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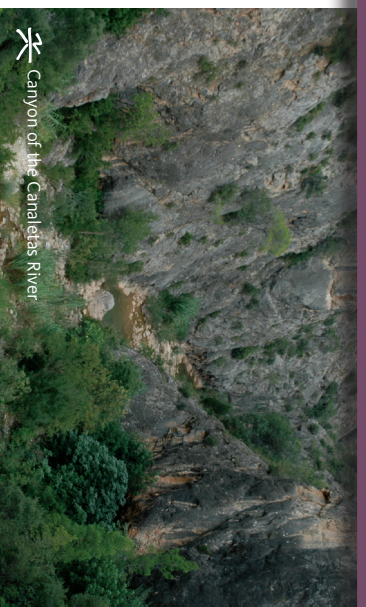
NATURE TRAIL BAIX EBRE



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL BAIX EBRE

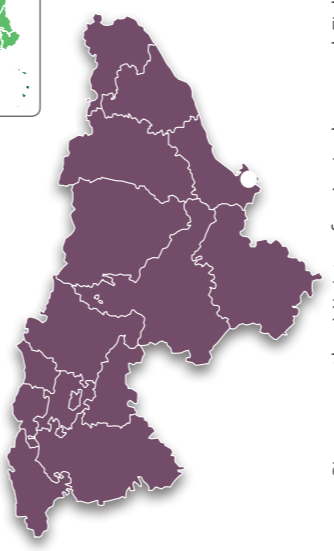
1. The route begins at Camí dels Codonyers, close to the crossing of the C-12 and the old railway platform, very close to the Tortosa Sports Stadium. To the back of the trail, following the platform, the trail reaches the metal railway bridge over the Ebro, with the modern Tortosa station on the other side where part of the catenary of the old line still remains.
2. Passing the information panel, we cross the Ebro Right Bank Canal, arriving at Ferreties, a large-scale industrial area, before crossing road TV-3421. From this point on, the Trail shares its course with Ebro GR 99 Nature Trail. Continuing along Calle Vial de Valdezafán, we pass a roundabout to the picnic area close to the village of Roquetes. After several level crossings, the old station of Aldover comes into view. The village offers the traveller a beach on the banks of the River Ebro.
3. The trail, which follows the old railway line, crosses orange groves, hackberry bushes and reed beds, crossing road C-12. The trail, which up to this point winds through orchards and villages, enters a more rugged and natural landscape, running parallel to the C-12. The concrete path becomes a dirt track until it meets the C-12. The trail leaves the company of Ebro GR 99 Nature Trail for a couple of kilometres, reaching the Ebro Right Bank Canal and continuing alongside it until it turns left and enters Xerta.
4. After passing the Church of La Asunción y San Martín, it swings to the right and once again to the left at the next intersection. After crossing Calle Antoni Anyón and the



Canyon of the Canaletas River

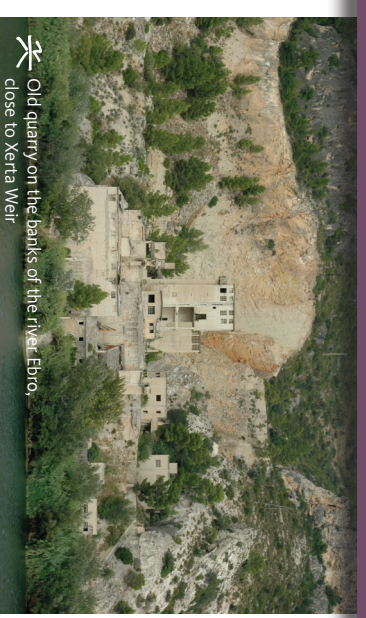


SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment. These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country. We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of Baix Ebre Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

5. It reaches the Xerta Weir, always under maintenance work due to the aggressive nature of the power and flooding of the giant body of water that is the River Ebro. The trail drifts away from the riverbank as it enters the first of many tunnels between here and the end of the route. Travellers must have their torch handy at all times as there are another sixteen tunnels that lie ahead, and although many have electric lighting this may be temporarily out of service.
6. Road C-12 passes close by, beneath the trail. Nearby is the locality of Benifallet, on the opposite bank behind a twist in the river. Passing through several more tunnels, the trail finally says goodbye to the River Ebro to enter the Canaleta Canyon. Here it reaches the old station of Benifallet, currently being restored. If you want to visit, the village is 4.5 km away along the GR-7. The ruins of a couple of buildings lie along the way, probably the houses of rail workers dedicated to the construction and maintenance of the railway and, after another tunnel, the trail passes to the other side of the canyon over a viaduct.



Old quarry on the banks of the River Ebro, close to Xerta Weir

AMONG ORCHARDS AND STONE WALLS



The Baix Ebre (Lower Ebro) Nature Trail is the final section of the old Val de Zafán railway, a route that begins at Alcañiz in the province of Teruel and crosses lower Aragon to Tarragona in the municipality of Terra Alta.

7. Now, with the Canaletas River on the right, there are several terraces fitted with benches that allow the traveller to enjoy the spectacular views of the canyon, a narrow fluvial plane where small orchards and reed beds appear that, as the Camino Natural continues, stretch out into a spectacular landscape of vertical limestone walls full of caves and cavities, with pine and heather growing on the steep slopes. Just after passing through the last of the tunnels, the route ends at the old Pinell de Brai station, just emerging from a tunnel alongside the T-324 (N-230), at kilometre 14, where there is a vehicle entrance and carpark.

You can carry on knowing the old Val de Zafán railway line with the Terra Alta Nature Trail that begins right where the Baix Ebre Nature Trail ends.

TORTOSA

Its origin possibly lies in the city of *Hibera*, an Iberian capital, whose settlement could have been on the hill where La Zuda castle is currently located. It still contains elements from the al Andalus period and is built on a Roman acropolis.

During the Roman empire, this town was known as Dertosa and subsequently, on being occupied by the Muslims in 740, was called *Turtuxa*.

The main noteworthy architectural treasures of this lively city include the Renaissance Royal Colleges, the Jewish quarter, as well as diverse palaces from different eras and the modernist buildings of the market and the abattoir.

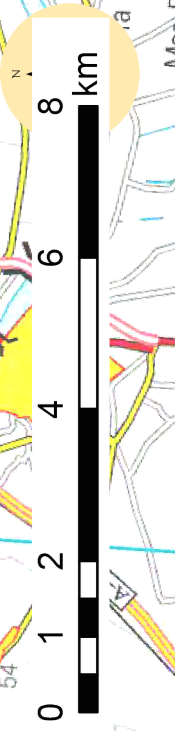
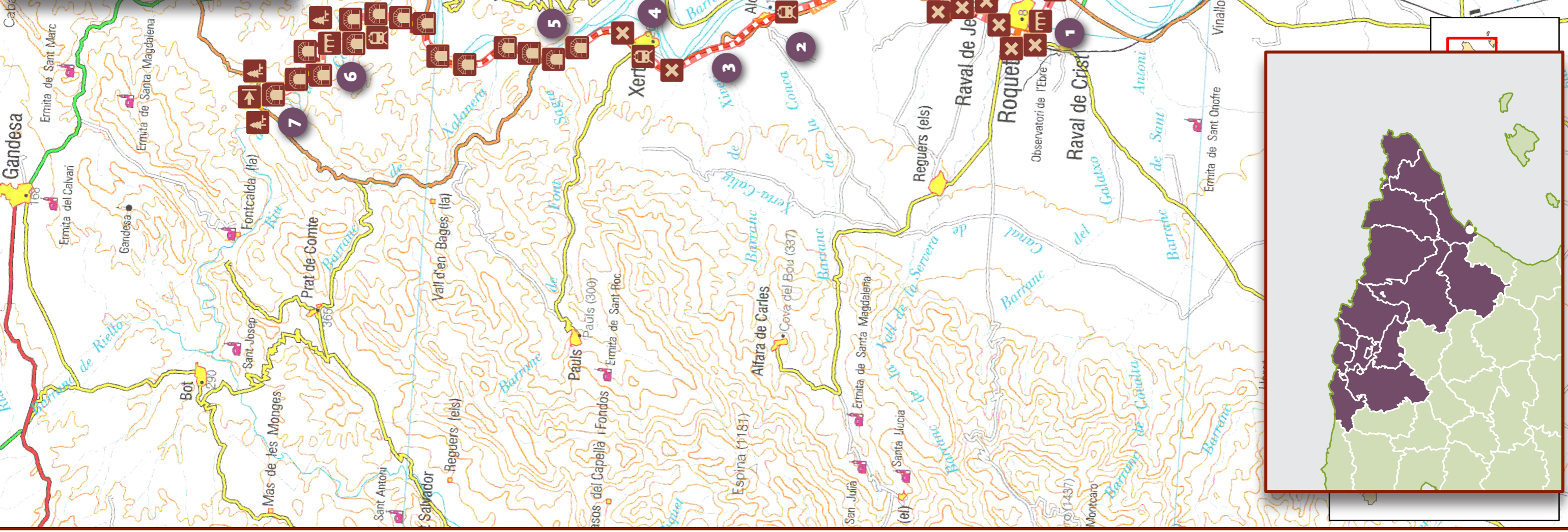


Metal railway bridge over the river Ebro

MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	2	▲	Upward gradient	174 m
Guidance along the route	2	▲	Downward gradient	83 m
Route difficulty	1	➡	ROUTE LENGTH*	25,3 km
Amount of effort needed	3	🕒	TIME	6 h

* Total route length including branches



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NATURE TRAIL
BAIX EBRE

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Train station
- Junction
- Bridge
- Tunnel