

VALLTORTA MUSEUM



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Valltorta Museum is a centre of the Generalitat Valenciana created in 1994 to promote the preservation and knowledge of Rock Art in the Valencian Community, declared World Heritage by UNESCO since 1998. The building, work of the architects Miguel del Rey and Ínigo Magro, is located in the Pla de l'Om, 500 metres from Valltorta ravine, in the village of Tírig. Its exhibition rooms present a tour of the Comunitat Valenciana rock art. Valltorta Museum develops research projects on rock art

and its creators. In order to carry out these projects there are a laboratory, archaeology storehouses, a library and a graphic archive on rock art of the Iberian Mediterranean basin. Besides, the museum is the starting point of guided visits to the group of rock art paintings placed in rock shelters and caves of Valltorta and Gasulla ravines. These visits, made by experts and addressed to students and visitors, contribute to our heritage appreciation and value.



Valltorta Museum Rooms

AN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

Due to its exceptionality, Valencian Rock Art is protected by state and regional legislation as cultural property, and belongs to the UNESCO List of World Heritage. Valencian Rock Art is a fragile heritage. Its understanding is linked to the landscapes preserved throughout millennia. Rock art and landscape make up a unity that should be approached with respect. Everyone has the responsibility to safeguard its preservation. The current inventory of Valencian Rock Art includes

almost six hundred groups comprising a long period: from the Upper Paleolithic, 26,000 years ago, until the Bronze Age, 3,500 years ago. This is the most complete graphic archive to get to know our Prehistory.



Cavalls Cave (Tírig)



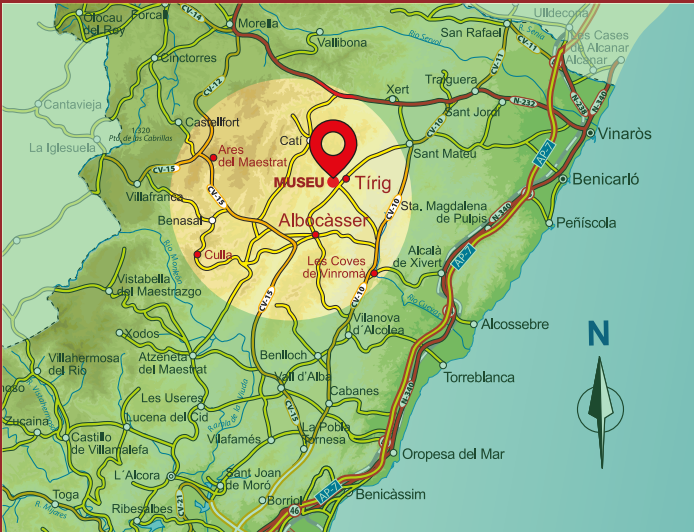
Winter timetable (October-April)
Tuesday to Sunday: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Guided visits to the caves:
Mas d'En Josep, 10 a.m.; Cova dels Cavalls,
12 p.m.; Coves del Civil, 4:30 p.m.

Summer timetable (May-September)
Tuesday to Sunday: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Guided visits to the rock shelters:
Mas d'En Josep, 10 a.m.; Cova dels Cavalls,
12 p.m.; Coves del Civil, 6 p.m.

Monday is closed

Cova Remigia (La Montalbana)
Summer: from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Winter: from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday and Thursday is closed

Group visits have to be booked in advance. The museum and the visit to the rock shelters will be closed on 25th December and 1st and 6th January. DURING VISITS FOLLOW THE GUIDE'S INSTRUCTIONS

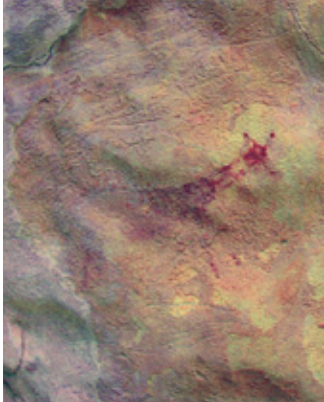


Museu de la Valltorta
Partida Pla de l'Om, s/n
12179 Tírig (Castellón)

http://www.cult.gva.es/dgpa/valltorta/index_c.html
Phone 964 336 010



ROOM 1 PALEOLITHIC: THE FIRST SYMBOLS



Female Deer
Bovalar Cave (Culla)

In the Ice Age, with the arrival of *Homo sapiens*, the first artistic showings take place: engravings, rock paintings and decorated objects; creations full of symbolism that were used by Paleolithic hunters as a means of communication. Animals are the main topic, almost exclusively in Paleolithic art, sometimes they appear with signs. Human figures are scarce and usually not naturalistic. The current inventory of Paleolithic Rock Art in the Valencian Community is reduced. Few groups are known, among

which stand out Cova Fosca (Vall d'Ebo, Alicante), Cova del Comte (Pedreguer, Alicante), Cova de les Meravelles (Gandía, Valencia), and L'Abric d'En Melià (Serra d'En Galceran, Castellón). La Cova del Parpalló (Gandía, Valencia) is essential for its collection of engraved and painted pieces.



Hunting scene
Detail central panel
of the Cavalls Cave (Tírig)

ROOMS 2 AND 3 NEOLITHIC HUNTERS AND FARMER'S ART

At the beginning of the Holocene, 10,000 years ago, the climate experimented a progressive rising of temperatures and an increase in humidity (Preboreal Period). In Valencian lands hunters' cultures developed through new technology and social organization: the Mesolithic. Around 7,500 years ago a radical process of change started in the whole Mediterranean basin, where people exchanged products, technology and ideas. Macroschematic Art is located in the territory comprised between Benicadell, Mariola and

Aitana mountain ranges. This is one of the first manifestations, eminently Neolithic, characterised by large figures in red paint: praying human beings and snake-shaped figures. The most representative group is Pla de Petracos (Castell de Castells, Alicante). In the Júcar basin and in other remote places there are similar rock art paintings that seem to correspond to an evolution of this style. This is known as Old Schematic Art. Levantine Art has a wide distribution in the Valencian

Community, with more than two hundred inventoried groups. Its main characteristic is the reproduction of scenes where men and women appear. The details of the representations enable the knowledge of several aspects of their authors: clothes, weapons, personal ornaments and social aptitudes. The most important showings of this style are located in the Maestrazgo of Castellón, in Valltorta and Gasulla ravines. Their rock art paintings tell us the lives of the last hunters that occupied that territory 10,000 years ago.



Archer
Saltadora Caves
(Albocàsser / Les Coves de Vinromà)

ROOM 4 NEW WAYS OF EXPRESSION



Group of archers
Ribassals or del Civil Caves (Tírig)

Throughout the 3rd millennium b.C. farming in Valencian lands was consolidated, as well as the start of metallurgical activity with the elaboration of copper objects. In that period recent Schematic Art developed in several forms: rock paintings and engravings. Schematic Art had a wide distribution in the Iberian Peninsula and in the Valencian Community. It is characterized by representing human beings and animals as a scheme in which anatomy is reduced to its essential features. The most common motives are

anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, idols and geometrical motives that are transformed into an abstract art. At the end of the Bronze Age the last rock art manifestations took place. And in the Iron Age Iberian people developed a culture of Mediterranean roots that had its most typical characteristics in the decoration of its pottery and in writing. For millennia rock art was the most elaborated means of graphic expression; writing opened a new stage.



Two archers
Remígia Cave (Ares del Maestrat)

ROOM 5 A UNIVERSAL HERITAGE

Rock art is the most direct manifestation left by peoples without writing. UNESCO inventory includes more than 1,000 places all over the world, made in a prolonged period of time: 30,000 years ago up to the present time. From these, 16 are inscribed in the World Heritage List, among which is Rock Art in the Mediterranean Basin of the Iberian Peninsula, that includes rock art in the Valencian Community.



Archer
Mas d'En Josep rock shelter (Tírig)

ROOM 6 VALLTORTA-GASULLA TERRITORY

The territory comprised between Valltorta and Gasulla ravines is one of the most important centres of European rock art. In this place 96 groups are preserved, mainly of Levantine style. Rock art paintings share the landscape with a varied cultural heritage of palaeontologist sites, archaeological sites, rural constructions and a rich historic heritage preserved in villages, all of which have a high environmental value. The Valltorta-Gasulla Museum was created to guarantee the preservation and development of this territory.



Valltorta ravine