

Distance

2,2 km

Time

1 hour

Difficulty

easy

The recs of Banyoles are a singular infrastructure of the village. This is a network of small canals carrying the water from the Estany de Banyoles which were formerly used to irrigate crops, for domestic uses (to drink, wash, clean...) and, at a later time, to power the mills of the industries by means of waterfalls.

Its layout is artificial, and was originally built by the Benedictine monks of the Sant Esteve Monastery since the 9th century onwards, taking advantage of the slope of the terrain between the lake and the village. The total length of the network of canals is 33 kilometres, much of which has been buried underground due to the growth of the village during the 20th century.

1. Banys Vells (0 h 00 min)

We start this itinerary following the path of Rec Major (Main Canal), which starts in front of the Banys Vells, the municipal baths in Estany de Banyoles. This canal was built in the mid of the 12th century and it is the most important, the one that carries more water and travels a larger stretch through the old town. As we follow the passage Llorenç Busquets Magdalena, we can see several washhouses that neighbours formerly used for domestic purposes.



plaça Major



2. Can Quim del Rec (0 h 10 min)

Following this passageway, before arriving to the football field, we can see the Limit, a triangular construction that once regulated the water flow.

We will soon reach Can Quim del Rec, a farmhouse from the 17th century where water passes underneath the building and follows its course to the village centre.

We continue the route along Carrer Colom, at the end of which we will find the junction with Carrer Llibertat, one of the busier streets in Banyoles. At this point, we cross at the zebra crossing and we head to the passage Lluís Vilà Vendrell, which will lead us to the historical centre.

3. C/ Abeurador (0 h 16 min)

After doing a part of the itinerary with water running underground, as we arrive in Carrer Abeurador we see the Rec Major resurfacing.

4. Plaça Major (0 h 17 min)

Once in Plaça Major (13th century), we can continue to enjoy the harmony between water and stone. This is a porticoed square with a rectangular shape, surrounded by 40 arcades with vousoirs.

Notable among the buildings in the main square is Cal Moliner, the only one with just one floor, which still preserves an old mill in its inner courtyard where the canal's water was used to make flour.

The mill can be visited Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 14:00.

5. Llotja del Tint (0 h 25 min)

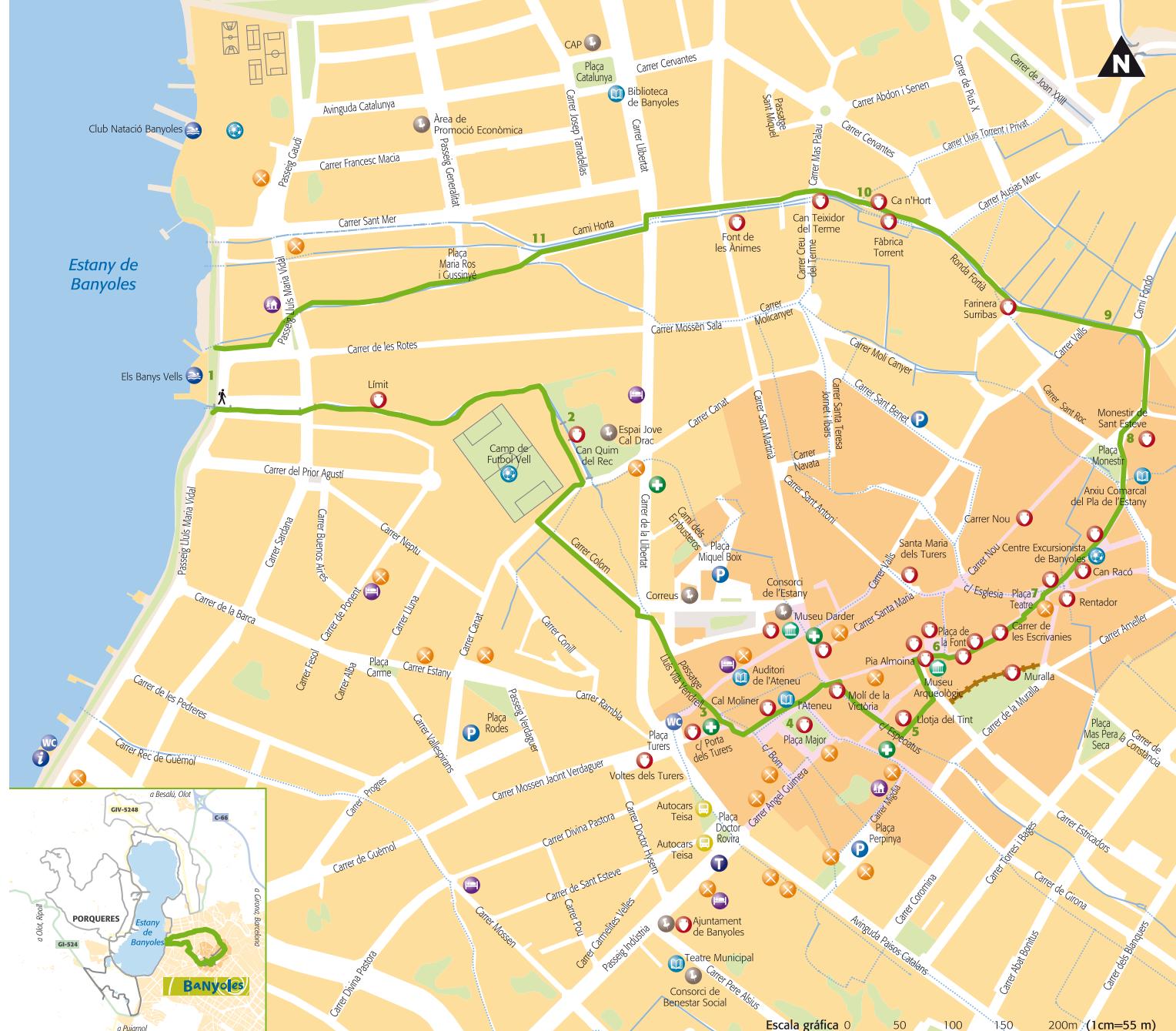
Continuing along Carrer Major, just a few meters from Plaça Major we reach a narrow passage that leads us to the Victòria mill. Although visits are not allowed in there, you can hear the sound of water from Rec Major in this spot.

We continue the tour walking down the stairs, which will lead us to Carrer Sant Pere, where we find the Llotja del Tint (15th century). This is a gothic civil building that was used to dye fabrics taking advantage of the water from the canal. Today, it serves as the municipal exhibition centre.

Horari: Friday from 18:00 to 21:00

Saturdays from 11:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 21:00 h

Sundays from 11:00 to 14:00 h



Tourist Office

Architectural heritage

Museum

Hotel/Inn

Youth Hostel

Restaurant

Cultural equipment

Sports equipment

Useful addresses

Parking

Pharmacy

Bus stop

Taxis

Public toilets

Swimming area

Start of the itinerary

Old town centre

Pedestrianised streets

Water canals discovered

Water canals covered

Escala gràfica 0 50 100 150 200m (1cm=55 m)

6. Plaça de la Font (0 h 27 min)

Following our itinerary, we reach the Plaça de la Font, of medieval origin, which was the main square of the village for many years.

At this point we can also see the building of the Pia Almoina (12th – 14th centuries), a gothic palace that once housed a charitable institution dedicated to handing out bread and clothing to the town's poor families. At the beginning of the 14th century, the building housed the City Council. At present, it is home to the Regional Archaeological Museum of Banyoles.

Opening hours: From 1 September until 30 June

Tuesday to Saturday, from 10:30 to 13:30 and from 16:00 to 18:30. Sunday, from 10:30 to 14:00. Closed on Mondays.

From 1 July to 31 August

Tuesday to Saturday, from 10:30 to 13:30 and from 16:00 to 19:30. Sunday, from 10:30 to 14:00. Closed on Mondays.

Consult on the Museum for special dates and midweek holidays.

Entry: 3 € / person (joint entry for the Archaeological Museum and Darder Museum)

7. Plaça del Teatre (0 h 33 min)

Walking down Carrer Escrivanies we reach Plaça del Teatre, one of the oldest squares in the village. Again, we can observe the main canal flowing through the square, in a corner a little hidden from view, and a very well preserved public washhouse, covered in this case.

The route follows along Carrer del Puig, where we find Can Racó (13th – 18th centuries), now home to the Centre Excursionista de Banyoles. This building was formerly composed of two houses: Can Rodeja (13th century) and Can Racó (14th century). Notice that, on the main façade, the door with a semi-circular arch with voussoirs has been cut by a diminished arch. Equally interesting is the large linteled window above.

8. Sant Esteve Monastery (0 h 36 min)

Following Carrer del Puig we soon come to Plaça del Monestir, where we can observe a stretch of the Figuera d'en Xo canal. In front of it, there is the Sant Esteve monastery, foundational place of the village, built by Benedictine monks (11th – 18th centuries).

Inside we find the gothic altarpiece of Nostra Senyora de l'Escala (15th century) and the Arqueta de Sant Martíria (Chest of Saint Martíria) (15th century), the city's patron saint.

At present, the first floor of the cloister houses the Arxiu Comarcal (Regional Archive) of Pla de l'Estany.

9. The vegetable gardens (0 h 40 min)

The village of Banyoles is closely linked to the land. Firstly, for the incomparable natural space of the lake basin, and secondly, for the important irrigated region situated behind the monastery, supplied with water through the framework of canals that characterises the village.

The irrigated region, the circulating water, the travertine, the fruit trees, and the Monastery's silhouette result in a singular landscape that recalls the village's surrounding area of centuries ago.

The fresh products from the gardens have always been accessible to everyone through the markets, and some well-known products sprang out, such as the garlic from Banyoles.

10. Rec de Ca n'Hort and Can Teixidor (0 h 45 min)

Following our route we observe how the canals Rec de Ca n'Hort and Can Teixidor converge.

Afterwards we find the roadside cross, the old cross that delimited the separation between the village (nucleus enclosed within the walls) and the municipal district (part outside the walls where farmers used to live).

Some steps further we see a legendary fountain, Font de les Ànimes (end of the 18th century), that gets its name from its proximity with the old cemetery.

The canals that we have seen along this last stretch of the route used to travel through the outer parts of the village and carried the water to Mas Hort and Mas Teixidor.

11. Camí de l'Horta and Cal General (0 h 50 min)

We continue the route heading to the Estany, following the canals of Ca n'Hort and Can Teixidor, and passing by Cal General. After arriving in the Draga school, we walk through the promenade that runs along the canal of Figuera d'en Xo, where we can observe the corresponding washhouses, along which we arrive in the promenade Lluís Marià Vidal and the Estany.



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Banyoles

una volta a l'estany

route along the water canals

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ITINERARIES THROUGH NATURAL SPACES