

Stories from deep in the Mountains *
PRATDIP + TIVISSA + VANDELLÒS



20

The
Nativity
of the stars *
Castelló/Vandellòs

ENG

Other * outings

There are plenty of other spots in this area where you can enjoy silence, peace and quiet.

Want to go up to Sant Blai?

Tivissa

Want to go up to Santa Marina?

Pratdip



A Simbòlic.cat project



Stories from deep in the Mountains
PRATDIP + TIVISSA + VANDELLÒS

To find out more stories, please visit our tourist offices:

Pratdip T. +34 977 566 388
www.pratdip.cat

Tivissa T. +34 977 417 551
www.tivissa.cat

Vandellòs T. +34 977 823 328
www.hospitalet-valldehors.cat

Houses filled * with silence

Like so many other small villages, Castelló's houses gradually emptied of people until the last of them was closed up in the 1950's. Time immediately began to do its destructive work and until recently, faced by the sight of ruined houses, collapsing roofs and encroaching brambles, it was hard to believe that in the early 20th century Castelló was home to over a hundred and fifty people.

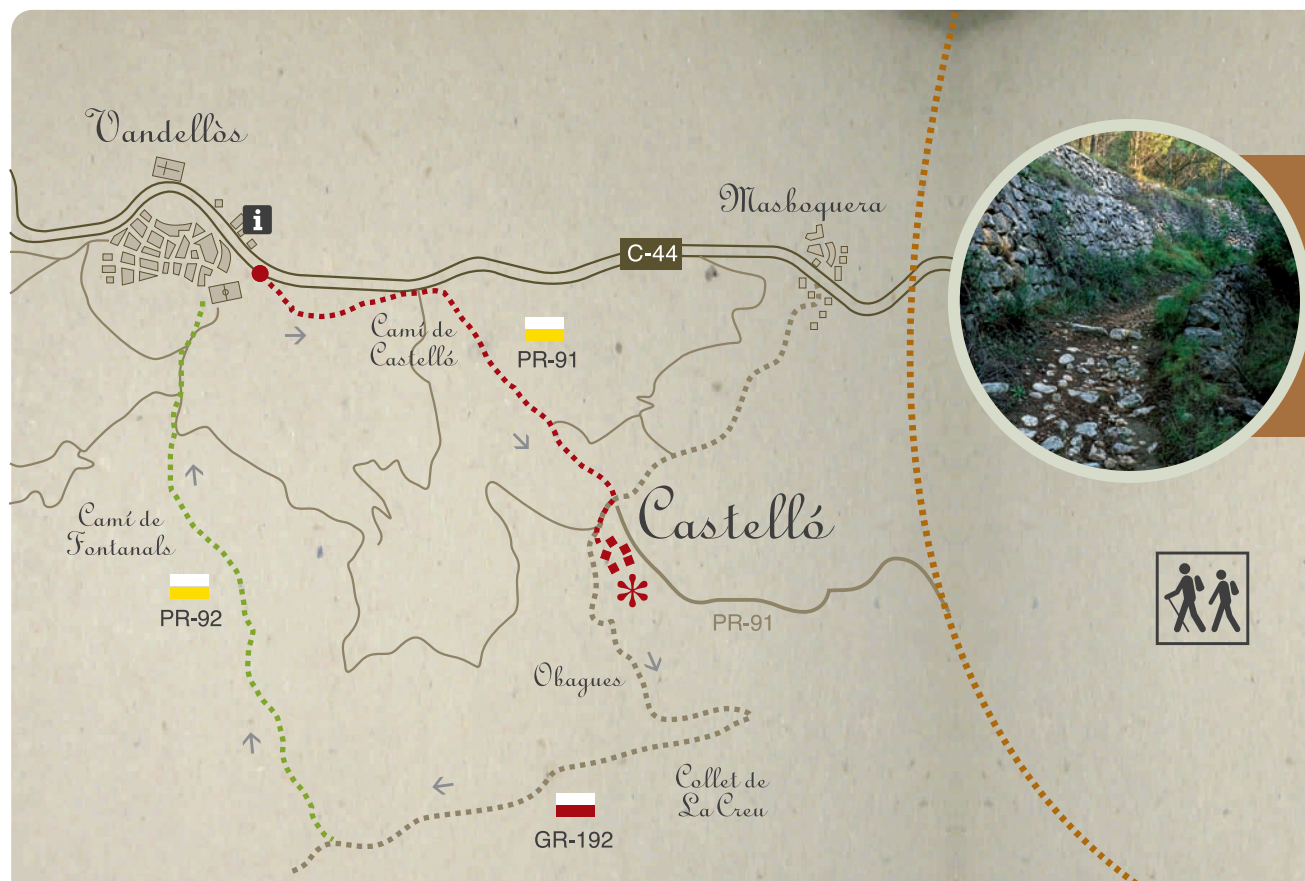


Today, Castelló has become a symbol of a village's determination to reverse what seemed inevitable, to honour the past, rebel against oblivion and show that it is possible and useful to recover a part of a region's memory.

For some years now the Associació Masia de Castelló has gradually been restoring the village for educational, cultural and leisure uses. In summer, for example, a small festival of traditional music is held there and in December the village is home to a highly successful Nativity event devoted to traditional crafts and trades which has become one of the most important fair of its type in Catalonia.

Dreams...
against the flow





A walk*

You can get to Castelló by vehicle, but it's especially nice to walk there, using the old mule track which, not so very long ago, a dozen or so children still went up and down every day to go to school in Vandellòs.



This is a charming short walk which is also suitable for children. The old path to Castelló starts 200 metres from Vandellòs, turning off the road to L'Hospitalet. You can make your way up the track, now widened and asphalted, or follow the mule track marked in yellow and white paint as the PR-91. Afterwards, to go back, you can return the same way or, if you are feeling a little bolder, go up the Obagues to the Collet de la Creu along the GR-192 and come down the Fontanals path, the PR-92.



The Castelló Nativity event, *El Pessebre dels Estels* [The Nativity of the Stars], is certainly untypical. There are very few Biblical scenes, but it is a meeting point for skilled craftsmen and women who keep ancestral techniques and wisdom alive.

Spread through more than twenty old houses in the village (many of them roofless), you can see chair makers, basket makers, carpenters, mattress makers, bakers, hazelnut shellers, distillers, stonemasons, coopers and other craftspeople at work.



blacksmiths
coopers
chair makers
mattress makers



basket makers
carpenters
stonemasons

The artisans' nativity*

26th & 27th December
and 6th January



But it is worth going to Castelló at any time of year. With a little imagination, you can still hear the women going in and out of the small grocer's shop or little children chasing a cat...

Now you also have the chance to experience and learn about the past thanks to the different activities, tours and workshops offered by the educational centre **Aula Oberta Masia de Castelló**.

www.masiacastello.cat/aula_oberta.html