

La Sierra de La Solana, a natural wall facing north to south, has two very distinct sides. The east side is characterized by being more austere and dry while the west side has more humidity and vegetation. Both sides of the Sierra allow for numerous species of animals and a rich multi-color vegetation to coexist.

The route along La Solana will provide us with spectacular views that range from Montgó to the Sierra de Oltà, as well as the Mediterranean Sea and the Penyal d'Ifach. Ascending to the top of La Solana, we see some of the towns that make up the "Vall del Pop." These towns, such as Llíber, Senija, and Xaló, still preserve the charm and customs of the past.

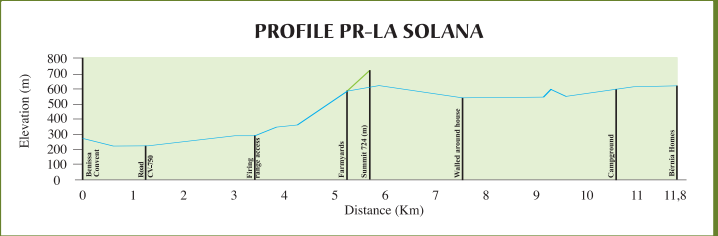
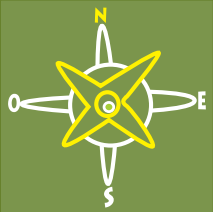
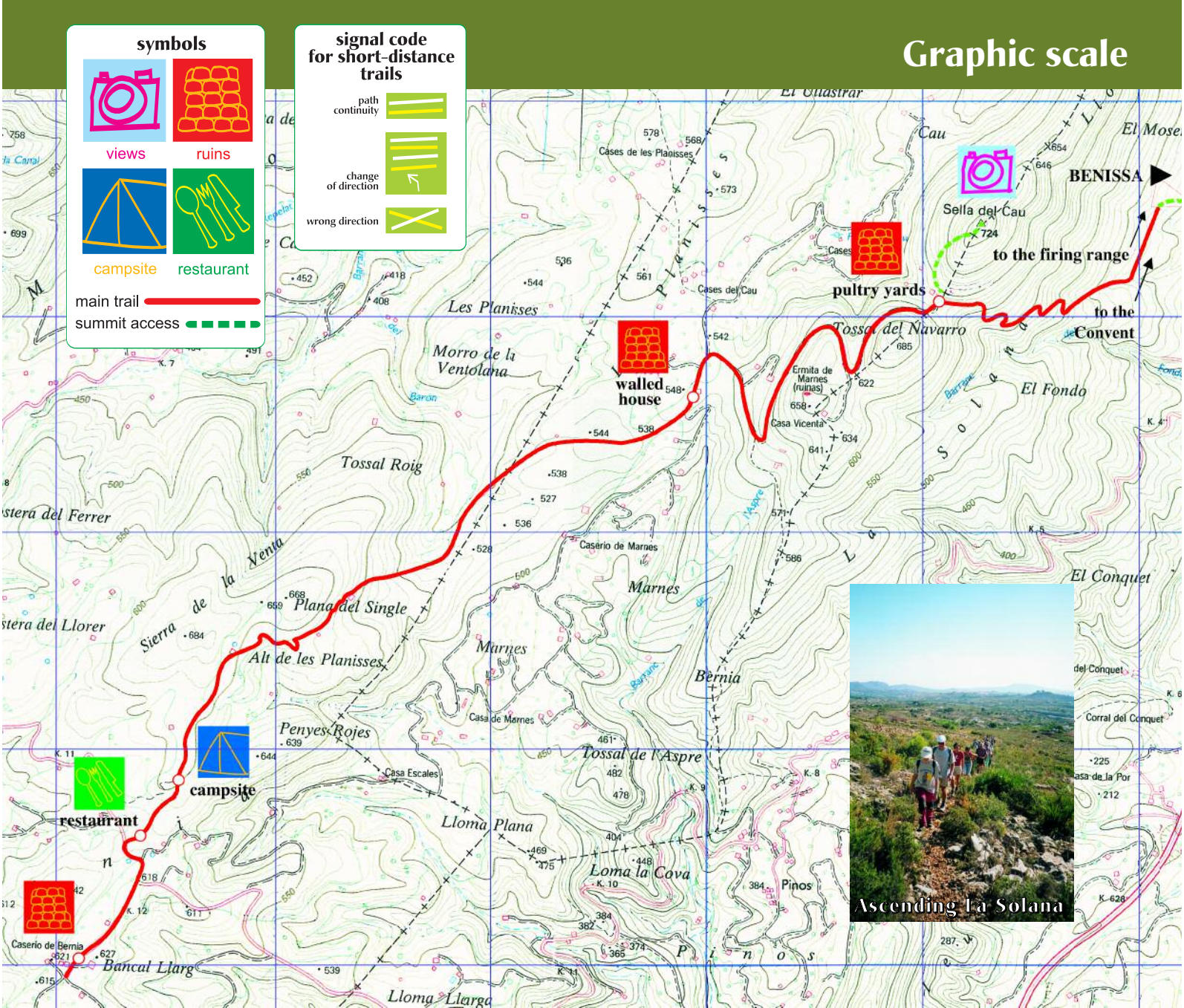
**Name of the route:** Path PR-La Solana (from Benissa to Bèrnia)  
**Length:** Three hours (1 hour more if leaving from the heart of Benissa)  
**Total Km:** 12 km.  
**Degree of difficulty:** Medium  
**Ways to embark on the route:** by foot or by horse

## ? description

Choosing any one of the two paths mentioned before, it is possible to make a round-trip along the same path or leave the vehicle at the point of departure or another at the end of the route. This is due to the fact that at the end of this route, the Serra de Bèrnia can be found. Also, there is an interesting option of camping within the municipal area of Xaló and following the PRV-7 Serra de Bèrnia path.

The four olive trees and small ruin are the point of departure. Facing La Solana mountain, we begin the route along a path to our left. We will go along some cultivated lands that are in front of a stone house and at about 100 mts., we will arrive at a path in which there is an electric post to the right. We will follow the path for some meters until reaching a path on the left. We will follow this path during the ascent.

This stretch of the ascent is the hardest. During this part, we can see the vegetation. Depending on the season, it is possible to savour the smells coming from the diverse aromatic plants. The route along La Solana provides spectacular views that range from Montgó to the Sierra de Oltà, as well as the Mediterranean Sea and the impressive Penyal d'Ifach.



## Graphic scale

We will ascend this winding path until we reach the farmyards (550 msnm). This point is located between the two main summits of La Solana. This form that La Solana takes on is popularly known in the Valencian dialect as "Les Mamelles de la Solana" (The Breasts of La Solana) given the fact that they look like the breasts of a woman.

We are in a zone where almond growing occurs. Our route will continue to the left.

Arriving at this point we can:

- **Have a short break.**
- **Ascend to the summit of La Solana (724 msnm).** We will take a path towards the left that will take us to the geodesic point. From here we can enjoy some spectacular views of the "Vall de Pop" and see the towns of Senija, Llíber and Xaló. We will return again to the farmyards (Estimated time: 30 minutes).
- **Continue the route to Serra de Bèrnia.** We will do it, taking as a reference the almond tree zone, by taking the left path. As we advance, we pass the west part of La Solana. To the North, we have Los Montes de Beniquasi and the Serra de Besa. Parallel to us is the Serra del Ferrer. In front of us, in a southerly direction is the Serra de Bèrnia. In this part we will see Mediterranean cultivated lands and some small pine trees.

Continuing along the path, in 20 minutes, we will arrive at a place where two paths cross. Taking the right path, walking a few meters by an open iron fence, we begin a light descent towards a house that has a plot of land surrounded by a wall. This will be our reference point. Before arriving, we will leave two cross paths and in both cases we will take the left path.

Upon arriving at the house with a walled plot of land, we will continue walking parallel to the fence until reaching the end of it. At this point (pay special attention as to not be lost), we will stray off the path and go towards the right to another path. This path is for cavalry, but today it is practically not in use.

At the beginning of this path we pass a pretty flat region. In about 25 minutes we will arrive at some ruins. We go to the left, along the path, until we arrive at a crossroad. We will follow the right path and take it for another 15 minutes. We arrive at another crossroad and here, there is stone land-marker. We will take the left one and begin a small ascent. We find ourselves in an abandoned crop zone. In a few moments, we will pass by a pine forest on our right.

In about 20 minutes, we will arrive at another ruin on our left, and in front of us, there is an abandoned country home and a well; we will descend until arriving at that house. We will go in front of the house by taking a path that we will ascend and always continue following towards Bèrnia, until arriving at the camping zone.

Once at the camping zone, we will continue towards Bèrnia by following a path that passes along the Bon Vent restaurant, until we arrive at the road that leads from Xaló to Bèrnia. In 5 minutes, from the camping zone, we will arrive at the Cases de Bèrnia, the beginning of PR-V7 Serra de Bèrnia.





## services

### LODGINGS

#### CAMPGROUND

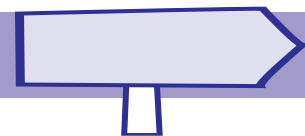
- Xaló Campground. Tel.: Town Hall of Xaló.  
Tel.: 96 648 01 01

#### RURAL ACCOMMODATION

- Casa el Peón de Pinos. Pda. Pinos, 9-B.  
Tel.: 609 37 85 87 or 629 65 50 35
- Casa Dolores. Pda. Pinos, 89-Umbria Bèrnia.  
Tel.: 609 37 85 87 or 629 65 50 35
- Casa Bèrnia. Pda. Pinos, 11.  
Tel.: 96 573 20 59 or 606 78 77 79
- Casa "Ti Toni Roca". Benimarraig, 91B.  
Tel.: 96 583 92 13 or 617 46 30 13.  
E-mail: aperles@iespana.es
- Hotel Casa del Maco. Pou Roig-Lleus.  
Tel.: 96 573 28 42 or 699 069 926. Fax: 96 573 01 03  
Web: [www.casadelmaco.com](http://www.casadelmaco.com) and e-mail: [macomarcus@hotmail.com](mailto:macomarcus@hotmail.com)
- Hotel Cases de Sant Jaume. Pda. Paratella, 44  
Tel.: 96 649 90 75 Fax: 96 649 82 08.  
Web: [www.santjaume.net](http://www.santjaume.net) and e-mail: [hotel@santjaume.net](mailto:hotel@santjaume.net)
- Farm/School-Benissa Rural Inn. Pda. Biesner 2-B.  
Tel.: 96 597 35 63 and 659 597 637  
Fax: 96 597 33 84.  
Website: <http://www.granja.net>

#### ACTIVE TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Benissa's riding club. Pda. Senichola, 2.  
Tel.: 96 573 18 32 / 96 573 03 02  
Fax: 96 573 03 02 and 96 573 31 23.  
Web: [www.ctv.es/USERS/hipica](http://www.ctv.es/USERS/hipica) and [www.costablanca.net.com/hipica](http://www.costablanca.net.com/hipica)  
E-mail: [hipica@ctv.es](mailto:hipica@ctv.es)
- Grup de Muntanya Margalló (Mountain Group).  
Tel.: 629 09 88 86  
E-mail: [gm.margallo@terra.es](mailto:gm.margallo@terra.es)



## access

**1. From the firing range.** Towards Alicante by CN-332, taking the road towards Xaló (CV-750). The Pinos-Bèrnia road (CV-749) is approximately 300 meters to the left. There are some pillars at the 2.5 Km. mark. The word Rafalet appears above one of the pillars. We will enter along this track in the woods and head towards the mountain. This path leads us to the firing range. Before arriving, we will leave the vehicle. In front of us, we see a small ruin and four olive trees. **(Route with vehicle)**

**2. From the Convent of the Franciscan Fathers.** Behind the convent there is an asphalt road that, driving down it, leads us up to a small tunnel that goes under the freeway. We will go by it and take the road that is to our left (this road is really a ravine). It will lead to the road that goes from Benissa to Xaló (CV-750). We will cross it and follow another asphalt road that is parallel to the freeway for 1 km. until arriving at a country home. Then, we will go towards our right, towards La Solana, and approximately at 700 meters, we will take the path that to our left. We will go almost to the road that leads towards Pinos-Bèrnia (CV-749). There are some pillars at the 2.5 Km. mark. The word Rafalet appears above one of the pillars. We will enter along this track in the woods and head towards the mountain. This path brings us to the firing range. **(Route by foot or by horse).**  
**Estimated Time: 1 hour.**



## flora and fauna



The orientation of the Sierra in a northern-southern direction provides for differences in terms of environmental conditions on both hillsides. The east side, or rather, La Solana side, is more dry due to increased sunshine and land that is less suitable that results from the erosion process that occurs after forest fires. Vegetation includes fescue grass, esparto grass and cormophytes such as cat's tail, camomile, thyme and lavender. Esparto grass was once used as a raw material for espadrilles, rugs, and ropes for chair seats. In the interior of the hillside, new white pine trees are regrowing.

Towards the interior, on the west side, the vegetation is lush given the depth of the ground and higher humidity. Shrub-like species like gorse, lentisc, Kermes oak and white and black steppe are abundant as well as numerous aromatic and medicinal plants. It is important to note the presence for decades of basil in the makeup of herb liquor. This drink is also found in the drinking jugs of country homes. The pine is in the canopy and upon entering Marnes, considerable sizes of Kermes oak can be found.

There is also a wide-range of animal species. Birds such as the goldfinch, sparrow, wagtail, bee-eater are found. Birds of prey include the sparrow hawk, kestrel, and the peregrine falcon. A small migratory bird common from April to September can be found in the Fuente de la Xenna (Xenna Fountain), located on La Solana hill. Mammals in the area include the hare, rabbit, fox and wild boar. Reptiles include various snake species, a type of viper and the jewelled lizard.



Juniper



Fan palm



Thyme



Bèrnia from la Solana

# PR LA SOLANA

## TOURIST INFO BENISSA

Avda. País Valencià, 1  
03720 Benissa (Alicante)  
Tel.: 96 573 22 25  
Fax: 96 573 25 37  
Web site: <http://www.benissa.net>  
e-mail: [turismo@benissa.net](mailto:turismo@benissa.net)

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## recommendations

- Always stay on the marked trail (yellow and white lines).
- Starting fires and unauthorised camping is prohibited (there is a campground).
- Deposit all rubbish in the containers provided for this purpose.
- Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground; each one contaminates 20 litres of water.
- Respect Nature so that it can be the same or better for those who come after us.



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