

TOURISTIC TOUR OF COOLTUR CULTURAL TOURISM

# WITCHCRAFT IN SANT FELIU SASSERRA (OPTION 2)



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**COOLTUR**  
Turisme Cultural  
www.cooltur.org

## **WITHCRAFT LEGENDS IN PRATS DE LLUÇANÈS (option 2)**

During the seventeenth century, in Catalonia is known this period as a "bad years", a few years where droughts in summer and freezing winters affected much to the population. The peasant world would find the culprit of all these calamities, believing it was the work of the devil himself with the help of his earthly worshipers, witches and warlocks.

By popular pressures, during the years 1617-1627, there was a hard chase to catch and convict all witches.

### **Who the witches were?**

Most women who were convicted of witchcraft had a rural background. Many of them were elderly and had great knowledge of the local flora, with that prepared ointments and natural medicines. Also they tended to be women who helped in childbirth neighbouring.

### **What were the witches accused for?**

All the accused were convicted of having made a pact with the devil, denying thus the Catholic religion. They are used to assign spells that harmed farmers in the area, including the creation of storms, longer droughts, livestock deaths, the death of creatures, poisoning, have carnal dealings with the devil ....

### **Trial and conviction**

Most people who were accused of witchcraft were tried by civilian courts typically advised by people claiming to be able to see, in the skin of witches, invisible marks that the devil had left during the deal of witchcraft. One of the most famous man who was able to watch the brands that left the devil was Cosme Solé, known as "Tarragó".

Those accused of witchcraft had no guarantee at trial. In most trials, the accused received torture to force them to confess their crimes.

When a person was accused of witchcraft, it was hung on the gallows.

### **Legends of witches**

Many of the legends that remain today speak of witchcraft. Most of these legends served to demonstrate the magnificence of God against the devil, giving a pattern of good behaviour who listened.

### **Sant Feliu Sasserra**

During the seventeenth century, Sant Feliu Sasserra was the capital of the "sotsvegueria Lluçanès", a catalan region. As the capital, it was located the

house of the Juries, centre where juries of the different towns of the "sotsvegueria" met.

So, everyone in the "sotsvegueria Lluçanès" who were accused of witchcraft, were tried in the house of the Juries of Sant Feliu. In addition, all those who were convicted, were hung on a hill next to the village, on the **Serrat de les Forques**.

**From COOLTUR we propose a tour in Sant Feliu Sasserra to discover and observe some of the witchcraft legends and stories of this town.**



We will start the tour in front of the town council of Sant Feliu Sasserra. This building is located where in the seventeenth century was the Jury House, representing the capital of the "sotsvegueria Lluçanès".

Between 1619 and 1620 several trials were held in this building, and some people were accused of witchcraft. As a result of these trials, a total of six women were accused to make a deal with the devil, and all of them were hung next to this town, in **Serrat de les Forques**.

The façade of this building, restored, is the same that was in the seventeenth century.

*Head south on Sant Pere Almató Street*

*30 m*

*Turn left onto Balmes Street*

*34 m*



*Turn right onto Bisbe Torras i Bages Square*

*50 m*

*Continue south on Arquebisbe Badia Street*

*96 m*

*Keep right on Arquebisbe Badia Street*

*53 m*

*Cross the road of Oristà and continue southbound*

*82 m*

*Continue on the right*

*55 m*

*Continue along the road on the left*

170 m



*Continue along the path on the right southbound  
93 m*

*Continue straight south - west  
43 m*



On your right you can see **Cal Raleta**, a cottage.

According to the legend, in this house lived a wealthy couple who had no children. When they were already quite old, the couple decided that their heir would be his nephew, Martí Badia, in

exchange for his company.

Martí married and with his wife went to live in Cal Raleta.

The problems came because the old couple did not like the wife of his nephew and the uncle resorted to magic to try to throw his heir wife out of his house. Every day, when the girl was going to take some pots to cook, all the pots in the house started to spin, and the girl could not ever catch them.

Over time, the young couple went to live in a house near Cal Raleta because the poor girl was sick of not being able to do anything. In the new house, the girl never had trouble catching any of the cookers.

*Continue along the road to the left, southbound  
145 m*

*Continue along the middle road, heading south - east  
123m*



To our left we can see the house of **Castellot**. We will use this place to explain a legend, although this legend is not located in this house, it could have happened here.

According to legend, in a house of Sant Feliu Sasserra lived a family that was very poor. When the children of the house

were still very young, the father of the family died. It was a very hard blow, and all the children had to be put to work in order to have some income.

They were so poor, and they couldn't pay some additional mass for their father. After a few weeks of their father's death, the family began to listen, at night, very strange noises. As found no solution, they went to see the priest to ask if he could help them. The priest told them that those noises were made by the soul of his father, because he could not get to heaven. The only solution was to say a mass for the dead father, because in this way the soul could reach the heaven.

The eldest son of the house, which was very cunning, saw the bad intentions of the priest. He told to the priest that they didn't have money to pay any mass, and if from that day the family returned to hear a strange noise, he would go to visit the priest with a large stick and he would hit him.

Since that day, the family did not hear more noises. It is seen that these noises had been caused by the village priest to collect some additional Masses.

*Continue on the same road, heading south - east  
333m*



*Turn right, heading south - west  
1,296 km*

*Turn left down a path that later becomes path  
236 m*



On your right you can see, from afar, the house and the remains of a medieval tower **Cirera**, where it had been a castle during the Middle Ages.

We will use the views of this house to explain another legend of Sant Feliu Sasserra. We should say that the legend

is not located in this house, but it could happen here.

In a house of Sant Feliu Sasserra lived a very poor family. Just after the death of one member of the family who lived here, some paranormal phenomena began to happen in this house. Every night, the family could see the donkey, that they had, dancing on the dining table at the same time that they could see the donkey eating at it court.

Apparently, these phenomena started to happen after refusing to pay a supplementary mass to the priest, as it was a quite disbelieving family.

The phenomenon stopped the day that the family decided to pay money for an extra mass. Apparently, the priest was the cause of these paranormal phenomena.

*Continue along the same road heading south - west*

*116 m*

*Turn right onto a road that heads west*

*112 m*

*Turn left, heading south on the road that is*

*257 m*



On your right you will find the remains of the old cottage of **Coll de Bassa**.

Many years ago, in this house lived a peasant religious family. All members worked, year after year, in field work and on the vintage of the vines, but a year everything changed. The heir of the family began to have a strange behaviour that made worry the whole family. The young man, at the time to say the rosary, began to babble strange words that nobody in the family could understand.

One day, the young man had a heated argument with his father, and the boy ran to his girlfriend home. When he reached to his girlfriend house he realise that the front door was locked. But this boy entered into his girlfriend's house through the door lock.

His girlfriend, like his family, was very frightened, because it seemed that the boy was possessed by the devil.

It looks that the strange behaviour started the same day that the boy bought a book from a street bookseller. The book was written by the devil himself, and everyone who read the book was possessed.

The boy had a strange behaviour since he died, few months after, in a violent and strange situation.

*To return to Sant Feliu turn back by the same way that we came.*

**From COOLTUR we hope that you have enjoyed this tour, and you'll have a nice day.**

