Borrull Palace or *l'Audiència* (15th century), both separated by the Jewish Alleyway. Moreover, this second palace hosts the Local History Museum Collection.

Next you arrive at the town centre, the porticoed Main Square (14th century), where we can also see the Fountain of the Angel.

Right next to the Main Square, you can contemplate the most important religious monument, the Archpriestal Church (13th - 18th century), a majestic example of Valencian Gothic architecture. It maintains a Romanesque façade (13th century), a Gothic lateral façade or *Porta Falsa* (15th century) and its imposing octagonal Bell Tower (15th century). Inside the church you can see its magnificent nave, its ribbed vault, the chapel of St. Clement with its magnificent frescoes and relics of the martyr and the Parish Museum Collection with its most important piece, the *Creu Grossa* (1397), a Gothic processional cross made by local silversmiths and a masterpiece of Gothic Valencian silversmithing. On the ground floor of the Abbey House you can also visit the Museum Collection of Historic Monument Models in the Valencian Community.

If we continue the route by the back of the church, we can walk through the town walls (14th century) and visit the Juan Cano Forner Museum Collection of Palaeontology, an impressive private collection described by experts as the best in the Valencian Community.

Just a few metres from the end of the town walls, in another square (Pla de la Mare de Déu de la Font), you can observe the Fountain of the Virgin (15th century). This emblematic fountain is surrounded by six Tuscan columns and topped by the image of the Virgin and the Baby Jesus (15th century).

Going up to the upper part of the town, together with interesting examples of stately and popular architecture, you find St. Peter's Church (13th - 18th century) and *Les Presons*, a medieval prison from the 15th century with their gloomy dungeons and the jail of the devil.

If you go down again towards the Main Square, you can see the Convent of the Augustinian Nuns (16th-18th century) and the Palace of the Marquis of Villosres (16th century), a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture.

Finally, it is essential that you visit the Hermitage of Our Lady of the Angels (16th - 18th century), situated at the top of a mountain, about 2.5 km from Sant Mateu, where you can enjoy the beauty of the church, the annexed guest quarters and a panoramic view over Sant Mateu and the Maestrazgo region.

HIKING

In the municipal area of Sant Mateu there is a network of signposted itineraries of more than 50 km, where tourists of all ages can enjoy routes of different levels, agricultural and forest landscapes and natural reserves as the Racó del Frare

- Main routes:
- PR - CV 201:** 11 km.
 - PR - CV 202:** 15 km.
 - PR - CV 214:** 19.5 km.
 - Racó del Frare Reserve route:** 7 km.
 - Millenary olive trees route:** 9 km.

OLEOTOURISM AND ENOTOURISM

The millenary olive trees of Farga variety, authentic living monuments, are the most outstanding examples in Sant Mateu. These olive groves which cover the Maestrazgo region produce our main product, the extra virgin olive oil.

If you are interested in oleotourism and enotourism, you can enjoy the products and services of the following companies:

- SANT CLIMENT OLIVE OIL MILL**
Tel. 964 416 386 - www.productesantcliment.com
- BESALDUCH VALLS & BELLMUNT WINERY Interpretation Centre - Wine Museum**
Tel. 964 416 436 - bvbbodegues.es
- VARONA LA VELLA OLIVE OIL**
Tel. 605 05 27 15 - Facebook Varona La Vella

LOCAL PRODUCE

- SANT CLIMENT OLIVE OIL MILL**
Plaça La Pietat, 10 - Tel. 964 416 659
- GALLENCH SWEET SHOP**
Plaça Major, 16 - Tel. 664 331 404
- BESALDUCH VALLS & BELLMUNT WINERY**
Quatremitjana, s/n - Tel. 964 416 436
- NUNS' SWEET SHOP - Convent of the Augustinian Nuns**
Plaça Monges, 29 - Tel. 964 416 055
- CARRER MORELLA BAKERY**
Morella, 10 - Tel. 964 416 190
- CRISTIAN BAKERY**
Forn Vell, 5 - Tel. 605 638 810
- ANA I MAX BAKERY**
València, 36- Tel. 964 416 166
- FERRERES BUTCHER'S**
Morella, 7 - Tel. 964 416 744
- SALES BUTCHER'S**
Morella, 9 - Tel. 964 416 017

ACOMMODATION

- HOTELS**
- LA PERDI** - C/ Historiador Betí, 9 -Tel. 964 416 082
- MONTESA** - Avda. Constitució 21 - Tel. 964 416 000
- ANARU** - C/ Historiador Betí, 26 - Tel. 964 205 113
- RURAL ACOMMODATION**
- TURIMAESTRAT** - C/ Historiador Betí, 37 - Tel. 964 416 079
- L'ANTIC FORN** - C/ Mestre Jesús Ferreres, 5 -Tel. 670 063 332
- LA FONT DE MORELLA** - C/ Tapies, 11 - Tel. 670 225 398
- LES CAIXES** - C/ Bonaire, 16 - Tel. 678 535 351
- CASA DEL PLA** - Pla de Baix, 32 - Tel. 654 308 042
- CASA DELS ARBRES** - C/ Historiador Betí, 27 - Tel. 654 308 042
- CALACEIT** - C/ Bonaire, 36 - 38 - Tel. 606 359 905
- HOSTAL DE CABRIT** - Pla Mare de Déu de la Font, 21 - Tel. 645 492 061
- KA LABUELO JOSE MANUEL** - C/ Gall, 6 - Tel. 639 770 216
- MANXALO** - C/ Sant Antoni, 10 - Tel. 680 196 726
- APARTMENTS**
- SELMÍ** - C/ La Cort, 32 - Tel. 964 416 102 – 690 369 080
- EL RELLOTGE** - Plaça Major, 8 - Tel. 600 399 347
- LA PLAZA DEL ÀNGEL** - Plaça Major, 8 - Tel. 678 535 351
- MESTRES DE MONTESA** - C/ Valencia, 33 - Tel. 964 724 949

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

- LA PERDI** - C/ Historiador Betí, 9 -Tel. 964 416 082
- MONTESA** - Avda. Constitució, 21 - Tel. 964 416 000
- FARGA RESTAURANT** - Ermita de la Mare de Déu dels Àngels - Tel. 663 909 586
- LA RESALÁ** - C/ Historiador Betí, 26 -Tel. 653 991 940
- EL PORTAL** - C/ La Fira, 119 - Tel. 964 416 674
- KA NOSTRA** - Plaça Major, 21 - Tel. 964 416 176
- LA PLAÇA** - Plaça Major, 7 - Tel. 964 416 288
- MODERNO** - Plaça Major, 9 - Tel. 964 416 288
- ANARU** - C/ Historiador Betí, 26 - Tel. 964 205 113
- LLAR DEL JUBILAT** - Plaça Llaurador, 1 - Tel. 964 416 582
- CA'N TISTE** - Pla Sant Pere ,8 - Tel. 964 202 987
- LA CUINA DE XUS. (takeaway)** - C/ Morella, 37 - Tel. 964 023 105

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- TOURIST INFO** ----- 964 416 658
- TOWN HALL** ----- 964 416 171
- HEALTH CENTRE** ----- 964 158 120
- CHEMIST'S** ----- 964 416 041
- GUARDIA CIVIL** ----- 062 - 964 416 002
- LOCAL POLICE** ----- 636 250 904

MORE INFORMATION

-  www.turismesantmateu.com
-  infoturisme@santmateu.com
-  Visit Sant Mateu