

How to get there



Road: C-35 from Granollers to Maçanet (p.k. 66); AP-7 from Barcelona to La Jonquera exit 10 (Hostalric) and exit 11 (Sant Celoni) **Train:** Line 2 (Rodalies RENFE) get off at Riells i Viabrea-Breda station **Coach:** Regular coach from Barcelona to Sant Celoni, that stops in the vicinity. **By bike / on foot:** Cross the Tordera river over the new Batllòria bridge (at the end of Calle La Tordera) or at the new pass at can Draper, at Sant Celoni (end of c/ Baixada del Vapor) and walk to the left along the track alongside the river (approximately 4 km from Batllòria; 14 km from Sant Celoni)

Recommendations



Information

Sant Celoni Tourist Office
C/ Major, 53
Tel. 93 867 01 71
turisme@santceloni.cat
www.santceloni.cat/turisme



Les Llobateres is a natural reserve promoted by:



Direction and execution:



Functions and advantages

The creation of Les Llobateres natural reserve has meant:

- The recovery of a new inflow and infiltration lake for the aquifer and a new flood abatement area.
- A boost to the plant, fauna and the landscape diversity of the mid section of the Tordera river, especially the part related to wetland habitats.
- **An improvement in the Tordera river's function as a biological reserve, creating a space that attracts and promotes the propagation of different animal and plant species commonly found in marshland habitats.**
- The area can now be used to carry out research, conserve biodiversity as well as for recreational and environmental education purposes.
- More marshland areas in the alluvial plain of the mid section of the Tordera river, an area where there used to be many more wetlands that once covered a much wider area.



Fauna observatory



Butterfly
(*Issoria lathonia*)

History and legend

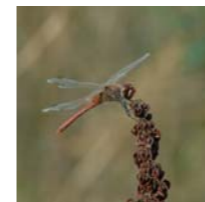
Legend has it that one day in December 1082, the Counts Berenguer Ramon and Ramon Berenguer II, known as Tow Head (because of the thickness of his blonde hair), went hunting in a thick forest between the towns of Sant Celoni and Hostalric with an entourage of nobles. Berenguer Ramon, hidden behind the thick trees betrayed Tow Head and stabbed him to death: He then got rid of his brother's body which he dragged to the Negre de la Tordera gorge and then threw it to the bottom of the dark waters.

When the rest of the company realised that Tow head had disappeared they searched everywhere but couldn't find him. Finally, they spotted the count's goshawk perched high above, pointing to the place the fratricide had been committed. The goshawk took flight and slowly led them to the gorge where they found the body. The gorge, which no longer exists, was located where Les Llobateres is today.

Tow Head was buried in Girona cathedral and a series of miracles revealed that he had been assassinated by his brother.



Bee eater (*Merops apiaster*)



Dragonfly
(*Sympetrum fonscolombii*)



Sandpiper
(*Actitis hypoleucos*)



Grey heron
(*Ardea cinerea*)



Les Llobateres

A marshland in the mid-basin of Tordera river



Les Llobateres marshland was formed as a result of the operations and restoration of a gravel mine, located inside the municipality of Sant Celoni. This natural space has created an exceptional riverside habitat and constitutes an interesting observation point for the flora and fauna in the marshlands of the alluvial plain of the Tordera river

The Tordera river gathers water from the Monstseny and Montnegre mountains and is 61 km long. Les Llobateres wetlands are located on low ground in the alluvial plain where the aquifer comes to the surface. These spaces are extremely important because they lower the risk of flooding, create riverside habitats, are home to many plant and animal species, promote biodiversity and constitute links between the river ecosystem and surrounding areas

The formation of the marshland

In 1998 a company began to extract sands and gravels for construction on farming plots located in Les Llobateres. The excavations brought water to the surface from the aquifer and it was decided to leave it that way and create a marshland.

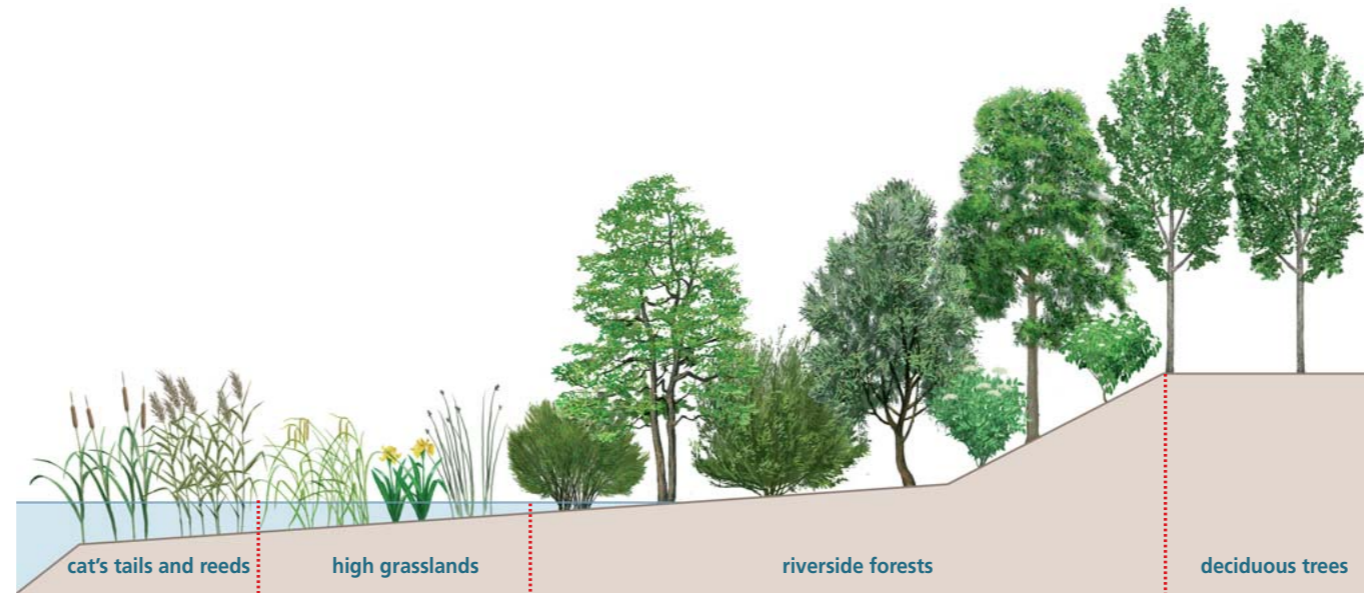
The land became public property and the land was then remodelled. **Three islands were raised inside the pond and submerged beaches and gently sloping banks were formed**, which were replanted with vegetation.

A high mound of soil was built around the pond to hide the area and reduce the noise from nearby traffic and passersby. The restoration work also entailed other tasks such as the subsoiling of the lands affected by the movement of machinery, the spreading of compost, paving the service road and the parking area, the sowing of various grass species and the planting of local trees and shrubs, wooden fences, the construction of a fauna observation point and information signposting inside the natural space.

The restoration work commenced while the gravel was still being dug up so the area was turned into a marshland almost

immediately. As early as 1998 characteristic species that usually frequent such natural spaces were spotted, for example a large colony of bee-eaters during the summer season, that build their nests on river banks. In 1999, coots, little grebes, green-neck ducks, plovers, herons, frogs and toads were among the species located in the marshland.

Les Llobateres was officially opened to the public in May 2007 and the water refurbishment work was completed at the end of 2008.



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

The habitat and fauna

The vegetation on the banks of Les Llobateres is made up of **groups of willows, grey sallows, ash, elm and alder trees**. There are also communities of helophytes such as cat's tail and reeds. The presence of a marshy area of this size attracts many water birds such as the **green neck duck, grey heron, coot** and the **common moorhen**, to this habitat in search of food and a place to mate. Among these one can also find the **kingfisher**, a species that is considered vulnerable due to the gradual destruction of the wetlands. Les Llobateres reserve has encouraged their presence plus that of other riverside birds such as the **bee-eater** and the **bank swallow** and mounds have been built near the water where they can make their nests. **A wetland of these characteristics is a haven for several amphibians, reptiles and small aquatic invertebrates and constitutes a watering place for some mammals.**



Mediterranean tree frog (*Hyla meridionalis*)



Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)