



# Eus: The Sunniest Village in France

Welcome to Eus, a medieval gem perched in the Pyrénées-Orientales department of southern France. Since 1982, this picturesque settlement has been officially classified as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages of France," joining three other distinguished villages in the region: Evol, Castelnou, and Villefranche de Conflent. With approximately 400 residents and encompassing the ruins of Comes hamlet since 1828, Eus is renowned not only for its breathtaking beauty but also for being the sunniest village in all of France, enjoying more than 320 days of sunshine annually.

# A Village with a View

Eus commands a spectacular position overlooking the Têt Valley and its abundant orchards. This strategic elevation provides visitors with panoramic vistas of the surrounding landscape, most notably the majestic Canigou massif, which dominates the horizon. The village's elevated location was historically advantageous for defence, but today it offers something far more valuable: some of the most breathtaking views in the Catalan region.

The terraced layout of the village follows the natural contours of the hillside, with narrow cobblestone streets winding their way up to the church of Saint Vincent du Haut at the summit. Each turn reveals new perspectives of the Pyrenees mountains and the fertile valley below, where almond, peach and other fruit trees flourish in the Mediterranean climate.



The village perched above the Têt Valley and its orchards (here the almond trees of Alexandre Vargas)

# Architectural Character

1

## Medieval Stone Buildings

The architecture of Eus is characterised by traditional stone buildings constructed from local materials. These structures, many dating back several centuries, feature thick walls that provide natural insulation against both summer heat and winter cold. The honey-coloured stone facades, weathered by time and the elements, create a harmonious visual unity throughout the village.

2

## Narrow Cobbled Streets

The village is traversed by a network of narrow, winding streets and passageways that climb steeply up the hillside. These charming thoroughfares, often no wider than a few metres, are paved with traditional cobblestones and occasionally feature steps to navigate the village's vertical terrain. Many streets open suddenly to reveal small squares or unexpected viewpoints over the valley.

3

## Church of Saint Vincent

Crowning the village at its highest point stands the Church of Saint Vincent du Haut, a Romanesque structure that serves as both a spiritual centre and a landmark visible from miles around. The church's bell tower offers perhaps the most comprehensive views of the surrounding landscape, with vistas extending across the Têt Valley to the Canigou massif and beyond.



The main bell of the village church

# Picturesque Streets and Passages



Picturesque alley of the village of Eus with a plunging view of the Canigou

The narrow streets of Eus tell stories of centuries past, each cobblestone pathway winding through the village like chapters in a living history book. These charming alleys, barely wide enough for modern vehicles, were designed for a different era—a time of donkey carts and foot traffic. Today, they create an intimate atmosphere that encourages exploration and discovery.

Many of these passages feature stone arches, ancient doorways adorned with weathered wooden doors, and unexpected nooks housing traditional cisterns or fountains. The village's streets are often lined with flowering plants in terracotta pots, adding splashes of colour against the golden stone walls. Succulents and cacti thrive in the sunny microclimate, further enhancing the Mediterranean character of the village.

As you ascend through these atmospheric corridors, each turn reveals new perspectives—sometimes a framed view of the distant mountains, other times an intimate glimpse into a flower-filled courtyard. The vertical arrangement of the village means that exploration is always rewarded with ever-more impressive vistas.

# Mediterranean Flora



## Cacti and Succulents

The village streets are adorned with an impressive variety of cacti and succulents that thrive in Eus's exceptionally sunny climate. These drought-resistant plants create a distinctive atmosphere throughout the village, reinforcing its reputation as one of the sunniest places in France. Their architectural forms provide year-round visual interest and require minimal maintenance.



## The Small Cactus Garden

Eus features a charming exotic garden called "Jardineus" that showcases the remarkable diversity of plants that can flourish in this microclimate. This small but impressive collection of cacti and other exotic species demonstrates how the village's exceptional sun exposure creates growing conditions similar to much more southerly regions.



## Flowering Alleys

Throughout the warmer months, the narrow streets of Eus burst into colour as residents adorn their doorways and windowsills with flowering plants. These vibrant displays, set against the golden stone of the buildings, create picturesque scenes at every turn. The combination of traditional architecture and carefully tended plants makes every alley a potential postcard image.

# Eus by Night

As the sun sets behind the Pyrenees, Eus undergoes a magical transformation. The village, already picturesque by day, takes on an enchanted quality as darkness falls and lights begin to twinkle across its terraced landscape. The golden stone buildings, warmed by the day's sunshine, seem to glow with an inner light as evening descends.

Street lamps cast pools of warm light onto the cobbled pathways, creating dramatic shadows and highlighting architectural details that might go unnoticed in daylight. From viewpoints in the surrounding countryside, the village appears as a constellation of lights cascading down the hillside—a human echo of the star-filled sky above.

During special occasions and holidays, particularly Christmas, Eus enhances this nocturnal beauty with special illuminations and projections. The church becomes a canvas for elaborate light displays that celebrate the season and transform the village's most prominent landmark into a spectacular visual centrepiece visible for miles around.



Eus by Night



Video projection on the church of the village of Eus at Christmas

# Cultural Heritage

## Catalan Identity

Eus proudly maintains its Catalan heritage, evident in local traditions, cuisine, and language. The village represents an important cultural bridge between French and Catalan identities, preserving customs that have endured for centuries despite changing national borders. This cultural distinctiveness adds another layer of interest for visitors seeking authentic regional experiences.

## Artistic Community

The exceptional quality of light that bathes Eus has attracted [artists](#) for generations. Today, the village hosts a small but vibrant community of creators drawn by the inspiring landscapes and tranquil atmosphere. Their presence contributes to the cultural vitality of Eus, with occasional exhibitions and open studios enhancing the visitor experience.

## Traditional Crafts

Local crafts remain an important aspect of Eus's cultural identity. The dried Carline thistle, traditionally hung on doors as a protective talisman, has become an emblematic souvenir of the village. These striking natural objects, with their intricate geometric patterns, represent the enduring connection between the village and its natural surroundings.



A dried Carline thistle, a typical symbol of the village

# Le Moot – Cultural Hub

At the heart of Eus's contemporary cultural scene is Le Moot, a distinctive bar and cultural venue that embodies the creative spirit of the village. More than just a place to enjoy refreshments, Le Moot functions as a community hub where visitors and locals alike can experience the authentic character of this remarkable settlement.

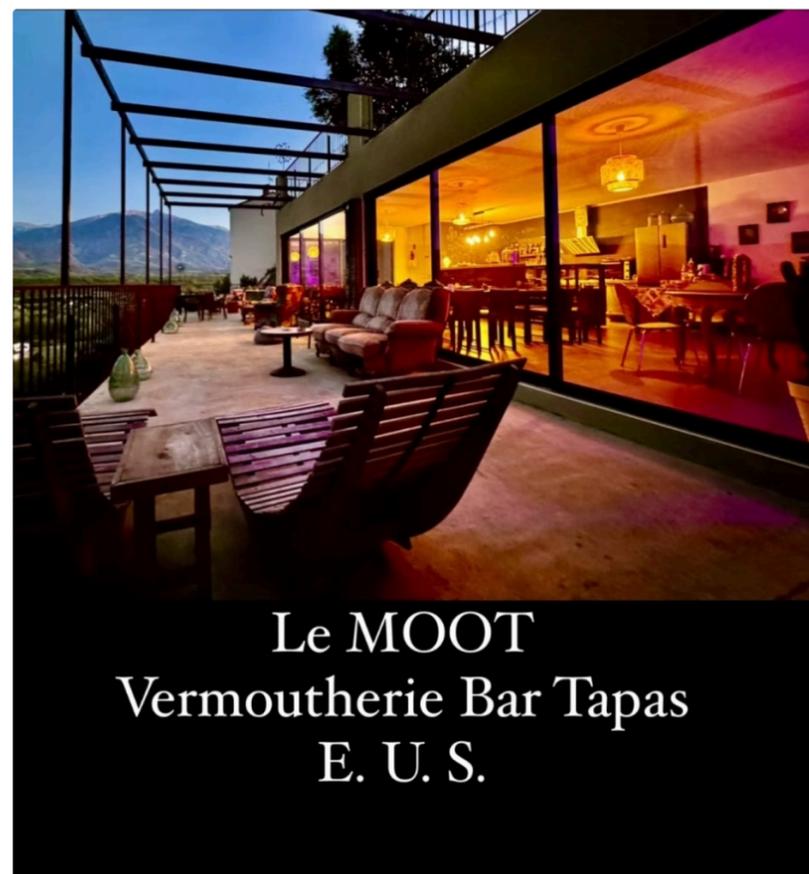
## What Le Moot Offers:

- Local tapas and natural wines showcasing regional flavours
- Live music, DJ sets, and outdoor performances against the backdrop of spectacular mountain views
- A relaxed atmosphere perfect for watching the sunset over the Canigou massif
- Connection to the exotic garden "Jardineus" with its impressive collection of cacti and succulents

Open throughout the summer months and for special events during the rest of the year, Le Moot represents the perfect synthesis of Eus's traditional character and contemporary vitality. Its terrace offers one of the village's most spectacular viewpoints, making it an essential stop for anyone seeking to fully experience the magic of this sun-blessed location.



Terrace of the Tapas Bar (Tapes in Catalan) and Vermoutherie Le MOOT



Terrace of the Tapas vermutherie Bar Le MOOT / Eus

# Accommodation and Visitor Information



## [Casa Ilicia](#)

This charming guesthouse offers comfortable accommodation with spectacular views of the Canigou massif. Guests can enjoy breakfast on a terrace overlooking the mountains and valley below. The property features exotic gardens with cacti and Mediterranean plants, creating a tranquil oasis for relaxation.

The "Nuit étoilée" suite provides a particularly memorable experience for those seeking something special during their stay in Eus.



## Best Time to Visit

With over 320 days of sunshine annually, Eus offers pleasant conditions year-round. Spring brings blossoming orchards in the valley below, while summer offers warm days perfect for exploring. Autumn provides clear views and comfortable temperatures, and winter features special illuminations during the Christmas season.

The village hosts various cultural events throughout the year, particularly during summer months when Le Moot bar features live music and performances.



## Activities

Beyond exploring the village itself, visitors can enjoy hiking on nearby trails such as the Sentier de la Devesa, which offers spectacular views of Eus and the surrounding landscape. Mountain biking routes cater to the more adventurous, while the fertile valley below provides opportunities for agricultural tourism, particularly during harvest seasons.

The village's position makes it an excellent base for exploring other notable sites in the Pyrénées-Orientales department.



View from the breakfast terrace of [casa ilicia EUS](#)