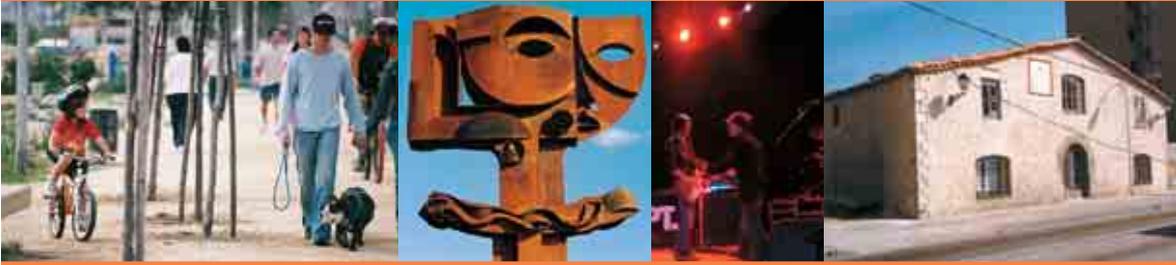


# Enjoy El Masnou



A warm welcome awaits all visitors to El Masnou. Our town is forward  
preserve its character.



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ard looking and modern, but respects tradition and works hard to



## SITUATION

El Masnou is situated in the southern part of the El Maresme region, between Premià de Mar and Montgat. It is a narrow coastal town with more than 3 kilometres of beach.

El Masnou enjoys excellent communications, being just 18 km from Barcelona. The town is an attractive destination at any time of the year, but is particularly vibrant during the long hot Catalan summer.



## CLIMATE

El Masnou is characterized by its Mediterranean climate, with hot summers and mild winters. There is abundant sunshine at all times of the year, with rainfall concentrated in the autumn and spring months.

## HOW TO GET TO EL MASNOU

### By train

There are two railway stations (RENFE) in El Masnou: El Masnou and Ocata, from which there are regular trains to Barcelona and Mataró.

### By bus

Casas Buses (Barcelona-Mataró line)  
Night bus (leaving from Barcelona)

### By car

NII road (Barcelona-Mataró)  
Motorway: C-32 (exit 86)

### By boat

marina



# BRIEF HISTORY OF EL MASNOU

## The birth of El Masnou



We have to look for the first records of El Masnou in the Iberian and Roman settlements which grew up around El Maresme. The Roman village of Cal Ros de les Cabres was one of the first settlements located on the site of the current municipality.

Masnou lands belonged to Sant Feliu of Alella and Sant Martí of Teià, which were villages located inland from the coast, in order to protect themselves from attacks by pirates. Their citizens worked as farmers and fishermen. The latter established communities on the beach.

Little by little, they built fortified country houses near the sea, and there is evidence of the existence of the village by 1505, when Ferran the Catholic permitted the appointment of a deputy who, due to the absence of Teia's mayor, would exercise his functions.

In 1812, when the new Liberal Constitution was proclaimed, the village chose a mayor. People who resided in the district took advantage of every opportunity to pursue autonomy and in 1820, during another liberal interlude, they successfully reasserted their claims. Masnovins got independence again.

Finally, on 2 October 1825, the right and freedoms of the town were formally recognised by the King.

## El Masnou and the sea

At least from the 18th century, Masnovins earned their living from the sea and industries related to it. Shipbuilders worked in the three shipyards by the beach, and there were also artisans engaged in making barrels, rope, sails, etc.

The Masnovin captains and sailors sailed all over the world, including the Mediterranean area, Asia, Africa, North America. They were particularly active in central and south America, owing to the long standing connections between Spain and the New World.



El Masnou's maritime success came to an end in the late 19th century, with the appearance of the railway as a more economical system for the transportation of goods.

El Masnou at the beginning of the 20th century adapted easily to the new economic situation and new businesses began to emerge. These included textiles, pharmaceuticals, printing, ceramics and glass making.



## El Masnou today



Nowadays, El Masnou has approximately 21,800 inhabitants, but it has retained its links with the sea. A fish farm was established in 2000 and companies linked to sailing and shipbuilding continue to operate successfully.

There is an important marina created in 1972 and remodelled in 1992. Water sports are important for the town. Water sports can be practised at Ocata Vent Club and the Yacht Club El Masnou. Members of the latter include Olympic medalists such as Piti Millet (Montreal 1976), Miquel Noguer (Moscow 1980), Natalia Vía-Dufresne (Barcelona 1992), Begoña Vía-Dufresne (Atlanta 1996), Natàlia Vía-Dufresne i Sandra Azón (Athens 2004).

Fishing, although a secondary activity in the town, is practised by the fishermen of the Confraria de Pescadors de Mongat, El Masnou, Premià, and other enthusiasts.

Finally, we cannot forget that, as in a great part of Catalonia, swimmers keep our beaches lively in summer. And that sand which is forgotten during months, quickly fills with visitors on the hot summer days.

# HISTORIC BUILDINGS

## THE HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS

Joan Carles I Avenue, 12

This is one of the most important buildings in El Masnou, though it is quite unknown by many Masnovins as it is located away from the centre.

This neoclassical French building is known as "The Tower of the Marquis". It was owned by Romà Fabra i Puig and built in 1902 by the architect Salvador Vinyals i Sabaté.

The mansion consists of a semi-basement plus three more floors, but the most characteristic elements of the House of the Marquis are the two octagonal-floor towers.

Moreover, if you walk towards the sea, you can gain access to the viewpoint of Bell Resguard from which there are fine views of the sea.

The house of the Marquis



## CHARITABLE HOME

Rector Pineda Street, 12

What is known today as the "Charitable Home" was founded in March 1899, and its first president was Pau Estapè i Maristany. In 1901 the first building was constructed designed by the noted architect Gaietà Buigas i Monravà. In 1902, the King Alfonso XIII bestowed the title of "Charitable" which is still held today.



This building has always been used for the most underprivileged of the town, and currently it operates as a home for the elderly.

## CEIP OCATA

Roman Fabra Avenue, 3

A part of this building is located in the ancient cemetery of El Masnou, in some lands known as The Mosque, owned by the Malet family.

Although in 1902 the procedures to build a coeducational state school were formalized, it was not until September 1905 that lessons were taught for the first time. It was a mixed school, as both boys and girls attended class, but separated in two different wings of the building.

The first project was made by the architect Gaietà Buhigas Monravà, but it was very expensive, and it was finally carried out by Bonaventura Bassegoda, in 1903.

## CA N'HUMET

Fontanills Street, 77

This historic building was constructed in 1920, when Eduard Domènech i Muntaner (brother of the famous architect Lluís Domènech i Muntaner) set up a printer's in Fontanills Street, which corresponds to part of the present structure of the building known as Ca n'Humet. The architect was Francesc Guàrdia i Vial (son-in-law of Lluís Domènech i Muntaner).



## SANT PERE CHURCH AND VIEWPOINT

Església Square, 1

This building was started in 1760 by the architect Miquel Garriga, and it was finished by his son Pau Garriga in 1817. During the Civil War it was badly damaged by a fire and it was subsequently rebuilt.

In the 1950s, J. Brunet painted the frescos of the chapel of The Santíssim, and during the 1960s the architect Marià Ribas built the two upper levels of the bell tower. Opposite this building there is a

viewpoint, where you can enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the marina, Barcelona and the Mediterranean Sea.



There is evidence that during the Civil War the Masnou Painters' Cooperative was based here. When the war ended it was converted into a wool factory and a spinning mill, owned by the Humet family,

who gave the name Ca n'Humet to the building.

It also includes a large theatre, a courtyard and a hall where exhibitions are shown, together with concerts and a range of other activities. It provides free internet access.

(Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8am-10pm. Saturday: 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 11pm. Sunday: 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 10pm).

## MASNOU TOWN HALL

Prat de la Riba Street, 1

When El Masnou was constituted as an independent municipality in 1825, it became necessary to build a town hall.

To construct the building in 1845, a moneylenders' committee and a board of residents were formed in order to defray part of the costs of the construction work. It was the Mareantes Union who contributed with the greatest amount of capital by means of ade-



# HISTORIC BUILDINGS

lantos (cash advances) for the construction of the town hall, capital that the town hall paid back little by little.

At the same time, the mayor Joan Rubis put the architect Miquel Garriga i Roca in charge of the construction project on land that the family of Gaspar Malet had acquired in 1755.

## THE CASINO

Barcelona Street, 1

The Casino dates back to 1876. It was located in different buildings until the beginning of the 20th century, when the present headquarters, designed by the architect Bonaventura Bassegoda i Amigó, were constructed.

The theatre is built in the Romantic style and consists of a semi-circular terrace supported by cast iron columns. The Modernist main facade preserves some beautiful stained-glass windows decorated with motifs.



## CULTURAL HOUSE

Prat de la Riba Avenue, 16

Jaime Sensat i Sanjuan and Rosa Pagès i Orta were the owners of this house, and in October 1900 they asked for permission to rebuild the main and lateral facades of the house. The project was overseen by the master builder Pere Andreu, who had already made other houses in the town.

The building showed the preference of the owner, who had spent two years in Egypt, for the Islamic style. The facade, which faces onto three streets, is placed in a tract of land of about 120 m<sup>2</sup>, and consists of three floors.



In 1975 the first owners' descendants ceded the house to the Masnou town hall, on the condition that it would be used for cultural purposes. In 1988 the restoration of the building took place, with the help of the Barcelona Council.

The walls and ceilings are still covered with original murals, which can be viewed by visitors.

# MUSEUMS



Local Sailing  
Museum

## LOCAL SAILING MUSEUM

Josep Pujadas Truch Street, 1-A

(Tuesday to Friday: 5pm-8pm. Saturday: 11am-2pm and 5pm-8pm. Sunday: 11am-2pm)

The Local Sailing Museum, located on the second floor of the Central Building, has different sections where the lives of the captains and sailors who lived in our town are depicted.

The town hall has undertaken a major project to record and preserve the town's maritime heritage.

In 2006 an exhibition was opened which included an audio visual presentation entitled *El Masnou in the 20th century: remembering those days*.

## MINING MUSEUM

Ocata Square

(Arranged visits. Telephone: 93 542 47 54)

This is a a subterranean gallery located in Ocata Square. The galleries were used to provide the houses with water, and they were used to provide houses with water until the 1950s. Guided tours are organised and provide an opportunity for exploring the mines.

## CUSI PHARMACY MUSEUM

Camil Fabra, 58

(Arranged visits. Telephone: 93 497 70 00 ext. 3274)

In the Alcón laboratories there is the Cusi Pharmacy and Medicine Museum. The most important sight of the museum is an 18th century Benedictine pharmacy which was bought in 1921 from the monastery of Santa Maria la Real de Nájera, in la Rioja. It was built in the second half of the 18th century. There are other ceramic utensils of the 18th and 19th centuries which come from other Spanish regions. It is also worth mentioning the important bibliographic collection specialised in medicine and ophthalmology. It is owned by the Catalan Royal Academy of Pharmacy.



# PARKS AND GARDENS

## THE PARK OF THE LAKE

The park corresponds to the garden of Bell Reguard land, which Romà Fabra, Marquis of El Masnou, ordered to be built at the beginning of the last century as a leisure site for his residence.

The garden shows typical neoclassical French elements of the last part of the XIX century. The most important place is the central lake from which the park takes its name.

## CARAMAR THEME PARK

To know and understand a little more about nature, in the town centre of El Masnou, there is a theme park, a leisure space with a great range of species of trees and plants from different places.

We recommend the visitor to go on the 'six-inch-train' tour, known as the 'little train' tour, and enjoy a visit through the park on a child-size train.

## MIL-LENARI GARDENS AND CAL ROS DE LES CABRES

The archeological site that was found at Cal Ros de les Cabres is a very important element of the town's patrimony. Nowadays, the artefacts are in the Museum and the country house is a residential home for the elderly, surrounded by green open spaces. In the garden you can visit the thousand-year-old walnut tree - Judgans Nigra, a tree of local interest in El Maresme, which is part of the natural legacy of the town.

## LLUIS MILLET GARDENS

Lluís Millet gardens, designed in 1975, are placed just next to Caramar theme park. The statue of the bust of the teacher Lluís Millet stands out, surrounded by a land covered with carobs, a tree which was largely cultivated in old times by the Masnovin countrymen. Unfortunately, little by little it has suffered the consequences of urban growth.

## GARDENS OF THE NYMPH OF EL MASNOU

The Nymph Gardens are placed next to the Nil road, and are one of the most characteristic gardens in El Masnou. In the centre of the garden there is the El Masnou nymph, a monument made by the artist Jordi Alumà, in order to commemorate the arrival of the new millennium.

## FUTURE PARK OF VALLMORA

The future park of Vallmora includes two differentiated domains: a wooded area situated at the top, and a second area of terraces and slopes. Once the park is finished, it will have an area of about 50,000 m<sup>2</sup>, becoming the largest park in El Masnou.



# LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN EL MASNOU

## MASNOU BEACH

The beach of El Masnou is remarkable for its calm waters and fine golden sand. It has a great influx of bathers in summer due to the high quality of the water and the easy access. Apart from this, it has car park service, showers, esplanade, sports circuit, stalls, and access to the marina.

## NAUTICAL FACILITIES

By the sea, next to the beach, there are the excellent sport facilities of the Marina. There is a great range of services exclusively related to navigation. Promocions Portuàries Telephone number for information: 93 540 30 00

### Technical Information:

Coordinates: 41° 28'5" North, 2° 18'6" East

Marina depth: from 3 to 4 metres

Number of moorings: 1.081 from 8 to 22m

### Complementary services and facilities:

2 dry docks to 50tm / petrol station / boat rental( with or without skipper) / mechanics, painting and accessories. / 24-hours security / car park for disabled people / toilets and showers / weather station / internet wi-fi.

## GASTRONOMY AND LEISURE

El Masnou is remarkable for the good quality and variety of its restaurants, where you can try the best sea dishes, typical Catalan food and international cuisine. In the Marina, in addition to some of the most exclusive restaurants, you can enjoy a great variety of terraces, ice-cream parlors, ball-rooms, pubs, clubs and discos, all of which give the port a varied nightlife for everybody. In November, many restaurants participate in the gastronomic workshop of the grape and wine D.O. Alella (guarantee of origin and quality of a wine) to offer special menus at this time of year.

## LA CALÀNDRIA CINEMA

Dr. Agell Street, 7

La Calàndria cinema started its activity in 1914. It has since been renovated so as to become a modern building in which to enjoy the best cinema.

Telephone number for information: 93 555 43 01.



# FAIRS, FESTIVITIES AND ACTIVI



## CARNIVAL AND DEVIL'S TOUR

During the day people go on a tour around the village, and streets brighten up with their varied disguises. At night, demons and witches walk around El Masnou in a "rua Diabòlica", which makes all Masnovins tremble.

*Organiser:* Culture Town Councillor- annual festival committee  
*Dates:* **February**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 53 85

## LITERARY CONTEST GOLETA I BERGANTÍ AND POETRY WEEK

The week includes lots of activities related to the recognition of poetry. The starting point is the prize-giving ceremony of the literary award Goleta i Bergantí of poetry and narrative, with participants of all ages.

*Organiser:* Culture Town Councillor  
*Dates:* **second fortnight of April**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 53 85

## COMMERCIAL AND GASTRONOMIC FAIR

The different stores offer their new season and out of stock products to visitors. During the day there are different activities: leisure activities for children, disco, draws, storytelling...

*Organiser:* El Masnou Trade Federation, with the collaboration of the Economic Promotion Unit  
*Dates:* **Last Sunday in May**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 555 52 03

## LOCAL FESTIVITY OF MASNOU

Year after year, on the 29th of June, we celebrate our local holiday of St. Peter, patron saint of El Masnou. This festivity starts on the 28th in the evening with a great firework display on the beach, and you can also enjoy competitions, concerts and different activities.

*Organiser:* Culture Town Councillor- Local Festivity committee  
*Dates:* **last week in June**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 53 85

## SOLIDARITY FAIR

Music, children's shows and, above all, gastronomy are the focal points of the festival, which aims to join villages and customs and spread values such as solidarity and cooperation.

*Organiser:* Community Action Co-ordinator  
*Dates:* **May**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 74 40

## FASCURT FESTIVAL

This film festival, organised by the association of Akonga youngsters, generates more and more interest every year. A great variety of short films around Spain are broadcast, with the objective of promoting new young talent.

*Organiser:* Akonga, with the collaboration of the Town Hall of El Masnou  
*Dates:* **first fortnight of July**  
*For more information:* [www.fascurt.com](http://www.fascurt.com)



## “PLE DE RIURE” FESTIVAL

On the beach, in front of the Ocata halt, we celebrate in July the annual international festival of comic theatre "Ple de riure". This event attracts a great flow of visitors from many different places.

*Organiser:* Culture Town Councillor – Cultural Promotions Entity of El Masnou  
*Dates:* **July**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 53 85

## THE NIGHT OF THE HAVANERES

At a really charming square such as the Ocata one, you can listen to the best traditional Havana songs.

*Organiser:* Borinquen  
*Dates:* **September**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 555 80 06

## GASTRONOMIC FESTIVAL

For two days, grapes and wine are the center-pieces of the cuisine in many restaurants in Masnou, Alella, Teià and other municipalities with D.O. Alella. All of them offer a special menu made with wine of D.O. Alella during these days.

*Organiser:* Economic Promotion Unit  
*Dates:* **November**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 62 00

## CAVA CAPS MEETING AND GUIDED TOUR

You can feel the collecting atmosphere in every enthusiast. The meeting complements with a guided tour to the modernist and emblematic buildings of El Masnou.

*Organiser:* Economic Promotion Unit and Gent del Masnou Entity  
*Dates:* **Last Sunday of November**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 39 29

## ARTS FESTIVAL

The purpose of the fair is the exhibition and sale of drawings and paintings.

*Organiser:* Arts Committee-Culture Town Councillor  
*Dates:* **last term of the year**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 53 85

## SANTA LLÚCIA FAIR

Traditional fair with stalls and typical Christmas articles. You can also find a variety of seasonal food for sale.

*Organiser:* El Masnou trade federation and Gent del Masnou  
*Dates:* **December**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 555 52 03

## SANT SILVESTRE RACE

Sant Silvestre Race is one of the most important races in Catalonia, and in the sports calendar of El Masnou.

*Organiser:* Sports Town Council  
*Dates:* **Last weekend of the year**  
*Telephone number for information:* 93 540 74 40

# COMMERCE AND MARKETS

## COMMERCE AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

Commerce in El Masnou focuses on small and medium sized specialised stores, family run and friendly. At present, there is a Shopkeepers Association, the Masnou Trade Federation, which promotes and manages some of the commercial activity of the town. In the municipality, there are four clearly defined commercial areas:

**High Masnou:** situated in the north of the town.

**Masnou Centre:** The location of the Central Building with its market, results in a concentration of shops in this area.

**Low Masnou:** The seafront and some of the streets near the sea are part of the commercial area called Masnou Mar.

**Marina:** It is part of an important commercial area which specialises in the nautical field, gastronomy and leisure.

## THE MARKETS

### The local market

In 1995 the local market was moved to the Central Building, an accessible place equipped with modern facilities, and situated in the urban centre.

At present, there are more than thirty-six stalls, which offer a wide number of high quality, fresh products.

### The weekly market

Every Tuesday there is the weekly merchants' market, popularly known as "little market" or "mercadet", where you can find clothes stalls, shoes, leather, perfumes, kitchen utensils, costume jewelry and plants amongst other things.



## LOCAL FACILITIES

### EL MASNOU TOWN HALL

Passeig Prat de la Riba, 1  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 542 47 00  
Fax 93 542 47 47  
www.elmasnou.net  
e-mail: ajuntament@elmasnou.cat

### ECONOMIC PROMOTIONS, INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Itàlia St., 50, 1st floor  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 540 62 00  
Fax 93 540 62 01  
e-mail: p.economica@elmasnou.cat

### EL MASNOU LOCAL ARCHIVE

Sant Francesc d'Assis St. 28  
Tel 93 540 15 11  
Fax 93 540 80 59  
arxiu@elmasnou.cat

### LOCAL MARITIME MUSEUM AND SCHOOL FOR BUILDING MODEL SHIPS

Pujadas Truch St. 1A  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 540 50 02  
e-mail: museu.nautica@elmasnou.cat

### CA N'HUMET

Fontanills St., 77-79  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 540 53 80  
Fax 93 540 53 81  
e-mail: canhumet@elmasnou.cat

### JOAN COROMINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Itàlia St., 50, 2nd floor  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 540 90 56  
e-mail: biblioteca@elmasnou.cat

### LOCAL SPORTS CENTRE

Ciutat de Sant Sebastià St., 14  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 555 61 03  
Fax: 93 555 71 55  
e-mail: complexesportiu@elmasnou.cat

### MASNOU SPORTS CLUB

Rosa Sensat, 2  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel: 93 555 00 99  
Fax: 93 540 92 57  
e-mail: cdmasnou@eresmas.com

### MASNOU ATHLETICS CLUB

John F. Kennedy Av.  
08320 – El Masnou  
Tel. 93 540 84 40  
Fax 93 540 84 40

## ACCOMODATION

### TORINO HOTEL

Pere Grau St, 21  
08320 - El Masnou  
Tel. 93 555 23 13  
hoteltorino@adbantis.com  
www.hoteltorinoelmasnou.com

### EL MASNOU CAMPSITE

Camil Fabra St., 33  
Nil Road , Km. 633  
08320 - El Masnou  
Tel. 93 555 15 03  
masnou@campingsonline.com

### JOSEP M. BAUTISTA I ROCA YOUTH HOSTEL

Srs. Cusí i Fortunet Av., 52  
08320 - El Masnou  
Tel. 93 555 56 00  
Fax. 93 540 05 52  
alberg\_elmasnou@tjuuca.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONES

**Local Police:** 93 555 22 44 / **Emergencies:** 092

**Mossos d'Esquadra (Catalan Autonomous Police):** 088

**Firemen in Badalona:** 93 388 00 80 / **Emergencies:** 085

**Ambulances:** 061

**Information about 24 hour chemist shop:** 93 555 33 08

**Medical Clinic:** 902 111 444

**Taxi in El Masnou:** 93 555 86 86

**Railway RENFE (information and booking):** 902 24 02 02 - www.renfe.es

**TOURIST OFFICE TELEPHONE: 93 540 62 00**



Ajuntament  del Masnou



Diputació  
Barcelona  
xarxa de municipis

**Turisme**Total