



DL NPO

NATURE TRAIL SIFÓN DE ALBELDA



Guide to the
Nature Trails
of Spain

SECTOR
NORTHEASTERN PENINSULAR
NATURE TRAIL
SIFÓN DE ALBELDA

1. The trailhead is located at the siphon entrance, at the boundary of the municipality of Albelda, where there is an information board providing details of this significant infrastructure. There is a walkway that leads to the interpretation centre, where a Water Museum will be built in the future, and continues toward an access track onto the A-140 road, which then leads to another paved road heading into town. At this point there is a parking lot for visitors, as well as some benches and tables and a new information board on the Nature Trail. The trail moves forward up to a lookout point where the old *Escambrus* cereal silos are located, a group of Medieval excavations on the soft sandstone of the area, some of which reach up to 4 m in depth.
2. Following the trail along a path shared with vehicles, the trail reaches one of the bridges that cross the siphon. After crossing it, the trail leads to the *aljibes* (cisterns) of Figureta and Sants and moves ahead toward Coll de Foix. Further on there is a dark gravel path that separates the trail from the road. This part of the trail runs parallel to the service road of the Aragon-Catalonia Canal, which means that upon crossing this irrigation area there are several water inlets, sluices, pumps and a large pond.
3. The trail goes on, surrounded by ailanthus groves, crossing one of the bridges that lead to the other bank of the canal. The trail also crosses the road to move away from the water for a while, so hikers must be very careful. When the trail reaches a stretch parallel to the canal, there is an intersection

Trail surrounded by poplars



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 Sifón de Albelda 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:
• City Council of Albelda : 0034 974 42 08 02



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where you can approach the Pedrezueta cistern, although the trail does not include this stop and instead continues straight ahead, against a typical Mediterranean backdrop dominated by holm oaks. One particularity of this section is the strange shape of the hillsides, resulting from the gypsum-rich soils that determine the existing flora and fauna.

4. After the next bridge, the sandstone blocks, sculpted by the wind, outline the horizon. The trail briefly moves away from the canal and then returns to the right bank, near one of the multiple hydrants that irrigate the fields of the area. The Nature Trail continues straight on and crosses one of the siphon bridges, then reaches a dirt road leading to a recreational area surrounded by fruit trees downhill from the road. This area has a parking space for vehicles and bikes, as well as some swings, benches and a sports area. A little further on there is a dangerous intersection with A-410 road.
5. From this point onwards, the trail moves ahead between the water canal and the road. After crossing two bridges, the trail takes a wooden walkway in order to avoid a small thalweg and, only 300 m away, there is a viewpoint with sweeping views of the valley, as well as a resting area with tables, benches and parking space for bicycles.
6. After a short break, the last stretch of the trail starts crossing a poplar forest. At kilometre 10 of the trail, there is another lookout point with views over Coll de Foix.
7. The end point of the trail is at the siphon station, on the boundary of the municipality of Albelda where there is

General view of the Siphon



A TRAIL TO CELEBRATE A CENTURY OF ENGINEERING

The commissioning of the Aragon and Catalonia Canal on 10 May 1909 brought an essential change to agriculture in the county of Albelda. Until then, there had only been dry farming activities in the area. It stretched for 10 km and its surrounding areas were landscaped. As a result, it did not only meet its functional purpose but also became a recreational area, now covered by this trail.



an information board for hikers to learn about the features of the area.

THE ARAGON AND CATALONIA CANAL

The Aragon and Catalonia Canal design dates back to the late 18th century, during the Enlightenment. However, it was not executed until the late 19th century as a result of the Napoleonic Wars.

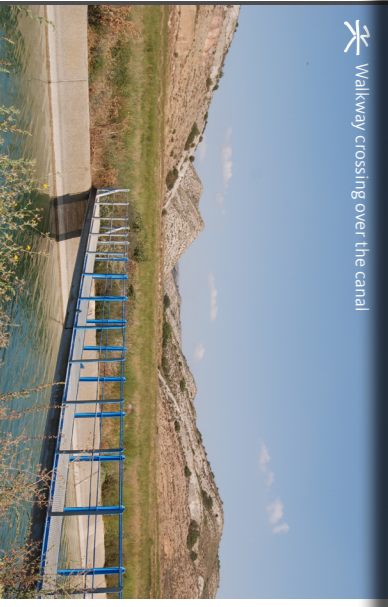
The need to irrigate the dry lands in the area of La Litera encouraged the locals in Tamarite to lodge an official request for the construction of a canal that would convey the water from the Esera and Circa Rivers. As a result, the canal was initially called Tamarite Canal, until it was given its current name in 1876.

THE CISTERNS

Scattered across the municipality of Albelda, there are about 20 *aljibes* –water cisterns excavated into the rock aimed to collect storm water.

This simple strategy for water storage was passed down from the Arabs, who used this primeval system to alleviate water scarcity in this area. Sandstone rocky outcrops, which were easy to excavate, were used to create a network of small canals. Rain water flowed along these canals into the cisterns, located at the lowest points, where it remained in storage.

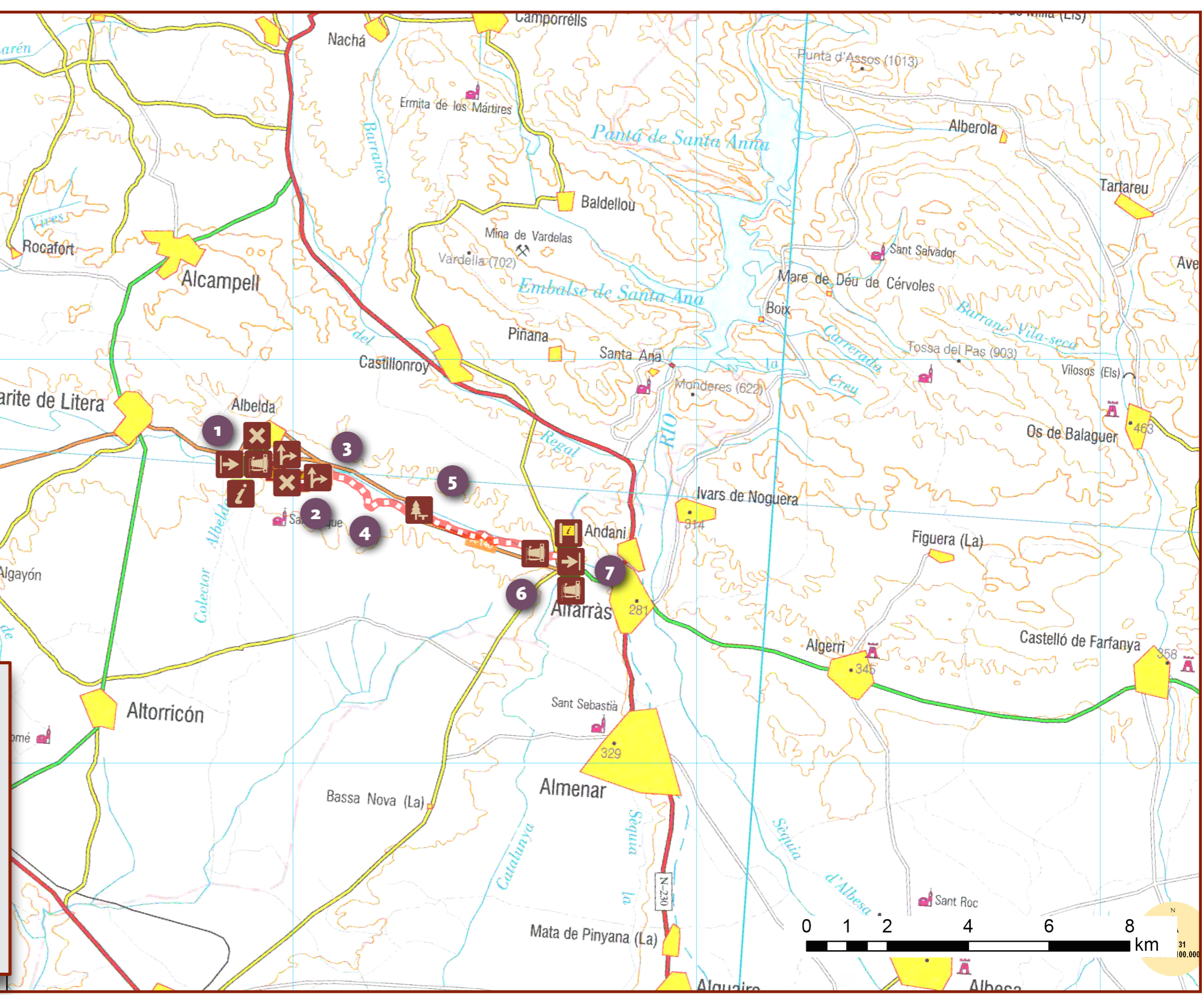
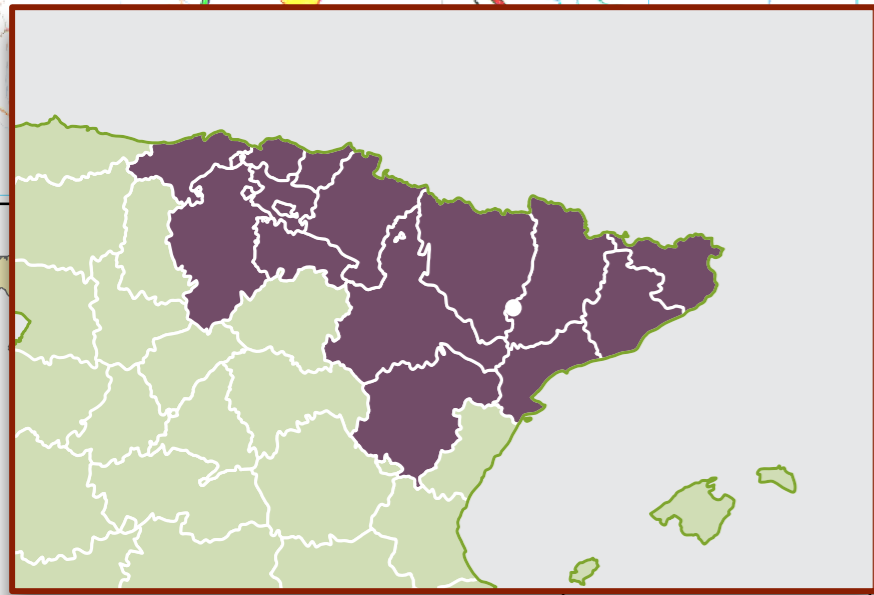
Walkway crossing over the canal



MIDE

Harshness of natural environment	1	▲ Upward gradient	25 m
Guidance along the route	1	▼ Downward gradient	10 m
Route difficulty	1	— ROUTE LENGTH	10,3 km
Amount of effort needed	1	⌚ TIME	3 h

◆ Town ● Point of interest
 Albelda → Sifón station



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- Starting point
- Rest area
- Junction
- End of trail
- Information
- Detour
- Information panel