



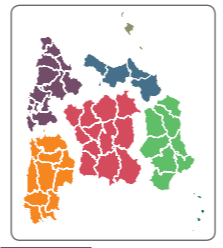
DE NPO

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:
• Galdames City Council: 0034 946 50 41 54

NATURE TRAIL GALDAMES- SOPUERTA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain



SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



THE BURDIMENDI MINING ROUTE

From the industrial area of La Aceña, in the municipality of Galdames, to the district of El Hoyo, this Nature Trail runs across the platform of the old railway that travelled between Traslaviña, in the south of Bizkaia, and Castro Urdiales, crossing the historic mining valleys of the Basque Country. This section allows trail users to enjoy great peacefulness and tranquility constantly surrounded by a thick plant cover, hence offering an environment in which to enjoy Basque nature in all its splendour.

Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, 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 Galdames-Sopuerta 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.

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL GALDAMES - SOPUERTA

1. The beginning of this itinerary follows the Atxuriaga to Gallarta Nature Trail, next to the industrial area of La Aceña in Galdames and its route mostly runs along a railway track that transported passengers and miners from the interior valleys of Bizkaia that reached the coast to unload iron at the sea ports.
2. Bordering the industrial estate, the trail begins along a short pavement section which, crossing the road that accesses the industrial estate and following a wooden railing, soon plunges into the vegetation and moves away from industrial activity and traffic to go through an underpass that crosses the BI-3632 highway.
3. You then walk along a track that is restricted for motorised traffic where you will soon cross the ford of a stream that can be flooded when it rains. When you pass this point, you will enter an area of thicker plant cover where there are oaks (*Quercus robur*), chestnuts (*Castanea sativa*), eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*), ferns (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and ivy (*Hedera helix*). This species create an ongoing corridor of trees, only cut, on some occasions, by clearings created for the railway platform which forces you to pass over small man-made gorges in different sections of the trail.
4. Following the trail, you will reach a detour which goes down some wooden steps and accesses the large recreational area of Aguas Juntas, located next to the River Galdames and the BI-3632 highway, where you can enjoy a pleasant rest.
5. If you take the path again from the area of Aguas Juntas by climbing up the steps leading to it, you will continue walking among dense vegetation where, now close to the river Mercadillo, you can also see species such as dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa*), pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) and Italian maples (*Acer opalus*). In order to cross the Mercadillo river, there is a wooden walkway from where you can see the gallery forest of the river much better.
6. A little after crossing the walkway, you will reach the district of Arenao, now in the municipality of Sopuerta, where you will find a majestic wooden walkway that makes it easier for trail users to cross the BI-2701 highway and the stream next to it. Once you have crossed over the bridge and if you want to fill up with water, you can go down to the road where there is a fountain.
7. Then, you follow the trail by entering a forested area once again, where ivy decorates the trunks of oak, chestnut and hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) trees in an arbitrary manner, livening up the environment. When you leave the forest, you reach an area of meadow and vegetable garden plots where you carefully cross a couple of local roads that lead to other districts in Sopuerta.
8. Carry on until you cross an old tunnel, where the train used to pass under the BI- 3601 highway, and you will now be very close to the district of El Castaño. On reaching this district, there is another resting area and a detour is signposted where you will find, some good

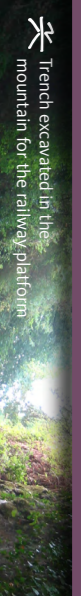
metres away from the nature trail, two impressive old calcination furnaces from where the iron that was used in the mines was obtained.

9. The route continues to cross the district where, until you will get to another resting area at the exit from El Castaño. By continuing along the route for over a kilometre, crossing meadows and small man-made narrow gorges, created for the train to pass through, you will reach the end of the Nature Trail in the district of El Hoyo.

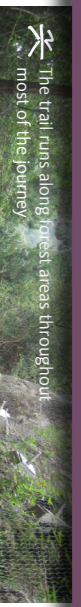
LAS ENCARTACIONES MUSEUM

In the district of La Abellaneda, in Sopuerta, the historic building known as the old Casa de Juntas de Avellaneda is located. The 16th-century building was the venue for the general assemblies of the representatives of the region of Las Encartaciones, where the main problems in the region were dealt with. The building was deserted in the early 19th century when the assemblies were no longer held due to the fact that the region was annexed to the Dominion of Bizkaia.

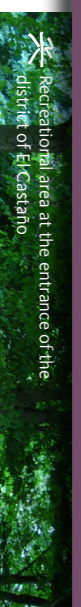
The building has currently been restored and is home to Las Encartaciones Museum, which comprises ten exhibition halls that display the historic development of the region from Pre-History up until the 19th century.



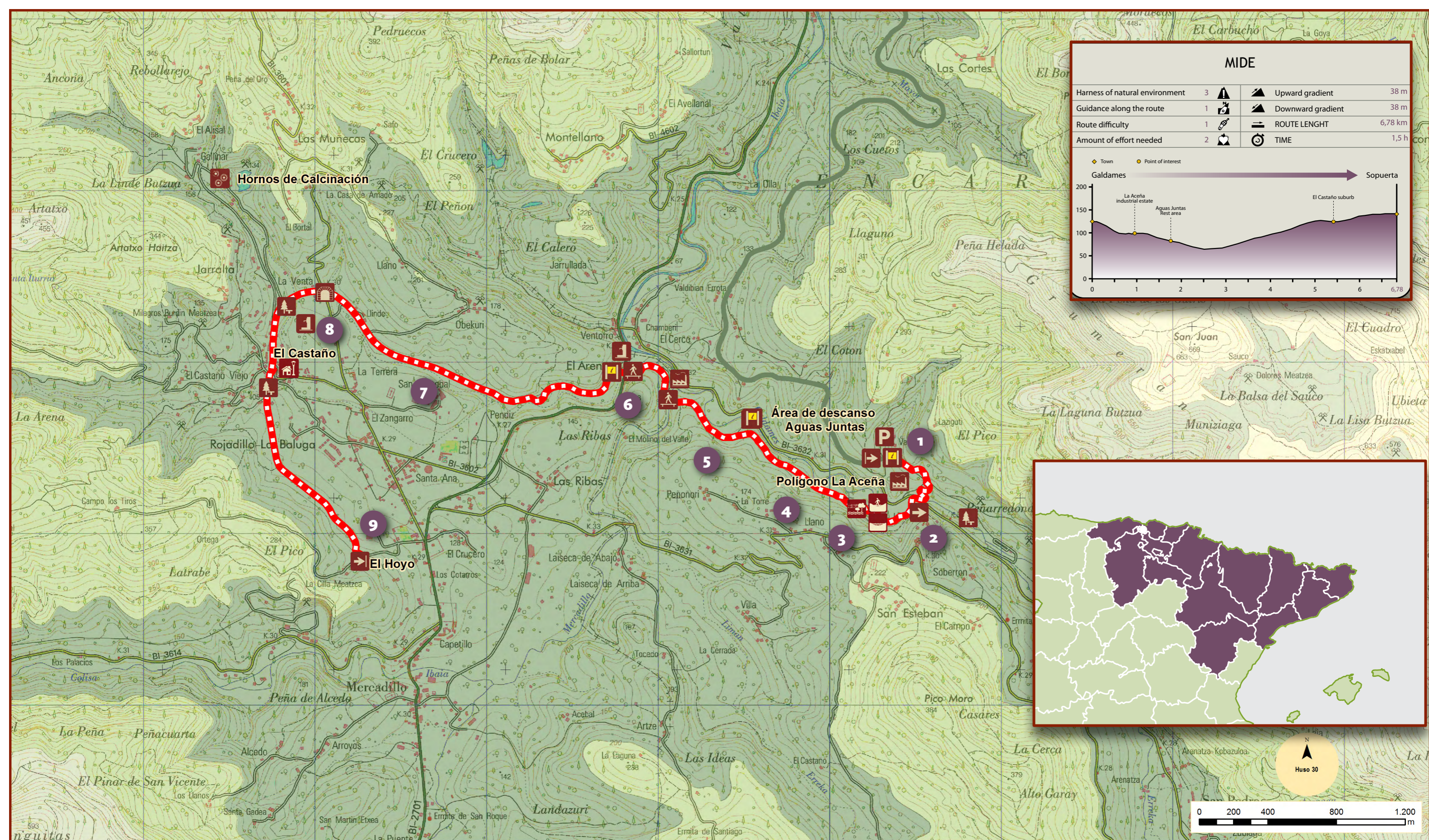
Trench excavated in the mountain for the railway platform



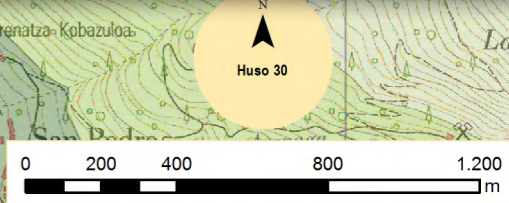
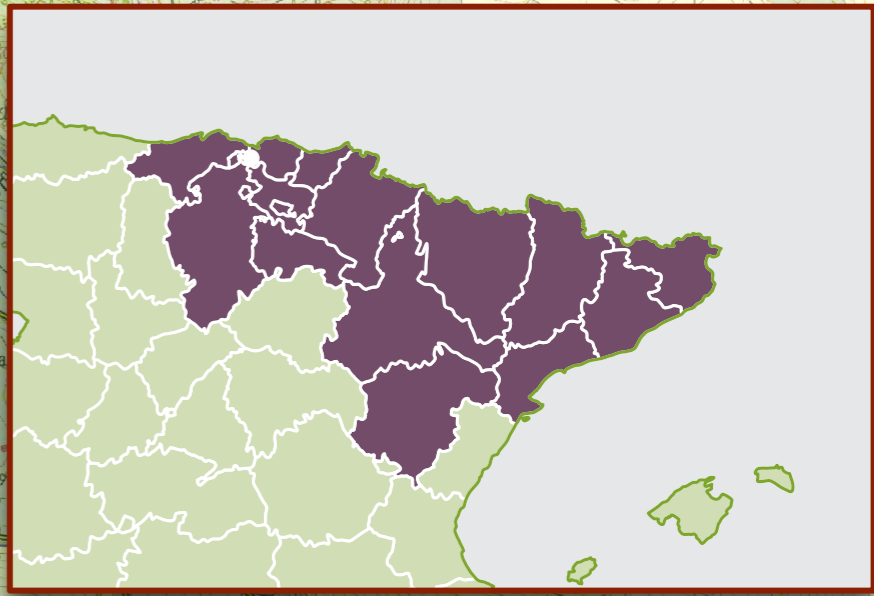
The trail runs along forest areas throughout most of the journey



Recreational area at the entrance of the district of El Castaño



MIDE			
Harness of natural environment	3	▲ Upward gradient	38 m
Guidance along the route	1	▼ Downward gradient	38 m
Route difficulty	1	📏 ROUTE LENGHT	6,78 km
Amount of effort needed	2	🕒 TIME	1,5 h



SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



NATURE TRAIL GALDAMES- SOPUERTA

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Rest area
- Neighbourhood
- Industry
- Fountain
- Information panel
- Walkway
- Underpass
- Unlighted tunnel
- Parking lot
- Floodable area
- Only cross if the river allows it