

Girona Hostel

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Girona Guide

From this medieval past, **Girona** retains a spectacular old quarter which includes one of the largest and best preserved Jewish quarters in Europe. A large part of the defence wall remains standing and is accessible to visitors.

Girona is crossed by 4 rivers, the most important being the River Onyar, which crosses the city through the centre, bordering the old quarter. The view of the bridges and colourfully painted houses that literally hang over the water is one of the most photographed of the city.

For some years now **Girona** has been a university city, which has given it a youthful atmosphere and turned it into an extraordinarily attractive centre framed by narrow alleyways, flights of steps and historical buildings.



Of all the city's great buildings, there are four that really stand out and which can be seen from many different points around the city:

- The Cathedral of Santa Maria de Girona is the result of several different superimposed styles and boasts the widest central gothic nave in the world.
- The towers in the Passeig de la Muralla provide excellent views of the city.
- The Bridges over the River Onyar: superb viewpoints and perfect for taking a walk and contemplating the beauty of the meandering river and the hanging houses. The Eiffel Bridge stands out for its iron structure, reminiscent of Eiffel's most famous work in Paris.
- The Jewish Call: the old Jewish quarter. A labyrinth of pebbled streets, with thousands of magical corners. The perfect place to just wander around without any fixed destination.

The unsurpassable location of **Girona** enables you, if you have the time, to discover the famous

Costa Brava, the city of Figueres with the Dalí museum, etc. For nature lovers

Girona

has 3 protected nature reserves; Cap de creus, La Garrotxa and Les Illes medes, an archipelago that preserves one of the greatest marine flora and fauna reserves of the Mediterranean, perfect for diving enthusiasts.



The area, internationally recognised for its gastronomy, is the home of two of the world's top restaurants; El Bulli and El Cellar de Can Roca, even though the variety of restaurants is great and there is something to suit all pockets, the meat and some types of fish with the "protected designation of origin" label fill the menus of the area's restaurants.

Due to its geographical characteristics and since Lance Armstrong, winner of the Tour de France for 6 years running, established his place of residence in *Girona*, the region has become a paradise for cyclists who gather on the surrounding streets every weekend. This explains why the organizers of the Tour de France 2009, decided that the trial would begin in

Girona

on July 9th.

Since the **Girona Airport** became a reference point for low-cost airlines, the city has become a central point within the Catalan geography, with excellent communications for discovering both Barcelona and the south, and the Costa Brava and the north.

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