

NATURE TRAIL TERRA ALTA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

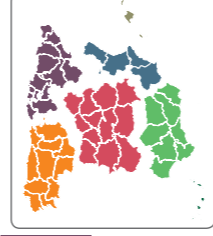
SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL TERRA ALTA

This Nature Trail is perfectly signposted and each of the old stations has a picnic area with information panels on the route. Bollards have been installed at crossings to prevent motorized vehicles from entering, ensuring the route is reserved exclusively for excursionists.

1. The route begins at the old Arnés-Lledó station, close to the River Algars. In fine weather visitors can take advantage of the bathing area at the weir under the old railway viaduct, while the nearby medieval villages of Lledó and Arnés are also worth visiting.
2. The first section, towards Horta de Sant Joan station, inclines slightly thanks to the excavation of trenches and embankments in the vales of the terrain. After the first tunnel, the route reaches road T-334. Although the village lies off the route, it is worth visiting. It has been declared a National Cultural Heritage Site for the impressive views it affords of the surrounding landscape, such as the neighbouring mountain of Santa Bàrbara, with the Convent of San Salvador at its foot, itself declared an Historical-Artistic Site and home to a Picasso Museum.
3. Resuming the trail towards Santa Bàrbara mountain, a slight detour from the route leads to the convent. At this point the flatlands are left behind as the trail enters the gorge of the River Canaletas where a series of tunnels and viaducts offer spectacular views. The longest tunnels feature automatic lighting, but it is recommended that travellers always have a torch at hand.



Aqueduct over the River Algars



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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 Terra Alta 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 Horta de Sant Joan : 0034 977 43 50 05

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NPO

BETWEEN GORGES AND CANYONS



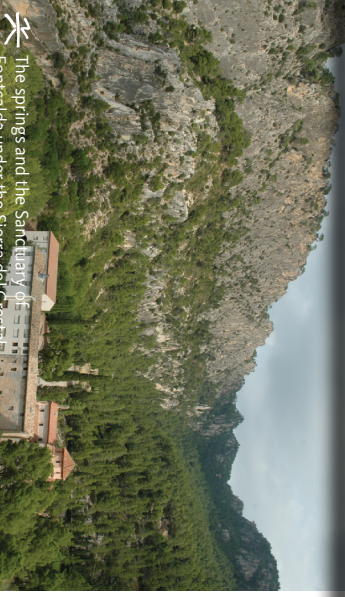
This intermediate section of the old Val de Zafán railway, which connected the area from which it took its name, in the province of Teruel, with Tortosa (Tarragona) features twenty tunnels and five viaducts. They lead the visitor through deep canyons with incredibly beautiful scenery, a source of inspiration for Pablo Picasso during his youth and later the scene of the Battle of the Ebro, one of the bloodiest episodes of the Spanish Civil War.

there is a carpark and recreation areas alongside the Nature Trail picnic area. The area is located four kilometres downstream and among other charms features a unique building; the Celler Cooperatiu winery, a masterpiece of Cèsar Martinell, a student of Gaudí's. From this point it is also possible to continue along the Baix Ebre Nature Trail.

ELS PORTS

Els Ports is a vast limestone mountain massif located between the Catalan Sierra Prelitoral and the Sistema Ibérico, straddling the municipalities of Baix Ebre, El Montsià and Terra Alta in Catalonia, Matarranya in Aragon and the Valencian municipality of Els Ports.

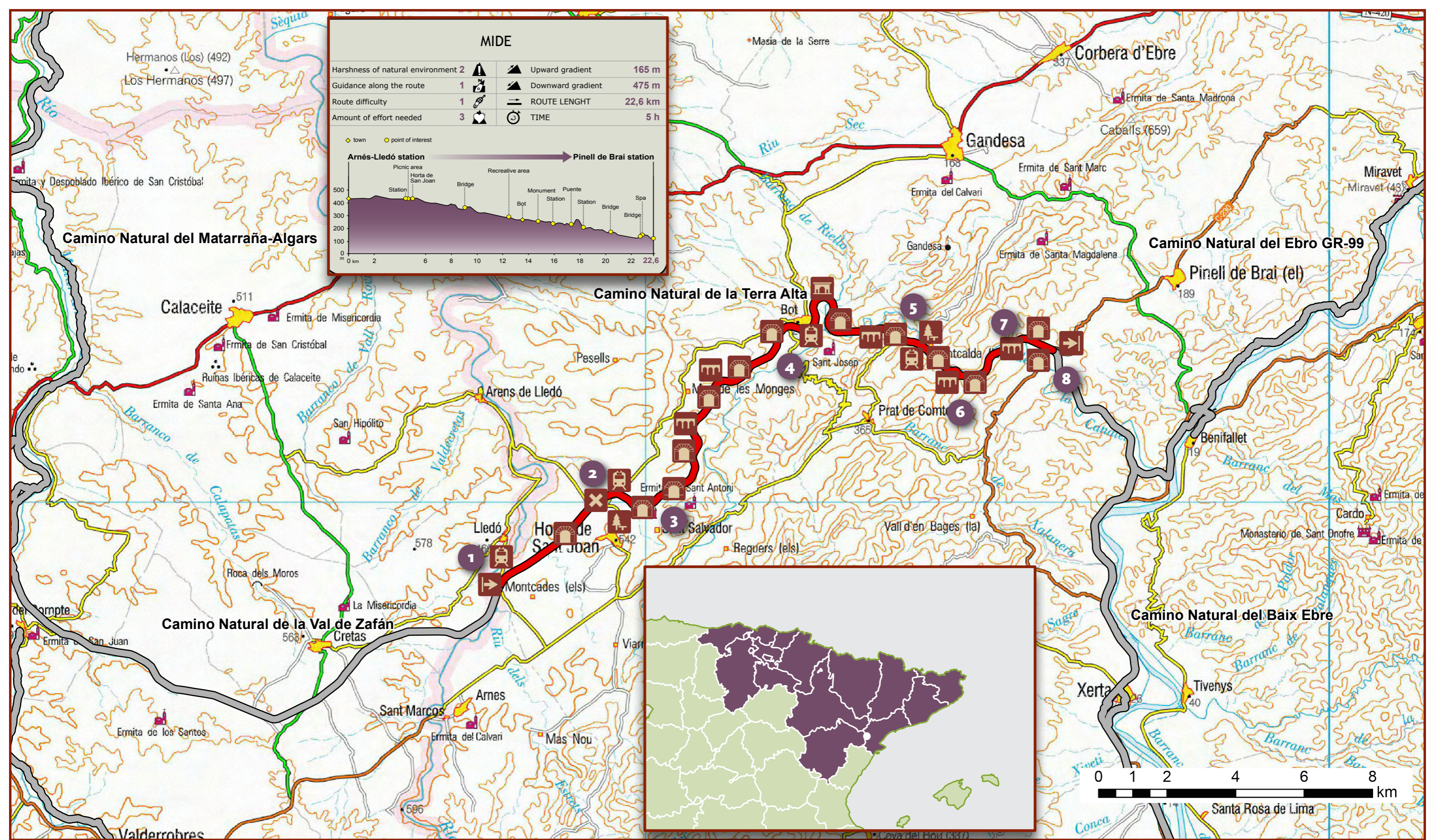
This area is of great botanical and geological interest, as well as for its fauna, as it played an important role in the current ice age, becoming a refuge for diverse animal and vegetation species, some of them unique in the world.



The springs and the Sanctuary of Fontcalda under the Sierra del Crestat



Vertical limestone ridges sink into the River Canaletas



MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	2	▲ Upward gradient	165 m
Guidance along the route	1	▲ Downward gradient	475 m
Route difficulty	1	≡ ROUTE LENGHT	22,6 km
Amount of effort needed	3	⌚ TIME	5 h

◆ town ● point of interest

Arnés-Lledó station → **Pinell de Brai station**

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**NATURE TRAIL
TERRA ALTA**

- Starting point
- End of trail
- Train station (abandoned)
- Rest area
- Junction
- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Monument