



**La Vall
d'Albaida**

Roda la Vall d'Albaida

Bicycle tour guide



**Points of
information tour
in the Vall d'Albaida**



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**La Vall
d'Albaida**

cycling routes

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La Vall d'Albaida, a bicycle trip

Discovering a new territory or rediscovering a familiar landscape, is always a rewarding adventure, a continuous learning. Every trip is different, whether we've been or not before. The people who accompanied us and the people we meet change, change the territory, change the landscape according to the time of year and we always find new nuances that make the trip a unique experience. If our means of transport is at the slow and leisurely pace of a bicycle, our sensations multiply, the days intensify and the elapsed time is dilated and enriches because we live also, the intermediate space.

The journey begins with preparations and continues during and after the journey. It matters as much or more than the destination, the path traveled. Bike trips are up to five times more than a conventional trip, they have more emotional load, you enjoy while moving from one place to another, the air, the wind, the sun or the environment that surrounds you. There are no downtimes, the fact of pedaling on lost roads, forest tracks bordering the mountains or reaching their peaks, crossing villages and chatting with their people, soaking up their culture and sharing the concerns of their inhabitants is to turn our vacation into an indelible

experience within reach of anyone who, with a minimum of physical capacity and a high dose of will, you desire to know in depth a fascinating region.

You have to know how to listen to what the landscape transmits to us. Living this feeling anywhere in the world is a way to actively integrate into the villages and their people, crossing their valleys and mountains is a fantastic adventure where you can meet yourself and feel, in some moments that beautiful and unsettling feeling of loneliness. Recover, in short, the human sense of nature



In the Great Crossing of the Vall d'Albaida 201 km are traveled with a cumulative elevation of 4,667 m positives beating hills that are above 900 m above sea level and passing through 24 villages on the general route, 34 if we include thematic variants



La Vall d'Albaida offers us everything a cyclist wants to find on his journey. Open landscapes, mountains that surround the valleys, rivers and fountains, villages with friendly people and excellent gastronomy. Good accommodations and a huge cultural heritage.

Contrary to what may seem, it is not a complex or difficult journey. In reality, each rider decides their hardness if it adapts each stage to their level. This trip can be done by any cyclist with a minimum of experience. From three days for the most demanding, to a week for the quietest. It is the participant who chooses the days he/she needs based on their capacity or their holiday availability. 90 percent of the route runs along forest tracks and rural roads. It only circulates on low-traffic roads 21 km of the 201 of the crossing, unavoidable to link the roads, although there is also designed an asphalt tour for cyclists with saddlebags or road cyclists, with a track available to them with a total of 144 km.

Cycling is one of the healthiest ways to get to know our country within the framework of sustainable tourism. The beauty of the environment and the magnificence of the landscape, together with the villages and cultural places of the Vall d'Albaida more than compensate, the effort made to discover it

The maximum height we will reach is the Alto de la Replana at 973 meters above sea level, in the municipality of Fontanars, and the lowest level is the city of Ontinyent itself, starting and ending point, in the neighborhood of La Vila next to the tourist office. The crossing of the Vall d'Albaida can be done at any time of the year, it has little impact on the natural environment, since it is circulated on public and open roads, avoiding the trails or passing through those places of greater fragility or with some kind of protection. For a mid-level cyclist, five stages are recommended and this is described in this guide. It can be done in about a short time depending on the available days or the physical level of each participant. Keep in mind that the electric mountain bike is also a good option to enjoy the journey without reaching exhaustion and whose possibilities expand the sports horizon of many cyclists.

The distance between stages allows the recharge of batteries at the end of each of them whenever we use the eco or tour assist position as the priorities. (*) For those visitors who wish to delve further into the knowledge of the Vall d'Albaida, 8 thematic routes are described that are extensions of the general route or alternative paths, 5 circular and the other 3 of a linear character. The start and end points of each of the thematic routes are indicated in both the guide and tracks. In the case of circular thematic routes, these allow to expand the main route, and linear routes such as the Ombria del Benicadell. An alternative itinerary is offered for those more demanding and prepared cyclists in terms of physical level.

* An electric bike, according to European regulations, must have the power limited to 250 W and stop attending pedaling from 25 km/h. It usually has four modes of use or assistance, eco, tour, sport and turbo. Eco mode supports you smoothly and the battery has a higher range level, about 100 km and between 40 – 50 W of power. The tour mode has a higher attendance, with a power between 80 and 120 W, but its autonomy will be around 60 km depending on the type of ground. The other two, sport and turbo positions, have immediate assistance and greater acceleration up to 150 -250 W respectively which is the maximum aid of the engine. The range in these last two positions is shorter and would not allow any stage to be completed without recharging the battery.



On thematic routes such as the Corporals of Llutxent pathway or the Jaume I Route there is during the tour, a much greater cultural load. This guide offers all the necessary information for those who wish to make the crossing on their own and also helps those tourist agencies that wish to market the product and facilitate to visitors the reservation of accommodation, luggage transport or any other service that the cyclist requests. A brief description of the stage, the data sheet, the orographic profile and some reviews on physical, cultural or gastronomic aspects are also provided. Tracks are available via the direct link to them with the QR code. This allows it to be downloaded in GPS or on any mobile device with the corresponding application. We warn that the GPS device or Smartphone is totally necessary to make the crossing. If we do not have it, we must make the tour accompanied by someone who has the tracks downloaded.

There is a minimum signage that helps the cyclist at very specific points and informs him that he is driving on the right path, but the track is essential. The large number of crossings, variants and detours would make it very difficult to make the crossing if we do not know in depth the territory. Finally, recommend reading the practical advice at the end of the guide, and above all prudence. Although it is a deeply humanized landscape and the cycling journey passes through numerous towns, there are stages with long stretches of absolute solitude. Cycling is one of the healthiest ways to get to know our country within the framework of sustainable tourism. The beauty of the environment and the magnificence of the landscape, together with the villages and cultural places of the Vall d'Albaida more than compensate, the effort made to discover it.

Good speed!

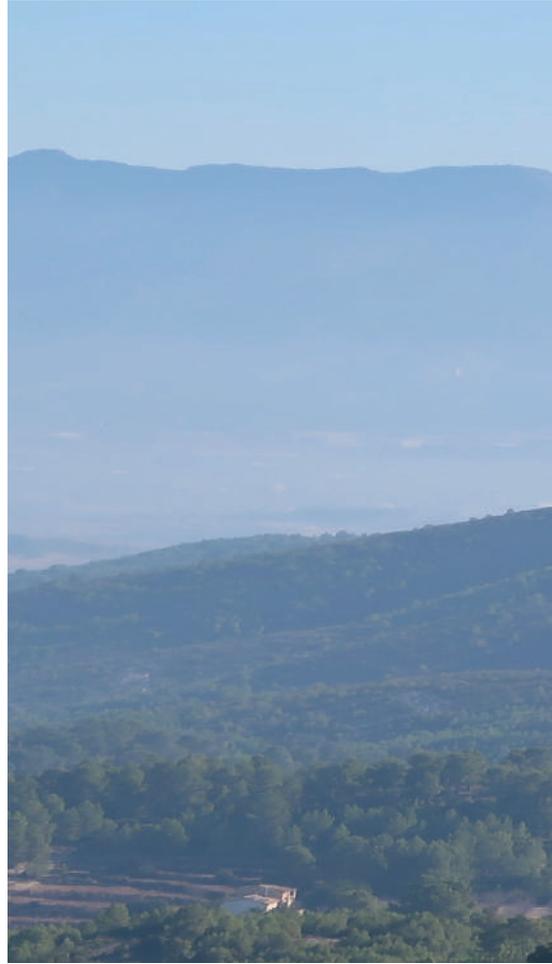


Geographic scope and natural environment

With an area of 721.64 square km and a population close to 90,000 inhabitants, the region of Vall d'Albaida is framed by a series of mountains and mountain ranges of variable altitude that define its territory quite precisely. It is, of all the Valencian counties, the best and most geographically delimited, very cohesive, and participates in a culture and tradition with its own peculiarities that unite all its municipalities.

The Vall d'Albaida is made up of 34 villages whose capital is Ontinyent, with a population density of 122 inhabitants per square kilometer, well below the average of the Valencian Community that is around 214. There are also important differences between the different urban centers, from the smaller Sempere or Sant Pere d'Albaida with just half a hundred inhabitants to the city of Ontinyent itself with 35,500 inhabitants in 2017.

Al Baidà is an Arabic place-name meaning "the white one". With this name the territory was known before the conquest of Jaume I and already then referenced the color of the earth. Medieval chroniclers referred to the "Terres Albes" or whitelands, when they talked about Christian occupation and above all, the abundance of castles that made the valley a fortified landscape.





Geologically both the color of their lands and the orography itself, has its origins in the folds of the Secondary Age that were raised during the Tertiary about 20 million years ago. The region is a perfect sinclinal surrounded by mountains that reach 1000 meters above sea level. The broad trough consists of ancient materials that were

raised, bent and fractured during this geological process.

The clash of the African plate with the European gave rise to these mountains over what millions of years ago was a sea floor.



Bocairent.

These pressure movements also led to the creation of the great mountain ranges of the Iberian Peninsula, such as the Bético System and the Pyrenees, whose highest massifs are the Mulhacén (Sierra Nevada) and the Aneto on the border with France. Precisely the limestone mountains that envelop the Vall d'Albaida have a betic origin and follow the same southwest-northeast direction as the large alpine chains. The most representative in the region are the Serra Grossa that separates it from the central plain and the Serra de la Solana that extends towards the Umbria of Ontinyent, the mountain of Agullent, the Covalta and the Benicadell. The Vall d'Albaida is framed by mountains

The Mariola mountain range is located in the southernmost part of the region, and also contains a small depression, Valleta d'Agres, where Bocairent, one of the most beautiful medieval towns in the Valencian Community, is located

as emblematic and known as the "Serra Grossa", the "serra de la Creu" and the "Serra del Buixcarró" in the northwest and the "Serra de la Solana" in the southeast. The "serra d'Ador" and the "Morró" close the region to the northeast and the lands of the Alforins separate it from the Castilian plateau in gentle transition.

The Mariola mountain range is located in the southernmost part of the region, and also encloses a small depression, the Valleta d'Agres, where Bocairent is located, one of the most beautiful medieval nuclei of the Valencian Community that, although outside the geographical environment, is historically linked to the region of Vall

d'Albaida. Fontanars dels Alforins is perhaps the village that has the furthest location from the strict valley and its physical environment is also different from the rest of the populations, as it is part of the highlands of the Plateau. The orientation of these mountains itself conditions the climate of Vall d'Albaida, since the winds from the sea are channeled which explains the frequent rainfall in some areas and the intense snow-fall especially in the Mariola and the Benicadell mountains. The warm wind, charged with moisture, rises sharply when it reaches the mountains and this causes a drop in temperature in height especially in winter.

The climate also has continental influence, coming from the plateau, with marked differences in temperature depending on the sunny or the shady part. The main arteries of the Vall d'Albaida are the Albaida and Clariano rivers. The first is a tributary of the Júcar and has the largest water basin of the region since it flows countless ramblas and ravines, with very irregular regimes clearly Mediterranean: dry in summer and with sporadic episodes of torrentiality during autumn or spring. The Clariano River originates in the Pou Clar, very close to Ontinyent and flows into the Albaida river at the height of Montaverner.



Covalta.

The irregularity of the flow of these rivers has forced man to find systems to store, distribute and control the water to divert it to the fields of cultivation and his own needs. Weirs, ditches, wells, dams and mills are some of the traditional systems to be able to take advantage of and distribute water. Numerous sources and springs also explain the importance of groundwater that emerges, especially at the foot of the mountains. Historically the population centres were erected on small promontory for defensive purposes, but with the Christian conquest of these nuclei and the entrenchment of them, most moved to the bottom of the valley, along with watercourses and fertile farmland. Traditional dryland agriculture is in decline and has been losing importance over the last few decades. The eastern part of the region, which we will travel in the first stage of our journey near the village of Fontanars dels Alforins, has in agriculture its main source of wealth, especially with the cultivation of the vine intended for the production of excellent wines, and the western part that, although relatively important, is a part-time activity such as Albaida and Benigànim. Despite the smallholdings many farms have been modernized and dedicated to the production of fruit, table grapes and wine. The cultivation of the olive tree is intended for the production of quality oil staying on the slopes of the mountains, especially in the Benicadell, the Grossa mountain range and in the terms of Ontinyent, Aielo and Ollería. A traditional agrarian landscape



Antique looms at the Textile Museum. La Vila Palace.

that we will visit in the third and fourth stages and of which there are rural architectural testimonies such as imposing agricultural farms, farmhouses and scattered hermitages dedicated to the cult for the protection of crops. There is nothing left of cotton cultivation and silk production, although they remained quite



relevant until the early 20th century. But another sector that will draw our attention on our route to the passage through Ontinyent, Albaida, Bocairent or Ollería is the presence of textile factories, both modern factories and important remains of industrial archaeology. Since the 15th century, an important manufacturing

activity linked to silk and wool has been known. One visit is enough before starting our route to the Textile Museum at the Palau de la Vila -Km.0 of the voyage- to understand the importance it had and has nowadays the textile industry in the region which represents, only in Ontinyent 20% of all Spain.

The industry focused on this sector and others such as glass, ceramics and wood on a smaller scale, occupy more than half the population, making the Vall d'Albaida one of the Valencian regions where the secondary sector has the greatest weight. This evolution and industrial economic development explains the deep transformation of the territory in the heart of the valley, with large roads connecting cities and industrial estates, and the improvement and expansion of access in recent years. Perhaps this more urban sector, formed and knowledgeable of the environment, is one of the most respectful to the environment, aware that they are lungs necessary to maintain the quality of life and that they have the added value of their closeness. Outdoor activities such as cycling and hiking are common among its inhabitants and there is no municipality that does not enhance or promote these sports in their natural environment. And it is precisely the natural environment that stands out most in the Vall d'Albaida and over which the journey takes place avoiding at all times to travel through the most urbanized areas. The setting of mountains that surround the Vall will be our tour without giving up visiting the cultural heritage of the towns through which the route progresses. Within the region we can differentiate four well-defined landscape units: the high areas that close the valley (Alt del Torraier, Covalta, Benicadell, serra Grossa, Alt de Ponce, Gamellons, Buscarró or Mariola). The altiplano dels Alforins (Fontanars), the Valleta of

Bocairent and the Valley itself, where most of the populations are located and through which the Albaida and Clariano rivers run that cover a river basin of more than 1,300 square km. The Vall has considerable dimensions, twice as much as the extension of Andorra, and with a density of inhabitants similar to the country of the Pyrenees, which means a large territory without excessive anthropic pressure, especially in those places that have the greatest environmental value as are mountain environments. The Vall d'Albaida also has the Mariola Mountain Natural Park, shared with the Comtat and l'Alcoià regions, and the Ombría del Benicadell Protected Landscape, a good number of Flora Micro Reserves, eight specifically located in the region, as well as three large areas of community interest (LIC) with an extension of more

La Vall d'Albaida is an immense natural region of great environmental quality, with high levels of administrative protection (up to a third of its territory) where human beings have not intervened drastically or irreversibly in many places, and where society is increasingly sensitized and committed to its environment

than 18,000 Ha. (Albaida river, Els Alforins and Buscarró-Marxuquera) with areas of special protection for birds (ZEPA) with a total of 29,000 Ha.

Also part of the Sierra de Mariola and Els Alforins. All are catalogued within the Natura 2000 Network and therefore considered as areas of vital importance in the European Community. In total, the protected natural areas of the Vall d'Albaida under the different denominations, reach a total of 52,650 Ha. Considering that some areas are listed with more than one denomination, for example, LICs integrated in Natural Parks or Micro reserves within ZEPAs or wider reserve areas, we have a protected area of 22,565 Ha. which means with respect to the total

extension of the region (72,222 Ha.), nothing less than 31% of the entire territory. With this data it will be easy for us to understand the extraordinary landscape and environmental value of the Vall d'Albaida, recognized in all scientific fields and of course, with the important potential to open the doors to responsible tourism. Of the 34 municipalities, 29 have some protected space and among them in some cases such as Quatretonda, Pinet, Llutxent, Beniatjar or Albaida up to four within their own municipality.

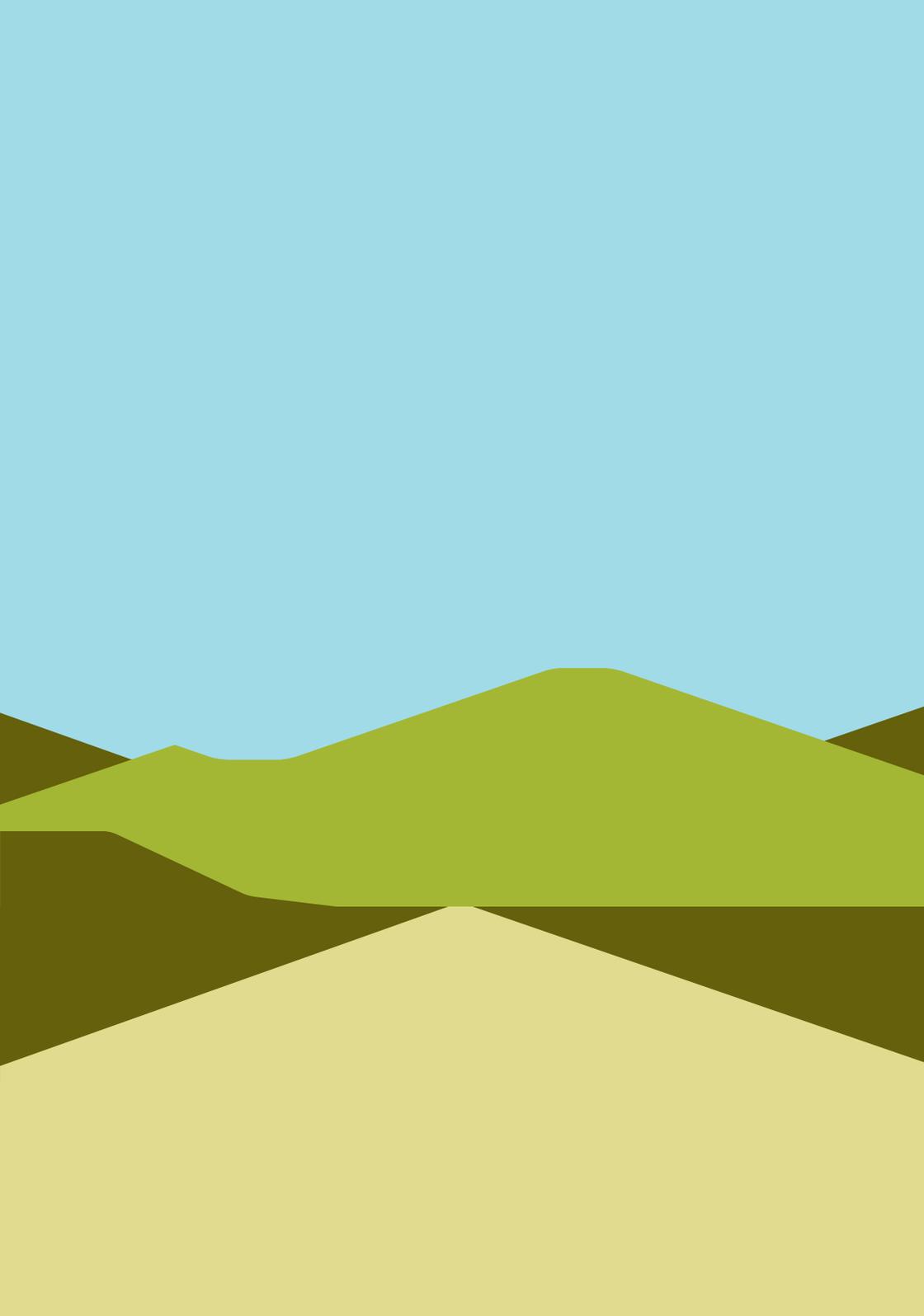


Els Alforins.

Structure and content of the guide

In the graphic representation of the road book, the symbology used is as follows:

	Distance in kilometers		Circular: yes/no		
	Accumulated rise in elevation		Maximum altitude		
	Accumulated slope downhill		Minimum altitude		
	Peak		Museum		Camping
	Station FFCC		Hydraulic Archaeology		Hostel
	Natural Park		Mill		Rural House
	Singular Trees		Information Point		Hotel
	Historical Building		Source		Bullring
	Hermitage		Cave		Gastronomy
	Palace		Fridge or Snow Pit		Craft
	Castle		Recreation Area		Wines





**La Vall
d'Albaida**

From the Vall to the Mariola

First stage of the cycle tourism journey that will take us to Bocairent from the Ontinyent Tourist Office located in the Palau de la Vila. This itinerary is full of surprises: it will allow us to know places as emblematic and loved by the inhabitants of Ontinyent as are the Pou Clar and the Ponce pathways to the refuge of hunters. We will know a part of the Mariola mountain range that, although geographically not belonging to the Vall, is administratively. And we will also discover Bocairent, the architectural jewel of the region and one of the most charming villages of the Valencian Community, for unknown access for many tourists arriving by vehicle: the descent down Calvary from the hermitage of the Holy Christ to the medieval core of the town. To complete this first stage that can be short for one day, we have lengthened it by the Mariola mountain in order to enjoy this aspect, kinder and humanized, such as the hermitage and the Pla de Santa Bárbara, the Font Mariola, the Mariola campsite, the Pinatell and the great farmhouses that surround the small valley where the Vinalopó river has its birth.

Stage 1: Ontinyent-Bocairent

We begin the great journey through the Vall d'Albaida from a privileged point: the Palau de la Vila. In what was the site of the old palace is the Tourist Info Office and next to it, the Textile Museum of the Valencian Community. This point will mark our journey of several days through nature and the heritage of the region and here we will place the beginning and end of the 201 km of our great route. Ontinyent is the capital of the Vall d'Albaida region, it has all kinds of services and our advice is to start early. For this it is advisable to stay the night before in the city, either in any of its hotels, or in the Finca de San Agustín, where we can leave the cars without any problem during the days of the journey. We will enjoy the surroundings and its restaurants, as well as a stopped walk through the Vila with all its heritage and of course, know the Textile Museum of Ontinyent, which is unique in the Valencian Community. It allows to follow the trajectory and evolution of this very important economic activity that marked the development and standard of living of the inhabitants of the Vall d'Albaida, since it allowed the consolidation of a middle class, access to the studies of the youngest members of the families, and also the emergence of a series of companies whose trade names have been and are the reference in the Spanish textile

We will enjoy the surroundings, as well as a stopped walk through the Vila with all its heritage and of course, know the Textile Museum of Ontinyent, which is unique in the Valencian Community



Textile Museum.



Pou Clar.



Sierra de Mariola.

field and made known the city of Ontinyent to the rest of the world. We will leave the population almost immediately, since we are on the urban boundary of the Vila (old town) with the peri-urban orchards and we will follow the paths that led its inhabitants to daily work before industrial development. Today they are part-time farmed fields and country houses that were built in the 1970s. This stretch to the Pou Clar is actually a bike path shared with motor vehicles, neighbors of the area who are authorized to access with their vehicles. Near the end of the Llobo pathway, we will reach the Alba pathway and continue along a path that will enter the Pou Clar Natural Site. The landscape value, both cultural and environmental, despite the influx of visitors in the summer season, is given by the geological formations they present. Pools

of crystal clear water, rock straits, springs and enigmatic windows carved into the same vertical wall. Archaeologists say that they are related to les Covetes dels Moros in Bocairent and their origin is unknown, although they could go back to the Andalusian era and that they would serve the peasant community as barns or wheat warehouses, especially in times of insecurity, most likely built with techniques introduced by the Berber. The crystal-clear pools of Pou Clar all have their own name, and the water sprouts strongly in each one of them, to the point that in the fifteenth century the irrigation ditch of Pou Clar was built, one of the most important works in Ontinyent's history and which has more than a kilometer of underground travel.



Hermitage of Santo Cristo. Bocairent.

After leaving behind this place, inventoried as early as 1979 as a relevant place of interest, and considered as by many as the birth of the Clariano River, although its true birth arises higher with the confluence of several ravines that come from the Valleta de Agres, Bocairent and the Alt de Santa Maria in Mariola, we will follow a stretch of the road that goes towards Fontanars, until we leave it to continue on a dirt road that ends up becoming a path. We will border the Umbría mountain range, between fields of cultivation and patchwork of forest to link with the Ponce pathway, ua forest track that ascends decided in broad zigzags, to the Soterranya and the Hunters' refuge.

As we gain height, the Vall extends to our feet in all its dimensions, we will be able to see clearly if the day accompanies us, the mountains that surround it, as well as the populations that settle at the bottom of the valley



Refuge el Riello.



Hermitatge and Pla de Santa Bárbara.

As we gain height, the Vall extends to our feet in all its dimensions, we will be able to see clearly if the day accompanies us, the mountains that surround it, as well as the populations that settle at the bottom of the valley. We will arrive at the shelter, called Riello, name that takes from the ravine that passes next to him. In fact, it is a barracks

with metal roof that only serves as a refuge in case of inclement weather, since it was raised by the hunters for this purpose. This part of the Umbría mountain range was ravaged by a terrible forest fire in 1994 and has symptoms of recovery, albeit very slowly. By a spectacular narrow path and not in very good condition, we reach the hermitage of the Holy Christ of Bocairent, in the middle of an isolated and solitary landscape. It surprises its location at 730 m high and the size of the complex composed of the hostelry, the house of the hermit and the Gothic church with rectangular plan and side chapels. This is an ideal place to take a break and enjoy the peace that this place transmits, already with the population of Bocairent in the background, whose canvas is impressive. The descent will be done, very carefully, by the Calvario pathway.

Bocairent breaks the schemes for anyone who visits him for the first time. The urban structure in fragile balance with the orography, adapting their houses and streets to the steep terrain. In Bocairent, they said in the old way, donkeys peey out the windows. The reality is that the unevenness makes the roofs of the lower houses match the entrance door of the others in the upper streets. Highlight from Bocairent les Covetes dels Moros, which we will not be able to access by bike, but on foot, as well as the Cava next to the ravine of la Fos whose visit is highly recommended since you can enter the inside.

Also the bullring, unique monument fully excavated on the rock and the partially walled medieval core that, together with the bridge, make up one of the most beautiful villages in the entire Valencian territory.

The proposal, once arriving in Bocairent is to make a circular with return to the town that allows us to enter the Mariola mountain, one of the two natural parks that has the Vall d'Albaida and whose botanical interest comes from very old. More than 1,200 different species of plants are estimated, many of them aromatic and some endemic.

The proposed circular, with a small port by road, will take us to places of extraordinary

beauty such as Pla de Santa Barbara or Font Mariola. The contrast of colors if we travel in autumn, the holm oak forests splattered of oak, the extensive pine forests and the crops with their manor houses, the ancient roads and the birth of the Vinalopó River that we can approach if we have time, well worth the extension of the first stage. However, we can always dedicate one more day on our journey to visit Bocairent's cultural heritage carefully and enjoy the diversity of quality accommodation available in the population adapted to all levels.

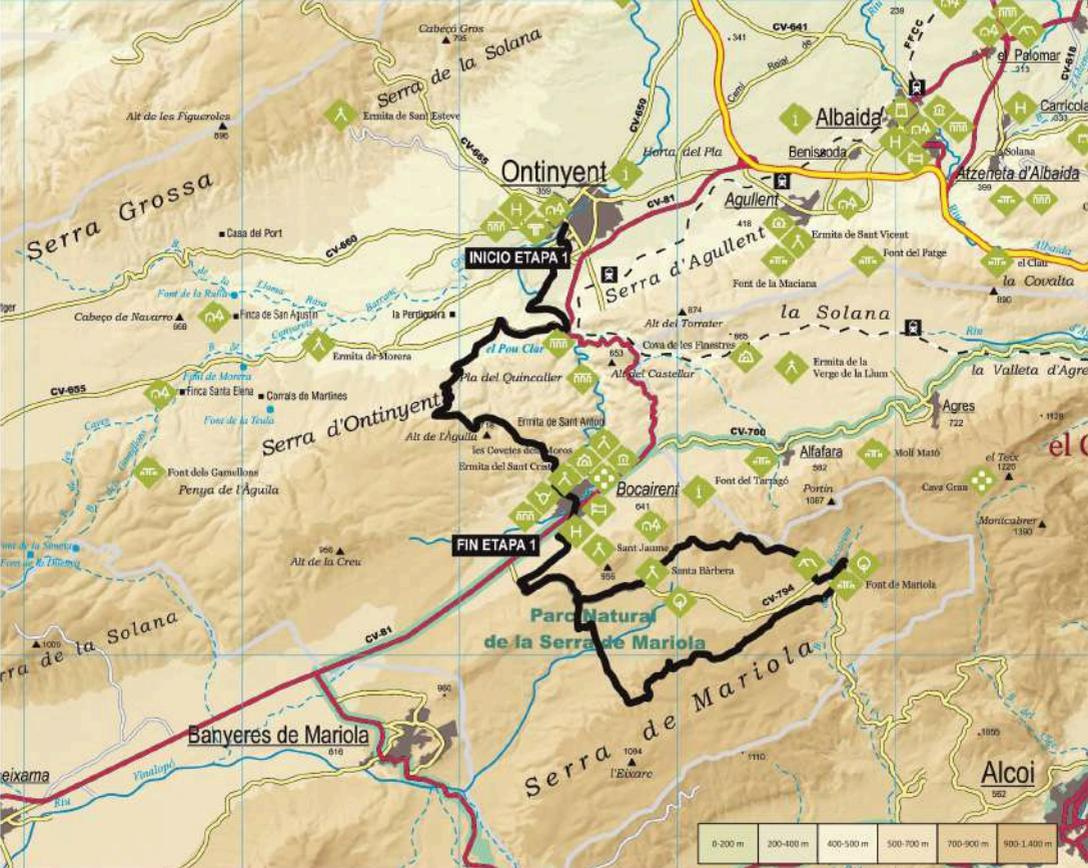


Bocairent.

Download the route:

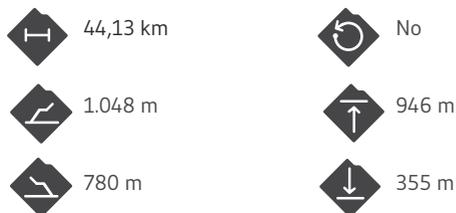
<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21208802>





Stage 1: From the Vall to the Mariola

Data sheet

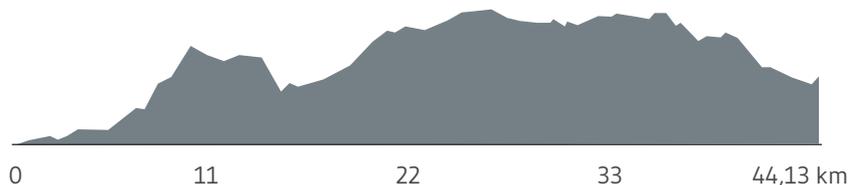


Roads and tracks: 32,52 km
Highway: 12 km
Physical difficulty: Moderate
Technical difficulty: Moderate
Starting point: Ontinyent
End point: Bocairent

Orographic profile

946 m

355 m





Palace of the Duchess of Almodóvar or de la Vila

A true fortress

The Palau de la Vila, located in the oldest urban center of Ontinyent, is a true fortress that was built on the ancient Muslim Alcazar. Jaume I himself already quoted it in the thirteenth century and reserves it as a residence for his visits. Known as the Palace of the Duchess of Almodóvar, after its restoration, it houses the Tourist Info Office and the Textile Museum. It is the starting point of our cycling journey through the Vall d'Albaida.

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San Agustín farm

The value of silence

Between Ontinyent and Fontanars, very close already to the Alforins, and in the middle of a landscape of rolling hills, vineyards and patchwork of forest, is the San Agustín property, a farmhouse of the eighteenth century that was known before its restoration, such as Can Tomás. The farm, converted into one of the most recommended rural accommodation in the entire Vall d'Albaida, is the first in the entire Valencian Community that obtained UNESCO accreditation for star observation.

fincasanagustin.es

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Kazar Hotel

Emblematic mansion

Hotel Kazar, located in the city center of Ontinyent is a modernist palace built in the mid-19th century Mudejar style that was private residence by the Mompó family. Its peculiar architecture recalls the urban mansions of Casablanca or Fes, the result of the influence of Arab architecture on its owners, which also surrounded a large oriental garden. In 1997 it was acquired by the Tortosa-Company family who undertake its restoration to make it a hotel.

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Covetes dels Moros

A Berber warehouse

Les Covetes are a group of caves excavated in the rock linked together whose origin dates back to the Andalusian era and it appears that they were built by the first tribes of Berber origin that occupied this area. Hanging in the middle of a vertical wall above the ravine of the Fos, their function was to store grain and be able to preserve it in times of insecurity. They are one of Bocairent's most recommended visits.

Tourist-Info Bocairent

Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 2

46880 Bocairent

T 96 290 50 62

bocairent@touristinfo.net

Entrada: Consultad.



Cava de Sant Blai

The snow trade

Very close to les Covetes dels Moros, this 18th century construction is an archaeological testament to the exploitation and snow trade during a much colder and wetter time than the current one. After heavy snowfall, snow was introduced into the well and after crushing it and turning it into ice, it was marketed and distributed throughout the rest of the year by cities. It is one of the few snow pits that you can visit the inside.

Tourist-Info Bocairent

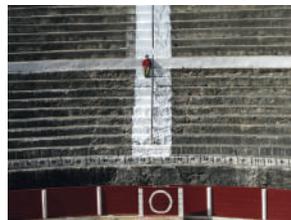
Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 2

46880 Bocairent

T 96 290 50 62

bocairent@touristinfo.net

Entrada: Consultad.



Bullring

The oldest

The Bocairent bullring, is the oldest in the Valencian Community, dating from 1843. It is a unique and unique piece for its originality, as it is excavated in living rock. The mountainous configuration of the land gives the square a peculiar distribution that allows access to flat floor both the drag gate and the presidential box at the highest. Its current capacity is 3,760 locations. It has 6 corrals, slaughterhouse, infirmary and chapel

bocairent.es

Plaça de Bous, 7

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Entrada: Consultad



La Vall d'Albaida

The mountains that surround the valley

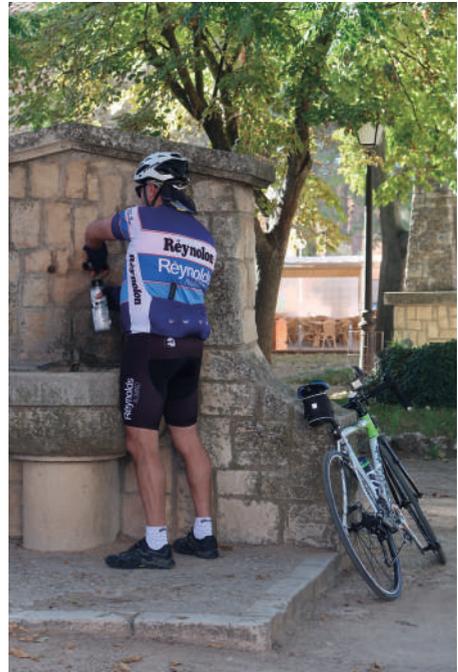
This second stage that will take us from Bocairent to Aiello de Malferit, is the longest of the crossing and also the most uneven. We will travel almost entirely the two most important mountain alignments that surround the Vall d'Albaida: the mountain of la Ombría of Ontinyent, which is actually an extension of the Agullent mountain (Covalta) and the Grossa mountain, which closes the valley from the northwest. It is the most mountainous stage and has solitary stretches, since we will only pass through one town: Fontanars dels Alforins.

From Bocairent we will go back up the mountain range of the Ombría to the farmhouse of Ponce to travel the entire mountain range through its high parts on an aerial path that largely coincides with the GR-7. We will descend to Fontanars dels Alforins to cross the Pla and climb again this time to the Grossa Mountain range, mountain alignment that separates us from the region of La Costera and that we will also cross in its entirety. From the ruins of the balarma house we reach the port and continue to finish in Aiello de Malferit descending a spectacular ravine.

Stage 2: Bocairent-Aielo de Malferit

Well equipped with water, tools and supplies, we set off crossing the town of Bocairent through the streets of Maestro Serrano and Martí Calabuig, to José Puig street to leave the town by the Paseo de la Derrota. Almost immediately, after the last houses a detour will indicate the way to go that in prolonged ascent that will take us to the top of the mountains. As we have noticed in the presentation of the stage, this route is the longest and most accumulated unevenness of the entire Vall d'Albaida crossing. It is also the most solitary since we only pass through a single population, Fontanars del Alforins, in which we can recover strength, provide water and even eat there. That is why we must start calmly and climb with good cadence and quiet pedaling. Although this part of the mountains, was also ravaged by the fire of 1994, we will immediately realize the landscape value of it and the possibilities that it has of recovery especially if the man respects his natural growth and prevents new fires. The path we follow, even though it has a certain slope, does not become particularly hard or difficult since it is in good condition. This non-aggressive asphalt allows the roads not to deteriorate due to rains and to stay longer making it easier for owners to access their lands in the mountains.

Two farms with their respective houses are visible from the road, the first the house of defeat and the second, the farmhouse of Bonavista, which is usually inhabited and is the one that gives its name to the road.



Fountain next to the Fontanars dels Alforins square.



Fontanars dels Alforins.

(...) this route is the longest and most accumulated elevation of the entire Vall d'Albaida crossing. It is also the most solitary since we only pass through a single population, Fontanars del Alforins, in which we can recover strength, provide water and even eat there

We go at all times following the ravine of the Border (Frontera) that is on our left and that also gives name to this term. Near it runs the GR-7, the long-haul path that crosses the Valencian Community from south to north and through which we will coincide later a good stretch.

A little final push and we reach the Alt de

Ponce. This crossing already in the upper part and by which we will continue towards the west, is important not only because we already change orientation, but because we see that here, the vegetation is more varied and abundant. We are in the Pla de Ponce, and a few meters from the junction we will see the house that gives name to the place. It is worth it to come to observe all the architectural ensemble that stands out, as usual in the farmhouses and scattered mountain houses, for its austerity. The main building consists of a ground floor and a top with gabled roof and roofed with tiles. There is also a well with cistern next to the stockyards and another well a little further away. We see next to the house two large holm oaks and a small redoubt of pine trees that were saved from the fire. As soon as we stop in the shade of the trees and observe the environment, we can come to understand the hardness of life in the rural world, and even more so, in the scattered farmhouses.

The small terraces that are still worked maintain the land and sow cereals for hunting, makes us think how one or several families could live there. Winters, once much colder and wetter, with heavy snowfall, or even warm summers made survival dependent on the vagaries of heaven. The work, not only of cereal mowing, but of the construction of stone margins, maintaining agricultural dependencies, feeding animals and livestock, also very common in this mountain range, was of extreme hardness. Therefore, as the economic and industrial conditions of the nearby populations improved, the farmers and villagers left their rural centres and migrated in search of better living conditions. Today, that we see nature from a more urban or romantic point of view, it is difficult for us to imagine the day-to-day life of these isolated people in the middle of nowhere.

The farmhouse of Ponce, well known in Ontinyent, is today a meeting point for hunters, where they have lunch and prepare the day. A traditional activity deeply rooted in the Vall d'Albaida. We continue in a west direction to drive along the upper part of the mountains, on an aerial crossing and of great beauty. Nearby you will find the Alt del Molló, Alt de Coca and also, somewhat lower, the Font del Ballester. This fountain is the highest of the municipality of Ontinyent and supports summers well as it is regulated with a small tap inserted into the rock itself. The GR-7 passes next to it and we can replenish water if we need it. It is also a point of confluence with the Enginyers trail, a horseshoe path built by forest engineers to access the mountains and carry out reforestation work. The place is a delicious place, not only for the formidable views over the farthest mountains such as the



El Portitxol.



Caroig, the Monduver or the Pla dels Alforins, but because of the vegetation that surrounds us composed of ash, walnut or holm oaks: the latter are remains of the primitive Carrascar of Ponce, a forest that covered all this slope of the Umbría.



Pla dels Alforins.

Fontanars stands out today for the cultivation and production of wines, with a good number of cellars, and also for the oil, almond and fruit trees

Our path continues through the high of the mountains, passing through places such as the Alt del Corral or the collado de Fenassosa until we reach a major crossing before the descent that we will follow on the left in the direction of the Replana. This indicated crossing would take us to the Font and the Gamellons Site. It would also take us to the hermitage of More-ra and the road from Ontinyent to Fontanars, but we will discard this detour, to reach by the Replana pathway, to a wide forest track that runs through a firewall, to the highest point of our entire journey (973 m). We will pass next to a goat stockyard, whose consequences on the vegetation and the environment are sadly visible, with the idea of reaching the road that comes from Beneixama, and that we will continue in strong and relaxing descent towards Fontanars dels Alforins.

Fontanars is a small village, away from the Vall from a geomorphological point of view, as it is located on the plateau and is part of the plateau, but it is very close historically and culturally to Ontinyent and the Vall d'Albaida. It was the monarch Jaume I himself who transmitted the ownership of the Alforins to the Ontinyent's Vila. Originally occupied by the Romans, evidence demonstrating the abundant archaeological remains. The Muslims were, however, the ones who gave it the name: Al forí, which means in Arabic, barn. Strategically located, not only as a place of passage, but as a cereal supply area, Fontanars emancipated from Ontinyent in August 1927 to continue as an independent municipality. Eminently agricultural, Fontanars stands out today for the cultivation and production of wines, with a good number of cellars, and also for oil, almond and fruit trees. This sets up a peculiar landscape, chromatic, of extraordinary beauty wrapped in forest and dotted with stately homes. Crossed the town a part of the Pla (in Fontanars we can find some quality restaurant to recover strength) and after a short stretch of road in descent towards Ontinyent, we will go up the Grossa mountain range by a zigzagging track that goes up steep slope. Following this spectacular path, it will take us to the highest hills of this lineup. It is our second and definitive climb, since we will soon reach Pla de la Balarma and the path that continues along

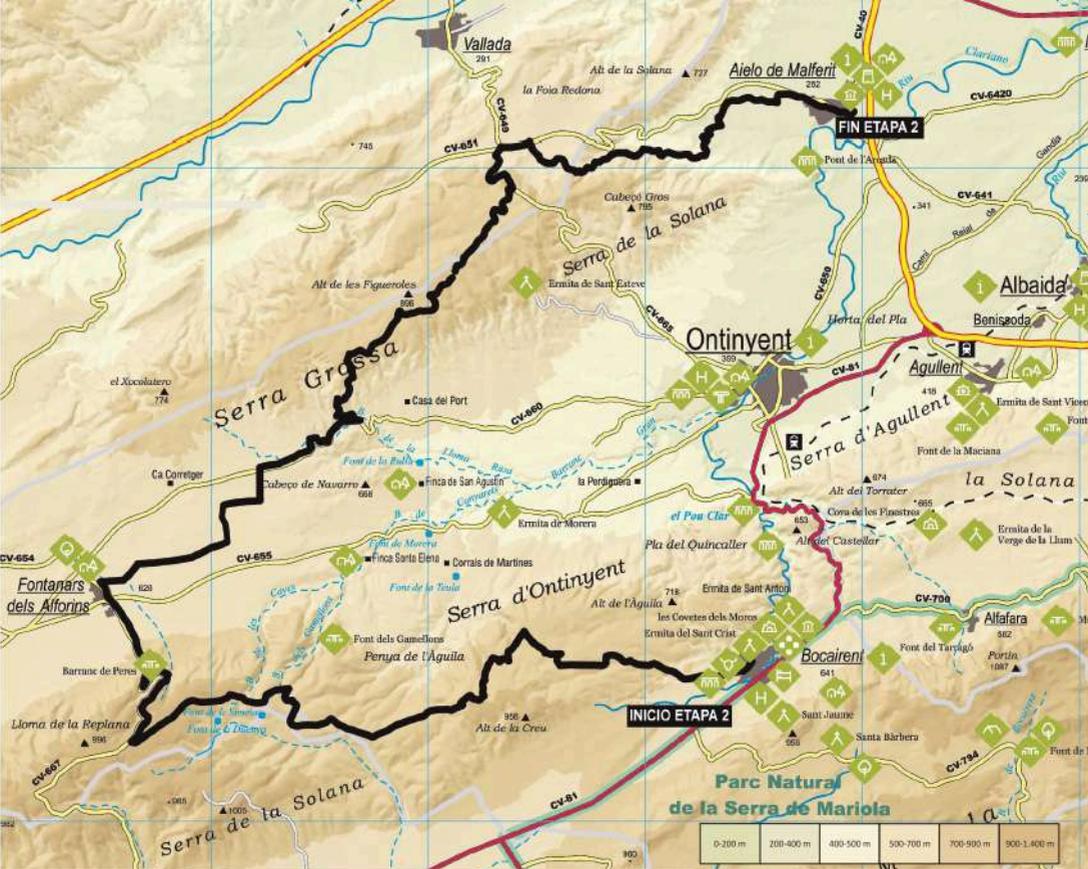
the ridge of the mountains will take us to the Balarma House, already very close to the port. It's five kilometers of ascent to the highest point.

The House of the Balarma is today a set of ruins of what was an ancient farmhouse. Nearby is the Ontinyent-Aielo road that we will continue towards this last city. A short stretch of asphalt from the top of the Port, the detour to Aielo and we only have the last part of the stage that is the descent by the barranc del Joncar. Here, as always, we have to take extreme precautions, especially for two reasons: the first because we are already at the end of the day and the light, unless it is summer, is no longer the same. We may even get dark during the descent and so, if we have doubts, we always have the option of the road. And the second reason is that the accumulated tiredness, even if we are fit, makes us no longer have the same reflections. Also of course, because in every descent we have to be cautious. We will reach Aielo de Malferit by the oldest part of the town. We will go through the mosaic of cultivated plots and we can observe, if we still have light, the contrast of traditional dry crops, small orchards, and the white lands of the valley.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21208385>





Stage 2: The mountains that surround the valley

Data sheet

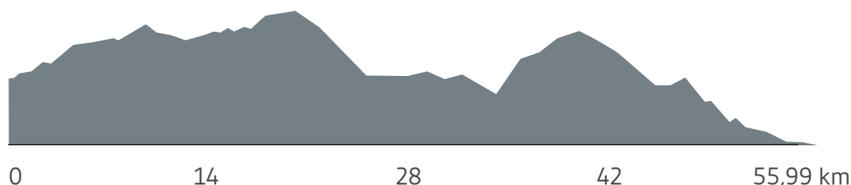
	55,99 km		No
	988 m		973 m
	1.355 m		254 m

Roads and tracks: 44,54 km
Highway: 11,7 km
Physical difficulty: Difficult
Technical difficulty: Moderate
Starting point: Ontinyent
End point: Bocairent

Orographic profile

973 m

254 m





The wineries of Fontanars dels Alforins

Alforins lands

Fontanars dels Alforins has a dozen traditional wineries, some of which date back to the eighteenth century, which can be visited and know the whole winemaking process and its tasting. They are wineries of a marked family character where excellent quality wines are made with varieties such as Monastrell, Garnatxa, Tempranillo or the native Verdil. The environment is known as “Terres dels Alforins” and is marked by history, tradition, soil and temperature.

fontanarsdelsalforins.es

Aj. Fontanars dels Alforins
C/ Alfons XIII, 12
46635 Fontanars dels Alforins
cultura@fontanarsdelsalforins.es



Casa Julio

A gastronomic reference

The Restaurant Casa Julio, in Fontanars, is a gastronomic reference not only of the Alforins, but of the whole co-brand of the Vall d’Albaida. Opened in the 1940s as a traveller’s anchor, the food house was evoked with the ideas of each generation until it received a Michelin star in 2009, which he resigned four years later. Based on traditional cuisine, Julio Biosca, the fourth generation of the restaurant, brought everything learned in the Basque Country and began a new vision maintaining the cuisine of a lifetime.

Restaurante Casa Julio

Av. Conde Salvatierra
de Álava, 9
46635 Fontanars dels Alforins
T 962 22 22 38



The liquor factory

Official provider of the Royal Household

Known as Botellería, the Great Liquor and Aniseeds Factory, it began producing its products in 1880. She won numerous international awards and competitions, she was declared official supplier of the Royal Household by the same queen regent Maria Cristina. At the end of the nineteenth century the company passed into the hands of Joaquín Juan Mompó, nicknamed of the Marquis of Malferit who opened a new factory next to the palace whose installations preserved as before, constitute a heritage jewel and a true museum of industrial archaeology.

turismo.aielodemalferit.es

Plaça Palau, 1
46812 Aiello de Malferit
T 962 36 30 10
touristinfo_aiello@gva.es



Malferit's castle-palace

Headquarters of the current Town Hall

The malferit castle-palace was built in the 15th century to serve as a residential palace and military fortress, so it is assumed that the primitive building was endowed with defensive towers. Jaime de Malferit, lord of Aielo and Cairant, founded the new town and built the Gothic palace personally taking care of the decoration. Deeply renovated in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the building is organized around a central courtyard formed by the three wings that make up the whole palace.

turismo.aielodemalferit.es

Passeig de L'Eixample, s/n
46812 Aielo de Malferit
T 962 36 07 20
touristinfo_aielo@gva.es



Nino Bravo museum

The voice

In Aielo de Malferit we cannot fail to visit the museum of Nino Bravo, an endearing and emotional exhibition of which was one of the best voices of all time. It is a collection of personal items, with a lot of audio-visual, photographic, sound and written material with objects donated by family, friends and fans. The museum allows us to know the artistic trajectory of the singer to the climax of his professional life. Born in Aielo in 1944, he died at the age of 28.

museoninobravo.com

Passeig de L'Eixample, s/n
46812 Aielo de Malferit
T 654 39 42 96
museoninobravo@outlook.com



Gasaqui



In Aielo de Malferit

The Gasaqui Complex is a hotel establishment, traditional and well known in the region with all kinds of services, including a heated swimming pool and gym. It is located between the municipal terms of Aielo de Malferit and l'Ollería in a strategic point and ideal to finish the second stage, just at the beginning of the old road between both towns, known in Aielo as the Camí de la Ermita, as it passes through the hermitage of Sant Joan. The hotel has spacious and comfortable rooms.

complejogasaqui.com

Autovía del Mediterráneo
CV 40 PK 14
46812 Aielo de Malferit
T 962 36 06 08
info@complejogasaqui.com



La Vall d'Albaida

The deep valley

If in the previous stages we only pass through three towns, Bocairent, Fontanars and Aielo de Malferit, in the stages that continue we will cross most of the villages of the Vall. In the section that concerns us, we will travel the northern limits of the region and enter the spectacular surroundings of the Buixcarró mountain. A stage where the culture, peoples and nature are combined the most remote and less altered of our entire journey. This contrast from the cultivated fields and humanized landscape to the forests and ravines in an almost primal state of the Pinet environment, is what gives value and enriches this third stage of our journey. L'Ollería, Bellús and Quatretonda retain in their term interesting and valuable mountain landscapes, such as the environment of the house of the Salido and the ravine of the same name, the Estret de les Aigües and the refuge of the Bastida. And in Pinet, a small town of just two hundred inhabitants, begins the Buixcarró mountain range where there is still a small forest of cork oaks, microreserva of flora and protected natural landscape and to which we dedicate a thematic route. Llutxent will be the end of the stage, where two other thematic routes begin: the route of Jaume I and the Corporals pathway.

Stage 3: Aiello de Malferit-Llutxent

Aiello de Malferit, birthplace of what has been the best Valencian singer in history, and one of the most imposing voices in the world, will be the starting point of our stage today. Aiello well worth a careful walk, in addition to the obligatory visit to the Nino Bravo museum, has an interesting heritage that is worth knowing.

From the town starts a short thematic route, the Joncar - La Umbría, in which the patches of Mediterranean forest are combined with the cultivated fields of fruit with some cottages, a small multicolored valley open to the east, and embraced by the southern foothills of the Grossa mountain range. From Aiello we will depart in direction to l'Ollería, leaving on our right the factory Cartonajes Bernabeu, next to the Gasaqui Hotel complex, well known in the region and offering good accommodation conditions for cyclists with heated pool. To leave the town we have to follow the avenue of Valencia, to the hotel and from there, between the highway and the cardboard factory, by the road of service, we will link with the old road that connected Aiello with l'Ollería, also known as the Camí de la Ermita, passing a few kilometers through the hermitage of San Juan Bautista. This chapel, also known as the hermitage of Vint i Cinc, (Twenty-five) referring to the number of houses that belonged to this demarcation, is an ancient medieval settlement dating back to the thirteenth century that was inhabited until the eighteenth century.



Nino Bravo Museum.

Aiello de Malferit well deserves a careful walk, in addition to the obligatory visit to the Nino Bravo museum



Barranco del Salido.

The setting has a certain charm, although the house and the hermitage are not in very good condition. We drive along the old road between fields of fruit trees and terraces of white earth to l'Ollería where we can approach to visit the Convent of the Capuchins. In the convent there is the possibility of accommodation, although in austere conditions and the friars can prepare dinner and breakfast for guests. It is interesting the museum that preserves inside, especially old pieces of glass, since it is the first museum that was dedicated to these objects in l'Ollería. Following the progressive disappearance of glass craftsmanship, the Capuchin friar Vicente Taroncher founded in 1987 this museum that lasted for 22 years until in 2009 with the creation of the new, the exhibition collections were expanded and the

visit to the entire convent could be extended. The place occupied by the old refectory is the one that is now dedicated to a permanent exhibition of objects that have been used over time by the friars, in addition to the pieces that since the sixteenth century were made in the old furnaces of the population. The route continues in a northeasterly direction bordering the population. Soon we will find the Camí de Bellús, a detour to the left signposted as such, between orange groves that takes north orientation. This is the ancient road that linked l'Ollería with Bellús and continues to be used as it was centuries ago. The landscape, although still rural, has changed in depth, as dry crops have given way to orange fields and other fruit trees such as persimmon. The Grossa mountain is in front of us and we reach the house of Salido, next to the ravine of the same name.

The inheritance of the Salido, an old rustic and recreational farm, has been acquired by the City Council of l'Ollería with the aim of assigning it to nature classroom and rural accommodation in the modality of hostel. The house was in ruins and has been fully recovered and restored. The villagers remember the summer nights, when the owner family spent their holidays there, and they could come to hear how the owner played the piano outdoors and the little ones played in their gardens. He had a library with hundreds of books and furniture that was lost when it was abandoned. Now with this recovery it can be useful to the neighbors and visitors of l'Ollería, since it is located in a place of great landscape value, among pine tree forests and at the Grossa mountain feet.



Road from Benigànim to Quatretonda.

From here we have two possibilities, but the most interesting is to cross the Salido's ravine and follow it inside in the direction of Bellús. We may have to get off the bike at some point or carry water. The stretch through the interior of the Salido is interesting from the botanical point of view as we circulate next to a small riverside forest. In the end, we will cross it and go out to a paved road that will take us, in a clear east direction, to the town of Bellús passing through the Red House, an old inheritance now destined for rural tourism. Bellús is an interesting town, well located and known for its medicinal waters and the old 19th-century spa, now defunct.

Bellús is an interesting town, well located and known for its medicinal waters and the old 19th-century spa, now disappeared



Pla de Corralis.



Bellús palace or Bellvis.

The town that we will cross in its entirety, has a building of undoubted interest, the palace of Bellvis, a palace house annexed to a defensive tower of the fourteenth century, of four floors, very modified and renovated over the centuries. From Bellús starts a thematic route that runs through the four villages of the river, Guadassequies, Sempere, Benissuera and Alfarrasí, as well as passing very close to the place where the Spa of Bellús was located. We will cross the dam and continue to Benigànim and Quatretonda. In the latter we will deviate following Camí de la Serra street, to enter, in a few kilometers, in the heart of the

Buixcarró's mountain.

The landscape from Quatretonda changes as we move forward leaving behind the crops and the environment of the population to integrate into a nature that is increasingly intact and with places of greater purity as an environment of the Bastida refuge, a hostel managed by the Grup de Muntanya Valldigna, with a capacity of 30 places and that can also be a good place to stay overnight. The refuge is located about six kilometers from Quatretonda and the route passes next to it. The path continues to enter the mountains through an impressive landscape full of vegetation to the *Pla de Corralis*.

Pla de Corralis is a set of houses that, originally, as the name suggests, were cattle pens where goats and sheep were kept that, for decades, grazed through the mountains. The richness of this environment is based above all on high humidity that allows the rapid growth of vegetation, since it is an elevated place with respect to the Valldigna and oriented to the northeast, and hence the greater abundance of precipitation due to the proximity of the sea. The *Pla de Corralis* where we will pass is on the edge of the region of Vall d'Albaida. There we have a small bar where you can have brunch or lunch.

Our journey rises again, this time next to the quarry of Buixcarró, a stone that was already exploited during the Roman era and from which the marble with which the monasteries of *Santa Maria de la Valldigna* or the *Cartuja de Portacoeli* were decorated.

We will ascend leaving behind the quarry and we will reach Pla de la *Vinyavella*, a large hill with remains of crops, some recovered, and a small agricultural farm. Next to the road there is a chasm known as l'Avenc de la *Vinyavella*, a deep vertical cavity to which we can approach with great care and look inside from above. This whole area, and by extension the mountains of the Marxuquera and the Buixarró, has inside it a complex underground world since there are dozens of cavities, some of the most important in the world in terms of complexity and depth, which are constantly explored by speleologists of all nationalities. The karst phenomenon occupies almost one hundred percent of the entire expanse of these mountains. From the Pla, with hardly any slope, the route offers no problems until Pinet that we will reach by a narrow asphalt track following in the final stretch, the channel of the barranc de la *Vinyavella*. Pinet is a small town, quiet and sunny, deep in the Vall d'Albaida. It is the starting point of multiple excursions both on foot and by bike, and from here also starts a themed itinerary, El Surar, Municipal Natural Park. Lutxent is a population of approximately 2500 inhabitants and whose municipality occupies most of the northwest of the Vall d'Albaida, already in a transition zone towards La Safor. Almost the entire



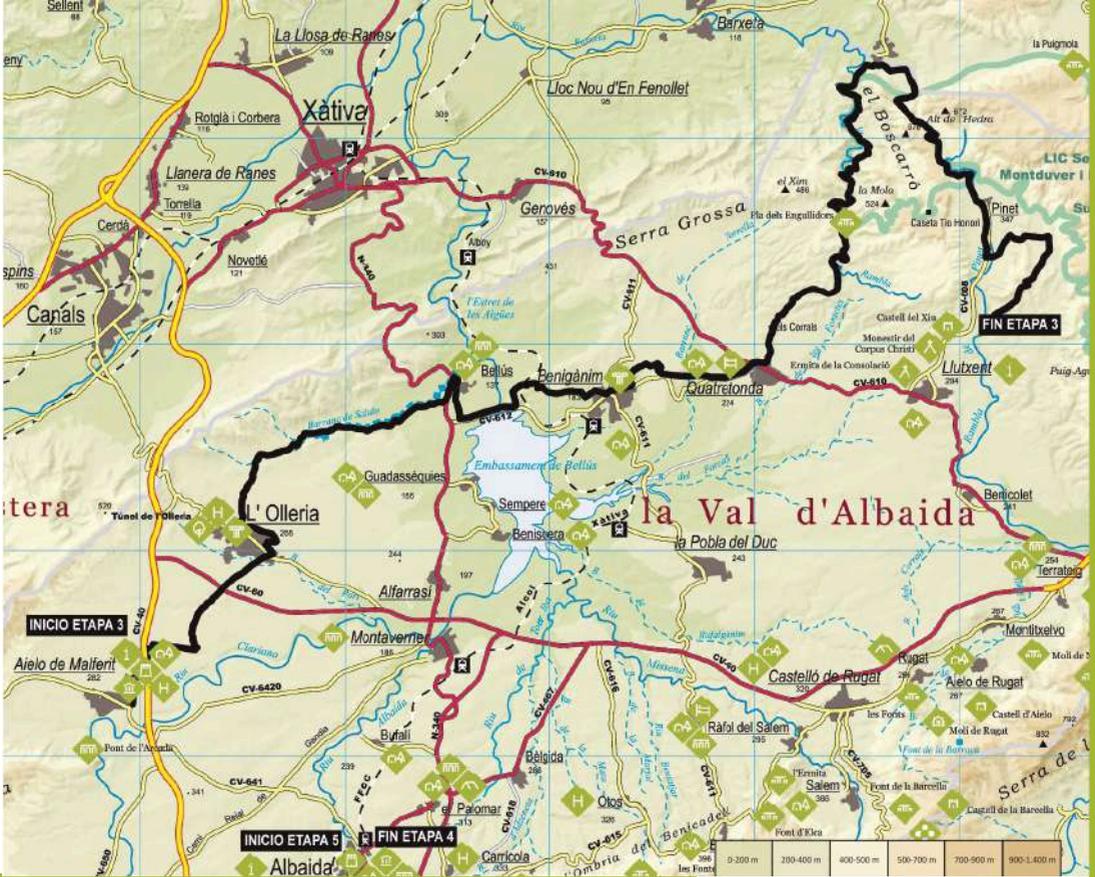
Vinyavella chasm.

hydrographic network here heads towards the coast looking for the sea and its term is in a transition zone between the mountains of Buixarró, where we come from and the Marxuquera mountain range in its eastern part. Lutxent is a town cited by Jaume I as the monarch repopulated him with 24 old Christians of his own army and it was Peter III the Great who made him a barony. From Lutxent two thematic routes depart, the Corporals pathway, from the Convent of Corpus Christi to the outskirts of the town and the Jaume I Route from the Xiu Castell. Both constructions are intimately related to the Christian conquest and the figure of Jaume I. Both in Lutxent and nearby, we have different possibilities of rural accommodation.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21208137>





Stage 3: The deep valley

Data sheet

	50,50 km		No
	862 m		529 m
	872 m		120 m

Roads and tracks: 46,02 km

Highway: 4,3 km

Physical difficulty: Difficult

Technical difficulty: Moderate

Starting point: Aielo de Malferit

End point: Llutxent

Orographic profile

529 m

120 m



0 13 25 38 50,50 km



 **Capuchin Convent Hostel**

Of the Franciscan Order

The Convent of the Capuchins, founded in 1601 by members of the Franciscan Order who arrived at l'Ollería, follows the classic model of the first Italian foundations, small size, simple and functional around a cloister equipped with a cistern. The hostelry occupies the upper floor where the novices were and is equipped with 8 rooms free of luxuries, with capacity for 18 people. It is interesting to visit the convent, the museum and the century-old murta that is preserved in the garden.

capuchinosolleria.com

Apartado de Correos 197,

46850 L'Ollería

T 962 20 00 63

capuchinosolleria@gmail.com



 **Salido's House**

A hostel with history

The estate of Salido is an old inheritance of 32 hectares that the City Council of l'Ollería has recovered to preserve both the natural space and the environment and the house that has been totally restored. Located at the foot of the Grossa mountains and close to the Salido's ravine, this house has been converted into a classroom of nature and centre of environmental education, whose facilities will also serve as a hostel and rural accommodation.

lolleria.org

Ajuntament de l'Ollería

Sant Tomàs, 2

46850 L'Ollería

T 962 20 06 01

info@lolleria.es



 **Palace of Bellví**

The defense

The Palace of Bellví is a complex composed of tower, house and palace whose oldest element is the tower itself that was erected in the fourteenth century and to which the palace was later annexed. The tower, rectangular base and divided into four floors, must have been added as its function in origin was defensive. The palace house has been heavily modified and renovated over the centuries, highlighting at its entrance a half-point arch with elegant vousoirs.

benisuera.es

Ayuntamiento de Benisuera

Plaza Iglesia, 2 46839

T 962 29 30 31

benisuera_alc@gva.es



La Bastida

The shelter

Managed by the Muntanya Valldigna Group, the Bastida refuge is located 6 km from Quatretonda and has a capacity of 20 seats. Follow the rules of mountain shelters with guard, regulated by the Federation of Mountain Sports and Climbing of the Valencian Community. It has all the necessary services and carry out various activities. We pass by the same refuge on the journey on the way to Pla de Corral.

femecv.com

refugialberglabastida.blogspot.com.es/

grupmv@gmail.com

T 685 63 31 85



The Corpus Christi convent

Valencian Gothic style

Linked to the Corporales Mystery, the convent of Corpus Christi was built in the 14th century. It belongs to the Valencian Gothic style and the whole is ordered around a cloister with two bodies with the Church, the classroom, the cells and the refectory on the sides. Belonging to the Order of the Dominicans, in 1474 by bull of Pope Sixtus IV, a "General Study" was based which made it the oldest University of the Kingdom of Valencia and the fifth of the Hispanic kingdoms.

llutxent.es

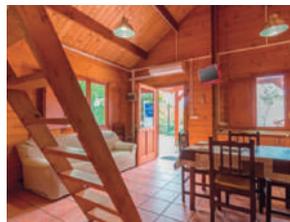
Ajuntament de Llutxent

Sant Domènec 18

46838 Llutxent

T 96 229 40 01

informacio@llutxent.org



El Mas de Xetà



Rural and leisure complex

Just 3 km from Llutxent towards Montixelvo, Mas de Xetà is a rural complex located just 3 km from Llutxent. Between fields of cultivation and next to the rambla that bears his name, this land belonged to the Dominican monks of the Monastery of Corpus Christi. Today, the old farmhouse offers accommodation in perfectly equipped wooden houses, and carries out numerous activities. It is also an equestrian center approved by the Spanish Horse Federation.

elmasdexeta.com

Cami de Xetà s/n

46838 Llutxent

T 962 13 12 82 - 673 795 036

info@elmasdexeta.com



**La Vall
d'Albaida**

At the Benicadell's shadow

During this fourth stage the cyclist will go from the hardness of the day before to the calm of the quieter roads between fields of cultivation and small villages located in the shadow of the Benicadell, the mountain par excellence of the Vall d'Albaida, symbol of the region and cultural reference of its inhabitants.

The route is not without some detail, especially because of the accumulated, especially in the stretch between Beniatjar and Bèlgida, since there are moments that, due to the steep slope in a few meters, we may have to push the bike. The stage follows the old roads of Montitxelvo and Benicolet in its first part, to reach Aiello de Rugat from where we will enter the area of the Umbría and the Molí. After crossing the towns of Rugat and Ràfol de Salem, the road takes us to Beniatjar, already at the foot of the Benicadell.

Otos and Carrícola have a special setting in addition to having an interesting cultural heritage, as in the case of Otos, the set of sundials made by renowned sculptures or Carrícola, where its environment is full of outdoor sculptures. From there we will reach El Palomar and Bèlgida, on an easy and uneven journey until we reach Albaida.

Stage 4: Llutxent-Albaida

We will leave Llutxent by the road that leads us to the cemetery, located on a small hill somewhat far from the town. Our route follows clearly south direction where the Benicadell and the Ador mountain range will be our references. Shortly after leaving Llutxent we will pass the Mas de Xetà, a rural complex linked to the world of the horse where they rent wooden cabins. This place, located among the fields of cultivation, has a large space used as recreation and riding school. The road from here is in worse condition, since it follows the course of a small ravine that usually takes water in its final stretch. We will arrive at a junction that we will follow on the left, discarding other indications that indicate different routes marked in the area. Here we must be attentive to the track since there are a couple of detours that will take us to Montixelvo. The small village of Benicolet will be on our left and we will continue south towards the southern part of the Vall, where the mountains delimit the region. Montixelvo is a small town at the foot of Penyes Albes and the Ador mountain range, also known as the Cuta. To this place we dedicate a thematic route that starts from the town, and brings us closer to Terrateig, another small urban



The Corpus Christi convent, Llutxent.

All the peoples we are going through until the end of the stage, respond to a common origin: Islamic farming that was repopulated with Christians after the reconquest



Rugat.

another small urban centre at the end of the region. Between Terrateig and Montitxelvo is located this Municipal Natural Area in a beautiful area of great ecological value. The general crossing continues to Aiolo de Rugat, where we also have the possibility of accommodation in a country house known as the Riu Rau de Rafaelet, although it has to be booked in its entirety. It is a good place for groups, and in the village we also have a restaurant where you can eat or dine, specialised in grilled meats.

All the populations through which we will pass until the end of the stage, respond to a common origin: Islamic farming that was

repopulated with Christians after the reconquest. For the most part, the existing population of Muslim origin was able to stay there, as the monarch respected their customs and habits, but after the expulsion of the Moors four centuries later, these nuclei were left uninhabited. From Aiolo de Rugat we will continue to Rugat by the Camí del Molí, to a place known as the Toll del Datiler. This path that takes height and then descends, allows us to reach the Mill of Rugat, where the wheat and corn were converted into flour. It milled grain all year round and was in operation until 1963. From the mill we will reach Rugat passing next to the Natura campsite, a rural tourism complex where campers spend the summers in a pleasant and cool environment, since this place is open to the north and influenced by the sea breezes. The campsite has bungalows where you can stay overnight too.

We will cross the town of Rugat and reach Castelló de Rugat. In Rugat is Menjars Clareta, a restaurant that offers traditional food with a certain originality, gastronomic reference for years, located on the Camino Real. Originally it was a riu rau dedicated to the elaboration of the raisin that was subsequently exported mainly to England from the ports of Dénia and Gandía. Today there is little left of its original structure, but the place is nice and very cozy.

To Castelló de Rugat we will arrive on the eastern part of the town, following agricultural roads and from Virgen del Remedio Street, we will pass through the very center of the town.



Otos path.

Castelló has a good set of bourgeois houses, emerged from the traditional ceramics-related industry, such as the manufacture of jugs to store oil, wine or water. There are excellent examples of these civil architectural constructions and some palaces such as the Alberola Palace and the Borja Palace, whose origin dates back to the fourteenth century and on which the Duke of Gandía would make a series of extensions. Very close to the palace are the remains of a mosque of the Islamic period, unique in the region and the few existing in the Valencian Community. Its origin would date back to the fifteenth century and would be used by Muslims who remained in the region until their expulsion.

Beniatjar is one of the starting points for the ascent of Benicadell on foot. The path of les Fontetes to the forest house of les Planisses is one of the classic ascents to access its summit



Escultura de Carrícola.



Otos.

Following the Camí Vell de Ràfol we will arrive to Ràfol de Salem, very close to Castelló to continue to Beniatjar, crossing one of the ravines that descend from the Benicadell, the Fuster's ravine. Beniatjar is one of the starting points for the ascent of Benicadell on foot. The path of *les Fontetes*

to the forest house of les Planisses is one of the classic ascents to access its summit. Remember also that from Ràfol de Salem departs the thematic route of Umbría del Benicadell for those cyclists who prefer to make a variant of the crossing through the foothills of the Benicadell, following the forest track that reaches Atzeneta. This most demanding and mountaineering route offers a more aerial view of the Vall d'Albaida. From Beniatjar we will leave the road to follow Otos by the Camí Vell de Xativa, which, although asphalted, runs among the fields of traditional cultivation, olive trees, above all, and fruit trees. Otos is well worth a careful visit not for its urban area, but for the collection of sundials located throughout the village, either on the facades, either in some roundabout or as exempt monuments in some small garden. This initiative that defines Otos as the surprising and unique sunwatch village in Europe has attracted numerous tourists. The idea came from the mathematician Joan Olivares and the painter Rafa Amorós who managed to convince sculptors and painters of international prestige such as Andreu Alfaro, Rafael Armengol, Antoni Miró or Manuel Boix among others, to translate their works of art in the form of sundials in the streets of the population. There is a signposted route where you can see them, as a kind of game, in which the clocks are discovered one by one. There are also guided tours that allow to know the theme and intentionality of the artists. Otos has an excellent traditional food restaurant, Ca les Senyorettes, which also functions as a rural hotel and which, from the back of the house, allows you to see a beautiful

picture of Benicadell from its terrace. From Otos we will follow the path that takes us to the Font de Baix, next to the channel of the ravine of la Mata, with a small raft and laundry, and by rural roads we will reach Carrícola, in a stretch of strong slopes that save the ravines that descend from the great mountain, some with permanent watercourse. The verticality of this area means that these ravines can be potentially dangerous in rainy season. Carrícola is a town that has a specific charm.

Committed to the environment, everything in the municipality is intimately linked to ecology, heritage and art. More than sixty outdoor sculptures are scattered throughout the environment and following the marked trails you can walk up the mountain enjoying curious works of art integrated into the natural environment. It is worth noting the hydraulic heritage linked to the ancient ditches of Islamic origin that continue to function, and the arches of the Font del Gatell, the aqueduct of the Passeres ravine or that of the Arcada are already mentioned in historical documents of the fourteenth century. They continue to function to transport water from the fountains and rafts to the small orchards of the Carrícola and Bèlgida. The same hermitage of Calvary is built on a

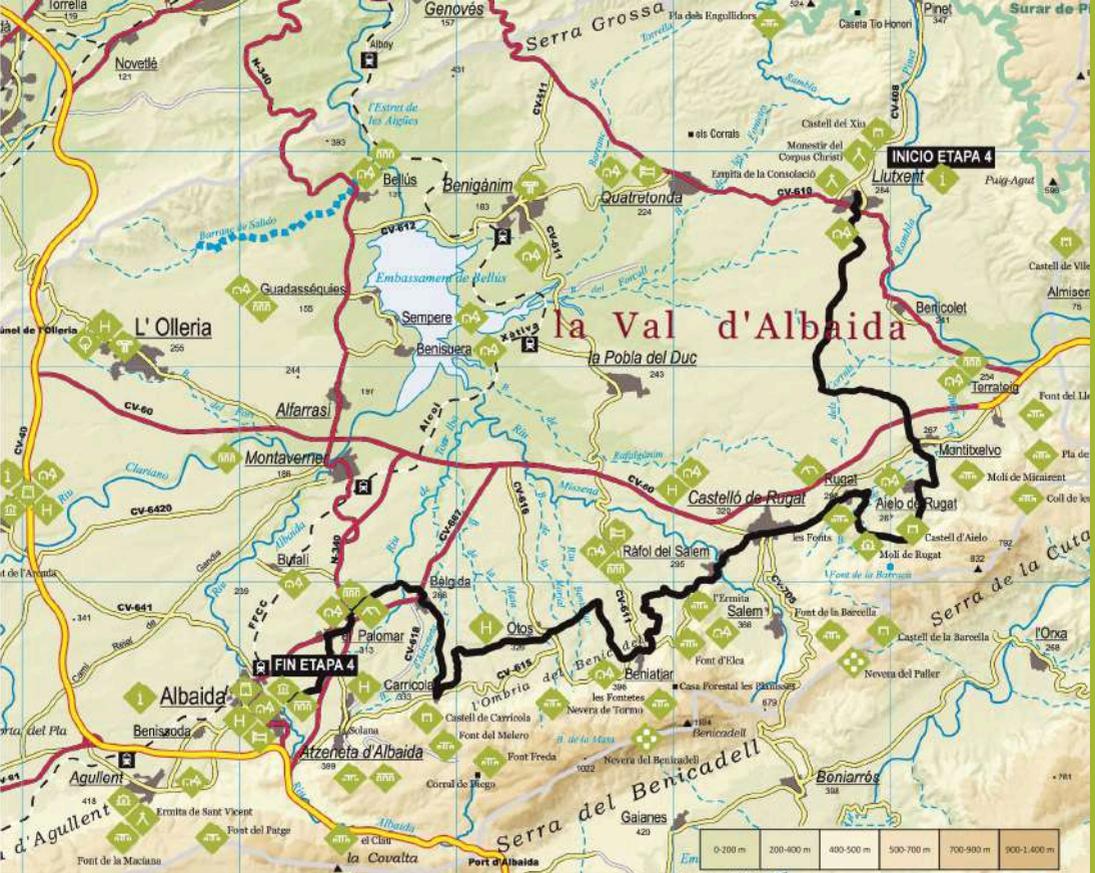
spring that was used by the Muslims to bring the water to the fountain of the square. The small mosque faced by the Benicadell was converted into a Christian church in 1572. Its whitewashed facade reminds us of its origin. Carrícola has a rural hotel and the possibility of renting to the town hall the old schools rehabilitated for groups.

From Carrícola in rapid descent we will reach Bèlgida, and continue to El Palomar, a town that also has interesting accommodation possibilities, such as the Els Horts de Palomar Rural House in the vicinity of the town. From El Palomar by the Pla de les Cotes we will head towards Albaida, passing before the vicinity of the Mill of les Clotes and the mill of Porta, before reaching the Albaida river. One kilometer before arriving in Albaida we will also pass another interesting rural complex, El Pansat. Located in the middle of an agricultural farm where orange trees and all kinds of fruit trees are grown, it has the possibility of accommodation, even to spend a few days of tranquility, with friends or family. The city of Albaida, capital of the old Marquisate, and town that gives its name to the region, will be the end point of the fourth stage of our journey.

Download the route:

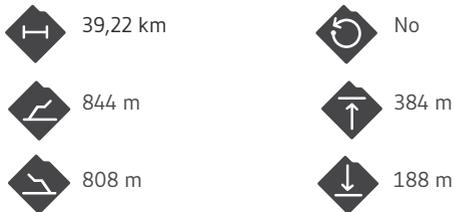
<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21207874>





Stage 4: At the Benicadell's shadow

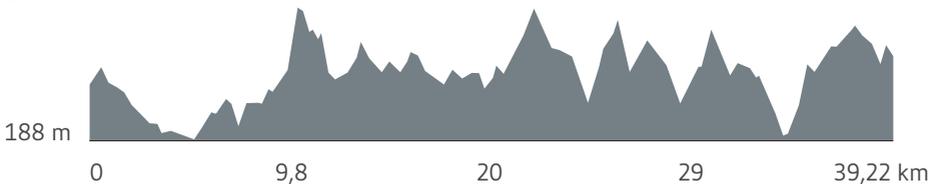
Data sheet

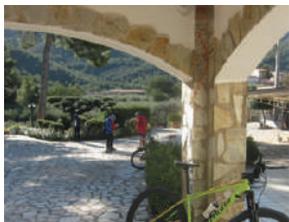


Roads and tracks: 36,22 km
Highway: 3,00 km
Physical difficulty: Moderate
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Llutxent
End point: Albaida

Orographic profile

384 m





 **Rafaelet's riu rau**

Villa for groups

Built on an immense plot of more than 13000 meters, next to the last houses of Aielo de Rugat, surrounded by forest and at the foot of the last foothills of the Benicadell mountain range, is this magnificent villa that is rented in its entirety, with capacity for nine people, ideal for groups and that can be reserved for a single night. Nearby is Bar Aielo, in the street of the Church, where they prepare typical dishes, meat or grilled sausages.

casaruralrafalet.com

Aielo de Rugat

Carrer Projecte Número 7

T 696 918 333 - 679 048 466

casaruralrafalet@gmail.com



 **Castelló de Rugat Mosque**

Medieval evidence

Discovered in the basements of a house in the historic center in Palau Square, is one of the three mosques that have been preserved in the Valencian Community along with that of the Xara in Simat de Valldigna or that of Benaença de Chelva. The enclosure consists of a rectangular prayer room with two naves and six vaults covered in brick with details of glazed ceramic ornamentation. It is located in the Palau's Square inside a municipal building.

turismecastelloderugat.com

Plaça de la Constitució, 7

46841 Castelló de Rugat

T 96 288 30 10

info@turismecastelloderugat.com



 **The sundials from Otos**

The art of shadows

The population of Otos has the best collection of sundials in Europe. They are spread over urban heritage and have been built and donated by renowned artists. You can take a guided tour or on your own, an interesting tour of the town and finish in the Palace of the Marquis de Sant Josep, where the outbuildings of the town hall and the permanent exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Antoni Miró are located.

otos.es

Ayuntamiento de Otos

C/ Sant Josep, 6

46844 Otos

T 96 235 82 35



 **Ca les
Senyorettes**


A balcony to Benicadell

Ca Les Senyorettes is one of the most important manor houses in Otos. It belonged to the landowner Celestino Alfonso, descendant of a local lineage that dates back to the repopulation of 1611, after the expulsion of the Moors. Converted into a hotel, it owes its name to its last inhabitants, Isabel and Teresa. The House retains some furniture from all eras in which it has been inhabited and has a living room, dining room with wood burning fireplace and its own restaurant where you can taste the best dishes of traditional Valencian cuisine.

ruralotos.com

Sant Crist, 1,
46844 Otos
T 96 235 80 32 - 620 58 87 24
casa@ruralotos.com



 **Hostal
Restaurant
Carrícola**


Hostel with art

Carrícola is one of the populations of the Benicadell mountain range, very committed to the environment and organic agriculture. It has only a hundred inhabitants and its charm lies in the mountain environment where it is located. The country hostel has 8 double rooms and its specialty is traditional Mediterranean cuisine, including all kinds of rice dishes where duck paella with tender garlic stands out. A good place also to stay overnight or eat during the crossing.

@hostalrestaurantcarricola

Carrer del Bot, 4
46869 Carrícola
T 96 235 61 61
parartaula@gmail.com



 **Els Horts
of El Palomar**

And the tradition of "El Xop"

Casa Rural El Palomar is located on the main street of the village of El Palomar, a small town of just 600 inhabitants, known for an ancient tradition "El Xop" where a large poplar is moved to the square and around it shepherds' dances are carried out. The traditional house offers a relaxing, antique-laden stay with a spacious dining room and nine rooms. Perfect for groups and ideal to rest as it is very close to Albaida, almost at the end of the fourth stage.

casaruralpalomar.com

Carrer Major, 13
46891 El Palomar
T 96 011 05 32 - 633 512 923



**La Vall
d'Albaida**

Through lands of the marquisate to the royal villa

The last stage of the journey through the Vall d'Albaida is characterized by being the shortest but the one with the greatest cultural intensity. There are several reasons why we have dedicated a stage of just 10 kilometers from the capital of the former Marquisate of Albaida, to the villa Real of Ontinyent. Two cities full of heritage and history. Both played a key role after the reconquest, at which point Jaume I incorporated them into the kingdom of Valencia and by extension, to the Crown of Aragon in the same year 1244, as well as Agullent.

This stage is eminently urban and quiet. It will allow us to enjoy the architectural heritage and pedal without slopes, through the streets and avenues that join Albaida, Benissoda, Agullent and Ontinyent. The Vila district in Ontinyent will mark the end of our journey through the Vall d'Albaida, at the same point as we started.

The short distance of this stage will also allow us to take advantage of the rest of the day to return home, especially if we have come from afar. It is important at the beginning of the journey, having some accommodation that allows us to leave the vehicles those days and change on the way back.

Stage 5: Albaida-Ontinyent

Nothing better than starting today's stage with a careful visit to the town of Albaida. The first thing that strikes us is the size and solidity of the fortified palace of the Mila and Aragó, Marquesses of Albaida. Built at the end of the fifteenth century on an earlier fortress. It has three defense towers known as Westeros, Central and Palatial Tower. On the different facades stand out the heraldic shields of successive eras and generations. Inside, the rooms are decorated with baroque paintings and are especially relevant the throne halls, music, Christ, White and the Marquis' bedroom. In one of the rehabilitated rooms is the International Puppet Museum (MITA), constituted as a unique collection from an essentially historical perspective. Puppets from different countries in Europe, Asia and Africa are represented. This museum is an essential visit for its originality and artistic value where also the latest trends of the scenic and audiovisual field are also collected. Just behind the Palace is another no less interesting museum, the house of the painter José Segrelles, where the most important anthological collection of the artist is preserved, since it allows us to see his evolution as a painter, from the first portraits to what is considered by some critics as his masterpiece, "Pentecostes".



Archpriest Church of the Assumption.

In this bell tower it is the only place in the Valencian Community where the manual ringing of bells is performed, a tradition that has been preserved since the 13th century



Fortified palace of the Millà and Aragó, Albaida.

José Segrelles was born in Albaida and after living in Barcelona and New York he returned to his hometown in 1931 and built his house where he lived and painted until his death. The archiprestal church of the Assumption is also within the walled enclosure, the Clos de la Vila, between the house of Segrelles and the palace. This temple is an example of the Valencian Gothic of the sixteenth century, highlighting above all the bell tower that was used as a watchtower. In this bell tower is the only place of the Valencian Community where the manual touch of bells is performed, a tradition that has been preserved since the thirteenth century. We will leave Albaida from the center to head towards the Fira avenue, carried out on what was the ravine of the Bouet that, together with the Albaida river, delimited and protected the old town. We will

continue along the street of Pósit and the avenue of Josep Giner to reach Benissoda, one of the smallest towns in the region in terms of size, but which also preserves a very interesting museum, the Ethnological Museum of the Vall de Albaida, created at the request of the Mancomunitat de Municipis de la Vall d'Albaida and remodeled in 2014 with support of the Valencian Museum of Ethnology. It is organized in 6 areas that reflect the life of the region and its visit is more than recommended mainly because the contents have been expanded giving it a more social vision and establishing links between the past and the present avoiding, at all times, the nostalgic gaze that characterizes other museums.



Panoramic of Ontinyent from the viewpoint.

Agullent, the town we will reach almost immediately and without touching hardly a road. Closely linked to rural tourism and hiking, Agullent is also a town also very committed to the environment and the natural environment. Its privileged location at the foot of the mountain range of the same name and the Covalta, invites you to discover the nearby places, some of which such as the hermitage of Sant Vicent, the Jordana Fountain or the Maciana Fountain are very close to the town and are the starting point of marked itineraries towards the Agullent mountain range, the Covalta and the high of the Torratser. In the town center we have near the Flour mill whose visit is very interesting, the church of Sant Bertomeu, clear example of the Valencian Baroque style and the convent of San Jacinto built in the sixteenth century.

Ontinyent, will be the end point of our journey, the place where we started days ago. The city of Ontinyent is the capital of the Vall d'Albaida



The Vila.



Alba pathway

To Ontinyent we will arrive by the Camí Vell d'Agullent, the old road that communicated both towns before the construction of the new accesses. This path maintains the primitive layout and its origin dates back to the Valencian bronze and the Iberian era, according to the sites found next to it throughout history. With Romanization the

road would be consolidated, and it played a fundamental role especially after the conquest of Jaume I in which the term of Ontinyent encompassed the towns of Agullent and Fontanars. Ontinyent, will be the end point of our journey, the place where we started days ago. The city of Ontinyent is the capital of the Vall d'Albaida. It concentrates almost half of the inhabitants of the region and has all kinds of services: hospital, shops, workshops and bike shops, wide cultural offer and good restaurants. It also has quality hotels, both in the city and in the surroundings that can serve as a base for the night before the crossing. Ontinyent has based much of its prosperity on textile development that began to grow and expand strongly in the second half of the twentieth century, thanks mainly to specialization in the manufacture of homeware and high quality wool blankets. In fact, textile brands are a reference in the rest of Spain and well known internationally. This economic prosperity has allowed the growth of the city and partly, the conservation and restoration of the cultural heritage of the neighborhood of the Vila, declared an Artistic Historical Ensemble in the seventies. The Vila district was the first urban center of Ontinyent and is one of the most representative medieval ensembles of the Valencian lands. At the beginning of the fifteenth century Ontinyent was a rich, commercial and populous city, the third after Xàtiva and Orihuela, with a much broader term that included the towns of Agullent and Fontanars dels Alforins.

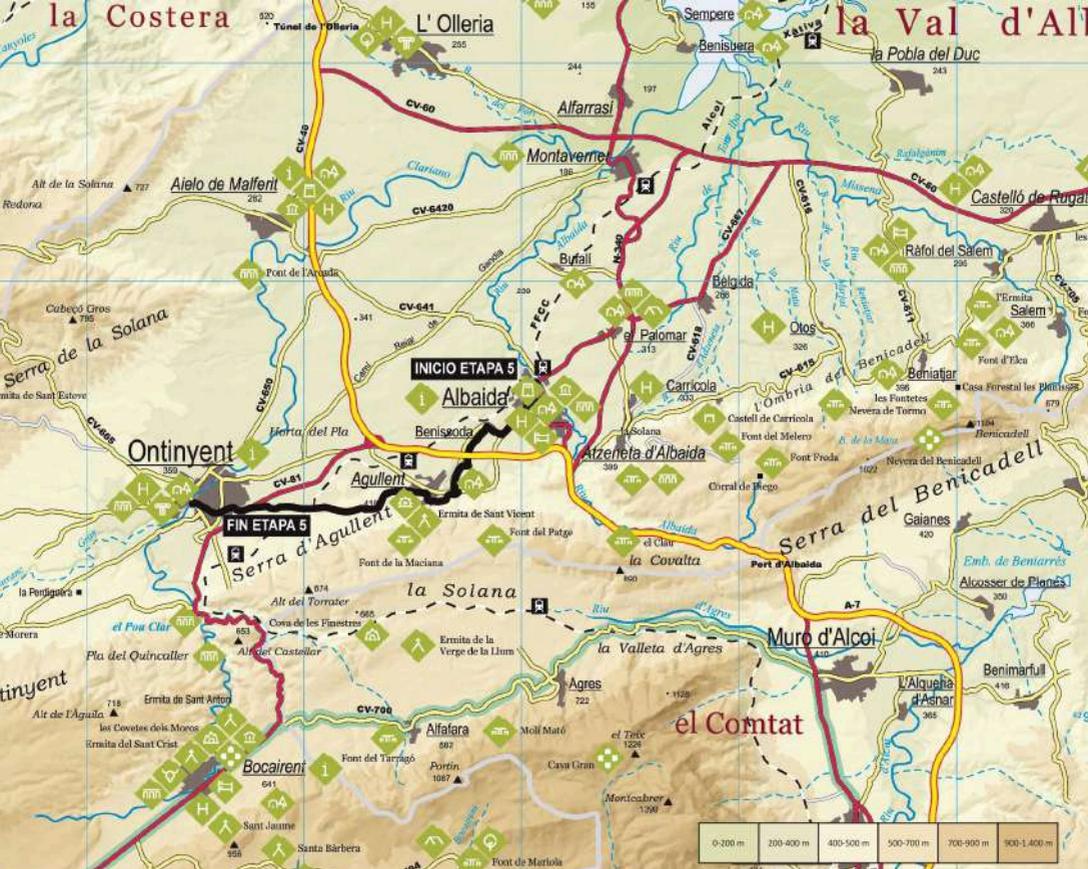
Its strategic location, between the Clariano River and the mountains, on the border with the kingdom of Castilla, made it a true fortress with probable Roman origin. We can start our tour from the Town Hall Square, whose complex dates from the time of Charles III, and look at the palaces and house of the streets that converge to the square. In front of the Town Hall, you will find the Torrefiel Palace and from the square you can ascend to the Vila district by the ramp of the Bola, which is worth walking around calmly. The church of Santa Maria is the main monument of the complex, dating from the thirteenth century and is Gothic in style. It consists of a single nave divided into three sections and has the second highest bell tower in Spain after the Giralda. Highlights include Major Street of the Vila -Calle Mayor de la Vila-, or the Trinitat, stately-looking, with stone segments in the houses and dead ends. Colored houses and lineage buildings such as the Casa de Palà, the Abbey House (Casa Abadía), or the Palace of the Duchess of Almodóvar (Palau de la Vila) that marked the starting point of our journey. Outside the Vila grounds, the convent of the Franciscan Fathers, has an interesting museum of natural sciences, where you can see several collections of Spanish, African and American fauna, along with another small museum of ancient coins, pre-Columbian pieces of art, vestiges of Ancient Egypt and Valencian ceramics, along with a small botanical garden.

The environment of Ontinyent, like the rest of the Vall d'Albaida was constituted by an agrarian landscape that began to be reversed from the fifties. The scattered farmhouses that we have seen along the way signify an important part of the rural ethnological and architectural heritage, the result of an era that began in the eighteenth century and developed mainly in the late nineteenth century reaching its peak in the early twentieth, a time of maximum rural occupation. The fields were cultivated and entire families of the land and the resources it could give them lived in the farmhouses. With industrialization will begin emigration and a progressive and unstoppable process of abandonment that has come to this day. Today the new economic and tourism models are trying to recover this heritage, re-inhabit the farms and recover the villages that were abandoned. La Vall d'Albaida is open to neighbors and visitors to offer the best of its territory: the landscape, the villages, the people and its gastronomy. Responsible tourism is one of the options, especially if it contributes to economic development with respect for the environment and environmental protection. Our proposal is not only a travel guide, it is also a sociocultural proposal that allows us to go beyond the destination.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21207558>





Stage 5: Through lands of the marquissate to the royal villa

Data sheet

-  9,88 km
-  No
-  143 m
-  430 m
-  110 m
-  312 m

Roads and tracks: 9,58 km
Highway: 0,30 km
Physical difficulty: Easy
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Albaida
End point: Ontinyent

Orographic profile

430 m

312 m



0 2,5 4,9 7,4 9,88 km



The palace of the Milà & Aragó

In Albaida

It was the residence of the Marquises of Albaida and built in the fifteenth century on the walls of the thirteenth century. Inside it houses the remains of an old house of medieval origin (Gothic Room) and the magnificent Baroque paintings of Bertomeu Albert considered as the most important and best preserved pagan-themed paintings of the Valencian Community. To the palace is the Puerta de la Vila, a half-point arch built in the fifteenth century and which closed access to the walled enclosure or *Clos de la Vila*.

albaida.es

Plaça Major s/n
(Palau dels Milà i Aragó)
46860 Albaida
T 96 239 01 86
mita@albaida.es



Albaida International Puppet Museum

Puppets from around the world

Opened in 1997, the International Puppet Museum, located in one of the halls of the Palau of the Milà and Aragó in Albaida, houses a collection of puppets from all continents of the world. It features, among others, the nods of the news of the wink and Cuorelandia, the characters of Gomaespuma, the Caracolímpicos of plasticine, the automatons of Francisco Sanz and the puppets of the island of Java that are World Heritage. Guided tours, workshops and activities are scheduled for the little ones.

albaida.es

Plaça Major s/n
(Palau dels Milà i Aragó)
46860 Albaida
T 96 239 01 86
mita@albaida.es



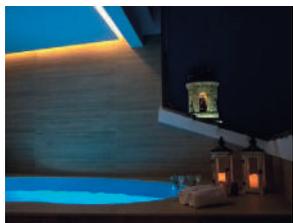
José Segrelles House Museum

With more than 10,000 books

Universally known, the painter and illustrator José Segrelles was born in Albaida and returned there the last years of his life. The museum holds the most important anthological collection of the artist from his first paintings to his summit work, "Pentecostes", a fundamental work in its mystical theme. It stands out especially its library with more than 10,000 books and the painter's own studio. The museum house is located next to the church and the palace, in a delicious corner of the square that bears his name.

museosegrelles.es

Plaza Pintor Segrelles, 13
46860 Albaida
T 96 239 01 88 - 606 36 48 31
Consultad horarios de visita
museosegrelles@museosegrelles.com



La Sitja

Only adults

Located in the town of Benissoda, in an atzacac, or typical blind alley of Muslim origin in the style of the medinas, this rural hotel has a beautiful terrace, a small spa for private use and a series of details that make this space a serene and quiet place in the heart of the Vall d'Albaida. Gastronomy is based on the local market, both in wines and in products of the region.

lasitja.com

C/Canonge Revert,5
46869 Benissoda
T 96 239 85 70
info@lasitja.com



Flour Mill

In Agullent

The Agullent flour mill was built in the mid-15th century. It used the water that was channeled from the Jordana Fountain and was exploited, as usual, under lease especially during the feudal regime, in which the owners used to be noble or as in this case the king himself, to whom the miller paid the exploitation rights. The water that moved the mill's wheels was also used to irrigate some orchards in the village. The visit may be arranged upon notice.

turismeagullent.com

T 96 290 70 80
info@turismeagullent.com
agudesenvolupamentlocal@gmail.com



The Vila district

In Ontinyent

The Vila district was the first urban center of Ontinyent, which originated in Islamic times between the 11th and 12th centuries. In 1244, the Vila was conquered by Jaume I and there was the settlement of the new settlers and the progressive displacement of the Moorish population to the outside of the walls. This medieval quarter despite some transformations suffered, maintains its essence and has been recovered to keep it alive. A walk along the Vila will be the final counterpoint of our bike ride through the Vall d'Albaida.

turismo.ontinyent.es

Tourist Info Ontinyent
Plaça de Sant Roc, 2 (Palau de la Vila) 46870 Ontinyent
T 96 291 60 90
ontinyent@touristinfo.net





**La Vall
d'Albaida**

The thematic routes

The thematic routes described below allow to expand, for those cyclists who wish, the general route. It is intended with the 8 thematic routes or variants, a greater knowledge of the region and in some cases also link populations through which the general crossing described in stages does not run. In all we travel places of great landscape or cultural interest that are close to the main route, and that enrich the knowledge of the region, increasing the days of travel. They are designed to connect to the general route at certain points or populations.

It is essential to download the corresponding track from the QR code or from the page of the Mancomunitat de Municipis de la Vall d'Albaida, using the GPS or smartphone with the corresponding application. The thematic routes have a circular character except for three of them that are linear in nature: the Corporals pathway, the pathway of Jaume I in the Vall d'Albaida and the Ombría del Benicadell. In these cases the thematic route replaces the general one with another variant of a more cultural character in the first two, and more mountain in the Ombría del Benicadell. The rest are circular and highlight the thematic routes that can be carried out as a family such as The towns of the river, the Corporals pathway or the pathway of Jaume I.

The Joncar's ravine

The environment we propose to explore is protected by the eastern foothills of the Grossa mountain range that forms like a small valley sheltered from the winds. The main artery is the Joncar's ravine, which is born in the Ombria del Xorlit at 800 m high and flows into the River Clariano. The return is made by the Camí de la Ombria, bordering the mountains and with wide views over the valley, the mountains and the town of Aielo. Before arriving again in the town we will pass very close to the old Factor of Light, a small central that brought light to the population in 1895 and came to supply electricity in addition to Aielo to l'Ollería, Ontinyent even to Bocairent. It is an environment worth visiting, as well as the bridge of Allá Baix, next to the factory, built in the sixteenth century, important element of access to the municipality, the old orchard and the Serratella that crosses the Clariano River and where it was formerly coming from Ontinyent and which, despite the years, has resisted the strong avenues of the river. We can enrich our thematic route with the visit to the sights of Aielo, such as the Palace House of the lords of Malferit, declared of Cultural Interest, whose origins probably date back to the fifteenth century. Currently, and after its rehabilitation, it is the seat of the City Council.



Aielo de Malferit's light factory.

The liquor factory of 1880 that became supplier of the Royal Household, currently active. And of course the Nino Bravo Museum that collects his personal and professional trajectory. A temple full of personal objects, photographs, costumes, discography, press and audiovisual clippings. A sample that won't leave you indifferent.

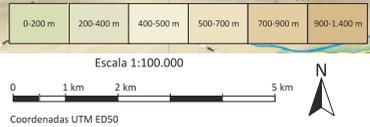
Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21207291>





Thematic. The Joncar's ravine



Data sheet

	9,61 km		Sí
	188 m		465 m
	187 m		269 m

Physical difficulty: Easy
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Aielo de Malferit
End point: Aielo de Malferit

Orographic profile

465 m

269 m



0 2,3 4,6 7,0 9,61 km

The Towns of the River

The main ditch that linked the villages of the river originated in a Muslim weir between the hermitage of Colata in Montaverner and La Venta of Alfarrasí. The water reached Bellús and watered the orchards of Sempere, Guadassequies and Benissuera, hence the name of Towns of the River. The thematic route will allow us to know the landscape of the villages of the river, from Bellús as a starting point to Alfarrasí, whose place-name comes from an old Valencian trade, the potter, which consisted of calculating the value of the fruit on the tree to sell before its collection. During the circular journey, we will be able to know the orchards that are still preserved from the river ditch, enjoy the views over the Bellús reservoir built in 1995 and visit the urban centers, such as Benissuera in whose center rises the Palace of the Bellvís, dating between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries, the beautiful environment of the church of La Esperanza in Guadasséquies or Sempere, the smallest town in the Vall located next to the reservoir. This themed route was initially designed by 'Terra de Patrimoni' for hiking, and can also be done by bike.

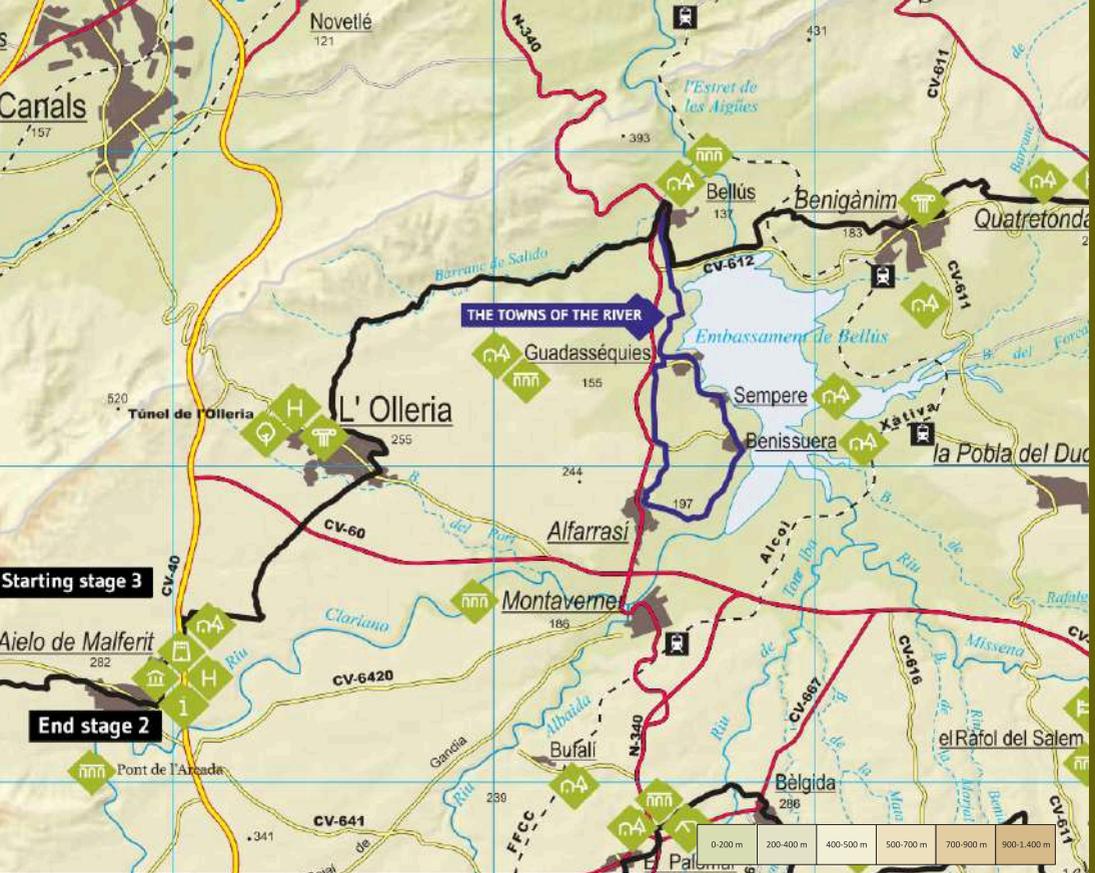


Despite the industrialization, the towns of the river still retain an interesting cultural heritage and small orchards next to the urban centers

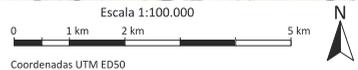
Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21206660>





Thematic. The Towns of the River



Data sheet

	11,36 km		Sí
	101 m		197 m
	65 m		131 m

Physical difficulty: Easy
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Bellús
End point: Bellús

Orographic profile

197 m

131 m



0 2,8 5,7 8,5 11,36 km

The Surar of Pinet - Llutxent

The Surar of Pinet - Llutxent is a natural site located in the Vall d'Albaida, to the north of the region and on the border with the Safor, which preserves the southernmost cork oak forest of the Valencian Community. Its importance lies in the fact that it is far removed from the areas where pure cork oaks, well-structured forests, in the natural state, that is, without man having participated or contributed to its development, to find in these places its primal habitat. Geology is responsible for the development of cork oaks, since they usually grow on siliceous soils, and although there is no 'rodeno' here, the presence of decalcified clays, allows the growth of these plant species. The climate also has a lot to do with the development of this type of vegetation, since this place accumulates a lot of environmental moisture from the sea winds. The place of the Surar is located on horseback between the municipal terms of Pinet and Llutxent. Our thematic route starts from the small town of Pinet, the northernmost of the region, at the foot of the Buscarró mountain range and ascends decided to the Pla de la Nevera overcoming an important slope, to continue to the highest point known as the Molló del Sabater at almost 700 m high.



From here, already in descent we will pass through the Surar's Micro-reserve of Flora, where the Surar raft and a small recreational area are located.

Its importance lies in the location that it is located far away from the areas where pure cork oaks are located, forests in the natural state

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21205727>



The Corporales of LLutxent pathway

The Corporales mystery of Llutxent, also known as the Corporales of Daroca, has its origin in the manuscripts that were discovered in 1340 describing some events that occurred during the reconquest. According to the documents, during a campaign mass at Xiu Castle, the Muslims attacked the camp and the priest, who was from Daroca, hid the sacred forms wrapped in cloths. After the siege, when they went to retrieve them, they dripped blood. The soldiers, seeing the stained cloths, in a boast of bravery recovered the castle. Faced with the miracle, and without agreeing, it was decided that the cloths would be kept where a mule would stop, since the soldiers were Aragonese.

The mule went to Daroca and fell. The path that followed the mule according to legend, is the Corporales pathway, now used as a pilgrimage to Daroca from Llutxent. The themed route departs from Llutxent and accesses the Convent of Corpus Christi. It continues through the north of the region and is bordering the foothills of the Grossa mountain range. Cross several ravines that descend from the mountain and reach Quatretonda, the church, with hexagonal tower is the monument of greatest interest. It is worth stopping in its historic center, especially in the Isleta neighborhood, with its narrow and irregular streets. Benigànim

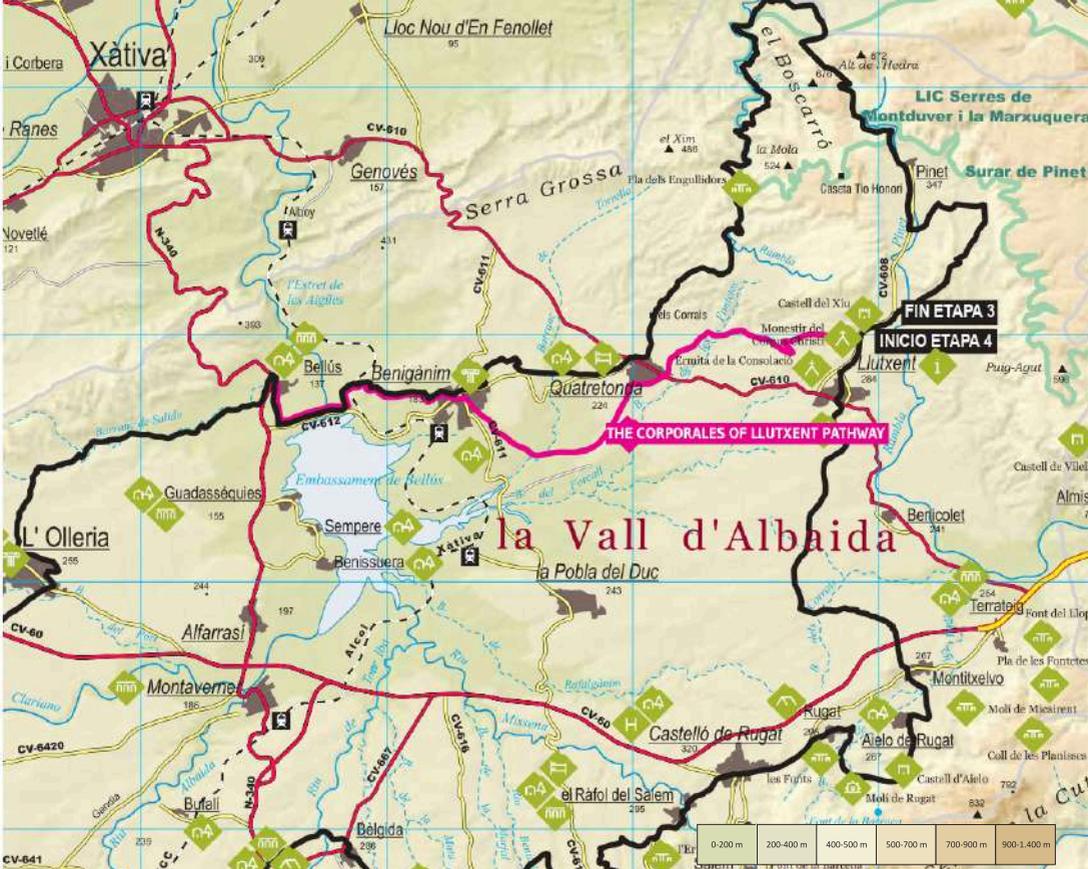


also stands out because with its set of five churches it represents the passage through the history of art, containing all styles from the high Middle Ages to the first half of the twentieth century. From here, after crossing the reservoir we reach Bellús, the last town of the Vall d'Albaida where the Corporales of Llutxent pathway passes that continues, through the Estret de les Aigües, to the city of Xativa.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21204344>





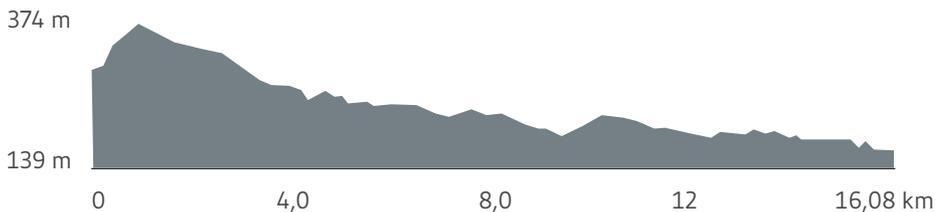
Thematic. The Corporales of Llutxent pathway

Data sheet

	16,08 km		No
	156 m		374 m
	299 m		139 m

Physical difficulty: Easy
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Llutxent
End point: Bellús

Orographic profile



The pathway of Jaume I in the Vall d'Albaida

The Jaime I Thematic Route in the Vall d'Albaida starts from the Corpus Christi Convent in Llutxent and ends at the Villa de Ontinyent, the starting and ending point of the cycling tour. La Pobla del Duc, Montaverner and Bufali are the urban centers through which the route passes and all three are foundations created by Jaume I himself on old Islamic farmhouses. Montaverner, in particular, had a great importance since it was at the confluence of the Albaida and Clariano rivers and thus, the Christian monarch ensured the way to Alicante. Our route circulates along rural paths and paths such as the Gandia's royal way, on an itinerary designed for family tourism and to be done on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. Throughout the journey, the most humanized agricultural landscapes, surrounded by mountains and with a series of towns of great historical and heritage value, are discovered from the heart of the Valley. The medieval nuclei of Albaida, with the Castle-Palace of the Milà & Aragó, the Corpus Christi Convent of Llutxent emerged from the legend of the Corporales of Daroca and the Villa of Ontinyent are more than enough arguments for a careful visit. The pathway of Jaume I is an invitation to discover, through its figure, the culture and landscape of a territory marked by history.



The route “Jaume I in the Vall d'Albaida” is a cultural tribute to the king who founded the region of Valencia and integrated in it the populations of the Vall d'Albaida

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21203953>





Thematic. The pathway of Jaime I in the Vall d'Albaida



Data sheet

	36,43 km		No
	447 m		351 m
	384 m		167 m

Physical difficulty: Easy
Technical difficulty: Easy
Starting point: Lutxent
End point: Ontinyent

Orographic profile

351 m

167 m



0 9,1 18 27 36,43 km

Penyes Albes & Terrateig

The Penyes Albes and Terrateig theme route will allow us to know, in just 11 km, the Municipal Natural Park in the forest terrains of Montitxelvo and Terrateig. It was declared a protected site in 2010 by the Generalitat Valenciana and has an area of 347 Ha. From a orographic point of view, it is a fairly complex and abrupt place, with an important unevenness, which explains, in addition to its orientation, biological diversity. It is a well-preserved haven of nature with high botanical and landscape value as we can see. Shortly after the ascent begins, we will be immersed in dense and lush vegetation, and the rains have been generous, the fountains, streams and springs such as Nevera fountain, Tossal's ravine or Pla de les Fontetes will have water in abundance. The climb up the Umbrieta to Penyes Albes is hard and demanding, since the entire slope is saved in just 5 kilometers and soon the Mediterranean forest takes over the road with sections that completely cover it. Here plant species such as flower ash disappeared in the rest of the Ador mountain range are preserved. A little further up the Pla de les Fontetes we enter a landscape of abandoned crops, which remind us of the hardness of rural life in isolated places.



(...) it is a fairly complex and abrupt place, with a significant unevenness, which explains, in addition to its orientation, the biological diversity

The Penyes Albes emerge on the last terraces and make this spectacular place even more spacious.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21203637>





Thematic. Penyes Albes & Terrateig

Data sheet

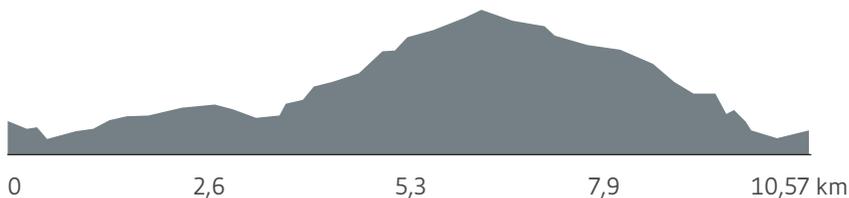
	10,57 km		Sí
	470 m		561 m
	470 m		218 m

Physical difficulty: Moderate
Technical difficulty: Moderate
Starting point: Montitxelvo
End point: Montitxelvo

Orographic profile

561 m

218 m



The Benicadell's shadow

A social and cultural symbol for centuries, the Benicadell mountain range is one of those mountains that remain forever etched in memory. Closely linked to the Vall d'Albaida, it constitutes the natural border between the provinces of Valencia and Alicante. With a vigorous and well-defined profile, it has a beautiful silhouette that is perfectly recognizable from afar and its steep slopes give it a high mountain atmosphere, both for the isolation over the Vall, and by the clouds that often stand still enveloping its summit. A forest track runs through the entire course, from El Ràfol de Salem to Atzeneta. Our thematic proposal, as a variant to the general cycle path, is to offer an alternative on the highest slopes of the Benicadell, taking advantage of this forest path suitable for mountain biking. The thematic route starts from the Salem Town at first by road to ascend more decisively to the forest house of les Planisses, in the term of Beniatjar. From there the route continues west without losing height and passing through the Freda Fountain whose viewpoint is worth approaching. We will see from the top the villages of Otos, Carrícola, Bèlgida and El Palomar through which the general crossing passes, and also the restored castle of the Benicadell.



(...) declared Protected Landscape by the Generalitat Valenciana in 2006, has by its orientation, a greater rainfall and therefore more vegetation (...)

The thematic route ends in Atzeneta d'Albaida to link again with the general at the height of Albaida.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21183636>





Thematic. The Benicadell's shadow

Data sheet

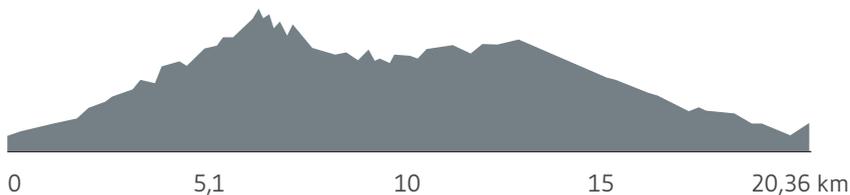
	20,36 km		No
	777 m		826 m
	748 m		289 m

Physical difficulty: Difficult
Technical difficulty: Difficult
Starting point: el Ràfol de Salem
End point: Albaida

Orographic profile

826 m

289 m



La Covalta

With the following thematic route we can know a part of the Agullent mountain range, walking both the most humanized slope near the hermitage of Sant Vicent, as well as the southern part that allows us to enjoy extraordinary views over the Vall d'Albaida, the Valleta of Agres and the immense natural wall that forms the Mariola mountain range. During the tour we will pass through the Jordana Fountain and follow the path that will take us to the house of the Pantanet's tower. The climb, except for the first section, is smooth and maintained, following the height of 500 m always overlooking the Vall d'Albaida. We will pass through the Patge's Fountain and we will border l'Alt de la Vereda and Filosa to the limits of the municipality of Agres.

Before crowning the upper part of the mountain range and reaching *l'Alt del Torratser* we will pass very close to the *Pedreria cava*, a snow accumulation with circular plant carved out of the rock. It is worth noting the intense economic activity that the ice trade meant until the 18th century, and above all, the situation of the icebox at a height relatively low, clearly indicating a significant change in conditions climatic. The thematic route ends again in Agullent descending through the Enginyers pathway, built by engineers forest in the early twentieth century with the purpose of repopulating the mountains.



If there is any emblematic mountain that defines the Vall d'Albaida, in addition to the Benicadell, this is the summit of the Covalta, in the Agullent mountain range

This network of paths with stone walls that run throughout the Agullent mountain range and the shadow of Ontinyent is a true engineering work of the time and are a cultural heritage that deserves its care and conservation.

Download the route:

<https://es.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=21182685>





Thematic. La Covalta

Data sheet

	12,52 km		Sí
	335 m		654 m
	321 m		391 m

Physical difficulty: Moderate
Technical difficulty: Moderate
Starting point: Agullent
End point: Agullent

Orographic profile

654 m

391 m



0 3,1 6,2 9,3 12,52 km

A few tips to finish or to start

Before considering any cycling trip including its different variants, we have to take into account a number of factors that will allow us to turn our trip into a pleasant experience. We have to warn the cyclist, that often some of the routes and stages through the Vall d'Albaida run through

solitary places, natural places that are not usually crowded or frequented, so it is easy not to meet anyone. That is why we must be self-sufficient and have what is necessary to cover any eventuality.



Let's start with the choice of bicycle

The bike must be of quality and for this we must resort to specialized shops. There we will be advised according to the use that we will give it and, above all, they will guarantee that the machine responds to our needs. That's what our security is all about.



Bicycle type

The Valencian Community has almost 70% of its territory covered with mountains and the Vall d'Albaida is no exception. This implies that depending on the use that we are going to give it, we will have to choose a different type of bicycle. For our terrain, the most robust, safe and recommended are mountain bikes or MTB. For cycling we will have to opt for a comfortable bike, slightly more upright position and with the possibility of being able to install saddlebags in the rear luggage rack. The BTT adapts to any situation with small modifications: thickness of the covers, regulation of the power or adaptation of the gear shift.

The size



The size must be the right one. Size on the bike is the most important thing. According to our measurements it will have to be the size of the machine. With an inadequate size we will be uncomfortable and can cause injuries. As a general rule, standing on the bike, the distance between the horizontal tube and crotch should be between 8 or 10 cm. The distance from the saddle to the frame will be measured by extending the leg and heel fully supported on the pedal. Moreover, the seatpost should not protrude from the bike frame beyond the safety mark.

Cycling is one of the most dynamic and anaerobic sports that can be done outdoors. It allows us to travel while we exercise and so our fitness has to be in line, adapting the itineraries and the duration of the stages to our possibilities

The right equipment



Clothes have to be the right one: the winter equipment must necessarily consist of a series of layers that we can remove and put ourselves under the circumstances. In a climb our body will generate heat, in a descent we will cool down, with the clothes wet of sweat the thermal sensation is much greater and if the air passes through the wet clothes, we can pass a lot of cold and even reach hypothermia. In summer there will be no major problem than wearing a technical t-shirt of cyclist or jersey that keeps us dry, and some light warm garment such as a windbreaker or raincoat that is breathable. In winter in the Vall d'Albaida you reach very low temperatures, especially in Fontanars dels Alforins or Bocairent. We can practice cycling in our territory without any problem throughout the year as long as, we have the right technical clothes, designed specifically for cyclists.



They are basically three layers of protection needed during the winter. A first t-shirt of synthetic material in contact with our skin that keeps us always dry. A second garment, something thicker, comfortable and breathable too, that preserves the body heat and, thirdly, the layer that keeps us isolated from the outside, that breathes the steam of our sweat, but that does not let the wind or rain pass. An anorak or raincoacher of specific quality material, which are also used in other mountain activities, and which we must always carry in the backpack.



The culotte

The culotte is still the must-have for cycling. Adapted to our body, with anatomical fit, the culotte is comfortable and irreplaceable. There are shorts for summer and long for winter, the latter slightly plush for effective protection against the cold.



Footwear

Footwear always has to be of rigid sole to avoid injuries or deformations on the soles of the feet, but which in turn allow us to walk with some comfort when we want to get off the bike to visit any place of interest. The automatic pedal is highly recommended, as it will give us safety and turn our body and the bike into an inseparable whole. The coves go at the bottom and are caught with a hook to the pedals. There are shoes for automatic pedals that the coves are hidden between the heels of the sole and allow you to walk with some normality.

With regard to feeding, it will always be advisable to carry some energy supplement such as bars or gels for consumption on the fly. Water of course, depending on the route, hardness and passage through sources or towns. Always being well hydrated is essential

And finally, the accessories



Socks, gloves that protect our hands, sunglasses, essential also and that will prevent the shock of insects or branches against our eyes and of course, the helmet.

The helmet can not only save our lives in the event of a fall, but also protects us from cold and intense heat, avoiding sunstroke, as it acts as a thermoregulator of our organism. Cyclists who wear helmets, their active temperature are proven to be more constant, have fewer problems, become less heat and recover earlier after exertion. There are real wonders in the specialized market, which weigh very little and mean nothing to our head, even on the climbs.

Tools



Although there may be bike models that use some specific type of tool, generally for basic repairs, all bikes usually use the same type of tools.

They can be summed up in a set of allen keys, small pliers, a knife, a pair of spare chambers and patches, a bowler, a chain tool, if possible with a standard link, bike oil and detachable to change the cover in case of puncture. Also good is a roll of insulating tape, flanges, small scissors and a small piece of chamber to temporarily repair, some possible breakage of the cover.

We must not forget to bring a basic medicine cabinet, with the essentials and a small backpack to carry all the above. If the journey is long, or it is a journey of several days, it may be better to carry saddlebags or transport what is necessary in the luggage rack, well attached and inside a waterproof petate like those used in canyoning, subject along the luggage rack.

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