

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, as well as to observe the Limit, a triangular construction that once regulated the water flow.

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

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.



plaça Major



We continue the route along Carrer Colom, at the end of which we will find the junction. At this point, take the zebra crossing and continue along Carrer Llibertat, one of the city's main thoroughfares, which takes you to the historic centre, where you'll re-join the Rec Major on the surface.

3. 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 voussoirs.

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. (except public holidays)

If you like, before following the signposted route, you can take a detour along carrer Mercadal to the Plaça dels Estudis. Here you'll find the Darder Museum which, in addition to housing the natural history collections, has a part devoted to describing the hydrogeological phenomenon of the Lake Banyoles basin, and provides further information on the canals ([www.museusdebanyoles.cat](http://www.museusdebanyoles.cat))

4. El Molí de la Victòria (0 h 23 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, when you reach this point, you can follow the signposted route in the direction of la Llotja del Tint (point 5)

You also have the possibility of leaving the route briefly to follow a branch of the canal and detour towards Carrer Muralla, on a section known as the mill canals, where there are several recently-reinstated cascades associated with the large factories that made up this street.

Following the rec Major downstream, before it flows into the Terri River, you'll come to **the Farga d'Aram forge and the Escatllar paper mill**, a building constructed in 1685 to work copper using the power of the Rec Major water, and which was expanded during the 19th century with a paper mill. The two activities coexisted until it closed in the mid- 20th century. It is one of the most important representatives of the manufacturing industry at Pla de l'Estany. Today, the Paperers Sasters company produces handcrafted paper and company produces handcrafted paper and provides activities for the dissemination of this trade.

MOLÍ PAPERER DE LA FARGA  
Ed. de la Farga d'Aram/Molí Escatllar - c/ Concòrda de les aigües de l'Estany - [molilafarga.wordpress.com](http://molilafarga.wordpress.com)  
Per informació i reserves al 653 447 147 o [molipaperer](mailto:molipaperer)





5. Llotja del Tint (0 h 25min)

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

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 (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Banyoles Archaeological Museum, whose regional collections include exhibits encompassing palaeontological specimens to artefacts from medieval times, and the Banyoles Centre for Regional Studies. Further information at [www.museusdebanyoles.cat](http://www.museusdebanyoles.cat)

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 (13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), now home to the Centre Excursionista de Banyoles. This building was formerly composed of two houses: Can Rodeja (13th century) and Can Racó (14<sup>th</sup> 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 (11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries). Inside we find the gothic altarpiece of Nostra Senyora de l'Escala (15th century) and the Arqueta de Sant Martírià (Chest of Saint Martírià) (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.



**Oficina de Turisme de Banyoles**  
Pg. Darder - **Pesquera núm 10**  
17820 Banyoles  
**Tel 972 583 470**  
**[turisme@ajbanyoles.org](mailto:turisme@ajbanyoles.org)**  
[www.banyoles.cat/turisme](http://www.banyoles.cat/turisme)  
Turisme Banyoles    

**Consorci de l'Estany**  
**Tel. 972 576 495**  
**[consorci@consorcidelestany.org](mailto:consorci@consorcidelestany.org)**  
[www.estanyespainatural.net](http://www.estanyespainatural.net)



Primera edició 2013. reeditó gener 2018  
Disseny Martírià Pagés - Cartografia SITGE - Gonzalo Pires - Impressió Lith Gràfiques SL  
Fotografies David Extremera, Lúlia Anglada, Martíbell Pujo, Harold Abellan, Joan Anton Abellan  
Agraïments Sastres Paperers i Joan Anton Abellan

route along the water canals

4



una volta a l'estany

ITINERARIES THROUGH NATURAL SPACES