

# Xurra Greenway

A Greenway among orange groves on the outskirts of Valencia.

The rural district of L'Horta Nord in the province of Valencia is crossed by two railway lines that start in Valencia: the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat Valenciana (FGV) which goes as far as Rafelbunyol, and the Renfe line that finishes in Barcelona. But there used to be a third line which swept through L'Horta Nord in a dead straight line but was dismantled long ago. A Greenway has reclaimed part of this route that runs amid orange orchards.



## TECHNICAL DATA

- CONDITIONED GREENWAY

A Greenway among orange groves on the outskirts of Valencia.





## LOCATION

Between Valencia and Puçol  
VALENCIA

**Length:** 15 km

**Users:**  \*

\*Suitable for practically the entire route

### **Type of surface:**

Tarmac, except for a short stretch (800m) of compacted earth between Meliana and the Albalat roundabout

### **Natural setting:**

Ravines and gullies

### **Cultural Heritage:**

Historic town centre of Valencia. Orange orchards. Irrigation canal system. El Puig Monastery

### **Infrastructure:**

Developed Greenway. 2 bridges

### **How to get there:**

Valencia: Renfe. Ademuz-Grao tramway

Puçol: Renfe local network (Cercanías). Alboraya to La Pobla de Farnals, FGV line 3

(\*) please ask the conditions of bike admittance in Renfe trains

### **Connections:**

Valencia: 16 Kms. from Puçol

Castellón de la Plana: 60 Kms. from Puçol

### **Maps to use:**

Mapa Militar de España (Military map of Spain). 1:50.000 scale. Sheets 696 and 722

Oficial road map of the Ministry of Public Works

## DESCRIPTION

Km. 0 / Km. 5 / Km. 9,5 / Km. 15

The route starts in Valencia and we could set off from what is now the Plaza de Zaragoza, where the old Ferrocarril Central de Aragón station used to be (two small cabins set in the middle of the roundabout that were once used by the freight charge collection service are all that remain of the station). But instead we will go a few hundred yards further on and start from the Polytechnic University and its tram stop.

### Km 0



The entrance to the Polytechnic University and its adjacent tram stop serves as our starting point for the trail. At the start of the Avinguda de Catalunya, where the A-7 motorway used to run, there is now a large roundabout which handles traffic to the university campuses ("Taronjers" and "Politécnica") and to the new Ronda Norte (North Circular). This is where our Greenway starts, with a red painted tarmac cycle lane protected by plastic bollards. A large dried out pine tree and a post with cycles hanging from it indicate where the lane starts.

Once on the Greenway proper our journey becomes more pleasant as we leave roads and traffic noise behind and move into the peace and quiet of a landscape of fertile horticultural land and orchards.

This section of the route also forms part of the "Via Augusta" and "Camino del Cid" trails for walkers and cyclists.

After a long straight section we arrive at Alboraya (Km 1.5). At the entrance to this town there is a reconstruction of a Valencian barraca (a typical thatched farmhouse) which is interesting from an ethnological point of view and shows the kind of rural buildings that used to be popular in the area. About 500 metres further on we reach a roundabout where in some gardens parallel to the road we can see a Roman bridge called Pont del Moro, which originally used to span the Vera irrigation canal. A short distance further on, beside another roundabout, is the Casa de Cultura (Cultural Centre) and an information board describing 6 walking and cycling trails around the Alboraya countryside.





The trail takes us next to the Barranc de Carraixet river. When the river was channelled the river bed was effectively widened and the old railway bridge had to go. However, 50 metres downstream a new road bridge was built with a generous pavement which takes us safely over the river with its abundant plant life and waterfowl.

At Km 3.5 we pass close to the town of Almàssera and cross (with due care) the road to Port Saplaya. About 300 metres off to our left is the Horticultural Museum, and to our right is a road that leads to the Horchata Museum. Horchata is a refreshing drink made from chufas (tiger nuts), very popular in this area.

A short distance later a pleasant surprise awaits us: at Km 4.5 the old bridge that used to span the road leading to the district of Noya has been restored by the new Greenway after having been dismantled shortly after the line was closed.

### **Km 5**

Once on the far side of the bridge, the trail continues on its straight course to Meliana (Km 5). Very close to the village, to our left, is the Valencia-Rafelbunyol line. This old narrow gauge line, now back into operation as either a modern FGV local service or a Metro Valencia line, at this point runs scarcely 200m from the Xurra Greenway, thereby providing users with access by train. Around 1.5 km to our right another railway (the Valencia to Castellón line) also occupies this transportation corridor in the L'Horta Nord region of Valencia.



The trail skirts around the east side of Meliana, which is where the first part of this Greenway to be reclaimed ends. We continue straight on down the Avenida de Aragón and Vía Augusta, taking care to respect the stop signs at crossroads.



A little further on, at Km 5.5, the Greenway crosses the road that leads to the costal district of Roca, and shortly after that we come to another junction where there are some small public gardens. Here the Vía Augusta cycling trail takes its leave of our Greenway and heads east towards Albuixec, which is another option for those wishing to be nearer the coast since this trail links up again with the old railway route at its northernmost end, at Puçol. This trail is

signposted with distinctive blue kilometre markers and other signs that make it easy to follow.

From Km 6 the former rail bed becomes a cycle trail (CR-300) with a compacted earth surface. Before arriving at a large roundabout (Km 6.6) we come across another reconstruction of a barraca. Shortly after that we join a magnificent, red-painted cycle lane and a pedestrian footpath which run alongside the new ring road. From this point the route of the old railway has been taken over by a major bypass which diverts the N-340 road around the towns of Albalat, Albuixech, Museros, Massalfasar, Massamagrell and La Pobla de Farnals which it previously went through. Although sometimes the cycle lanes run on both sides of the road at once, it is advisable to use always the lane on the left-hand side in this direction. Take particular care at the roundabouts where the trail inevitably has to cross innumerable major roads.

### **Km 9,5**

Massamagrell Roundabout (Km 9.5). The cycle lane at this point is very narrow and in some places is bordered by very high vegetation which limits visibility, so we need to pay special attention when crossing roads. At Km 12, near an industrial estate, the cycle lane disappears, leaving us with two options. Either to continue straight on along the industrial estate's service road on which there is little traffic and only in one direction (north to south) so those of us travelling in a northerly direction towards Puçol (i.e. against the flow of traffic) need to take special care. Or to cross to the other side of the roundabout and continue along the service road as far as a service station where there is another roundabout at which we can rejoin the cycle lane.



Towards the El Puig Monastery. Once past the industrial estate our problems are over and we can rejoin the Greenway again, which even has an underpass to avoid a road junction. Here the cycle lane divides: to our left it goes to the nearby Cartuja Monastery while our Greenway continues off to the right, on a wide pathway that leaves us at the junction with the road to El Puig, next to a cemetery.

Now we are at Km 12.5 of the trail. On our left we can see the Cartuja Monastery and to the right, the Cerro de El Puig, a hill from whose sides stone was hewn to build the port of Valencia. There used to be another railway from El Grao de Valencia (the port) to here, precisely to carry the local stone used to build the port. This route is now occupied almost entirely by the A-7 motorway.

At Km 12.8 we carefully cross the road and make our way between orange orchards towards the end of our trail at Puçol. This final section is one of the best developed of all the Greenway.

## Km 15



Before arriving at Puçol, our final destination, we first need to cross the Barranco de Puçol (Km 14) over a pretty bridge in a good state of repair. Once over this bridge we arrive at the town of Puçol where the cycle lane ends (Km 15), via Vicente Ros street and the Avenida de la Mancomunitat de L'Horta Nord. This boulevard occupies the rail bed of the final section of the railway and takes us to within one kilometre of the modern railway station. Here there is a very frequent local

and regional train service which at certain times of the day allows passengers to board trains with bicycles.

Near this station is the start of Long Trail GR-10 which runs from Puçol all the way to Lisbon. The "Via Augusta" and "Camino del Cid" trails also converge here.

## MAPS





## **RAILWAY HISTORY**

The Compañía del Ferrocarril Central de Aragón built the Valencia-Puçol section of the railway in 1901, the first stretch of a long line which was to run from Calatayud to Zaragoza through Teruel. The original concession was granted in 1887, although the initial project only involved a 133 km long line from Calatayud to Teruel. A year later the project was extended as far as Valencia through the Palancia valley but it was over seven years later before any work was actually started.

Finally, in 1895 Belgian investors arrived on the scene and formed the Compañía del Ferrocarril Central de Aragón. Work on the railway was quickly started and seven years later the line was fully operational. In the Huerta Norte region of Valencia two broad gauge railways operated on practically parallel lines: the Central de Aragón (whose Puçol-Valencia section now forms the basis of our Greenway) and the Compañía del Norte

This situation remained unchanged until Renfe was created in 1941. Now both lines belonged to the same company it seemed illogical to operate both, and so gradually traffic was diverted onto the Compañía del Norte line. In 1968 the Valencia-Alameda station was closed and demolished, and only the connection with Cabanyal remained operational to back up the main line. However, once dual track operation was established on the main line, the Central de Aragón line was deemed unviable and in 1985 it was definitively axed and the tracks taken up.

Over ten years later the Department of Public Works, Urban Development and Transport of the Generalitat Valenciana (Valencia Regional Government) reclaimed the route as a cycle trail providing non-motorized access (separate from the congested roads of this area) to the rural district of L'Horta Nord.

### **The El Puig Monastery**

A mere 300 metres from the Xurra Greenway can be seen the stony silhouette of the El Puig Monastery, declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument in 1969. This monastery was founded in gratitude for divine intervention in the conquest of Valencia.

Nearby there used to be a Moorish watchtower where an image of the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared miraculously beneath a bell. Jaime I 'El Conquistador' donated the land on which the monastery was built and subsequently entrusted to the Military Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy.

This occurred around 1240. In 1300 work began on the sanctuary thanks to the efforts of the renowned admiral Roger de Lauria and his daughters. This Gothic edifice was later affected by changes made in the 18th century but it still retains much of its original style. The monastery, which is attached to the sanctuary, was enlarged in the 16th century to its current spectacular size. During all this time the site was of great importance to the Valencian people due to their veneration of the figure of the Virgin Mary. In the 19th century Mendizábal's disentailment, in which church property was

confiscated, caused the monastery to be abandoned and it began to fall into disrepair. This deterioration was halted in 1948 when the monks of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy returned and began work to restore the monastery to its former glory.

Inside this magnificent building there is a central cloister on two levels whose galleries are a veritable museum of Valencian painting of the 17th and 18th centuries. The monastery is also home to a Museum of Printing and Graphic Arts.

### **INTERESTING DATA**

1. Festivals and holidays
2. Accommodation
3. Eco-tourism
4. Town Councils
5. Emergencies
6. Coaches & buses
7. Railway



### **Festivals and holidays**

#### Valencia

22 de enero

San Vicente Mártir

19 de marzo

San José. FALLAS

2º domingo de mayo

Virgen de los Desamparados

Julio

Feria

15 de agosto

Virgen de Agosto.

Octubre

9 de octubre



19 de marzo  
San José. FALLAS

Alboraya  
1-10 de julio  
Fiestas patronales de San Cristóbal y el Cristo

Albalat del Sorels  
Primer domingo de septiembre  
Fiestas patronales

La Pobla de Farnalls  
15 de julio  
Fiestas del Carmen

2ª semana de septiembre  
Fiestas patronales

Puçol  
14 al 19 de marzo  
Fallas

1 al 9 de septiembre  
Fiestas patronales

7 de septiembre  
Bous al carrer.

El Puig  
15 al 18 de agosto  
Fiestas de San Roque

Primer domingo septiembre  
Fiestas patronales a la Virgen del Puig

Meliana  
11 al 14 de septiembre  
Fiestas Mayores. Virgen de la Misericordia y Cristo de la Providencia

Massamagrell  
19 de enero  
Sant Antoni del Porquet

Finales de septiembre  
Fiestas patronales



## Accommodation

Valencia  
Tourist Info Valencia-Ayuntamiento  
Tel. 96 351 04 17 - 618183500

Tourist Info Valencia-Diputación  
Tel. 96 351 49 07

Alboraya  
Tourist Info Port Saplaya  
Tel. 96 319 02 03.

Hotel Olimpia\*\*\*\*  
Tel. 96 230 01 42

El Puig  
Hotel Casbah\*\*\*  
Tel. 96 147 31 52

Hotel Ronda I\*\*  
Tel. 96 147 12 79

Hotel Ronda II\*\*  
Tel. 96 147 12 28

Hotel Borja\*  
Tel. 96 147 09 81

Pensión Ronda  
Tel. 96 147 12 79

Residencia Tiempo Libre El Puig  
Tel. 96 146 11 50

Puçol  
Hotel Monte Picaio\*\*\*\*\*  
Tel. 96 142 01 00

Hotel Alba\*\*\*  
Tel. 96 142 24 44

Pensión Garsan  
Tel. 96 142 19 75

Cámping Puçol. 2ª categoría  
Tel. 96 142 15 27



Cámping Valencia. 2ª categoría  
Tel. 96 146 58 06

### **Eco-tourism**

Tourist Info Alboraya-Port Saplaya  
Tel. 963 19 02 00. [portsaplaya@touristinfo.net](mailto:portsaplaya@touristinfo.net)

Tourist Info Almàssera  
Tel. 961 86 25 52. [almassera@touristinfo.net](mailto:almassera@touristinfo.net)

Tourist Info La Pobla de Farnals  
Tel. 961 46 09 28. [puebladefarnals@touristinfo.net](mailto:puebladefarnals@touristinfo.net)

Federación de Ciclismo  
Tel. 96 390 49 32. [www.fccv.es](http://www.fccv.es)

Centro excursionista de Valencia  
Tel. 96 391 16 43. [www.centroexcursionista.org](http://www.centroexcursionista.org)

Colectivo Valencia en bici  
Tel. 96 391 78 64. [www.valenciaenbici.net](http://www.valenciaenbici.net)

Universitat en Bici: <http://uv.es/universitatenbici>

Federación Valenciana de Montañismo. Tel. 96 543 97 47.

Bicifamiliar. Actividades en familia. [www.bicifamiliar.org](http://www.bicifamiliar.org)

Viajar en Familia.  
Turismo familiar en la naturaleza. [www.viajarenfamilia.net](http://www.viajarenfamilia.net)

Museo de la Huerta. Almàssera. Visitas guiadas. Tel. 96 186 25 52  
[www.almassera.infoville.es](http://www.almassera.infoville.es)

Museo de la Horchata y la Chufa. Visitas guiadas. Tel. 655 570 761. [www.elmachistre.es](http://www.elmachistre.es)

Alquiler de bicicletas y rutas guiadas por Valencia y alrededores:

Do you bike. Tel. 96 315 55 51. [www.doyoubike.es](http://www.doyoubike.es)

Valencia Bikes  
Tel. 96 385 17 40. [www.valenciabikes.es](http://www.valenciabikes.es)

Ciclotourbike  
Tel. 96 394 51 12. [www.ciclotourbike.com](http://www.ciclotourbike.com)



## Town Councils

Valencia  
Tel. 96 352 54 78  
[www.valencia.es](http://www.valencia.es)

Alboraya  
Tel. 96 317 17 00  
[www.alboraya.org](http://www.alboraya.org)

Meliana  
Tel. 96 149 00 65

Albalat dels Sorells  
Tel. 96 149 00 91  
[www.albalatdelsorells.es](http://www.albalatdelsorells.es)

Massamagrell  
Tel. 96 144 00 51  
[www.massamagrell.es](http://www.massamagrell.es)

La Pobla de Farnals  
Tel. 96 144 12 52  
[www.lapobladeFarnals.es](http://www.lapobladeFarnals.es)

Puçol  
Tel. 96 142 12 03  
[www.pucol.es](http://www.pucol.es)

## Emergencies

EMERGENCIAS: Tel. 062

## Coaches & buses

Estación de Autobuses de Valencia - 3 comentarios de Google  
[www.servivalencia.es](http://www.servivalencia.es) - Avda Menéndez Pidal, 13, Valencia  
963 466 266

Autobuses Valencia - Davo - Página del sitio  
[www.autobusesenvalencia.com](http://www.autobusesenvalencia.com) - C/ Padre Tomás Montañana, 2, Valencia  
670 571 779

Estación de Autobuses - Página del sitio  
[www.etmvalencia.es](http://www.etmvalencia.es)



## Railway

Renfe. Valencia y Puçol. Tel. 902 24 02 02. [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

FGV Valencia, Alboraya, Meliana, Albalat del Sorells, Massamagrell y La Pobla de Farnals

Tel. 96 358 11 11