



# LA VIA VERDA

The Green Way



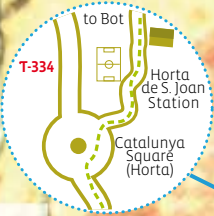
**Terres de l'Ebre**

*Where details capture you*

GB

ZARAGOZA

# THE GREEN WAY



Green ways are the ideal instrument to promote a new culture of open-air leisure, sport and nonmotorised mobility to society. They also help to encourage cycling, hiking and horse riding, as they make such activities more available to the general public, as well as exercising an important educational role, particularly among young people. The great advantage of the Green Way is that it guarantees accessibility and universality to all, with no limitations to age or physical ability.

TERUEL

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Total length of the route:** 49 km

**Location:** between Tortosa and Arnes-Lledó.

**Municipalities:** Tortosa, Roquetes, EMD Jesús, Aldover, Xerta, Benifallet, Pinell de Brai, Prat de Comte, Bot, Horta de Sant Joan and Arnes. From there it joins up with the Aragon Green Way.

**Difference in altitude:** 400 m

**Difficulty:** low

**Suitable for** walking, horse riding and cycling.

**Accessibility:** suitable for the physically handicapped. The Fontcalda - Bot section adapted for the disabled.

**Recommendations:** good shoes, water bottle, spare inner tube and torch.

**Surface type:** asphalt.

**Infrastructure:** passes through several lit tunnels, over aqueducts, past former railways stations, recreational areas and bridges.

**Drinking water points:** Aldover, Xerta, Bot and La Fontcalda.

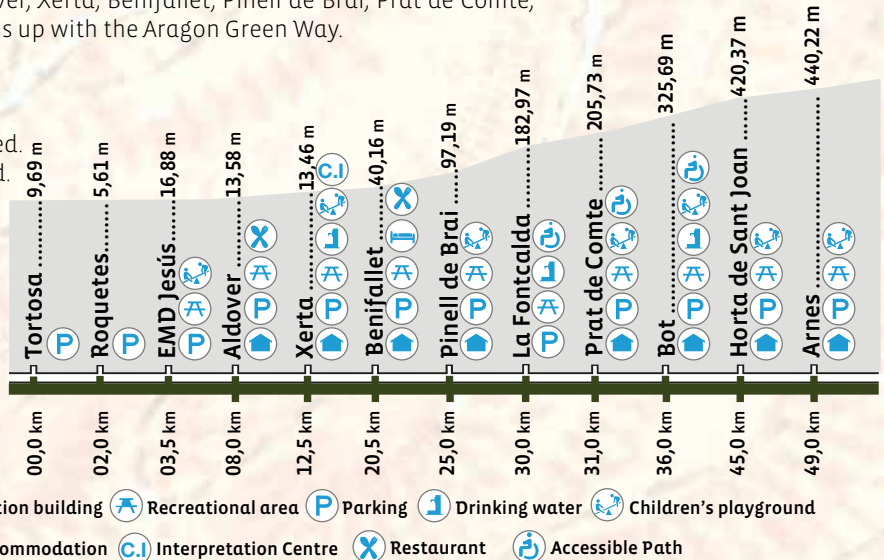
**Emergency telephone numbers:**

Fire Brigade: **085**

Emergencies: **112**

Ambulances: **061**

Health Information Line: **902 111 444**



- Station building
- Recreational area
- Parking
- Drinking water
- Children's playground
- Accommodation
- Interpretation Centre
- Restaurant
- Accessible Path

CASTELLÓ



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Accessibility: suitable for the physically handicapped.

# Linking the Terres de l'Ebre and Aragón

Steam engines in Tortosa railway station in the mid-1950s.

# Historical Background

Sant Carles de la Ràpita, Els Alfacs Bay



Tortosa, historical quarter



Horta de Sant Joan, Roques de Benet



The Green Way is a tourist itinerary that runs along the route of the old Zafan Valley railway line. The line was built to fulfil the desire of the government of Aragón for a seaport through which to ship the region's products and was planned to link the towns of La Puebla de Híjar and Tortosa. Work began in 1882, but various difficulties meant that the line was not opened until 1942. It was in service for thirty-one years and was finally closed on 17 September 1973. The project was never completed, which condemned it to fall into disuse.



## We begin our journey in the Ebre Valley

Section protected by wooden fences.

Tortosa, bridge over the River Ebre



Tortosa, Santa Maria Cathedral



Roquetes, Ebre Observatory



The starting point of the Green Way is at km 0 in the town of Tortosa, capital of Baix Ebre, at the end of the old railway bridge, in front of the town park. We recommend you visit the Reials Col·legis (Royal Colleges) (16th century), La Suda Castle (10th century), Santa Maria Cathedral, Santa Clara convent (13th century), La Puríssima convent (17th century) and the Episcopal Palace (14th century), among the many other buildings in the Old Town.

From km 0, there is currently another bicycle lane running along an old road which joins Tortosa and l'Aldea. It is planned to connect this bicycle lane with the town of Deltebre (Ebre Delta Natural Park) and the estuary of the Ebre river.

Departing from km 0 and following the route of the railway line in a northerly direction you come to the town of Roquetes, on the right bank of the Ebre. Worth seeing in the original part of town are the church (1829) and the old Town Hall (1881), as well as the Ebre Observatory (1904).



Tortosa

Roquetes

Ebre Observatory  
Els Ports Natural Park Interpretation Centre

EMD Jesús

km Kilometres from Tortosa (starting point)  
Walking time from Tortosa (approx.)  
Cycling time from Tortosa (approx.)

km 0,0km  
Walking time 00h00'  
Cycling time 00h00'

km 2,0km  
Walking time 24'  
Cycling time 10'

km 3,5km  
Walking time 42'  
Cycling time 15'

Jesús, Sant Francesc church



Jesús, Prior tower



Aldover



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Passing by an old bridge, you come to the headquarters of Els Ports Natural Park, after which you cross a road and continue straight on towards the village of Jesús. Following a section of the Green Way shared with vehicles, you cross the Vall Cervera gully and come to the recreational area of Jesús in Terror Roig. In Jesús you can visit the church of Sant Francesc (18th century), the Enric d'Ossó museum-house (here there is a hostel) and the house of Rosa Ma Molas. Leaving Terror Roig, taking care when crossing the road, you join up again with the railway line to get to the village of Aldover, where you find the first railway station. You pass through the village, where we recommend a visit to the neoclassical-style parish church of La Nativitat de Nostra Senyora and the River Interpretation Centre. Leaving Aldover, you take the underpass below the C-12 road towards Xerta.



Terror Roig

El Prior Tower

D'en Corder Tower

**Aldover Station**

River beach

La Conca Gully

8,0km  
01h35  
40'

40m

6m



Xerta, L'Assumpció church



Xerta, l'Assut (weir)



Xerta, l'Assut recreational area



A few metres before reaching the municipality of Xerta, there is a sign indicating the end of the path. Here, you depart from the original route of the line and head to the left, descending a steep slope and crossing the C-12 below one of the old railway viaducts. Next, you pass under the C-12 road bridge. After a few metres there is a STOP sign, just as you have arrive at the Xerta road, opposite Les Moreres recreational area. Following the canal on the right of the Ebre, you reach La Recta Street, where you turn to the left and come out in the Plaça Major (Main Square) with its church. Continue along Santa Anna, Santa Quitèria and El Calvari streets until you come to the STOP sign in the Avinguda de les Terres de l'Ebre. Cross the avenue and after a few metres you come to the Via Verda railway station, which has now been converted into the Interpretation Centre for the River and Water. In Xerta we recommend a visit to L'Assumpció and Sant Martí church. There is a hostel and a hotel.



Les Moreres recreational area

**Xerta Station**

40 m

l'Assut (weir)

251 m

61 m

66 m

140 m

457 m

5 m

12,5 km  
02h46'  
01h00'

# BENIFALLET

The Green Way

Benifallet, on the banks of the River Ebre



Benifallet, parish church



Benifallet, Meravelles Caves



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On the outskirts of Xerta you can see the magnificent Assut or weir, located right in the middle of the River Ebre. Built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the weir is an engineering work in the Arab tradition, some 370m long and 7m high. The path continues through a series of tunnels and over bridges, until at some 6km from the town you reach Benifallet station, now converted into a hotel, hostel and restaurant with a bicycle rental service. You have already covered twenty-one kilometres since leaving Tortosa.

We recommend a visit to Benifallet, on the opposite bank of the River Ebre. Of particular interest are the hermitage of La Mare de Déu de Dalt or El Calvari (13<sup>th</sup> century) and the neo-Gothic convent building, among others. However, the most outstanding and best known feature of Benifallet is the beautiful Meravelles Caves.

After leaving Benifallet station, you go through a series of tunnels of different lengths, the longest of which is 749 metres.



Xalamera Gully

369 m

93 m

Els Frares Bridge

230 m

88 m

330 m

**Benifallet Station**

458 m

78 m

River Canaletes

139 m

69 m

20,5 km  
04h30'  
01h42'



**There are 40  
tunnels along  
the Green Way**

Tunnels between Benifallet and Pinell de Brai stations.

River Canaletes, ravine



Pinell de Brai, Cooperative Wine Cellar



Pinell de Brai, general view



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La Riberala bridge across the River Canaletes marks the border between Baix Ebre and Terra Alta counties and takes us to the first station in the Terra Alta, Pinell de Brai.

Pinell de Brai station is 6 km from the town, which is reached by the N-230b road. The most interesting place to see is the Modernist-style cooperative wine cellar designed by Cèsar Martinell at the beginning of the 20th century. The building is the finest example of the cooperatives built by this disciple of Gaudí. It exudes the Modernist style and also has a magnificent glazed ceramic frieze by Xavier Nogués on the façade.



172 m

193 m

La Riberala  
Bridge

88 m

553 m

291 m

138 m

**Pinell de Brai  
Station**

201 m

533 m

65 m

135 m

25,0 km  
05h35  
02h05'

246 m

Sanctuary of La Fontcalda, River Canaletes



Prat de Comte, centre



Art al Ras, train ticket



Five kilometres from Pinell de Brai station you come to the Sanctuary of La Fontcalda, a site of great beauty and religious significance with thermal waters. This is an obligatory stop for all travellers along the Green Way. Set in a valley on the banks of the River Canaletes, it takes its name from the mineral-medicinal hot spring that gushes forth at the foot of the sanctuary. The clean, transparent waters invite you to bathe in the natural pools. After going through two tunnels, you come to the station of Prat de Comte, a town located 4 km from the Green Way and reached by the T-361 road that comes out behind the station. Of interest in the town is the Renaissance-style church of Sant Bartomeu (17<sup>th</sup> century).

After Prat de Comte station it is common to find works of art along the Green Way. These are part of the “Art al Ras” project sponsored by the Terra Alta county council, which places works of art along the paths linking the towns and villages of the county.



200 m

195 m

68 m

El Teix Spring

**La Mare de Déu de la Fontcalda Sanctuary**

166 m

149 m

**Prat de Comte Station**

749 m

300 m

340 m

248 m

20 m

30,0 km  
06h00'  
02h30'  

31,0 km  
06h12'  
02h35'  

50 m

Bot, Sant Blai church



Bot, Sant Josep hermitage



Bot, Forat de la Donzella



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Just after Prat de Comte station you come to the longest tunnel on the itinerary (749 metres). Between here and Bot the route crosses the last bridge over the River Canaletes, the Pàndols Mountains and passes by the hermitage of Sant Josep.

Bot station is right in the middle of the line and next to the town, where we recommend a visit to the Renaissance-style church of Sant Blai (17<sup>TH</sup> century). There is a path in front of the station that leads to the hermitage of Sant Josep (19th century), located on the top of a hill from which you have a fabulous view of the town, the River Canaletes and the Pàndols and Cavalls Mountains. Alongside the hermitage is the Forat de la Donzella recreational area.

From Fontcalda Sanctuary to Bot station (indicated below in grey), a section of 5 kilometres has been adapted for use by all persons, irrespective of their physical ability. There are protective rails, tactile paving with buttons to warn of tunnels or crossroads, and signposts, some of which are in Braille.



Sant Josep Hermitage

192 m



Art al Ras work of art

197 m



Bot Station

El Moro Hill

149 m



366 m



El Censal Gully

671 m



6 m

36,0 km

07/112'

03h00'



242 m

# HORTA DE SANT JOAN

Horta de Sant Joan, Racó de les Olles



Horta de Sant Joan, town hall



Horta de Sant Joan, "El Parrot" olive tree



The Green Way continues in the direction of Horta de Sant Joan. Six tunnels and two viaducts, with up to eleven arches, make up this part of the itinerary. As you go higher, the mountains of Els Ports Natural Park begin to come into view. The sight of Santa Bàrbara Mountain tells you that you are about to arrive at Horta de Sant Joan station. The town is two kilometres from the Green Way and is reached by a path that begins opposite the station, once you have crossed the Green Way over a narrow bridge. The same path also takes us to the Convent of Sant Salvador (13th - 17th century) and the nature area known as "Racó de les Olles", a place of great beauty and the ideal spot for taking a dip in the waters of the River Canaletes. In the town you can visit the Els Ports Ecomuseum and the Picasso Centre and a stroll around the mediaeval quarter is a must.



El Molí del Cap Gully

331 m

60 m

184 m

Torre del Prior (Tower)

Santa Bàrbara Mountain

350 m

Art al Ras work of art

Sant Salvador d'Horta

Horta de Sant Joan Station

160 m

# ARNES

## The Green Way

Arnes, profile



Arnes, Renaissance-style town hall



Arnes, pools on the River Estrets



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There are only five kilometres between the stations of Horta de Sant Joan and Arnes-Lledó, the latter of which is located next to an imposing concrete bridge that crosses the River Algars, a site for adventure sports. If you follow the signposts from the station you will find the municipality of Arnes, five kilometres from the Green Way. Stop for a while in the Plaça Major (main square) to admire the wonderful panoramic view of Els Ports. The historical quarter of this village, located at a height of 508 metres, has been declared a Cultural Interest Site by the Catalan Regional Autonomous Government and is particularly interesting for its town hall housed in a 16th century Renaissance palace. You can also see the ruins of an old church alongside the present-day 17th-century building dedicated to Santa Magdalena.



Art al Ras  
work of art

250 m



Els Diumenges  
Gully

12 m



Art al Ras  
work of art

Arnes Station

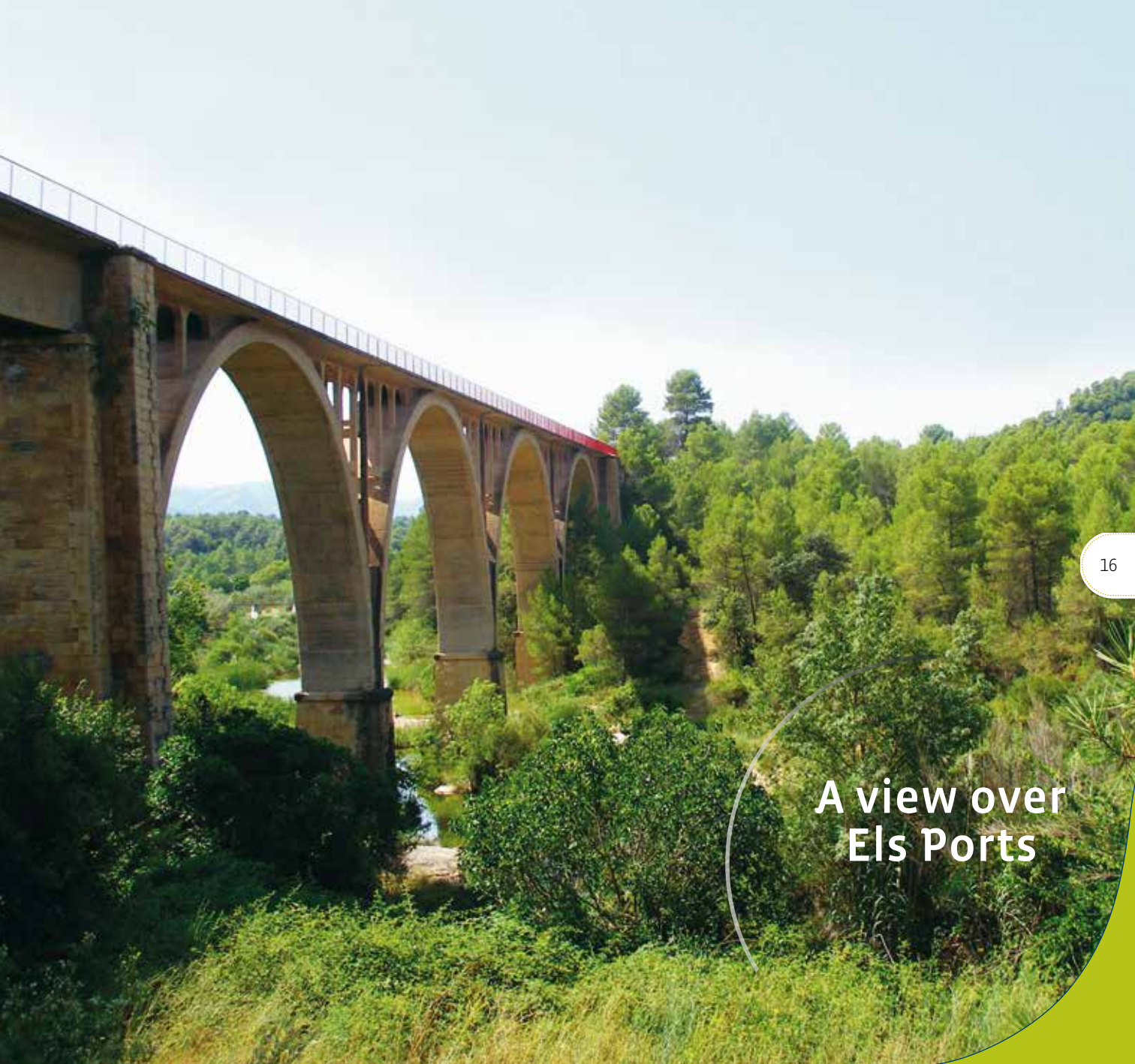
49,0 km  
09h48  
04h05

Algars Viaduct

220 m







# A view over Els Ports

Viaduct over the River Algars, continuation of the Green Way towards Aragon.

# COMPANIES OPERATING ON THE GREEN WAY

## Alberg l'Assut

C/ Major, 63  
43592 Xerta  
Tel. 678 676 767  
carlos@albergassut.com  
www.albergassut.com

## Autocars Hife Bus Service

C/ Adrià d'Utrecht, 1  
43500 Tortosa  
hife@hife.es  
www.hife.es

## Beniemocions SL

C/ Dr. Sastre, 10  
43512 Benifallet  
Tel. 6 19 334 384 - 630 874 236  
beniemocions@hotmail.com  
www.beniemocions.cat

## Bicisport Aubanell

C/ Reis Catòlics, 3  
43780 Gandesa  
Tel. 977 420 550 - 660 532 346  
bicisportsaubanell@gmail.com  
www.bicisportsaubanell.com

## Els Ports Natural Park Information Centre

Av. de la Vall de Safán, s/n  
43520 Roquetes  
Tel. 977 500 845  
www.parcsdecatalunya.net

## Esgambi. Serveis Turístics

Sant Miquel, 7  
43596 Horta de Sant Joan  
Tel. 689 293 766  
info@esgambi.com  
botiga@esgambi.com  
www.esgambi.com

## Estació de la Via Verda a Aldover Via Verda Restaurant

Av. de l'Estació, s/n  
43591 Aldover  
Tel. 638 731 939  
info@restaurantviaverda.com  
www.restaurantviaverda.com

## Estació de la Via Verda a Benifallet Hotel, Restaurant and Hostel

Av. de l'Estació, s/n. Ctra. C-12, PK39  
Tel. 932 194 152 - 652 940 703  
info@estaciodebenifallet.com  
www.estaciodebenifallet.com

## Estació de la Via Verda a Xerta River Interpretation Centre

Av. de l'Estació, s/n  
43592 Xerta  
Tel. 977 473 005  
aj.xerta@altanet.org  
www.xerta.cat

## Gubiana dels Ports, SL

Camí Colom, Ctra. Els Reguers  
Apdo. Correus 69 - 43520 Roquetes  
Tel. 977 474 887 - 637 085 052  
info@gubi@gubiana.com  
caro@gubiana.com  
www.gubiana.com

## Guies del Port

C/ Aragó, 76  
43597 Arnes  
Tel. 977 435 515 - 676 308 021  
info@guiesdelport.com

## L'Espai del Ciclista

Polígon Pla de l'Estació, parcela 4.4  
43500 Tortosa  
Tel. 977 588 666  
esplaiciclista@esplaiciclista.com  
www.esplaiciclista.com

## Les Roques Natura SCP

C/ Lluís Companys, 95  
43597 Arnes  
Tel. 606 936 041  
info@lesroquesnatura.com  
www.lesroquesnatura.com

## Montsport

C/Medi Natural, 4  
43596 Horta de Sant Joan  
Tel. 977 435 074 - 665 543 058  
Fax 977 435 165  
info@montsport.es  
www.montsport.es

## SANVART. Bicycle workshop

C/ Poeta Francesc Vicenç García, 15  
43500 Tortosa  
Tel. 977 441 374  
info@sanvart.es  
sanchojordi@gmail.com  
www.sanvart.es

## Servei Tècnic Fàbregues Motorsport

Pol. Industrial la Ravaleta, parcel·la 1, nº7  
43520 Roquetes  
Tel. 977 501 172  
info@fabregues.es  
www.fabregues.es

## Serveis turístics Bot.

**Serveis Turístics-Bicycle rental**  
Tel. 645 830 331  
info@turismebot.com  
www.turismebot.com

## Serveis turístics Rural Sports

C/ Prat de la Riba, 12  
43597 Arnes  
Tel. 646 985 223  
info@lafarinera.com



# MORE INFORMATION

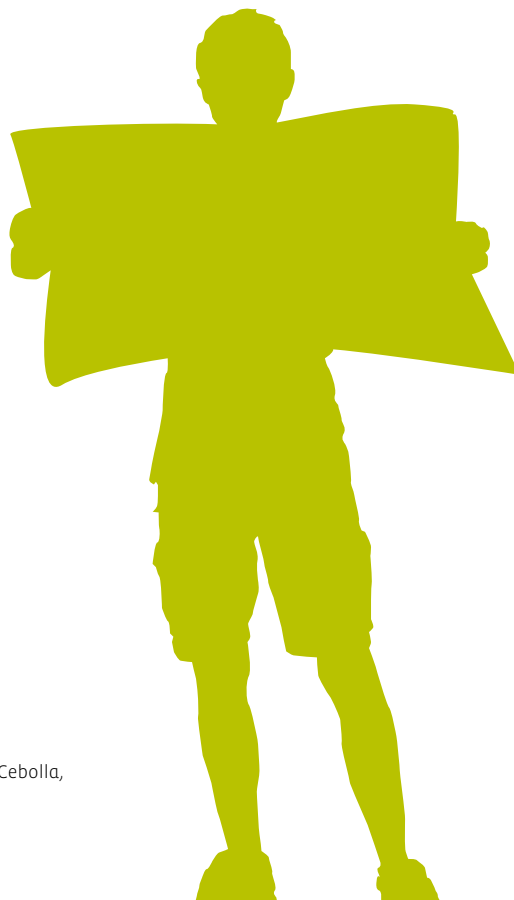
## **Baix Ebre County Council**

Barcelona, 152  
43500 Tortosa  
Tel. 977 44 53 08  
turisme@baixebre.cat  
www.baixebre.cat

## **Terra Alta County Council**

Bassa d'en Gaire, 1  
43780 Gandesa  
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turisme@terra-alta.org  
www.terra-alta.org

**[www.terresdelebre.travel](http://www.terresdelebre.travel)**





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