



1. Entrance to the historic centre by Graells Gate

## Visit Cardona!

### We organize made-to-measure tours Individual, family, group or school trips

We aim for every visit to be a **unique experience**. Contact us and we'll advise you on the best way to visit us from tours of all sizes to **food and wine tastings**. If you're coming in a group, you can **book in advance** to save the wait. We also propose the **discovery game** "Welcome to Cardona, pilgrim", an interesting educational activity to get to know the town and the castle. Information on all of this can be found at the Cardona tourist website ([cardonaturisme.cat](http://cardonaturisme.cat)) together with the **educational project** designed specifically for school groups.

### How to get to Cardona

**By car**  
C-55 road, between Manresa (32 kilometres) and Solsona (19 kilometres).

**On public transport**  
Alsina Graells regular bus route from Manresa to Andorra (see timetable at [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)). To Manresa, Renfe railway line ([www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)) and Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat ([www.fgc.cat](http://www.fgc.cat)).

**Getting around Cardona**  
Enquire about the taxi service and electric bike rental at the Tourist Office.

### Information

Tourist Office | Av. del Rastrillo s/n | 93 869 27 98  
[oficinaturisme@cardonaturisme.cat](mailto:oficinaturisme@cardonaturisme.cat) | [www.cardonaturisme.cat](http://www.cardonaturisme.cat)

### Booking (groups)

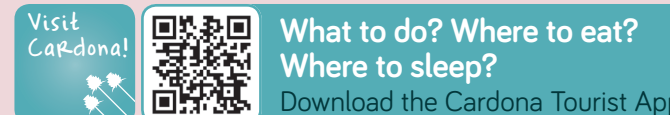
Historic Cardona Foundation | 93 869 24 75 | [informacio@cardonaturisme.cat](mailto:informacio@cardonaturisme.cat)  
Tuesday to Friday, advance booking for groups. Weekends and holidays, individual guided tours. See guided tour schedule, special opening times for public holidays, long weekends and holiday periods, and prices at [www.cardonaturisme.cat](http://www.cardonaturisme.cat)

### Cardona Ticket

**The best way to see Cardona**  
Guided tour to the Salt Mountain Cultural Park + Guided tour to the Castle Monuments + Guided tour to the town's Historic Centre.  
Further information and prices at [www.cardonaturisme.cat](http://www.cardonaturisme.cat)



GPS Latitude 41.913427  
Longitude 1.680864



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## Visit Cardona!



# The Castle Town

Cardona was created at the foot of the fortress and grew by the force of its trade

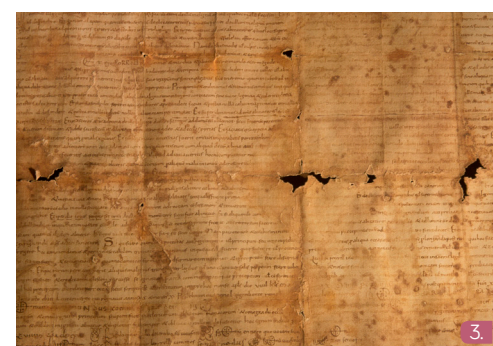
Cardona is not on top of a hill by chance. It was formed **under the protection of its castle**, which was built on the highest point in the municipality to control the rich salt mines and all movements of people and animals hours away. Under the protection of the fortress, the Town Charter of Borrell II (10th c.) granted its inhabitants the **right to hold a market**. This trading point grew into what is known today as the **historic centre**. The rich merchants of the time turned Cardona into a **privileged place** to live at the gates of a young Catalonia.

The winding cobblestone streets, the squares surrounded by arches and the whole development of hills, steps and passages are the result of various periods of high activity between the **eleventh and fifteenth centuries**. Their mansions, palaces, churches and chapels are a silent but omnipresent testimony to a glorious past that today provides us with a **walk through history**.

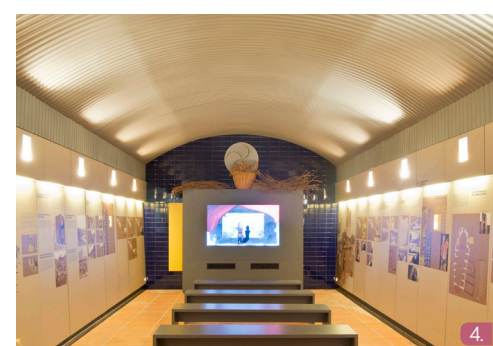


2 and 4. Cardona Medieval Centre 3. Cardona Town Charter 5. Market square 6. Graells Gate

## The history of the town: from town charter to twenty-first century Cardona



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### Cardona Medieval Centre VISIT FREE

Located beneath the arches of the Plaça de la Fira, in front of the Town Hall, the centre provides an **interpretation of the town** and its historic centre.

**Permanent exhibition** on the origin and evolution of the town up to building of the town's walls, which protected it from enemies and looting for 500 years. The centrepiece is a facsimile of the second Town Charter of Cardona (Borrell II, 986), the oldest charter to be found on the Iberian Peninsula.

**Audiovisuals** "The Cardonas, salt barons", a glimpse at the history of Cardona and the family who turned it into one of the country's political and economic epicentres.

**Shop** where you can find the largest collection of literature on the heritage of Cardona, plus a wide range of merchandise.

**Cardona Medieval Centre opening times**  
See opening times at [www.cardonaturisme.cat](http://www.cardonaturisme.cat) / 93 869 27 98

### Discover the ducal town

The Cardona Medieval Centre provides the visitor with various ways to see the town's most notable architectural, artistic and urban features.

**Guided tour.** Interesting guided tour through the most emblematic areas of the historic centre. For an hour and a quarter you can wander through the streets and alleys, squares and arcades and find out all about the magnificent Gothic church of St. Miquel de Cardona.

**Unguided tour with smartphone or paper.** Get the itinerary-guide at the Cardona Medieval Centre or download the app "Visit Cardona!" on your mobile device.

**Special and family tours.** If you are a group, you can book a time for a customized tour, including food and wine tasting tours. For fami-

lies, the discovery game "Welcome to Cardona, pilgrim" is very interesting. It is an educational activity and a fun way to get to know the town and the castle. You can get it at the Cardona Medieval Centre.

**Educational project** intended for schools. Includes educational tours suitable for all levels. Further information at the website [cardonaturisme.cat](http://cardonaturisme.cat).



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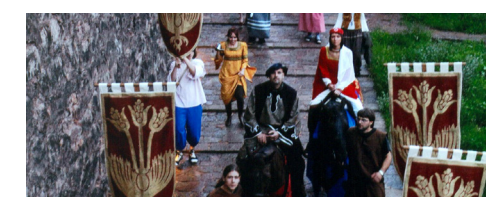
### Life and work of a salt craftsman Josep Arnau Salt Museum

Through a collection of salt sculptures from the master Josep Arnau (1889-1971), the family's modern museum helps bring the craft to the public's attention. It is a local tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages.

**Permanent exhibition.** In addition to the works and life of Josep Arnau, you can check out the history of salt craftsmanship, the relationship between the people of Cardona and the Vall Salina, and the context of industrialization in which the master lived.

**Audiovisuals.** In the museum's projection room, you can watch a video on mining salt in Cardona throughout history in parallel to the production of sculpture at the hands of different generations of craftsmen.

**Shop.** Here you can find literature and merchandise, as well as items of salt carved by local master craftsman Joan Ruiz, considered the successor of the Arnau family tradition.



### Trade, fairs and festivals Everyday life in the town

Cardona is a town with **commercial and touristic vocation**. Beyond the major annual events (patronage festival and two large fairs), Cardona takes every opportunity to put on a show and welcome visitors with open arms. Good examples are the **street parties** that fill up the weekends throughout the summer, and the twice-yearly **Mercat de la Ganga** (early February and early August).

**Weekly market** Every Sunday, the historic centre holds one of the most visited markets in central Catalonia, during which all businesses are open.

**Patronage festival** (second weekend of September). A real festive explosion of culture and folklore. The main event is the **Corre de Bou** running of the bull, having over 600 years of tradition and the strictest respect for animals.

**Medieval fair/Salt festival** (first weekend of June). This is the modern version of the traditional Fira de Pentecosta (Pentecost Fair), adapted today to promoting tourism and local history. Cardona remembers the great privilege acknowledged in the Town Charter ("every Thursday forevermore you may extract salt for yourselves") and it is forever remembered and upheld!

**Llenega mushroom fair** (last weekend of October). One of the major events on the Catalan mushroom scene. It features a full schedule of contests, llenega-based food fairs, talks and a popular children's festival.

**Caramelles** (Easter Sunday). From early morning, various groups of local caramellaires fill the old town centre with traditional songs and dances. Just before lunch, they get together in front of the Town Hall to perform the Cardona Sardana.



### Find everything you need Map of the town



- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Tourist Office                                     | 10. Civic Centre - Social Services (lift)                 | 19. Municipal School of Music           |
| 2. Cardona Castle. History of Catalonia Museum Office | 11. Church of Sant Miquel (11th -20th c.)                 | 20. Gate of Sant Miquel (14th -21st c.) |
| 3. Parador  | 12. Josep Arnau Salt Museum                               | 21. Marc de Cardona Library             |
| 4. Church of Sant Vicenç (11th c.)                    | 13. Santa Eulàlia Chapel (14th c.)                        | 22. Residence for the Elderly           |
| 5. Casemate (19th c.), Museum area                    | 14. Graells Mansion (12th - 21st c.) - Municipal Archives | 23. Municipal Theatre "Els Catòlics"    |
| 6. Salt Mountain Cultural Park                        | 15. Graells Gate (15th c.)                                | 24. Sports Area                         |
| 7. Town Hall  | 16. Bobí Tower (17th 21st c.)                             | 25. Devils Bridge (14th c.)             |
| 8. Local Police                                       | 17. Healthcare Centre                                     |   |
| 9. Cardona Medieval Centre                            | 18. Sant Jaume Nursing Home                               |   |

- Panoramic view
- Information
- Pharmacist
- Petrol station
- Healthcare centre
- Parking
- Bus services
- Bike rental
- Salt handicrafts
- Giants workshop