

TRAILS BY BIKE

Route 8: Dénia - Gata de Gorgos - Jalón - Llíber - Senija - Benissa

Route Card

Access by train: Dénia Station.

Difficulty: Medium.

Drop: 250 m.

Distance: 33.11 km.

Type of terrain: 26.48 km asphalt and 6.63 km earth.

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

Cartography: Spain's Military Map, scale 1:50,000, pages 30-31 & 30-32.

Biking along the valleys of Llíber and Pop

Just a few kilometers off the coast, a number of colourful valleys such as the Llíber and the Pop Valleys can be found. We will come close to them by going upstream the Jalón-Gorgos river. As we merge ourselves into the scenery we will discover barnyards, ancient wells, sheds and farm houses, some of them already in ruins, giving us the impression that time has not elapsed. Then we arrive at Jalón, where we can recharge our batteries visiting the wineries, tasting the traditional spiked must or the modern wines that are made here. This is an ideal route for a Saturday, when the populous and interesting antiques market takes place. Also, Jalón has other attractions such as the stately town houses or the Ethnologic Museum. After visiting the other two viticultural villages, Llíber and Senija, we arrive at Benissa, where its interesting old quarter will surprise us.

Itinerary

After having visiting Dénia, to begin our route we head for the "CAMPSA" petrol station located at the city exit in the direction to Ondara. A dirt road on the right is the only one still remaining from the old Dénia-Carcaixent railroad design, dismantled in the 70's. A few sign posts from that time can also be admired. We set our distance meter to 0 and we start. When we see a stop road sign at the end of the street (0.19), we will go down the ramp to the right and immediately turn left. We will reach a roundabout (0.56) and will leave behind "Don colchón" shop. After passing by a few industrial buildings, we will soon find ourselves surrounded by orchards. We will pass in front of the Francisco Merle garden on our right (1.69), one of many farms from this noble family, owners of the Marqués de Cáceres winery. This stately XIX century house has a number of beautiful towers, lending the construction a castle-like appearance. It is considered a Building of Cultural Interest along with the nearby raisin storage house.

We cross a small canal (2.27) and continue left ignoring the way leading to restaurant "Tossal del Carmen". We reach a junction on the road with a palm tree in the middle (2.53) and proceed left. We reach a Stop (3.19) and continue on the way ahead of us that passes by Ludmila house, to arrive at a road (4.50). We have Beniadla house on our right, with an interesting sun clock. We turn left. Then we cross (5.05) the Ondara-La Xara road. We reach the Pedreguer-La Xara motorway junction (6.00) and continue straight.



We reach a Stop road sign (7.30) and continue straight. We pass the train tracks by (7.62) and then we leave behind La Sella golf field. We arrive at a road on the left (9.44). If we take it, we will go towards Jesoes el Pobre, but we continue straight to find signpost banning all vehicles over 2 tons. We reach the bridge above the train tracks (10.27) and get across it, but not before noticing on the left the large amount of cages of the pigeon-breeding enthusiasts. We start a short descent to national road 332 (11.00). We get across it and follow the sign to Pedreguer. We turn left behind the firm "Bricoman". Then we reach the road (11.72) and we follow the dirt track surrounding it, to find ourselves again on the national road. We turn right (11.75), following the sign to "Garden Center" greenhouse. We find again their signpost (12.15)



and follow its directions.

We arrive at the Gata de Gorgos-LLíber road (13.09) and continue on the right passing under the motorway. The next 800 meters run along a quite wide and sloped road, and then we turn into a secondary, quiet road among mountains, usually with little traffic at weekends. Traditional houses surrounded by almond trees fields and vineyards can still be found around this zone, as well as the terracing system, built to gain land from the mountains for farming purposes.

Once having passed mileage point 6 (18.12), we stay alert to continue along a dirt track descending on the right (18.43) where there is a signpost banning vehicles



over 10 tons, and which takes us to the Jalón-Gorgos riverbed, which we will border as far as Jalón. This route stretch is particularly pleasant, with crop



fields alternating with wild Mediterranean vegetation in a zone that is barely populated. Pine groves provide good shade for relaxing now that we have completed more than half the route. (20.42). The dirt track ends, turning into a

kind of cemented canal. Just before going out onto the motorway, we will see a small dirt track on our right (21.19) with a stone wall and "GR" marks ("long route trail"), along which we will go on.

Parallel once more to the Jalón-Gorgos river, soon the road becomes a trail that may force us get down of our bicycle at some point. We arrive at Jalón to find ourselves right before the "Bicicletería" (22.53), a curious mix, worth visiting, of independent museum-recycling shop and where if needed, the staff can even help us solve any mechanical problem with our bicycle. This is also a good starting point for visiting the town. To resume the route on the trail where we came from, we turn left on the motorway to reach a roundabout (22.84) where we proceed in direction to LLíber. We see the town at the end of the motorway and an asphalted road on the right (23.33) with a sign banning vehicles over 10 tons. We are now at the most important viticultural area of Marina Alta and as far as the eye can see, there are only vineyards surrounded by mountains. We follow the route, coming across a number of ways on the left leading to the town of LLíber, worth visiting. We reach a Stop (24.29) and continue straight onto another Stop (24.48) where we will continue on the dirt track before us. We arrive at another dirt track (24.93) and continue straight on. We ignore a way on the right (25.14) and start the



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way up among pine trees. We ignore a way on the left (25.82) and continue straight on to the LLíber-Senija road (24.93). We continue right and face one of the toughest climbs of this route; however, at the end of it we will witness one of the most amazing views of Benissa, the Bernia Mountains and El Ponocho Mountain. We enter Senija (28.43) along calle Santa Cruz and turn right into Diego Ivars street, at the end of which we will turn right and take the first on the first left to exit the town (28.55). We go down left along a small road among almond trees onto the motorway (29.43). We continue on the left parallel to this road, under which we will pass further on. We reach another road and turn right (29.72) going under the bridge a little farther that enables the access to the motorway. We turn left. Then we will reach the Benissa-Senija road (30.97) and we continue on the left.

A few meters further (31.06) we enter Benissa along a very steep street to be found on our right, leading to Plaza del Portal or to the Town Hall (31.38). This is a good starting point for visiting the town's historical centre, with numerous

attractions. We resume the route from the Tourist Information Office, located at the end of "Avinguda del País Valencià", where we restart the distance meter. We will see the roundabout and a narrow street between the firms "Giner Rent a Car" and "Hijos de Juan Ribes S.L."; on this point we will continue on foot, as this first stretch is a no-entry way. We get across the road (31.60) and continue climbing. It is a good slope but we can pedal hassle-free along it as we find ourselves in open country, away from the traffic. We can smell the aromatic plants and see good

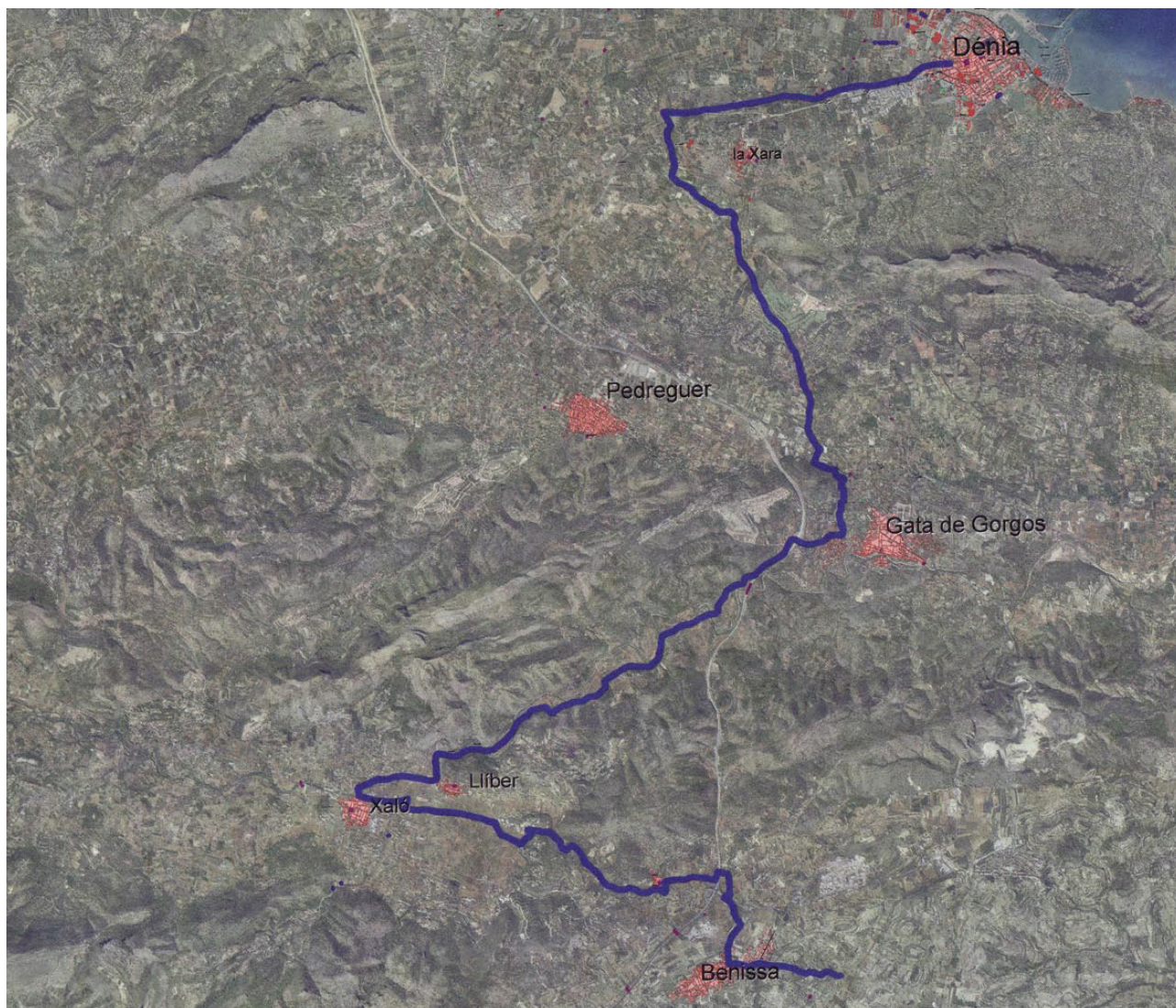


specimens of fig trees providing excellent shade. As we reach the top, we will get rewarded with one of the magnificent views, and best of all, a nice descent. We will arrive at the road (32.78) and continue left onto another road, where we continue straight ahead to arrive at Benissa train station (33.11).



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