

NATURE TRAIL FERRO



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

SECTOR NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR NATURE TRAIL FERRO

1. This section, asphalted and perfectly signalled, departs from Ripoll to Sant Joan de les Abadesses along the C-26 dual carriageway. At the final roundabout, an information panel on the Nature Trail and the sign for kilometre 0 point the way to the starting point for the route. The first metres of the route advance along the right bank of the River Ter, declared a Special Area of Conservacion (SCA).
2. After passing under the road and before an outdoor gym area, there is a drinking-water fountain. The trail follows the riverbank before crossing it via an iron bridge. From here, it continues, parallel to the C-62, between meadows and farm fields.
3. After crossing under the road, the trail emerges into a rural landscape of great beauty through which it continues to the old Sant Joan de les Abadesses railway facilities. These structures have been remodelled for public use, and there is currently a playground alongside a hostel which was originally the cargo station.
4. At this point, the path crosses the road in the direction of Ogassa. Leaving Toralles station behind, the trail reaches some ruins before a panoramic view of the picturesque valley comes into sight.
5. On the way to Ogassa (a village that originally emerged as a mining settlement), the route crosses two of the old railway tracks before reaching its highest point, at 970 m, in the mines of this mountainous area. The return to Sant Joan is by the same route.

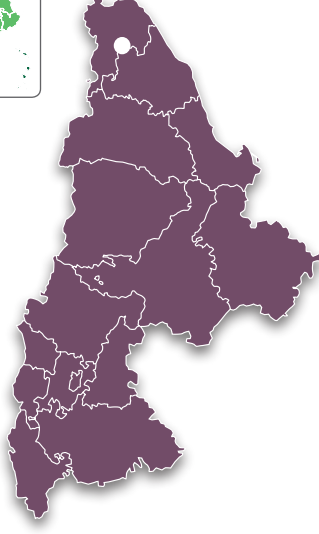
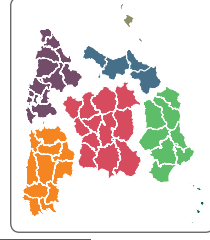


The trail along the banks of the River Ter

Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment. These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country. We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of the Ferro Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

TELEPHONES OF INTEREST:

- Consorci Vies Verdes de Girona: 0034 972 48 69 50



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6. Following the blue route marked out on the ground and leaving behind the old Sant Joan de les Abadesses station, in no time at all the traveller will arrive at the imposing Pont Vell or Old Bridge and across the River Ter.
7. They will be immediately met by the Romanesque church of Sant Pol, built in the 12th century to honour Saints John and Paul. After following the section along the C-26, a crossing appears where, leaving road GIV-521 to one side, the trail continues along Paseo de Can Crehuet to reach the magnificent Monastery of Sant Joan de les Abadesses and then continues along Paseo de la Plana as far as Carrer de les Tres Creus, reaching an old mill known as Moli Petit, that today serves as an interpretation centre about watermills and fluvial ecosystems.

THE FERRO NATURE TRAIL, A ROUTE FOR EVERYONE

One of the main characteristics of the Nature Trails of Girona is that some of the sections are suitable for adapted bicycles. Their technical characteristics and manual traction make for easy handling. There is a bike rental service available by the Ruta del Ferro Rural Hostel, in addition to others along the route.



Old quarry on the banks of the river Ebro, close to Xerta Weir

This Nature Trail, which takes its name from the forge works that put the county of Ripollés on the map for centuries, uses, for the best part of the route and following the River Ter, the former mining railway which up to the late 1960s transported coal from the mines of Ogassa and passengers to Sant Joan de les Abadesses.

THROUGH FORGED LANDS



The first nine kilometres of the Ferro Nature Trail are particularly recommended for the use of this type of bicycle and also for wheelchairs. We recommend starting the trail from Sant Joan de les Abadesses in the direction of Ripoll to take advantage of the gentle gradient between the two villages.

This trail has a wide and firm asphalt path and good visibility throughout the route, making it easy to avoid any collisions with other users.

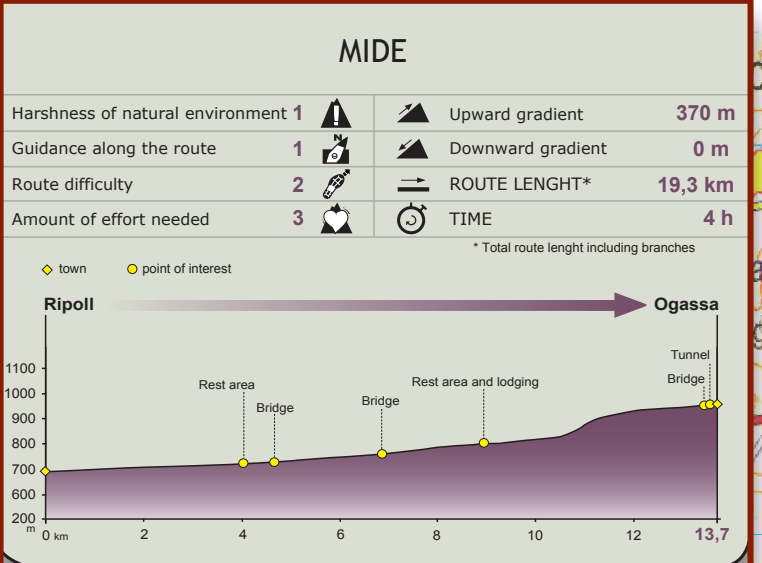
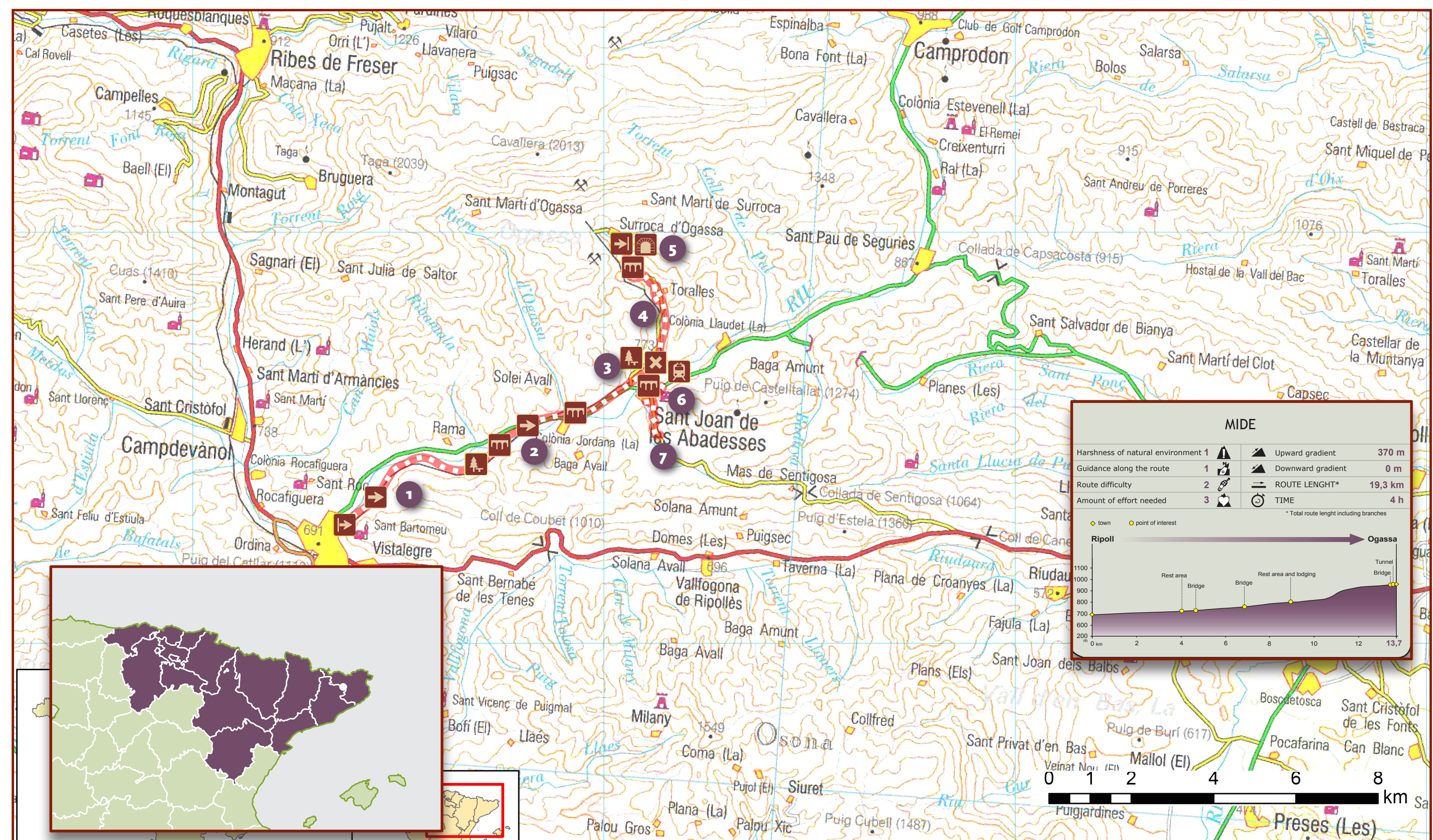
THE THOUSAND LIVES OF THE BRIDGE OF SANT JOAN DE LES ABADESSES. THE PONT VELL

The first Romanesque bridge over the River Ter was built in 1138, but the enormous earthquake that shook the town in 1428 forced it to be rebuilt. This Gothic-style bridge afforded access to the mediaeval district of the Vila Vella which, as a result of the vineyards that surrounded the town's monastery, was also known as Vinyal.

The final hard blow suffered by the Pont Vell was during the Civil War when it was blown up. Finally rebuilt in 1976 by combining the small Romanesque arches that were still standing with the large central Gothic arch, which has a span of 33 m, it is the widest bridge of all those of mediaeval origin on the Peninsula.



Sant Joan de les Abadesses Bridge



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- Section starting point
- Train station
- Bridge
- End of section
- Junction
- Tunnel
- Rest area
- Underpass