



valldepop
cada pedra una història

TOURIST INFO Vall de Pop

Paseo de la Alameda s/n
(Ctra. De Alcalalí)
03727 Xaló
Tel. 966 481 017

valldepop@touristinfo.net
www.valldepop.es

TOURIST INFO Benissa

Avda. País Valencià, 97
03720 Benissa
Tel. 965 732 225

turismo@benissa.net
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TOURIST INFO Benissa Playa

Avda. La Marina, 307
03720 Benissa
Tel. 966 498 361

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DETAILS OF THE ROUTE:

Starting point: You can start the trail at any of the municipalities through which it runs. It can also be done in several stages, if you wish, selecting the distances and times to suit.

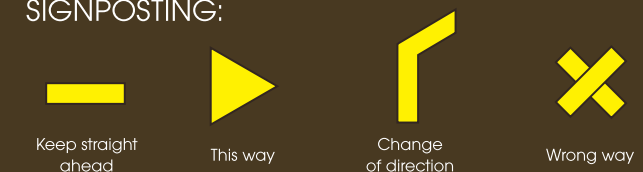
ADVICE:



PROHIBITIONS:



SIGNPOSTING:



If you encounter any problems with the condition of the signposting, please inform the Vall de Pop tourist office.

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TECHNICAL INFO

Type of trail: Linear

Difficulty: Very easy

Steepness: Gentle to very gentle slopes

Section	Estimated Time (One Way)	Distance (One Way)
Benissa - Senija	45'	2.200 m.
Senija - Llíber	1 h.	3.800 m.
Llíber- Xaló	25'	1.500 m.
Xaló - Alcalalí	40'	2.500 m.
Alcalalí - Parcent	45'	3.200 m.
Parcent- Murla	45'	3.000 m.
Murla - Benigembla	45'	3.300 m.
TOTAL	5 h. 5'	19.500 m.

WAYS OF STONE AND WATER

BENISSA - SENIJA - LLÍBER - XALÓ - ALCALALÍ - PARCENT - MURLA - BENIGEMBLA - CASTELL DE CASTELLS

This trail links all the municipalities in the Vall de Pop and reveals the importance of the local ethnological heritage – a heritage derived from agricultural and rural architecture and linked to the use of water from the river Xaló or Gorgos.

Some of the most typical features along the way form part of the area's traditional hydraulic architecture, such as wells, cisterns, basins, irrigation channels, waterwheels and watermills.

The trail also takes in various features of the local dry-stone architecture. Typical of the area, this construction technique involves the building of stone walls without any type of mortar. The most stunning examples of dry-stone architecture can be seen in the terraces clinging to even the steepest of hillsides, but it was also used in the construction of wells, corrals, shelters and the like.

The trail mostly follows the river Xaló, which runs through the heart of the Vall de Pop and which has not only shaped the ethnological heritage of the area but is also of great ecological value and has been deemed a Place of Community Interest.

From Benissa to Senija

The first stretch of the trail takes you along country roads which run between fields and groves and provide views of the imposing Serra de Bèrnia range and the Muntanya Llarga in Benissa, also known as La Solana. The trail soon crosses an old olive grove which stands in gnarled testament to the deep-rooted tradition of growing olives for the production of olive oil, mostly for personal use by the farmers and their families. This area is attractive for the contrast between the stone margins and the red earth, and for the spreading of the olive trees.

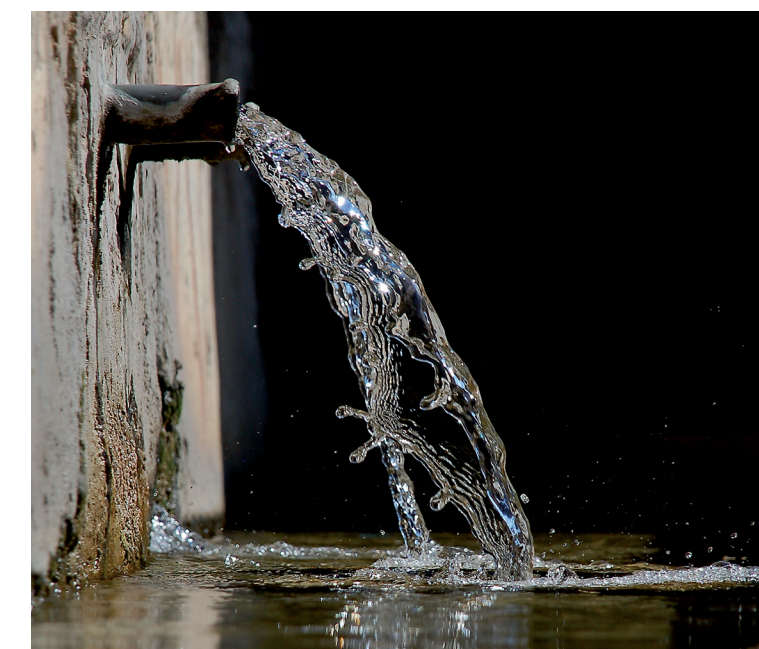
From Senija to Llíber

This stage begins among the old fields of unirrigated crops which are now largely overgrown by thickets of kermes oak and mastic but which offer fine examples of dry-stone terracing. Another typical use of the dry-stone technique can be seen in the walls which dot part of the trail on its descent.

The trail then takes you through El Pla de Llíber, a valley in which vines are still grown and where you can see typical constructions known as riu-raus, which were mostly used to store the reeds on which grapes were dried into raisins.

From Llíber to Xaló

As it leaves Llíber, the trail picks up the river Xaló, which is also known as the river Gorgos because, as it leaves the



Vall de Pop, it crosses the Gata de Gorgos area before entering the sea at Xàbia.

As the trail passes through the town of Xaló, on the left you can see the ruins of a 14th- or 15th-century watermill, the Molí Giner. Like so many other mills dotted along the river, it used to harness the force of the water produced by the autumn rains and use it to make flour. After the mill you'll then come to the Ethnology Museum and, among the trees alongside the river, the Vall de Pop tourist office.

From Xaló to Alcalalí

Shortly after the start of this stretch you'll see to our right the ruins of another watermill, the Molí de la Tarafa, alongside ponds graced by water birds such as moorhens, little egrets and ducks. After that you follow country roads to the town of Alcalalí, where you can visit a mediaeval tower dating from the 15th century. All along the trail, the landscape is dominated by the mountains which ring the Vall de Pop, with La Solana to the right, the Coll de Rates and the Carrascar de Parcent to the left and the Cavall Verd before you.

From Alcalalí to Parcent

In the first part of this section you can make a small detour to visit the Mosquera waterwheel and well next to the San Juan Mosquera chapel or continue along the main trail, which follows the river and then cuts through

an area of terraced almond trees – trees which are spectacular when in blossom.

Arriving in Parcent, the trail crosses the town square and drops down to the wash house with its interesting hydraulic ensemble comprised of a fountain, wash house, cistern and system of irrigation channels. You then have the option of either heading towards Murla or taking a different route which leaves from the other end of town and runs along the PRCV 158 walking trail past the Pou d'Assagador well and the Camí de les Revoltes road towards the Serra del Carrascar mountains (ask at the tourist office for the Serra del Carrascar leaflet).

From Parcent to Murla

As you leave Parcent there is an interesting lookout which affords views of the Cavall Verd or Penyal de Laguar directly in front of you, the fortified wall of the Fontilles sanatorium to the right and a patchwork of groves and fields which spreads out across the whole valley. The trail heads into these groves and fields, crossing the river bed and approaching Murla by way of some irrigation basins and an unusual wash house. Built at ground level, the wash house is supplied by a conduit which runs beneath the nearby houses. Then you come to the foot of the tower at the fortified church of Murla, from whence you can explore the town.

From Murla to Benigembla

The trail drops down from Murla and criss-crosses the river bed, sometimes running within it, sometimes running alongside it, while the banks are riddled with gullies and flecked with Triassic clay. As you progress along the river, you'll come to stands of trees, where some black poplars representative of the area's original vegetation still grow. This stretch can also be great for wildlife, being a good place to spot amphibians wallowing in any remaining pools of water or birds sheltering in the recesses of the gully.

From Benigembla to Castell de Castells

The signposting of this stretch is still in progress.

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WAYS OF STONE AND WATER

BENISSA - SENIJA - LLÍBER - XALÓ - ALCALALÍ - PARCENT - MURLA - BENIGEMBLA - CASTELL DE CASTELLS

SIGNPOSTED TRAIL

HIKING TRAILS



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Province: Alicante

District: Marina Alta

Area: La Vall de Pop

Town through which the trail runs:

Benissa - Senija - Llíber - Xaló - Alcalalí - Parcent - Murla - Benigembla - Castell de Castells

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