



5

camí vell des barranc

The route, which runs along part of the GR 221, begins in the Plaça in Biniaraix, next to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. From here, you continue up Carrer de Sant Josep. At the end of it you will find the stately homes of Cas Son, and just past the corner of these buildings, the wash houses supplied with water from the Font de la Mare de Déu.

On your left, ignore the old Monnàber road and follow the earth paved route towards the ravine, which is framed by Morro de ses Solanes and Es Cornadors.

You will immediately reach a crossroads. On the left is the path that leads to the olive groves of Cas Don, but continue along the Camí des Barranc path. You pass the stream before beginning the climb up the very steep path.

Walk past the spout of the Font des Patró Lau, then ignore a path on the right that goes to the olive groves of Can Fenasset and keep going until you head off the GR 221 along the Camí Vell, which will appear to your right. This path runs through terraces and rocky areas, enabling you to reach Coll d'en Se. This is the point where your descent begins, and which leads you to the Torrent de l'Ofre, whose course forms a small pool, a few metres before reconnecting with the GR 221.

Now turn to your left in the direction of Biniaraix. Westwards is the estate of Can Catí, with its terraced grove, and to the right are the houses of Can Silles,

before them you will find the fountain supplied by water from the Font des Verger, the end destination of the diversion which also appears on the right. However, keep descending in order to cross the Torrent des Verger across a ford with stepping stones and a wooden bridge. You will then reach S'Estret where the crags, path and stream meet. You go over a little stone bridge, then the channel of the Font des Verger will run alongside your route. It was recently recovered and is only used to carry excess water.

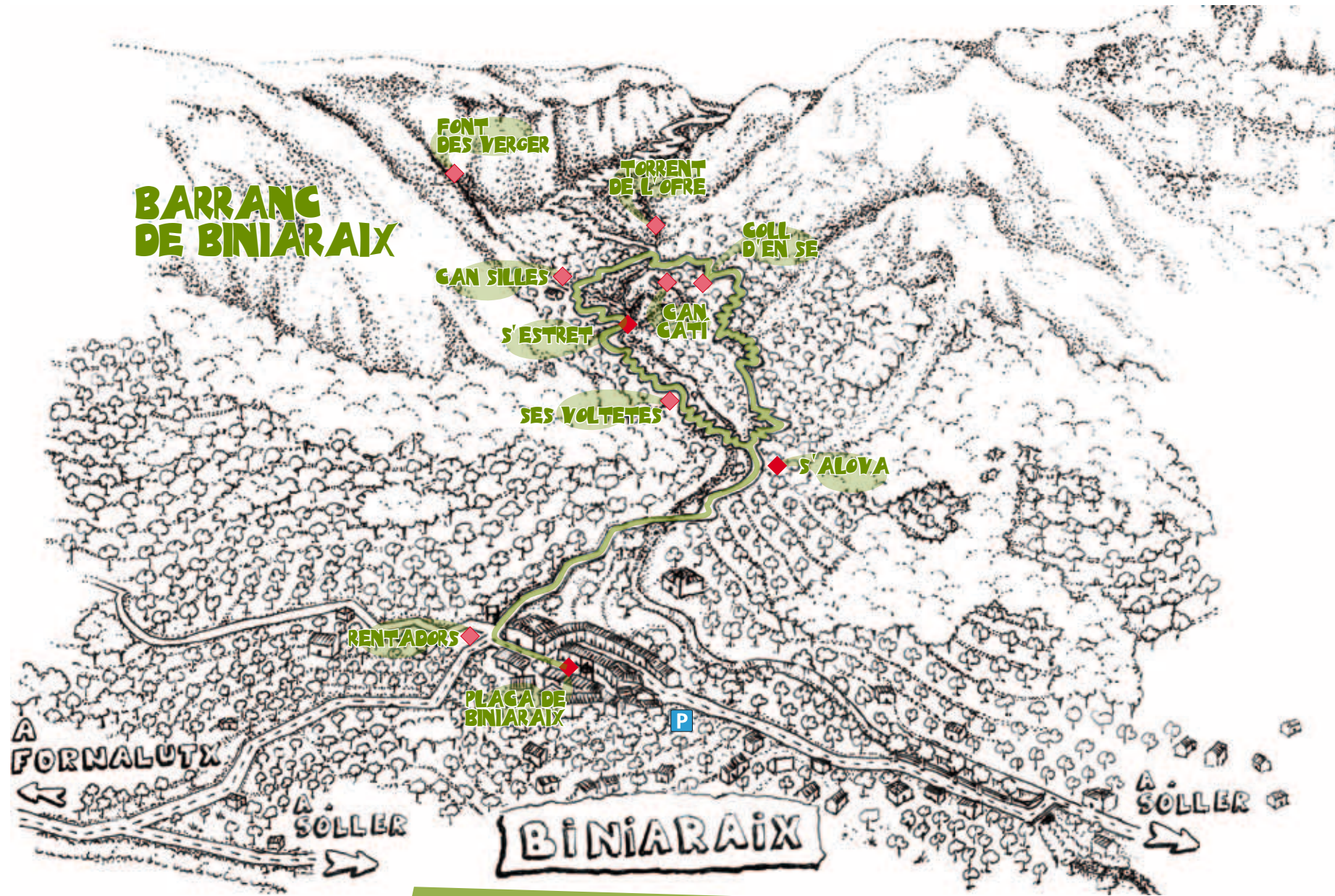
Further on, the paved path negotiates the drop thanks to some spectacular bends known as Ses Voltetes, which will once again take you across the bed of the stream and soon afterwards you will once again come onto the route that you came up via, and you can continue along it in the opposite direction until you end up in Biniaraix.



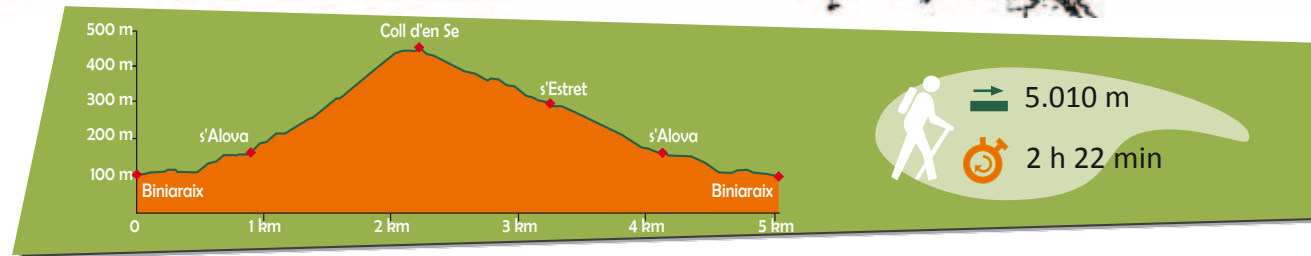
THE BEST FARMSTEAD



The village of Biniaraix, with around one hundred inhabitants, is located in a privileged area, surrounded by fountains and fertile land, characteristics that were valued by the re-settlers soon after they seized the islands from the Muslims in the 13th century.

This land was given to a group of knights and to the bishop of Gerona. The latter, before finding out which part he had received, decided to give his nephew the best farmstead that would have been his in the valley of Sóller. This was Biniaraix, land which was then home to orchards and olive groves, as well as vineyards and uncultivated land, among which new settlers put down roots and built the houses which now comprise the town centre.



BARRANC DE BINIARAIX



 → 5.010 m
 2 h 22 min





Start / End: Biniaraix, Plaça de la Concepció (98 m)

Distance: 5.010 m

Time required: 2 h 22 min

Difficulty: low

Net increase in altitude: 421 m

Net decrease in altitude: 421 m

Not suitable for: children under the age of 3, prams for children, wheelchairs

5 Camí Vell des Barranc

THE ROUTE OF THE PILGRIMS

The coalmen, muleteers, peasants and above all pilgrims were the main users of the Camí des Barranc de Biniaraix. The Virgen de Lluc and the hope of a miracle or thankfulness for a favour, were more than enough reason to climb this rough and steep path. It was also necessary to confront the dangers of snowfall in winter and bandits throughout the year.

Aware of its importance, the civic authorities made a real effort to keep it suitable for travel; in 1400 the governor ordered pilgrims not to destroy bridges or the path, and threatened them with financial penalties, or in the case of the slaves, with floggings. The church also contributed to maintenance, and thirty years afterwards, the bishop offered forty days of religious pardon to worshippers who contributed to its improvement. Although many years have now passed, it is still a tradition for the local people of Sóller, along with those of outside towns, to climb up to the foot of the Lluc sanctuary once a year.

