

# 06 EL SISCARÓ (BAIX LAKE)

HIKING IN ANDORRA



## DON'T MISS...

tasting a typical Andorran dish, such as Andorran-style trout or soup, in one of the emblematic "huts".

## DID YOU KNOW?

the goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) is the smallest bird in Europe.

## TOPONYMY

**Siscaró:** From a plant called *sisca*, a graminoid of the species *Phragmites australis* (the common reed) which grows in swamps and swallow lakes.

**Etymology:** From the Celtic *sesca*.



Ponds of Siscaró



Marsh orchid  
(*Dactylorhiza majalis*)



Globe flower  
(*Trollius europaeus*)



Goldcrest  
(*Regulus regulus*)

Baix lake, also known as Siscaró lake, with a surface area of one hectare, is located at 2,325 metres altitude, in Incles valley, which embraces relief marked by the movement of glaciers from the Quaternary Period. A pleasant car trip brings you to the car park at Baladosa bridge, where the route resumes.

The mountain is gorgeous all year round and you can see vegetation such as the mountain pine on the lower part and perhaps hear or spot the goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*). At the higher reaches, you may see the white-throated dipper or the water pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*), the alpine accentor (*Prunella collaris*) or the northern whe-

atear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). The most common mammals include the squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), the roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and the king of the scree surrounding the ponds of Siscaró, the marmot (*Marmota marmota*). These small animals live in family groups, a fact that helps us to see more than one of them at a time, especially when they come forth to eat and get some sun. The whistling sounds they make are very distinct.

One peculiar aspect of the lake is its reeds, which give the water a different tone of blue and the lake its name, Siscaró (the Catalan word *sisca* means "reed").



TOPOGUIDE

DATA SHEET

- ● ● ●
- 1H 45 MIN
- 1H 45 MIN
- +500 M  
-10 M
- 3.580 M
- NO
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

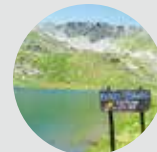
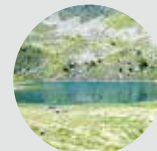
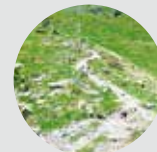
ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- ● ●
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> BALADOSA BRIDGE 1.835 m	-- (--)	--	N42 36.122 E1 41.225	This popular, relatively flat hike begins at the end of the narrow Incles valley road (3 km). Just past the Baladosa bridge, you'll see a car park and the starting point.
<b>2</b> EL TRAVENC INTERSECTION 2.005 m	840 m (+85 m)	20'	N42 36.073 E1 41.773	After crossing the Incles river, follow the forest trail. The path starts with a slight incline surrounded by dry stone walls, mountain pines and alpenrose, which will be in full bloom at the beginning of July. With little effort you'll arrive at the El Travenc intersection (see signs).



LOCATION	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>3</b> SISCARÓ RIVER WATERFALL 2.005 m	1.270 m (+85 m)	40'	N42 35.947 E1 41.933	Continue to the right, heading southeast. The path will become narrow and gradually gain altitude until you come to a small waterfall in the Siscaró river, which is especially attractive after the thaw.
<b>4</b> PONDS OF SISCARÓ 2.145 m	3.020 m (+140 m)	1h 30'	N42 35.407 E1 42.158	Further along, the path continues parallel with the river until you come to the ponds of Siscaró. A wooden sign will point you the way to the Siscaró refuge, with capacity for 12 people.
<b>5</b> SOLDEU PATH INTERSECTION 2.285 m	3.020 m (+140 m)	1h 30'	N42 35.149 E1 36.457	After walking along the ponds and observing the orchids and other flowers that grow in this wetland, you can resume your climb. After overcoming two small slopes, you'll find the path going down to Soldeu.
<b>6</b> ELS BASERS PONDS 2.335 m	3.290 m (+50 m)	1h 40'	N42 35.296 E1 42.111	The path continues on your left. Shortly afterward, with little effort, you'll come to the Els Basers ponds.
<b>7</b> BAIX LAKE 2.325 m	3.580 m (-10 m)	1h 45'	N42 35.293 E1 42.244	Walking around the side of the pond, you'll reach Baix lake. The popular trout known here as <i>Fario o comuna</i> can be fished in its pristine waters. ( <i>Salmo trutta fario</i> ).



ROUTE PROFILE

