



TEMPERATURES DETERMINE EACH YEAR THE BEGINNING OF ALMOND TREE FLOWERING. A SIGHT NATURE NEVER SCHEDULES

Alcalalí is located near Xaló river and sheltered from the mountains of Coll de Rates, Cavall Verd and Seguilí.

Its agricultural tradition is still present in its surrounding landscapes and also in its streets. Olive trees, grapevines, orange and almond trees located in dry stone plots are the signature of the change of seasons and daily routine.

A stroll along its streets will help you appreciate elements of vernacular architecture that are bound to the local agricultural customs –houses had large doors to allow carts in and rings in the entrance to tie up donkeys and mules. In the plaza you will enjoy the views of the remnants of the old walled area by taking a walk under the only standing porch from the era, which also was the main entrance to the city when coming from Parcent.

Do not miss Torre Mirador and the Museo Etnológico (Ethnological Museum) if you want to understand the city's history and culture. And, at the end of the day, there is nothing better than getting a taste of tradition by trying some tapas and traditional dishes of the area and buying some homemade bread or local honey.

ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM



If you want to know first-hand the traditional process of oil and raising production, you should pay a visit to the museum.

Located in the village's old oil mill, the museum has kept the old machinery and all the elements used in the process, and even a miniature of a *Riu Rau* -a rural



building used to protect raisings from bad weather. There is also a video where you can see the oil mill working.

Raising production also holds an important place in this museum. In fact, it was the main economic activity in the area during the past four centuries.

You should not leave la Vall de Pop without buying some raisings, so try to get to know its delicate and laborious elaboration process in order to enjoy the end product.

TRACKS TO GET LOST



WHILE STANDING ON COLL DE RATES' PEAK YOU CAN IMAGINE PIRATES COMING FROM THE SEA AND SEE HOW IMPRESSIVE BERNIA AND FERRER MOUNTAINS ARE

Alcalalí area is defined by the mountains that shelter it, but also by the never ending contrast between the vegetation delimiting the river banks, the Mediterranean brushes and the colourful mosaics created by farmlands, especially those with blooming almond trees.

There are several hiking routes designed to enjoy the landscape. You can obtain

detailed brochures at Xaló's Tourist Info. The so-called "Caminos de Piedra y Agua" route connects all the villages that form la Vall de Pop and is a good choice if you go either to Xaló or Parcent.

PRCV-425 road leads us from Alcalalí to Coll de Rates and offers wonderful panoramic views during the walk.

And, if you are looking for a light-hearted route, you should visit the chapel at Mosquera, located in an old Moorish farmhouse. It is the perfect excuse to visit a setting of great ecological and historical value.

There are still some things to do and see... You should come back, right?



THE TOWER



The tower dates back to the end of the 14th century and was initially built as a watchtower and a stronghold to protect the city from pirates and bandits.

Throughout time the building has been given different purposes, and at some point a drawbridge connected the Torre to the old palace of Ruiz de Lihori, which stood next to the tower. It has also been used to store grain, and it served as a house and even as a prison.

At present it is shelter to a small sample of classic period robes and pictures and an interesting exhibition of graffiti and restored etchings dating back to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. There is also a view point located in the highest floor which offers an incredible view of the valley.

If you are travelling with children, they will surely have fun dreaming of corsairs and pirates.



SPANISH PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED WHEN THEY HEAR LOCALS ASKING FOR "GAMBA I BLEDA" (SHRIMPS AND CHARDS) OR "FULLES DE LLIMERA" (LEMON TREE LEAVES) IN A BAR —THEY ARE SIMPLY ASKING FOR SOME PEANUTS AND LUPINS OR SOME CHIPS THAT USUALLY COME ALONG WITH BEER OR WINE. OLD THINGS STICK TO MODERN TIMES



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