

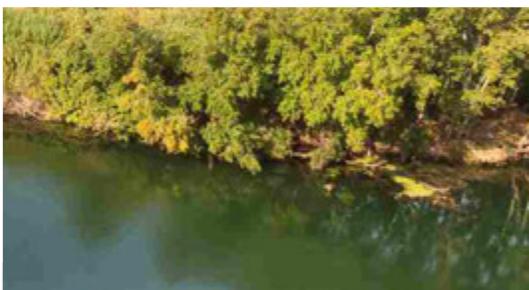


WALKING IN



ASCÓ

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Ajuntament d'Ascó
Regidoria de Turisme



Ascó
Turisme

ribera de bre



Terres de l'Ebre

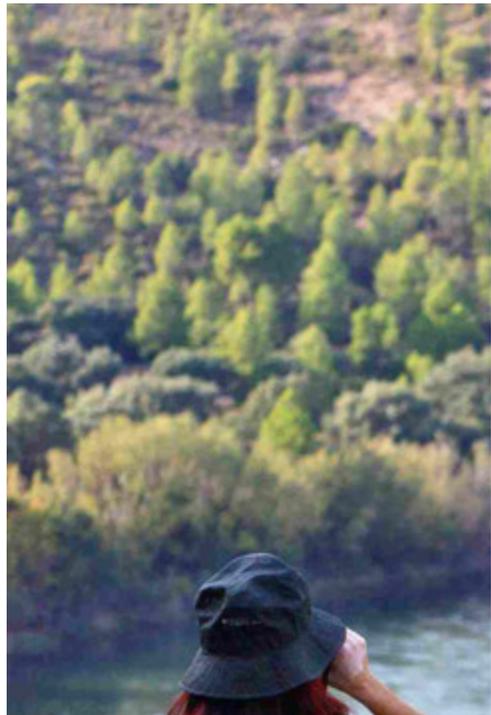


Patronat de Turisme



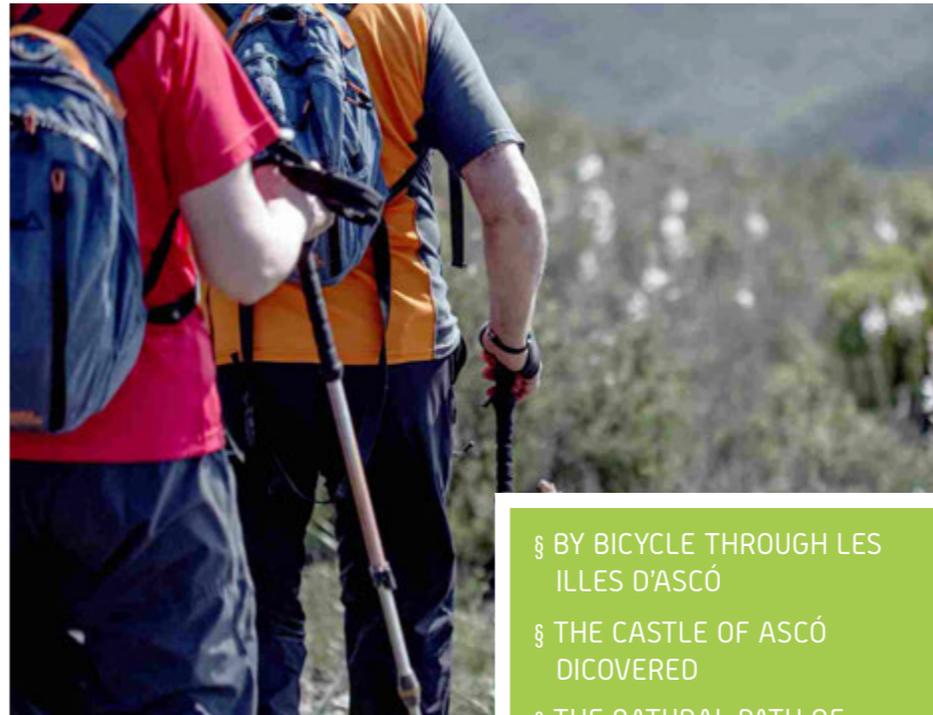
Diputació Tarragona



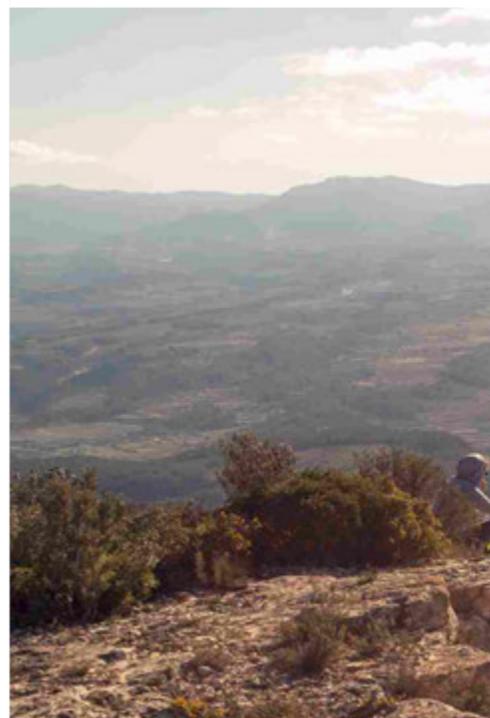


PROPOSED ROUTES

- § PATHS OF RETREAT
- § THE ART OF DRYSTONE CONSTRUCTIONS AT ELS CANYARETS
- § ALONG BRIDLE PATHS TO LA PUNTA DE L'ÀGUILA
- § THE WILDER SIDE OF LA PUNTA DE L'ÀGUILA



- § BY BICYCLE THROUGH LES ILLES D'ASCÓ
- § THE CASTLE OF ASCÓ DISCOVERED
- § THE NATURAL PATH OF THE EBRO - GR 99- EL CAMÍ DE SIRGA
- § A WINDOW TO NATURE - THE WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY





Technical File

-  Distance: **5,7 km**
-  Walking Time: **1 h 40 min**
-  Uphill [accumulated]: **+250 m**
-  Difficulty: **low**
-  Suitable for walking or cycling (some difficult or non-cyclable stretches)

General Points about the Area

PATHS OF RETREAT



A General Description of the Trail

We suggest beginning the walk at the end of the hill path of El Camí de la Serra, this links with the bridle path of EL Camí de Ferradura from La Fatarella to Flix. Take the path to the right, towards Flix. You gradually progress downhill and soon come to the Camí de la Serra de les Monques, where you will arrive at a tarmac road, which you should follow uphill for a few metres. To the right, then take the old path along the range - El Camí Vell de la Serra, which rises sharply beside imposing country walls, to the top of La Serra de la

Fatarella. Continue along the wide path to the left, on the old track, which rises and falls several times alongside the wind farms, until coming to the junction with the path from Fatarella to Flix, which will allow you to return to the starting point. We do however, recommend walking on for another kilometre along the 'carrerada' track until you reach the former Camp of the 15th Corps of the Republican Army, which was linked to the Battle of the Ebro.

The Battle of the Ebro was the bloodiest battle of the Spanish Civil War, The Camp of the 15th Corps of the Republican Army lies on the hill range, between Ascó and La Fatarella, in an important location, which served as a site for training, the distribution of supplies and ammunition and as a hospital post. It bears all the hallmarks of being a town, and rows of pavement slabs can still be found there. It has been calculated that approximately 5,000

soldiers lived there during the 115 days of the Battle of the Ebro. Several drystone houses were built along a linear stretch of approximately one kilometre, as well as shelters carved out of the rock, that were used during bombing raids by the Fascist airforce. The camp fulfilled one of the purposes for which it was built, by guaranteeing the orderly withdrawal of the Republican troops after their retreat from the battle.

One of the paths used for troop movements is the old bridle path, El Camí de Ferradura that links La Fatarella with Flix, which is shown on the maps from the early 20th century. This path was for several centuries the main link between the towns of Flix and La Fatarella for people and pack animals alike.

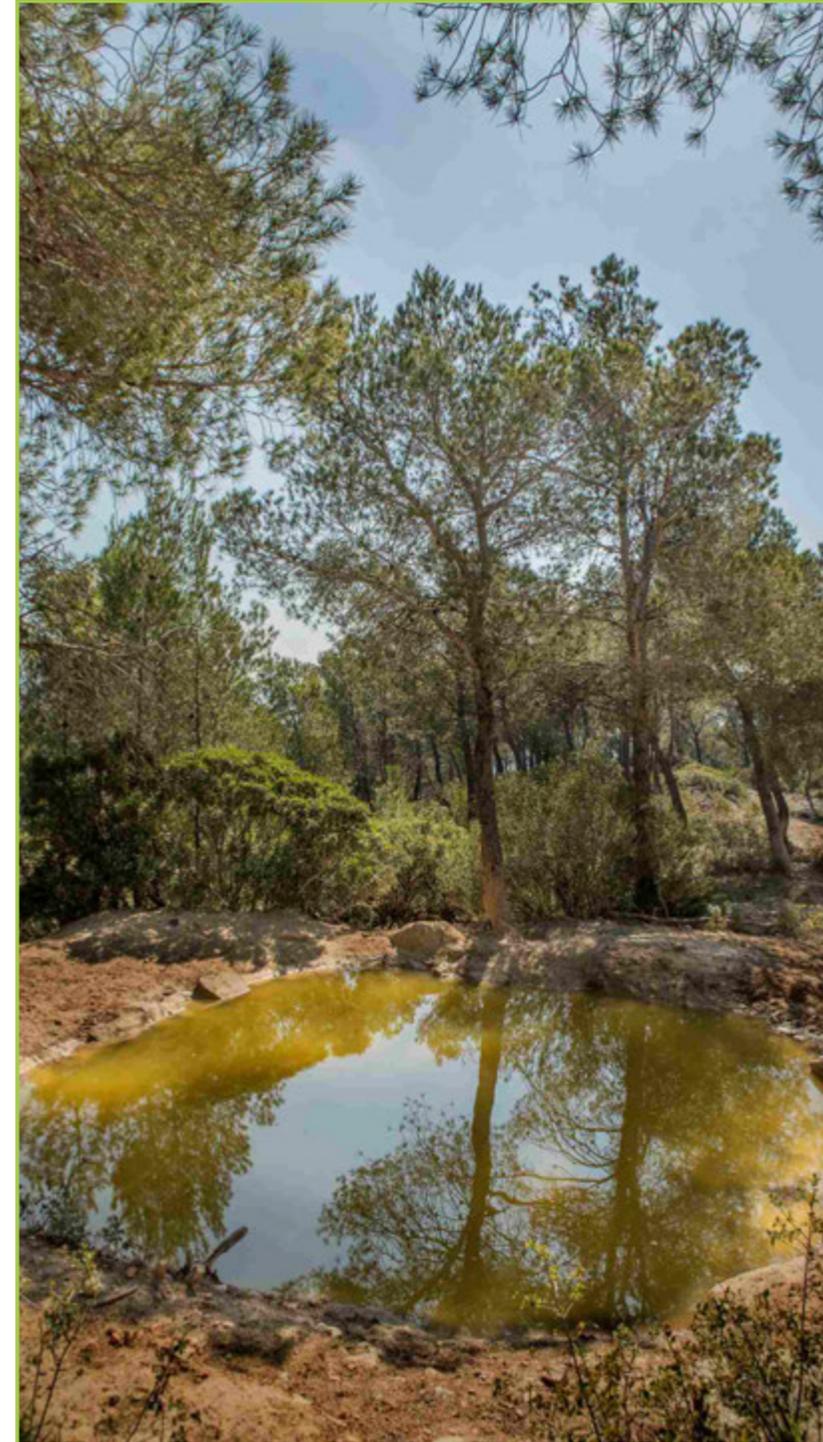


THE ART OF DRYSTONE CONSTRUCTIONS AT ELS CANYARETS

A General Description of the Trail

The walk begins where La Carrerada (the path that runs along the hill range of La Fatarella) and the path of Canyerets both meet. You soon arrive at the drystone constructions of Els Canyerets. Continue along the path, which after some 300 metres, you need to leave in order to take the old bridle path, El Camí de Ferradura del Barranc de Dobies, which goes downhill until you reach the ravine (el barranc). Follow the ravine to the left and you will soon come to a section of surfaced road, which you will have to leave after a few metres in order to keep going on the old bridle path (El Camí de Ferradura dels Canyerets).

Continue uphill, passing the col of El Coll dels Canyerets, crossing the track several times until you reach the path for the ravine, El Camí del Barranc de Dobies. Go back along the path you took at the start until you reach the path of La Carrerada once again.



General Points about the Area

The art of drystone construction is a building technique that dates back for thousands of years. It is simple yet effective, and uses only stones, without any bonding materials in order to create constructions of all kinds, cisterns, tanks, walls, shelter and wells among others. In the Ascó area, a large number of these drystone constructions can be seen, with mile upon mile of drystone walls that run along the hill contours, and which separated crop fields on the terraces.

This walk along the old Camí dels Canyerets allows visitors to see many of these structures. At Els Canyerets, the Foundation El Solà de la Fatarella has restored three stone cabins, a cistern and the walls around this farmland area. Please note that this area is private property and the estate must be respected. Please do not enter without permission.

Technical File



Distance: **5,7 km**



Walking Time: **1 h 40 min**



Uphill (accumulated): **+200 m**



Difficulty: **low**



Suitable for walking or cycling [some difficult or non-cyclable stretches]

A General Description of the Trail

We suggest leaving your vehicles at the ravine (el barranc) of El Forn Teuler, where the path of El Camí de les Deveses forks off from the path of El Camí de Sant Jeroni. Go to the left and take the Camí de les Deveses and continue to walk uphill for one kilometre on a tarmac road, until reaching a new fork in the road. Take the dirt track to the left, the Camí Vell de les Deveses, leaving the tarmac road to the right. Continue uphill on the dirt track for one kilometre until the track comes to an end and then continue along a path. After skirting several old fields, walk up until you reach the ridge, from where

you will be able to see your objective: La Punta de l'Àguila, which is very close. Go down towards the tarmac road of Mas de Prades, which you follow to the right until you find the path - El Camí de la Vall de Cigales, which goes up to the left. Keep going up the path until reaching the nearby mill, where, once again you need to go left, take a path that goes up on the final stretch of the crest until La Punta de l'Àguila. Go back along the same path as before, El Camí de Sant Jeroni, a beautiful bridle path that will take you back to where you parked the car. The final 2 kilometres are on a dirt and tarmac path.

ALONG BRIDLE PATHS TO LA PUNTA DE L'ÀGUILA



General Points about the Area

Bridle paths, which are also known locally under a variety of names, were constructed so that pack animals could travel on them carrying panniers or saddlebags. These tracks are relatively narrow, with tight curves and slopes steeper than those of other routes. The rocky surface is a characteristic feature of this type of path. They are usually found near towns where transit was an important factor, on steep path sections and places where water or mud made transit difficult. They were the ancient motorways of the past, which allowed communication between towns and isolated farms and properties, or areas that were difficult to get to. They are paths that are closely linked to the collective memory of a village, witnessing the passing of farmers, of soldiers in times of war, of guerrillas and bandits, for many centuries.



Technical File



▪ Distance: **12 km**



▪ Walking Time: **3 h 40 min**



▪ Uphill (accumulated): **+500 m**



▪ Difficulty: **average**



▪ Suitable for walking



The Camí de Sant Jeroni is spectacular. This path once linked the town of Ascó with the chapel of Sant Jeroni de Móra and its town. It elegantly passes over the uneven terrain, and through narrow passages excavated in the rock, gently following the contours of the terrain.

This walking route is reserved for experienced hikers, and leads to the peak of La Punta de l'Àguila, with splendid views, which on a clear day, reveal a large number of towns in the county of La Ribera d'Ebre and El Priorat, and with a bit of luck, walkers will see wild goats, who are now regular inhabitants in this area.

THE WILDER SIDE OF LA PUNTA DE L'ÀGUILA



A General Description of the Trail

From the chapel of Santa Paulina, take the path that goes up towards the trenches and to the viewpoint (mirador) of Mas de Prades. Keep ascending until you come to the remains of an open yard, which links with the old road that once led to the col just below the summit of La Punta de l'Àguila. Reaching the point is an ascent of some 80 vertical metres over about 350 metres. The route continues in a north-easterly direction along the ridge, which will lend you some splendid views. Some sections are secured with chains. When you reach the electrical pylon, you can choose between going down the track or descending down an adapted path that takes you to the old bridle path to the same level as El Pas de l'Ase. Here you join the GR 99 walking route, which you can follow upriver, until you come to the ravine of El Barranc de Barbers on your left, where you need to retrace your steps, walking in the direction of the hermitage of Santa Paulina.

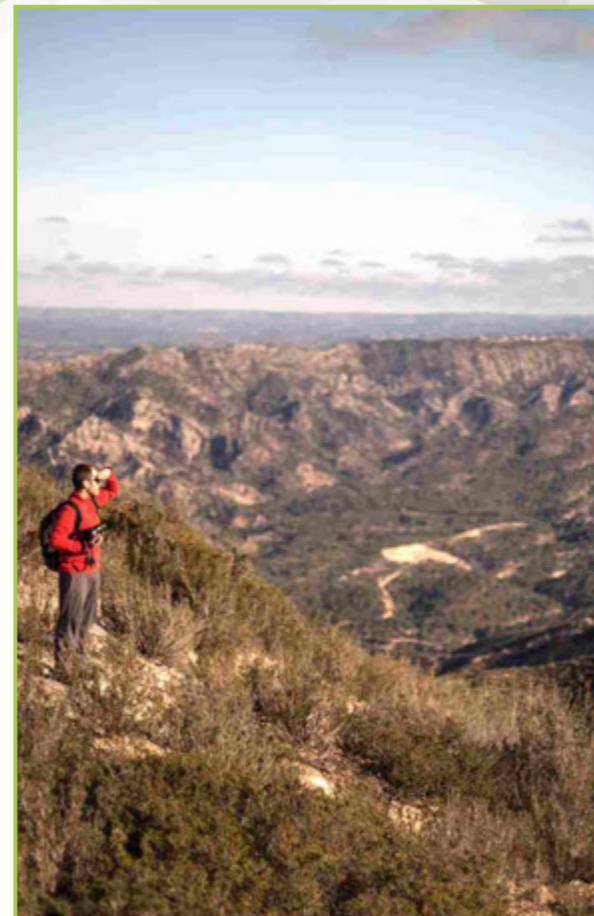
Technical File

-  Distance: **8 km**
-  Walking Time: **2 h 35 min**
-  Uphill (accumulated): **+450 m**
-  Difficulty: **average**
-  Suitable for walking



General Points about the Area

The summit of La Punta de l'Àguila is 447 metres high, it is not exactly the highest point in the municipality of Ascó, however it is the most noteworthy, and it offers spectacular views over the area of La Ribera d'Ebre and the valley. On the hill leads up to the summit, it is said there was once a lookout point for communication with other castles and forts in the area of La Ribera d'Ebre and El Priorat, which facilitated the rapid organisation of the population in the event of armed attacks and other threats. The descent to El Pas de l'Ase and the section of historical bridle path is only suitable for experienced walkers, as in just a few metres you have to deal with a steep slope on the eastern side of the rock face. The side of the mountain facing Ascó, in the Mas de Prades areas, was also used for crop farming, a fact proven by the walls, and the man-made path that rises up to the top of the range, the remains of a cistern and a yard where wheat was beaten. The chapel of Santa Paulina (the patron saint of Ascó) is in Mas de Prades. The church was opened in 2003. The remains of the old construction stand over an ancient Iberian-Roman town next to the river, where tradition has it that the saint, who was being washed downstream, took hold of a rock and stopped there.



A General Description of the Trail

We recommend leaving Ascó by car to avoid walking or cycling on the road, and once past the bridge over the River Ebro, take the right-hand path that goes down to the river, where you can leave your car. From here, follow the river path upstream, skirting a vineyard until you reach the path from Vinebre to Flix, which is now tarmacked and part of the GR 99 walking route. You will soon reach Vinebre, where you will need to look for the tunnel under the C-12 highway in order to return to the river, to the old ferry point. A little further up you will be able to see the cable tower of La Torre de la Gúmena, before arriving back at your starting point.



BY BICYCLE THROUGH LES ILLES D'ASCÓ



Technical File

-  Distance: **6 km**
-  Walking Time: **1 h 40 min**
-  Uphill [accumulated]: **+10 m**
-  Difficulty: **low**
-  Suitable for walking or cycling



General Points about the Area

On the left bank of the River Ebro there is a cluster of islands, that were initially temporary features that were created, destroyed and recreated by river currents and flooding. Crop farming in this area of the municipality began in the 18th century and this land provided one of the area's most fertile areas, as the floods fertilised the soil (as long as they did not wash everything away). Mulberries were an important crop, due to the domestic production of silk, an important tradition that carried on until the 19th century, some houses even produced silk until the 1950s. Figs were also an important crop, they were used for human and animal food, as well as liquor and molasses, during the era of active sea trade with the Americas until the end of the 18th century.

Being on the other side of the river meant that a ferry was needed, and the old jetty can still be seen today, which is also used for canoeing. One structure related to this activity, which can still be seen on the islands, is the tower of La Torre de la Gúmena. This structure secured the high cable that crosses the river. The ferry consisted of two boats in parallel, separated by a wooden platform and a cable that connected them to the tower. Only the force of the river was used to provide impetus to travel from one bank to another, which meant that the ferryman's skills were very important.

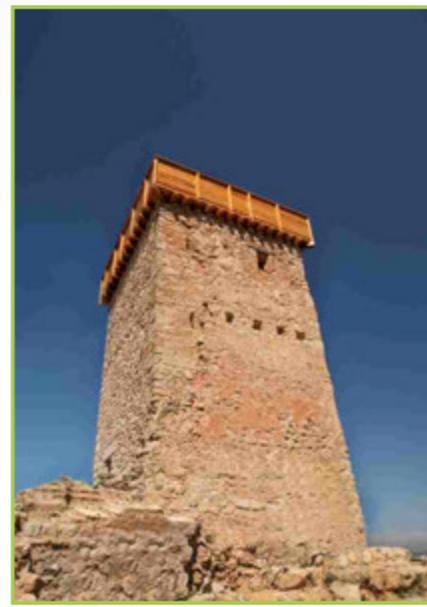


THE CASTLE OF ASCÓ DISCOVERED



A General Description of the Trail

First leave the upper part of the town, on the street of El Carrer Alta Castell, taking the path that leads sharply up to the Castle of Ascó, which is quite rocky in some areas. The path soon takes you to the top of the hill, where you have to descend a little, until you reach the castle. The walk back is along another path, past the castle, following some wooden steps and descending through an old crop field.



General Points about the Area

The Castle of Ascó dominates the town that lies at its feet, as well as a wide stretch of the River Ebro's flood plain between the narrows of El Pas de l'Ase and El Pas del Llop d'Andisc. This area, which has been populated for centuries, due to its strategic location, has witnessed the passing of Iberians, Romans, Arabs, Templars, Hospitallers and Christians. The first castle settlement dates back to the Muslim era, when the town was an important trading, farming and military centre on the river. The town was walled and fell under the control of the Arabic Provincial Governor of Siurana. The Muslim population was predominant in Ascó until their expulsion in the 17th century, which left this busy city practically unpopulated and with no economic activity whatsoever.

The town of Ascó was also a Templar command, which was granted in 1153 by Count Ramon Berenguer IV of Barcelona, together with other properties. In 1167 King Alfons pledged the castle. Finally, in 1210, Pere I ceded it with all rights. On the dissolution of the Order of the Templar (1312), it continued as an important Hospitaller command post, until 1780. The ruins visible today comprise an old checkpoint, a rebuilt 19th century Carlist construction and part of a Gothic tower.

The castle was partially destroyed during the War of the Reapers in the mid- 17th century, and was totally dismantled during the War of Succession and the Carlist Wars.



Ficha técnica

-  Distance: **1 km**
-  Walking Time: **20 min**
-  Uphill [accumulated]: **+50 m**
-  Difficulty: **low**
-  Suitable for walking



THE NATURAL PATH OF THE EBRO -GR 99- EL CAMÍ DE SIRGA

A General Description of the Trail

The Chapel of La Mare de Déu del Carme, the patron saint of sailors, is the starting point on your walk to the southeast, following the road to a detour on the left that descends to cross the ravine of El Barranc de la Gala: this is the beginning of El Camí de Barbers, a well-marked path, shown as the Camí Natural de l'Ebre (The Natural Path of the Ebro). On the left lies the railway line and idyllic views of La Ribera d'Ebre. After El Camí de Barbers, the track climbs to a rocky wall, until you reach a viewing tower, where a sign tells you that you are at El Pas de l'Ase, a Roman and Iberian strategic control point over river traffic. Descend once again to the railway line and follow the track to Les Sènies de Garcia, you leave the river for a brief period when passing by the train station and the farmhouse of Mas de les Sènies.

Technical File

- Distance: **5,5 km**
- Walking Time: **1h 30 min**
- Uphill (accumulated): **+45 m**
- Difficulty: **low**
- Suitable for walking or cycling



General Points about the Area

The GR 99 route, or the Camí Natural de l'Ebre is a very long route that begins at Fontibre (Cantabria) and runs alongside the Ebro until the river mouth at Riumar (Tarragona).

The River Ebro has three different natural sections: the High Ebro, the Depression and the Low Ebro, which means that the path can be divided according to the different characteristics of the landscape and the path.

The section that runs through the municipality of Ascó is one of the most impressive with respect to river scenery, due to its closeness to the Ebro. The river in this area flows between mountains, such as the spectacular Pas de l'Ase, half-way along, and coincides with the old path of Sirga de l'Ebre. From this point, the views over the river are extraordinary and the historical importance of the river is easy to understand.





A General Description of the Trail

This walk begins in the square in front of the chapel. A sign shows you the direction you need to take. Go down the stairs and continue walking until the beginning of the path of the Camí de L'observatori, where you will find an information board. Continue along the path, which is flanked by a wooden railing, until you come to another board with information on the main wild animals in the area. The wooden observatory is nearby, and stands on a rocky outcrop above the ravine – it is 3 metres long by 1.5 metres wide.

Once you have observed the flora, the fauna and the landscape around you, return to the path you originally took and walk back to the starting point

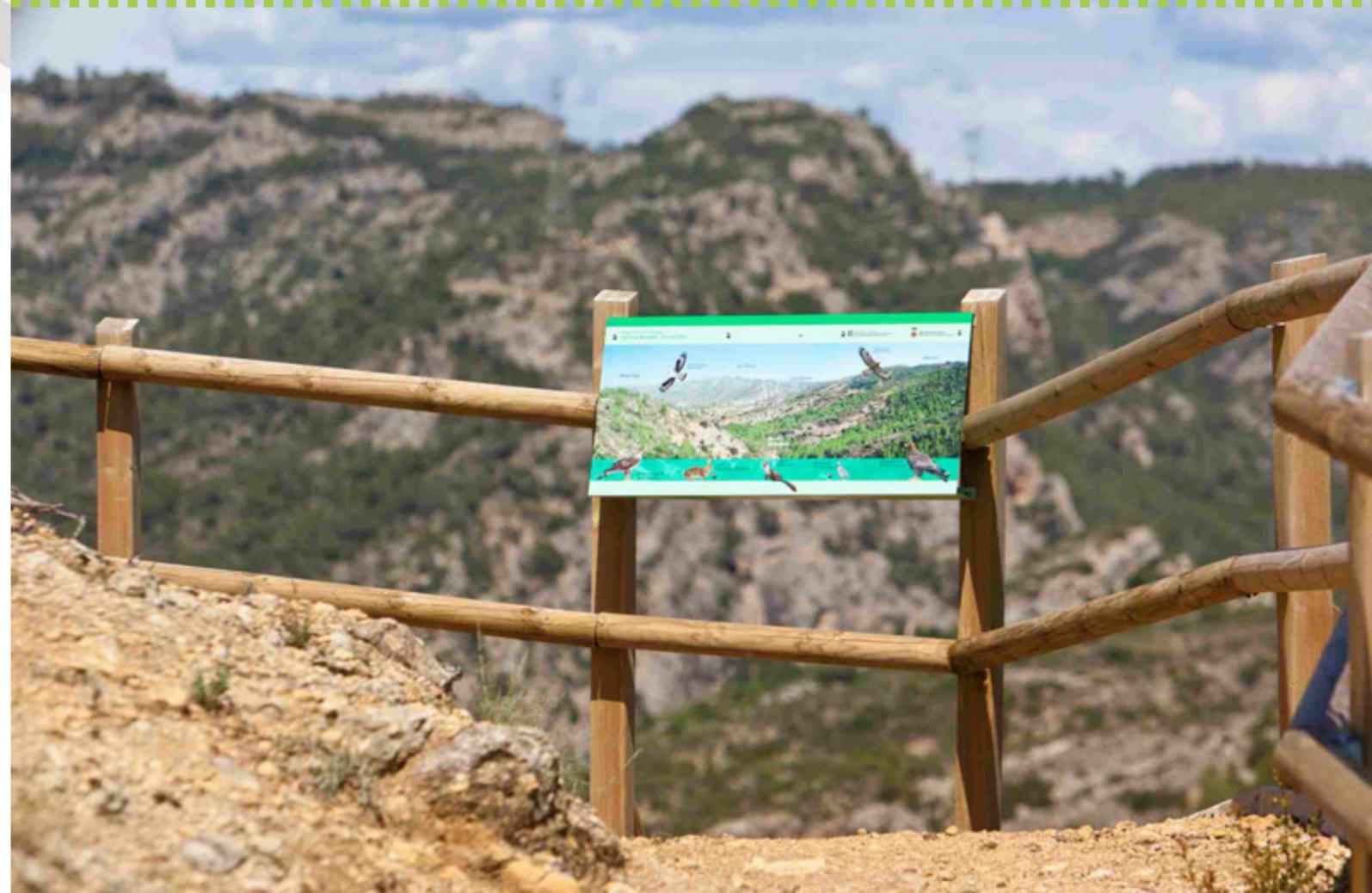
General Points about the Area

Due to its strategic location, a wildlife observatory has been recently built at Mas de Prades, complete with a pond.

The tranquillity of the surrounding area and the open habitats of the municipal forest are areas of Campeche for Bonelli's eagle, the golden eagle and increasing numbers of Hispanic goats. These animals have come from Els Ports, although they are native to the area, as the original population disappeared over the last two centuries due to human impact.

The presence of wild animals is always unpredictable. The majority can only be seen from afar, which is why it is important to bring binoculars.

Observing wildlife in its natural surroundings depends on numerous environmental conditions, especially the weather, as well as the time of year and day.



A WINDOW TO NATURE – THE WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY