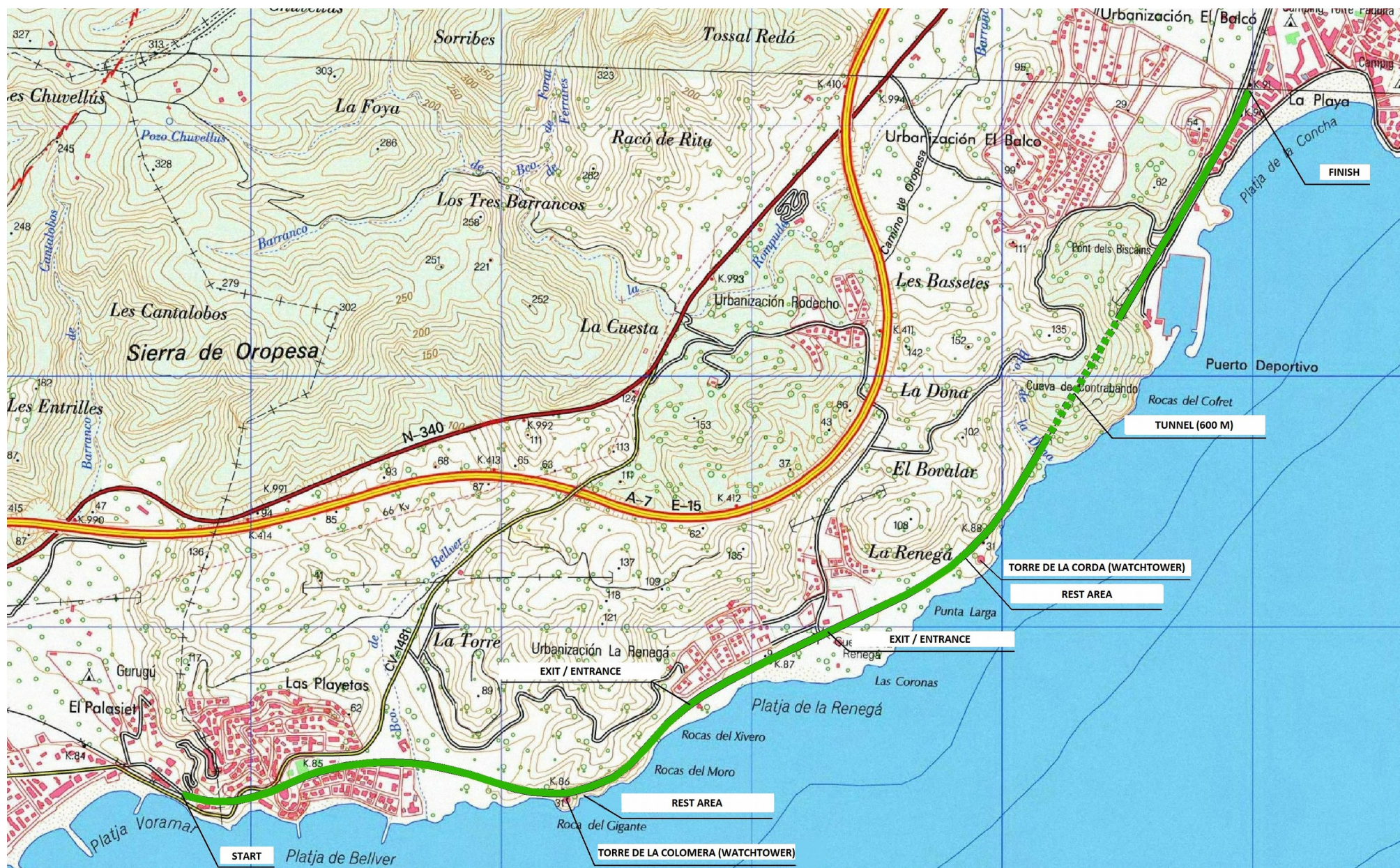


# GREENWAY BENICÀSSIM - OROPESA





### **DESCRIPTION**

The Greenway is a coastal cyclist route that connects the tourist towns of Benicàssim and Oropesa del Mar. This route, the ancient railway, has been prepared by the Ministry of Public Works to form part of a greenway network suitable for cycling and walking. The greenway can be accessed from both towns. To start from Benicàssim we have to enter the town and go down the Jaume I Avenue (it runs parallel to the coast between villas and other buildings) and follow the directions to Oropesa along the coast. The Palasiet Hotel is situated at the end of the avenue, and we can leave our vehicle at the car park next to the hotel.

The route is 5.5 km long (one way), making it a total of 11 km which can be done easily in 1 h 30 min with stops. The first part crosses a small tunnel at km 1 and goes past the Colomera Tower, situated on a beautiful cliff over the sea, next to a viewpoint. The path follows the coastline, thus providing beautiful views to the sea until km 4, where we enter a tunnel, approximately 600m long. Therefore, bike or headlamps are required. The tunnel ends at km 5, very close to the Oropesa port and the beach, where the route ends.

### **LANDSCAPE**

The greenway is a coastal zone characterised by seagrass meadows (plant families: Posidonia and Cymodocea). Moreover, the coastline, especially in Oropesa, is very important in terms of environmental value. There is also a small area that coincides with the Colomera Tower micro-reserve.

The area is qualified as LIC (Lugar de Importancia Comunitaria). The LICs are all those ecosystems that are protected with the purpose to preserve the biodiversity, through the preservation of natural habitats, including the wild flora and fauna of the territory, considered as a priority (92/43/CEE European Union guidelines).

### **HISTORY**

In the past, the coast of the Community of Valencia was an ambivalent area: commercial and fishing zone on one side, and trade route on the other, thus providing a source of income for the local inhabitants. The sea served as a communication route as well. However, it was also an open door, an invitation to death, slavery and robbery. It was the most dangerous border of the whole kingdom. For this reason the coastal defence system was an important preoccupation of the governors of the ancient kingdom of Valencia.

Therefore, to reduce the danger coming from the sea the authorities developed different strategies of coastal control, including the construction of a coastal defence system. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century a series of watchtowers was built along the whole coastal area. The St Vincent Tower in Benicàssim and the Colomera Tower in Oropesa formed part of 18 watchtowers built in the Province of Castellón.

### **Oficina de Turismo de Benicàssim**

C/ Santo Tomás, 74. 12560 Benicàssim Telf: 964 30 01 02 Fax:964 3001  
[www.turismobenicassim.com](http://www.turismobenicassim.com) / [turismo@benicassim.org](mailto:turismo@benicassim.org) / [benicasim@touristinfo.net](mailto:benicasim@touristinfo.net)



# SEASIDE GREENWAY BENICÀSSIM-OROPESA



## Benicàssim

