

The natural environment around Vinaròs

Over the course of centuries, the natural environment around Vinaròs has been transformed by the introduction and cultivation of vines, groves, carob trees and almond tree among other crops. It entailed a strategic activity of agricultural practices of the Roman Empire and is still echoed as we trek through the fields around Vinaròs.

The natural vegetation cover that existed before the agricultural transformation included carrascales or kermes oakwoods, robledales or oakwoods and also pine forests. They were typical forest species of the Mediterranean coastline. We can see some specimens on the banks of the Cervol River and in the gully as Aiguadoliva which offers us an interesting route. The gully will take us to the Serra del Puig Natural Park and to Misericòrdia sanctuary, with its marvellous views over the extensive landscape around us.

All this transformation of the natural environment would not have been possible without the development of 'dry' construction without using mortar or other clay-based bonding agents. Pieces of stones cleared away from fields destined for agriculture were used to build simple agricultural shelters, paths, retaining walls, livestock paths and ramps and walls delimiting different properties. We can find various specimens on all the routes but especially on Redona de l'Ermita Trail.

The most agriculturally productive landscape is made from the Islamic period and the creation of various Moslem farmsteads. Such farmsteads gave rise to quite a number of towns such as Vinaròs.

From this period, we can still see examples of the basic farmstead structured, formed by a small building with a pool used to store water for irrigation. As we trek along the path around El Jardí del Sòl de Riu, just a few metres away from the shore, we will come across les sènies, a term locally used in Vinaròs to denote these old farmsteads. At Jardí de Sòl de Riu we will be able to explore a unique natural spot with its peculiar cliff formations, flora and fauna.

Mention must also be made of small marshlands with their specific ecosystems found at the mouths of the Sénia river as well as at Aiguadoliva and other gullies on the north of the coast such as Barbiguera.

Cover picture: Flora reserve in the Aiguadoliva Ravine Trail.

Vinaròs NATURE ON FOOT



Ajuntament de
Vinaròs

TURISME



VINARÒS
DESTÍ FAMILIAR

Tourist Info Vinaròs · Passeig de Colom, s/n · 12500 Vinaròs
Tel: 964 453 334 · vinaros@touristinfo.net · www.turisme.vinaros.es



@Turisme_Vinaros



/TurismeVinaros

Vinaròs NATURE ON FOOT

Seventh Edition - MARCH 2017



Trail GR-92 Mediterranean route

Trail GR-92	
Departure	Molino del Olivar medieval bridge
Arrival	Aiguadoliva Ravine
Distance	24 km
Duration	6 h. 10'
Places of interest	Molino del Olivar medieval bridge, Misericordia Sanctuary, the Migcamí Cross, boardwalk, port and Aiguadoliva ravine.

This route is part of the network of European long-distance paths (GR). It starts in Germany and 24 of its 3.000 kilometres are in the municipal district of Vinaròs. Its level of difficulty is minimum. You can find geographic, historical, botanical and popular architectural places of interest along this route. It can be divided into three different stages:

A) Vinaròs – Misericòrdia sanctuary (9 km)

This section leaves from the old Saint Sebastian School, situated in the middle of the boardwalk, and goes towards along the seashore to the mouth of the Cervol river. Following signs around the river and cross over the Dalt bridge to the opposite shore. To your left, you will see a Roman bridge, the channels of the river and a little further ahead the MigCamí cross. We continue along the riverbed and arrive to l' Estret where the river is half a metre wide and forms a spectacular gorge, head east and ascend the mountain range until reach a cross built on an Iberian settlement. Here, we can enjoy spectacular views that extend from the plains to the sea, the Ebro Delta to the Montsià mountains and Beceite port. A little later on, we come to the Misericòrdia sanctuary. This sanctuary possesses great religious, architectural and scenic value. Here, we can also take other local trails called Redona de l'Ermite.

B) Misericòrdia sanctuary – Medieval bridge of Molino del Olivar (11 km)

From the bridge at the sanctuary we go to the west until we come to Barona hill. It is the highest peak in the whole itinerary (165m) where we can enjoy beautiful views. From here on, we descend until we arrive to the plain lands by crossing the Barbiguera ravine. This section is among citric groves and some dry land. Finally, we reach Els Tres Fitons del Regne boundary stones that define the border between Valencian and Catalan territory and the medieval bridge of Molino del Olivar over the Sénia river.



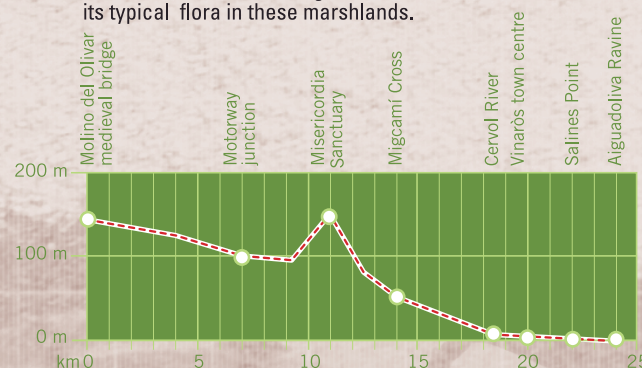
Molino del Olivar medieval bridge



El Estret geological formations

C) Vinaròs –Aiguadoliva Ravine (4 km)

This section also departs from the old Saint Sebastian School and extends along the seashore but this time we travel south. We enter the port area and pass by the fish auction. Then, the bullring and dry dock before reaching the Clot beach. After this, we go along a number of coves and once we going by Cape Puntal, we come to the Aiguadoliva ravine where we discover its typical flora in these marshlands.



Redona de l'Ermite local trail

Redona de L'Ermite	
Departure and arrival	Misericordia sanctuary
Length	4 km (circular)
Duration	1 h. 10'
Places of interest	"Torreta dels Moros" watchtower, iberian settlement, vegetation in the arboreto, lime Kilns and and Misericordia sanctuary

This trail is situated inside the Serra del Puig Natural Park , around the Misericòrdia sanctuary that is a place of great architectural, religious and artistic value. From this point, you can enjoy splendid views of a large part of the territory surrounding Vinaròs and the Mediterranean sea. A section of this trail is adapted for the handicapped.

First Section (level of difficulty – high)

The route begins at the southeast corner of the sanctuary on a dirt trail that borders the Vilar. This section descends to the east among wild almond and olive trees that have been invaded

by pine trees, kermes oaks, juniper and so on. We continue descending from Montsià to Peníscola where we can contemplate a magnificent panoramic view of the plane. Approximately 100 m further below, we see the remains of Torreta dels Moros, a medieval watchtower used to guard against pirate invasions. At this point, the path ascends the steepest slope in the entire route and about 70 m further ahead there are two abysses that indicate the possible presence of subterranean caves. Once we pass this, we walk 300 m upwards and come to an Iberian settlement.

Second Section (level of difficulty – low)

At the point where the via crucis (The Station of the Cross) and the Iberian settlement meet, the trail starts to descend until it crosses the road going to Vinaròs. On the other side, the trail continues among hundred year –old olive trees and goes into the l'arborètum, a showcase of trees and bushes from the Mediterranean forest. There is an hive nearby where plants are used to feed butterfly caterpillars which are growing. We continue towards the northeast through an area densely populated by pine trees that a rest area.

From here on, thickets such as rosemary, kermes and oak rockrose are not very high yet very dense. We come to the Tentadero Pan y Toros where we turn to the north and ascend along a firebreak until we arrive to the trail again. Once back on the trail, we turn west and see a Caseta de Volta (A traditional stone building) is known as Caseta dels Sorrongos. We continue the ascent and come across the remains of three ancient lime kilns. About 10m ahead, there is a path next to repeater antennas. There we hook up with the GR-92.

Third Section (level of difficulty – low)

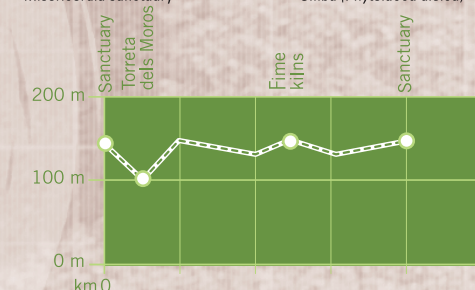
We continue along the firebreak. The trails goes east and crosses an area populated by young pine trees and newly planted oaks and holm oaks. A few metres ahead, you will find some exceptional aspect holm oaks. After crossing another firebreak, we walk among young pine trees, common juniper, kermes oaks and rosemary. At the third firebreak, we turn right and head south until we reach the boundary stones that indicate property borders. From here, there is wide range view of the coast as well as of the Montsià mountain range. We continue along the marked trail to return to the sanctuary where this route started.



Misericordia sanctuary



Ombu (Phytolacca dioica)



Vinaròs

Aiguadoliva Ravin trail

Aiguadoliva Ravin

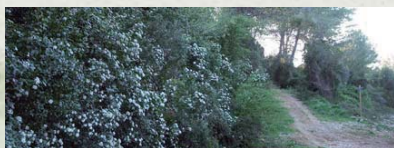
Departure	Aiguadoliva Beach
Arrival	Misericordia Sanctuary
Length	16 km (circular with GR-92)
Duration	4 h. 20'

Places of interest: Mouth of the Aiguadoliva Ravine, flora micro reserve, Cervol riverbed, Perengil and el Puig de la Nao Iberian sites.

This route begins where the mouth of the Aiguadoliva ravine flows into Aiguadoliva beach. There is a post with indications to follow the ravine's riverbed. Later, we will cross an underpass at the N-340 road and railway at another underpass. A few metres ahead to the right, we see the Saint Gregory trail but we won't follow it. We will go along the left side of the ravine riverbed.

Soon after, we going under the road to Càlig and further ahead the motorway. To our left, we can see an interesting Iberian settlement called Puig de la Nao. We go past by a detour at the Xivert path but continues along another path that goes over the ravine and away from the Xivert path among orange groves before returning to it once again. In this part of the route, we find an interesting variety of trees such as the valencian oak and the arbutus.

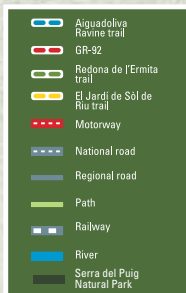
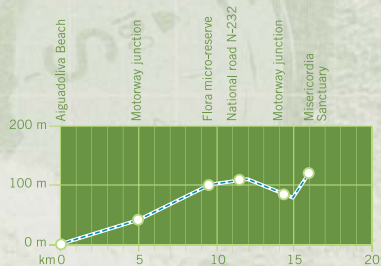
We continue along the riverbed again for a long stretch and climb up the trail to the right which brings us to other trail on the left. Then, we follow until we arrive to the Càlig to Ulldecona trail. Here, we come across the flora micro reserve and its interpretation board.



Aiguadoliva ravin trail

We take the path towards Ulldecona, to pass by a slight ravine and come to stone refuge and another information board.

The N340 road crosses the path again and we pass by several orange groves until we reach the Canet to Roig to Vinaròs trail. There we turn right. We follow the Cervol riverbed until having passed the motorway. We turn on to an ascending trail among orchards and a pine forest. This trail leads us to Misericordia sanctuary where this route ends. We can return to Vinaròs by the following GR-92 trail.



El Jardí de Sòl de Riu trail



El Jardí de Sòl de Riu

Departure and arrival	Deveses Beach parking lot.
Length	2,8 km
Duration	25'

Sitios de interés: Coastal marine vegetation, panoramic views of the Ebro Delta and "sèries" irrigated land properties.

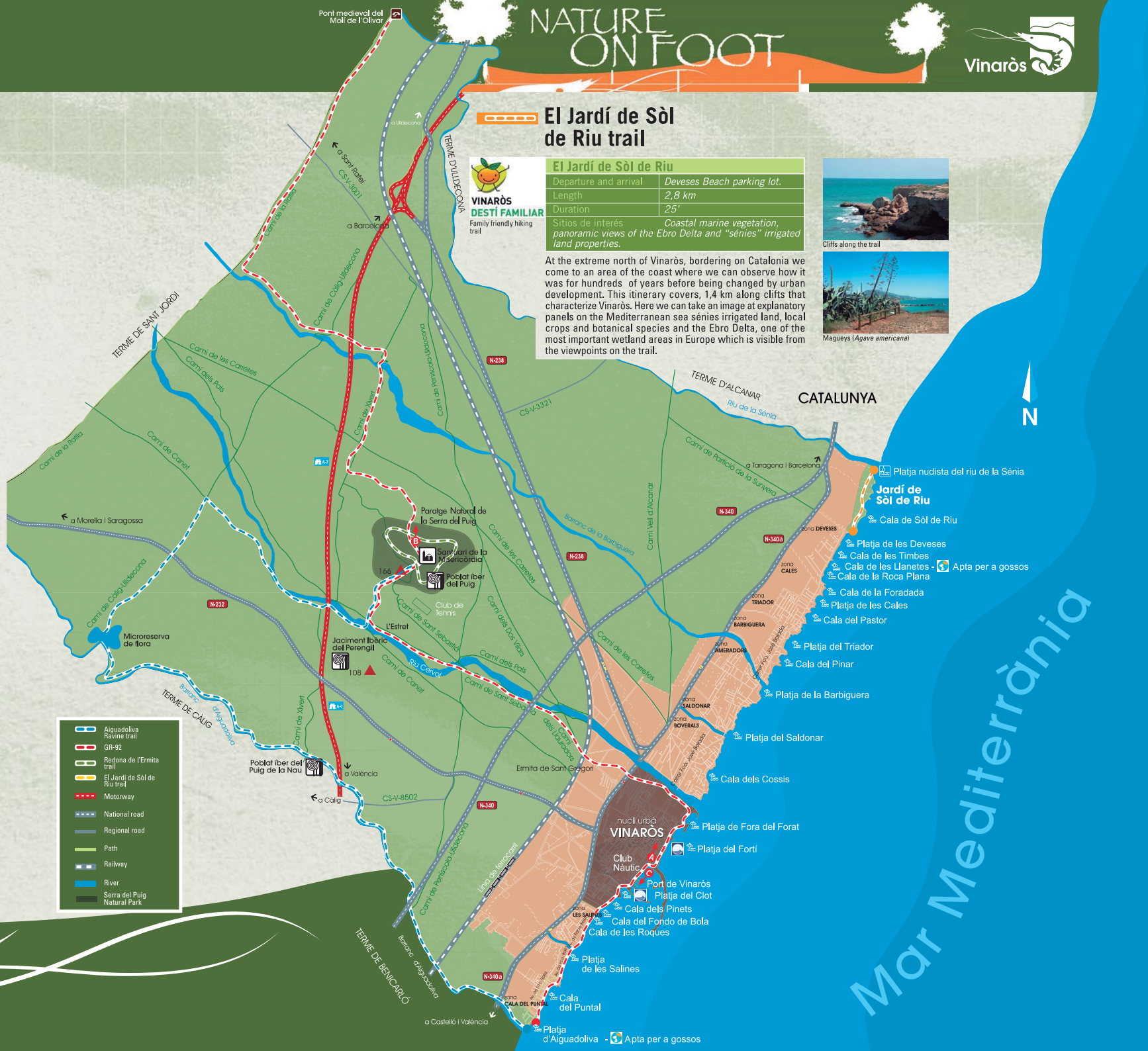
At the extreme north of Vinaròs, bordering on Catalonia we come to an area of the coast where we can observe how it was for hundreds of years before being changed by urban development. This itinerary covers, 1,4 km along cliffs that characterize Vinaròs. Here we can take an image at explanatory panels on the Mediterranean sea sèries irrigated land, local crops and botanical species and the Ebro Delta, one of the most important wetland areas in Europe which is visible from the viewpoints on the trail.



Cliffs along the trail



Maguets (Agave americana)



Mar Mediterrània