



Panoramic view of the climb



Path near Vielha



Panoramic view from the Nere River

This small town in the Aran Valley, located at 974 metres above sea level, boasts an historic centre of great cultural interest. There are perfectly conserved medieval houses and the parish church of San Miguel, which inside houses the precious Cristo de Mijaran, a two-metre high wood-carved statue.

Other sights of interest worth visiting in the area are the Ço de Rodès Stately Home, the Museum of Wool and the General Martínón Tower, which is a 17th century house that today houses the Ethnological Museum.

#### VIELHA'S HISTORIC CENTRE

11. The nature trail leads to a rest area which includes barbecue stands, bicycle parking lot and the last information panel. This pretty trek across the Catalan Pyrenees ends here.

10. When the woods become less dense, the path leads to a power plant, after which it crosses a bridge. The trail becomes a gravel path which leaves behind the access to the A-14 road and continues in the direction of Vielha. This final stretch, the last few kilometres, is paved in order to allow its use by motor vehicles.

and yew trees, by a narrow path which starts at the right of the viewpoint, although its start is barely seen.

9. A few metres ahead, the Mirador del Valle viewpoint offers a breathtaking view over the Val d'Aran. This viewpoint may be accessed in motor vehicles from the northern mouth of the Vielha tunnel, by the Port forest track. The nature trail continues among hazel, poplars

8. From this point, the descent to Cabaña del Pontet, which has to be circled by the left before finding a large path that leads to the 4-km milestone. Afterwards, the walker reaches a crossing in which they need to turn right; the trail then enters a fir woods, leaving a small path to their left.

7. Following the GR signs, the path leads to one of the bi-directional signals that identify the Nature Trail. This signal indicates the walker to turn slightly right. A mountain creek is crossed by a wooden bridge, after which the 5-km milestone is reached.

6. At this point, the trail starts to descend by a highly difficult stretch, a long talus slope with sliding rocks. After a stretch crossing pastures, the trail continues by a new talus slope, curiously dotted with raspberry trees. At this point, the path becomes narrower and passes by the Estany lake de Font Freda, to the right. The slope becomes steeper and, at the same time, the first pines that grow on the edge of the woodland appear.

5. The starting point of this trail is the southern mouth of the Vielha tunnel, on N-230 road. At one side of the road, we will find the Conangle refuge and panels indicating that this nature trail starts there.

4. At the beginning of the walk, the trail is a wide path which leaves behind a deviation to the right identified by a cairn. This trail will be signalled as GR footpath GR 211-5 along all the way, just before starting the climb, the traveller can admire the edges of a beech forest.

3. Afterwards, at a post, the trail turn left and enters a narrow pine forest and starts a steep climb among huge rocks. After a while, the path meanders to another information panel of the Nature Trail Programme which instructs to continue by a gentler slope until the 2-km milestone, which is placed at an altitude of 1,800 m.

2. The trail crosses a creek lined by some dwarf mountain pines, which are able to endure the harsh conditions in the mountains. From here, the trail continues across high pastures before starting a new climb and turning to the left, having left behind a creek and the mouths of the unused tunnels. At the 3-km milestone, at an altitude of 2,205 metres, we see the silhouette of a building which may be a bunker.

## SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL PORT DE VIELHA



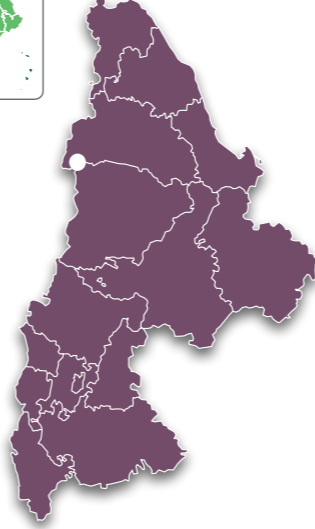
### A ROUTE AT THE HEART OF THE CATALAN PYRENEES

The Port de Vielha Natural Trail is located in the north of the Lleida province, in the Vall d'Aran County, Central Pyrenees. This valley borders to the north with France (Ariège), to the south with the Alta Ribagorza county, in the province of Huesca, to the east with the Pallars Sobirà county, in Lleida, and to the west, again with Huesca (Benasque) and France (Haute Garonne).

This route follows an old natural path used from old times for communication between the Arán and Ribargoza counties, and, for some 12 km, runs along a really steep slope until reaching the town of Vielha. This natural path, classified as GR-211-5, is walked each 22 May by worshippers on their pilgrimage in honour of Santa Quiteria; this festivity marks the end of the snow season and celebrates that the mountain pass may be crossed again.



## 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 the Port de Vielha 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.

#### TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:

- City Council of Vielha e Mijaran: 0034 973 64 00 18



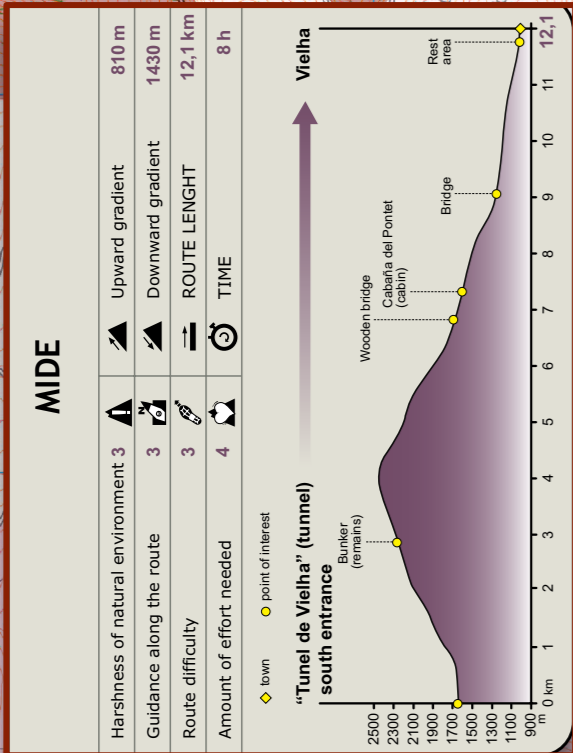
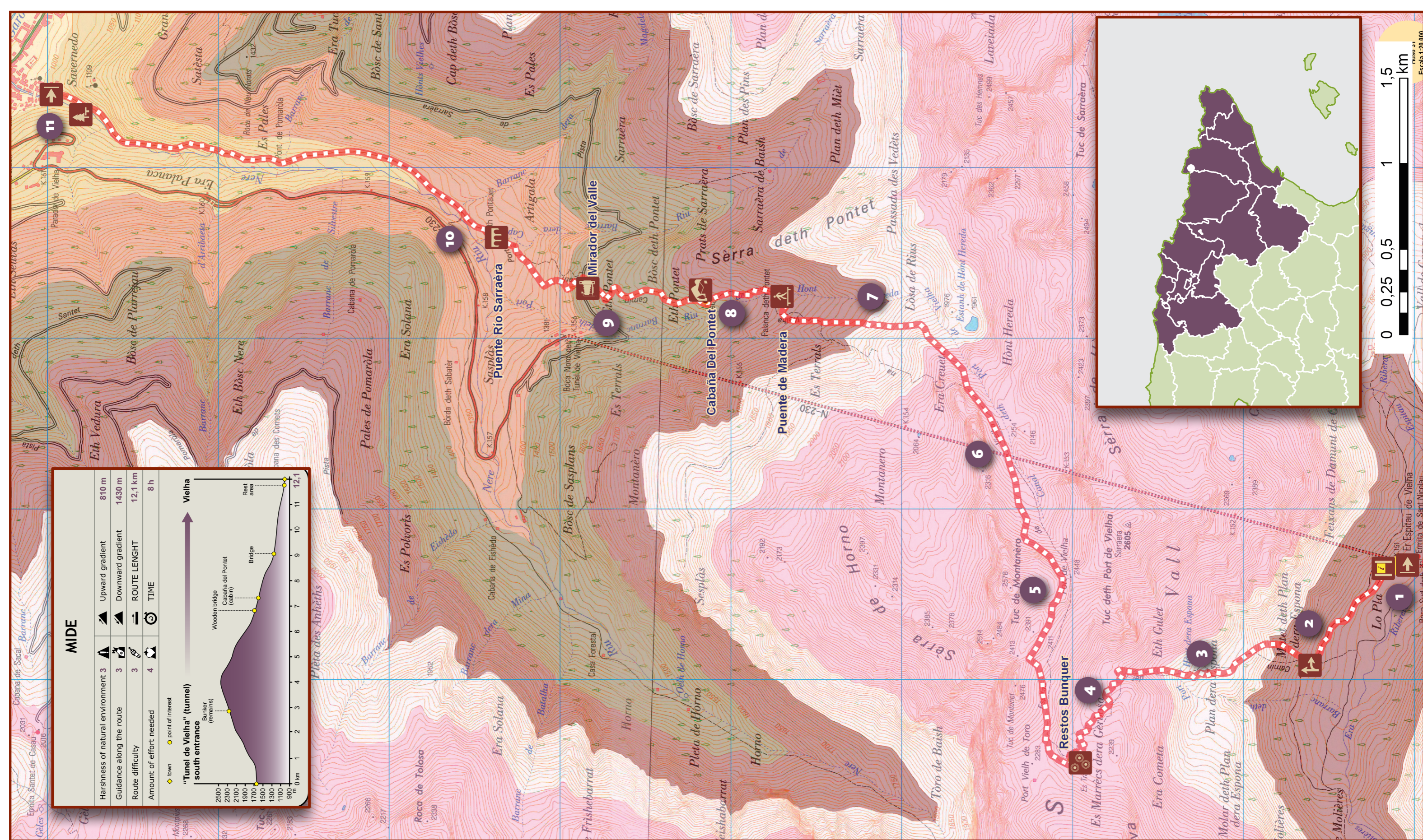
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El campo siempre es la zona ganada



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

Southern mouth of Vielha tunnel to Vielha town [Lleida]



SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



# NATURE TRAIL PORT DE VIELHA

- ➔ Starting point
- 🌲 Rest area
- ➔ End of trail
- ➔ Detour
- 📄 Information panel
- 🚶 Walkway
- 🏠 Bridge
- 🏠 Cabin
- 🏰 Viewpoint
- 👁️ Other sights of interest