

HERITAGE TRAIL

“Tasting The Landscape: From The Dinosaurs to The Glass”

Introduction

On this walk, you will discover the origins of a historic quarry hidden in the landscape - an environment that reveals the ingenuity and craftsmanship of past inhabitants who extracted essential tools, such as millstones, to process local products like wheat and olives into flour and oil.

In a landscape as inhospitable as it is fascinating, geology takes center stage, revealing how millions of years of Earth's history transformed a former seabed - a basin where seas and rivers appeared and vanished - into rock formations born from sand, stones, and countless animals. Today, these formations spark the imagination with a lunar-like appearance and shapes and colors reminiscent of surrealist paintings.

This calcareous and characteristically dry land also allows us to appreciate the richness of aromatic plants, which demonstrate how Mediterranean vegetation has adapted to extreme conditions and developed its well-known ability to produce the aromas that symbolize local gastronomy. These aromas are present in wines, honeys, oils, and nuts and can be experienced during a tasting at a local winery or in restaurants in the area.

What you'll discover

- **Oxidated Stones:** Outcrop of colored rocks formed by chemical processes. (Optional)
- **Old Quarry Mill Wheels (Clot de Les Moles):** Historic quarry showing stone-to-millstone transformation process.
- **Alveolar Erosions:** Rounded rock formations caused by physical and chemical processes. (optional)
- **Moon Landscape:** Lunar-like terrain shaped by millions of years of erosion revealing an ancient history of a coast bathed by a tropical sea at the end of the Cretaceous.
- **Aromatic Plants:** Mediterranean herbs including rosemary, thyme, and lavender used in traditional cuisine.
- **Panoramic View from Nerets Range (Mirador de la Serra dels Nerets):** viewpoint over Tremp Basin and Pyrenees. (optional)
- **Almond Crops:** Traditional Mediterranean plantations with seasonal blooms. (optional)

- **Suterranya:** Wall with agricultural tools. (optional)
- **Terrer del Pallars Vineyards:** Local winery producing Pyrenean wines. (optional)
- **Cal Jou Restaurant:** Traditional cuisine featuring local Pallars products. (optional)

Heritage stories

Story 1 “Stones That Fed Pallars”



An ancient quarry, located in a hidden and difficult-to-access -place, offers the perfect opportunity to understand how humankind has used ingenuity and knowledge to transform hard rocks into perfect milestones.

The geological history of the area has allowed it to transform from sand originating from tropical beaches at the end of the Cretaceous period, some 70 million years ago, into a hard, abrasive

rock like the sandstone that forms the Nerets mountain range, ideal for making millstones. The quarry reveals to us, like stepped images frozen in time, the entire transformation process from the natural parent rock to the final product ready for transport: a millstone.

And at the same time, it allows us to imagine a traditional Mediterranean landscape from just a few decades ago, among dry mountains, now long gone, where cereal and olive crops required mills and - therefore, the cut stones to turn essential crops into basic consumer products such as flour and olive oil.

Take this trail to find out more about the quarry and its story.

Story 2 “An Ancient Tropical Coast, Where the Earth Became a Moon Landscape”



The Trempe Basin is an extraordinary place for lovers of geology in all its forms, including the sandy rocks of the Serra dels Nerets. In just a few kilometers on foot, we can observe many traces of geological history and interpret an ancient coastline from the late Cretaceous period, where dinosaurs lived, some 70 million years ago, when the Pyrenean Sea was slowly retreating westward from the Trempe Basin, during the uplift of the Pyrenees Mountain ranges.

On this tour, we will witness how this arid, winding landscape is actually a snapshot of ancient times, when a prehistoric ocean shifted, and rivers and lakes appeared and disappeared. Rocks and fossils here tell the story of prehistoric eras. It is a lunar landscape shaped by recent erosion, where water has worn down softer materials, creating striking natural formations that resemble works by Gaudí or Dalí. Here, Nature’s brushstrokes have painted stunning color palettes on stone - from yellows and ochres to intense reds where iron minerals have oxidized over time. Wind and water have delicately carved rock walls into rounded, honeycomb-like formations called alveolar erosions, leaving behind an artistic mark like no other.

This is a walk full of subtle wonders - from the vast, lunar landscape to the small, human-scale details of the varied sands beneath our feet, the rainbow of oxidized stones, and the intricate patterns carved by millennia of erosion.

Take this trail to visit the Trempe Basin and immerse yourself in the magical landscape that surrounds you.

Story 3 “Mediterranean Scents That Shape Our Cuisine”



Pallar’s comarcas and more specifically the plain and limestone areas are a paradise for herb lovers thanks to their countless traditional and contemporary uses in gastronomy, as well as in cosmetic, medicinal, symbolic, and spiritual applications.

Along the way, there are countless examples of the most well-known Mediterranean plants, such as rosemary, thyme, savory, lavender, santolina, etc.,

as well as others more specific to the area, such as rock tea and different varieties of rue.

Their presence is not accidental: it reflects the plants’ excellent adaptation to an extreme climate - one that is also similar to many other plants cultivated today, such as vine, almond and olive. These, in turn, shape the products typical of the region: wines and liqueurs, nuts, oils, honey and plant derivatives, which can be tasted in wineries or restaurants.

Visit Pallar’s comarcas and explore the gems of this trail.

Why this trail matters

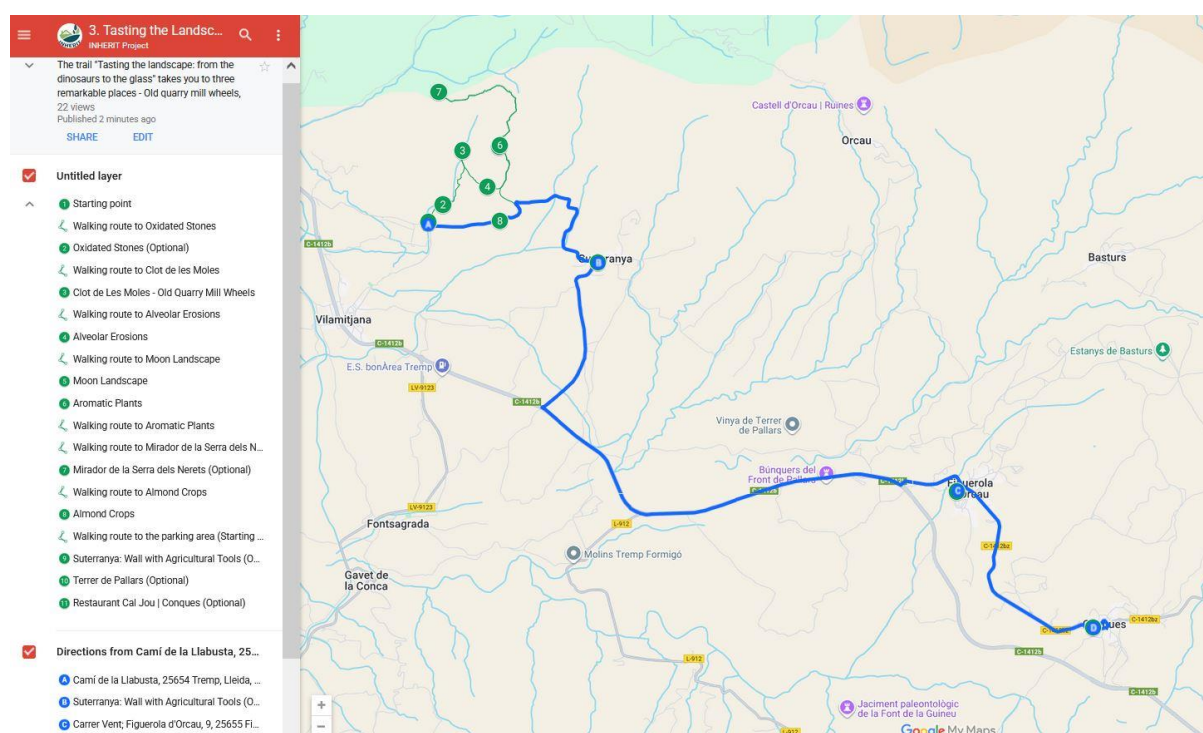
This trail helps travelers to:

- Discover a historic quarry that reveals the effort involved in extracting stone and transforming it into basic tools used for food processing.
- Understand the importance of collective work and the sharing of local knowledge on land that sustained the well-being of the community.
- Explore, within a geopark, the direct connection between geology and gastronomy through the creation of specific tools shaped by the landscape.
- Appreciate the rich diversity of aromatic plants in the area and understand their relationship with the sedimentary rocks and their role in both local and Mediterranean gastronomy.
- Enjoy original or transformed products typical of the Pallar’s region and the Mediterranean - such as wine, almonds, and honey - and learn how they are produced and how they connect to the local landscape and geology.

- Observe small and large-scale geological features that illustrate the area's diversity and understand how climate and the passage of time over millions of years have shaped the Pallar's landscape into forms that evoke distant, lunar-like places.

Trail map

This heritage route through the Nerets range (Sierra de Neret) reveals stunning geology, from dinosaur-era landscapes to human-carved quarries. Discover moonlike terrain, wind-sculpted rock, vibrant earth colors, and Mediterranean flora. The journey ends with local flavors in a wine cellar or restaurant—truly savoring the land in every sense.



Link to the map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1rCVcynY09C807FmFwARHHbLpi7sMu-4&usp=sharing>

Starting and final point	Starting and final point https://maps.app.goo.gl/asALE6B2xNr5891U7
Stop 1	Oxidated Stones https://maps.app.goo.gl/xywU9xJkrkif4f7K6
Stop 2	Old Quarry Mill Wheels (Clot de les moles) https://maps.app.goo.gl/7ggC941QStzLSceY7
Stop 3	Alveolar Erosions

	https://maps.app.goo.gl/vGkUNTdnS1UxoU5T6
Stop 4	Moon Landscape https://maps.app.goo.gl/G8wd612VZEsBZ8Bg9
Stop 5	Aromatic Plants https://maps.app.goo.gl/vWomnH4DJhov9yfJ8
Stop 6	Panoramic View from Nerets Mountains (Serra dels Nerets) https://maps.app.goo.gl/AqEyqB5aBVzkDfpU6
Stop 7	Almond Crops https://maps.app.goo.gl/DEEjTPGBhGpDtH4u6
Stop 8	Suterranya: Wall with Agricultural Tools https://maps.app.goo.gl/LEDkRyDBWfRXtgeUA
Stop 9	Terrer del Pallars Vineyards https://maps.app.goo.gl/KKQd9fhHXqR9XcbQ7
Stop 10	Cal Jou Restaurant https://maps.app.goo.gl/cb8HpLRTq8Lhz4wW8

Trail details

- Length (km):
 - 6,79 Km
 - Possibility to shorten the route to 3,5 km avoiding the top point
- Level of difficulty:
 - Low or Medium - 336 m slope
- Duration:
 - 2-4 hours
- Getting there:
 - Public transport to Tremp
 - Taxi or private car or walking to the place
- Clothing:
 - Comfortable hiking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing for outdoor exploration
 - Recommended hat and sunscreen

- Tools needed:
 - Camera for capturing tile discoveries
 - Map or GPS for navigating the journey
 - Binoculars
 - Magnifying glass
 - Nature and geology field guides
- Safety guidelines:
 - Sloping and unstable terrain
 - Hot and dry area on a rocky surface all the time
- Guiding:
 - Guided tour (optional)
 - Self-guided (on your own)
- Contacts for more details:
 - Naturalwalks
www.naturalwalks.com
+34 662 251 059
info@naturalwalks.com
 - Ajuntament de Tremp
www.ajuntamentdetremp.cat
+34 973650005 ext. 344
promocioeconomica@tremp.cat, lfiguera@tremp.cat
 - Consell Comarcal del Pallars Jussà. Epicentre centre de visitants del Geoparc Orígens
+34 973 635 470 / 693 100 336
Pg del Vall 13, 25620 Tremp
epicentre@pallarsjussa.cat
 - Eureka SGN
www.eurekasgn.com
+34 621 095 834

info@eurekasgn.com

- Vineyards Terré de Pallars, Celler Vilacorona
+34 616 70 10 80
nuria@terrerdepallars.com
- Restaurant: Cal Jou
www.caljou.com
+34 676 36 80 08
info@caljou.com

Quests / Chances to be creative

Quest 1 “Tasting The Landscape: From The Dinosaurs to The Glass”

Mission Overview

This walk invites travelers to immerse themselves in the essence of the territory: its unique geology, which shapes the character of the natural area—Geopark Origenes—where they can discover the connection between the local geology, the aromas of the landscape, and the culinary traditions expressed through wine.



Success Criteria

Experience firsthand how geology serves as a common thread connecting elements of local Mediterranean culture through the senses of smell (the aromas from aromatic plants native to the territory) and taste, particularly through the wine produced in the region.

Quest Questions

- What aromatic plants have you been able to recognize along your walk?
- What relationships do you see between the geology of this area and the production of aromatic products, such as wine, honey, or cheese?
- Can you associate this type of limestone terrain with the presence of fossils, and if so, why? Do you think it can influence the characteristics of local wines?

Final thoughts

It is important that visitors can experience different levels of interaction with the territory, helping to explain the complexity of the relationships between nature and culture throughout history.

In this case, the connection is evident between elements separated by extreme spans of time: the millions of years revealed by geology, the thousands of years of plant adaptation to the territory, and the co-evolution of agriculture with the Mediterranean climate, for example, through vine species imported from Georgia just over 2000 years ago. All these elements are linked, helping us understand the culture of wine and many crops associated with the Mediterranean, such as almond trees, hazelnut trees, stone pine groves, etc.

Disclaimer:

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