



SITUATION IN CATALONIA

Terrassa is a Spanish city in the east central region of Catalonia, in the province of Barcelona, comarca of Vallès Occidental, of which it is the cocapital along with Sabadell.

The city is located in the Catalan Prelitoral depression (Depressió Prelitoral), at the feet of the Prelitoral mountain range (Natural reserve of Sant Llorenç del Munt) and the average altitude of the city is 277 meters above sea level. It is 20 and 18 kilometres from Barcelona and Montserrat respectively.

HISTORY

1. Iberian settlement in the area of St. Pere:

The first news of the current Terrassa come from the time of the Romans, who founded the city of Ègara near an old Iberian, Egosa, which found some pieces of pottery and coins.

The first signs of human settlement in the Isthmus of St Pere, between the torrents of Santa Maria and Vallparadís, is back to the Neolithic period (3,000 years before our era).

St. Pere churches



St. Pere churches

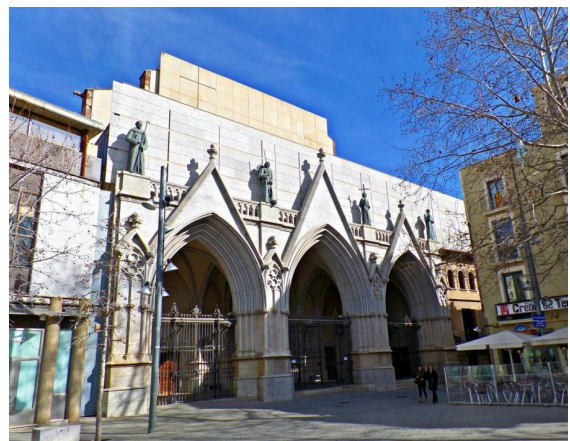
2. Ègara bishopric and cathedral:

The seat of the old bishopric Ègara was where today there is the monumental churches of **Sant Pere de Terrassa** formed by the churches of Sant Pere, Sant Miquel and Santa Maria, located at the confluence of streams of Vallparadís and Montner in the old town of Visigoth Ègara.

They are the most important artistic whole of the city and one of the jewels of Catalan Romanesque art and have recently undergone a major reorganization museum, opened in October 2009.

The new cathedral was built between 1574 and 1616, it is a Gothic building.

In 2004 the Vatican created the new bishopric of Terrassa, as segregation of the bishopric of Barcelona, and decided to use the Basilica of the Saint Spirit as a new cathedral. In this way recovered the old bishopric of Ègara that already existed between centuries V and VIII, which was dissolved, perhaps because of the Saracen invasion, and which had seat of the monumental church of St. Pere; precisely the parish of St. Peter was transferred to the St. Esperit when the new basilica was built between the XVI and XVII.



3. Medieval Castle and Tower Palace:

The Cartoixa castle is located near the stream Vallparadís. It was built in the twelfth century. Throughout the centuries has changed owners and in 1944 it was declared a national historical monument. In 1947 the owners, the family Mauri, gave it to the city, which is the official museum since 1959 .



The Palace tower was built in XII century with the aim of controlling the crossroads that connected Barcelona with inland Catalonia. The population was divided into small scattered farming villages. It is a romanesque building and cylindrical. It was built with stones and pebbles creek stone.



4. Terrassa industry:

During the 19th century, Terrassa was one of the cities where the industrial revolution there was a major incident, with a large number of factories and industries dedicated to the textile sector.

- There are a lot chimneys. “Bòvila Almirall” is the highest chimney of the city. It was built in 1958.
- There is also an industrial factory since 1945.
- The “Industrial school” was build in 1900. It belongs to the UPC and it is known internationally.
- The railway came to Terrassa in 1856 and facilitated the exchange of goods with all the world.
- “El vapor Aymerich” is a factory that was built in 1907-1908 by the architect Lluís Muncunill. In this place, people transformed wool from spinning to weaving. Currently, it is a museum about science and technology.



Industrial school



Chimney



"Vapor Aymerich" factory

5. Modernism

Every year, at the beginning of May, the city of Terrassa celebrates a modernist fair. Terrassa is one of the Catalan, Spanish and European capitals of the industrial modernism. It has preserved and appreciated an extraordinary architectural heritage (factories, warehouses, residences, public buildings...) and has become one of the engines of its tourism promotion and a key element of the new urban landscape of the city that has been placed, at the beginning of the fourth century, in the ranking of the top 25 Spanish cities.



The history of the modernist fair of Terrassa begins in 2003, with the first edition in which it outlines the characteristics that have been developed after reaching the maturity model of a participatory event, oriented to the general public, rich in cultural values and full of opportunities to enjoy an imaginary trip to the past.



Today many modernist buildings still survive from that era: The Freixa House (1907), the Independence Market (1908), the Alegre de Sagrera House (1911), the Town Hall (1902), the Principal theater (1911)...



The Freixa house



The Independence Market



The Alegre de Sagrera house

6. Terrassa now:

- Politics:

The current mayor is Jordi Ballart Pastor. He was born in Terrassa on February 8, 1980. Jordi has a degree in Political Science in the UAB.



- Trading:

In Terrassa there are a lot of shops about whatever you want, from food to clothes. It is very nice to have a walk in the center of the city because there are a lot of clothes shops so you can buy what you want.

- Population:

In Terrassa there are 215.055 inhabitants.

- Sport:

The most important sport in the city is field hockey. Three local clubs play field hockey in the main Spanish league championship:

- Athletic Terrassa Hockey Club (also with a women's team)
- Egara Club (also with a women's team)
- Racing Club Terrassa (also with a women's team)

Football is important too, there are many clubs in Terrassa. The more important are: Terrassa FC, Jabac and Club Natació Terrassa.

SINGS OF IDENTITY:

1.“Bastoners”:

Ball de bastons (stick dance) is the name of a ritual weapon dance spread throughout Europe and the rest of the Iberian area but mostly in Catalonia. English and Welsh Morris dances are well-known relatives to these traditions. The origins of dance are difficult to reference; first recorded mention dates to 1150. Instrumentarium includes tabor pipe, shawm or bagpipes.



Traditionally, the sticks are about 40–50 cm long and 5 cm thick. In the most common set, two opposite rows of dancers elaborate some patterns of stick-clashing. The dancers' clothes are different because of the village or the zone, but there are some common elements. The typical shoe is the “espardenya”. They also have to wear white pants, “faldellí”, a sash of any color, white shirt and a handkerchief crossed in the body (of any color). But some people don't use that or use more things (it depends on the place). The important things are the sticks.

2.Human castles:

A castle is a human tower built traditionally in festivals at many locations within Catalonia. At these festivals, several *colles castelleres* or teams often succeed in building and dismantling a tower's structure. On November 16, 2010, castles were declared by UNESCO to be amongst the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.



A castle is considered a success when stages of its assembling and disassembling, can be done in complete succession. The assembly is complete once all

“castellers” have climbed into their designated places, and the “enxaneta” climbs into place at the top. The “enxaneta” then climbs down the other side of the castle, after which the remaining levels of “castellers” descend in highest-to-lowest order until all have reached safety.

Aside from the people who climb to form the upper parts of the tower, others are needed to form the “pinya”, or bottom base of the castle, to sustain its weight. Members of the “pinya” also act as a 'safety net' if the tower structure collapses, cushioning the fall of people from the upper levels.

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