

# Itinerary description



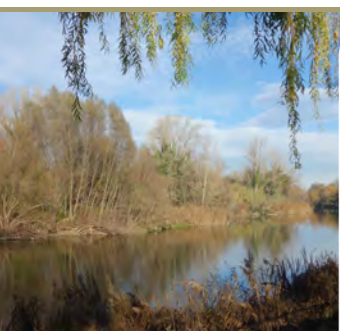
## 1. CONFLUENCE

The starting point is the confluence of the rivers Ter, Galligants and Onyar, a strategic location in the city and, at the same time, a critical point in terms of flooding since time immemorial. These calamities, which caused a great deal of human and material damage, have been much rarer since the construction in the late 1960s of the Sau, Susqueda and El Pasteral dams, which have reduced the volume of the Ter and allowed the waters of the tributaries to drain away more easily. Moreover, the calm waters of the final stretch of the Onyar have led to the creation of an interesting habitat, with cattails and areas with reeds, a shelter for ducks, little grebes, moorhens, Mediterranean turtles and amphibians.



## 2. FISH LADDER

Pedret Bridge has a one-metre drop that prevents fish from moving between the rivers Onyar and Ter. In order to ensure connectivity and improve the habitat at the confluence of the two rivers, a ramp has been built to enable the fish to negotiate the slope. The ramp has a 1% slope and measures a total of 9 metres long and 3.9 metres wide. The pebbles on the ramp create small steps that reduce the speed, allowing the fish to rest and making it easier for them to go up the river. Prior to the construction of the ramp, this drop constituted a considerable barrier that hindered the mobility of the fish and other river fauna.



## 3. PEDRET ISLAND

Pedret Island is located at the confluence of the rivers Ter and Onyar. It's currently a lush riparian forest that's home to populations of forest birds such as woodpeckers, night herons and orioles, while the banks are inhabited by otters, kingfishers and amphibians such as the Perez's frog and the leaf green tree frog. The riparian forest is one of the most productive and biodiverse habitats in Catalonia and is suited to the river's unstable conditions, with an abundance of water but the ever-present risk of flooding.



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# La Ronda del Ter

By following the course of the river, the La Ronda del Ter itinerary allows you to discover the ecological and productive uses of water (factories, spas, etc.), as well as its historical legacy. As it passes through Girona you'll find a rich heritage of fauna and flora and pastureland along this river, together with mechanisms to preserve biodiversity (such as ramps) and cope with rises in the level of the river and the consequent flooding.

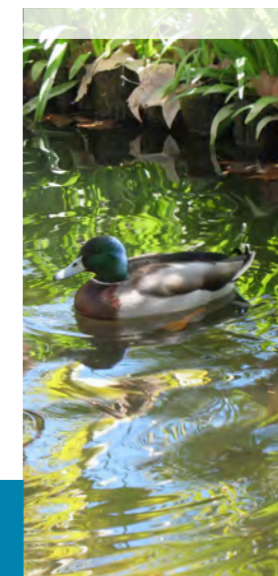


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## Girona Natura Walks La Ronda del Ter





#### 4. DEVESES DELS SALESIANS

The riverside pasturelands are known as such because, in the past, they were frequently flooded areas located on the river's sandbanks. They contain trees that tolerate high degrees of humidity (the sycamore, poplar, etc.) and very little undergrowth due to grazing and intense public use. However, the Pont Major district still boasts a far-reaching range of privately owned pastures, the use of which is limited to growing the trees to obtain wood.



#### 5. CAN MITJANS DAM

The cycle lane connection to Campdorà that passes under the L'Aigua Bridge begins in this part of the Pont Major district. It is an area with pacified traffic, just like the waters of the river Ter, owing to the dam.

This structure, built by Felip Flores i Brugada in 1869, provided hydraulic power for what was to become the first Spanish wood pulp mill for paper in 1870. This is why it is also known as the Flores Mill. The diversion of water has powered the Mitjans electricity plant from 1894 until the present day.



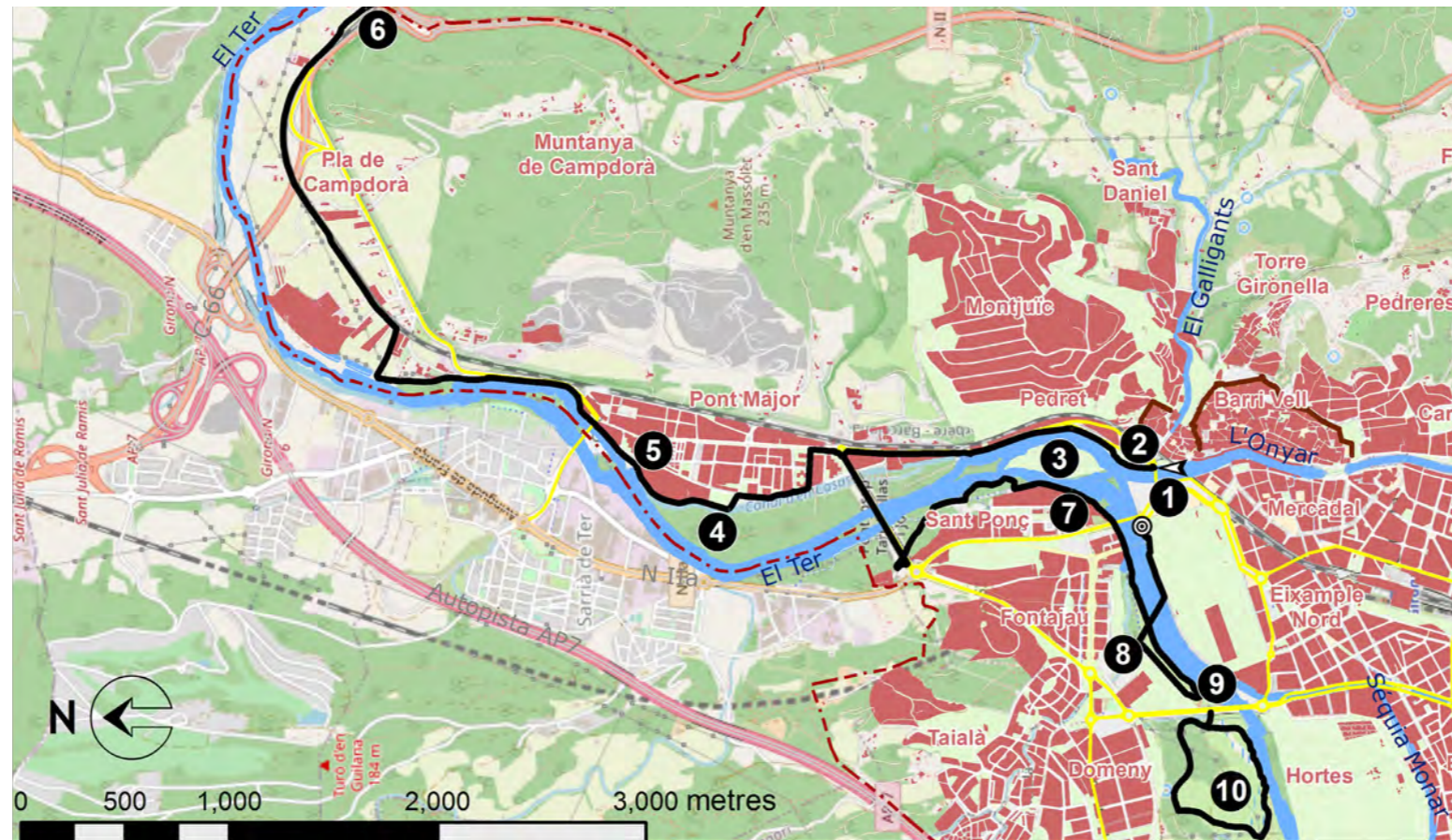
#### 6. THE FONT PICANT DEL CONGOST

This location on the municipal boundary between Girona and Celrà used to be highly popular because of the spa in Campdorà. Between 1900 and 1936 this fluvial pastureland area beside the stream pools of the Ter was an idyllic place known as the "Delights of the Congost", receiving many visitors for parties and communal meals known as feixines until it fell into neglect in the 1950s.



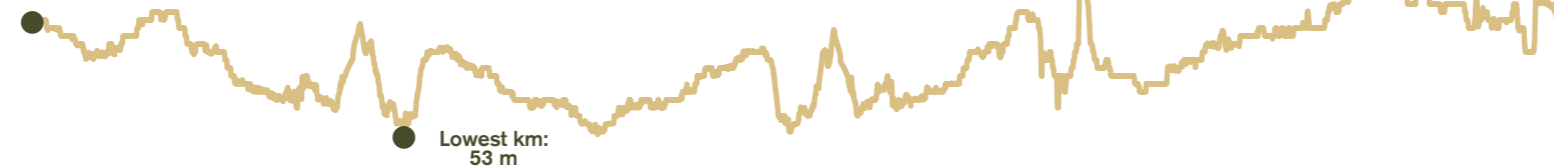
#### 7. THE RIVER TER

The river Ter flows for 208 kilometres through five counties in Girona until it reaches the Mediterranean Sea. It is a typical Mediterranean river with well-preserved riparian forests and marshland whose level rises in spring and autumn. The river Ter has numerous tributaries, including the other three rivers in Girona (the Onyar, Güell and Galligants) which converge in the city.



#### Elevation gain

Start: 67 m



Lowest km: 53 m

Highest km: 72 m



#### La Ronda del Ter

Distance: **17,5 Km** Approximate time: **3 h 50 min**  
 Difficulty: **medium** Maximum altitude **72 m**

Further information on routes in Girona:  
[www.girona.cat/turisme](http://www.girona.cat/turisme)



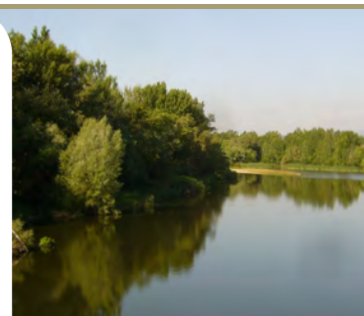
#### 8. THE RIBES DEL TER PARK

The Ribes del Ter de Fontajau Park was built in the mid-1990s. Because of the sector's urban planning and the construction of the pavilion, it became necessary to optimise the area located on the left bank of the river. In addition to the construction of a pedestrian walkway, the river's water level rose slightly due to the small dam located at the foot of the walkway. It thus became possible to increase the surface of open waters and provide a much broader sheet of water than before, as a result of which reeds, rushes and other riparian vegetation have grown there over time.



#### 9. NATURA 2020 NETWORK

The Ribes del Ter park forms part of the Riberes del Baix Ter natural area encompassing the entire lower stretch of the river Ter in the Girona region and is protected by the European Natura 2000 ecological network. The aim of the Natura 2000 network is to create a legal framework to guarantee the protection of nature throughout Europe and to safeguard a representative sample of the main European habitats and species.



#### 10. LES DEVESES D'EN BRU

Les Deveses d'en Bru boasts habitats and species of community interest that are characteristic of riverbank areas. Despite being a very fragile system subject to constant changes in flow, it houses an excellent selection of lowland riverbank communities such as willow, white poplar and ash trees. The vegetation includes willow trees with twill. Apart from the twill there are other trees characteristic of riparian forests, including the alder, the poplar and the white willow. As for the fauna, you'll find a small population of Mediterranean turtles, numerous amphibians and large populations of nesting birds (kingfishers, bee eaters and lesser spotted woodpeckers) and migrating and hibernating birds (herons, shore birds and anatidae). The area was formerly home to a large wetland owing to the extraction of aggregates. Several water points are still preserved today, such as the pond connected to the Bullidors stream.

