SECTOR
PENINSULAR NORTHEAST

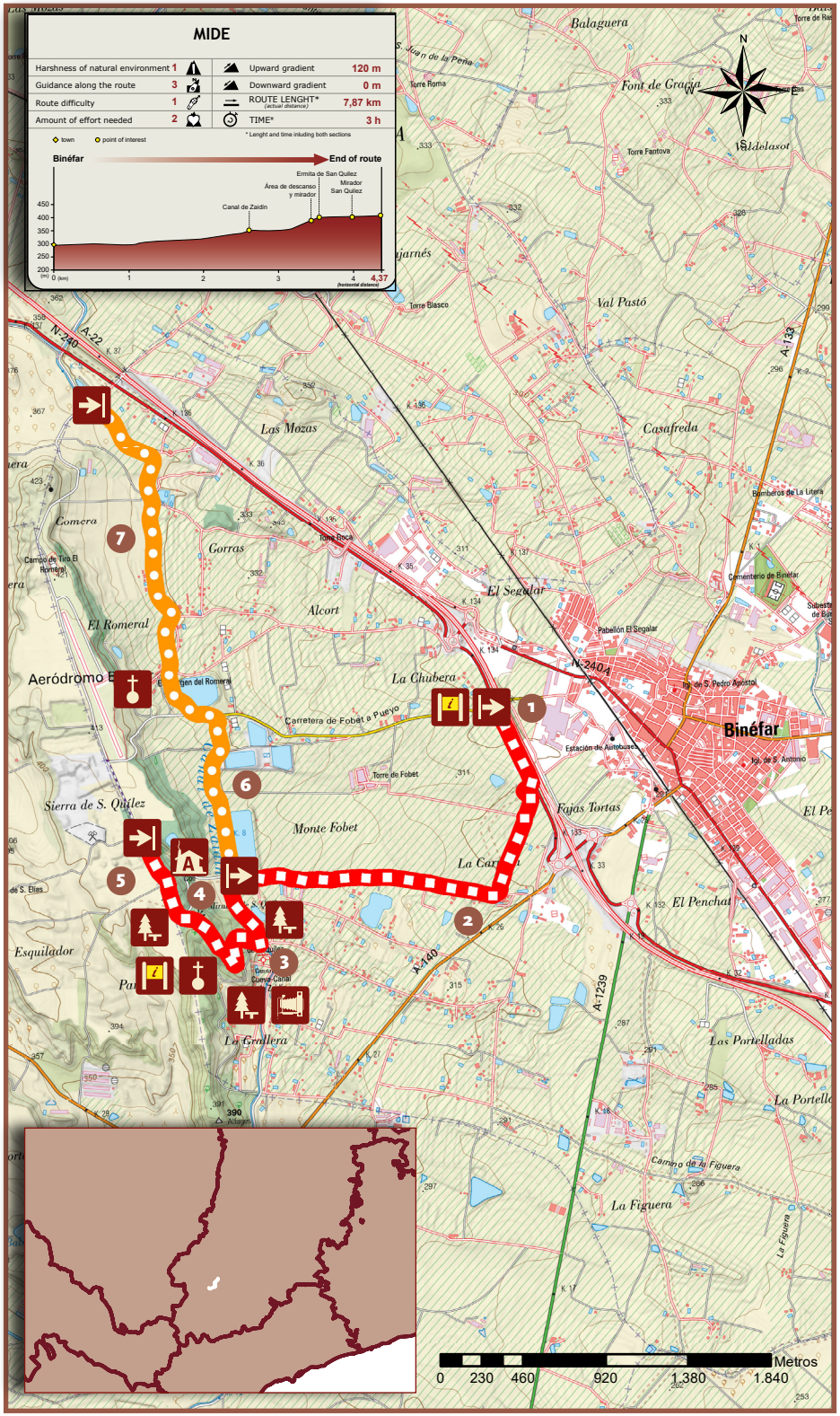
Nature Trails

NATURE TRAIL SIERRA DE SAN QUÍLEZ

Starting point
End of Trail
Rest area
Hermitage
Viewpoint
Informative panel
Shelter

PHONES OF INTEREST:

Binéfar Town Council: 974 42 81 00





SECTOR
PENINSULAR NORTHEAST

NATURE TRAIL SIERRA DE SAN QUÍLEZ

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

Caminos Naturales

ITINERARY DESCRIPTION

The route consists of two sections: the Sierra de San Quílez section and the Zaidín Canal section, which begins approximately halfway along the first section.

1 The Sierra de San Quílez section starts on the outskirts of the town of Binéfar, next to a roundabout. It begins by heading south-east for almost a kilometre, running parallel to the road and separated from it by wooden hoardings. On reaching the first junction, the route turns right, heading into a landscape characterised by agriculture and livestock farming, where irrigated crops such as corn alternate with pig farms and fruit orchards. Along the path there are a few scattered trees, such as holm oaks, poplars and trees from nearby orchards, such as almond trees or fig tree.

2 At the next junction, turn right again onto a track that leads straight to the Zaidín Canal. In the distance, the outline of the San Quílez Mountain Range is now beginning to come into view. The first section runs along paths shared with vehicles, so watch out for road traffic, particularly at junctions. This is one of the most important irrigation infrastructures in this area on the border between Huesca and Lleida. After crossing a bridge, the road comes to a junction where the two routes diverge: On the left-hand side, the route continues uphill towards the mountains; whilst, on the right-hand side, the Zaidín Canal section begins.

3 The route heads south along a path that runs alongside the canal on the left, protected by a wooden fence. It comes to a rest area located in the shade of a pine forest and then continues until it reaches a hydroelectric power station. At this point, the trail turns right to begin a climb amongst Aleppo pines, trees that are remarkably well adapted to the climate of this region. The route comes to a turn-off leading to a rest area and a viewpoint from which the whole of the southern part of the region can be seen. The climb continues up to a large open area where the San Quílez shrine stands. This shrine, built in the late 19th century, is the venue for a popular pilgrimage that brings together the residents of Binéfar every Easter Monday. From here it is possible to enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of the western section of the mountain range.

4 The trail continues northwards through a pine patch in which a new recreational area with tables and swings has been installed, which allows one to take a break after reading the information panels to learn a few more secrets about the natural environment in the area. After about 200 metres, there is a turn-off towards the San Quílez viewpoint. Thanks to its east-facing position, this viewpoint offers spectacular views of the entire La Litera region.

5 Back on the main path, the trail passes a huge holm oak and leave a track to the right which leads straight down to the canal, right at the point where the Zaidín Canal section begins. The route continues until it widens and converges with a track leading to the left. On the right is the refuge dedicated to Benito Coll, a small building with a barbecue and an untreated water fountain, from where there is a good panoramic view of the surrounding area. A path branches off to the left which, after a walk of more than 1.5 km, leads to the San Elías shrine. The final 300 metres of this section run through a pine forest that becomes increasingly sparse, with holm oaks becoming more common. The end of the walk marks the end of the woodland, which gives way to farmland.

6 The second route starts at the junction of the San Quílez section and the Zaidín Canal and heads north. This is a footpath that follows the course of the canal, which lies to the right, sheltered by a wooden fence. The path is lined with vegetation growing in the verges and reed beds, and on the other side of the canal there are a series of irrigation ponds linked to the local farms.

7 The route is interrupted only by access roads to farms, where extreme caution is required. One of them leads to the chapel of the Virgen del Romeral, a contemporary building that stands in place of another shrine which once stood in the abandoned village of Alcort. This section ends at one of these access roads, next to a bridge, 150 metres from the road leading to Binéfar.

LEGENDS OF MIRACLE RAIN ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Sierra de San Quílez rises amongst the plains of irrigated farmland surrounding Binéfar and Valcarcase. This small, pine-covered hill is very popular with local residents, partly because of the pilgrimages to the two shrines located there. This nature trail goes from Binéfar to the mountains and rounds off the visit with a walk along another of the highlights of this region of Aragon: the Zaidín Canal.

Since 1993 the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Nature Trails Program aims to restore former transport infrastructures such as railway tracks, cattle trails and traditional routes, for public use and enjoyment.

These routes take us to the countryside to discover the biodiversity and beauty of our precious natural heritage, and discover the villages, sights, traditions and people that are part of the unique cultural landscape of our country.

We invite you to visit them and offer you the keys to enjoy the trip. In this brochure you will find a brief description of the Sierra de San Quílez Nature Trail and the map for the journey, along with recommendations to make the most of this experience. We only ask one thing of you: do not forget to leave everything as you found it. The conservation of these pathways is also your responsibility.

More information in

caminosnaturales.es



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