



# NEN JESÚS DE PRAGA ROUTE

Sant  
Hilari  
Sacalm



# Sant Hilari Sacalm

LesGuilleriesKm0.cat

**Sant Hilari Sacalm** is the **capital of Les Guilleries**, the km 0 of a wild and -still- little-known massif near the Montseny, a mountain range. A place where nature, forests and water generously give us innumerable emotions and experiences to enjoy the privileged environment which surrounds us.

Les Guilleries is the ideal place for all nature lovers searching for authentic havens where you can connect with yourself and awaken all your senses. A place where you can live all kinds of experiences, such as enjoying cool moments drinking the natural water that comes from more than **100 municipal springs**. You can also have a bath in the transparent waters of some **streams or pools** hidden by the environment, or simply sit and close your eyes to listen to the force of the water falling from a waterfall while letting go your thoughts for a few moments.

For those who want to feel the adrenaline, you can **practice different high-intensity sports** such as hiking along long paths, mountain biking and trail running, among others. However, for those who want to enjoy a calmer experience, there are several routes to go for a walk along pleasant paths which allow you to **find out the most authentic and pure nature** of Sant Hilari Sacalm.

Otherwise, if you are searching for silence, you just need to relax in some of the town's viewpoints and enjoy the panoramic views that its landscapes give us, while listening to the birds singing and the rustling of the leaves moved by the wind.

So, Sant Hilari is a **privileged place** where nature lovers can **enjoy and feel it in a thousand different ways**.



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# Summary

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Nien Jesus de Praga lookout

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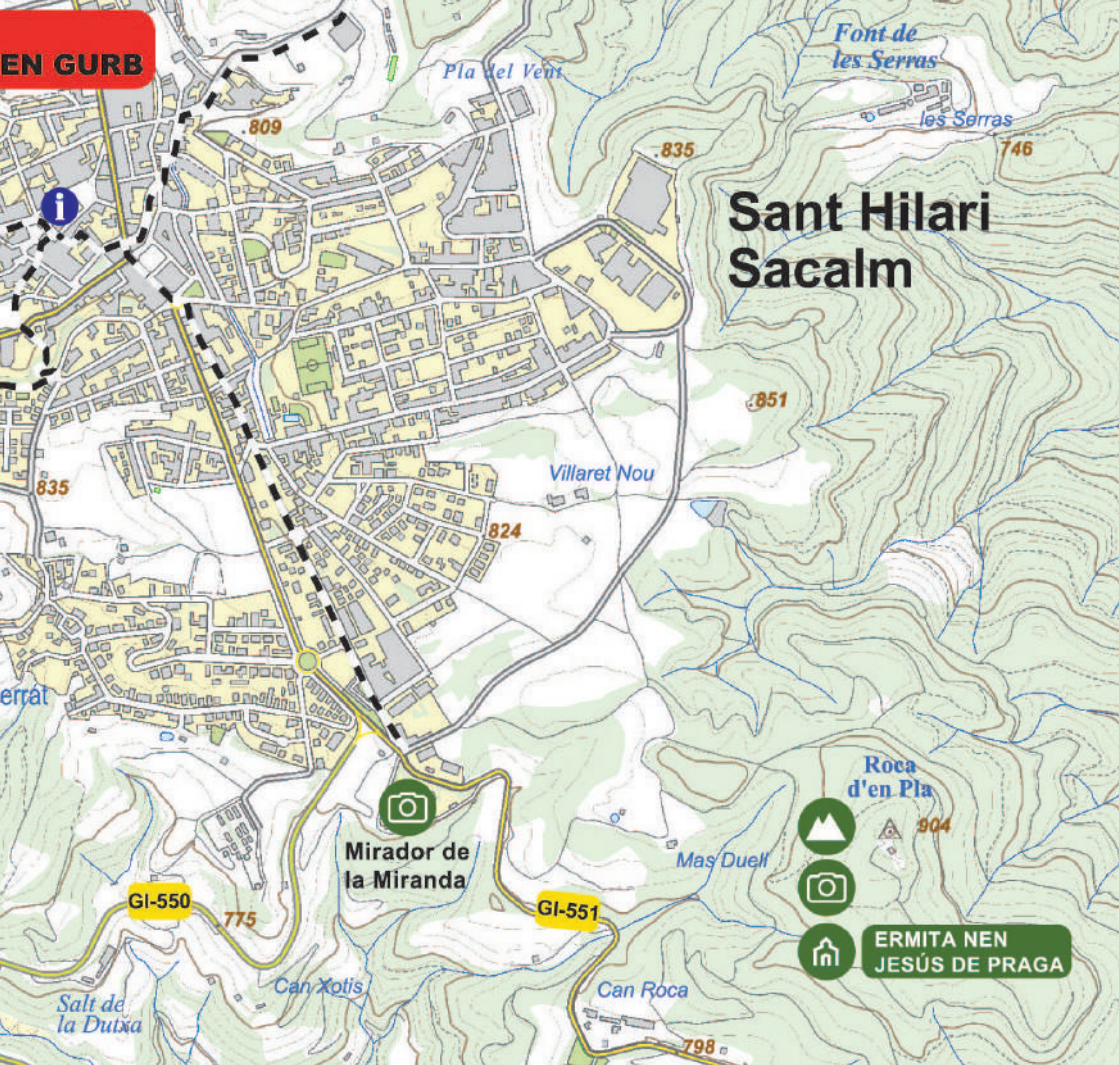
## General information

It is a short and **easily accessible route** which starts very near the town centre. Residents usually go there when they want to go for a walk. The route leads to the hermitage of Nen Jesús de Praga (Infant Jesus of Prague), located on a small hill known as Roca d'en Pla, from where you can see beautiful panoramic views of Plana de la Selva and Parc Natural del Montseny.

The first construction of the **hermitage** dates back to 1911, although later it had to be rebuilt and the arrangement of the bell tower was changed. The hermitage is dedicated to Nen Jesús de Praga because formerly there was a lot of devotion and veneration to this image, but there was no place of worship.

Every year there is a tradition of gathering on **Whit Monday**. Thanks to the enthusiasm of its founder, Father Joan Muntalt, and the beauty of its views, this hermitage has become a place of hiking and religious attraction.





## Symbols and markers

 2,5 KM

 70 M

 45 M

## Route markers

This route is marked in yellow in this way:

-  Continuation of the path
-  Wrong way

In addition, there are also small wooden signs along the route with a yellow mark indicating the way to follow.

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## Flora

The most common vegetation in this area is conifer plantations, above all on the western and northern slopes, the shadiest area of the mountain. There are also stone pines and the cork oaks, vegetation which is more common on the southern and sunny slopes of the mountain from 500 meters of altitude.

### MONTEREY PINE (*Pinus radiata*)

It is an evergreen tree, very sensitive to pests, especially to the processionary caterpillar pest. It differs from the other pines in Catalonia because its **leaves come in threes**. They are very flexible, bright green, thin and quite short, from 7 to 15 cm.

It comes from the southern coast of California and it grows quickly, that is why it has often been used in repopulation. Its wood is often used to make paper pulp and furniture.

### DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

It is a conical evergreen tree which grows in a **conical shape** and can grow up to **50 meters**. From its bark, we can get **turpentine**, which is used to make paints and varnishes. Its wood is used to make **furniture, beams and paper**. From its bark as well as from its leaves, we can get turpentine oil, which is used as an ointment.

Its fruit is the **pineapple**, which can reach 10-15 centimetres.

Nowadays, in Sant Hilari there are different fields where you can see large fir plantations,



Monterey pine



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## Flora

which are sold at **Christmas**. Formerly, most of these fields grew potatoes.

### **SWEET CHESTNUT** (*Castanea sativa*)

It is a deciduous tree that can grow **up to 20 meters**. Its leaves are large, long and serrated. Its fruit is the **chestnut**, which is edible and really prized as a food in this area.

The wood extracted from this tree is white and soft, and it is often used as **firewood or to make boxes**. Its fruit is the horse chestnut, very similar to the chestnut, although it is usually larger and does not have a tail. In the past, it was believed that carrying a chestnut in your pocket cured headaches, bruises and toothache.

### **CEDAR** (*Cedrus*)

It is a type of **coniferous tree** in the plant family Pinaceae. It is a tree with a **big conical-shaped crown**. Its wood is quite fragile, which limits its use in carpentry. However, it is commonly used to create **musical instruments and to make handicrafts**. It stands out for its peculiar smell, which scares away insects and worms.

### **EVERGREEN OAK AND CORK OAK** (*Quercus ilex and Quercus suber*)

This tree can be 5 to 25 meters high; it is stocky and quite branched; it is very common and



Sweet chestnut, evergreen oak and pine

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## Flora

characteristic of the **Mediterranean forest**. The leaf is evergreen, hard and with a slightly burry margin. It is dark green on the face and green-grey on the underside.

The **fruit** is the acorn, rounded, elongated and covered by a kind of hat. Acorns are not very sweet, but forest animals have traditionally given them a great use because they mature and fall on the ground from September to February.

Its **wood** is compact, hard, heavy and brown. It is very useful for pieces that have to hold a lot of resistance. This wood was highly prized by charcoal burners to make charcoal. It is still the favourite **firewood for fireplaces** and woodburning stoves, since it has great calorific power. Straight logs have been used for spokes and curves of carriage wheels, tool handles and loom shuttles.

The **cork oak** has a cork bark that protects it from dryness, fires and pests. It has multiple uses but is highly valued for wine and champagne caps.



Acorns

Guilleries Monterey pine



## Fauna

The fauna in Les Guilleries is diverse and abundant. On this route, we can find animals such as the squirrel, the jay, the hoopoe and the lizard, among others.

### SQUIRREL (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

It is a **reddish mammal** in summer and more greyish in winter. It has a very furry tail which helps it maintain balance when jumping from branch to branch and from tree to tree. It **eats** tree seeds, especially pine nuts but also hazelnuts, acorns, walnuts and chestnuts.

It usually **buries fruits and seeds** to store them for the winter, but it does not always catch them, so they germinate and new trees and shrubs appear. It builds nests in trees, which it covers with leaves and moss. He easily **gets frightened** of the human presence and runs away quickly. It mainly lives in pine forests near water areas.

### JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*)

This **bird** of the crow family lives in forest areas. It has pink and brown **plumage**, a white rump visible when it flies, and wing feathers are blue and black. We can often find them along the route. The tail is black and the beak is dark, short and thick, characteristic of corvids.

It **gets easily frightened** which warns the rest of animals in the forest with loud and noisy yells when it spots a danger or human presence. It usually eats insects, small eggs, larvae, mice and worms, although it likes acorns, which it usually keeps inside the holes in the trees.

### HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)



## Flora

It is a pinkish brown bird with wings and tail with black and white stripes. It has got a **crest** which can be open and closed, and it is in orange and with black ends. Its **singing** is easy to identify, with just a single note that makes "pu-pu-put" and gives it a name. Its **beak** is thin, curved and long, which allows it to **eat** a wide variety of insects such as locusts, ants, crickets, caterpillars, spiders and earthworms.

It is **migratory** and spends the winter on the African continent. Its presence points out the arrival of good weather and the beginning of spring. It lives in open areas, orchards and forests, and it nests in tree holes, buildings and nest boxes. Along the route we can see different nest boxes and troughs. Their main objective is promoting biodiversity in the area. Moreover, birds help regulate insect pests and prevent the use of pesticides and chemicals.

### LIZARD (*Lacerta hispànica*)

This reptile eats **small insects** such as mosquitoes, small beetles and ants. It lives in rocky areas, on wall slopes, in tree trunks and in cultivated areas.

It **hibernates** in cold weather and only comes out on sunny days, when it stays still. This way, with the heat of the sun, it manages to warm its body and regulate its temperature. In Catalonia there are up to 7 different species of lizards.





Camp amb pins de fons

## Places of interest - Miranda viewpoint and Pedra Llarga

Al llarg de la ruta trobem diferents elements d'interès paisatgístic, arquitectònic i històric. En primer lloc trobem dos punts que es troben situats molt a prop del punt d'inici de la ruta que són el Mirador de la Miranda i la Pedra Llarga.

### MIRANDA VIEWPOINT

This viewpoint is known for its magnificent views of the natural park El Montseny. It is a place where you can breathe the nature and tranquillity in its essence. It is very visited by the tourists as well as the townspeople. In there, you can see the sea of Blanes or the top of the mountain Matagalls.

Near this viewpoint we find "Petjada del dimoni" (Devil's footprint) which the legend explains that: *"Many years ago, at the peak of Sant Miquel de Solterra, there was Sant Antoni Abat and a devil. From time to time, they played cards on a rock. The Saint, on each play, got 31 points, while the demon only got 30. Until one day, the devil, fed up with losing, threw a card with such fury that he broke the rock. At the same time, he jumped and that is why his footprint was marked."*

### PEDRA LLARGA (Long stone)

This **megalithic menhir-shaped monument** is attributed to an ethnic and cultural group which



## Places of interest - Miranda Viewpoint and Pedra Llarga

entered through the north of the peninsula in 2000 B.C. The legend explains that it was one of the stones which had to complete the construction of the Pont de Pedra (Stone Bridge) of Girona, and that the devil built it in order to get the soul of a maid from Sarrià.

This stone, dated from the Chalcolithic, is **1.80 metres high and 79 centimetres wide**, and it is believed to have been a landmark. It has been moved several times because the roads have been widened.

**Popular local culture** talks about its origin in the legend that says:

*"Once upon a time, an old man needed to cross the stream in Sant Hilari, which was very crowded, so he offered his soul to the devil if he helped him to do so. The devil accepted the deal and promised to build a bridge before midnight, the time when the infernal agreements are fulfilled.*

*But the man's daughter found out what her father had done and decided to avoid it.*

*Everyone knows roosters usually sing at midnight. Well, there were three of them in her house: a white one, which sang at ten; a blond one, which sang at eleven; and the black one, which sang at midnight. Then, the girl went to the hen-house and with her apron began to wind the black rooster so that it would wake up and sing before twelve. And she got it.*

*The infernal legions who were flying the stones to build the bridge dropped the last one, which hammered itself in the place where it is nowadays and, angry like scorpions, the legion went back to hell.*

*So, not only is there a story about the mystery of this stone, but it has been a source of inspiration for ages."*



**Pedra Llarga**



## Places of interest - Roca d'en Pla

### ROCA D'EN PLA (Pla's rock)

This mountain is at **903 meters** above sea level, right next the Hermitage of Nen Jesús de Praga. At the summit of the rocks there is a geodesic vertex with a cross at the top.

This place also hides several **legends**; the first and best known says:

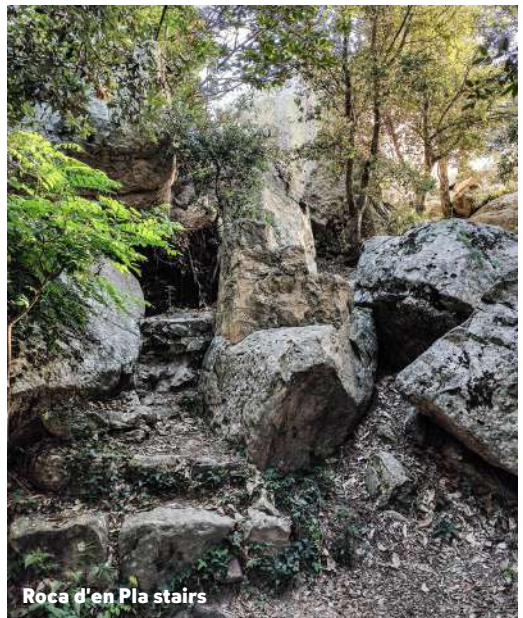
*"Legend has it that there was a cave on the way up to La Roca d'en Pla, by the shortcut. Its entrance was located at the back of the rock, that everyone called Els Encantats (the Enchanted), almost at the top of the shortcut, on the right. According to rumours, from midnight on, people could hear the songs of the nymphs, who supposedly lived and slept inside the cave.*

*Many people from Sant Hilari were aware of this fact, and they began to say that if anyone entered the cave before midnight, they were likely to come out with something valuable. If this happened, they could not look at what was being taken until after crossing the stream on the edge of the village.*

*Early in the morning, a maid from Sant Hilari entered the cave and came out with her apron full of who knows what. She obviously knew the story, and she knew very well that she was not allowed to look, but curiosity betrayed her before she reached the stream. So she saw a pile of rye. She watched more closely to see if there was anything else and noticed four shining dots. It seems that if the maid had not done what she was not supposed to do, after crossing the stream that rye would have turned into gold.Va esclarissat-lo amb la mà per veure si hi havia*



Aerial view of Roca d'en Pla cross



Roca d'en Pla stairs

## Places of interest - Roca d'en Pla

*alguna cosa més i va observar quatre puntets que brillaven. Sembla ser que si la minyona no hagués mirat abans d'hora, en travessar el rierol el sègol hauria esdevingut or."*

We also find other legends related to **witches**:

*"Every year, on the night before Sant Joan (Saint John, on 24th June), a breach opens. Out of this breach come all the witches, who make the most of the night to do evil by going around the place to Matagalls. Once the night is over, they return to their hideout until the following year."*

And finally, there is one related to Can Rovira, an old manor house located in the centre of the town, where nowadays there is the Tourist Office:

*"Can Rovira was the most powerful and largest manor house in the town. Until a few years back, when the last surviving mistress of the family died, tablecloths had always been placed on the altar in front of the house on Corpus Christi Day. The legend says that these tablecloths belonged to the Encantats (The Enchanted), who lived in an underground palace, near the place called Roca d'en Pla. It seems that The Enchanted used to spread the tablecloths on the rocks and, one day, the heir of Can Rovira, who was passing by, picked them up and ran away. The Enchanted, half-mythological beings, saw him and ran after him. When they almost got him, the bells of Sant Hilari rang what we call "the touch of souls"; The Enchanted then stopped the chase and shouting loudly they said: "Keep these tablecloths well, for all who keep them will never be poor", and this was the origin of their fortune and greatness."*

It is said that this was the origin of the fortune and greatness of the manor house of Can Rovira.



Nen Jesús de Praga hermitage and Roca d'en Pla

Men Jesús de Praga hermitage



## Places of interest - Ermita del Nen Jesús de Praga

### ERMITA DEL NEN JESÚS DE PRAGA

Right behind the hermitage, there is a **narrow path** that leads to a viewpoint from where we can see, in the south, the peaks of Montseny, Turó de l'Home, Agudes, Collet de Sant Marçal, Turó de l'Home and Matagalls. In the northeast, you can see Sant Miquel de les Formigues and the Casal de Villavecchia. Further east, there are Roques del Rei and, below, from west to east, there are the farmhouses of Serres, Masó de la Sala, Villaret Vell and Plana de La Selva with Santa Coloma de Farners. If the weather is nice, you can even see the sea at Blanes.

In **1911**, the first stone of the hermitage was laid, which was blessed by Bishop Dr. Torres i Bages). The hermitage was an initiative of **Father Joan Muntalt** and was built thanks to the financial contributions of villagers and summer visitors. In 1918, Father Muntalt offered the statue of Nen Jesús de Praga (Infant Jesus of Prague), which is on the altar made by the Salesians workshops in Sarrià. The model of image is painted, does not wear any dress and the crown is the size of the head (unlike the original Infant Jesus of Prague). Around 1920, the Canela family gave the money needed to finish the side walls, build the porch, cover it and put stained glass in the windows. Significant renovations were made in 1973, and in 1982 the bell tower had to be rebuilt due to the damages caused by lightning. It is important to highlight that, after the Civil War, the **bell tower was moved** from east to west.

Structurally, the hermitage consists of a single nave which is 7 meters long, 4.6 meters wide



## Places of interest - Ermita del Nen Jesús de Praga

and 4 meters high, with a side porch on the north side and **neo-Gothic features**. It has a bell-gable which crowns the upper part of the façade above the roof with a space for the bell. We find two conical and pointed pinnacles on each side.

The reason why in Sant Hilary there is a hermitage dedicated to the Infant Jesus of Prague is because it was much revered in Spain, but there was no place dedicated to this figure.



Ermita del Nen Jesús de Praga



## Recommendations when going to the forest:



Plan your trip well before going into the woods.



Before setting off, keep the weather in mind.



Adapt your equipment (clothing, shoes...) to the activity.



It is advisable to bring some food, water and a mobile phone with the battery fully charged.



Calculate the time of the activity well. Count how long the trip will take, so that you won't have to leave when it gets dark.



Call the emergency teams at 112 if you need so.



If you see any incident along the route (fallen trees, broken signs, etc.), you can send the photos and location to the email [oficinaturisme@santhilari.cat](mailto:oficinaturisme@santhilari.cat) or by Whatsapp to the phone 972 86 96 86.



In case of bringing a dog or a pet, it is advisable to bring it tied. You can find cattle grazing near the routes.

## And remember that in Sant Hilari Sacalm we take care of nature, please:



Do not leave or throw rubbish in the forest



Do not break or pull up vegetation



Do not light a campfire unless it is in an enabled space.

\*From 15th March to 15th October, no fire can be started on forest land without permission.

# Sant Hilari Sacalm

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