Landscapes and heritage of Algímia d'Alfara

Cultural routes





Algímia d'Alfara Algímiaenel Cor

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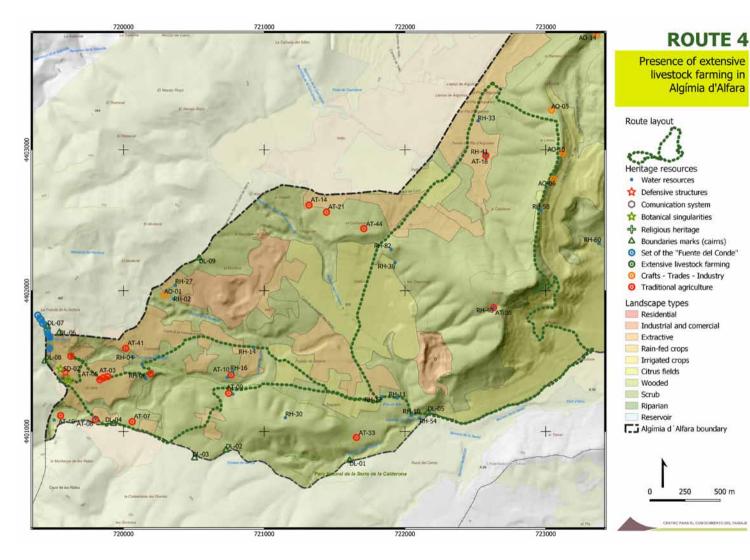
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Cartogràfic Valencià, Google Earth

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In Algímia d'Alfara, there are still clear signs of traditional extensive livestock activities that remain visible on the road outlining the municipality by the south, and some corral ruins and other associated elements have survived. The presence of such forms is part of the old livestock transhumance (recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage) between Aragón and the Valencian coast. In our area, transhumance has a distinctive trend because it was organised around the so-called "Casa de Ganaderos", which differed from the more powerful La Mesta that worked in Castilla.

The route presents a marked landscape aspect as it crosses the central part of the municipal area where topographical, natural and agricultural values are mixed. In this background of contrasting landscapes, the route includes several of typical elements of extensive livestock activities, such as corrals, small houses and shelters separated from corrals, specific places for manure production, water supply points and specific transhumance ways and corridors.



Transhumance and extensive livestock

The extensive historic cattle activities that took place in Algímia d'Alfara were well organised because it was necessary to solve not only the possibility cattle passing through fields, towns and mountains, but grazing and water supply were also necessary. Much of that transhumant livestock came from the continental areas of the Iberian Peninsula, from Aragón and, above all, from the Casa de Ganaderos de Albarracín. The Casa de Ganaderos (ranchers' houses) and other similar types of organisations, like Brotherhoods and the "mestas" in Castalia, were groups of shepherds arranged to manage their herds, and there was also the litigation that arose from their activity.

One of the usual transhumant paths was the natural passage from the continental inland to the coastal plains of Sagunto and the surroundings following the Palancia River. Segorbe predominated during these trips but, throughout its extensive journey, all the necessary infrastructures were created to allow sheeps and shepherds to pass, including those found in the Algímia d'Alfara municipality.

Transhumant livestock uses maintained the landscape and also created its own heritage structures, which were logically those actually related to its activity. It used and maintained landscapes because it employed pastures that could have been created for this purpose. It also maintained the fields used for agriculture purposes with the fertilisation generated by herds.





At the same time, it created its own heritage. An activity that moved herds over large areas of land for long periods of time needed to create infrastructures to allow it to develop with some ease. Consequently, it remains as an entire hierarchical system of livestock routes, which allowed people to move from one place to another at the same time as animals grazed; a landscape dotted with buildings used by shepherds and livestock to shelter in and, fundamentally, the location of points at which people and herds could access water.

Landscape resources

The route, formed according to the thematic organisation of livestock heritage, focuses firstly on the landscape resources of extensive livestock farming, such as passing through some livestock routes, and the existence of typical heritage elements of such activities, such as corrals, "panderas" (places where livestock manure was collected to be used in agriculture), cisterns and "navajos" (small water reservoirs in hollows on land).

In addition, the interest of this itinerary also lies in other landscape resources which the route passes through. These include elements related to traditional agriculture that stand out, such as small outbuildings and ravine "Navas" (conditioned terraces in ravines) and lime kilns (a traditional form of using natural resources that consists in producing lime from limestone).





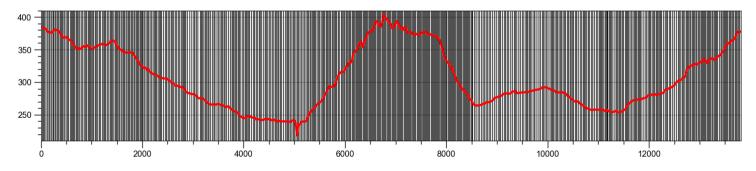


Technical characteristics

Duration	4-5 hores	Elevation	
Length	13,50 km	minimum altitude	237 m
Type of tour	Circular	maximum altitude	404 m
Accumulated slope		Average slope	
ascending	440 m	ascending (+)	5,80%
descending	- 440 m	descending (-)	5.70%

Reference mapping

Map Series (scale)	Sheets	Agency
National Topographic Map	668-I	Instituto Geográfico Nacional
(1:25000)		
Reference Mapping	12. El Camp de Morvedre	Ins. Cartogràfic Valencià
(1:50000)		
Reference Mapping	CV05-66825, 66834,	Ins. Cartogràfic Valencià
(1:5000)	66835, 66836, 66844, 66845, 66846, 66854,	
	66855	



Take care of the environment Respecting nature



We must remember that when we do outdoor activities, such as the cultural routes of Algímia, we come into contact with tasks that other people do or with nature itself. Let's be respectful to these other occupants. In their design, all routes are circular, and their starting and ending points are located in places where there are containers and parking spaces.

Please sensibly manage the environment by taking into account the following considerations:

Waste: Use the authorised containers at the start-end points and leave rubbish in the appropriate ones. Do not leave rubbish on fields.

Noise: Try not to make loud noise; do not wear devices that make loud sounds, do not yell in fields. Please respect other inhabitants.

Traffic: Leave vehicles at the starting point of the route, which you will find in the same place. Avoid making unnecessary trips. Do not drive along the routes designed for walking or cycling with vehicles, unless it is absolutely essential.

Thank you very much for your Cooperation





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