

**Distance**  
1,6 Km.

**Duration**  
1 hour  
(not including stops)

**Difficulty**  
low

This itinerary starts at the Tourist Office in the Plaça Major, carrying along Carrer de Girona and then Carrer de Sant Pere, home to the Llotja del Tint. The route then heads down Carrer de la Pia Almoina, before finally arriving at the Plaça de la Font and Pia Almoina Palace, home to the Regional Archaeological Museum. Next, you will continue along Carrer de las Escrivanies, Plaça del Teatre and Carrer del Puig, ending up at the Sant Esteve Monastery, the origin of the city. The itinerary then moves along Carrer Nou, one of the city's oldest streets, right to the Church of Santa Maria dels Turers, before passing along Carrer Paraireia, dedicated to cloth trading and moving up Carrer Mayor. Arriving at Carrer Mercadal turn right until you reach the Museo Darder - Espai d'Interpretació de l'Estany, where the itinerary comes to an end.

#### 1. The Plaça Major (0h 00min)

Here we find the city's Tourist Office, located in the old Cal Moliner building, which dates back to the 13th century. This building's renovation has unveiled an old mill, which made the most of the water flowing through the city. The Plaça Major (Main Square) is nowadays Banyoles' most important square, as well as the most typical. It has a straight, noticeably square shape, is adorned with plane trees and surrounded by 40 large arcades. The square is home to the city market every Wednesday and, on Saturdays, there is also a small fruit and vegetable market. The historical area of the Plaça Major is protected by the Generalitat de Catalunya as a Cultural Property of National Interest.



#### 2. The Llotja del Tint (0h 05min)

This is one of the very few medieval Catalan factories that still retains its original structure. A gothic civil building from the 15th century, it was used to dye the clothing and woollen fabrics made in Banyoles. To do so, it made the most of the Rec Major (Main Canal), which passed by and provided water for the dyeing process. Today, it serves as the municipal exhibition centre.

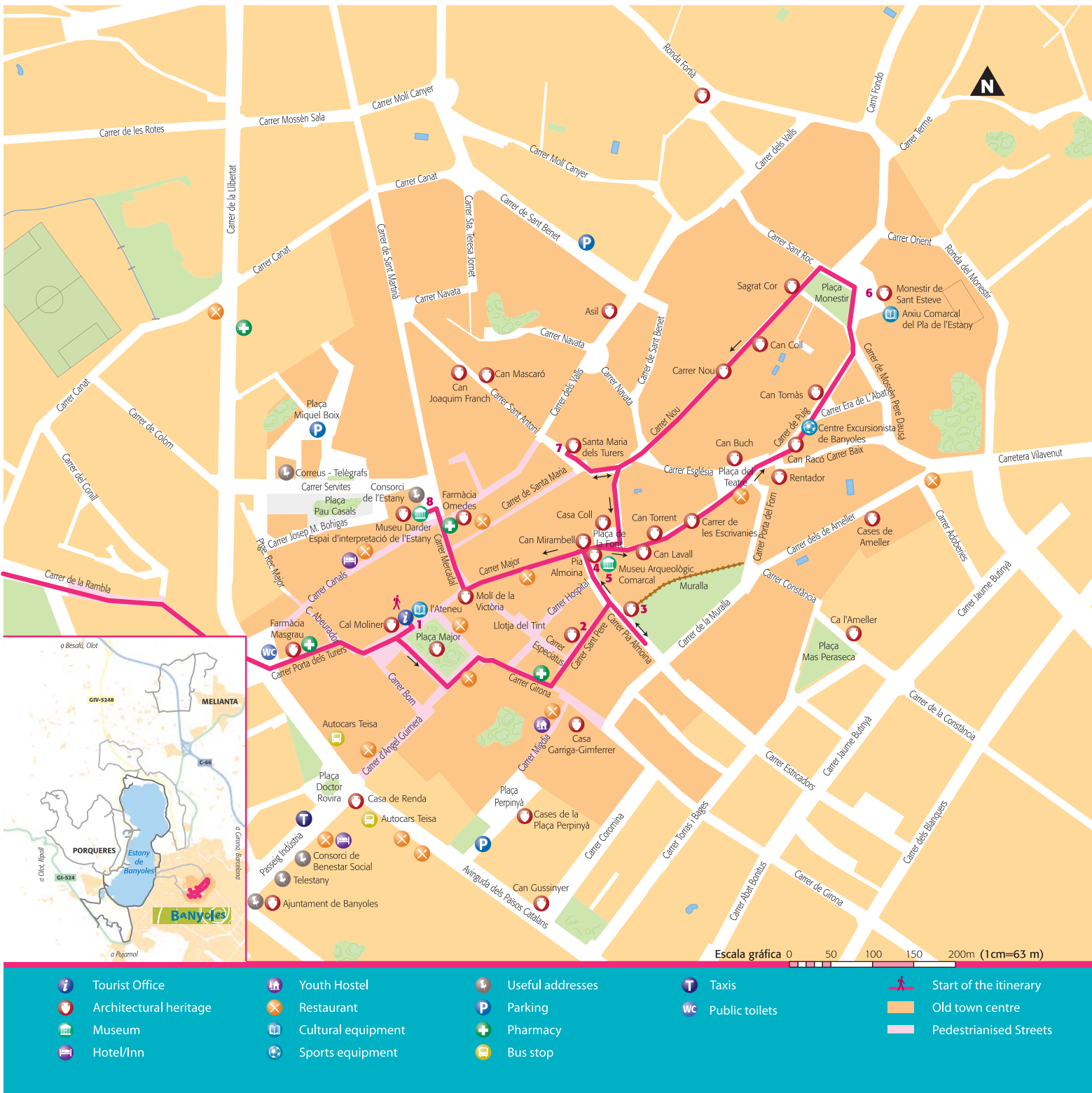
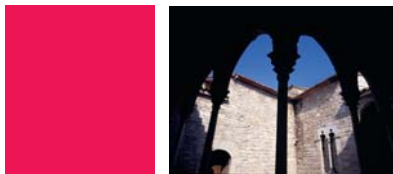
**Opening hours.** Tuesday to Sunday from 18:00 to 20:00. Holidays from 18:00 to 20:00. Closed on Mondays. Free entry.

#### 3. The Muralla (0 h 10 min)

The only section of wall that once contained Banyoles is that which has been recently reformed, running parallel to Carrer de la Muralla. On both ends it is finished off with two gazebos, gothic in style, with a hexagonal base and a dome topped off with six finials. The area lasted from the 13th to the 18th century.

#### 4. The Pia Almoina (0 h 20 min)

This gothic palace once housed a charitable institution dedicated to handing out bread and clothing to the town's poor families. The building itself was created from two Romanesque houses (13th century). The building is currently home to the Regional Archaeological Museum, as well as the Centre for Regional Studies.



#### 5. Regional Archaeological Museum (0h 20min)

The Regional Archaeological Museum has extremely interesting exhibitions on palaeontology, archaeology and currency, all coming from the entire Pla de l'Estany region. Of particular interest are the Inarcal Archaeological Site, the Palaeolithic Caves in Serinyà, the Neolithic Village of la Draga, the Martís Calcolithic Burial Caves, the Iberian Village of Mas Castell de Porqueres, the Roman Village of Vilalba, the Ermedàs Medieval Castle and the collection of Catalan pottery from the 13th to 19th centuries. The Museum's star piece is the Neanderthal Banyoles jawbone, dating back some 45,000 years.

**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 (except holidays).

**Opening hours.** From 1 July until 31 August: Tuesday to Saturday: from 10:30 to 13:30, and from 16:00 to 1p:30. Sunday: from 10:30 to 14:00. Closed on Mondays (except holidays)

**Entry:** €3/person (joint entry for both museums).

#### 6. Sant Esteve Monastery (0 h 35 min)

This is the area on which the city was initially founded. The entire built area has gone through various phases of destruction and reconstruction throughout its history. Due to this, there are highly diverse remains from various periods. Of note are the Nostra Senyora de l'Escala altarpiece (15th century) and the Arqueta de Sant Martírià (Chest of Saint Martírià) (15th century), the city's patron saint.

The first floor of the cloister currently houses the Arxiu Comarcal (Regional Archive) of Pla de l'Estany.

**Opening hours:** only open when mass is being said (Saturdays at 18:00 and Sundays and holidays at 09:00).



#### 7. Church of Santa Maria dels Turers (0 h 45 min)

This is a gothic church with a basilica layout. Made up of the original centre aisle, eleven metres wide, and topped off by a heptagonal apse resting on large buttresses. This part is one of the first examples of Catalan gothic architecture in the area. At a later date, between the 17th and 19th centuries, the two side aisles were added. The stained glass windows are more recent, dating back to the mid-20th century.

**Opening hours:** From Monday to Sunday, from 09:00 to 20:30. Free entry.

#### 8. Museu Darder - Espai d'Interpretació de l'Estany (0 h 55 min)

This new facility was designed to interpret, explain and provide information on the various characteristics of the lakeside area of Banyoles. The museum's various rooms explain hydro-geology, regional flora and fauna, and the impact of human life on these areas. Also on show is the Darder Collection, which displays various natural species and allows the visitor to see and understand the role placed by natural history museums from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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