Tips & local favourites

Winter on the Costa Brava

December, January and February are lovely for coastal walks, lunch along the way and a quiet evening by the fire. The villa has central heating; the pool is unheated.

Restaurant Rosamar is closed until April 2027. Llenya lists year-round opening except Christmas Eve dinner. Can Panedes serves winter lunches daily and dinner on Fridays and Saturdays. Book ahead and check holiday closures.

Platja d’Aro’s ice rink and big wheel are scheduled for 27 November 2026 to 10 January 2027, with closure days. Castell d’Aro’s living nativity runs on selected dates from 19 December to 1 January. See the official winter programme. For Christmas markets and culture in Girona, check the city’s Christmas programme.

For a clear winter day, try the Camí de Ronda from Sant Pol to Sa Conca. Bring walking shoes and check weather and path closures. There are more ideas on our walking routes page.

Tossa de Mar is lovely for a stroll through the Vila Vella. Allow a full day for Cadaqués and check winter opening at museums and restaurants. For a day in the Pyrenees, choose clear weather, check road conditions and plan the drive back in daylight. Ask me for ideas for your dates.

Getting here & stocking up

A little planning makes the first evening easy.

Airports & travel time

Girona–Costa Brava (GRO): allow roughly 40 km / 40–50 minutes by road. Barcelona–El Prat (BCN): allow roughly 120–135 km / 1 hour 40 minutes–2 hours. These are planning estimates, not live routes; traffic, terminal and route change the journey. Open navigation from the villa pin. A car is useful here; book taxis or transfers ahead and request a current quote.

GRO → Rosamaravilla

BCN → Rosamaravilla

Your first grocery stop

For an easy first evening, pick up groceries in Sant Feliu de Guíxols on your way to Rosamar. Mercadona and Ametller Origen are handy stops; Ametller Origen is on Carrer del Doctor Josep Trueta. Wine Palace is useful for wine and drinks. Check opening times for your arrival day, and remember coffee capsules, beach towels and sunscreen.

Mercadona

Ametller Origen

Wine Palace

Mercadona online

Would you like your groceries delivered? You can prepare an order a few days ahead on Mercadona’s website. Enter the villa’s full address and postcode 17246 to check delivery availability, then choose a time when you’ll be there. Gerald is happy to help you arrange your order. If you’d prefer delivery before you arrive, please check with him first.

Mercadona online

Markets & an easy evening

Sant Feliu’s Sunday morning market is a lovely stop, along with the municipal food market. La Santa in Santa Cristina d’Aro is a seasonal evening option for food, shopping and music: check its programme. For your first night, keep it simple: groceries, a swim and dinner on the terrace.

Mercat Guíxols

La Santa

Happy to help you plan

Found a restaurant or activity you’d love to try? Gerald is happy to help with recommendations and reservations. Booking ahead is a good idea, especially in summer. Opening times and availability can vary with the season; the links in this guide will help you plan your days.

WhatsApp · Gerald

Gerald’s places to eat

Personal favourites, plus a few additions worth exploring.

On your doorstep · Restaurant Rosamar

A short walk from the villa, with a seafront setting and rice dishes. Check seasonal opening and reserve directly. The beach chiringuito is another relaxed option when open; its season and hours vary.

Restaurant Rosamar

Sant Feliu · Can Kiku & El Rey del Jamón

Can Kiku, on Carrer Major, is a lovely addition for a meal in town. El Rey del Jamón remains one of Gerald’s personal tips for tapas. Check menus and reserve directly.

Can Kiku

El Rey del Jamón

Tossa · Sa Muralla

Traditional Catalan and seafood cooking by the entrance to the Vila Vella. Combine lunch with a wander through Tossa’s old streets.

Sa Muralla

Inland · Can Panedes & Llenya

Can Panedes in Llagostera is a favourite for Catalan cooking; ask about terrace seating. Llenya is a further option in a restored farmhouse, with cooking centred on fire and the grill. Check current menus and booking availability.

Can Panedes

Llenya

A favourite in the hills · Ermita de Sant Grau

One of Gerald’s favourite stops: a simple meal in a special setting, ideal to combine with a ride or drive into the hills. Confirm opening, menu and payment methods before you go; the old fixed price is no longer quoted.

Ermita de Sant Grau

More from Gerald’s notebook

Frankfurt Cal Vicens in Sant Feliu for a casual bite; Mesón Asador in Platja d’Aro for grilled meat. These are personal tips from the original guide: use the map links to check current operation and opening times. Let the restaurant know about dietary requirements when booking.

Frankfurt Cal Vicens

Mesón Asador

Villages, coffee & little detours

Choose one or two stops and leave room for a long lunch.

Close to home

Sant Feliu de Guíxols: seafront, market and harbour, around 15 minutes away. Tossa de Mar: Vila Vella, coves and lunch, around 25–30 minutes. Platja d’Aro: shops and lively terraces, around 20–25 minutes. Driving times are approximate and longer in busy periods.

Sant Feliu

Tossa

Platja d’Aro

Girona

Allow about 45–60 minutes. Explore the old town and city walls, then stop at cycling cafés La Fabrica or Hors Categorie. A lovely choice for a city day, with plenty of cafés if the weather turns.

Girona

La Fabrica

Hors Categorie

Begur, Pals & Peratallada

Begur combines an old centre and hilltop castle with nearby coves such as Sa Tuna and Aiguablava. Pals and Peratallada offer stone streets and medieval atmosphere. Choose a small selection rather than rushing through every village.

Begur

Pals & Peratallada

Besalú & Castellfollit de la Roca

An inland day out: Besalú for its medieval bridge and streets; Castellfollit for its dramatic basalt-cliff setting. The famous bridge belongs to Besalú, not Cadaqués.

Besalú

Castellfollit

Cadaqués & Portlligat

Make this a full-day trip. Enjoy Cadaqués’ waterfront and whitewashed lanes; book the Dalí House-Museum at Portlligat in advance through the official foundation. The final roads are winding and parking is busy in summer.

Dalí · Portlligat

Coffee, aperitif & cocktails

Gerald’s Sant Feliu picks: Mistral for coffee and breakfast, El Corsari for a drink near the harbour, Juanita Banana for cocktails. Check opening before going. For music, look up the current Porta Ferrada programme rather than relying on last year’s dates.

Mistral

El Corsari

Juanita Banana

Porta Ferrada

Triathlon & outdoor days

Swim. Bike. Walk or Run. Train at your own pace, with time to explore.

Swim · sea & pool

The private 25 m pool is ideal for swim training, with open water around 200 m away at Cala Canyet. Swim with a buddy and a visible tow buoy; follow beach flags and local advice. Choose each session to suit the sea conditions and your level.

Road, gravel & trail

Sant Grau is a local climbing classic; the Ardenya and Gavarres offer further riding and running. Els Àngels and La Ganga suit a longer planned outing. Ask for routes or GPX files matched to your level. The coastal road has traffic, bends and little shoulder: stay visible and ride considerately.

Rosamaravilla · Sport

Walk or Run · Camí de Ronda

Explore the Camí de Ronda and GR 92 on foot, at a walking or running pace. Sant Feliu harbour to Sant Pol is about 3.4 km; allow 1.5–2 hours for a relaxed walk with stops. Expect steps, uneven ground and exposed sections. Wear proper shoes, carry water and check closures.

Camí de Ronda

Vies Verdes · El Carrilet II

The former railway route links Girona and Sant Feliu de Guíxols over 41.9 km. It is a gently graded greenway for walking and cycling, largely on compacted gravel. Try a shorter out-and-back from Sant Feliu or Santa Cristina d’Aro; the full return is around 84 km. The connection from the villa is not a continuous traffic-free cycle path.

Carrilet II · 41.9 km

By the sea & beyond

Explore Rosamar above and below the water, or take a day to unwind.

Dive · Brave Coast Divers

Discover the underwater side of Rosamar with the local PADI dive centre at Cala Canyet. They offer introductory dives, PADI courses and guided dives. Contact the centre directly for dates, requirements and bookings.

Brave Coast Divers · PADI

Maps

SUP, canoes & recovery days

One SUP and two canoes are available at the villa. Choose calm conditions and ask about suitable equipment before heading out. Between training sessions, enjoy the beach, table tennis or board games. For a family outing, consider Parc Aventura or a paella workshop; check availability and age requirements.

Parc Aventura

Useful contacts & links

Mark & Kim: +31 6 2242 2992 · Gerald: +31 6 2865 5900. Emergency: 112. Health advice: 061. Links in this guide open maps, official routes and venues. Information reviewed 17 November 2026; always recheck opening and booking details for your dates.

112 / 061

Rosamaravilla