

Description of the route

1. STARTING POINT

The itinerary begins at this car park located next to the Avinguda Josep Tarradellas. This avenue runs alongside the Güell river, one of the four rivers that cross the city of Girona, and which flows into the river Ter a few metres from this point.

2. 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.

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

Scattered around the Hortes (vegetable gardens) 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.



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Hortes de Santa Eugènia

This itinerary will reveal the importance of industry and vegetable gardens for the old village of Santa Eugènia de Ter, which is currently one of the most popular quarters of the city of Girona. In that sense, the route makes it easy to interpret the new uses of spaces: how we've gone from professional market gardens to urban ones; how the old factory has become a cultural venue; how a farmhouse has become a civic centre; or how marginal spaces have been turned into urban wetlands.



This itinerary which is approximately 2,2 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.





4. 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.



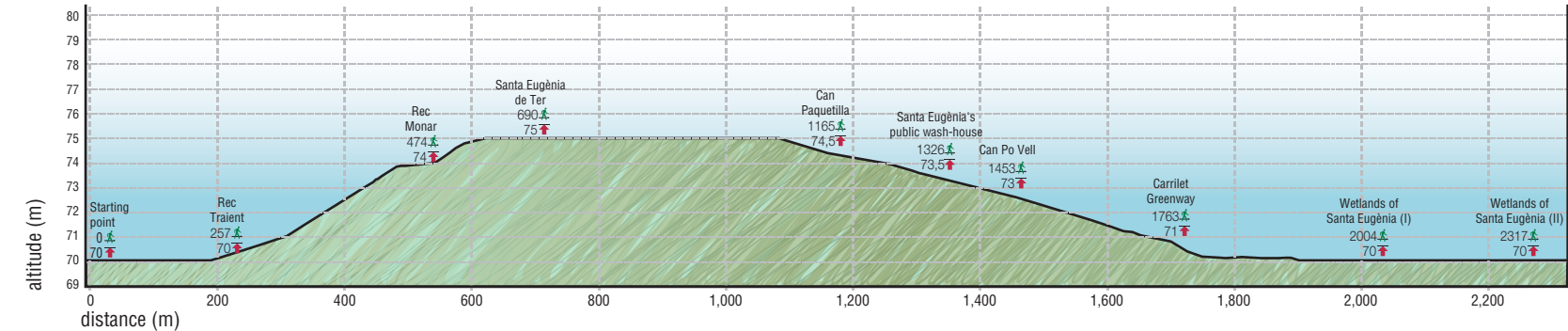
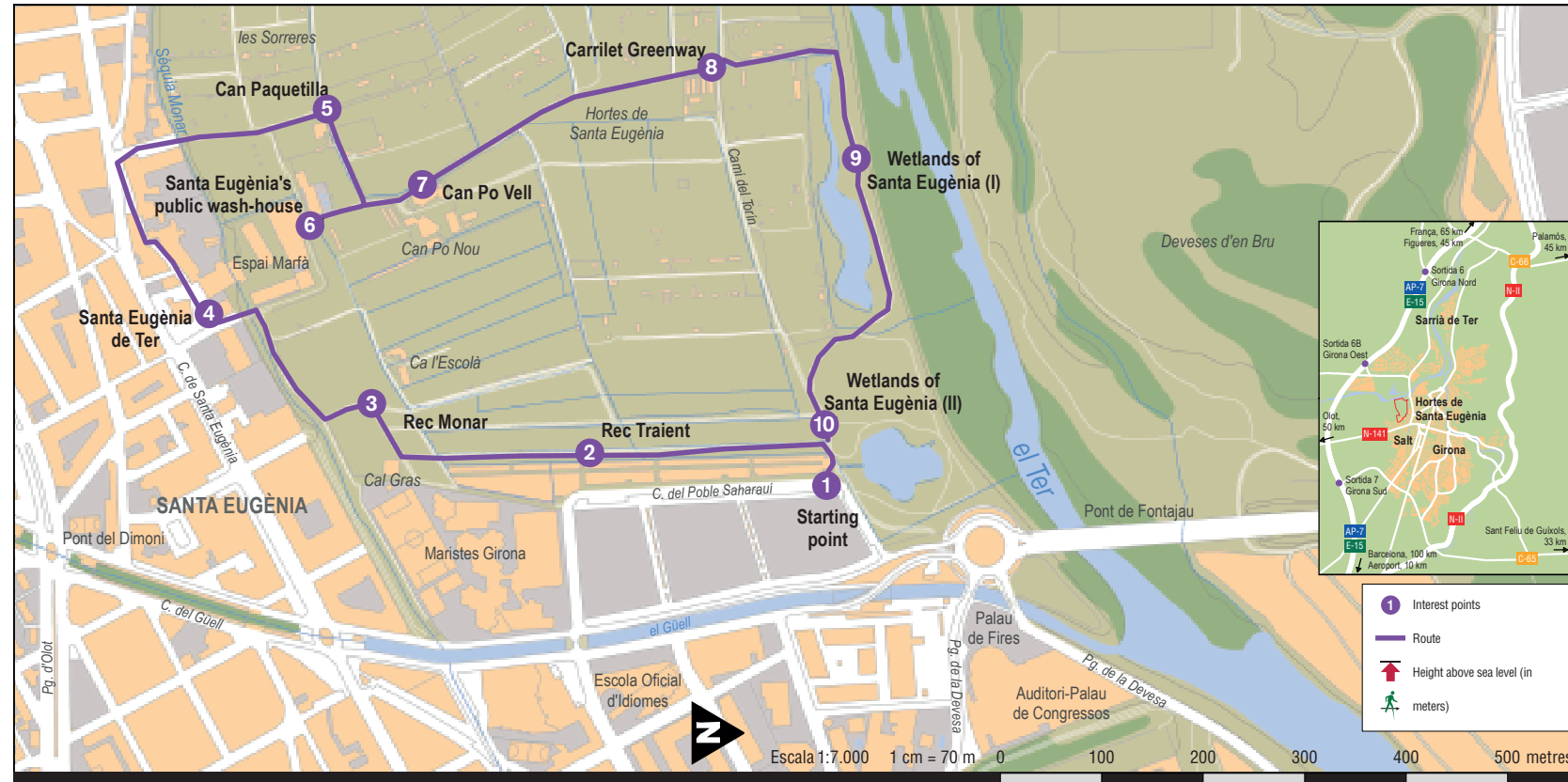
5. CAN PAQUETILLA

Can Paquetilla is a plastered and painted country house dating from the 1950s, whose traditional architecture is that of the last generation of Catalan country houses, in the form of a single, large-sized construction with a gable roof. These buildings are an essential part of the Hortes' agricultural landscape and history.



6. 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.



i Hortes de Santa Eugènia itinerary (circular route)

Distance: **2,2 km** Approximate time: **1 h 15 min**
 Difficulty: **Easy** Maximum height: **75 m**



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



App Natura Local



7. CAN PO VELL

Can Po Vell, is an old vegetable-gardener's house. It has been restored, and since it stands at a strategic location amidst the Hortes (vegetables gardens), it currently serves as the Municipal school-workshop where construction workers and gardeners are trained.



8. 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.



9. WETLANDS OF SANTA EUGÈNIA (I)

The wetlands of Santa Eugènia were created in 2008 on a piece of land that had served for many years for waste recovery. The water that fills them comes from the irrigation channels that water the vegetables gardens before returning to the river Ter. The river passes behind the hillock, and is flanked by a lush forest of alders, poplars and ash trees.



10. WETLANDS OF SANTA EUGÈNIA (II)

At this point, which is nearing the end of the itinerary, we find a second wetland. Unlike the previous ones, which are open to the public, access to these wetlands is restricted to research activities and the protection of fauna and flora.

