

L'Escala-Empúries

Tot l'any!

FRANCE

FRANCE

INDEX

- 03 Introduction
- 04 1. Sant Martí d'Empúries
- 05 2. Ruins and the Museu d'Empúries
- 06 3. Museo de l'Anxova i la Sal (Anchovy and Salt Museum)
- 07 4. Cementiri marí (Marine Cemetery)
- 08 5. Old Town
- 10 6. Riells
- 11 7. Montgó
- 12 Leisure Events
- 13 Beaches and the Surrounding Area
- 14 Sports
- 15 Cuisine
- 16 Maps of L'Escala
- 18 Useful Telephone Numbers



L'Escala Empúries

Foto: Miguel Caballer



Introduction

L'Escala emerged in the 16th century as a small fishing port dependent on the neighbouring town of Empúries. However, in 1766 it attained the category of town and municipal capital in a period of great economic wealth thanks to the maritime customs and excise, L'Alfolí de la Sal (Salt Store), fishing and the export of wine and salted fish.

In the 19th century, the economy continued to be based on fish and wine until a new phenomenon changed the economy: tourism.

Since the 1960s, many people have been seduced by our coastline, culture and traditions, making L'Escala a unique special place, long accustomed to welcoming visitors, in addition to the great geographical location – being situated in a privileged easy-to-reach setting on the Costa Brava.

Nowadays, visitors to L'Escala are able to visit the many interesting historical sites as well as enjoy the beaches and landscape, our globally-renowned cuisine, and the selection of sports and leisure activities, amongst many other possibilities.

1. Sant Martí d'Empúries

Present-day Sant Martí d'Empúries is preserved as a mediaeval town belonging to the municipality of L'Escala and was once a peninsula welcoming the first inhabitants to the area from the 9th century B.C. Three centuries later, commercial relations were established with the Phoenicians, Punics and Massalia Phocaea which would be the start of business making Empúries one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean.

The city walls sitting on remains from the Greek Cyclopa and the church of Sant Martí – dating from 1538 and built over the pre-Romanesque building from 926 – are preserved from later mediaeval inhabitants. Until 1064, Sant Martí was the capital of the county of Empúries.

In contrast to the mediaeval character of the town, the modernist Casa Forestal building in Sant Martí presently houses exhibitions and cultural events.

The Passeig d'Empúries was opened in 1992 to celebrate the Barcelona Olympic Games and links Sant Martí and L'Escala. It is a two and a half-kilometre route running along the coast and means travellers may enjoy, on the one hand, the Empúries ruins and, on the other, magnificent dunes making up the beaches of Empúries. Moll Grec is the first of these beaches, preserving the Greek quay.





2. Empúries Ruins

The Empúries Ruins are a must-see for everyone visiting L'Escala. It is a universally-renowned archaeological site of a city initially founded in the present centre of Sant Martí d'Empúries by Greek traders from Phocaea. The town was later extended with a new area (the Neopolis), the Greek city which may now be visited at the site. The new city received the name of Emporion, signifying market in Greek, since trade was the driving force of the town.

During the second Punic war, the Roman army arrived at the Port of Empúries (218 B.C.) so as to stop supply to the Carthaginians by the rearguard. In this way, the Romanisation of the Iberian Peninsula began.

At the end of the 3rd century A.D., the inhabitants of Empúries moved to Sant Martí, making it into the capital of the mediaeval county of Empúries. The first excavations on the site began in 1908 and, since that time, constant scientific recovery has been carried out.

The Greek and Roman cities and the Museum of Archaeology may be visited at the Empúries Ruins.

Contact Details: Tel.: 972 77 02 08 -- www.mac.cat – Opening Times: 1/06 - 30/09: 10 am to 8 pm; 01/10 – 31/05: 10 am to 6 pm;
Closed December 25th and January 1st

3. Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal (Anchovy and Salt Museum)

Located in the former abattoir (dating to 1913), the Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal is the centre for L'Escala history, delving into unique times, heritage and knowledge. The permanent exhibition shows the history of fishing from the 16th century until the present day, especially salted anchovies – an industry which, over the centuries, was the driving force behind the town and made it famous around the world.

Cultural trails are organised from the Museum, such as the Victor Català literary trail or the marine trail by boat.

The town Spring and public Washing Place dating from 1796 are also near the Museum.

Opening Hours:

Summer: 16/06 - 30/09

Tuesdays to Fridays: 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm

Saturdays: 11 am to 1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm

Sundays and Holidays: 11 am to 1 pm

Winter: 1/10 - 15/06:

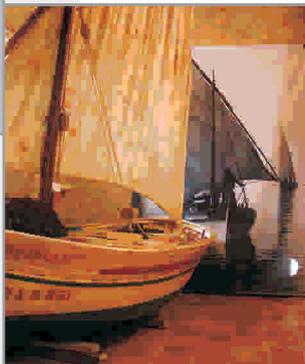
Tuesdays to Fridays: 10 am to 1.30 pm and 3 pm to 6 pm

Saturdays: 11 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm

Sundays and Holidays: 11 am to 1 pm

Closed Mondays except Holidays, December 25th and 26th and January 1st and 6th.

Tel.: 972 77 68 15 - www.anxova-sal.cat



Fotos: Miquel Bataller



4. Cementiri Marí (Marine Cemetery)



Foto: Miquel Bataller

This Neoclassical work was built in 1835 and houses, firstly, an atrium, then a considerable number of niches and, finally, a third complex with four vaults and the chapel – the Maranges family vault. The niches in the cemetery are typical of popular Mediterranean architecture, being whitewashed in lime and finished in a triangular tympanum.

A large number of illustrious locals lay at rest in the cemetery's graves, including the photographer Josep Esquirol and the town's most international writer Victor Català (Catalina Albert i Paradís).

Guided tours are organised from the Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal.

Address:
C/Garbí, 15

5. The Old Town

The old quarter dates back to a fisherman's neighbourhood in the area of the old Port of L'Escala – a neighbourhood in the town of Empúries. With 80 inhabitants, L'Escala gained its own church (5.1) – a popular Gothic building with a Renaissance façade housing Baroque motifs and dedicated to St. Pere and St. Màxima in 1701.

The emblematic streets and nooks in L'Escala old town invite visitors to delve into the history of the maritime town and discover architectural features from a by-gone era. Can Cinto Xuà fisherman's cottage at 35 Carrer de la Torre (5.2) accurately reproduces the setting and everyday life in L'Escala from the 18th-19th centuries. The Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal must be contacted in order to visit the fisherman's cottage.

When going along the seashore marking the delineated coast of the old town, visitors come across the most exquisite spots in town. From Mar d'en Manassa (5.3), where there are still old shipyards to moor vessels, we get to La Creu (5.4), a rocky cove where nowadays visitors can still see fishermen's huts and boats.

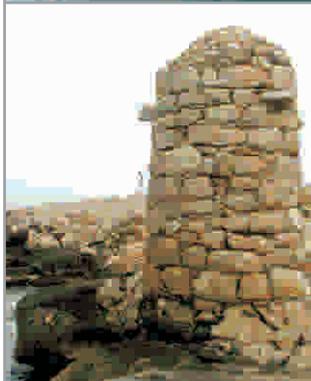




Foto: Escot



Fishing and trade were carried out in the past in what is now known as La Platja (5.5). It was the fishing port until 1962, when it moved to La Clota. There are still six stone berths used to launch boats on the Riba Vella old shore. There are also two berthing posts dating from the 18th century still intact.

Products such as salt and different goods would arrive by sea and be stored in the (5.6) L'Alfolí de la Sal (Salt Store – 1697) to be then distributed to inland towns. The existence of a building with these features, the shipyards and the coastal traffic led to great economic expansion in the 18th century. The increase in trade meant industry grew around the port which became dotted with buildings related to the fishing industry; a standout example is the ice factory (5.7) known as the Casa de la Punxa (House of the Point – 1919).

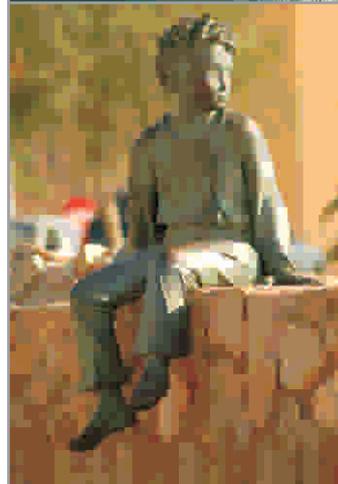
There is now a monument to sea folk at the Punta (Point) (5.8). A little beyond this is the monument dedicated to fishermen's wives (5.9).

Trawler vessels would usually berth at Port d'en Perris (5.10), the town's small port. Nowadays, Port d'en Perris is a pebble beach considered to be one of the town's most emblematic spots.

6. Riells

Riells has always been a family beach thanks to its shallow waters. The accompanying promenade, dedicated to the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's work *The Little Prince*, offers the chance to enjoy a spell strolling along the seafront. En route, there are all kinds of references to this most charismatic work: the statue of the Little Prince seated on a wall, the fox on the stairs to the Plaça de l'Univers, the palm trees drawing eastern constellations, the volcanic rocks recreating the B612 asteroid, a baobab and a rose on the ground recall many chapters from the magnificent story.

The Port de la Clota, the present-day fishing port and marina in L'Escala, is very close to Riells beach.





7. Montgó

Cala Montgó (7.1) is located to the southern most point in L'Escala. This typical fine white sandy cove from Montgrí limestone erosion is protected by Punta Milà and Punta Montgó, where a defensive tower (7.2) dating from 1598 makes for the perfect vantage point to enjoy a surprising panoramic view. This is not the only tower of this type in town, with another dating from the 16th century in Pedró (7.3).

Leisure Events

L'Escala is lively throughout the year, as seen in the many events organised in every season.

Spring in L'Escala opens with the Diada de Sant Jordi (Catalán National Day – 23rd April) and continues strongly with the Triumvirat Mediterrani (2nd weekend in May), a Greco-Roman fair making for a great celebration for all.

Summer welcomes music, parties and joie de vivre to the town's streets, starting with L'Aplec de la Sardana (Sardana Meeting – 1st weekend in June) and the Revetlla de Sant Joan celebration (23rd June). Everyone is welcome at the Mare de Déu del Carme Celebration and Homenatge a la Vellesa in honour of senior residents (16th July); the Mediterrània Music Festival may also be enjoyed, with Habanera music (1st Thursday in August at La Platja and 14th August in Cala Montgó) and Sardana dances and music by the sea making for the best company on a summer's night (every Wednesday in July and August at 10 pm in La Platja).



Foto: Penya Blaugrana



Foto: Mireia Llandrich

The Festa Major annual festival at the start of September marks the end of the hot season and the beginning of more peaceful period.

The celebrations do not stop in autumn: on the one hand there is the Festa de la Sal (Salt Festival) and the Trobada de Vela Llatina (Lateen Sail Meet) on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in September, the Festa de l'Anxova (Anchovy Festival) on the 1st Sunday in October, and the Jornades Gastronòmiques del Suquet de Peix (Fish Stew Gastronomic Days) – events renowned around Catalonia. Chestnuts are the stars when the clocks go back, which can be savoured in La Platja during November.

In winter, after the Christmas festivities with the Trifàsic fair, the Three Kings Cavalcade... L'Escala locals get to work on the great Carnival parade where the hustle-and-bustle never stops!

In addition, throughout the year everyone who wants to can enjoy the Sunday market, exhibitions, library readings, traditional dances and great sporting events, amongst other things.

Beaches and the Surrounding Area

13

One of the defining characteristics of L'Escala is its link to the sea, seen in the many different seascapes, with the town offering sandy beaches formed by coastal dunes to rocky stretches and steep coves.

This seascape is set in a fascinating natural setting, incorporating the Montgrí Massif and the Marshes of L'Empordà.

There are 12 easily-reached beaches and coves in L'Escala, each with their own charm. Highlights are Cala Montgó, Riells beach, the typical beaches in the old town and the beaches of Empúries, near the archaeological site and interlinked by a pretty pedestrian walkway.

These many beaches, alongside the fishing tradition so rooted in the town, mean L'Escala has been and continues to be a town looking out to the sea.

Foto: Escot



Sports

The location of L'Escalà, set between the sea and the mountains, is ideal for all kinds of sports. The steep coast in the area and strategic locations make for a whole array of water activities: diving, canoe routes, sailing, windsurfing and waterskiing are just some of the possibilities.

In addition, the landscape and nature offer all kinds of excursions by any mode of transport. By bicycle, on horseback, with a Segway, quads or even on foot, visitors can travel the routes around L'Escalà leading to Sant Martí, Cinclaus, Les Corts, Mas Vilanera estate or the Recs (Canals), amongst other spots.

Foto: BT/Mania



Foto: Escot



Foto: Orcadwiving



Cuisine

15

TURISME L'ESCALA - EMPÚRIES

L'Escala stands out and is famous for its cuisine, housing a large number of restaurants offering a wide selection of dishes. Highlights include Mediterranean cuisine and traditional fish dishes from the area, combined with the most avant-garde cooking.

In addition, different events demonstrating the strong links L'Escala has with gastronomy are organised throughout the year. In this way, there is the Festa de l'Anxova (The Anchovy Festival), with food competition included! the Mostra de Cuina de Nadal (Christmas Food Fair), the Jornades Gastronòmiques del Suquet de Peix (Fish Stew Gastronomic Days) or the Festa del Cargol de Punxa (Snail Festival), organised by the Fishermen's Guild.

Anchovies are, without any doubt, the star of L'Escala cuisine, having become an internationally-recognised product set to be awarded 'Protected Geographical Indication'. A visit to the anchovy factories in L'Escala is highly recommended.



L'ESCALA - EMPÚRIES

1. Sant Martí d'Empúries
2. Ruins and the Museu d'Empúries
3. Museo de l'Anxova i la Sal (Anchovy and Salt Museum)
4. Cementiri Marí (Marine Cemetery)
5. Old Town
6. Riells
- 7.1 Cala Montgó
- 7.2 Torre de Montgó (Tower)
- 7.3 Torre del Pedró (Tower)

Gi-632
A Bellcaire i
Torroella de Montgrí

OLD TOWN

- 5.1 Church
- 5.2 Can Cinto Xuà Fisherman's Cottage
- 5.3 Mar d'en Manassa
- 5.4 La Creu
- 5.5 La Platja
- 5.6 Alforí de la Sal (Salt Store)
- 5.7 La Casa de la Punxa
- 5.8 La Punta
- 5.9 La Dona del Pescador (Statue to Fishermen's Wives)
- 5.10 Port d'en Perris



Useful telephone numbers

Emergencies

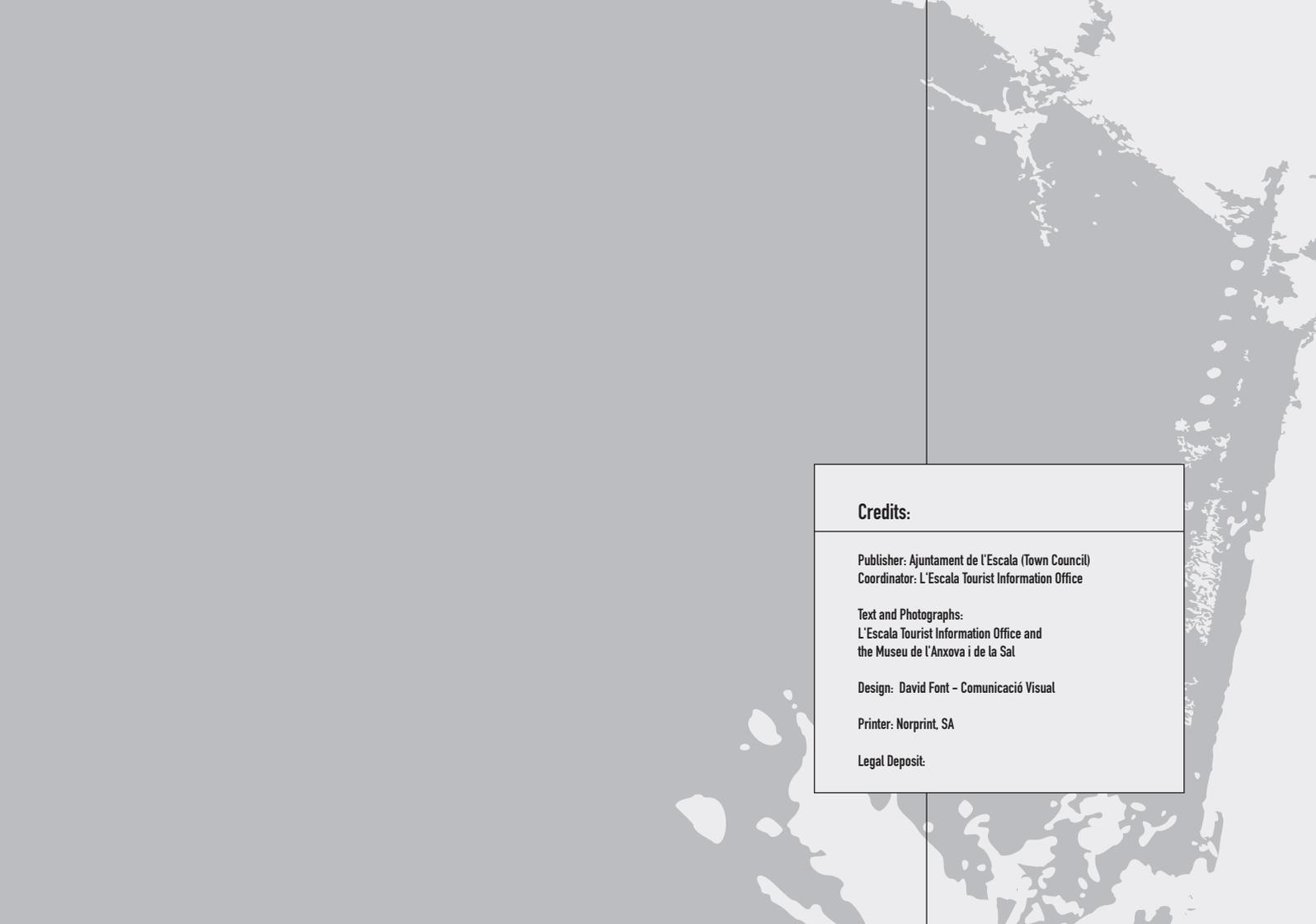
Tourism	972 77 06 03 · www.lescala.cat
Town Council	972 77 48 48
Local Police	972 77 48 18
CAP Healthcare	972 77 60 60
Clinic (Doctor)	085
Fire Service	902 250 070
Water (Sorea)	902 536 536

Transport

Bus Company	902 30 20 25 - www.sarfa.com 972 77 01 91 Ceigrup Torren
Train Company	†National Information 972 24 02 02 - www.renfe.es International Information 902 233 402
Taxis	Taxi Ayala - 609 62 07 65 Taxi Calderón - 659 47 10 40 Taxi Marín - 619 75 02 40 Taxi Vicenç Lavado - 630 67 21 84
Gerona Airport	AENA Information - 972 18 66 00 Gerona Airport Tourist Information Office 972 18 67 08 www.ryanair.com http://es.transavia.com www.spanair.com www.wizzair.com

Other Useful Telephone Numbers

Post Office	972 77 16 51
Sports Centre	972 77 29 51
Municipal Swimming Pool	972 77 51 32
Maritime Civil Guard	972 77 44 58
Youth Hostel	972 77 12 00
Sailing Club	972 77 00 16



Credits:

Publisher: Ajuntament de l'Escala (Town Council)
Coordinator: L'Escala Tourist Information Office

Text and Photographs:
L'Escala Tourist Information Office and
the Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal

Design: David Font - Comunicació Visual

Printer: Norprint, SA

Legal Deposit:



Ajuntament de l'Escala



L'Escala-Empúries

Plaça de les Escoles, 1

17130 l'Escala (Girona)

Tel. 972 770 603 - Fax 972 773 385

www.lescala.cat - turisme@lescala.cat