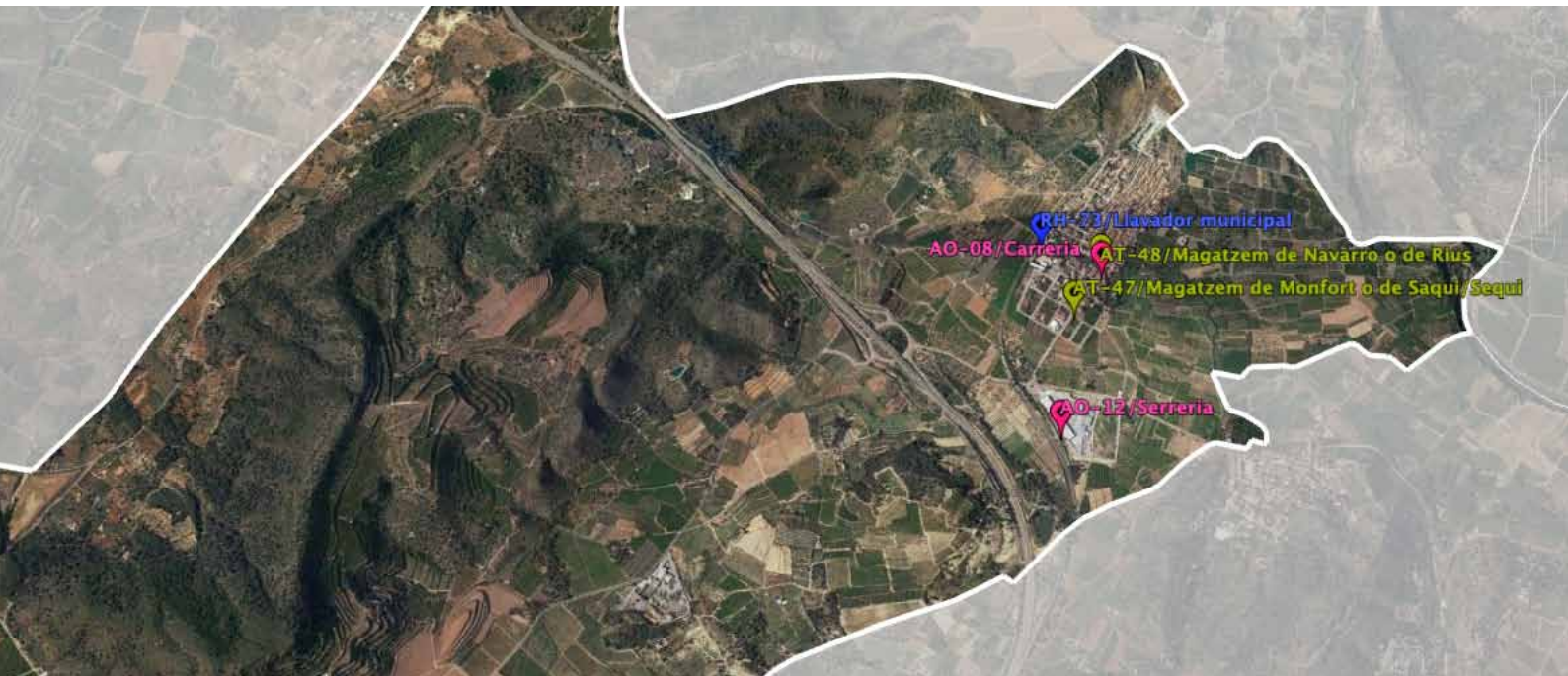


Landscapes and heritage of Algímia d'Alfara

Cultural routes



Algímia d'Alfara | Algímia en el **Cor**



CENTRO PARA EL CONOCIMIENTO DEL PAISAJE



Algímia d'Alfara | Algímia en el **Cor**

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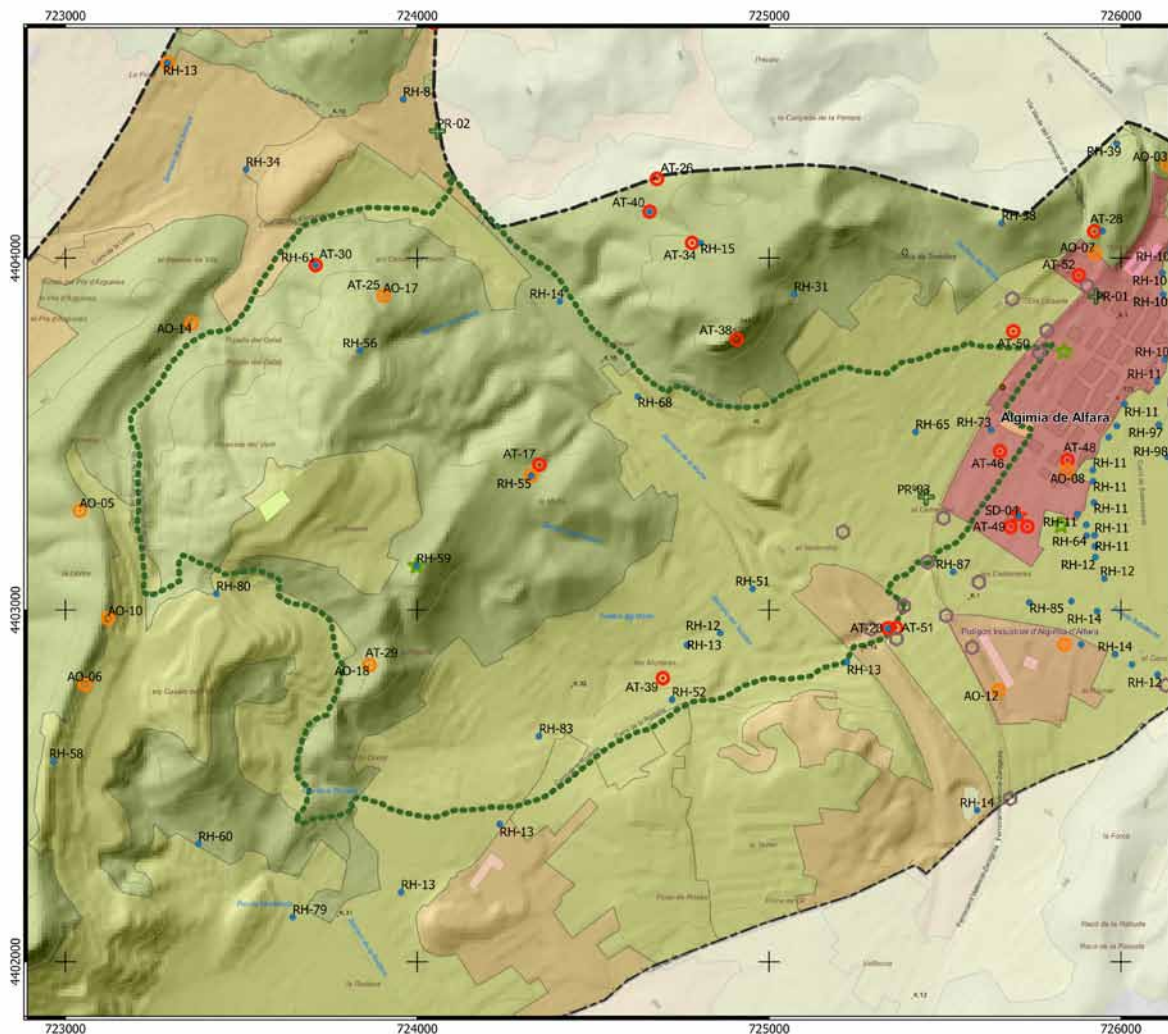
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ROUTE 1

Orange tree cultivation in Algímia d'Alfara

Route layout

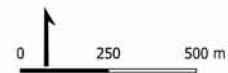


Heritage resources

- Water resources
- ★ Defensive structures
- Communication system
- ☆ Botanical singularities
- ✚ Religious heritage
- △ Boundaries marks (caims)
- ⊕ Set of the "Fuente del Conde"
- ⊙ Extensive livestock farming
- Crafts - Trades - Industry
- Traditional agriculture

Landscape types

- Residential
- Industrial and commercial
- Extractive
- Rain-fed crops
- Irrigated crops
- Citrus fields
- Wooded
- Scrub
- Riparian
- Reservoir
- Algímia d' Alfara boundary



Orange trees have been the transforming landscape element in the 20th century in most of the Valencian Community. This potential was not only economic, but was also social, and created a culture around, including irrigated transformations of rain-fed farming, crop substitution, the appearance of mechanisation, and the distribution and commercialisation of oranges.

Water pumps, warehouses, cultivation techniques, plant varieties, organisation of irrigation and harvesting are the heritage of that orange tree culture, which has been exemplary, and continues to be so, with time.

In Algímia there is evidence for the omniscient presence of orange tree cultivation. Much of its agricultural landscape is occupied today by citrus fields, stretching from the orchards on Palancia fields to the ancient slopes formerly occupied by carob trees, vine and olive trees.

Knowing the history of citrus cultivation in Algímia implies recovering the experiences of its population who lived near this farming culture, in which the colonising process stands out with its different techniques and strategies used for irrigation and maintenance. It is also an excellent instrument for interpreting the keys to landscape transformation because elements of the ancient presence of other ways of living with the environment can still be seen, which are today mixed with orange groves; e.g., some plots of rain-fed crops, houses and huts, corrals and reservoirs, among others, have survived.



The orange tree landscape in Algímia

At the beginning of the 20th century, in Algímia d'Alfara there was practically no orange groves that constituted a recognisable landscape. The 1938 map indicates that in irrigation areas, supplied with waters from the Palancia River, there were mainly orchards. In the rest of the municipal boundary, slopes were used for rain-fed crops: extensive carob trees, and some cereals near where the population lived. The history of citrus crops expanding must date after the post-war period, and had already begun in the second half of the 20th century. The first space to be occupied was logically the area that was already historically enabled for irrigation purposes. The 1956 aerial photograph depicts that most of the 1938 orchard crops have been replaced with orange trees.

It is from that point onwards when the change of crops in the traditional low irrigated area actually took place, when the expansive process towards dry land began to gradually replace carob and olive groves with new more economically profitable varieties. The transformation also involved altering old structures by using different ones, which guaranteed the production of new crops. Wells appeared that drew water for irrigation, new networks of irrigation canals were created to carry this water to fields, and ponds were built to store it from which crops would be watered.

Furthermore, the landscape of these new irrigated areas adopts the techniques that appear at all times to make their cultivation more effective. Drip irrigation has been introduced, roads have been adapted and new ones have been created for vehicles to drive on. Even now the land conditioning on those steep Algímia slopes can be seen for new irrigation crops.

However, evidence for ancient rain-fed systems can still be recognised from the permanence of fields with olive and carob trees, the same dry stone terraces, huts, farmhouses and water cisterns. The result is a new consolidated landscape, in which there are also remains of other existing landscapes, but they do not do away with the balance struck today.



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This route discovers the recent construction of the citrus landscape that Algímia has undergone. To do so, its thematic development is carried out in the central-eastern sector of the municipality, an area previously used for rain-fed crops. It begins in the town of Algímia before moving on to parts of El Ventorrillo, La Murta, El Clot de Donat, La Rogera and Les Murteres.

Landscape resources

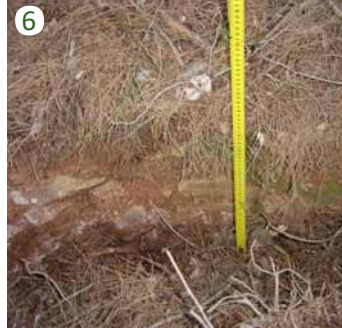
In addition to typical citrus landscape resources (terraced systems, new roads that facilitate access to fields), in the area that crosses the route, we come across a good number of heritage elements that allow a good understanding of the historical process of expanding orange cultivations, and the different use and occupation of the area.

Overall, it is worth highlighting the resources of the current orange grove landscape (e.g. motors for water pumping and ponds). Along the route, we find samples of different elements, such as historic roads, structures associated with communication routes and some construction typologies related to previously existing crops.





1. Pepica carob tree
2. RENFE bridge
3. Small railway bridge "Canterilla"



4. The Cotoí plot
5. Trava (small dam) de la Carretera
6. Vilà Ravine Mine



7. La Rodana well
8. El Músico pond
9. RENFE bridge

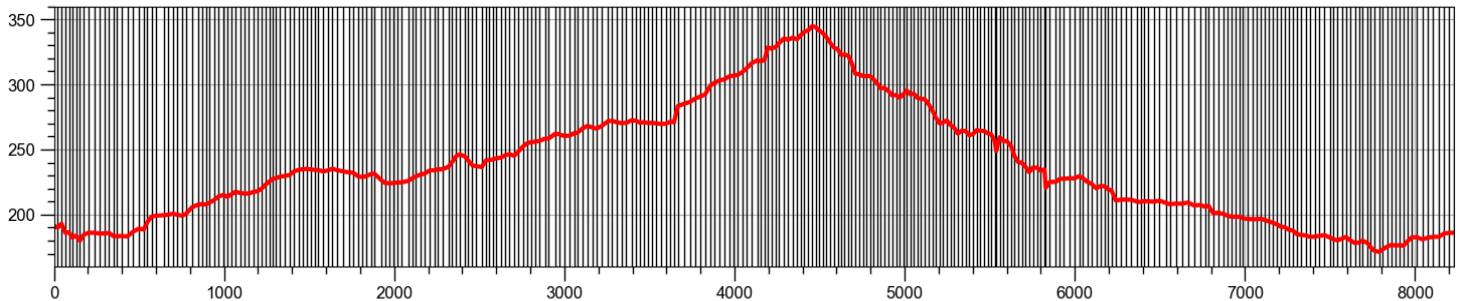


Technical characteristics

Duration time	3-4 hours	Elevation	
Length	8,50 km	minimum altitude	177 m
Type of tour	Circular	maximum altitude	349 m
Accumulated slope		Average slope	
ascent	263 m	ascending (+)	5,40%
decline	- 263 m	descending (-)	4,40%

Reference mapping

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



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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