

## The castle of Montesquiu

Guided tour





# A thousand years of stories in the castle of Montesquiu

A unique place, a witness to rural life in Bisaura over a thousand years of human habitation

In this visit we will **travel through a thousand years of history**, a journey through time through different spaces, situations and characters that have shaped the character of this castle, past and present.

## Early Middle Ages (9th-12th C.)

### The origin of the towns of Bisaura

The district of Besora takes shape in an emerging Catalonia. The castle of the Besora family becomes the centre of power of a rural territory that farmers will occupy and work. The feudal Bisaura is born.

The defence tower above the river Ter rises under the watchful eye of the great castle of Besora.



Gombau de Besora and Ermessenda de Carcassonne, key figures of the Early Middle Ages



Coat of arms of Besora

## Late Middle Ages (9th-15th C.)

### From the castle of Besora to the domus of Montesquiu

Feudalism in the Bisaura consolidates the Besoras as great lords of a system that subjugates the peasants under their power.



Medieval scenography in the cellar hall



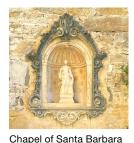
The domus of Montesquiu, the large medieval farmhouse, becomes the home of the Besora family and the centre of power of the subcounty of Bisaura.

Arnau Guillem de Besora, key figure of the Late Middle Ages

# Modern age (16th-18th C.)

## The major renovations of the castle of Montesquiu

Wars, power and abject poverty in the emerging modern Catalonia. The Lord of Besora struggles to



Silapei di Salita Barbara

maintain his power in an unequal and changing Bisaura.



The castle of Montesquiu is transformed into a large and renovated palace and becomes a second residence of Lluís Descatllar, lord of Besora.

Lluís Descatllar, key figure of the modern age

## Contemporary age (19th-20th C.)

## The good life in the Juncadella mansion

Times change, the nobility gives way to a powerful commercial and industrial bourgeoisie. The castle of Montesquiu, caprice and expenditure of the Juncadella heirs.



Ceremonial rooms of the castle



The Juncadella family purchases, renovates and enjoys its second home in the stately home of Montesquiu.

Mercedes Juncadella, protagonist of the contemporary age

## Today (21st century)

### The Park of the Castle of Montesquiu

The castle becomes another space within the Park of the Castle of Montesquiu, within the Natural Parks Network of the Barcelona Provincial Council, a public space available to everyone where they can enjoy nature, culture and the land.

The castle of Montesquiu witnesses the passing of time in the Bisaura.



The castle of Montesquiu and the gardens that surround it preside over the protected area of the Park of the Castle of Montesquiu, which is part of the EIN Serres de Milany — Santa Magdalena and Puigsacalm-Bellmunt.

The area of the park occupies part of the municipal districts of Montesquiu, Santa Maria de Besora, Sant Quirze de Besora and Sora, which, together with Vidrà, constitute the Bisaura.



#### Opening hours of the castle and the information point:

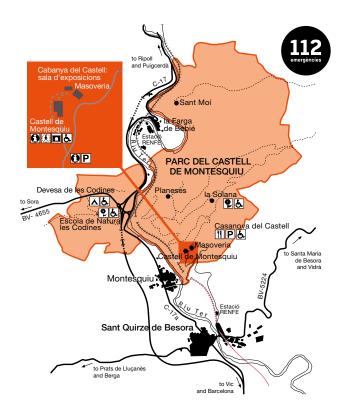
- All year round: weekends and holidays, from 9.45 am to 2.30 pm.
- July and August: from Tuesday to Sunday, from 9.45 am to 2.30 pm.
- During the Christmas school holidays, the castle will remain closed.

All visits to the castle are guided.

Weekday visits for groups with prior reservation.

#### Information and reservations

Tel. 663 708 210 p.montesquiu.bisaura@diba.cat parcs.diba.cat/web/montesquiu/



#### Guided visits to the castle



#### Network of Natural Parks of Barcelona Provincial Council

Parc del Castell de Montesquiu, Espai Natural de les Guilleries-Savassona, Parc Natural del Montseny, Sant Miquel del Fai, Parc Natural de Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac, Parc del Montnegre i el Corredor, Parc de la Serralada Litoral, Parc de la Serralada de Marina, Parc Fluvial del Besòs, Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola, Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, Parc del Garraf, Parc d'Olèrdola, Parc del Foix





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