

## **The Directorate General for Tourism is to spend 180,000 euros on a project to enhance appreciation of Girona's Greenways**

The Minister for Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, Josep Huguet, presented this project today in Quart. It aims to set up small thematic signposted routes to help the public to discover the natural and cultural resources near the greenways. The project, which will begin in April and continue for 3 years, has a total budget of 900,000 euros.

The minister's stay in Girona also included a visit to the site of the future five-star thermal resort "Six Senses Latitude at Jafre". It is hoped that the centre, to be inaugurated at the end of 2008, will be a leader in Europe, offering personalised treatment and therapy, and will include the largest spa in Europe.

Monday, 31 March 2008

The Minister of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, Josep Huguet, accompanied by the president of the provincial government, Enric Vilert, and the president of the Greenway Consortium, Jaume Sità, today presented in Quart a project to enhance appreciation of Girona's greenways.

The Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, through the Directorate General of Tourism, is spending 180,000 euros on this project. It will start in April and continue for three years. The aim of this project – part of the Tourist Development Plan for Catalonia - is to create small thematic signposted routes (focusing on landscape, vegetation, literary connections, geology, history etc.) which will help the public to discover the natural and cultural resources near the greenways. The total cost of the project will be 900,000 euros.

After the presentation to the media, the official representatives went for a short bike ride along a section of the greenway which runs from Quart to Girona.

The project: "Girona's Greenways, a path to understanding the area"

Under the title "Girona's Greenways, a path to understanding the area", the project is intended to highlight the heritage, and the natural, cultural, historical and traditional features of the 135 kilometres of greenways between Ripoll and Sant Feliu de Guíxols. It is hoped that it will enhance tourists' enjoyment and raise environmental awareness among the network's many users.



To achieve these objectives the Girona Greenway Consortium plans to list the tangible and intangible resources in the 23 municipalities through which the route runs and select the most interesting and the best way to reach them. Subsequently, they will be signposted, so that visitors can locate them and learn more about them.

To publicise the routes, informative guides will be published, which will be designed for people of all ages. New information concerning the routes will be posted on internet, together with details of each point of interest. A particularly novel feature is the availability of this information to users of PDA devices using GPS, in the form of "e-routes". The project has the support of the Generalitat, the Girona provincial government and the municipalities through which the greenways run.

### **Visit to the site of the future thermal resort "Six Senses Latitude at Jafre"**

During his stay in Girona Josep Huguet also visited the site of the future five-star thermal resort "Six Senses Latitude at Jafre". The establishment belongs to Prestige Hotels and will be managed by the Asian Six Senses group, a world leader specialising in luxury resorts. The centre, which will have 97 rooms, will be inaugurated at the end of 2008. It is hoped that it will become a leader in Europe, offering personalised treatment and therapy. It will include the largest spa in Europe with mineral-medicinal waters, covering an area of 3,000 square metres.

In keeping with the characteristic architecture of the Empordà, Six Senses Latitude at Jafre readapts traditional styles and combines them with the philosophy of feng-shui. The hotel has also been designed with regard to strict criteria of sustainability and respect for the environment. With its single-storey structure this luxury resort is fully integrated in its natural surroundings. Standing on a 12 hectare site, the hotel complex will occupy 15,000 square metres. It will also include a 30,000 square metre pine wood.

The minister's visit to Girona finished in Sant Pere Pescador, where he met members of the local council, visited the tourist office and saw the municipality's river route.