



# La Torre de la Presó

La Torre de la Presó (*the Jail Tower*), in Atzeneta del Maestrat, is one of the main symbols of this town cultural heritage. This monument, with the ruins of the Medieval Wall of which is part, is considered BIC.

It is located in the town center of Atzeneta del Maestrat, and it is a square plant tower with three floors, internally communicated by a spiral staircase. The construction is of masonry, with calcareous stones, wooden beams, gypsum vaults and atypical finishing in the ceiling, consisted of some columns and a molding block in the corner. Moreover, the main door is rectangular with lintel, with an inscription of 1853, and it has got some little windows with iron bars.



*The Bell Tower, the Church and the Jail Tower.*



*Ruins of the Medieval Wall*

# History

The town of Atzeneta has its origins in the Berber tribe Az-Zanata. In Reconquest times it belonged to the Castle of Culla and to Jaume I, then it passed to the possessions of Balasc d'Aragó, being his descendant, Guillem IV d'Anglesola, who awarded the first town charter in 1272. In 1303 it passed at the hands of the Templars and, after the dissolution on this Order, in 1320, it passed to Montesa. Finally, in 1345, it was integrated to the Tinença or Setena de Culla until 1890.

Although the origins of the Torre de la Presó are uncertain, its construction took place, according to A. Sánchez Gozalbo, between the late 14th century and the beginning of the 15th, time when other constructions of the town, like the Medieval Wall or the bridge, were built, too; so it is considered work of the Order of Montesa.

In any case, this Tower lived all the historic acts of the town, being part of the territory of the Order of Montesa and of the Setena de Culla, and suffering the 18th century Carlist Wars, among others. Even during the 20th century it was very important, because it was used as the jail of the town until the sixties.