



**THE ROUTE OF THE PAPER MILLS**

The Route of the Paper Mills joins three of the most emblematic watermills of Banyeres paper industry. In Banyeres, nine mills were active between the 18th and 20th centuries in the River Vinalopó. These peculiar factories, magnificent in their time, gave job to most of the inhabitants of Banyeres for many years.

The route throughout the Paper Mills let the traveler enjoy an interesting walk in which admire the fauna and flora of an almost unchanged environment. Starting from the first paper mill built in Banyeres, “el Moli l’Ombria”, the route goes upstream to “el Partidor”, a facility whose use was to distribute the water, the motive force that worked all the devices on the paper mills. Going downstream the route arrives to “el Moli Sol”, where a famous in Spain and America cigarette paper was made.

The route finishes in “el Moli Pont”, where the “Museu Valencià del Paper” will be placed in the future.

The natural environment has determined the mill’s characteristics. In the route the traveler can find information about plants, like the elder, which was used to make dyes.

- Route
- Irrigation channel route
- 01 Information board
- 2' Duration
- Information about fauna
- Information about flora
- Recreational facilities
- Camp site
- Parking area

# BANYERES DE MARIOLA



**Banyeres de Mariola** municipal district is located at the very north of the Alicante province, within el Alcoià region. The historical centre is located 818 metres above sea level and is the highest in the Alicante province.

We are on the outskirts of the “Parc Natural de la Serra de Mariola” (natural reserve), a real natural paradise in which there is a wealth of floral species and a lot of fountains and springs. It is crossed by the Vinalopó river and its tributaries.

Within its municipal district stand out El Alt de la Barcella (1210 m), La Penya la Blasca (1119 m), Les Talaies (1045 m) and El Capollet de l’Àguila (959 m).

This town has a long industrial tradition, and as we look at the different museums there are several industries that have had a great impact on population growth as the espadrille, the paper and the textiles.

**MONUMENTS / MONUMENTAL TOUR**

This village is characterized by several monuments that make special to walk through its streets.

The most important and representative monument of Banyeres

de Mariola is its **castle-fortress**. Located on a rocky spur, it rises 830 metres high and dominates the steep village. Set in a vital spot for communications. From its tower the visitor can make out, on a clear day, the lands pertaining to the four surrounding provinces (Alicante, Valencia, Albacete y Murcia). For its structure we can honestly say that the castle of Banyeres de Mariola is of Almohade origin and dates back to the XII- XIII century.

Next to the Castle we find the **monument to Sant Jordi**, made in bronze. It dominates the viewpoint of the area where the village had its origins, in the same place where stood an ancient hermitage dedicated to the saint, patron of Banyeres de Mariola.

Following our route, in its historical – artistic heritage stand out the **church of Santa Maria**, of Baroque style, built between 1734 and 1752. Up town we can find three hermitages. The oldest is the Santa Maria Magdalena, of rural gothic style. The **Santo Cristo hermitage**, of neo-gothic style, whose present building was designed by the architect Timoteo Briet and dates from the twentieth century. The last one is the **Sant Jordi hermitage**, of neo-gothic style. In its origins it was a part of the “**Moli Sol**” (an ancient mill), and in the 80s it was rebuilt in the actual place at The “Cementerí Vell” (an old cemetery).

**MUSEUMS**

In the Font Bona neighbourhood, we can visit the **Tower of Font Bona** (built in the XV century), which houses the **Municipal Archaeological Museum** and offer the possibility to observe the remains of other cultures ranging from the Palaeolithic to the Modern age.

Near to the tower, in the **Municipal Park of Villa Rosario**, it is located the “**Museu Valencià del Paper**” (Valencian Museum of Paper). It is the first museum of its kind in the Valencian Community, and offers a taste of the importance of this industry in the history of Banyeres de Mariola.

Moreover, in another building located in the park we have the “**Museu de l’Espardenya**” (Espardenya museum). It houses a permanent exhibition which presents a craft already disappeared in this town and which was the predecessor of the main economic activity currently in Banyeres: textile industry.

The “**Museu Fester**” is located in the castle, and it explains to the visitors the history of the Moors and Christians festivity in Banyeres.

**GASTRONOMY**

The gastronomy of the area is clearly influenced by the proximity of the Sierra de Mariola.

The typical dishes, which are remarkable for their high calorific value to fight the cold, are: “arròs amb conill” (rice with rabbit), “cocido” (stew), “gazpacho manchego”, “coques” (flour with tomato, sausages, sardines...), “l’olleta” (pottage), “pericana” (dried tomato...) and “bajoques farcides” (stuffed baked peppers).

Sweets and pastries are another strong point in Banyeres. Some of the artisan confectionery made in the local bakeries are: “coca de almedra” (almond’s cake), “rollets de vi”, “rollets d’anís”, “ensaimadas”...

Moreover, we can not forget the traditional liquor “**l’Herbero**” it is composed of dry and sweet anisette macerated with aromatic and medicinal herbs from Sierra de Mariola.

**FIESTAS (FESTIVITIES)**

The **Moors and Christians** in honour of the patron “Sant Jordi” is the most important festivity celebrated in Banyeres de Mariola. It is declared of National Tourist Interest and it takes place between

**April the 22nd and 25th.** For four days different acts, which invite the visitors to enjoy and to be influenced by the feelings, are celebrated: processions, embassies (embajadas), flower offering (ofrenda), high mass... But the parade of the 23th, where the people parade with luxurious dresses of moors and Christians, is the most spectacular of the acts.

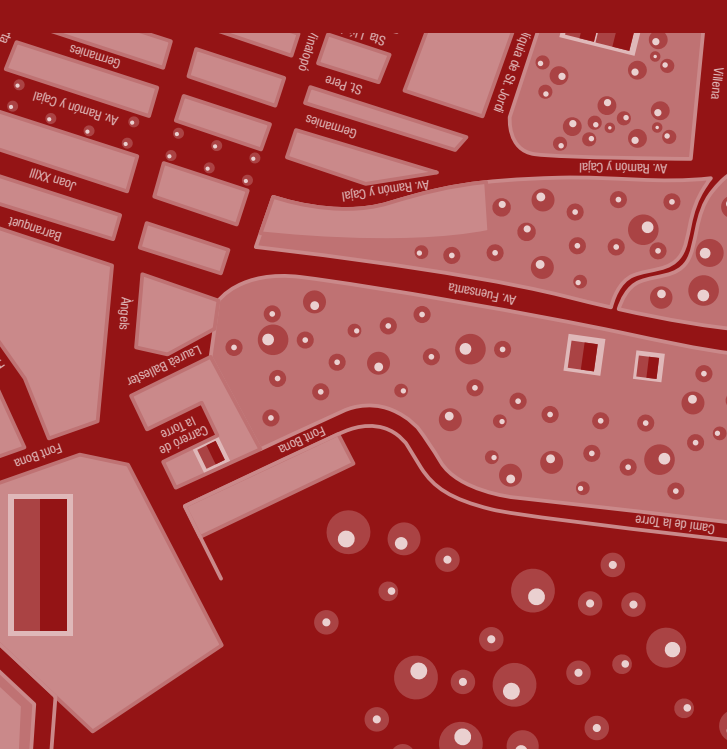
**The first weekend in September**, the commemoration of the arrival, in 1780, at Banyeres of the **Relic of Sant Jordi** is celebrated. We celebrate the two first days of the festivity of Moors and Christians in honour of our patron.

**In July** we celebrate the festivity in honour of the patron **Santa Maria Magdalena**. Every weekend different cultural, religious and festive activities -like: concerts, processions, “correfocs” (fire show), and a medieval market- are celebrated.

**At the end of the year**, the weekend closest to the 13th of December, we celebrate the **festivity of Santa Lucia**, patron of the paper industry (one of the most important traditional industries of the village), celebrate processions, “pasacalle” (an informal parade in the town), mass... Moreover in the same dates, we celebrate each two years the paper costumes competition “concurso de trajes de papel”.



**Tourist Info**  
 Parc Vila Rosariu, s/n  
 03450 Banyeres de Mariola (Alicante)  
 Telf. 965 567 453  
 turisme@portademariola.com • banyeres@touristinfo.net  
 www.portademariola.com



# tourist map Banyeres de Mariola





**MONUMENTS OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS**

- 01 Museu Torre Font Bona (Municipal Archaeological Museum) (C1)
- 02 Museu Valencià del Paper (Valencian Museum of Paper) (D1)
- 03 Museu de l'Espardenya (Espardille Museum) (D1)
- 04 Castle / Museu Fester (C3)
- 05 Font del Cavaller (fountain) (D1)
- 06 Church of Santa Maria (D3)
- 07 Santo Cristo Hermitage (D3)
- 08 Sant Jordi Hermitage (E3)
- 09 Monument of Sant Jordi (C3)
- 10 Old train station factory and old train station (A1)
- 11 Camp site Moli l'Ombria (A5)
- 12 Santa Maria Magdalena Hermitage (D3)
- i Tourist Info (D1)

**MONUMENTS OF INTEREST**

- 13 CP Alfonso Iniesta (school) (D1)
- 14 Old People's home (E1)
- 15 Mercado Municipal (market) (C2)
- 16 Fundació Ribera (school) (D3)
- 17 City Hall (D3)
- 18 Health center (C3)
- 19 Teatro Principal (theater) (C3)
- 20 Casal de la Joventut (C3)
- 21 Public library (D4)
- 22 CP La Malena (school) (D3)
- 23 Casa de Cultura (theater) (D3)
- 24 Cemetery (F3)
- 25 Local sports center (F4)
- 26 Police (A1)
- 27 IES Professor Manuel Broseta (Secondary School) (A1)
- 28 Hogar del Jubilado (Seniors citizens' club) (C2)

Post office (C2) Industrial Zone

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

1

2

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4

5

Vila Nova d'Utiel  
Ontinyent  
Valencia

Naixement  
del riu  
Vinalopó

Alcoi  
Alacant

Accés  
Zona d'acampada  
Moli l'Ombria