



Historic centre of Ille sur Têt

The town of Ille sur Têt is a surprising and very beautiful place at the crossroads of Roussillon, Conflent, Le Fenouillèdes and Les Aspres. Its main attraction is its fascinating heritage. The buildings have so many stories to tell, along the ramparts, at a town square or a bell tower. Another is the local way of life. The town is governed by the seasons and is famous for its peach orchards, as well as the many festivities throughout the year, including the *Regina* at Easter and the *Pessebre* for Christmas.

A HISTORIC TOWN...

In the shade of the parish church, the *Place del ram* filled with olive trees is home to a Gothic-style cross carved from Girona stone. The Alexis Tower (12th century) stands over the rooftops of surrounding houses, alongside the small bell tower of the Church of the Third Order of the Carmelites. This church's elegant and bright Baroque architecture is rare in Roussillon. Just a few steps away stands the remarkable façade of the only hospice dating from the 17th and 18th centuries to have been preserved in the department.



INFO & CONTACTS

www.ille-sur-tet.com

Municipal property

Contact

Alain Sanchez
Heritage
Conservation
Assistant
Tour Guide
+33
(0) 6.67.65.36.76
hospice@ille-sur-tet.com

PHOTO CREDITS

Emile Fondecave

As visitors wander the narrow and winding streets of the historic town centre, they are surprised by the *cagaïre* and *enamorats*. These marble sculptures from the late Middle-Ages rival in elegance the rounded front entrances of the former private mansions from the 17th and 18th centuries. One of them, the **Maison du Comte** is well-known thanks to Prosper Mérimée, who used it as inspiration for his short story “The Venus of Ille” (1837).



...STEEPED IN TRADITION

Ille sur Têt is an open history book and has long inspired Catalan writers. The town’s very soul comes to life in the prose and poetry of Josep Sebastià Pons, Simona Gay and Pere Verdaguer.

Ille is intimate, faithful and authentic, preserving its traditions. During Holy Week, the *goig dels ous*, a fifty-strong male voice choir, goes from house to house performing traditional songs. Then, on Easter Sunday, the *Regina* procession gathers thousands of people around a hundred choristers and 30 musicians. The *Estudiantina* ensemble and the *Pessebre* nativity performances bring to life the end-of-year festivities in Ille sur Têt.



Find out more at tourisme-roussillon-conflet.fr

