

49 CAMÍ DE L'ALT DE COMAPEDROSA (COMAPEDROSA NATURE PARK)

DON'T MISS...

the chance to stop and sleep or eat at the Comapedrosa Shelter, which is in the middle of the nature park. Further information: +376 327 955
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<https://refugicomapedrosa.ad/>

DID YOU KNOW...

The mountains of this valley were passages for fugitives during the Second World War. Andorra was a place of asylum for Republican, Spanish and French refugees, among others.

BEHIND THE NAME

Comapedrosa:
 Coma, from the Latin cumba, meaning "valley", and pedrosa, from the Latin petra, meaning "stone"; thus "stone valley".



Bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)



Negre lake



One-flower fleabane (*Erigeron uniflorus*)



Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)

Pic de Comapedrosa is the highest peak in Andorra. It's located in the Valls del Comapedrosa Communal Nature Park, which covers 1,542.6 ha (15.42 km²). It belongs to the parish of la Massana, in Arinsal. At 2,942 metres above sea level, it's an excellent place to contemplate the surrounding mountains and the whole of the Pyrenees. From the top you'll have a perfect view of Pica d'Estats, the highest peak in Catalonia. This nature park boasts six series of glacial lakes, making up a large percentage of the lake systems in western Andorra. They're also the highest lakes in the country.

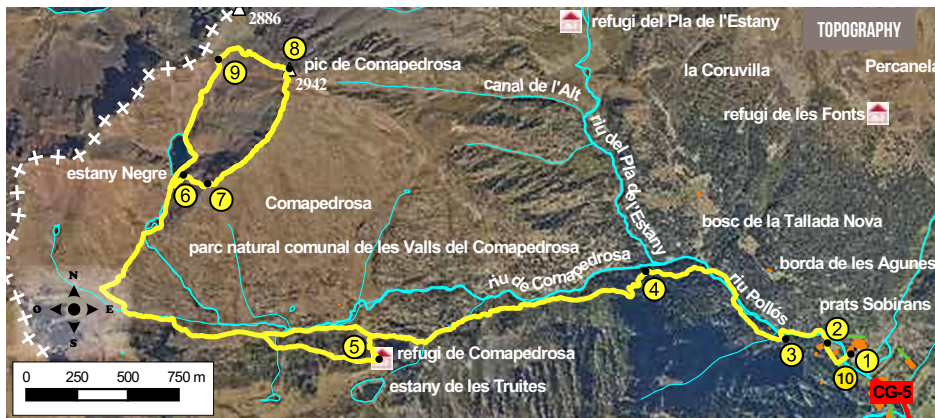
The valley's cultural heritage is closely tied to traditional agriculture and livestock: stone huts, cabins, fountains, troughs, terraced plots, drystone walls, etc.

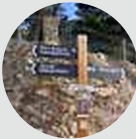
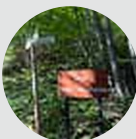
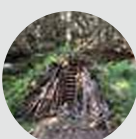
All of which are connected with traditional farming and livestock activities, particularly harvesting and storing grass from neighbouring fields and raising livestock. Part of this tradition has

survived until the present, as in summer, sheep, cows and mares graze in these meadows.

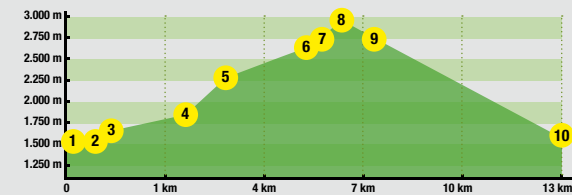
The best time of year to visit the park is from May to October, when there isn't much snow, making it much more accessible, and the park comes alive with the colours of spring (snow on the peaks and flowers in the valleys) and autumn (intensely green conifers and orange/brown deciduous trees). All the same, caution is advised with regard to springtime snow and summer snows. Visitors do come in winter as well to cross-country ski and go snowshoe hiking, but it's important to take into account the risk of avalanches, which considerably limits leisure options in winter.

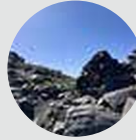
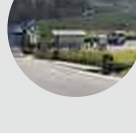
The sky over la Massana, and especially the Comapedrosa Natural Park, has been awarded the distinction of a Starlight Tourist Destination and Reserve for the quality of its skies and the very low light pollution. This makes it a privileged place to enjoy astrotourism.



PLACE	ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
1	ARINSAL CAR PARK	-- (--)	--	N42 57.942 E1 47.751	Park at Car Park 2, located just beyond Arinsal, immediately after the tunnel on the right-hand side. This is where the walk begins.	
2	COMAPE- DROSA PATH	200 m (+1 m)	5'	N42 57.993 E1 47.612	Follow the road towards the tunnel. At the entrance you'll see the sign for Comapedrosa Natural Park. Continue for around 200 metres to reach the clearly marked start of the Comapedrosa trail.	
3	CARBONE- RES TRAIL	550 m (+59 m)	15'	N42 58.005 E1 47.359	The trail follows the river, crossing it twice before reaching the sign for the Carboneras Trail.	
4	PLA DE L'ESTANY PATH JUNCTION	1.510 m (+198 m)	1h	N42 58.299 E1 46.515	Continue along the Carboneras Trail, marked with yellow waymarks. The route crosses the river several more times and passes a number of reconstructed charcoal kilns before joining the main path leading towards Comapedrosa.	
5	MOUN- TAIN HUT JUNCTION	3.410 m (+488 m)	2h 30'	N42 57.896 E1 44.922	At the junction, continue uphill following the signs for Comapedrosa summit. At the next col, take the left-hand path to Comapedrosa Refuge, a good place to refill your water bottles and take a short break.	

ROUTE PROFILE



PLACE	ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
6	JUNCTION TO THE RIDGE	5.810 m (+428 m)	4h 10'	N42 58.704 E1 43.736	Beyond the refuge, the trail begins with an easy, mostly level section before reaching the valley floor, where the climb gradually becomes steeper. You'll soon pass the first mountain lakes. Snow often lingers here well into summer, so take care. Continue until you reach a discreet junction just before Estany Negre.	
7	RIDGE START PASS	5.960 m (+61 m)	4h 20'	N42 58.667 E1 43.882	Look for a small path branching off to the right towards the ridge, marked with yellow waymarks. It can be easy to miss, so keep an eye out for the yellow dots among the scree or follow footprints left by previous walkers if snow is still covering the ground. Follow this path up to the col.	
8	COMAPE- DROSA SUMMIT	6.790 m (+231 m)	5h 5'	N42 59.181 E1 44.365	From the col, continue along the obvious ridge. The route is straightforward, although you'll need to use your hands briefly on one or two easy scrambling sections before reaching the summit.	
9	DOWN PATH JUNCTION	7.230 m (-182 m)	5h 10'	N42 59.218 E1 43.938	To descend, take the obvious path down the scree slope on the western side of the summit towards Estany Negre. Follow it to the signposted junction.	
10	ARINSAL CAR PARK	13.430 m (-1.271 m)	6h 40'	N42 57.942 E1 47.751	Take the path down to Estany Negre, keeping close to the lakeshore. Beyond the lake, rejoin your outward route and follow it back to the car park. If you prefer, you can skip the section via the refuge by staying on the valley floor towards Arinsal.	

TECHNICAL INFORMATION



6 H 40 MIN

+1.466 M

13.400 M

SI

APPROXIMATE TIME

ROUTE SIGNAGE



GR 11

WRONG
DIRECTION

