

Description of the route



1. THE REC TRAIENT AND SOCIAL VEGETABLE GARDENS

The Rec Traient (Traient irrigation channel) collects the surplus water that flows from the different channels that water the vegetable gardens. After it is diverted from the river Ter, 6 km upstream, the water returns to the river. Throughout its course, the vegetation (rushes, reeds and willows) points to the presence of water. The vegetable gardens that can be seen from this area are council-owned, and can be rented. The quarter of Santa Eugènia's cultural diversity is reflected by the variety of plants that are grown. Next to the vegetables traditionally grown in the region, it's not uncommon to find peanuts, okra, coriander or mint.



2. CAL GRAS, CA L'ESCOLÀ AND REC MONAR

Scattered around the Hortes area, there are a number of country houses and gardeners' houses, like the ones we find at this point: Ca l'Escolà (straight ahead) and Cal Gras (to the right). The canal is the Monar irrigation channel, which carries water diverted from the river Ter's right bank at the Pilastra dam, located at the edge of the villages of Bescanó and Salt. The irrigation channels waters the vegetables gardens in Salt and Girona and drains into the Onyar, in the city. Mentions of it date back to the 11th century, and it was apparently built by the counts of Girona. It has been used for agricultural and industrial purposes, and played an important role in the industrialisation of Salt (the Gasol, Coma and Cros factories, among others), Santa Eugènia (the Marfà factory) and the Mercadal quarter of Girona, where the most prominent factories (Grober) set up in the 19th century.



3. THE OLD VILLAGE OF SANTA EUGÈNIA, CAN NINETES AND THE MARFÀ FACTORY

Santa Eugènia de Ter was a municipality that was annexed to Girona in 1963. The most important traces of its old quarter are Can Ninetes and the old Marfà textile factory, which currently serve as a civic centre and a cultural facility, respectively. The stately mansion next to Can Ninetes belonged to the factory owners. The itinerary continues along Carrer de Baix, a well-kept example of working-class terraced-houses.



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Hortes de Santa Eugènia and the Meadows of Salt

This route, shared between Girona and Salt, will allow you to discover the agricultural space of the Hortes de Santa Eugènia (Santa Eugènia vegetable gardens) and the natural area of the meadows of Salt (*Deveses de Salt*), following the course of the river Ter. Part of the itinerary overlaps with the Carrilet Greenway, which runs from Olot to Girona. The vegetable gardens of Santa Eugènia are located to the west of the city of Girona, between the neighbourhood of Santa Eugènia (formerly the village of Santa Eugènia de Ter) and the right bank of the river Ter. The type of agriculture practised in this space has evolved as a result of the social changes its surroundings have undergone. The area is currently used for social gardens rather than market gardens. The meadows of Salt are of great ecological value, and an ideal place to enjoy nature walks.



This itinerary which is approximately 7,5 km in long, is flat and practicable for persons with reduced mobility. This means that there may be certain isolated difficulties, but the route is usable. Most of the itinerary is on compacted but non-asphalted earth. There are a few areas that are irregular or where there are stones and/or sand.

The information contained in this brochure is available on the Natura Local app, complete with audio descriptions, subtitles and sign-language interpretation.

Girona Natura Walks Hortes de Santa Eugènia and the Meadows of Salt



4. SANTA EUGÈNIA'S PUBLIC WASH-HOUSE

This public wash-house, which was restored in 2007, is an example of vernacular architecture from the start of the 20th century. Doing the laundry there—an activity that was exclusively performed by women in those days—was commonplace well into the 20th century, when the first electrical appliances began to appear, making it possible to carry out the task at home. Wash-houses proved highly convenient for women, who no longer had to walk down to the river to do the laundry, but could instead do so near, home, standing up and under a roof. The wash-house was also a place for socialising and finding out what was going on in the village. In Catalan, fer safareig (doing the laundry at a wash-house) also means to gossip.

5. CARRILET GREENWAY

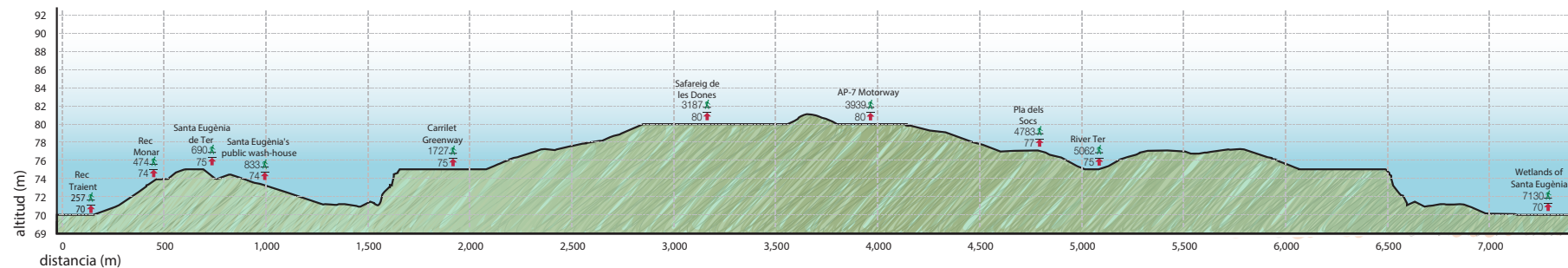
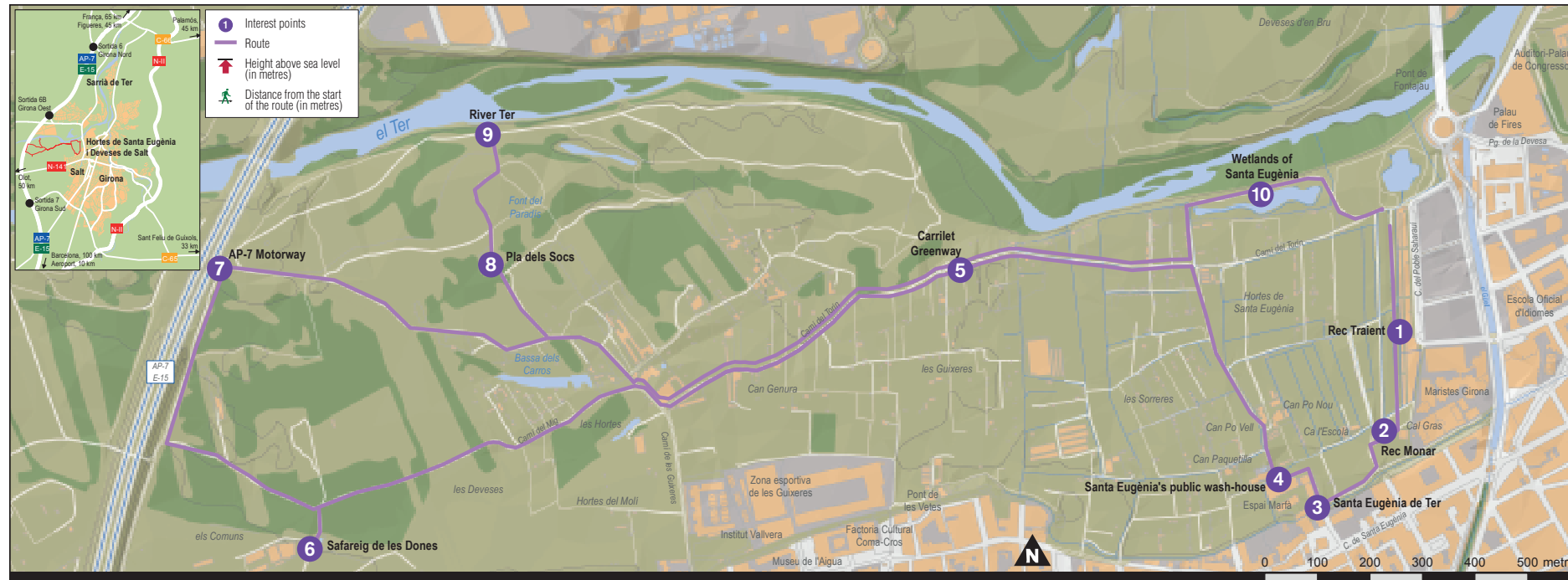
At this point, the route crosses the Carrilet Greenway. This cycling-tourism itinerary makes use of the disused narrow-gauge railway line connecting Girona and Olot (54 km), later continuing to Sant Feliu de Guixols (39.7 km). Here the Green Trail coincides with the *Ruta del Ter* (Ter route), which in turn follows the course of the river Ter, from the Pyrenees until the sea.

6. SAFAREIG DE LES DONES

The Safareig de les Dones (literally, Women's wash-house) is located along this shaded section, lined with poplars and London plane trees. Before the reservoirs of Sau and Susqueda were built, the water from the river made its way to the wash-house. Thanks to the syphon drainage located at the centre, women were able to make use of the water for washing clothes. The area was enclosed by a wall, and there was even a covered area where women could do the laundry on rainy days.

7. AP-7 MOTORWAY

The vegetable gardens of Santa Eugènia and the meadows of Salt, which stretch alongside the river Ter, perform an essential function as wildlife corridors, helping to preserve biodiversity. These natural spaces serve as a refuge for animals and plants, allowing wildlife to move between habitats in an environment dominated by human structures and activities. This is particularly relevant in this area, given that, as well as the urbanised areas of Girona and Salt, there are also large transport infrastructures such as the AP-7 motorway.



i Hortes de Santa Eugènia and the Meadows of Salt (circular route)

Distance: **7,5 km** Approximate time: **2'5 - 3 h**
 Difficulty: **easy** Maximum height: **80 m**



More information about nature routes around Girona www.girona.cat/turisme



8. PLA DELS SOCS

If you deviate from the main itinerary for a moment, you may wander to the Pla dels Socs (Plain of the Tree Stumps), whose name comes from the use given to the area, where the timber from nearby woodlands was stored. Later, during the 70s and 80s, this space was used as a rubbish tip, where all kinds of waste were dumped. Thanks to the work carried out by the "Associació Amics de les Deveses"—a meadow preservation association—the rubbish tip was covered and the area is currently an extensive recreation zone. Don't miss the sculptures of Adam and Eve and the fountain of Eden.



9. RIVER TER

The Ter passes through five of the counties of Girona for a total of 208 kilometres until it reaches the Mediterranean. It is a typical river of the Mediterranean region, flowing strongly in the spring and autumn. The River Ter has a large number of tributaries, including the other three rivers in the city, which join the Ter in places very close to this sector.



10. WETLANDS OF SANTA EUGÈNIA

These wetlands were opened to the public in October 2008. They are the result of a wetland recovery project carried out amidst the park of Santa Eugènia's vegetable gardens, on municipal land. They are part of the Natura 2000 network, and occupy a surface of one hectare. This natural area was dried out long ago when the natural areas were converted into market gardens. It was recovered thanks to this initiative. The wetland area is made up of two ponds: the area that you are in, which is open to the public, and a second area—a few metres away—, whose access is restricted to research tasks, aimed at ensuring the protection of flora and fauna.

