GR-330. COSTA BLANCA INLAND PATH
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This Route
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Welcome to **GR-330. Costa Blanca Inland Path**, a linear journey of 432.16km divided into **20 stages** during which you can get to know the province of Alicante.

A unique proposal that invites you to discover the contrasting landscapes, environments and culture of the province of Alicante and enables you to visit the interesting historical remains, discover myths and legends and get to know different traditions, architecture, customs, local cuisine and handicraft of this privileged province.

Beaches with fine sand, cliffs, miles of dunes and places of great environmental and scenic value such as such as **El Montgó Natural Park, Carascal de la Font Roja Natural Park, Serra de Mariola Natural Park, Hondo Natural Park and the La Mata - Torrevieja Natural Park** are part of our route.

We will climb emblematic peaks such as the **Aitana Peak** 1,558 m, the roof of the province of Alicante, we will go through a great variety of landscapes, wild areas, ravines, areas of dense pine forest and lush vegetation, steep slopes and gaping chasms, lagoons and salt flats.

We will see how the inhabitants of each district have learnt to adapt to the environment and take advantage of the natural resources.

With regard to the flora and fauna we will also notice changes as we travel along the route. In mountainous areas we will find dense pine forests, aromatic and medicinal herbs, birds of prey such as eagles, falcons, vultures and owls; mammals such as wild boar, mountain goats and squirrels. In wetlands we can highlight grasslands, reeds, rushes and vegetation that has adapted to saline soils, areas inhabited by amphibians, reptiles and countless species of water birds such as flamingos or grey herons.
How to use the guide

Each of the stages comprises several pages providing technical information about the route and a description of it, as well as some pages about the towns.

The technical information is set out in a table, the details of which have been calculated using the Hiker Information Method (Spanish abbreviation MIDE). MIDE is recommended by the Spanish Federation of Mountain Sports and Climbing (Spanish abbreviation FEDME) and other organizations.

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• GROUND SURFACE DIFFICULTY 🏔️

Difficulty of the terrain.
1 Walking over flat terrain
2 Walking over bridle paths
3 Walking over terraced pathways or uneven ground
4 Hands must be used to keep your balance
5 Requires climbing in order to go forward

• EFFORT ❤️

Amount of effort needed.
(Calculated according to MIDE criteria for average hikers with a light load)
1 Up to 1 h of actual walking
2 More than 1 h and up to 3 h of actual walking
3 More than 3 h and up to 6 h of actual walking
4 More than 6 h and up to 10 h of actual walking
5 More than 10 h of actual walking

• Duration 🕒
• Partial distance 🏃‍♂️
• Total distance 🏃‍♂️
• Cumulative ascent 🏻
• Cumulative descent 🏻
• Journey type 🕒

HIGHLIGHTS OR FEATURES OF EACH STAGE:
• Archaeological, historic and cultural interest 🏰
• Scenic and environmental interest 🏵️
• Bird watching 🦅
• Mountain activities 🏔️
• Nautical activities 📶
• Cycling 🚴
• Mountain biking 🏔️
• Aerial activities ⛅️
• Hiking 🏔️
• Climbing 🌺
• Wine tourism 🍷
• Local cuisine 🍽️
• Accommodation 🏥
WHERE TO BEGIN AND DIRECTION OF THE WALK

Our proposal is to set off from Dénia and reach Orihuela after 20 stages, however, the route can be undertaken in the opposite direction.

TIME OF YEAR

Given that the province of Alicante enjoys moderate temperatures throughout the year, this route can be done at any time of the year. You must bear in mind that this journey reaches summits in which it can snow in winter and, on the contrary, more southerly areas of the province that can reach high temperatures in summer.

PERSONAL FITNESS

Although in general the route is moderately difficult, some of the stages cross mountainous areas which are difficult so you need to degree of experience in mountaineering.
Anyone lacking the necessary experience for the most difficult stages can hire the services of a qualified mountain guide.

**RUCKSACK**
To do the route you will need the correct clothing, which, depending on the time of year, will include technical garments, thermal clothing, breathable fabrics, warm clothing even in summer to avoid surprises or be able to keep warm in case of an accident, hiking boots and socks to prevent grazing, rainproof jackets, gloves and cap or peaked hat to protect you from the sun.

You will need to take plenty of water and other utensils such as a map, compass, GPS, walking stick, sun cream, sunglasses, mobile phone, small first aid kit, knife and small torch.

It is advisable to always carry food in your rucksack that is rich in sugar and carbohydrates.

**FOOD**
The trips must be well planned, because based on our physical fitness and convenience we should take food for at least one meal. Some of the stages cross through villages where we can stop for meal and take advantage of the local cuisine. All the stages end in town, except stage 12 which ends in the Xorret de Catí Recreational Area.

WHERE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION
www.costablanca.org
• Respect the environment, do not leave or bury rubbish. Keep it until you can put it in to place where it can be collected and recycled.

• Do not light fires or throw cigarettes on the ground.

• Walk on marked paths, do not tread outside of the paths or tread on crops. Use the footpaths.

• Respect the marked paths. Shortcuts only cause serious erosion and may make the traditional path disappear and damage vegetation, as well as place you in danger and/or cause you to get lost.

• Dogs, as a rule, should be kept on leads. Pay special attention to the rules in Natural Parks and protected natural areas.

• Respect and look after fountains and running water. Do not pour soap, detergents, pollutants or waste in them.

• Do not camp outside the areas designated for this purpose.

• Defend nature and remember that the extinction of animal or vegetable species is irreversible.

• Respect plants and animals, do not disturb them and do not take home what belongs to nature. Do not pick flowers or break branches.

• Respect other hikers.

• Motor vehicles are for driving on roads. Do not drive them on trails. Do not disturb the peace in the countryside with the noise of engines.

• Help us preserve the rich Cultural Heritage of our ancestors: do not draw graffiti or cause any damage.

• Carry suitable equipment. In case of emergency dial 112.

• It is recommended to have a mountain rescue insurance.
01 STAGE
from Dénia to Gata de Gorgos

- **6 h**
- **20,50 km**
- **813 m**
- **766 m**
- Linear journey
We will begin the route going up the summit of **El Montgó Natural Park**, located in **Marina Alta** district, and then descending to the village of Gata de Gorgos.

The journey starts at the Hermitage of **Pare Pere**, where the entrance to **El Montgó Natural Park** is located, in the housing estate of **Peña del Águila** of Dénia.

We will follow the path of the old agricultural community, which was opened in 1921 to gain access to plots of land.

During this journey we will be able to visit the **Cova de l'Aigua** which was used by the Romans to supply water to a reserves of the Roman Empire army.

We will continue along the agricultural route until it becomes a path and runs between pine trees, palmettos and endemic flora.

We reach the at the **Barranc dels Lladres**, where we will continue to climb via a zig-zag path until we arrive at the ridge that rises abruptly, among sharp stones, up to the summit of **El Montgó**, this being the most dangerous stretch of the route.

The summit of **El Montgó**, at 753 metres above sea level, is an excellent viewpoint of the **Marina Alta** district.

We will begin the descent on the path that passes below the cross of Dénia.

As we descend, the path widens until we reach the stony stony path that will take us to **Jesús Pobre**, a small village that is worth visiting before continuing our journey towards **Gata de Gorgos**.

In this final part of the journey to **Gata de Gorgos**, we will cross the paths of crops that offer us wonderful views such as the bloom of the almond trees in January and the change of colour of the vines.
**Dénia**

20 km of coastline, fine sandy beaches that merge with rocky beaches as we move towards the South, El Montgó Natural Park, cliffs, small coves with places of great beauty and spectacular views from the Cabo de San Antonio all turn Dénia into a paradise by the sea.

**Gata de Gorgos**

The highlight of this municipal district of unique beauty is that we can find emblematic places and specimens of olive trees and spectacular carob trees. You shouldn’t miss a visit to the palm craft shops in the square España.

**Jesús Pobre**

Friendly village located in a unique spot marked by its proximity to El Montgó and dry-farming cropland. Full of buildings that keep its past and traditions alive, such as the riurau del Senyoret, the windmills and the farmhouses.
ACTIVE TOURISM
This privileged area, with unique spots and ideal temperatures throughout the year, attracts sportspersons and adventure seekers.

LAND ACTIVITIES: Enjoy spectacular landscapes while hiking. Discover unique and incomparable spots while mountain biking on fun routes. Get to know this region of Alicante in dynamic trips via 4 x 4 quads or buggies. Tour the city and its traditional districts in different routes on a segway.

WATER ACTIVITIES: Fly over the waves while surfing, wind surfing, water skiing or on jet skiing trips. Paddle surf, coasteering or going on kayak and canoe trips are just some examples of the nautical activities that you can practice in Dénia. Immerse yourself in the Cabo San Antonio Marine Reserve and discover their beautiful seabeds and prairies of posidonia while snorkeling or diving. Nautical activities such as boat charters, boat rides and many others will offer you unique adventures in crystal clear waters and dreamlike beaches.
STAGE
from Gata de Gorgos to Parcent

- Distance: 25.20 km
- Elevation gain: 317 m
- Linear journey: 45.70 km
- Difficulty: moderate

6 h

Km

m
This is the part of the journey that runs through the Marina Alta district, where we will cross the mountain range of Seldetes from Gata de Gorgos to later stroll along quiet paths of La Vall de Pop, which offer unique hidden areas.

In the Marina Alta in the shade of El Montgó, we will find the district of Gata de Gorgos, where we will establish the starting point of this stage, in the Arraval Park.

From the Park we will cross the river to continue along a pleasant red dirt track up to Mas de les Mallaes, close to the Font de la Mata, which has served as a place for cattle to be watered and to rest since the Muslim period. Growing over the spring is the ‘shrub’ ("la mata"), an enormous mastic and which gives the name to this place.

We will continue towards Alto de Serrellars, above sea level, on a path with abundant vegetation that goes over the ravine of les Canyelles. The summit offers good views of the Bèrnia mountain range and of the rock of Ifach or El Montgó.

From the vertex, the path goes down to La Vall de Pop, passing first through a few ancient terraces where we can appreciate the architecture of ‘la pedra en sec’, a construction technique consisting of building stone walls without using any mortar.

We will cross the district of Senija, entering the flat area of Llíber accompanied by thousands of vines until we reach Llíber.

After a visit to the small town we will go to Xaló, following the course of the river Xaló-Gorgos, declared a Site of Community Importance. After visiting Xaló we continue walking along the the river and cross it to reach Alcalalí, another pretty town that is worth a visit declared a Community Place of Interest.

Finally, a beautiful walk that runs along rural roads between crops and ravines will complete the stage of the journey that will lead us to the district of Parcent.
Senija, Llíber, Xaló, Alcalalí and Parcent

Towns known for their agriculture, particularly vines and almond trees. Stop and get to know their gastronomy, tradition and landscape among fields and mountains.

Moors and bandits form part of the history of Senija. At Xaló we can find Iberian, Roman and Arab settlements. Throughout the district we can find archaeological and historical remains of these civilizations.

Llíber stands out due to its Arabic cultural heritage, particularly appreciating the land dedicated to the cultivation of the vines with its riu-rau houses.

From the emblematic Torre de Alcalalí, declared a Site of Community Importance, we can see incredible panoramic views of the Vall de Pop.

One of the noteworthy elements of Parcent is that in the village one can still witness ball games in the street, which are played on the carrer de Dalt. Visiting the town will allow us to walk along its narrow, steep streets.

ACTIVE TOURISM
Privileged area in which nature, mountains, history, sport and tradition come together.
HIKING: Short walks and local paths will allow us to know the Bèrnia mountain range and La Vall de Pop.

The route ‘Paths of stone and water’ running next to the River Gorgos, declared a Site of Community Interest.

We recommend walking along the ravine of the Cau or taking the PR-CV 53 Castle of Aixa route and the PR-CV 158 Carrascal mountain range its great views of the Marina Alta and Marina Baja.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: There are numerous tours of different levels such as the route of Sant Joan de Mosquera, the route of the muscatel or the easy to access Los Campos de Murla; the ride to the Cavall Verd and the raisin track are quite difficult. If we’re seeking extreme routes, then the Bèrnia mountain range, the journey from Benissa to Parcent, the route of the Valley of Alcalá and the Pla of Petracos will put us to the test.

CLIMBING: 65 ways of climbing the various different levels located between the Peña Roja and the Fuente de Aixa.
03 STAGE from Parcent to Castell de Castells

⚠️ moderate ⌛️ 2 ⚒️ 2 ❤️ 4

 água 7 h

22,61 km

1,177 m

902 m

68,31 km

Linear journey
During this stage, in the Marina Alta, we can enjoy a beautiful mountainous landscape with views of the sea. We start the route in Parcent along the camí del Pous, a former cattle track used by breeders in the area to avoid conflicts with farmers.

We pass through Pozo de la Cañada and start our ascent to Coll de Rates, by an ancient blacksmith’s track, which was used in the 19th century to transport raisins from Tàrbena to Dénia.

Coll de Rates is an appropriate place to recharge batteries and a wonderful lookout to la Vall de Pop.

From here we will go down a track between terraces built in Moorish times until we reach the houses of Tossalet Redó, where it begins the ascent that will lead us through pine forests and terraces to the CV-715 road. We cross it to continue climbing the Penya Pinets.

We will pass the Font dels Olbis, a watering hole for cattle and surrounding the hill, and we will arrive at the Sa Pou viewpoint which offers majestic views.

We will continue down by the CV-752 road until we are diverted onto a road that follows the course of the ravine of the Cova Roja, parallel to the road, until reaching the plain of the Pla of d’Aialt and its farmyards of Moorish ancestry.

From here the road runs between fields of planted fruit and several pine forests, taking us towards Castell de Castells.

As the road narrows and we get closer to the course of the river, we will pass through a quite wild forest area to eventually arrive at Castell de Castells.
**ACTIVE TOURISM**

Castell de Castells is surrounded by mountains and ravines and so it offers a privileged space for practising mountain hiking and mountain bike sports. Descending of canyons and ravines such as the ravine of the Pas de Calvo; climbing the Xortà mountain range and caving in the Cova del Somo.

Some of the local routes are: PR-CV 149 El Castellet, PR-CV 150 Morro Blau and PR-CV 151 Els Arcs.

Other approved routes that link Castell dels Castells with other districts are: PR-CV 19 Guadalest- Castell de Castells, PR-CV 46 Callosa-Tàrbena-Castells-Guadalest, PR-CV 49 Callosa-Bolulla-Castells and PR-CV 427 Benigembla-Castells. It is recommended to do the PR-CV 168 Benimassot-Barranc de Malafí-Castells route in two days.

**NATURE**

Castell de Castells is located in between the mountains and abundant ravines of Serrella, Xortà.
and Alfaro and it is surrounded by fields of dry land. Places of great beauty with attractive restored formations such as the Natural District Landscape of Els Arcs and the Penya de Castellet. Caves of remarkable interest such as the Cueva del Somo or the Cave of Pla de Petracos.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
A prehistoric site gives us hints of how ancient this place is, the cave paintings located in the Sanctuary of the Pla de Petracos, declared a World Heritage Site.

It is essential to visit the Macroschematic and Ethnological Museum of Art, where we can understand the meaning of the cave paintings and get to know the traditions of the village.

GASTRONOMY
Particularly remarkable are the old traditional dishes such as the olleta de blat or the mintxos con farinetes and borra.
STAGE
from Castell de Castells to Confrides

04

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04 STAGE from Castell de Castells to Confrides | 24 |
This stage runs through the **Serrella** mountain range, a mountain you will fall in love with. Interregional limit, with the **Marina Baja** to the South and **El Comtat** and **Marina Alta** to the North. Considered to be one of the wildest mountain ranges of the province and with numerous aromatic plants like salvia or chamomille.

We will leave **Castell de Castells** along the CV -752 road and turn onto the paved road towards the Sports Centre from where we will climb to the **Coll del Castellet**.

We will continue to ascend through the forest track until we arrive at the entrance of the **Castellet**, remains of an ancient fortification of Muslim origin over the **Penya del Castellet** and with magnificent views of the **Valley of Guadalest** as well as the impressive **Barranco de la Canal**.

We will follow the forest track to take the detour that gives access to the **Barranc de la Canal**, from which we will climb up until reaching the **Malla del Lobo**, 1,357 metres above sea level.

After resting at the top, we will continue the walk on a nice trail that will take us to the **Collado Borrell**. We will take a detour on the route to be able to peek at the **Recingle de la Finestra**, a great hole in the mountain with the shape of Africa.

Once again on the route, we will continue on a track until taking a detour through a small forest of pines that leads us to the **Pas del Comptador** from where we will start the descent in the direction of **Confrides**.

After passing through several ravines along a path among pine trees, we will access the paved road that will lead us to **Confrides** by the river **Beniardá**.
ACTIVE TOURISM
The Valley of Guadalest, a paradise among mountains, with its landscape formed by rocks and crags, which together with the reservoir, offers multiple possibilities for hikers.

The Malla de Lobo, Peña Alta, the Pas de Rabosa, the Simas del Partegat, Port of Confrides and the source of the river Guadalest all make an ideal area for hiking, mountain biking, cycling, climbing, 4x4 routes and canoeing on the Guadalest reservoir.

From Confrides the PR-CV 22 Puerto de Tudons-Confrides and PR-CV 45 Callosa d’en Sarrià-Confrides routes begin, as well as many other itineraries that we will find within the confines of the Valley.

The Ravine of Abdet with waterfalls and water, it is a delight for lovers of canyoning.

NATURE
The Aitana mountain range and the Mountains of the Marina are declared Areas of Special Protection for Birds, so we will be able to spot, among other species, falcons and eagles.
Confrides has two microreserves of flora, the Coll del Ventisquer and the Camarell, besides three other microreserves of flora in the neighbouring town of Benifato, which is what gives the place its special botanic interest.

**HISTORY AND CULTURE**
It originated in a Muslim farmhouse named Alfofra, the proof of its settlement being the Castle of Alfofra, located in the Penya del Castellet.

Its population is divided between Confrides and Abdet, a village which has a very well preserved old wash house and one of the smallest pelota courts.

In the surrounding areas we can find wells of snow, buildings for storing snow during the winter and using it in summer.
05 STAGE
from Confrides to Sella

-high
- 2
- 3
- 4

- 7 h
- 23.88 km
- 113.07 km

- 947 m
- 1,324 m

Linear journey
Fabulous and hard stage in which we will cross the mountain range of Aitana, from North to South, leaving from Confrides, in the municipality of Marina Baja, climbing to the peak of Aitana and descending into the municipality of Sella.

The Sierra de Aitana (1,558 m.), is the highest mountain range in the province of Alicante. It is characterized by an extremely rugged relief and steep slopes and for its great variety of flora and fauna.

We start our stage in Confrides on an asphalt path that climbs up to the Font de l’Arbre Recreational Area.

We continue along a wide forest track that runs among pine trees on one side and the mountain slopes on the other, where we encounter several snowfields, once used to store snow which is pressed to make ice.

We arrive at Font de la Forata, from where we can see the top of Aitana and we resume our trek along the Passet de la Rabosa botanical trail where a good representation of the most significant flora on Aitana can be seen.

Shortly we will stumble upon the impressive Pass de la Rabosa, a cleft in the mountain that leads us to another face of Aitana, but in order to get to this we will have to climb over the mountain scree.

We cross the pass and follow the path beside some huge crevices, the Partagat potholes.

We continue our march along the crest of the mountain range enjoying the view, being able to see all the great Alicante mountains in a panoramic view. We descend to a forest track that will lead us to the Tagarina ravine, where we will link up with a track until we eventually reach the Travessa hill.

We will descend to the municipality of Sella, down a steep and rocky path towards the shrine of Santa Bárbara, by which we will arrive in the municipality.
Sella
A municipality located in the Marina Baja region, characterized by a picturesque town, with steep narrow streets and crowned by the shrine of Santa Bárbara.

The origin of the town dates back to the establishment of a Muslim fortress that gave birth to the population. The cultivation of cereals led to the construction of water-powered flour mills.

**ACTIVE TOURISM**
Sella is a good starting point for excursions, whether hiking or mountain biking, through the Aitana mountain range. There are several approved trails that depart from the municipality such as PR-CV 10 which ascends to the summit of Aitana, PR-CV 199, a short circular route that climbs to the Travessa hill and SL-CV 112, a beautiful local footpath known as the Water Route.

You can go climbing in the Barranc de l’Arc all year round and in this area there are a great variety of routes that make Sella a paradise for climbers.

You can also go on guided birdwatching trips, enjoying watching the most impressive species of European bird life.

**NATURE**
Sella sits on the Southern slope of the Penya Sella range, one of the Southern foothills of the Aitana mountain range. In the same municipality there is an intersection of two ravines with their corresponding rivers, Arc and Sella.

**GASTRONOMY**
Some of the dishes that you can sample are: rice with beans and chards, codfish paella, meatballs, frigate tuna stew, pepper and tomato flat pie and a variety of sweets, such as “els mostatxons”.

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**STAGE from Confrides to Sella**

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STAGE
from Sella to Torremanzanas

- moderate
- 7 h
- 25,00 km
- 138,07 km
- 1,330 m
- 940 m

Linear journey

Km

m
Stage surrounded by a beautiful mountain setting: Aitana, Puig Campana, El Cabeçó d’Or and El Castellet. We leave the Marina Baja to enter l’Alacantí and continue discovering beautiful environments and spots in the province.

We set off from Sella towards Relleu and after crossing the river Sella we come to a continuously upward sloping path, next to the staggered terraces of almond trees.

If we undertake this stage at the beginning of the year we will enjoy the spectacle of the almond trees in blossom, because the route runs alongside endless terraces of this characteristic Mediterranean tree.

We start the descent to Relleu along a pretty and quiet path, also between terraces, that takes us to the municipality through its northern area. We go through this small town skirting around the castle. In front of the wash house we will leave the municipality along the river Amadorio.

We cross the river to begin the ascent by a dirt path bordering the Penya del Figueret, a territory of eagles, owls and hawks.

This track starts to climb, reaching its summit at 957 metres above sea level inside the La Grana Range.

We continue walking peacefully along a track, while enjoying the contrast of some high wooded areas interspersed with broad swathes of orchards, mostly almond trees.

We cross the Surca ravine until will reach the Relleu Road, which we will cross and continue through the Teix district that runs through pine trees to our destination, the municipality of Torremanzanas.
**Relleu**

A charming village which has pretty, narrow and terraced streets. As we walk through Relleu we will discover buildings with historical and architectural interest such as the municipal wash house, the medieval mill, farm estates and the historical, archaeological and ethnological museum.

**Torremanzanas**

It has buildings of architectural and cultural interest such as the Church of Santa Ana, the Pou de la Neu and the high Feudal Tower House, which houses the Wine Museum, as well as prehistoric remains such as the Freginal de la Font Major, Silos de la Foia de Cortés and Xipreret, the Necrópolis of Monte de la Barsella and the Penyó del Comanador.
ACTIVE TOURISM

From Relleu there are routes for hikers, such as the Camí Bortolons, Bassa del Molí Vell and Camí de l’Horta among many others. From Torremanzanas, the PR-CV 232 along the Serra dels Plans and the Montagut.

For mountain bike enthusiasts, there are beautiful trips that link the towns of Relleu, Sella, Torremanzanas and the Sierra de Aguilar.

Relleu has an excellent via ferrata, the Via Ferrata del Figueret. Figueret as well as the the Barranc del Estret, which we advise you to descend after the rainy season, as it will be more fun. From Torremanzanas, in the nearby town of Penáguila, you can descend the ravine of Castell de Penáguila.

Since Cabeçò d’Or and La Grana are declared special protection areas for birds, they offer an ideal environment for birdwatching. The presence of the black wheatear and red-billed chough are worthy of mention.
07 STAGE
from Torremanzanas to Ibi

- Moderate difficulty
- 6 hours 30 minutes
- 22.54 km
- 771 m
- Linear journey
- 160.61 km
- 805 m
A route that runs between two districts, l’Alacantí and L’Alcoià. We set off from Torremanzanas through the path that follows the course of the river La Torre before entering the mountain range of Els Plans.

The path leads us to the beautiful Rentonar ice pit, which still has its masonry dome.

We continue in a south-westerly direction, along a track that ascends to the transmitter masts on the Carrasqueta located next to the El Pou del Surdo ice pit which offers magnificent views.

After a visit to the ice pit we follow the ecological trail that shows us the characteristic species of the area such as blue broom, the mastic or the Mediterranean dwarf palm.

We reach the CV-800 road and head towards Els Plantadets along a dirt track located on the Carrasqueta, which has this name because of the large amount of kermes oaks.

After crossing several pine forests and fields of crops, after 1.5 km mark we leave the track to start a steep climb towards the Els Esbarzerets mountain hut. From there, we will climb to the Alto de la Carrasqueta, 1,205 metres above sea level, where we can admire El Cabeçó d’Or, the Migjorn, the Cape of Santa Pola, the Island of Tabarca, as well as the Font Roja.

We will return to the Els Esbarzerets mountain hut to start our descent to the municipality of Ibi, along the Camino del Carrascal, a beautiful track.

We leave the track and via an asphalt road, next to the Boquera ravine, we will arrive at the municipality of Ibi.
ACTIVE TOURISM

Its natural environment and enclave in the province of Alicante make Ibi a focal point for active tourism.

Lots of routes for hiking such as the PR-CV 26, PR-CV 81, PR-CV 82, PR-CV 83, PR-CV 127, PR-CV 128, PR-CV 129 and PR-CV 170 are available.

Canyoning such as the Barranco de les Raboses or climbing in the Barranco de Los Molinos.

For lovers of mountain biking, numerous routes go through areas around the town, routes that allow us to discover the Serra del Maigmó, the Menejador or the Barranco de los Molinos among many others.
NATURE
The Municipal Natural Park of Ibi has a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, and it has lots of resources for the visitor to enjoy nature, such as the Recreational Area of San Pascual, the botanical gardens of Torretes Biological Station with a micro-reserve of flora and a fauna reserve.

Worth noting is the Ibi Biodiversity Museum, a permanent exhibition of the Mediterranean ecosystem and its agricultural means which shows us what is nowadays known as sustainable development.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
A mountain village with an endearing and familial character, considered the Spanish Toy Centre as you will notice with its singular theme parks for children, and where the small children will let their imagination run free.

Visits to the Valencia Toy Museum are a must, as well as its shrines, churches and numerous ice pits, a legacy its past marked by the ice industry, and enjoying its artisanal ice creams.
STAGE from Ibi to Alcoi

⚠️ moderate  ⏰ 2  🚣 2  ❤️ 4

🕒 6 h 15 min  💧 695 m
 água 18,89 km  🌵 718 m

179,50 km

Linear journey

08 STAGE from Ibi to Alcoi | 40 |
Located in the county of l’Alcoià, this stage runs through the **Natural Park of Carrascal de la Font Roja**, climbing to the top of El Menejador 1,356 m to descend to the municipality of Alcoi.

The route starts from Ibi, entering **The Municipal Natural Park of Barranc dels Molins**.

Once we leave behind the ravine we ascend until reaching the summit of **El Menejador**, not without visiting first the **Pou del Barber**, the **Cava Coloma and the Carrascal** which were part of the network of wells which were worked by ice makers from Ibi.

At the summit we can get our strength back while enjoying the magnificent views of the valley that extends between the **Menejador and the Serra de Mariola**. We can also appreciate the colours of the deciduous forest; the pine forests provide shelter for goshawks, sparrow hawks, coal tits and crossbills; and wild boar, foxes and shrews live in the forest. The Bonelli’s eagle and the eagle owl build their nests in the upper reaches along with the peregrine falcon and the rock sparrow.

We start our descent entering the forest of Kermes oak that gives the park its name, until we reach the **Pla de la Mina**. From the viewing platform we can see **Font Roja Sanctuary**, where we will go to visit the **Interpretation Centre of Font Roja Natura**.

We continue our descent until we reach the **Municipal Natural Area of Canalons-Racó de Sant Bonaventura**, a tranquil place that offers a watercourse all year round.

We continue the trail that runs parallel to the **river Polop** until we join the **Alcoi greenway** over the **Siete Lunas bridge** which will take us to **Alcoi town centre**.
ACTIVE TOURISM
An ideal town for indulging in rural and adventure tourism, where you can enjoy delightful hiking, biking and horse riding excursions along countless routes as well as pedalling along the Alcoi greenway, that runs from Alcoi to Ibi.

Practice climbing as well, and if you are of those who like an adrenaline rush try doing puenting or bungee-jumping from the impressive Siete Lunas Bridge.

NATURE
Alcoi, a city nestling between rivers, canyons and mountains. Some 80% of the town has some kind
of environmental protection, this is evident in the natural areas of El Carrascal de la Font Roja, the Serra de Mariola and the Municipal Natural Area of Canalons- Racò Sant Bonaventura.

The municipal area is dotted with several rocky projections, such as Menejador, els Plans, Barranc de Cint-les Pedreres or Serreta, among others. The major rivers such as the Polop and the Barxell, which join to form the Riquer, run through it and together with the Molinar form the headwaters of the River Serpis. The cave paintings of La Sarga are a feature, declared a World Heritage Site.

**HISTORY AND CULTURE**

The current town of Alcoi has its origin in 1256 according to the Carta Pobla. There are 15th century documents that cite the existence of flour mills and fulling mills in the basin of the river Molinar which enabled the development of a textile and paper industry. We recommend the Modernist Route.

A highlight is the Moors and Christian festival, declared of international tourist interest and dedicated to St George, and the Parade of the Three Wise Men, of National Tourist Interest.

**GAstronomy**

In the gastronomy of Alcoi: *olleta* (stew made with beans, chards, pork and black pudding), *borreta* (stew with potatoes, spinach, codfish and egg), *pericana* (cold dish made with dry peppers and codfish) and the *coca*, salty or sweet.
09 STAGE from Alcoi to Alfasfara

- 09 6 h 15 min
- 09 18.34 km
- 09 976 m
- 09 Linear journey

- High difficulty level
- 2
- 3
- 4

- 09 STAGE from Alcoi to Alfasfara | 44 |
This stage is set in the **Serra de Mariola Natural Park** and it allows us to get to know landscapes such as the **Barranc del Cint** and climb to the **summit of the Montcabrer** (1,390 m). We leave behind the district of **L’Alcoià** to move into the district of **El Comtat**, surrounded by high mountains and small villages.

We begin the journey for this stage by accessing the **Serra de Mariola** via the **Cint ravine**, in the municipality of **Alcoi**, with its endless walls from which the numerous **Griffon** vultures can be seen. Going up the water course towards its headwaters, the ravine opens up giving way to gentler slopes.

Gradually the vegetation becomes lusher. We traverse several pine forests which contrast with the abundant aromatic and medicinal plants in the Mariola range, until we reach the **Coll d’en Sabata**, the final track before reaching the summit.

At the top of **Montcabrer** we can enjoy good views of the **Valley of Alcoi** and nearby mountains such as the **Benicadell**, the **Serrella**, **Aitana** and the **Carrascal**. Towards the North: the regions of **la Vall d’Albaida**, **la Costera**, **la Ribera** and its villages, the mountains of **la Safor**, and the sharpest will even be able to recognize the **Penyagolosa**.

We begin the descent down the path that runs along the rocky top of the wall until we reach the forest track that will lead us to the **Refugi Montcabrer**. Some metres before reaching it we can visit the majestic **Cava Gran**. Next to the mountain refuge, we can also visit the **Cava de l’Habitació**.

We continue our descent through a beautiful shady pine forest that offers us stunning views of the Valley of **Agres**, until we reach the **Sanctuary of Mare de Deu de Agres**.

From here we follow the asphalt track to reach the **Mont Blanc Font del Moli Mató Recreational Area**. From this area we can reach **Alfafara** along the paths skirting round the mountains.
At the foot of the Serra de Mariola stands the town of Agres, considered to be the heart of the Reserve. A mountain village that is seductive because of its attractive sweeping landscape and architecture.

A highlight is the Sanctuary of Mare de Deu de Agres, a temple which was built on the rock itself, at the foot of the remains of the Moorish castle.

**ACTIVE TOURISM**

The mountainous relief of both municipalities make them conducive to the existence of natural beauty spots that are inviting places for bicycle rides, such as the signposted PR-CV 104 that takes us to the Don Miguel ice pit, the PR-CV 389 for a visit to the Coves de la Finestres Mill of Pantanet, in Alafara. We can also opt to follow the Green Route of the Natural Park: In the shade of Les Caves.
We must also visit the micro-reserve, the Teixera de Agres, which still has monumental yews.

In order to rest we offer you beautiful corners such as the Font de l’Assut and the recreational areas of Font del Molí Mató and the shrine of Agres or the Fountain of Tarragó in Alfafara.

**GASTRONOMY**

The main agricultural products of the area are the aromatic herbs, and their main agricultural product, oil. In both municipalities you can taste dishes such as *pericana, espencat, bajoques farcides* (roasted peppers stuffed with rice) or the *gazpacho made in the Serra de Mariola* style and seasoned with *pebrella*. 
10 STAGE from Alfafara to Banyeres de Mariola

- Moderate difficulty
- 4 h 15 min
- 17.28 km
- 215.12 km
- 474 m
- 332 m
- Linear journey
A beautiful route that lets us discover the **Serra de Mariola Natural Park**, included in the European Natura 2000 network and where bird lovers can watch birds of prey such as eagles, hawks and owls.

It runs through two counties, **El Comtat and l’Alcoià**. During the tour you will discover the beauty of this spot and its abundant vegetation of special botanical interest, interspersed with olive groves, almond trees, cereals and vineyards.

We set off from **Alfafara** via **Font del Tarragó** along a steep path that will lead us towards the interior of the mountain until connecting with the **GR-7** path which runs along a comfortable dirt track in a pleasant and comfortable walk between pines.

In this part the route heads towards the West at the heart of the mountains in a forest atmosphere among kermes oaks, pines and big bushes. Next we will pass the **shrine of Santa Bárbara**, with its centenarian black poplar and its fountain. We will continue to find out that gradually the landscape is becoming wilder, among cereals and vineyards. We will come across numerous country houses on our way and in the distance we will see the **ruins of the Castle of Vinalopó**.

A little further on we will make a detour that will take us to the source of the **river Vinalopó** and to the **Font de la Coveta**.

On our way towards **Banyeres de Mariola**, in this modest, but very well preserved riverside forest, we will come across some paper mills like the **Factory of Blanes or mill of De Dalt i de Baix** to head towards the town.
ACTIVE TOURISM
There are numerous trails that run through the municipality and paths where the old Xixarra train used to run. From Molí l’Ombria several paths emerge such as the Mill Route.

A beautiful and interesting tour is that of the Blue Water Route in the Natural Park, a route along the headwaters of the Vinalopó.

We can go on the PR-CV 4 to the source of the river Vinalopó, the PR-CV 313 Peña de la Blasca and the PR-CV 35 Banyeres-Biar-Elda.
**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** Beautiful routes that will enable us to discover the region and the beautiful natural spots. Routes on which we will have the opportunity to discover ice pits and other architectural and cultural elements that we will find along the way, as well as getting to know nearby towns such as Agres and Bocairent.

**NATURE**
The Serra de Mariola has been declared a Natural Park due to its landscape and environmental value with a wealth of aromatic and medicinal plants.

It has many springs located in very environmentally attractive natural sites such as Font del Cavaller and Font del Sapo. Other natural parks of great importance are Molí l’Ombria and the Park Villa Rosario.

**HISTORY AND CULTURE**
An Almohad castle crowns the village with the Torre del Homenaje, which houses the Museum of the Festival of Moors and Christians.

The old part is worth visiting with its steep streets and medieval architecture, the Torre Font Bona, inside which is the Archaeological Museum, its shrines and numerous fountains.
STAGE 11
from Banyeres de Mariola to Onil

7 h 45 min
24.64 km
239.76 km
976 m
978 m
Linear journey
We are in the district of l’Alcoià, the stage starts in Banyeres de Mariola, in the Molí l’Ombria Recreational Area on the banks of the Vinalopó near its source. We follow the Route dels Molins.

After some 546 yards we cross the river to reach a track amid farmland and pine trees, which will take us up a steep slope to the top of the Blasca, 1,120 metres above sea level.

Once we have gathered our strength, we descend down a pleasant road crossing Sierra Fontanella, an area populated by Aleppo pines and some isolated holm oaks. After several miles we will reach the turn-off for Cova Negra, an old shepherd’s refuge which we can visit taking a detour by some yards off our route.

We continue the descent through the Lomas de Jara Recreational Area to reach the sanctuary of Our Lady of Grace, located some two thirds of a mile from the town of Biar.

From the sanctuary we start to ascend towards Onil. This area is located in the Sierra del Maigmó and the Foia de Castalla, declared a special protection area for birds, inhabited by the golden eagle, the peregrine falcon or the eagle owl.

We pass next to the Fuente de Soriano. We follow the track as far as the turn-off for Fuente del Xorro, which is located only a few metres from the track, going down the ravine. Following the same track we find the turn-off to Onil and once we get to the ravine, we descend to enter the village. We will pass the Pouet de la Neu, a sign that this ice-making activity also existed in this town in times gone by.
Biar crouches on a hill crowned by a Moorish castle. The village sits in the foothills of the Serra de Mariola. We can visit the Municipal Ethnography Museum to find out about its heritage and traditions, although by simply walking through Biar we will discover a maze of narrow cobbled streets.
Onil

A small town set below the Sierra of the same name, it is known as the “Cradle of Dolls”.

In the town you can visit various places of interest, including the **Fortress Palace of the Marqués de Dos Aguas** or any of the museums which the municipality houses such as the **Three Kings**, the **Oil Museum** or the **Doll Museum**.

**ACTIVE TOURISM**
Municipalities located in the foothills of the **Serra de Mariola**, surrounded by the **Sierra de Fontanella**, **Sierra de Reconco**, **Sierra del Fraile** and the **Sierra de Onil**, offer the possibility of practising all kinds of outdoor sports.

**HIking**: From **Biar** we can take the following hiking routes: **PR-CV 55 Sierra de Fontanella**, **PR-CV 155 Sierra del Fraile**, **PR-CV 35 Banyeres de Mariola-Biar-Elda** and the **Reconco Botanical Trail**.

From **Onil** we can also take the following routes: **PR-CV 87 Onil-Rebolcador-Castalla**, **PR-CV 88 Onil-the Reconco**, **PR-CV 89 Onil-Alto de la Barcella** or **PR-CV 141 Casa-Tàpena-Xorret de Catí**, **PR-CV 90 Fonteta Soriano-Onil-Banyeres de Mariola** and **PR-CV 160 Casa Tàpena-Mas de Prats**.

Many of these routes run along forest tracks with the possibility of mountain biking or horse riding along them.

**CLIMBING**: Climbing enthusiasts can enjoy this activity in the **Sierra del Fraile**, as well as in the **Sierra Fontanella** with different orientations and levels of difficulty.

**PARAGLIDING**: For paragliding enthusiasts there is a flight area at an altitude of 1,180 metres in the **Sierra del Reconco**.
STAGE
from Onil to Xorret de Catí

5 h 10 min | 785 m
18,91 km | 521 m
258.67 km | Linear journey

High difficulty

12 STAGE from Onil to Xorret de Catí | 56 |
This stage is located in L’Alcoià, which stands out due to its environmental value and beautiful landscape, included in the protected landscape of the Maigmó mountain range and El Cid. A mountainous area dominated by large peaks, crests and rocky cliffs as well as the abundant vegetation dominated by the Aleppo tree. We can enjoy some beautiful views at any time, from views of other summits such as the peaks of Aitana and the Puig Campana, of the Alicante coastline or panoramic views of towns such as Petrer, Elda or Castalla.

We start from the town of Onil, heading for Castalla. After crossing the town centre we continue south on the CV- 817 through olives and almond groves.

We begin to climb track among a dense pine forest. A few yards further on we will get good views of Castalla, crowned by its castle and we will come across the ruins of some ancient gypsum quarries.

A hard climb will take us to the Alto de Castalla. We will pass the ruins of the House of the Angel and the El Collado de Roque, reaching a height of 1,007 m. Once at the Alto de Castalla, we can get to the summit and enjoy magnificent views.

After a first descent we climb back up to the summit of the Despeñador, at a height of 1,261 m. along a steep track with rocky stretches, but the effort will be worth it.

In this last section we descend to the Recreational Area of Xorret de Catí, where we can enjoy a pleasant rest in the heart of the countryside, passing first by the Pico del Fraile, the Crestería del Fraile and ViewPoint the Catí.
ACTIVE TOURISM

The Natural environment ideal for practising sports such as hiking, cycling, mountain biking and climbing.

It has eleven short trails that cross this village and that are full of history as we will find quarries, gypsum ovens and mills that show that gypsum was extracted and that it was an important activity in days gone by: PR-CV 28, PR-CV 29, PR-CV 30, PR-CV 31, PR-CV 32, PR-CV 33, PR-CV 34, PR-CV 85, PR-CV 86, PR-CV 141 and PR-CV 143.

Xorret de Catí offers us activities such as climbing on the climbing wall or on the Via Ferrata of Xorret de Catí, as well as a botanical route.

Castalla is a famous place for cycling because the ascent of the mountain pass to the top of Xorret has been part of the Tour of Spain on many occasions.

Since its mountains have been declared Areas of Special Protection for Birds, it is an ideal place for bird watching, including some species of birds of prey.
NATURE
The municipal district of Castalla occupies the mountains of west and southwest Foia, these being: Sierra de la Algueña, Sierra de Castalla and the north of Sierra del Maigmó, with abundant vegetation dominated by Aleppo pines and aromatic herbs.

There are two beautiful spots where you can enjoy the environment, El Xorret de Catí and Foia Catalina.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
Its old town with steep and narrow streets full of charm and its castle, declared a cultural heritage site.

You can visit the Convent of San Francisco de Paula, the Town Hall, the Red House, stroll along the main street, the parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Casa del Fester, Casa Paco Rico, Casa d’Enric Valor.

GASTRONOMY
Castalla is very well known in the province for the making of its famous dish los **gaspatxos**, a real culinary ritual.
13 STAGE
from Xorret de Catí to Elda-Petrer

⚠️ moderate

⏰ 5 h 20 min

🚶‍♂️ 609 m

-distance-

19,78 km

1,097 m

278,45 km

.Linear journey

-.graph-
The stage nestles in the protected landscape of the Sierra del Maigmó and El Cid. We climb to the top of the Silla del Cid, at 1,127 metres above sea level, one of the most emblematic elevations in the Medio Vinalopó district due to its characteristic shape of a saddle.

We set off from Xorret de Catí following the trail signposted Rabosa, taking us along a dirt track, passing by the Shrine of Catí and after going over Amoros hill, we arrive at the La Rabosa hostel.

The natural vegetation of the area is dominated by the Aleppo pine, the kermes oak and some holm oaks in the shady spots. As for birds we can see the golden eagles, the goshawk, the eagle owl or the sparrowhawk.

We are heading for the shrine next to the hostel, and then descend along a dirt track until we reach a ravine. We continue until reach a trail.

We climb through the shady area of El Cid, going through a forest of pines and kermes oaks, until we reach the Contador hill before concluding our ascent to the summit of the El Cid mountain.

From this point you can see the summits of the Maigmó, the Sierra de Bèrnia and the Sierra de Aitana, Petrer, Elda, Monóvar and Novelda.

We descend along a pretty, zigzagging trail until we reach the foot of the mountain, where we will find an asphalt road that will take us to Petrer, with a beautiful view of the castle.
Surrounded by mountains and known for its location in a beautiful valley, there are many attractions that make Elda a town which is different from the others.

Its museums, festivals, an open old town and shopping centre, unique landscapes and especially its footwear industry are its main identifying marks.

**ACTIVE TOURISM**
A territory nestling in the Valley of Elda and walled in by the mountain ranges: Torreta-Monastil, Las Pedrizas and Umbría, Sierra del Cid and Mount Bateig.

**HIKING:** Petrer has an extensive network of short-distance trails, including: PR-CV 143 Xorret de Catí - L’Avaiol, PR-CV 36 Petrer - Silla del Cid and the GR-7 path.

Elda has a large number of approved trails such as: PR-CV 195 Las Cañadas, PR-CV 196 Bolón or the PR-CV 25 Elda-Salinas.

**CYCLING:** The extensive network of roads and forest tracks allows cycling on routes at all levels. You can also go on a tourist cycling route, which links the municipalities of with Novelda.

**CLIMBING:** For the amateur climber there are several areas where you can practice, la Foradà, near Xorret de Catí, being one of the most well-known schools in the province, having more than 145 routes.
Las Peñas de Marín located in Elda, has become one of the most widely visited mountaineering schools for beginners.

The more daring can opt for the Via Ferrata del Cid, which goes up to the top of the Silla del Cid. If you want to start this activity, you can visit the vias ferrata located in Villena: Salvatierra Castle and Sierra de la villa.

Petrer

The historic town is an urban complex that developed around the mound crowned by the 12th century castle-fortress.

Immerse yourself in the history of Petrer by visiting its monuments: the castle, the cave houses, the castle arch, the Roman oven of Villa Petraria and surprise yourself in its old quarter with its narrow streets that will transport you through the centuries.
14 STAGE
from Elda-Petrer to Pinoso

7 h 15 min
29,35 km
307,80 km

415 m
251 m
Linear journey
This stage passes through the region of Medio Vinalopó. Our route will go along rural roads whose charm, beauty and tranquillity will surprise us time and again.

Starting from Elda and passing by the beautiful rural shrine of the Virgen de los Dolores, where we come off the asphalt road and proceed along a dirt track. If we look behind us we will see the Sierra del Cid.

We continue along dirt tracks, across barren land with a few terraces of almond trees. After going through the high speed train underpass an immense plain opens up before us, with ancient farming terraces.

We continue across an arid area between ravines to join a tarmac road again.

We now take the Zafra road, gently ascending to the Victoriano hill. This is where the landscape changes radically; we see a broad valley surrounded by gentle slopes, with neat farms.

We cross the CV-834 to continue among vineyards towards Casas del Señor, a hamlet that forms part of the municipality of Monóvar, which we enter under a well-preserved medieval aqueduct.

We leave the village in an easy climb along a beautiful area of pines, which runs along the foot of the slopes of Monte Coto until it reaches Encebras, passing alongside some striking ancient elms which will draw our attention. The tranquillity of these lands was chosen in 1916 for the establishment of the convent of the Carmelite Sisters of Orihuela.

We leave via an asphalt track, again amid vines, bordering the Cabezo de la Sal to Pinoso, a municipality included in Alicante’s Wine Route, and where we can enjoy its cuisine and good wines.
In the confines of the province of Alicante, the quiet, cozy and hospitable town of Pinoso is to be found.

During our stay in Pinoso we can admire, among other monuments, the parish church or the clock tower, which opened in 1900.

**ACTIVE TOURISM**

There are several natural itineraries that run through the municipality of Pinoso.

PR-CV 3 and PR-CV 166 trails that run through Mount Coto; the local Gal·lers trail, which takes its name from the Valencian oak typical in this area, as well as the trail that runs through the odd Cabezo de la Sal. We can do all of them on foot or mountain bike.

**NATURE**

Pinoso has a substantial biological diversity due to its great heterogeneity of habitats influenced by its relief, soils and its Mediterranean climate with a continental influence.
In addition Pinoso is exceptionally rich in minerals and geological features, highlighting the Cabezo de la Sal mountain, which is one of the most important examples of halokinetic diapirism in Europe.

**GASTRONOMY**

The wide range includes simple dishes such as *ga-chamiga*, rice with rabbit and snails, *gazpachos* or *fassegures*. Also deserving special mention are the sausages and homemade pastas.

In February the Gastronomy Week is held in the locality.
STAGE
from Pinoso to Algueña

15

3 h 40 min
14.49 km
322.29 km

341 m
390 m

Linear journey
Stage of great geological interest, located in the district of Vinalopó Medio. Highlights are the Cabezo de la Sal, a peculiar mountain of reddish colours and rounded shapes, containing gypsum and salt which has been exploited commercially for centuries.

We begin this stage in the municipality of Pinoso, leaving the town along the Fátima road, in the direction of Cabezo de la Sal.

Once we enter Cabezo we begin our ascent until reaching the highest point on the route, 862 metres above sea level, where we will find the El Cabecó A plant micro-reserve, a plant micro-reserve. This micro-reserve is located on waterlogged soil with build-ups of salt, which is why many species of gypsum shrubs and plants that are well known for being “lovers of gypsum” grow there, such as Teucrium libanitis or Limonium thiniense.

During our climbing we will contemplate a dry landscape until reaching the summit where the pines will be the only trees we will find in our way.

We start our descent enjoying the views of the mountain ranges of the Rectol and Algayat, Sierra de Salinas and the Sierra de la Pila.

We pass beside the brine pipeline, until we reach a path next to the ravine of Tres Fuentes, by which we will leave the hill to begin heading towards the municipality of Algueña.

This section runs amid fields of almond trees, olive trees and vineyards. We skirt around the elevation of Monte Coto, taking us towards a marble quarry, which is the driving force behind the local economy.

With the quarries as a backdrop, contrasting with the adjacent green mountains, we will reach the municipality of Algueña.
Algueña

A municipality located in the district of Medio Vinalopó, adjoining a flat area near the mountain ranges of Reclot and Algayat.

A typically agricultural town where vines, olives and almond trees are grown. It belongs to the wine-growing area with designation in the province of Alicante, being included on the Wine Route of Alicante.

It also has a marble processing industry and on Sundays there is a wonderful flea market with a wide range of products.

ACTIVE TOURISM

Due to its proximity to the Sierra de Algayat and the Sierra de la Cruz, from Algueña we can take approved hiking routes such as route PR-CV 339, the Algayat Route and the Barranco del Aire route.

We can also discover the landscape of the area by taking the two cycling tourist routes which are La Solana route and Las Ramblas route, both starting at the square Juan Carlos I.
NATURE
Algúeña is 534 metres above sea level, in the very heart of the marble. The contrast of the quarries with the surrounding green hills and vertical walls, is a feature of the municipality.

In the southern part of the town the agricultural landscape survives with vineyards, almond trees, olive trees and desert soil.

GASTRONOMY
We can highlight gazpacho flat breads, gachamiga, borreta, les sassegures and paella with rabbit and snails.

It also has a wide variety of tender dry sausage meats, as well as sweets and pastries (perusas, almond biscuits, sequillos, pastizos, toñas, homemade brandy rolls.)
16 STAGE from Algueña to Hondón de los Frailes

Moderate

6 h 15 min
23.54 km
345.83 km
629 m
756 m
Linear journey
This stage runs through the Sierra de Algayat, delimiting the valleys of the Medio Vinalopó, a district through which we will continue. We ascend the Penya de la Mina, where the route offers us some incredible views.

This stage begins in the town centre of Algueña, leaving the town via Calle Cuevas Altas.

The area, once we have left the town behind, will be occupied by traditional dry farming crops.

After covering the first 6 kilometres of the route we arrive at l’ Ombria de Algayat, a small village belonging to the municipality of La Romana. Facing us we can see the shady area of the Sierra de Algayat.

Our ascent will be up dirt tracks next to terraces of almond and olive trees that subsequently give way to the natural vegetation, increasingly lush, where the Aleppo pine, the dominant tree species, and the kermes oaks alternate with savin junipers, strawberry trees, junipers, kermes oak, mastic, heather, ivy, honeysuckle and aromatic species.

We continue our ascent to Las Mulas hill by a zig-zagging path, crossing the stony ground.

From the hill we will come off our path to ascend beside the slopes of the mountain along a steep path until we reach the peak of the Penya de la Mina. The views are extraordinary.

Retracing our steps to the Las Mulas hill to continue with our journey towards La Canalosa.

We have to make a final ascent, which will take us to the crest of the sierra along a pretty path, until we start a continuous descent full of wonderful landscapes.

We enter the Hondo ravine, a short stretch in total shade, once we have left the bed of the ravine behind, we will walk down wide paths between terraces to our destination, Hondón de los Frailes, crossing La Canalosa (a village belonging to Hondón de las Nieves) and some small housing estates.
Hondón de Los Frailes

A municipality located in the Medio Vinalopó, in the southwest of the valley of Novelda, within walking distance of the Region of Murcia. To the north it borders Hondón de las Nieves, Orihuela to the west and Albatera to the south.

The nickname of los Frailes comes from the land having belonged to the Manor of Redován, a property belonging to the Dominicans in Orihuela between the 17th and 18th centuries.

ACTIVE TOURISM
The area of this municipality is flanked by the Sierra de los Frailes, Crevillent and Albatera, this is why there are a multitude of hiking trails to be explored from this town such as route PR-CV 255 Jaime El Barbudo, the name of a bearded 18th century bandit, which ascends to the peak of San Cayetano and the Sant Juri hill; you can make the journey to the Salada watercourse from the town or visit the Sastre and Centenero caves.
Cyclists often frequent the roads in the municipality, thanks to its relief, both mountain and cycle routes on the flat are available, as well as other types.

**NATURE**
Surrounded by mountains, the municipality lies in a flat area, well used fertile land for crops dedicated to dessert grapes, wine grapes, pears, almonds and olive trees.

The indigenous vegetation is mainly, pines, holm oaks, kermes oaks and rosemary.

**GASTRONOMY**
As in other municipalities in the region we can highlight *gachamiga*, paella with rabbit and snails and highlighting the typical dishes of Hondón such as *gazpacho* flat breads and *borreta*. 
17 STAGE from Hondón de los Frailes to Crevillent

- **Moderate difficulty**
- **Time:** 5 h
- **Distance:** 18.25 km
- **Elevation gain:** 826 m
- **Linear journey:** 364.08 km
- **Maximum elevation:** 1,087 m
A route that runs across the Vinalopó Medio and the Bajo Vinalopó districts by crossing the Crevillent mountain range, a natural area protected by the European Union for the preservation of its vegetation and birds and that will make us feel in contact with nature and enjoy beautiful views with wild areas of almond trees, olive trees and vines, watercourses, ravines, areas of dense pine forests and lush vegetation, steep slopes and impressive abysses.

We start from Calle Aspe in Hondón de los Frailes, in a south-easterly direction. We will walk along an asphalt road amid almond trees, olive trees and vineyards, passing by the Corral del Sastre. Little by little the landscape gradually changes until we enter a dense pine forest. Around the 2.7 km mark, there is a path to the cave of Jaime El Barbudo. If you want to visit it, we will take a detour of some 450 m.

Back on our route again, we will continue to climb up, heading for the Picacho de San Cayetano, the summit of which we will reach via a steep slope, but whose magnificent views and imposing abyss will make it worth the effort.

We start the descent in the direction of Sant Juri on its right side, from where we have continuous sights of cliffs that follow the ravine of Anouers. After passing the summit of Sant Juri, we start the descent towards the farmland area of la foia, climbing next to the Catí path, where a small native and protected micro-reserve of flora is to be found.

Now we ascend towards the mountain range of Crevillent and heading towards Puntal de Matamoros with beautiful views of the Vega Baja and the salt lakes of Santa Pola.

Once we arrive at Barranc Fort ravine we continue along a track until the detour that will take us to the site of Penya Negra.

Finally we will reach Pontets, an aqueduct of great archaeological and ethnological value, before reaching the municipality of Crevillent.
ACTIVE TOURISM
A place where sport and nature come together for us to enjoy activities such as hiking, mountain biking and climbing.

There is a list of itineraries that shows the authorized routes for each sporting activity. These routes will lead us to get to know the heights of Sierra de Crevillent, such as La Vella, Sant Juri and San Cayetano.

Several short trails will help us to get to know the region: PR-CV 108, PR-CV 109 and PR-CV 110.

The Sierra de Crevillent, full of canyons and watercourses, will allow us to appreciate its beauty and its natural and landscape interest.

For climbing there are pathways in la Ratlla del Bubo and the Arista Oeste de San Juri.

We recommend you visit the Natural Park of El Hondo for birdwatching as it is a delight for ornithology lovers.
NATURE
Crevillent, between mountains and plains, has a unique ecosystem in Europe, level and this is why it is included in the Nature 2000 network. Two habitats exist in the mountain that are considered a priority for preservation due to their singularity: the saline steppes and the Iberian gypsophilous vegetation.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
The town centre of Crevillent stands out for its contrasting architecture with the cave houses, the Barrio de la Vila Vella with its chaotic, narrow, winding streets and modern Crevillent.

It offers a wide range of municipal architecture, numerous churches, chapels and museums, as well as parks and gardens.

In the Penya Negra we can find the archaeology site of the city of Herna, considered one of the most important protohistoric archaeological sites in the country.
18 STAGE from Crevillent to Guardamar del Segura

- Duration: 8 h 30 min
- Distance: 26.92 km
- Altitude: 391,00 km
- Linear journey: 9 m

![Image of a wooden path over water]
Stage of great ornithological interest that passes through two districts, the Bajo Vinalopó and the Vega Baja del Segura.

We walk across wetlands, around lakes and next to orange and lemon orchards and palm trees. Numerous birds, inhabitants of the wetlands, will be our fellow travellers and so this stage will offer us a unique opportunity for birdwatching.

We will cross places of singular beauty such as El Hondo Natural Park, formed by a group of lagoons, wetlands and salt marshes, which has been declared a Special Protection Area for birds. It will probably be the stage that will fascinate us the most due to its extraordinary environmental and ecological value. Some 172 species of birds have been identified, as well as micro reserves of flora and the presence of the common Spanish toothcarp, a small endemic fish of the Spanish Mediterranean.

We continue our tour towards Guardamar del Segura along the road to Azarbe del Convenio, a landscape dominated by reedbeds. Our next destination, the Hondo de Amorós, is a wet area consisting of two lagoons nestling between fields of vegetables and cereals, so this stretch of the tour is still of great ornithological interest.

The last part of this tour will take us to Guardamar del Segura where we can stop to watch lots of aquatic birds or we also have the option of turning off towards the mouth of the river Segura and enjoying the dusk in this beautiful spot.
ACTIVE TOURISM

LAND ACTIVITIES: Natural and historical hiking routes, mountain bike rides around the La Mata-Torrevieja Natural Park or routes around the mountain; horse riding and rock climbing. Climb to the trig point located in the Montcaio and enjoy the views of the salt flats of Torrevieja, those of La Mata, the Santa Pola cape and the island of Tabarca with the sea in the background.

WATER ACTIVITIES: Discover the kayaking itineraries on the river Segura, its estuary and the open sea. Relaxing excursions for cruises to the island of Tabarca or in the bay of Guardamar. Scuba diving, jet skiing, boat trips along the coast, sport fishing. Learn standup paddle surfing, kite surfing or windsurfing.
NATURE
Next to the mouth of the river Segura, 11 km of fine sandy beach with the most important dune system in the Spanish Mediterranean, lagoons, orchards and mountains go to make up a beautiful environment consisting of diverse ecosystems.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
City rich in history and archaeological sites of great value. Settlements of Phoenicians, Iberians, Romans and Moors are part of the history of Guardamar, as can be seen in the Archaeological Museum of Guardamar.

GASTRONOMY
La ñora, round peppers dried by hand, and prawns, are the symbols of agriculture and fishing in Guardamar. Among the most traditional dishes we can highlight the rice cooked in fish stock, a la marinera or huertano as well as the caldero. Another traditional dish in this town is a local stew with seasoned meat balls or pelotas.
19 STAGE from Guardamar del Segura to Benijófar

- Low difficulty
- 2_unlocks
- 1_bird
- 3_heart

- 4 HR 40 min
- 23.59 km
- 104 m
- 414.59 km
- Linear journey

Km

m
This stage is located in the Vega Baja del Segura district, during which we will have the opportunity to cross and discover two natural areas included in the Natura 2000 Network, the dunes of Guardamar and the La Mata-Torrevieja Natural Park.

If in the previous stage you did not visit the mouth of the River Segura, this would be a good start for today’s stage, being an area of ornithological interest, especially at the point where the river flows into the sea. We can observe many birds which are used to our presence so they will let us watch them while they carry out their daily chores.

La Mata-Torrevieja Natural Park, declared a special protection area for birds, a Site of Community Importance and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, is made up of the Torrevieja and La Mata lagoons, the latter being the one that skirts around our route. We go through a landscape of unique beauty where we can discern areas of salt marsh, populated with vegetation adapted to saline soil, notable among which are the largest population of wild orchids in the Valencian Community, areas of reedbeds, saline scrublands and forest, as well as vineyards that are part of the landscape of the park.

We will walk along the dunes of Guardamar del Segura, enjoying the views that the sea offers and we will walk around La Mata lagoon, which is of ornithological interest and where we will be delighted contemplating the beauty and elegance of the flamingos which form a pink pattern on the lagoon, a unique landscape that nature offers us.
ACTIVE TOURISM

Stroll along the local trail SL - CV 135 Pasear por Benijófar. It runs along the river and we can get to know the traditional fertile region of Benijófar, access the Moorish waterwheel and the El Secano Recreational Area.

A visit to Torrevieja lagoon is a must. Starting in the small town of Los Montesinos is the local trail SL-CV 115, Los Montesinos Salt Route. You can do it by bike or on foot. A route of great ecological and scenic value, where we will discover an unexpected aspect, the pink colour of the lagoon.
We can spend a day watching and recognizing birds in the Lagoons of Mata-Torrevieja Natural Park and tackle the itineraries that the park offers: Yellow route (on foot), Red route (by bike) or the Wine Route.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
A locality situated in the Vega Baja del Segura, whose history goes back to an ancient Muslim farmhouse.

It is currently an area of great agricultural interest where citrus fruits and vegetables are grown. It has a peculiar irrigation system, because water extraction is carried out by a Moorish waterwheel built with masonry walls in the 13th century.
20 STAGE
from Benijófar to Orihuela

- 4h 10 min
- 20,31 km
- 434,90 km
- 22 m
- 21 m

Linear journey
A simple route located in the Vega Baja del Segura that goes along a quiet land track next to the River Segura. Equipped with several recreational areas situated in the groves by the river, riverbanks populated with trees and bushes where we will be able to take a break.

We set off from Benigófar down Primero de Mayo street and continue in a north-westerly direction along an asphalt road through farmland. We continue until arriving at a dirt track, on the right bank of the River Segura. We will continue on the left.

A large metal bridge crosses to the left bank of the River Segura, which we will cross should we want to visit the town of Formentera del Segura. A little further on, in one of the meanders of the river we find the Benijófar Waterwheel, a hydraulic device that was built with masonry walls in the middle of the 17th century and which currently has an iron wheel, 7.70 m. in diameter.

The view of the Sierra de Orihuela will accompany us throughout the whole tour, a peculiar landscape that will attract our attention due to the outstanding relief of this sierra located in the middle of a long valley.

Numerous waterbirds take refuge in the vegetation of the shore, so this stage will become a particularly attractive route for bird lovers.

When we stroll along this route and observe the environment, it will help us understand the great use of water from the River Segura from ancient times, this being a source of wealth for the development of farming.
You can get to know the environment through numerous hiking routes such as the PR-CV-59 Ascent to the Cruz de la Muela and the Paso del Gato, PR-CV 59 the Muela trail, the scenic route through the Sierra de San Miguel or the River Segura GR-127. Other trails and routes lead us to the town mill, the twin waterwheels, Santa Matilde cinnabar furnace and the Moorish palm grove.

Discover the Sierra Escalona and the Pedrera reservoir via mountain bike routes, as well as the Orihuela beaches.

The more adventurous will want to scale the Black Wall and Red Triangle, or practice canyoning in the Sanes ravine and Los Muertos ravine.

Orihuela has five golf courses.

For those who prefer the sea, you will also have the chance of practicing activities such as paddle, surfing or sailing.
NATURE
Surrounded by beautiful nature spots such as the Sierra Escalona, the Pedrera reservoir, the Sierra de Orihuela, El Agudo-La Cuerda de la Murada, Orihuela will surprise us with its varied landscape and its characteristic geography, the contrasts between vast plains and the profile of its mountain ranges.

HISTORY AND CULTURE
Orihuela, declared a historical and artistic site in 1968, is striking because of its rich artistic and monumental heritage. Churches, palaces, convents and museums, as well as emblematic places linked to the life and work of the poet Miguel Hernández, are all part of its historical legacy.

GAstronomy
Traditional dishes are made such as stew with meatballs, a bean stew as well as a great variety of rice dishes such as arroz con costra. It is a must to taste its convent-made pastries.
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