

Sightseeing – eight landmarks



① In the circuit you can find four small stone huts (in Vilanova called mulasses). Two of them are still very well kept. The stone huts were built by peasants using the dry stone building system with no bonding material. The same system was used to raise the stone walls bordering the country ways of the circuit. The huts were used as shelter and shed to keep farming tools. Depending on the size, they could be used as resting stable for draught animals. Fruit trees still surround the huts providing fresh fruit and good shade.

② Adarró Iberian Settlement and Roman Vila. The Adarró ruins are a good sample of Iberian settlings in the region. The centre of this settlement was placed on top of Adarró Hill. However, the area that can be visited is the one at the foot of the hill, where craft activities took place. Opposite these ruins, on the other side of the road, there is an old Roman Vila, today only partially excavated. The Roman Vila did not have much population, whereas the Iberian settlement got to have about 3,000 inhabitants.



③ Miramar (or Xalet del Nin) is a Modernist mansion built in 1913 for Joan Ferrater, a wealthy entrepreneur. 2,500 years ago, this place was the centre of the Adarró Iberian Settlement and later a fort provided with cannons which protected the coastal area from pirate attacks. Downhill by the sea shore, you can see one of the ten caches for machine guns which were built during the Spanish Civil War in order to reject possible landings of Franco's troops. They were never used.

④ Turó del Seu is a public green area where volunteers are restoring the natural habitat by implementing actions such as tree and bush planting, path marking, dry stone wall building, etc. A natural stone pool has also been restored. Turó del Seu Hill and Adarró Way are both used as an outdoor nature workshop where young students learn to take care of nature. On the picture on the right, we can see the clock of human body, whose design is based on Chinese medicine and where herbs used as medical remedies are grown.



⑤ Sant Gervasi Hermitage. It was built in the XVth century to honour Saints Gervase and Protase. Later, other places around were named after: Sant Gervasi Beach, Sant Gervasi Way, etc. The hermitage still hosts a Baroque altarpiece, however, little saint imaginary remains. Nowadays it is private property where no liturgy is held any longer and visits are not allowed.

⑥ Romantic Garden. Here are the remains of the Modernist garden of the old Xalet de l'Ortoll, which no longer exists. A remarkable variety of exotic plants spread around together with holms oaks, palm trees, pine trees and huge cypresses. Some of the oldest trees and bushes can be found here, among them a centennial pine tree and a mastic tree. This bit of land lies on fertile soil near a water bearing stratum which makes biodiversity here very rich, similar to habitats with humid environmental conditions.



⑦ Escardó Windmill. Due to the lack of rivers in Vilanova i la Geltrú, wind became the natural resource to power mills. Molí de l'Escardó, built in 1616, is one of the oldest windmills around. Its tower raises in a slightly truncated cone shape, it still has an entrance door and the top opening where the blades axis was placed. Inside there is a round staircase that allows you to step up and enjoy wonderful sea views.

⑧ Sant Gervasi Waterwheel (Sínia). The waterwheels were used to draw groundwater from aquifers and were usually moved by draught animals, but this one ended up using an electrical pump. In Vilanova, sínia was also the name of a small field whose harvests were devoted to family food self-sufficiency and small selling of surplus. The big number of sínies near Adarró, underscore the importance of farming activity here in the past. Excesses in profiting underground water led little by little to drainage of wetlands and pools.



ADARRÓ CIRCUIT

What is Adarró Circuit?

It is a 4.6-km-long circuit to walk or cycle by mountain bike. Most of this circuit goes along old medieval cattle ways bordered by stone walls. It's the case of the ways named Ortoll, Sant Gervasi and Adarró, for instance. Adarró's Way has been rebuilt for six years thanks to the effort of volunteers who belong to Plataforma Defensem l'Ortoll, a local environmental defense association. In 65% of the route the pavement is compact soil, in 25% asphalt and in 10% stone. Turó del Sèu (Tallow Hill) is the highest point in this itinerary, at 25 meters sea level, and Sant Gervasi Beach the lowest. Although the route is quite even there are places with magnificent views over the sea.



What can be seen? – nature

Flora: Woods of white pine trees spread predominantly around this circuit, but there is a wide variety of trees, bushes, plants and lichens. You can also find carob trees, holms oaks, olive trees, almond trees, fig trees, mastic trees, vine plants, hawthorn, fennel, thyme, rosemary, bramble, honeysuckle, etc. In autumn, you may even find mushrooms after some rain!

Fauna: In this area, walkers can see rabbits, foxes, hedgehogs, mice, snakes, lizards, salamanders, etc. This is a wonderful habitat for birdlife, which makes this place a candidate to become a protected area for birds (ZEPA).



Ortoll-Sant Gervasi is a 100 ha. green area right by the sea shore and near Vilanova's town centre. Plataforma Defensem l'Ortoll has worked since 2011 to restore this green space for people to enjoy it as a walking and leisure spot surrounded by nature.

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