



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain



SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR



HISTORY, NATURE AND LANDSCAPES NEXT TO THE MATARRANYA AND ALGARS RIVERS

The Matarranya-Algars Nature Trail comprises a main itinerary divided into 13 stages, some of which if taken together make up a circular route, plus some detours. At present, a total of 10 stages of the 13 that will make up the Matarranya-Algars Natural Trail have been converted, meaning that more than 155 km of the almost 200 km that the entire trail will comprise of can be walked. This trail goes through the counties of Matarranya/Matarranya (Teruel), Bajo Aragón-Caspe/Baix Aragó-Casp (Zaragoza) and Terra Alta (Tarragona). Mountains, river terraces and towns full of history are just some of the attractions of this route that is recommended for those who love nature and history. Its name has been given thanks to the fact that most of the route is accompanied by the rivers Matarranya and Algars (tributaries of the River Ebro and the River Matarranya respectively).

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 Matarranya-Algars 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:

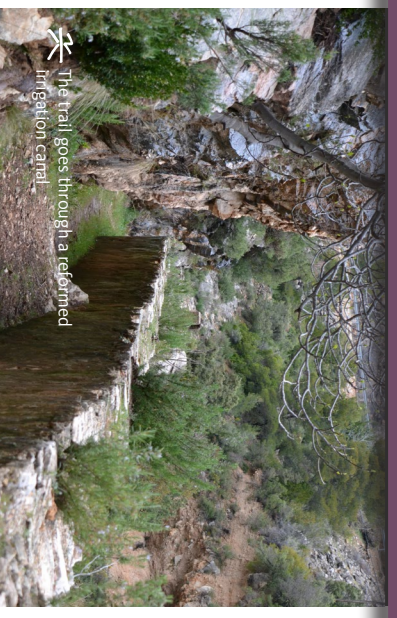
- Matarranya Region Council: 0034 978 89 08 60
- Bajo Aragón-Caspe tourism site: 0034 976 63 32 14
- Terra Alta Tourism official site: 0034 977 42 00 18

SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR
NATURE TRAIL
MATARRANYA-ALGARS.

- STAGE 1: EL PARRIZAL - BECEITE**
This first stage of the Matarranya-Algars Nature Trail follows the upper course of the River Matarranya from the vicinity of the El Parrizal rest area to the town of Beceite. Also starting at El Parrizal, an alternative route climbs up to Masía de Sant Miquel.
- STAGE 2: BECEITE - VALDERROBRES**
The second stage links the towns of Beceite and Valderrobres. In addition to the rural paths, travellers will have the opportunity to go by the old irrigation canal of the small hydroelectric power station of Bonet, almost over the river.
- STAGE 3: VALDERROBRES - TORRE DEL COMPTÉ**
This third stage goes entirely along the right bank of the River Matarranya, among riverbank formations dominated by bitter and purple willows and fruit crops, leaving the riverside just when it climbs up to Torre del Compte. Almost halfway along this stage, the River Tastavins, one of its major tributaries, joins the River Matarranya.
- STAGE 4: TORRE DEL COMPTÉ - VALDELTORMO**
This stage allows travellers to reach Valdeltormo following two different paths: they can either take the main route near the Matarranya river or the alternative route showing them part of the Iberian heritage of the region. Along this stage, travellers will have the opportunity to take the Val de Zafán Nature Trail, one of them is a branch that reach Valdeltormo's former train station.

- STAGE 5: VALDELTORMO - MAZALEÓN**
The fifth stage of this trail takes the traveller back to the right bank of the Matarranya river, following its course towards the town of Mazaleón among crops, pines and olive trees. Before reaching this town, there is a branch allowing the traveller to go up to the hermitage of San Cristóbal.
- STAGE 6: MAZALEÓN - MAELLA**
Along the sixth stage the traveller will cross the province border, leaving Teruel behind and entering Zaragoza. The closeness to the Matarranya river during this stage allows the traveller to enjoy the middle course of the Matarranya, which is very different compared to previous stages.
- STAGE 7: MAELLA - FABARA**
The seventh stage is the first (of three) which unfolds entirely in the province of Zaragoza. This stage links Maella and Fabara, two towns with a rich historic and artistic heritage.
- STAGE 8: FABARA - NONASPE**
Travelling through an essentially agricultural environment, thanks to the great floodplain of the river Matarranya, the trail goes from the town of Fabara to Nonaspe, just where the Matarranya merges with the other river which lends its name to this Nature Trail: the River Algars.
- STAGE 9: NONASPE - FAYÓN**
This is the last stage that is entirely within the province of Zaragoza. The River Matarranya accompanies this section until it flows into the River Ebro, in the Riba-Roja

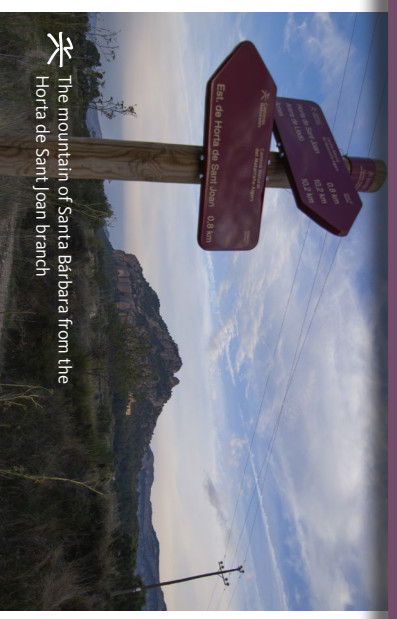
- STAGE 10: NONASPE - CASERES**
The Trail leaves the banks of the River Matarranya to follow the trail of the River Algars that serves as a border between Catalunya and Aragón, leaving behind Zaragoza. We pass by several historical landmarks such as the abandoned village of Pinyeres, the shrine and castle of Sant Joan d'Algars and up to three Iberian settlements.
- STAGE 11: CASERES - ARENS DE LLEDÓ**
During this stage, which traverses pine groves and farmlands, the road once again undergoes a change of province and Autonomous Community as it arrives at Arens de Lledó, in Teruel.
- STAGE 12: ARENS DE LLEDÓ-ARNES**
This stage again enters the province of Tarragona, and the vegetation changes from pine groves to plains with olive and other fruit trees. Before reaching Arnes, the trail links up with the Nature Trail of de La Val de Zafán, and a bypass allows us to reach the old station of Horta de Sant Joan.
- STAGE 13: ARNES-BECEITE**
The final stage of the Trail bids farewell to the River Algars to follow the ravine of La Tremolosa and later descends to the valley of the River Ulldemó. This river flows into the Matarranya in Beceite, where this stage meets up with Stage 1, thus bringing the circular route to an end.



The trail goes through a reformed irrigation canal.



The shrine and ruins of the castle of Sant Joan, end of the route.



The mountain of Santa Bàrbara from the Horta de Sant Joan branch.

