



PROGRAMME NATURE TRAILS

At a time when the importance of nature is growing steadily in human consciences and exercising in the open air is increasingly forming part of our new perception of health, the General State Administration wishes to contribute to observing and preserving our natural spaces through the recovery of infrastructures that have fallen into disuse and which will allow such enjoyment of the natural environment where they are located. This recovery is carried out through the **"Nature Trails Network"**.



NATURE TRAILS PROGRAMME

The Nature Trails Programme

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has been running the Nature Trails Programme since 1993. On the basis of this Programme, the Ministry has created more than 10,000 kilometres of nature trails, of which near 1,500 are greenways, the name they receive on being implemented on former railway platforms.

The main goal of the Nature Trails Programme, is to promote and enhance these trails and to make citizens more aware of their existence. Their implementation contributes to the sustainable development of rural areas by reusing transport infrastructures, livestock trails, railway platforms, towpaths, traditional pathways in disuse or opening up new paths, and enabling citizens to draw closer to nature and rural areas in general, meeting a growing demand for the eco-recreational use of the countryside by the population.

As part of the task of promoting the green tracks that the Ministry has been creating, it has cooperated efficiently with the Railway Foundation, reaching agreements, once the works were finished, with developers to disseminate them at the national and international level, through the Greenways Programme.

MORE INFORMATION:
<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/desarrollo-rural/temas/caminos-naturales/>



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Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food'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. 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.

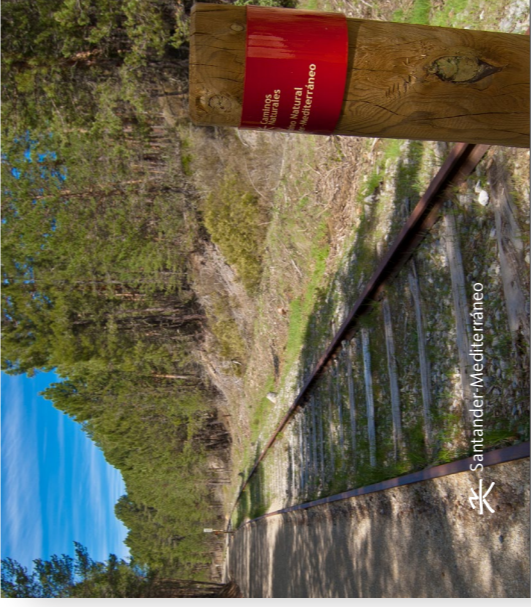
Fulfillment of the following **goals** is intended through the use of these infrastructures as nature trails:

- To maintain the public use of communication infrastructures.
 - To meet social demands for alternative tourist services.
 - To provide citizens with easy access to sporting, cultural, educational and nature-related experiences.
 - To encourage the sustainable development of the action area by boosting economic resources, fomenting employment and fostering the settlement of citizens in their place of origin.
- The **actions** to be carried out in order to adapt these environmental infrastructures to their new use are comprised of two stages:
- 1) Refurbishment of the infrastructures which will be financed by the Ministry, through this centre's own budgets.
 - 2) Maintenance of the works carried out and management of the recreational activities that are generated around these new infrastructures, whose costs shall be assumed by the developing entity.

Membership of the Programme

Public or private entities that wish to form part of the "Nature Trails Programme" can apply for membership by submitting the following documentation:

- Project for the refurbishment works of the layout of the infrastructure whose integration in the Programme is intended.

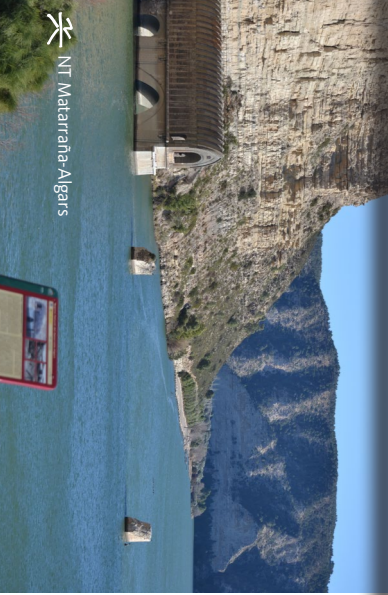


- Commitment agreement of the developing entity stating that:
 - The land where the works will be carried out is available.
 - It will assume the maintenance and preservation tasks of the works once they are finished.
 - It accepts any property and extra-contractual liability in the event of any hypothetical damage or accident occurred on the land and/or real estate which form part of the "Nature Trail" or are linked to it, or which, as a consequence of restricted maintenance, may be caused to adjacent properties, users or persons located in the vicinity.

Investments

Since 1993, when the programme began, more than 10,200 km of nature trails had been built and made available to the public use. Investment by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food up until the end of 2019 amounts more than 240 million euros and has already benefited hundreds of municipalities. The number of kilometres of new nature trails executed every year has risen with a significant increase in recent years.

In the last years, the increase in kilometres has been considerable due to the start-up of long-haul trails such as those of Ruta del Cantábrico, Matarraña-algars, Via de la Plata, Santander - Mediterráneo, etc.



nature trails network

