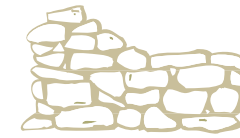
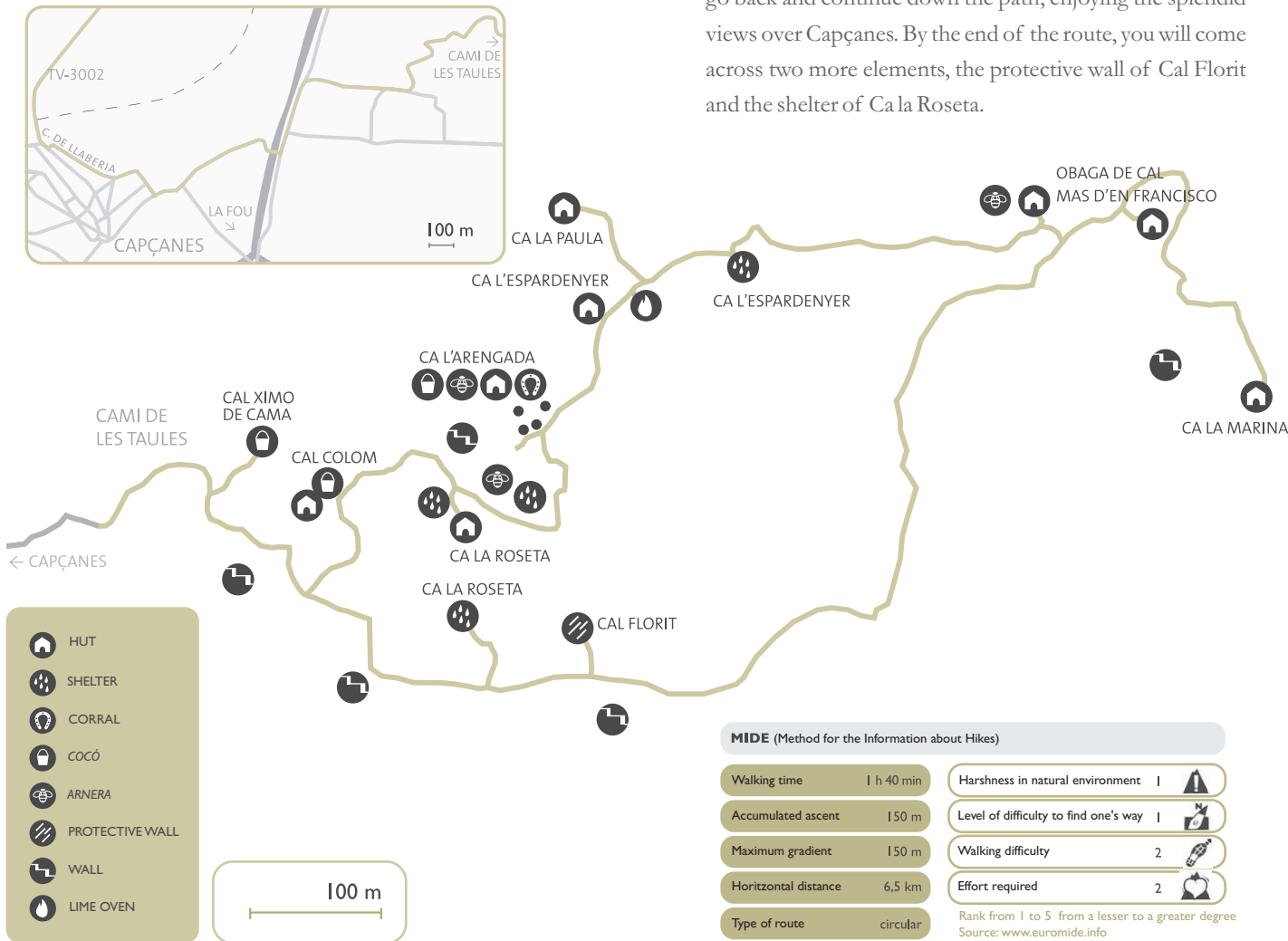


ITINERARY OF DRY STONE OF LES TAULES

From the entrance to the village from the North, go off the course to the left going past the farming cooperative, and then take Llaberia street. Go round the village centre until you get to the crop fields, where you should continue on the left on the concrete path. Leave a path on the right which would lead you to gully of La Vall. Cross the Capçanes creek and follow it upwards. Take the second path on the right, which leads steadily up to Les Taules. If you went up the creek, you would get to Marçà.

Continue on the path upwards without going off its course until you find the first element, the *cocó* (water tank) of Cal Ximo de Cama. Go back to the main path. 150 metres further up, take the path on the left which will lead you to the two huts and the *cocó* of Cal Colom. If you continue on the path you will find several elements, among which Ca l'Arençada has the widest variety of structures. Once on a wide path, walk up a bit to visit two elements, the huts of the Obaga de Mas d'en Francisco and Ca la Marina. Then go back and continue down the path, enjoying the splendid views over Capçanes. By the end of the route, you will come across two more elements, the protective wall of Cal Florit and the shelter of Ca la Roseta.



ITINERARY OF DRY STONE CAPÇANES

THE HERITAGE OF DRY STONE IN CAPÇANES. MUNICIPAL AREA DISTRICT OF LES TAULES

The municipal district of Capçanes, which belongs to the Priorat region, is located in one of the two areas which are richest in dry-stone constructions in Priorat (the other one is the area of Montsant river and the mountains surrounding it). In the area of Les Taules, situated to the East of the village centre, a wide variety of elements made of dry stone congregate in quite a limited space. You can find walls, huts, shelters, yards, cisterns, *armariets* (lockers), *arneres* (for beehives), *clapers* (stone heaps), protective walls and a lime oven. This area used to be cultivated by the poorest sharecroppers, farmers and farm labourers who worked the least productive lands.

Such diversity and, at the same time, concentration of elements in a limited space, has made it possible to design this itinerary. It aims at promoting this valuable heritage, as well as recovering the names and nicknames of the buildings and their old owners.

DRY STONE ART

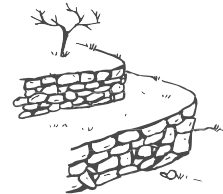
The art of dry stone is based on the use of stone only in order to create structures and constructions without any kind of mortar to bind them together. Sometimes, clay and mud are used to fill the space between the stones but not functioning as binding.

The origins of the art of dry stone are uncertain but definitely old. It possibly started in European Megalithic cultures. Since the beginning of agriculture, stone has been an auxiliary element for human beings, which has been used to level the ground, protect the flocks, keep the ice, wine, water and food, etc. However, during the 13th-14th and 18th-19th Centuries the increase of population meant the spreading of the art of dry stone throughout Catalunya. We can still contemplate those constructions, although some of them are beginning to show their age.

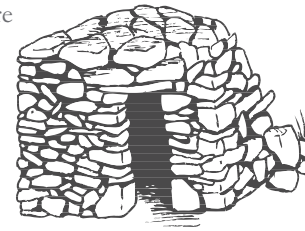
It must be pointed out that this art has evolved in a similar way throughout the Mediterranean area, from West to East, with structures and constructions that have very similar characteristics.

TPOLOGY OF THE CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE ITINERARY OF DRY STONE OF LES TAULES

WALLS: they are the most common element of dry-stone architecture. Walls are mainly linked to the cultivation of grapevines, olive trees, almond trees and carob trees. They allowed the farming of land in places which originally had a great slope, holding the excavated terraces in the mountains. There are other construction elements related to walls, such as huts, shelters, places to keep beehives and small lockers or hiding places. Besides, stairs used to be built, which allowed the access to the terraces.



HUTS: they can be considered the major works of dry stone art. They were often inhabited by both the farmer and the animals, though in two separated areas, sometimes. The roof was made by putting layers of stone arranged one on top of another, the one at the top protruding a bit from the one below. The rows of stone slabs were slightly inclined outwards in order to prevent water from coming in. In order to make the construction impermeable, the roof was often covered with stone slabs, stones or earth, where lilies were planted.



SHELTER: this construction is usually attached to the wall, which serves as support to shore the lintel and the roof. It was mainly used to shelter from bad weather and to store farming tools or keep food cold.

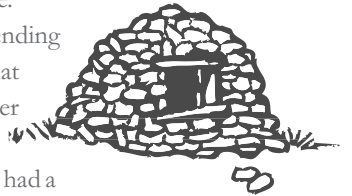


ARNERES: they are cavities built in the walls, always facing South. However, sometimes detached constructions were created to lodge bees. Inside the cavity, a beehive was installed, usually made of holm oak bark.



COCONS: they are natural cavities dug by humans, generally small, which served to store the water of superficial run-off. The inside was isolated, usually with lime, so as to make the construction impermeable.

Its size usually varied depending on the amount of water that animals needed. The farmer usually drunk little water: he used a wine skin, which had a two litre capacity and was full of wine. Later, water was also used for sulphation.



YARDS: they are constructions to keep the livestock. They were delimited by means of dry stone walls.

LIME OVEN: the oven was excavated at a sloped place so that the construction of part of the wall was not necessary and to fill it more easily. In the case of Capçanes, though, the oven is located at a flat place. It was used to cook lime stone and get the lime which would later be used for building or painting.

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