

TRAILS BY BIKE

Route 6: Dénia - El Verger - Pego - Natural Park of El Marjal de Pego-Oliva - El Verger - Dénia

Route Card

Access by train: Dénia Station.

Difficulty: Low.

Drop: 60 m.

Distance: 50.15 km.

Type of terrain: 36.45 km asphalt and 13.70 km earth.

Train schedules: www.fgvalicante.com or at the telephone: 965 262 731.

Cartography: Spain's Military Map, scale 1:50.000, pages 30-31.

Notes: Bring binoculars.

Through marshlands

This one-day excursion brings us close to Pego, right at the boundary with the province of Valencia, where we will be able to stroll through the streets and discover the numerous imprints of its Muslim past. At lunch time, we can enjoy some of the typical rice-based dishes. Also, we will visit one of the most interesting marshlands of the Spanish Mediterranean coast: The Natural Park of El Marjal de Pego-Oliva, where ornithology enthusiasts may freely relish watching the variety of birds that make this place their home. Weather permitting, we can bathe in the clean waters of the Bullent or at the spring of Font Salada, famous for its healing waters, and in carnival season, we can go to the popular "Baixada del riu Bullent".

Itinerary

We depart from Dénia through Abu-Zeyan street (near the Ondara exit), at the end of which there is a roundabout. We circle it to go out left through Camino de Gand'a. Right where the cycle lane starts (or rather, what remains of the cycle lane) we set the distance meter to 0. Around the greenhouse of "Natura Gardens" (0.61) we turn left. Shortly after (0.80) we take the first road right and proceed behind the greenhouse. This is a very quiet zone and soon we will start seeing farm houses and orchard fields that will accompany us almost throughout the route. After pedalling for a while with little effort, we reach a stop road sign (3.58) and continue straight following the sign to "Xaloc". The next stop (4.47) is at the junction with the road to "Assagador del Palmar" and we proceed straight. The quiet road, the orchard fields scented with orange blossoms and no drop make this an enjoyable ride. Soon after, we will pass a dip (5.44) over the river Alberca, sometimes flooded and impassable during heavy rain season.

We reach a stop road sign (6.11) and turn left. Then turn right a few meters farther (6.18) to discover the Segaria Mountains and El Verger at its feet. We reach a stop road sign (7.51) opposite which there is a beige house. We proceed left and a few meters forward we take the first street right through a chalets zone, then the first one on the left and again right to enter El Verger.

We find ourselves at the crossroads of "Almassara" street and "Carrer Mol" (8.28). If we feel like touring the town, we will now stop the distance meter. To resume the ride, we turn right towards the City Hall and then into "Carrer Cervantes", at the end of which we proceed through a



motorway leaving El Verger. We arrive at national motorway 332 (9.20) and opposite, on the right, we will see the cycle lane that we will take towards Pego. This cycle lane is one of the best in all Marina Alta, well marked and aside from motorized traffic.

We will cross through the most suitable place and continue on the lane. If we look closely, (9.68) we will see on our right a small monument, somewhat poor aesthetically, but of important geographic significance as it represents the Greenwich meridian, that is, 0 meridian. The cycle lane moves away from the bridge and leads us to pass under the new ring road (10.45). After a few kilometres the cycle lane ends at the Pego entrance (20.21). We continue, and on arriving at the two last roundabouts we see the Tourist Office on our right (20.81) where we can be extensively briefed about all there is to see in town. If our wish is to visit it, we stop the distance meter at this point. To resume the route, we reconnect the meter here and go out again on the cycle lane. We turn left and follow the sign to "Marens" (22.53). We ride now on a plain filled with orchard and lemon trees. At the next stop road sign (23.97) we proceed anew straight. We reach another stop (24.65) and we follow the sign to "Les Marines" right. On the next 300 meters we will be extremely cautious, as this short stretch can be busy with traffic. We turn left (24.86) on "Cam' de els Marjals" and continue once more among orchards through this quiet road. At the end we reach a stop road sign (26.38) and turn right. Soon we will come across the Bullent river on our left, whose enchanting scenes will soon amaze us. On the Saturday before the carnival, a popular, fun competition is held here where participants, dressed in costumes and aboard makeshift boats, compete among one another to arrive "safe and sound" at the finish. At the end of this road we see an asphalted way going up, but we continue left through the dirt track (26.22). We enter here one of the most rugged and better preserved areas of the park. However, (stop the distance meter) we recommend making an effort and take the road up to Monta-eta Verde to admire from atop the magnificent views of the zone. Further on (27.57) we



see a most suitable spot on our left for bathing in warm days. We continue and arrive to an esplanade with abundant reedbeds and the remains of a metallic structure, perhaps an old car parking lot (27.79). On that direction right we find one of the best places for bathing. This is the "ullal" or pond of "El Salinar", a water spring where people usually bathe during summer. From July to September, the Pego town hall usually makes available free of charge a number of rafts here for sailing through the marshlands. We proceed left among reedbeds. Shortly after, the river appears on our left and we continue always parallel to it to arrive at a narrow footbridge with green floodgates that we cross. (28.87). Next we pass through a similarly narrow alley between two gardens. We continue right through a dirt track and about 300 meters further we arrive at another attraction of the zone: "Font Salada" (29.25). Somewhat salty water flows from this very popular spring among the people of Pego and Oliva, and hence its name. Its waters keep the same temperature throughout the year. As it is believed to have skin-healing powers, people carrying water away or bathing in it is a common scene. Recently a small bar has been opened here to quench our thirst.

We go back and cross the footbridge once more. Then we will continue parallel to the river and see a cement hut (30.15) with a metallic blind and some graffiti. We proceed left on the road, then reach CV-678 (31.42), turn right, and a few meters further (31.56) left on the first dirt track. We are now amidst rice fields. We reach a green hut that is a petrol station (33.12), turn left and then right to continue parallel to the irrigation channel, at the end of which (33.94) we get to the Racons river, running through the marshland on its south side, and where people fishing are common. We turn left parallel to the river. Then arrive at a concrete bridge (34.64), cross it and continue left. We reach the motorway (35.34). Before us we have a gas station and the cycle lane on which we



continue left onto El Verger. The cycle lane ends at the national motorway (40.42). We enter El Verger through which the green pivots and the road on the right are. We continue along "Carrer Cervantes" in the sport complex direction. We leave past the City Hall and take "Almassera" street (41.47) to the left to exit El Verger.

After passing the sport complex, at the crossroad, (42.17) we proceed straight on "Cami de Xabia". We reach a stop road sign (43.25) and continue straight. We pass a small bridge above the Alberca river. Soon after (43.70), we take the first asphalted road on the left. After a somewhat steep climb we reach "Torre Carrals" (44.90), one of the abounding defence towers in the zone during the Middle Ages. We circle the tower and continue right. We reach a road (45.18) and turn left. Further on we arrive at a road with a hut opposite (45.67). We go further to the right for just 20 meters and turn left to leave past "Casa Beniadla" on which faade we can admire an interesting sun clock. We reach another stop road sign (46.47) and continue always straight, without taking any detour, onto Dénia. We can already see the unmistakable silhouette of the local castle in the horizon. We pass by, on our left, in front of the Francisco Merle garden (48.53), one of the many farms owned by nobleman Marqués de C ceres s family. Their stately house from the 19th century has a number of beautiful towers lending the construction a castle-like look, and it is considered a Cultural Interest Building together with the nearby raisin storage house. At the roundabout (49.58) we continue past "Lidl" supermarket to arrive at D nia in few minutes (50.15).



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