

Alella is a town full of history. Its origins go back to the late Neolithic, but we have to wait until the 10th century for written accounts of its history and evolution to appear for the first time.

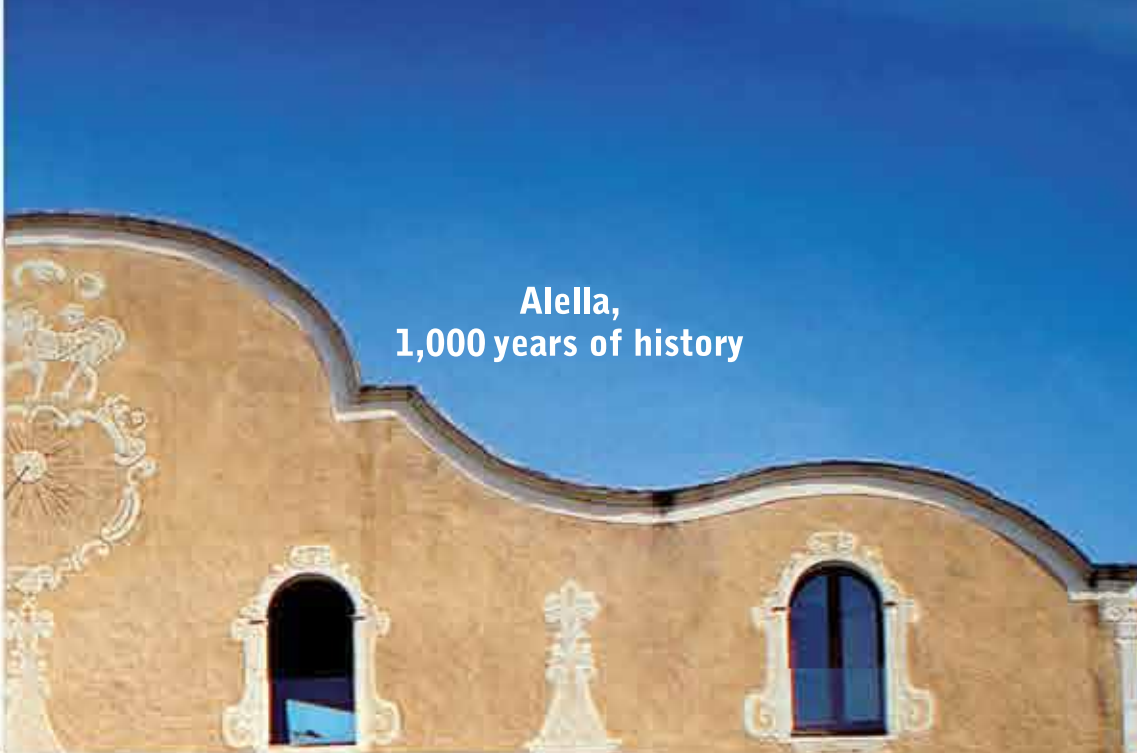
The purpose of this itinerary is to discover the patrimonial legacy of the town with a stroll through its streets.



Alella
talent i vines

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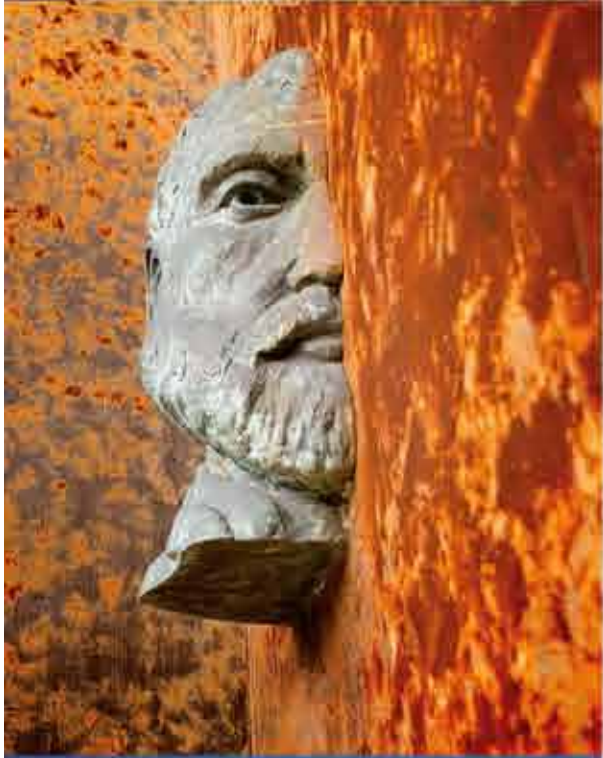
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1

Can Lleonart

At the entrance to the old part of the town we find Can Lleonart. This grand country house, whose history dates back to 1521, is one of the most emblematic buildings of Alella. In 1985 this house was converted into municipal premises which are now being used to hold cultural activities. Next to it stands the house of the old share-farmers, now the location of the Tourist Office.



7

Antoni Gaudí

If we follow the "Riera Fosca" and take a right at "carrer de Quatre Torres", we will find "parc Gaudí" (Gaudí Park), which was the old kitchen garden of the "Quatre Torres" farm. This park was created in 2001 in honour of the famous architect. Various elements highlight the admiration for Gaudí, like the commemorative monolith (1965), the sculpture "El Llibre de Gaudí" (Gaudí's book) by Fili Plaza (2002), the winding boundary wall, the bluish colour and the use of the "trencadís", a mosaic done using irregular broken pieces of ceramic that is typical from art nouveau or Modernism.

10

Can Gaza

We walk down "Torrent de Vallbona" and turn into "carrer de les Heures". To the left starts "avinguda de Sant Josep de Calassanc", which leads us to Can Gaza. All of this area was built in the 19th century as part of the town's expansion. This country house from the 17th century appears very neoclassical in style. Its most prominent features are the hydriai (vases used for the transportation of liquids in ancient Greece) sculpted onto the coping.



13

The Rost district

We descend the "Rambla d'Àngel Guimerà" until we reach "carrer de Gurri". All that remains on this side of the riverbed is the Rost district. The current layout of this small neighbourhood was designed mainly in the middle of the 19th century. It is worth taking a stroll through its streets and noticing the courtyards and the unusual "andrones", small "patios", in front of the houses. To continue with our itinerary we walk down towards the "Rambla" again, taking any of the streets.

2

Francesc Riu

Soon after leaving Can Lleonart and walking up the "Rambla d'Àngel Guimerà", we find a plaque commemorating Francesc Riu. This plaque is located on the boundary wall of the "Hort de la Rectoria" (Rectory's Garden). Francesc Riu was, alongside Lluís Desplà and Onofre Talavera, one of the most renowned reverends of the church of Sant Feliu. He is also remembered for writing "De redditibus", a book where the town's traditions of those times are documented.



5

The church of San Feliu

To the right, "carrer del Rector Desplà" brings us to the entrance courtyard of the church. Its façade, dating from 1611, displays very plain, classicist-style art work that was common in those days. The most prominent features are the two helicoidal columns that support the sculpture of the saint inside a baroque-style broken pediment. The group is finished off at the top with a depiction of Alella's coat of arms in relief and three pinnacles on the coping.

8

The abattoir

We continue our walk in the opposite direction, towards the convergence of "carrer de Santa Eulàlia" and "carrer de Balmes". We turn left into "passeig d'Antoni Borrell" and walk up this street until the very end. We then turn right and follow "passeig de Maria Estrada" until we come across the old abattoir, a building located in the northern part of the town and dating from the end of the 19th century. In 2010 the abattoir became the local police headquarters. The building consists of three ground-floor structures. The central one stands out for its height. This was a characteristic of this type of construction that was aimed at obtaining better lighting and ventilation.

11

Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia

A few metres up the road, surrounded by vegetable gardens, vineyards and old country houses, we find the house where Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia was born. Francesc Ferrer was the founder of the "Escola Moderna" (Modern School). The grounds comprise several buildings, whose origins go back to the 15th century. At the end, on the right, stands the little house where this revolutionary educator was born.

14

Fabra Schools

At the start of the "rambla" we find an L-shaped school complex. Its building plans were drawn up by the renowned Catalan architect Josep Goday i Casals, who specialised in the design of schools. This building stands out for its modern look and for a pre-rationalist conception. The only decorative element present is the typography, which is unusual both for being modern and for being written in Catalan.

3

The Town Hall

We follow up the "Rambla", and next to the Municipal Market we see the Town Hall. Its front façade, which overlooks the main square of Alella, incorporates the town's coat of arms. It is said that the name of Alella, which appears in written records for the first time in 978, could be of Iberian origin.



6

Can Manyé

From the courtyard of the church we take "carrer de Comas", which leads us to the "Riera Fosca". A few metres up the road arises Can Manyé, an old country house that was converted into a textile factory at the start of the 20th century. At present it is a municipal facility being used for cultural activities. By visiting the bright interior of this building we can easily visualize what these old factories, which helped modernise Alella, were like in those days.



9

The paint factory

If we follow "Torrent de Vallbona", which starts in front of the abattoir, we arrive at the paint factory. The town inhabitants commonly use this name to refer to the building, since this is what it was last used for. The factory, built in the 19th century, has the typical structure of the industrial naves of that time. The most relevant aspects of its façade are the original upper window and the decorative art work at the top. The Council is planning to convert this building into the new municipal library.



12

Alella Vinícola

We walk back in the direction we came from and cross the "rambla d'Àngel Guimerà's" to visit "Alella Vinícola", one of the wineries that belong to the "DO Alella". A wine cooperative from 1906 to 1998, it later became a private company. The current appearance of the building dates from 1950. It is worth noting the connection between the modernist interior and the classicist Noucentisme style façade.



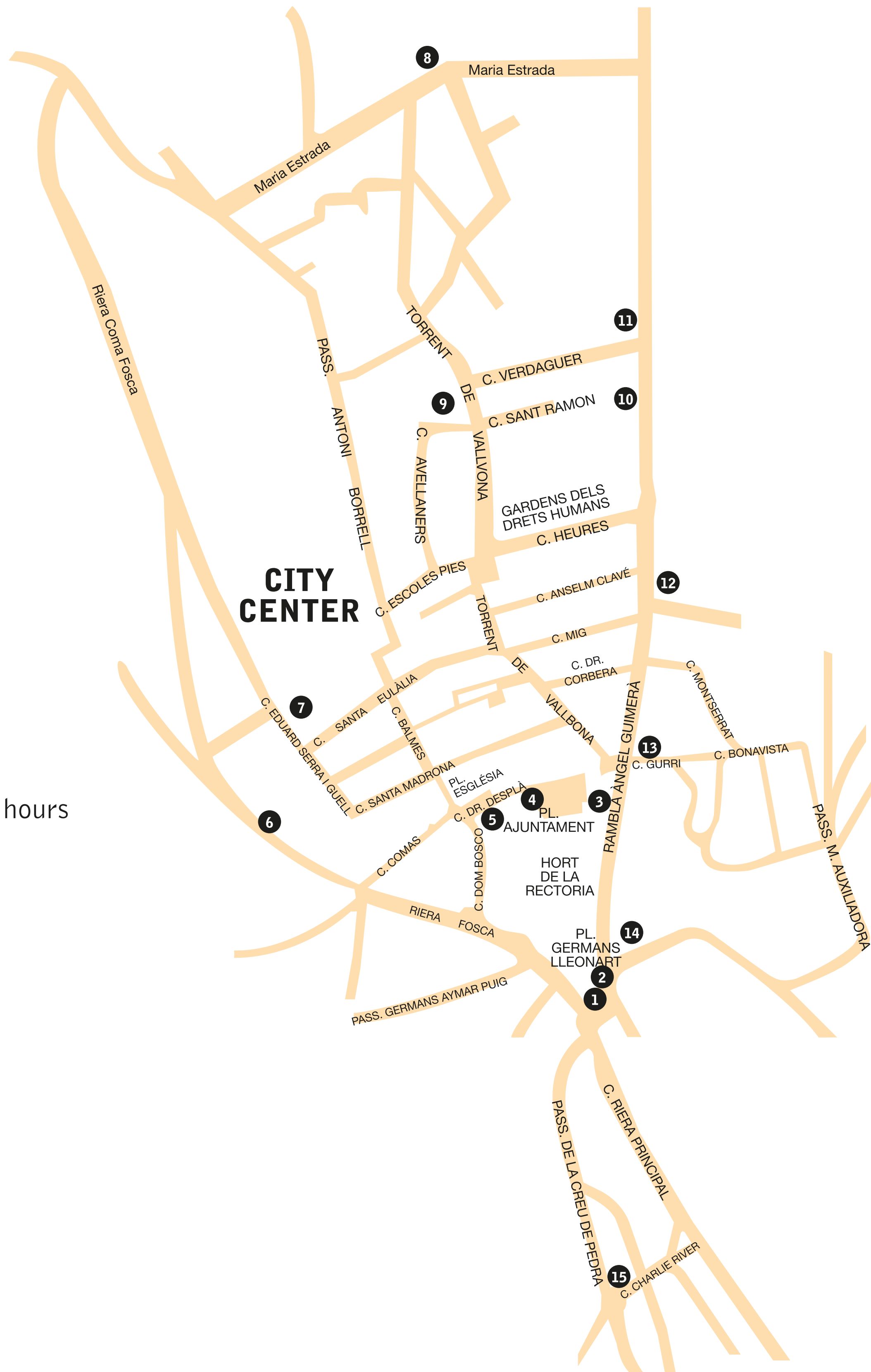
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The "Creu de Terme"

Crossing to the other side of the "plaça dels Germans Lleonart" and then walking up the "passeig de la Creu de Pedra", we end up in the "Creu de Terme", where our itinerary finishes. This cross is an important element of the historical memory of Alella. It contains depictions of the Evangelists, the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. From this point we can return to the town centre taking the "carrer de Charles Rivel" and following up the "Riera Principal".



Alella, 1,000 years of history



Itinerary: urban
Difficulty: walk
Duration: approx. 2 hours

- 1 Can Lleonart
- 2 Francesc Riu
- 3 The Town Hall
- 4 Lluís Desplà
- 5 The church of San Feliu
- 6 Can Manyé
- 7 Antoni Gaudí
- 8 The abattoir
- 9 The paint factory
- 10 Can Gaza
- 11 Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia
- 12 Alella Vinícola
- 13 The Rost district
- 14 Fabra Schools
- 15 The “Creu de Terme”

