

Perpignan the Catalan or "fidelissima Vila de Perpignan

IDENTITY

Perpignan the Catalan or "fidelissima Vila de Perpignan" thus appears officially in the city. These designations refer to its history, its identity, its heritage, but they are also an expression of geographical and cultural reality that reflects the richness and uniqueness of the city.

Perpignan, the capital of French Catalonia, the tenth to the mid-seventeenth century, with some interruptions, was part of a Catalan principality then linked to the Kingdom of Aragon. The title of "fidelissima", he was awarded in 1474 by the King of Aragon, Count of Barcelona, Jean II, commemorating the resistance of Perpignan in the Roussillon annexation by Louis XI.

LOCATION

"Great small town" or "little big city" Perpignan is the center of an ancient province of Roussillon, organized around an agricultural plain. It is located in a privileged environment: the Mediterranean coast and beach rock on the one hand, and the mountains, the imposing Canigou (one of the highest peaks in the French Pyrenees) on the other. Country of light and Tramontana, Perpignan has Mediterranean influences with about 300 sunny days per year. Perpignan is the capital of the department of Pyrenees Orientales, whose geography and cultural identity is naturally turned to the Spanish Catalonia: a city bridge between Barcelona and the cities of the Languedoc Roussillon.

HISTORY

Perpignan was long a stronghold, however, it is a border town, a place of passage and mixing of peoples. It is located on the road connecting the Strait of Gibraltar to the Italian peninsula, becoming the "Domitian" Roman, which today perpetuates the A9 route. It was the scene of invasions, wars, since the passage of Hannibal, the surges of the Vandals, Visigoths, Arabs and the Franks, the rivalry between France and Catalonia, the wars of Spanish Succession, the Napoleonic Wars until the Second World War. But it was also a place of refuge, bringing together for centuries people with different cultures: On the other hand, Perpignan has since the early Middle Ages been the heir to the organization, institutions, culture and urban values of Roman antiquity, taken over by the principality of Catalonia. Ancient Roman city of Ruscino, seat of the County of Roussillon, it is among the first cities in Europe to be granted in 1197 by the King of Aragon, Count of Barcelona Peter I, a charter of liberties. This is still visible in the civil and civic monuments of the city: Merchants Lodge, Town Hall, Palace of the Provincial Council, Palais des Corts. Finally Perpignan became the capital of the mainland "Kingdom of Majorca" between 1276 and 1344. This peak period is at the origin of the major elements of its rich heritage.

MULTIPLE RESOURCES

Perpignan knows his heyday with the "Kingdom of Mallorca 'from 1276 to 1344, during which the city was the capital of a state Mediterranean mainland and island part. The royal city is covered with architecture and gothic decor, college, and his commercial prosperity is exported throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Cosmopolitan capital, Perpignan receives artists and became the cradle of great literary troubadours Pons for Ortaffa, the stage of travelers philosophers such as Ramon Llull, home to a school of philosophy and Jewish religious importance. The major monuments of this period testify to magnificent Perpignan: the Palace of the Kings of Mallorca, the Cathedral, the Campo Santo, the town hall, churches.