
How to get there

How to get there: From the Estany de Banyoles Tourist Office head towards the Municipal Football Stadium, the starting point for this itinerary. From here, head left along Passeig Dalmau, turning right before arriving at La Puda.

1. La Puda (0h 15min)

This spot's name did not come about by pure chance. The water from the Font Pudosa fountain gives off a strong, unique smell originating from high levels of hydrosulphuric gases (pudor means "strong smell"). However, at the same time, it has restorative properties, and for this reason a spa was built in the mid-19th century, which has subsequently been abandoned.

Follow the marked route and, after the bridge, turn right along the path that passes by the reeds. The itinerary will then lead you to three very peculiar ponds.

2. Estanyol de la Cendra (0h 20 min)

This is a clear example of a pond formed by carstic ground collapse. The water's ashy nature, which gives the pond its name, is due to sediments on the bottom of the pond, which remain suspended due to the inflow of underground water.

The wooden platform will take you on to the Montalt lakes. Once the gate has been passed (which you should close behind you), turn to the right. This section contains various species of vegetation characteristic of the woods and riverside forests.



3. Estanyols d'en Montalt (0h 25 min)

From the viewpoint at the Estanyol Gran d'en Montalt you can see a large area of marshland, as well as an aviary used for the re-introduction of storks to the area. Before leaving this area, on the right you can see the Estanyol Petit d'en Montalt, a pond hidden between the indigenous wattles.

The path then takes you on to the Mieres road, which you should cross, with the Estunes area lying just a few metres ahead.

4. Les Estunes (0h.30min)

This is a woody area, filled with extremely tall oak and holm oak trees. From here you can see large travertine plates, with cracks and fissures that have to be carefully climbed over or, if you wish, entered into. Travertine is a material typical of lakeside areas, and is still formed nowadays within the Estany de Banyoles.

According to legend, these caves are home to the fairies of the Estany de Banyoles.

Go back to the road and walk to the left, along its side, towards Mieres. When you can see the Riera del Vilar stream, turn right towards the Estany de Banyoles.

5. El Vilar (0h 45min)

You will arrive at the Estanyol del Vilar, the largest and closest of all the ponds surrounding the lake. In mid-August a fishing contest is held here, which has been running for almost one hundred years. At the lakeside is the Font del Vilar fountain.

Follow the route towards Banyoles, with the Estany de Banyoles on your left. It is also possible to follow a botanical route, with the names of the most interesting species clearly marked.

6. Els Desmais (0h 50min)

Now you come to the Els Desmaís area, which gets its name from the trees which it contains, the weeping willows. Although these trees are not indigenous to the area, this has become a symbolic spot on the Estany de Banyoles. Here you will find two fountains: the Font de la Filosa, in honour of the Les Estunes fairies, and the Font del Ferro.

7. Historical Garden (0h 55min)

Return to the plane tree-lined path close to the Estany de Banyoles which, along with the fishing houses (Pesqueres), has been named by the Generalitat de Catalunya as a Cultural Property of Natural Interest within the Historical Garden category

