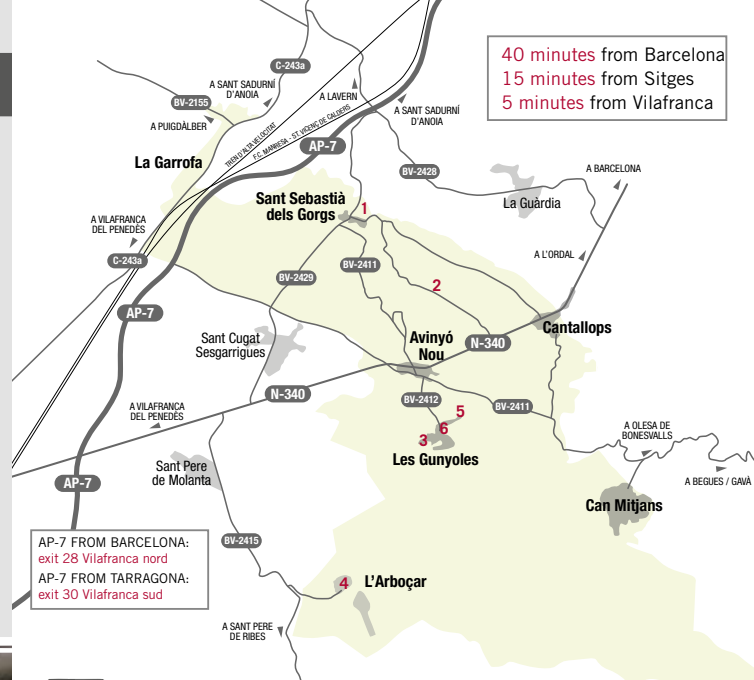


## Guided tours

**Guided tours of the monastery and the church are available**, where the historical context and development of the building are explained, as well as the daily and organisational life of the Benedictine monks of the medieval period who lived in this gem of Romanesque architecture in the Penedès.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Visits</b>              | First and third Saturday of every month  |
| <b>Times</b>               | At 11:00 and 12:00   |
| <b>Languages</b>           | Catalan and Spanish  |
| <b>Price</b>               | 2€   |
| <b>Pre-arranged visits</b> | Avinyonet del Penedès Town Hall<br>Tel. 93 897 00 00 / info@turismeavinyonet.cat |
| <b>More information</b>    | www.turismeavinyonet.cat<br>www.enoturismepenedes.cat                            |



### AREAS OF INTEREST FOR TOURISTS

1. Romanesque monastery of Sant Sebastià dels Gorgs
2. Iberian archaeological site of "Turó de la Font de la Canya"
3. Roman tower and old quarter of Les Gunyoles
4. Medieval dovecote and tower of L'Arboçar
5. Panoramic views of the vineyards of "El Circell"
6. Nativity Scene performed by local residents of Les Gunyoles

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## MONASTERY of SANT SEBASTIÀ DELS GORGs



## The most emblematic medieval building of the region

The monastery of Sant Sebastià dels Gorgs, **declared an Asset of National Interest by the Regional Government of Catalonia in 2000**, dates from the **11th century** and is situated in the small town to which it gives its name. It is one of the three parishes (the other two being Sant Pere d'Avinyó and Sant Salvador de Les Gunyoles) that make up Avinyonet del Penedès.

The church has a single nave, and attached to the east face is an apse with a square floor plan, which was built in the Gothic period. **The square bell tower, built in the First Romanesque style**, has a ground floor and three upper floors connected by a spiral staircase, with two mullioned windows at each front.

The north wing of the Romanesque cloister is completely preserved, made up of two pairs of arches supported by **beautifully sculpted pillars and capitals**. Some arches of the other wings can be seen, with their columns and capitals decorated with sculptures on a variety of subjects.





The monastery was **founded in 1030** around the old pre-Romanesque chapel of Els Gorgs, **dedicated to Saint Sebastian**; renovations were made to the building and **the bell tower was added**. At the same time a south-facing galilee was built where the north wing of the cloister now stands, the foundations of which were found during archaeological excavations.



Town of Sant Sebastià dels Gorgs, overlooked by the monastery bell tower.

Antoni Gallardo. SCCM-SPAL 1918.

In **1409** the monastery **was linked to the abbey of Montserrat**, which in 1606 undertook a series of renovations under the initiative of abbot Jaume Forner. The nave of the church was reduced on the west side, which meant that the Romanesque facade had to be moved to the place where it now stands, and the chapel of El Roser was built on the north side of the second section of the nave. **A new roof was built on the bell tower. The plaster mouldings in high relief that decorate the ceilings of each floor are also of this period.** The north wing of the cloister was renovated at this time, making use of the sculpted elements of the old galilee. Underground silos were also built to store grain, three of which have been found in the north wing and one in the west wing.



Ceiling of the second floor of the bell tower, with restored figurative and heraldic plaster mouldings.

A. Arribas. SPAL. 25.10.2001.

In **1952**, the parish priest, Monsignor Antoni Margarit, sought and acquired financial and technical assistance from the **Provincial Council of Barcelona to restore the monastery**.

The work was carried from **1961 to 1977**, by the Monuments Cataloguing and Conservation Service (currently called the SPAL), under the management of **the architect, Camil Pallàs**. The main aim of the work was to **recover the original look of the cloister**, freeing it from the later building work that had covered it up and consolidating the arcades.



Restoration of the cloister arcades in the first work carried out by the Monuments Service of the City Government.

SCCM-SPAL. 21972.

**The second phase of work from 2000 to 2002**, set in motion by the Provincial Council of Barcelona after receiving a request from the Town Government of Avinyonet del Penedès, consisted of **repairs to the bell tower**, especially to the roof, reinforcement of the original ceilings and restoration of the decorative plaster mouldings on the ceiling of the **second floor**.



Restoration project of the interior of the bell tower. Sectional drawings.

SPAL. October 2002.



Detail of the new protective roofing of the north wing of the cloister, which gives access to the bell tower.



M. Baldomà. SPAL. 17.06.2011.

M. Baldomà. SPAL. 17.06.2011.

## XI

In **1059**, after an agreement between Mir Geribert, a viscount of Penedès, known as the “Prince of Olèrdola”, and the abbot of the monastery of Sant Víctor de Marsella, Sant Sebastià was converted into a priory dependent on that French monastery. **The west wing of the cloister was built** at this time.

**A new apse had to be built in 1380** as a result of damage caused by an earthquake on 2 March 1373.

## XIV

## XV-XVI

## XIX



Process of disassembly of the presbytery that was built next to the south wall of the bell tower ca. 1890.

SCCM-SPAL. 26.11.1962.

## XX

**The monastery was secularised and auctioned off** as a result of the first confiscation of ecclesiastical properties of **1821**, and was completely secularised in **1835 and divided up into several properties**. The church was subordinated to the parish of Avinyonet del Penedès until **1867**, when it was established as an independent parish. **Can Pujol occupied the south half of the cloister and the other archways that are currently visible were contained within the walls of a house:** the ground floor was given over to agricultural work of converting and storing raw materials; three tanks were placed underground along with a set of channels and drains, which have been partially conserved, while the upper floor was used as housing.

In the **1890s** the **presbytery was built next to the foot of the bell tower** on the south side.



Disassembly process of the house that concealed the arches of the north wing of the cloister as part of the first work done by the Provincial Council of Barcelona.

SCCM-SPAL. 1962.

## XXI

**The third phase of work** was carried out from **2010 to 2011** and consisted of **restoration of the cloister and protecting it with a new roof**, since after losing the old one, the cloister had undergone a process of degradation at an alarming rate; and then the **construction of an access route to the bell tower**, which had been lost after the demolition of the 19th century presbytery. The work was based on the principle of making as little impact on the old fabric of the building as possible and of not interfering in the understanding of the building and existing remains with the new elements and materials. **The aim was to make the building accessible in every sense to the viewer for cultural use**, while guaranteeing the conservation and maintenance of the bell tower itself.



The arcades of the east wing of the cloister, after reinforcing and restoring the stonework.

M. Baldomà. SPAL. 28.01.2011.



Visual mapping show describing the history of the monastery through images projected in the cloister.