

**Sports, nature, and  
unforgettable landscapes** **EN**



-  HERMITAGE OR MONASTERY
-  TOURIST INFO
-  SPRING
-  MONUMENT
-  REST AREA
-  MOUNTAIN
-  POINT OF INTEREST

-  Respect the silence.
-  Leave the place cleaner than when you arrived.
-  Respect the trail and follow the signs.
-  Fire is the greatest enemy of the mountains.
-  Admire plants without damaging them.
-  Observe animals without disturbing them.
-  Use local hospitality and tourism services. Camping is not allowed in the natural park.
-  Take care of springs.
-  Respect the historical and cultural heritage.

-  Route 01
-  Route 02
-  Route 03
-  Route 04
-  Route 05
-  Route 06
-  Route 07
-  Route 08
-  Route 09
-  Route 10

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El Desert de les Palmes, designated a Natural Park in 2013, is one of the most remarkable protected areas in the province of Castellón, covering over 3,200 hectares across the towns of Benicàssim, Cabanes, La Pobla Tornesa, Borriol and Castelló de la Plana.

Reserve or the peak of Penyagolosa.

The park's unique vegetation includes fan palms, Mediterranean pines, strawberry trees and aromatic species such as rosemary, thyme and lavender. Its Mediterranean's rich wildlife enlivens the landscape:

Exploring its corners, we will visit places full of history such as the Carmelite Monastery, Montornès Castle or Castell Vell and the Magdalena Hermitage. From the summit of Bartolo (729 m / 2,392 ft), the horizon opens toward the Mediterranean Sea and the inland plains, offering views of Benicàssim, the mountains of Maestrat, the Plaça de l'Arc and natural parks like Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca or Sierra de Espadán. On clear days you can even spot the Columbretes Islands Marine and genets coexist in this uniquely beautiful setting.

For nature lovers, El Desert de les Palmes offers over 10 hiking routes and 3 MTB trails that pass through natural viewpoints, hidden springs and historical ruins. Benicàssim's Tourism Department also offers singular guided tours to discover the secrets of this natural area.

**Benicàssim's Cycling and Scenic Route** is a circular ride of more than 15 kilometers that reveals a landscape full of contrasts: the southern seafront promenade, the old marsh area and the town center. The route is accessible for people with restricted mobility and includes rest areas and bicycle parking. It can be linked with the Greenway of the Sea.

The **Greenway of the Sea**, running between Benicàssim and Oropesa, traces the path of the old railway line and offers a scenic 5.6-kilometer route (11.2 km round trip) through unspoiled nature. Along the way, you'll pass breathtaking cliffs and pristine beaches with stunning sea views, making it a favorite for both walkers and cyclists.



Routes of the Natural Park



# Benicàssim





01.

Duration: 1:45h

Distance: 6,8km

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 320m

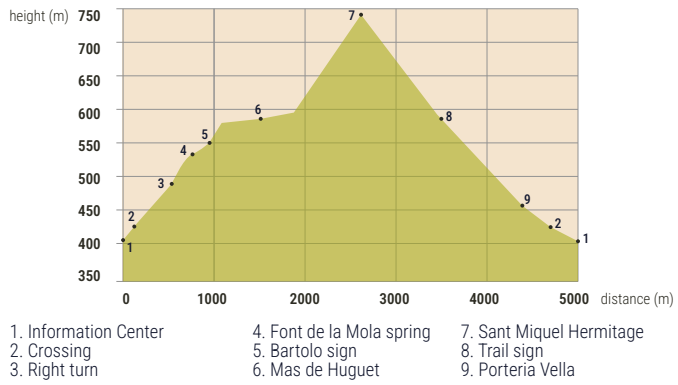
Elevation range: 409/729

HIKING TO BARTOLO PEAK.

LOOP VIA THE INFORMATION CENTER TRACK

The route begins behind the Information Center building, along a gently ascending path. After a few minutes, we turn left onto a dirt track. Farther ahead we take the track that turns right toward Bartolo. Following it, we pass Font de la Mola spring, then take another right-hand track that runs past Mas de Huguet, a traditional rural farmhouse.

We reach a junction where both options lead us to a paved road. From there, we can continue uphill for about 1,500 m, keeping the Bartolo Cross on our left, until reaching the viewpoint. This option takes us to the highest point of the route (729 m) and of the entire natural park. If we prefer to start out descent, from that same point we turn right and follow the signs. The descent follows the paved road, reconnecting with the Mas de Huguet track, which eventually returns us to the Information Center.



06.

Duration: 3h

Distance: 7,3km

Difficulty: Moderate

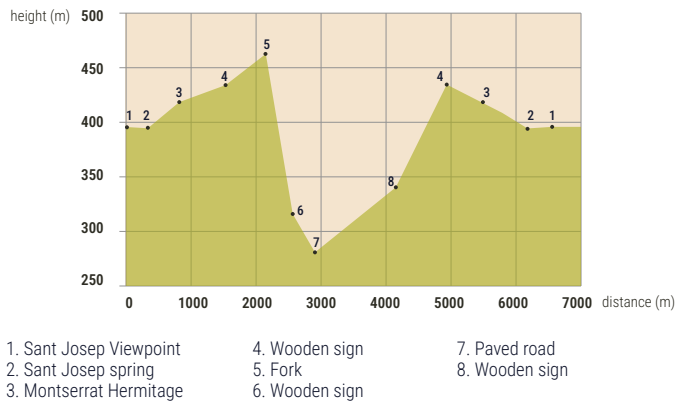
Elevation gain: 251m

Elevation range: 248/470

SPRINGS OF EL DESERT DE LES PALMES

This circular route visits the main springs of the natural park. It begins at the Sant Josep viewpoint parking area, following the roadside to the spring and hermitage of the same name. A path to the left leads to the Montserrat Hermitage. We continue to a crossroads, where a sign directs us left toward Pla de les Mulettes, the starting point of the circular loop. We follow the wide track toward Bartolo but soon leave it to the right toward Font de Roc spring. We descend along another track which, after passing a dovecote, leads near a small farmhouse; here we turn left to reach Font de Roc.

We continue along a path that brings us to the paved road of the Miravet ravine. After turning right and walking 600 m, we arrive at Font Tallà spring. We continue along the road until a sign indicates the return toward Font de Sant Josep spring. We cross a paved track and rejoin the path. Arriving at the earlier crossroads, a wooden sign points us right to reach Font de Sant Josep.



02.

Duration: 2:20h

Distance: 7km

Difficulty: Hard

Elevation gain: 380m

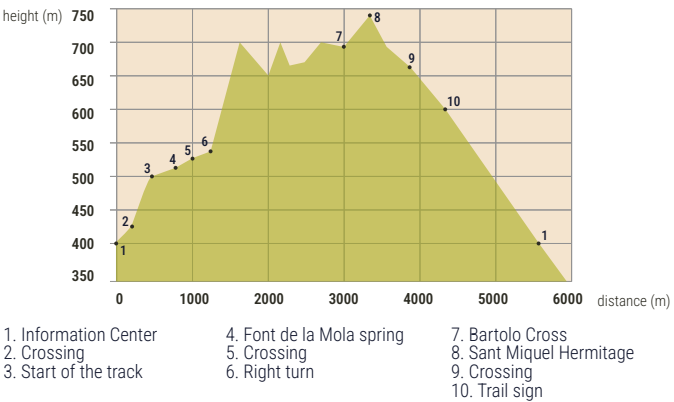
Elevation range: 409/729

CLIMBING THE BARTOLO PEAK.

LOOP ALONG THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE

The trail starts at the Information Center, via a small path behind the building. We quickly reach a sign indicating a left turn leading to a dirt track. We continue uphill, passing Font de la Mola spring and leaving to our right another track that also leads to Bartolo. Upon reaching Coll de la Mola, at the curve we take a narrow trail on the right, beginning a steep climb toward Cantal Gros (698.7 m). We follow the mountain ridge the whole way, walking along the crests and following the yellow and white marks of trail PR-CV 422 until we get to Bartolo's 18-meter-high cross.

If we continue about 300 m. along the track, we reach the highest point of the route and of the park: the summit of Bartolo (729 m.), where the Sant Miquel Hermitage is located. The descent is via the paved road, later taking the Mas de Huguet track to the right, which brings us back to the Information Center.



07.

Duration: 2:30h

Distance: 5km

Difficulty: Moderate

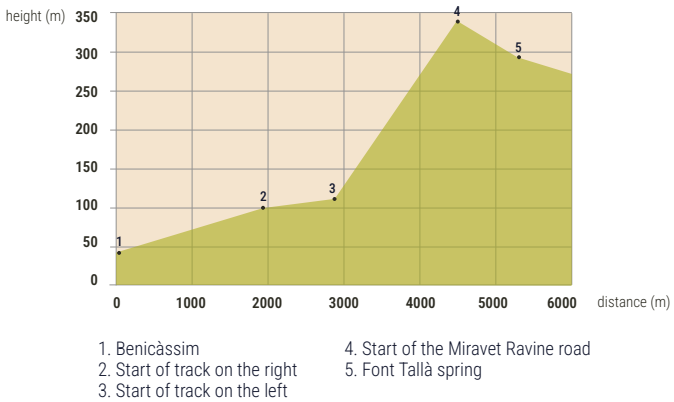
Elevation gain: 300m

Elevation range: 30/333

TO LA FONT TALLÀ FROM BENICÀSSIM

The route starts in Benicàssim along the CV-147 road heading into the natural park. After crossing the highway bridge, a path on the right leads to a sign where we turn left, following the PR-CV-397.1 markers. As we approach the Miravet ravine, vegetation becomes denser, with Mediterranean pines, strawberry trees, honeysuckles, junipers and other typical species of this humid area.

The path ends at the road running through the Miravet ravine, where Aleppo pines grow. We follow this paved road until reaching the Font Tallà spring on the left, a viewpoint over Las Agujas de Santa Àgueda. The slopes here are covered with beautiful cork oaks. Halfway up the slope stands a small country hut once used as a shelter or storage place. Around it remain traces of an old charcoal pit once used to produce coal for the region.



03.

Duration: 4h

Distance: 15,5km

Difficulty: Hard

Elevation gain: 700m

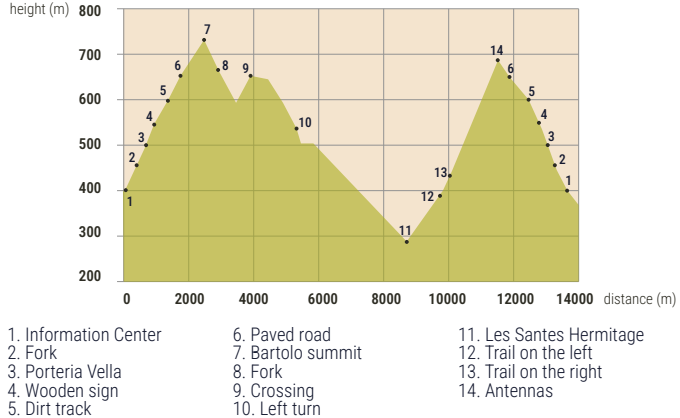
Elevation range: 297/698

LOOP TO LES SANTES HERMITAGE

FROM THE INFORMATION CENTER

This route leads from the Information Center to Les Santes Hermitage (Cabanes), passing over the summit of Bartolo. The path begins behind the Information Center. After a few meters we turn right and, before reaching Porteria Alta, we turn left. A steep trail takes us to a dirt track; we turn left, reach another track, and then follow it to the right until the paved road leading to the summit. We arrive at a small esplanade below the antennas, where a track branches off to the left. Here begins a steep descent along a forest trail. Shortly after, the track splits; we recommend taking the left one for its characteristic vegetation and birdwatching opportunities. It descends to the bottom of the ravine and then climbs gently to a water pond. We continue left along the track until reaching Les Santes Hermitage.

The route continues behind the hermitage. Soon we arrive at one of the most interesting geological areas, with Paleozoic slate formations. At the hill we take a trail to the left, entering the pine forest. A few meters later, a right-hand path leads us to Bartolo's summit. Once at the top, we follow the paved road downhill until a dirt path on the right appears; this leads us back to the Information Center.



08.

Duration: 1:39h

Distance: 4km

Difficulty: Easy

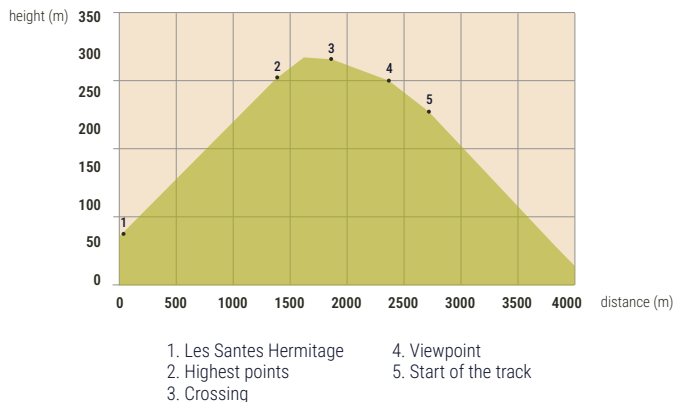
Elevation gain: 130m

Elevation range: 297/392

LOOP AROUND LES SANTES HERMITAGE

To reach Les Santes Hermitage (Saint Àgueda and Saint Llúcia), we take the CV-148 between Cabanes and Oropesa, where an information board marks the entrance. We start behind the hermitage, following a dirt path toward La Pobla Tornesa along a section of PR-CV-422, surrounded by large Aleppo pines and croplands in one of the most ancient geological areas of the Valencian territory, home to Paleozoic slates over 230 million years old. We leave the track heading to La Pobla Tornesa and turn left. After passing a junction that leads to the summit of Bartolo, we continue along a lush trail offering lovely views of Penyalgosa.

We follow a path until reaching a track where we turn left, which brings us back to the hermitage. Before reaching the spring, a right-hand detour leads to a viewpoint with two unique specimens of Quercus cerrideoides, a rare hybrid between Quercus faginea and Quercus humilis in this region.



04.

Duration: 3h

Distance: 6km

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 250 m

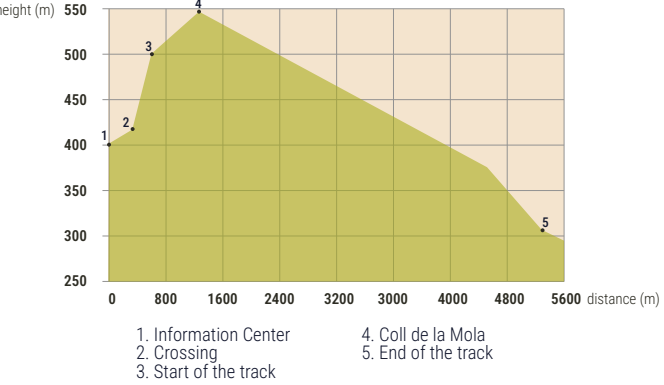
Elevation range: 296/560

INFORMATION CENTER –

LA POBLA TORNESA

The route begins on a path behind the Information Center. We soon reach a sign that directs us left. We follow a track to the right until reaching Coll de la Mola (537 m). From here we can already see La Pobla Tornesa, Bartolo, and on clear days the Penyalgosa massif. As we descend, vegetation becomes more diverse. The ravines shelter Mediterranean species such as honeysuckle, ivy, holm oaks, heathers, Portuguese oaks and mature pines, evidence that this area has been free from wildfires for roughly 30 years. This plant diversity creates ideal habitats for birdlife.

At the end of the track we find Paleozoic slate outcrops (230 million years old). Once the track ends, we turn right and a few meters ahead a tunnel on the left leads directly to the town. Non-circular route: return along the same path.



09.

Duration: 3:35h

Distance: 10,10km

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 441m

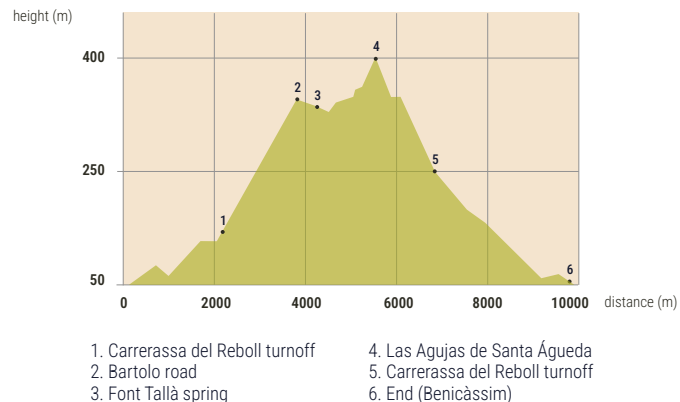
Elevation range: 297/942

PR-CV 397 – LOOP AROUND LAS

AGUJAS DE SANTA ÁGUEDA

This route completes the entire PR-CV 397 loop around Las Agujas de Santa Àgueda. We start at Font del Senyor spring, in front of Benicàssim's parish church. We walk toward the Santa Àgueda School, skirting the railway line. After crossing the AP-7 tunnel, we pass a telecom antenna and leave the ruins of Corral de la Comba on the right. Along the climb we see remnants of old sandstone quarrying.

We reach the Miravet paved road. A trail climbs gradually at first and then more steeply, leading to the pass known as El Rojal. From a boundary marker we begin descending. We first turn right and at the second junction turn left to follow Els Covarxos path. We pass a modernised agricultural estate, join a paved lane, cross two infrastructure tunnels and reach the cemetery area before returning to town.



05.

Duration: 1:30h

Distance: 3,5km

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 140m

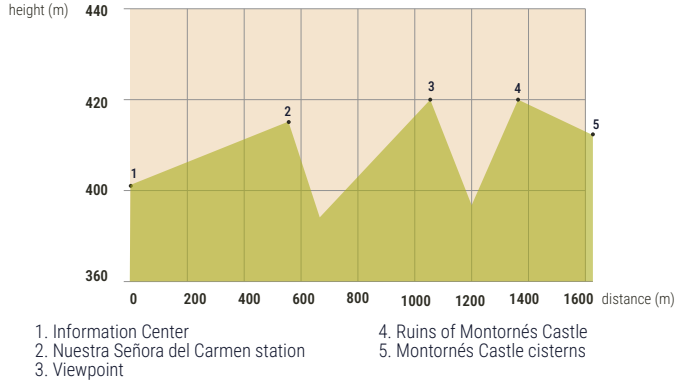
Elevation range: 390/417

MONTORNÉS CASTLE FROM THE

INFORMATION CENTER

The route begins at La Bartola Information Center. We take the road uphill toward the Monastery, pass a viewpoint, and reach the station of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, where the path to Montornés Castle begins. The trail passes through dense scrub dominated by rockrose, grey-leaved cistus, Pistacia lentiscus, juniper and rosemary. From this point we can see the castle and the watchtower, as well as the Plana and the beaches of Benicàssim and Castellón.

The path descends slightly and then climbs again near Montornés Castle. After passing the watchtower, the path crosses the wall and enters the ruins of the castle. Surrounded by Colutea arborescens, Anthyllis cytisoides, fan palms and olive trees, we skirt the mountain on its northern side until reaching the end of the route, on the eastern side of the castle. Here stands one of the castle's two cisterns, of Muslim origin (11th century), which supplied water to the settlement. Non-circular route: return following the same signs.



Greenway of the Sea



Desert de les Palmes Natural Park

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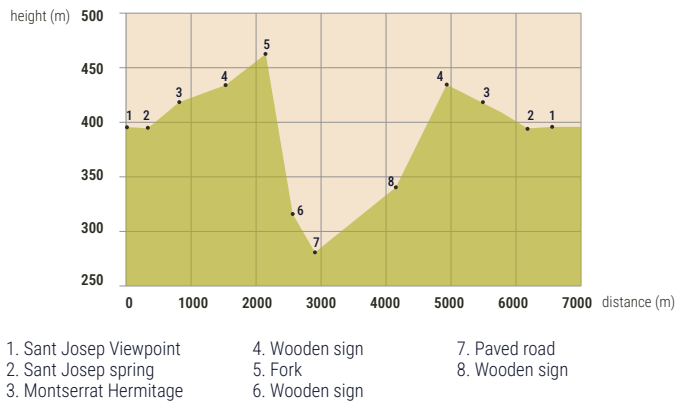
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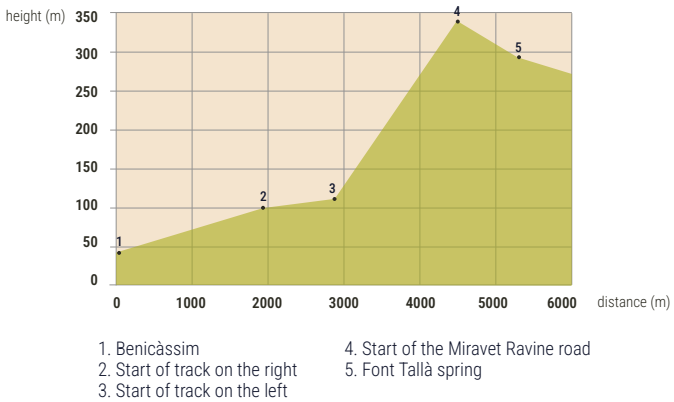
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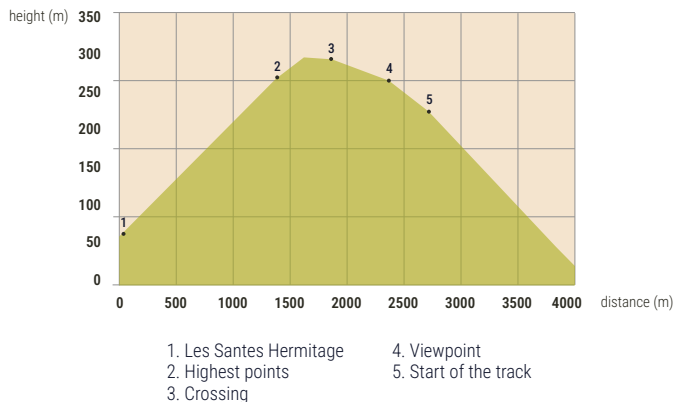
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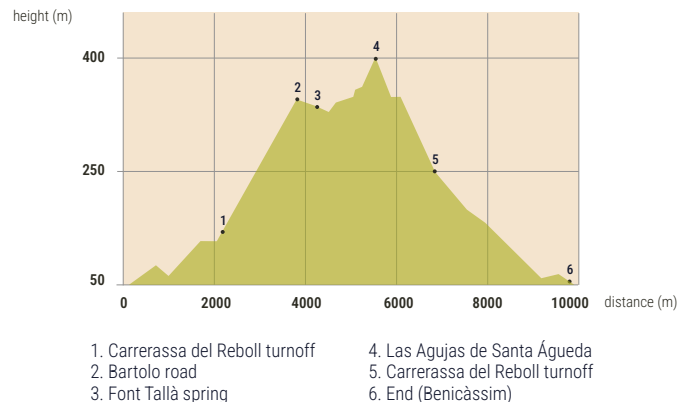
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