

# Description of the route



## 1. MONASTERY OF SANT PERE DE GALLIGANTS

The route begins at the monastery of Sant Pere de Galligants, one of the most noteworthy examples of Catalan Romanesque architecture. The monastery was first documented in the year 988, and is outstanding for its cloister, bell tower, and rose window. Inside, the permanent exhibition of archaeological findings from Girona city and major sites in Girona province allows visitors to travel back in history. The route goes round the back of the monastery, crosses the river Galligants by a small footbridge, and continues along a riverside path leading to Sant Daniel valley, passing El Bisbe fountain and El Bisbe bridge.



## 2. MONASTERY OF SANT DANIEL

At El Bisbe fountain, go over El Bisbe bridge and continue along Sant Daniel street. This stretch goes past the 11th-century monastery of Sant Daniel, founded by Countess Ermesenda, and has housed Benedictine nuns for over one thousand years. The Romanesque church and cloister are the main architectural features of the building. The monastery conserves a major collection of books and scrolls dating from the 11th century.



## 3. RIVERSIDE WOODLANDS

This stretch of the route runs parallel to the riverside woodlands on the banks of the river Galligants. These green corridors provide landscape continuity and enable wildlife populations to move around and relocate in an increasingly built-up environment.



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# Sant Daniel Valley

This circular route takes in the main features of Sant Daniel valley, one of the best-conserved natural spaces in Girona city.

The first part of the itinerary goes through the historic centre of Sant Daniel village, annexed to Girona city since 1963, but retaining much of its original rural charm. The built-up area leads on to pastures and crop fields, a reminder of the former economic activity of this locality, gradually giving way to the woodlands of the Gavarres massif protected natural space.



Dipòsit Legat. GI.1330-2014 / Crèdits: Portada: J. S. Carrera. Introducció: JS Carrera. Punts interès: JS Carrera (1,2,5,6,8,9,10). Ajuntament de Girona (3,4,7)



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# Girona Natura Walks Sant Daniel Valley





#### 4. LES SARDANES SQUARE

You can make a small detour to Les Sardanes square, located at the point where the river Galligants meets several streams. The square is surrounded by ash and alder trees, and conserves the remains of some old steps where cobla bands used to play, with an inscription on the base recalling the former name of the square: Plaza de la Constitución de 1869.

#### 5. FARMHOUSES

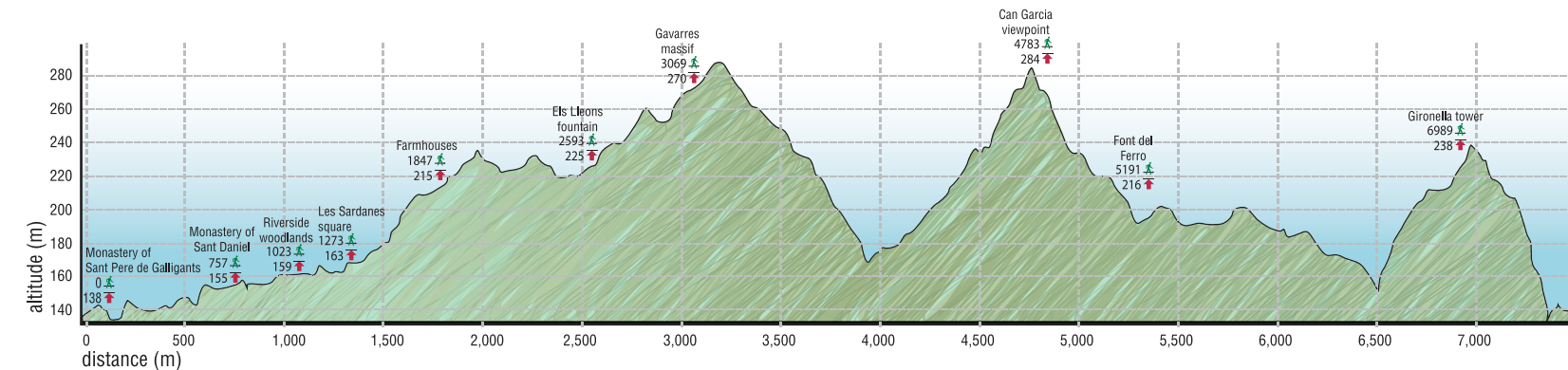
Until the 20th century, traditional architecture in Sant Daniel valley consisted of family farmsteads, called masies, in which the main activity was subsistence agriculture, complemented by stock raising, forestry, and so on.

#### 6. ELS LLEONS FOUNTAIN

The name of this fountain comes from its former crest (of which traces can still be seen) of Tomàs de Lorenzana (1728-1796), Bishop of Girona, with two lions symbolising his birthplace in León. Another feature of the locality is La Torre dam, which originally channelled water towards a nearby farmhouse called Mas de la Torre. It is now useful for crossing over to the fountain when the stream is in full spate.

#### 7. GAVARRS MASSIF

The Gavarres massif is now largely woodlands but the landscape has been variously exploited over the centuries for forestry, agriculture, and pasturage. From this stretch of the route, you can see the mountain forests of pine, holm oak, and cork oak, with smaller areas of chestnut groves, scrublands, and riverside woodland areas.



**i** **Sant Daniel Valley (Circular)**  
 Distance: **7,5 km**  
 Approximate time: **1 h 45 m**  
 Difficulty **Medium**  
 Maximum Height: **284 m**

More information about nature routes around Girona [www.girona.cat/turisme](http://www.girona.cat/turisme)

App Girona Rutes  



#### 8. CAN GARCIA VIEWPOINT

Take a small detour to Can Garcia viewpoint for a superb 270° view over the valley with its typical Mediterranean landscape, a delicate mosaic of woodlands and small crop fields with Girona city and Sant Daniel village in the background.

#### 9. FONT DEL FERRO

At this point, the route reaches the recently refurbished Font del Ferro picnic area. The fountain of the same name is of particular geological interest for the sharp taste of iron (ferro in Catalan) and dissolved carbon dioxide present in the water. A little further down in the same area is La Pinya fountain with a pinecone (pinya in Catalan) carved on the lintel. After a fair stretch through the pleasant farmland of Sant Daniel Valley, the route passes Pericot Fountain and goes on up to Torre Gironella.

#### 10. TORRE GIRONELLA

Gironella tower is a mediaeval defence work in the city walls, which was partially destroyed in 1814 during the retreat of the French troops. It stands on the same site as a former tower dating from Roman times. Return to starting point descending the Archaeological Walk, one of the main touristic attractions of the Old City.

