



Routes in La Muga

Alta Garrotxa Protected Natural Area

Muga Partial Nature Reserve









The Muga, the Bertran and the Serrat, in Albanyà

Generalitat de Catalunya

Diputació de Girona

INSTITUT DE MUNTANYES DE CATALUNYA

Route that highlights the natural environment and historical heritage of the **Muga River** in the **Pincaró** area, in the municipality of **Albanyà**. The route starts at the **Riera d'en Parada** stream, follows the course of the Muga River, crosses the **Pasallís de la Molina** and the **Pont del Bertran** bridge, and takes us to the **Castell del Serrat** castle and the **Colomer del Bertran** dovecote, all singular ancient buildings.

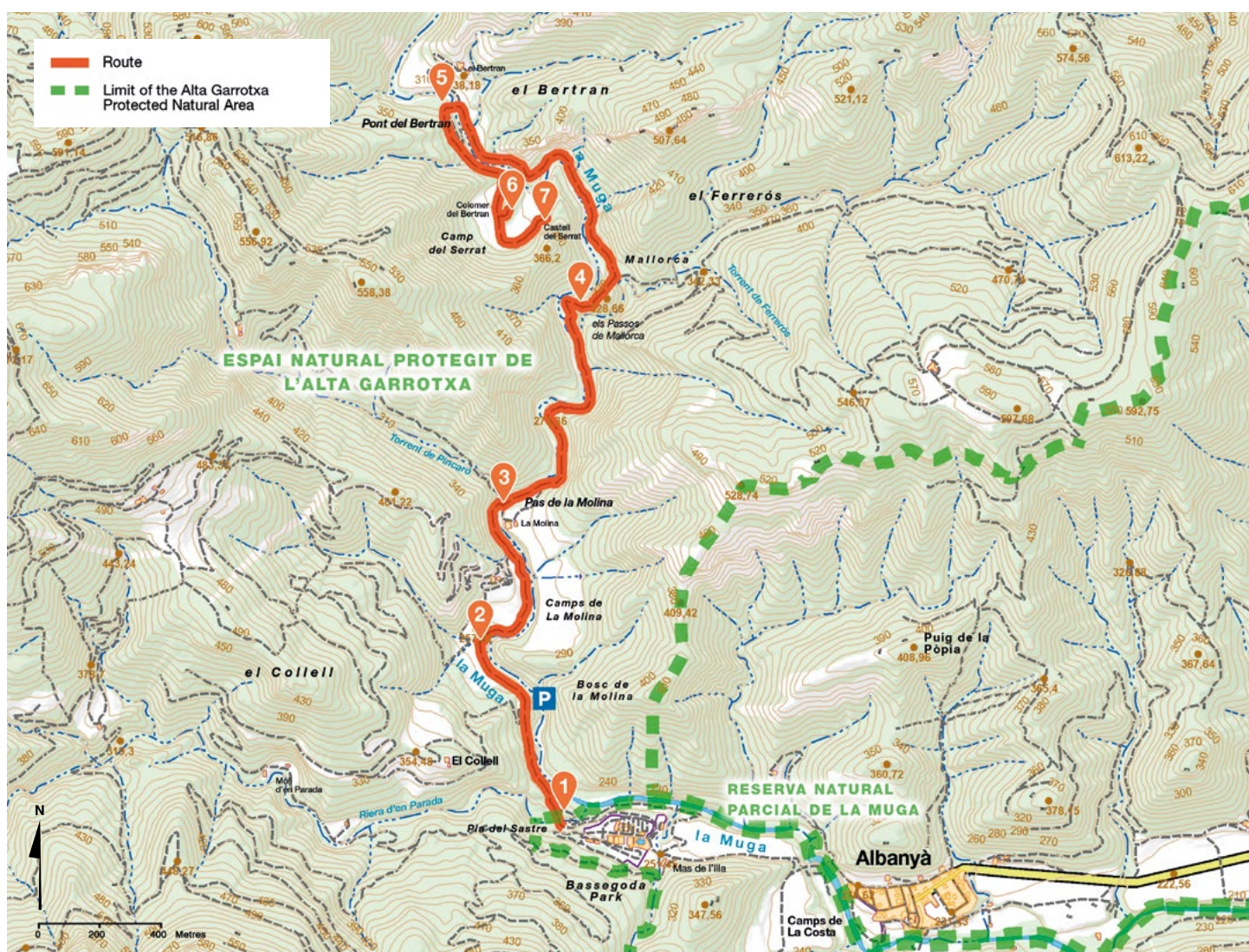
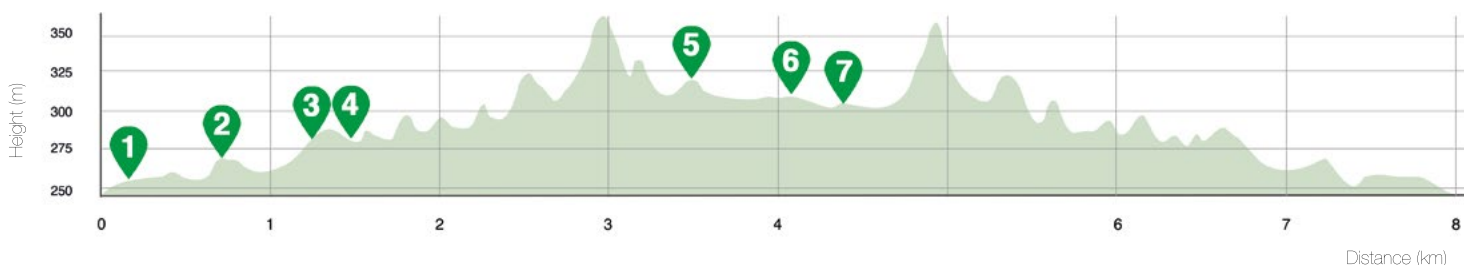
TECHNICAL DATA	
 distance	8,09 km
 elevation gain	322 m
 estimated time	2h
 route type	round trip
 difficulty (SENDIF)	moderate
 equipped pathways	no
 recommended period	all year round
 signage	banners and yellow paint

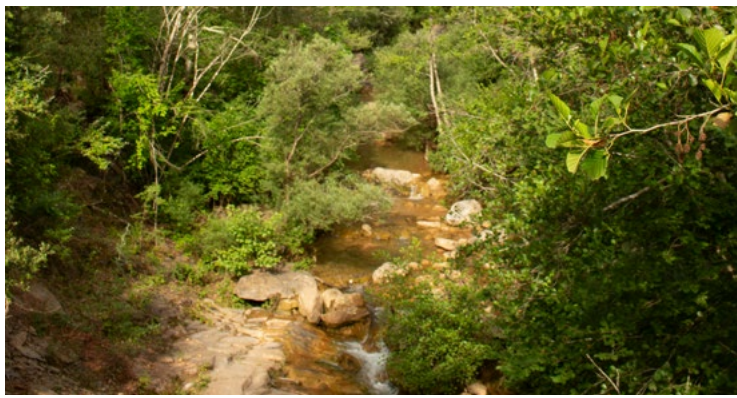
 How to get there (DIGITAL VERSION)	 Track (DIGITAL VERSION)	 Regulated parking in certain periods
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By private vehicle
After passing the town of Albanyà and the Bassegoda Park campsite, follow the paved track on the left. After passing the Pont Nou bridge, continue towards the designated parking areas. Find out more about the regulation periods at www.altagarrotxa.org.

By bus
From the Figueres bus station, take the regular Figueres-Albanyà bus line operated by Sarfa.

The **Alta Garrotxa Protected Natural Area** is an extensive territory (32,865 hectares) which, due to its **diversity and uniqueness**, is undoubtedly the most significant area of the Eastern Pre-Pyrenees. Among the most characteristic features are **the cliffs and valley floors, which make up a landscape of great beauty and natural value.**





1 Riera d'en Parada

In the Riera d'en Parada stream, we find a riparian forest in good condition made up of alder, ash, poplar and elm trees, where a great diversity of fauna and flora lives. It is a forest which is unusual in our territory and needs to be conserved because it has an important ecological function.



2 Muga Gorgues

Continuing along the track that goes up parallel to the river, we will find different natural gorges that act as a refuge for freshwater species. The organisms that live there are very sensitive to pollution caused by chemicals in sunscreens, soaps, litter and other pollutants. For this reason, it is necessary to avoid dumping substances into the river.



3 Passallís de la Molina

We cross the Muga River through the passage, from where, if we look carefully, we can make out the biofilm that covers the rocks of the river bed. The biofilm is a mucilaginous layer attached to the rocks and formed by different microorganisms, such as algae, fungi, bacteria and protozoa. These microbial communities are very important from an ecological perspective. For this reason, it is necessary to avoid stepping too much on the rocks in the river.



4 Cingleres calcàries

Take the path to the left and, upon reaching the track, follow the signs indicating the castle. We continue along the path from where we can see some of the limestone crags of the Alta Garrotxa area, cut by numerous streams and small torrents, where the passage of time has sculpted impressive cliffs and gorges.



5 Pont del Bertran

We cross the Pont del Bertran bridge, built in 1891. This bridge is unique for its construction with three half-point arches. It has two reinforcement buttresses on one side and, on the other, two cutwaters to reduce the force of the river current. The floor of the bridge still retains the original paving laid out in the shape of a donkey's back.









6 Colomer del Bertran

Finally, following the path that runs parallel to the Muga River, we arrive at the Camp del Serrat, where we find the old Colomer del Bertran dovecote and, further on, the Castell del Serrat castle, constructions of medieval origin that are believed to date from the 11th and 12th centuries. The walls still retain the slabs arranged in opus spicatum (fishbone shape). The dovecote and the castle are part of the Bertran archaeological site, special architectural elements that have been catalogued for their interest as Historical and Cultural Heritage. From here, we go back the way we came to return to the beginning of the route. [Images: Eloi Font]



7 Castell del Serrat

SAFETY ADVICE

-  Check the weather conditions before setting out.
-  Always let us know where you are going and when you will be back.
-  Plan the activity; consult the guidebooks and the route map. Respect the signage.
-  Use appropriate material and equipment. Take your mobile phone with you and make sure you have sufficient battery. In case of emergency, call 112.
-  Ensure that you hydrate often and eat energy-dense foods.
-  Set reference points along the route to orient yourself.

REGULATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

- Do not light a fire or set up camp.
- Collect your rubbish.
- Follow the marked paths.
- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Respect private property and livestock.
- Do not make unnecessary noises or loud cries.
- Take care of animals and plants.

