

GREENWAY

VALLEY

ALMANZORA

NATURE TRAIL



Guide to the Nature Trails of Spain

SECTOR SOUTHERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL ALMANZORA VALLEY GREENWAY

1. The Almanzora Valley Greenway Nature Trail winds through the province of Almería, starting out at 400 m in altitude at the old Hijate station on the other side of road A-334 bordering the province of Granada. The route is ideal for bike riding and suitable for less-experienced cycletouring enthusiasts as most of the nearly 36 km is descending.
2. The sight of a wind power station to the left of the trail precedes the Hijate ravine and, once past that, there's a visitor's sign describing what is known as the "Iron Stretch". After going well past kilometre point 5 and right after a curve to the left, you get to the Tesorero loading bay - a stone structure where the more than 15 km of cable carrying the iron mineral-loaded cars from the Tesorero mines in the municipality of Baza ended. Finally, they were loaded onto trains and taken to the Murcian town of Águilas.
3. Next, the *El Mirador* rest area lives up to its name, offering unbeatable views of the River Almanzora Valley and the Sierra de Filabres mountains. Metres before reaching kilometre point 8, you'll reach the crossroads leading to Fuencaliente, a little area of Serón that owes its name to a thermal spring near the urban area known as El Aljibe.
4. After passing kilometre point 11, you reach the little watchman's house that immerses travellers into the Serón station neighbourhood. This station was very important to the railway line and iron mineral transport. Two aerial



Detail of 1939 locomotive



SECTOR SOUTHERN 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 the Almanzora Valley Greenway 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.

TELÉFONOS DE INTERÉS:

- Asociación de Desarrollo Rural Almanzora: 0034 950 43 66 77
- Serón City Council: 0034 950 42 60 01

5. After kilometre point 15, the Los Canos loading bay is found. With a capacity for 30,000 tonnes, it received the mineral from the Cabarga San Miguel double-rail cable, loading the railway cars with the force of gravity.
6. The Virgen del Carmen chapel precedes the Guanilla ravine and the tank that welcomes travellers to the Tijola station. The station building is now a bar/restaurant opposite a children's play area. After carefully crossing road AL-6100 and right at kilometre point 20, the old RENFE 11339 locomotive welcomes travellers leaving this Tijola station with the old warehouse reconverted into a shop school.
7. The traveller reaches the 83 m long Cañadices Tunnel after passing kilometre point 26. Using a torch to get through this short tunnel is recommended. A triple-arch stone bridge goes over the Somontín ravine and then travellers are rewarded with panoramic views of the village of Purchena, heading parallel to road A-334.
8. The majestic sculpture *La mujer del Almanzora* (The Woman of Almanzora) at the entrance to the Casa Ibañez museum stands out on the other side of the road. At this



Serón station

IRON MINERAL HAS GIVEN WAY TO A HISTORY-FILLED CYCLETOURING ROUTE

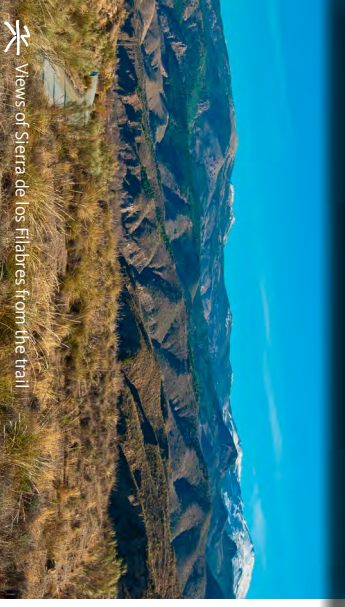
Ride along the spectacular River Almanzora Valley, surrounded by the Sierra de Baza and Sierra de Filabres mountains where tonnes of iron mineral were moved for decades. Villages loaded with history, especially during the Reconquest, line the route. Many of them are set into the mountainside, making them even more breath-taking. Stations, loading bays and many bridges take travellers on a unique railway experience between Hijate and Olula del Río.



point, you reach kilometre 34 and begin descending with a pedestrian path to the left of the trail, now passing through Olula del Río. Upon finishing the descent, you arrive at the Almanzora Valley Greenway Nature Trail welcome sign and a few metres later, the spectacular new-built gateway that passes over road A-349, ending the journey near the old Fines-Olula station.

MURCIA - GRANADA RAILWAY LINE

This railway connected the Andalusian city of Granada to the Murcian town of Águilas. The idea began to arise during the 1864 Engineers Commission and most of the newly-built stretches were inaugurated in the last decade of the 19th century; however, the last one between Baza and Guadix, which completed the connection, did not begin operating until 1907. Since then, its main purpose was to transport iron mineral extracted from the Bacteras mines in the Filabres mountains in cars via aerial cables to the Serón, Los Canos and Tesorero loading bays. The loads then travelled by railway to the pier in Águilas, Murcia. The Granada-Moreta-Guadix and Águilas-Almendricos-Murcia railway stretches continue to operate, but the Guadix-Almendricos central stretch was closed in 1985.



Views of Sierra de los Filabres from the trail

