

# 54 ERTS: CAMÍ DEL JOU-ROC DE LA CAUBA

WALKING IN ANDORRA



## DON'T MISS...

the opportunity, if you get the chance, to pass by a dry stone wall and examine the colour of the lichens, as it can give you great information. If the lichens on the rock are green or yellow, this means that the wall has not suffered any damage or movement of land, and if they are orange it means that the air circulating through the area is very pure.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Walls made of stone have great historical value and are a real point of reference in the identity of Andorra and many places of the Pyrenees. Besides forming terraces and delimiting plots of land, they constitute rich ecosystems for many animal species (insects and invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and even some birds, which nest there) and plant species (ferns, lichens and mosses).

## BEHIND THE NAME

**Erts:** From the Basque *ertz*, meaning “nearby”. This village lies very close to the Arinsal river, on top of the bank in such a way that the plinth upon which it rises forms a sidewalk, or pavement.

**Jou:** From the Latin *lugu*, meaning “which has a round profile”.



Jou forest



Pink  
(*Dianthus hyssopifolius*)



Matted globularia  
(*Globularia cordifolia*)



Arinsal valley

This itinerary, which makes for a splendid botanical outing, leads up to Roc de la Cauba, in the village of Erts (parish of la Massana). It's an easy route, although caution is advised once you reach the top, as the drop is high.

The first stretch of the path is surrounded by hazels (*Corylus avellana*) and common box (*Buxus sempervirens*). These shrubs are commonly found in calcareous areas, and although there are no calcareous strata in this area, their presence is the result of the rocks found higher up, whose carbonates are loosened and transported downhill by the rain.

Further up, in the shaded and thus cooler area, the vegetation is typical of humid alpine grasslands. The most common species are the tower cress (*Arabis turrita*), the water aven (*Geum rivale*), the liverleaf (*Hepatica nobilis*) and the wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), among many other types of grass that thrive in shaded areas.

Before ascending up the mountain pass, you'll pass through a forest of scots pines (*Pinus sylves-*

*tris*), which you'll see plenty of all the way to the top. As you continue to climb you'll begin to find scattered specimens of mountain pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Although the vegetation is generally consistent with that found in pine woods, there are also a few plants typically found in rocky environments, such as white stonecrops (*Sedum album*), several species of *Globularia*, such as the *Cordifolia*, listed on Andorra's catalogue of vulnerable species, and the *Astragalus monspessulanus*—a small shrub with compound leaves and pink flowers.

The Chapel of Sant Romà (19th century) presides over the village that this route passes through. In its interior there's a Baroque altarpiece. For adventure lovers, there's a via ferrata in Erts, at Roc de la Coma. To get there, take the path next to the Casa del Quart, on the left side of the river, in the direction of Arinsal.

This via ferrata has several vertical and horizontal obstacles measuring from 250 to 270 m. In total there are between twelve and fifteen climbing routes ranging from low to medium difficulty (Class 4, 5 and 6), as well as a passage for rappelling.

# LA MASSANA

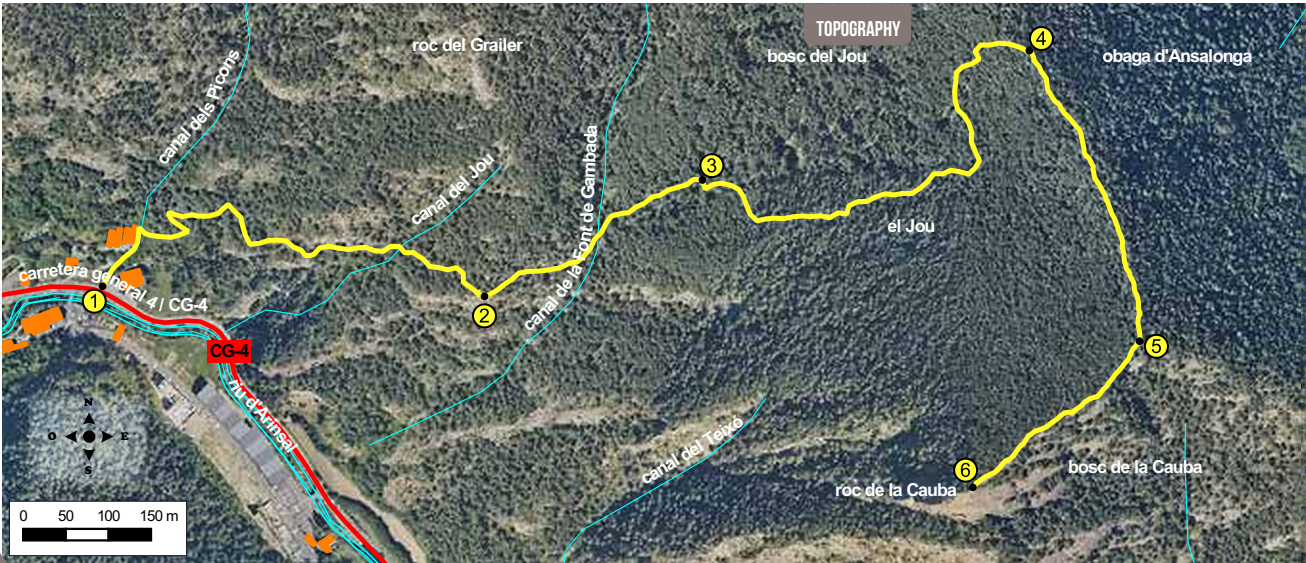
## 54. ERTS: CAMÍ DEL JOU-ROC DE LA CAUBA

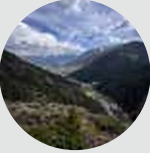
### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

-    
-  1 H 40 MIN
-  +509 M  
-47 M
-  2.200 M
-  NO\*
-  APPROXIMATE TIME

### ROUTE SIGNAGE

-   
-  WRONG DIRECTION



| PLACE                  | ALTITUDE | DISTANCE<br>ASCENT/DESCENT | TIME   | COORDINATES             | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                      |          |                            |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| <b>ROUTE STARTS</b>    | 1.335 m  | --<br>(--)                 | --     | N42 56.175<br>E1 50.038 | About 300 metres before reaching the village of Erts, there is a side road where you can park your vehicle. At the start of this road, on the left-hand side, you will find the signposted path marking the beginning of the route. |    |
| 2                      |          |                            |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| <b>MIRADOR</b>         | 1.390 m  | 617 m<br>(+196 m)          | 35'    | N42 56.187<br>E1 50.606 | Le sentier monte à travers la forêt jusqu'à un belvédère offrant de magnifiques vues sur la vallée, avec la Massana en toile de fond.                                                                                               |   |
| 3                      |          |                            |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| <b>FOREST JUNCTION</b> | 1.622 m  | 906 m<br>(+72 m)           | 50'    | N42 56.297<br>E1 50.903 | After a relatively level stretch, the path reaches a junction. Follow the yellow waymarks and take the uphill path to the right.                                                                                                    |  |
| 4                      |          |                            |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| <b>COLL DE JOU</b>     | 1.673 m  | 1.500 m<br>(+129 m)        | 1h 15' | N42 56.434<br>E1 51.369 | After crossing a small stream, which is often dry, the path climbs steeply through the forest, zigzagging its way up to the Coll de Jou.                                                                                            |  |

| PLACE                      | ALTITUDE | DISTANCE<br>ASCENT/DESCENT  | TIME   | COORDINATES             | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5                          |          |                             |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |
| <b>INTERSECTION UPHILL</b> | 1.788 m  | 1.900 m<br>(+102 m)         | 1h 40' | N42 56.127<br>E1 51.528 | At the Coll de Jou, a signpost points the way to the Roc de la Cauba. Turn right and continue uphill.                                                                                                                       |   |
| 6                          |          |                             |        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |
| <b>ROC DE LA CAUBA</b>     | 1.800 m  | 2.200 m<br>(+10 m<br>-20 m) | 1h 40' | N42 55.975<br>E1 51.290 | At the junction, follow the waymarked trail to the right. The path follows the ridgeline to the Roc de la Cauba, one of the finest viewpoints on the route. Take care on the final section, as the terrain is more exposed. |  |

\* The return is made by the same route.

### ROUTE PROFILE

