

## Information

### Força Tower

Carrer de les Valls 24-26

### Visiting hours

Summer opening hours (1 April - 30 September)

- Wednesday: 10 to 13 h

- Saturday, Sunday and holiday: 10 to 20:30 h

Winter opening hours (1 October - 31 March)

- Wednesday: 10 to 13 h

- Saturday, Sunday and holiday: 10 to 18 h

### Sant Celoni Tourist Office

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Força Tower



Ajuntament de Sant Celoni

SANTCELONI  
bosc cuina patrimoni



Compromiso | Compromis  
Calidad Turística | Qualitat Turística

## Renovation of the tower

In 2006 the Council bought three plots of land in order to renovate the tower in Carrer de les Valls located in the house known as Cal Peó. Renovation work began in November 2007 under the supervision of Jordi Espar Gasset of Poma Arquitectura SL. The first phase entailed pulling down the elements that had been added onto the tower such as the house that had a room on the first floor of the tower and part of the stable on the ground floor. The area was then excavated by archaeologists. The parts that had been pulled down were then rebuilt, the remains of the wall were refurbished and a roof was built to shelter the iron staircase that leads to the top of the tower. A ramp was also built to enable easy access into the space and the inside of the tower.

The sloping base of the tower was left uncovered recovering the original ground level during the XIX-XV centuries.



Section of the wall



Staircase leading to the top of the tower



Work in progress



Ajuntament de Sant Celoni

# Força Tower

Remains of the medieval walls



The tower in Carrer de les Valls, which was renovated and inaugurated for Sant Jordi's Day in 2009, highlights the Força or medieval wall of Sant Celoni, which, despite the fact that it surrounded the original site of the town, is unknown to most of the population. The walled precinct of Sant Celoni until now is the only monument in the town that has been registered by the Generalitat as of National Cultural Interest

The Força bears witness to the development of the medieval town. A chapel devoted to Sant Celdoni was first built in the XI century beside the royal road (formerly the Augustan Road built by the Romans). Houses sprang up around it and the town gradually grew in this strategic location, halfway between Barcelona and Girona.

This small town, dedicated to different crafts (textiles, clothes, footwear, tools...), trade and hospitality, required protection and security and was soon encircled by the wall or Força built by the Hospitaliers, the lords of the town from 1151. The walled precinct was approximately 37 metres wide and 135 metres long and was circled by a "vall" or moat (that's where the street Valls gets its name from).



Inside dome of the tower

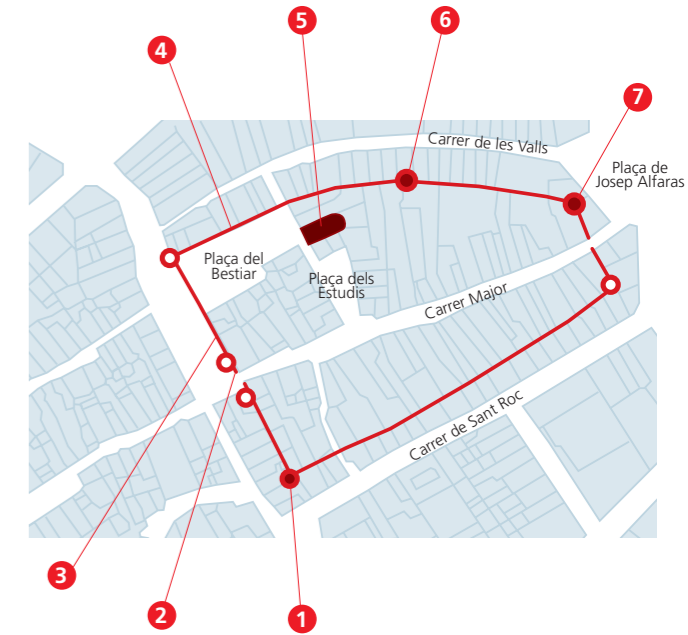
### La Força of Sant Celoni

The wall was first mentioned in a document from 1154, which refers to the gate of Sant Celoni town. There are also other references in documents from 1301. Between 1371 and 1374 loans were taken up to build the walls and gates and during the Catalan revolts (1462-1472) the town's officials decided to reinforce the walls, extend the water moat and buy more arms to defend the town. The wall also protected the Sant Celoni market which was held in front of the Força precinct, and the first mention of which was in 1157.

When it was no longer useful for defence purposes the wall began to decline. In 1681 the moat was divided up and sold off as vegetable plots in order to help pay for the building of the new parish church (houses were later built on these plots), and in 1865 the Girona gate also known as Sants Metges, was pulled down. After these events all that remained of the walled precinct of Sant Celoni was the dividing wall between the houses Carrer Major and those between Carrer de les Valls and Sant Roc as well as the facade of some of the houses on Plaça Bestiar. Of the five original towers only two still stand today plus the angle of a third tower. **The most prominent of the two is known as Ca l'Aymar and it is perfectly visible from Plaça Josep Alfaras. The tower that was restored in 2009 is the one in Carrer Valls.**



A reconstruction of the fortified town. French engraving from the XVII century



- 1 – Partially conserved tower
- 2 – Jamb from the Main Gate or Barcelona Gate
- 3 – Section of the wall: Can Mai Tanquis facade
- 4 – Section of the wall: the facades of the houses can Ganxa, can Cluca, can Catxol, can Petris, can Ninos
- 5 – Remains of Sant Celdoni chapel
- 6 – Força Tower
- 7 – Ca l'Aymar Tower