



Programme

Since 1993 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has prepared, as part of its **Nature Trails Programme**, **more than 10,300 kilometres of these routes all over Spain, forming more than 130 itineraries**.

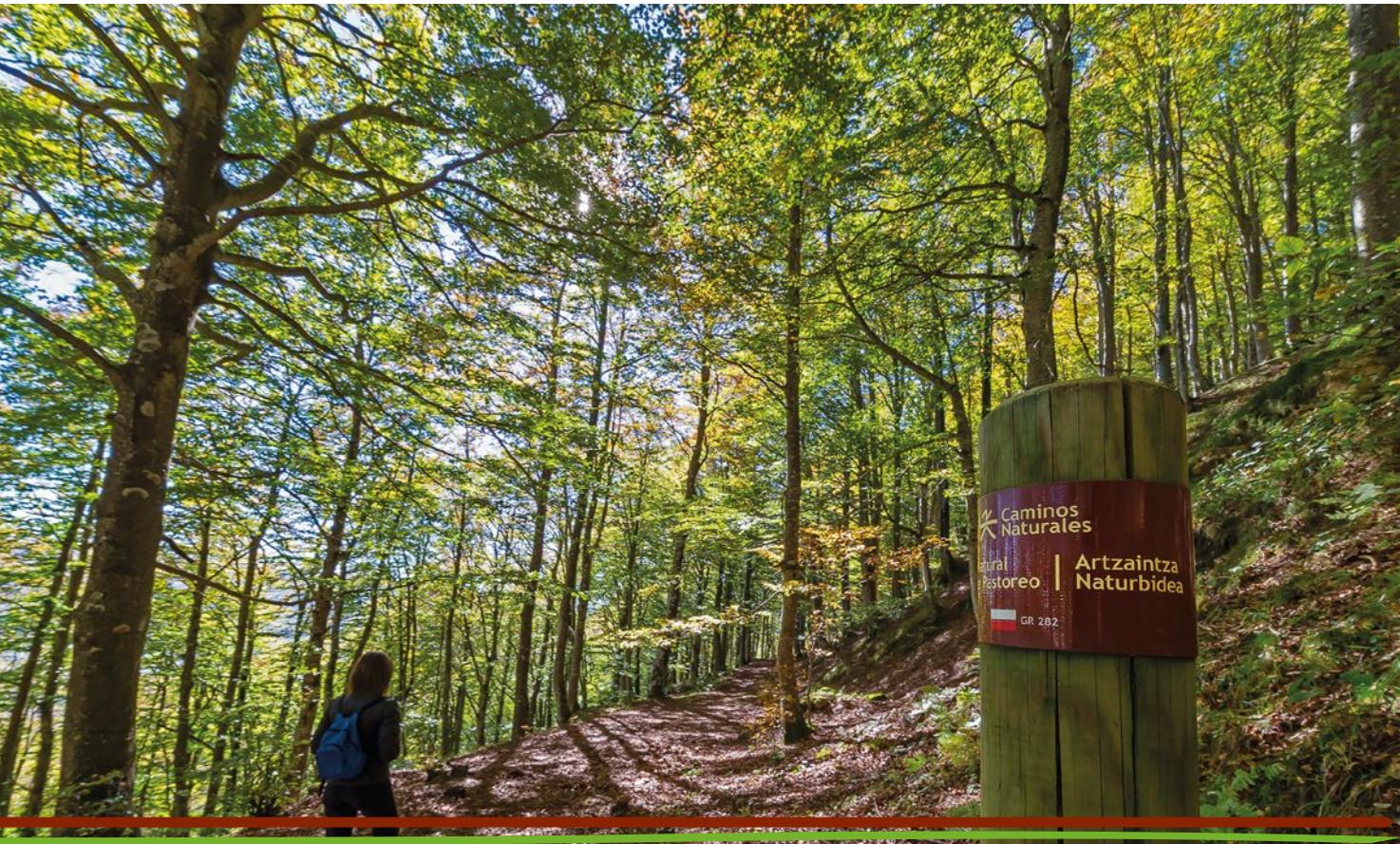
In collaboration with other territorial administrations that take charge of their subsequent maintenance and management, the Nature Trails are recovered by the Ministry using old transport infrastructures, for the use of trekkers and cyclists. They enable people to enjoy the countryside while promoting knowledge of nature and sustainable development.

Old railway tracks, canals, towpaths, cattle routes, trails and even old public roads are again being used by a population that is demanding, more and more, contact with nature and tranquil spaces where people can enjoy recreational, tourist and sports activities away from motor traffic. These infrastructures, which played a historical role in the area's economic development, are regaining their role in

the countryside by means of sustainable environmental uses, enabling people to come into contact with nature along with the tourist development of new territories. They thereby help to prevent the loss of population in inland Spain.

In relation to this national programme of 10,300 kilometres of trails, approximately **1,578 kilometres are called "Vías Verdes" (Greenways)**, since they are built on old railway lines. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has created about 54% of Spain's Greenways, which account for 15% of all Nature Trails.

In recent years, there has been a considerable increase in kilometres due to the creation of important routes, such as those of the Cañada Real Soriana Occidental, Cantabrian Route, Humedales de la Mancha, Matarraña-Algars, and those created on the former railway lines of Vía de la Plata, Santander-Mediterranean, etc.



Objectives

The nature trails have the following **objectives**:

- Maintaining or restoring the **public use of these old communication infrastructures**.
- Meeting the social demand for **alternative tourist services**.
- Providing access for the population to a **sports, cultural, educational experiences in contact with nature**.
- Favouring **sustainable development in rural areas** by boosting economic resources, activity diversification, job promotion and helping to consolidate the local population in its place of origin.

The Ministry's promotion of Greenways has been helped by the Spanish Railway Foundation (F.S.P.). Since 1993, the latter has played a revitalisation role and, once the projects have been completed, it carries out promotion work, nationally and internationally, by means of the Greenways programme.

This publication shows all the Nature Trails and Greenways prepared by the Ministry, as well as other Greenways developed by local and regional administrations. In Spain, there are **more than 3,100 km of these old railway lines in disuse** that have been reconverted into cycling and trekking itineraries: easy, safe and accessible for persons with special needs.

More information

On the website



Access more information about Nature Trails.

mapa.gob.es/caminosnaturales



Find out more about all of Spain's Greenways.

viasverdes.com

On social media

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Download the Apps



Caminos Naturales

Application featuring tourist information about Spain's Network of Nature Trails, with augmented reality features. It includes a detailed description of each way, with practical advice and maps of the itinerary, as well as detailed information regarding the main points of interest that travellers can visit in the surroundings. 2020.

Vías Verdes

Information on the network of Greenways and Protected Areas. Developed with the support of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge's Biodiversity Foundation. Winner of the European Greenways Award in 2019.

