



Panoramic views of Bel



Buscarró from Rossell



Wild goats



Views from Pena de Bel



Iron Mines



Pena de Bel

Natural Park of Tinença de Benifassà

The Natural Park of Tinença de Benifassà, located in the region of Baix Maestrat, north of the province of Castellón and the border with Catalonia, comprises the entire historical territory of the former tenure of the Cistercian monastery Santa Maria de Benifassà, territory that was granted by James I to mark the founding of the monastery. The villages that formed part of this tenure were: La Pobla, Ballestar, Boixar, Castell de Cabres, Bel, Fredes and Coratxà.

Rossell, now part of the Natural Park, although not part of historical Tinença, is included in it because its geological, morphological and ecological features form a unit with historical Tinença. In addition, economic and social relations between Rossell and Tinença villages have always been very close and similar. This set of features allow Rossell be the link between the villages of the Tinença itself and the coastal plain.

The Natural Park of Tinença de Benifassà, is one of the most untouched areas in the Valencian Community. Their environments, with high botanical and faunal biodiversity, have a high scientific value and the broken landscapes, very little altered by human hands, are a real pleasure for sightseeing.

Geologically, it alternates astonishing limestone hills (the Pena de Bel, the Buscarró, the Mangrané hill, the Fitó hill, the Sola d'en Brull) with long and deep ravines (the Bel ravine, the ravine of La Pobla, the Mangrané, the Tenalla, the Fou).

Vegetation has a great variety of species. Holm oak forests, oaks, black pines and scots pines, the latter with an undergrowth of box and holly, are



Mas de n'Insa and Serra de l'Esquetxe

accompanied by other plants of less height but very interesting botanically, some of them endemic to the territory.

The fauna is rich and varied. Eagles, vultures, hawks and goshawks stand out among the birds of prey. The badger, the vixen and the wild boar are some of the mammals that inhabit this territory. But, undoubtedly, the most emblematic animal species is the Hispanic goat (*Capra pyrenaica hispanica*), which is easily seen climbing and jumping in these mountains.

The township of Rossell, which now includes the old township of Bel, occupies the southern part of the park. The trails running through the area have enabled, over many years, the communication, on foot, among the Tinença villages and between them and the other villages of the plains and the coast. These trails were used by people, goods and livestock during centuries. Today, the paths are traversed by walkers who can enjoy an area that still retains very much of its natural wealth.



Cova Fumada



Vulture



Views from Moleta del Terme

ROSSELL

Rossell is located north of Valencian Community, in the northwest region of Baix Maestrat and the border with Catalonia, in a privileged position since it is the gateway to Tinença de Benifassà. It has an area of 75.26 square kilometers and a population close to 1,200 people.

The municipality of Rossell consists of three villages: the largest, Rossell, occupies the center of the township; to the east, near the river Senia, les Cases del Riu, and in the far northwest, Bel. In addition, scattered around the area, there are many individual farmhouses, called "masos", that were inhabited until the mid twentieth century.

Rossell population origins date back to the Iberian period. Its charter was granted by Hug de Follalquer, Master of the Hospitalers, in 1237. At first, it was part of the Cervera Abbey, and in 1371 it was transferred to the order of Montesa, remaining there up to the nineteenth century. Especially important is the participation of the village in the war of "Segadors", when it was burnt, and in the Carlist Wars.

The small village of **Bel**, of Islamic origin, offers a compact image in the middle of pure nature. It was conquered by James I and was under the dominion of Benifassà monastery, whose abbot was paid two-thirds of the tithe of all crops and livestock. In 1705, Philip V fortified the town and in 1971 was added to Rossell.

The village of **Les Cases del Riu**, is located on the right side of the river Senia and very close to the village of the same name, La Senia, located on the other side of the river. Currently, most of the industry in the municipality of Rossell is here. Apparently, the village grew up from the Rossell mill, which belonged to the Rossell municipality.

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Town council: 977 571 202
 Civil Guard: 977 571 321 / 062
 Medical Centre: 977 571 078
 Emergency Health (Traiguera): 964 495 223 / 152
 Regional Hospital (Vinaròs): 964 477 000
 Emergency: 112

Services

Reading Agency
 Football Field
 Culture House
 Civic Center "Molí Vell"
 Pediment
 Retirement Home
 Weekly market (Wednesday and Saturday)
 Municipal swimming-pool (June-August)
 Sports court

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA

AJUNTAMENT DE ROSSELL



ENGLISH

Trails of Rossell

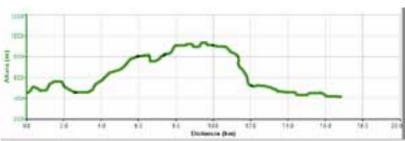
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GATEWAY TO TINIENÇA DE BENIFASSÀ

Views of Rossell

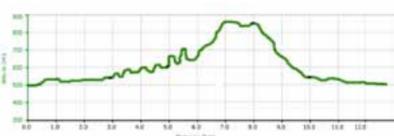
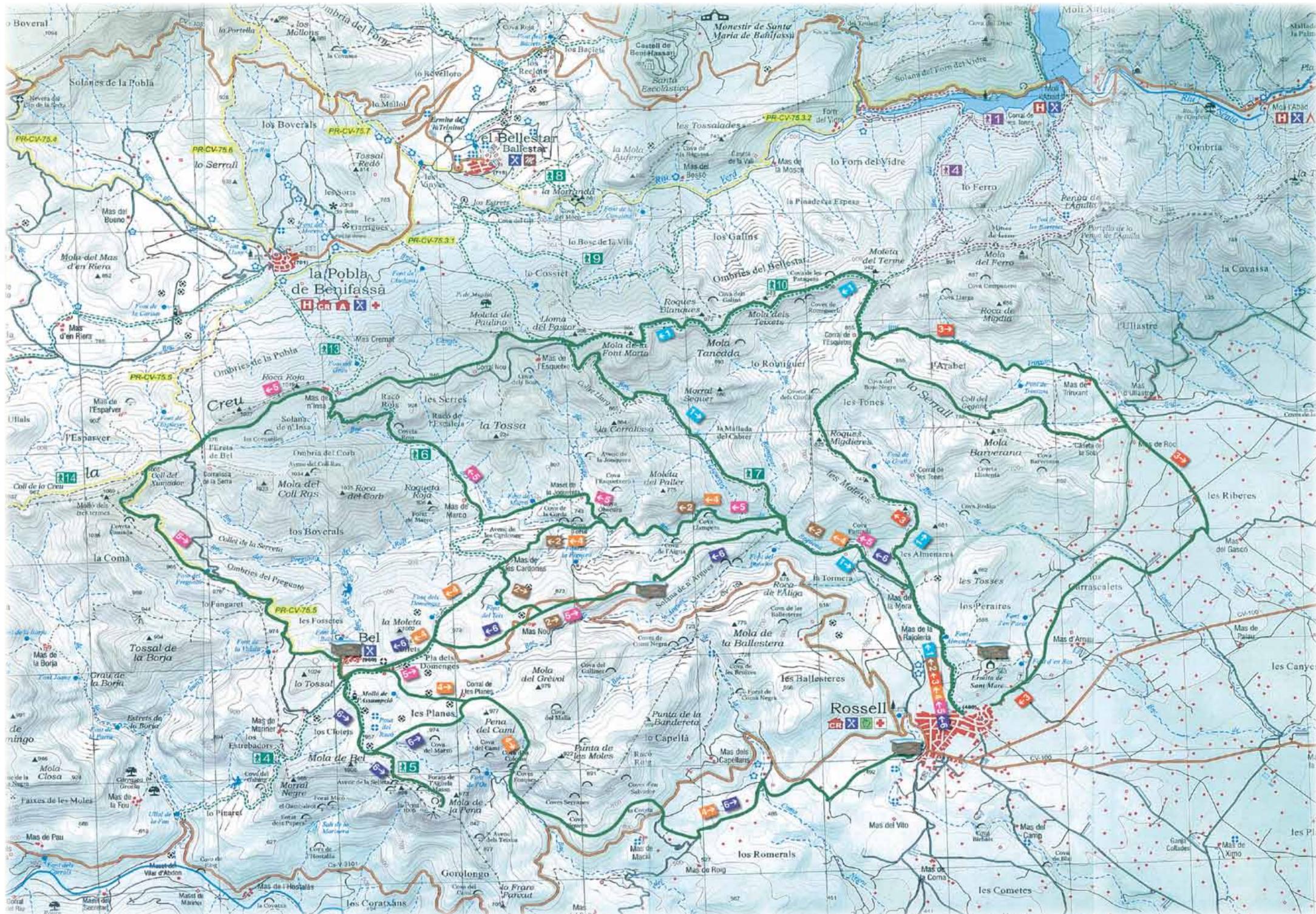


Trails of Rossell



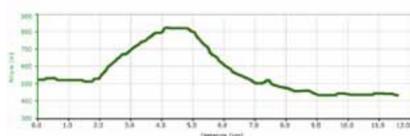
PATH 1

It starts near the Rossell schools, taking the path up to the Ermita de Sant Marc, and in a few meters, it turns to the left to follow the path of the Mas de la Mora, through the Font de l'Almenara. On arriving at Mas de la Mora, you must leave the way, to go right on a path that goes up to the Moletes. At this point, you can take a path on the right to see the abandoned iron mines and then return, following the same path, to the main trail. Once there, the path follows the ridge of the mountain where we can contemplate panoramic views of Barranc de les Tones on the right and, on the left, the Barranc del Romiguer. In front of us we can see the Serra de l'Esquetxe and behind of us a magnificent view of the coastal plain. It gets to the Corral de l'Esquetxe, there the trail joins path number 3. After a short walk along a track, the trail goes up to Moleta del Terme, which offers a magnificent view of the ravine of La Pobla and Ports de la Sènia and Fredes. The trail turns west and, after crowning the Sierra de l'Esquetxe, runs almost parallel to the track that goes from Bel to Corral de l'Esquetxe, through Mas de n'Insa and Mas de l'Esquetxe. This stretch offers, on the right hand, great views of La Pobla and Els Ports de la Sènia, Fredes and Boixar. Before arriving at the Mas de l'Esquetxe the path turns south, down the ravine of l'Esquetxe and joins ravine of Requena, where coincides with paths 2, 4, 5 and 6. Along the bed of the ravine we reach mas de la Mora and, from there, along the track to re-enter to Rossell.



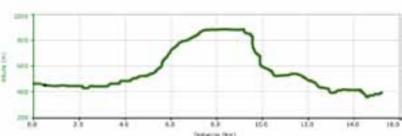
PATH 2

Until mas de la Mora, the trail coincides with paths 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. From the mas de la Mora, to the right we find paths 1 and 3 and, to the left, paths 2, 4, 5 and 6, along the bed of ravine of Requena. Later, on the left, path 6 separates from the main path, and trail 2 together with 4 and 5 continues on the right, along the ravine and, passing through Cova Llampera and Cova de l'Aigua. At the confluence of Bel ravine and the ravine of the Jonquera, path 5 separates, to the right. Paths 2 and 4 are separated from the main trail to the left, and leaving the bed of the ravine, they go up to mas de les Cardones. From mas de les Cardones, we keep on path 2, leaving path 4 to the right, traversing the road that goes from Bel to Rossell, and after merging with trails 5 and 6, the trail goes down to the old route from Bel to Rossell, where it meets the ravine of Requena and, along the bed of the ravine, it reaches the mas de la Mora and then Rossell.



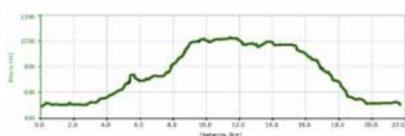
PATH 3

Until mas de la Mora, the trail coincides with paths 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. From mas de la Mora, we take trails 3 and 1, on the right, both going together until corral de l'Esquetxe, where trail 3 separates in two variants:
 a) along the crest of the Serral, it goes down to the plain, where it meets the variant b)
 b) it goes down, along the bottom of the ravine of Trinxant, passing through farmhouse of the same name. Later, it meets variant a).
 From here, we go through the paths of the plain and, among olive trees, after going up to Carrascalets, and passing through the fountain of en Ros and the graveyard, we arrive to Rossell.



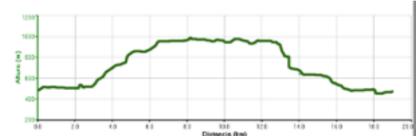
PATH 4

Until mas de les Cardones, the trail coincides with path 2. From Mas de les Cardones, we take path 4, right, leaving path 2 on the left (South). The trail goes to the village of Bel until reaching the road from Bel to Rossell, butting with the route 5 and 6. When arriving to the cemetery of Bel, turn left, go past the cemetery and continues to the demolished corral de les Planes, on the way we see the two hills that form the Pena de Bel. The trail goes down to find the Cova dels Coloms, and we find the path 6 that comes from the Pena de Bel, and both routes will be common up to Rossell. We are in the Racó Mas de Macià. The trail, higher than the track, will take us in parallel above the road from Vallbona to Rossell. We can see Mas de Macià bottom right. A little later, the trail crosses the road, leaving to the left mas de Macià, continuing eastward, toward Rossell, and going down by Collet de la Dolça, it crosses the Requena river and enters Rossell.



PATH 5

Until Mas de la Mora the trail coincides with paths 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. From mas de la Mora, leaving paths 1 and 3 on the right, we go to the left along with the 2, 4 and 6 paths, and the trail follows the bed of the ravine of Requena, past the cliffs of the Rock of l'Aliga, we leave path 6 to the left. The 5 together with the 2 and 4 continues by the bottom of the gorge until it reaches the Jonquera ravine, leaving paths 2 and 4 on the left. And path 5 continues right by the ravine of the Jonquera, leaving it at asset de la Jonquera, and swerves to the left (west). Later, take the North direction to reach mas de Marco and, going up to the ravine of n'Insa, it meets the farmhouse of the same name. From here, we can see magnificent views of the valley of la Pobla. Continuing in a westerly direction parallel to the track coming from Bel, go through the Ereta de Bel. We leave the track coming from Bel to the left, then we take the old trail that, coming from la Pobla, reaches the village of Bel. We go out of village on the road, to find the old path from Bel to Rossell, where it joins path 2, goes down until finding the bed of the Requena ravine and the mas de la Mora, and finally enters Rossell.



PATH 6

Until mas de la Mora, the same route as 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. It goes up to mas de la Mora through Requena Ravine along with paths 2, 4 and 5. Later, it leaves the bed of the ravine, taking a path to the right, old path from Bel to Rossell, and it coincides with a stretch of 2 and 5. It crosses several times the road from Rossell to Bel and later it joins with path 2, coming from mas de les Cardones, and before arriving to Bel, it links to path 4 that also comes from mas de les Cardones. Magnificent view of the village of Bel, about to enter it (visit recommended), a track goes left (important not to get confused with the track passing by the cemetery, which is part of the itinerary 4). After a few meters into the track, you take a path to the left, below the hill of Assumpció, it takes us to Pena de Bel, with magnificent views of the coastal plain, the upper section of the ravine of Cervol, many farmhouses and the Beset mountains of Els Ports, Fredes and Boixar. Many chances to observe the flight of vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) and wild goats (*Capra pyrenaica hispanica*). The path comes back for a stretch by the same route, until it separates on the right and crosses a small terraced valley, and joins the route 4, at corral de les Planes.