

29 VERDAGUER ROUTE

DON'T MISS...

the 12th century Romanesque church of Sant Martí de la Cortinada. It was expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries. Inside, it houses 12th century murals painted by the Mestre of La Cortinada.

DID YOU KNOW?

The forged iron rails in the church are a clear reminder of the iron industry in the Ordino valley.

TOPONYMY

Cortinada: From the Latin *cohortina*, derived from cohort, meaning "corral". The ending *-ada* has a collective value.

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Ceussans chair lift



Orientation charts



Meadows in Arans



Sculpture along the Ruta del Ferro

Jacint Verdaguer was a priest and also one of the most important Catalan writers of the Catalan Renaissance (*Renaixença*). He was born into a modest – but not uneducated – family in Folgueroles in 1845. From a young age he discovered his interest in popular traditions and during his time at the seminary in Vic he received an ecclesiastical education and became familiar with rhetoric and the classics while also writing poetry. His works include the romantic epic poems *l'Atlàntida* and *Canigó*, as well as the poetry collections *Idil·lis i cants místics*, *Pàtria*, *Montserrat*, *Flors*

de calvari and *Aires del Montseny*. Other published works include *Excursions i viatges*, *Dietari d'un pelegrí a Terra Santa*, a collection of popular songs and a series of articles published in the press.

This is one of the routes he took to write *Canigó*, a Pyrenean legend from the times of the Spanish Reconquista. It deals with the Pyrenees mountains, studying their geography, history, folklore and legends. Hence, *Canigó* has become one of the masterpieces of Catalan literature.



DATA SHEET

- ● ● ●
- 6H
- 5H
- 1.335 M
- 15.200 M
- NO
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES
- ROUTE SIGNPOSTING**
-
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 ORIENTATION CHARTS 2.630 m	-- (--)	--	N42 38.294 E1 28.448	Follow CG-3 until the Coma del Forat valley, at the Arcalis-Vallnord ski resort. You can either take the Creusans chair-lift or walk up the path of the same name. Once at the top, you'll find two orientation charts.
2 CREUSSANS PASS 2.625 m	243 m (-5 m)	15'	N42 38.203 E1 28.335	The path will go down a bit until it reaches Creusans pass, where you'll see a plaque commemorating the priest Jacint Verdaguer's entrance into Andorra on 25 August 1883.
3 CREUSSANS LAKE 2.440 m	1.320 m (-185 m)	45'	N42 38.073 E1 28.635	The path descends gently through some alpine meadows. After the descent, the incline becomes pronounced until you reach Creusans lake.
4 EL SERRAT AND ESBALÇAT LAKE INTERSECTION 2.175 m	3.040 m (-265 m)	1h 30'	N42 38.024 E1 29.421	Go down a ski slope, then you continue heading southeast until the La Coma d'Arcalis restaurant some 400 metres down the road. The road runs parallel until you cross la Coma del Forat river. Turn onto El Serrat.
5 ESBALÇAT LAKE INTERSECTION 2.080 m	3.930 m (-95 m)	1h 45'	N42 38.100 E1 29.822	The path goes down alongside the Tristaina river until it crosses it. You'll then pass by the El Bruig grazing area, where there is a cabin. A few more metres further, you'll find a turnoff that goes up to Esbalçat lake. The path will continue in the direction of El Serrat.
6 OLD ROAD 1.940 m	4.650 m (-140 m)	2h 15'	N42 38.010 E1 30.130	Descend toward the dam and, heading east, until Les Marrades del Bruig. Here you'll cross the Les Planes river and come upon the old road.

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
7 CASTELLAR BRIDGE 1.850 m	5.740 m (-90 m)	2h 35'	N42 37.936 E1 30.666	Continue along the old road until Castellar bridge, where there is a milking stall and a cabin. This is also the starting point heading out to the emblematic Font Blanca peak. The path continues under Castellar-bridge; where there is a small tunnel.
8 ENCODINA 1.725 m	7.320 m (-125 m)	3h	N42 37.545 E1 31.552	Go through the tunnel, then continue on the El Corb path until you reach the Encodina meadows, where there is a picnic zone.
9 LA REBOLLISA AND EL SERRAT INTERSECTION 1.535 m	8.790 m (-190 m)	3h 30'	N42 37.046 E1 32.205	Hike down the forest until you once again cross the Tristaina river. After crossing the river, you'll come to the intersection with La Rebollisa bridge. A few metres away you can see the church of Sant Pere del Serrat.
10 LES SALINES 1.465 m	9.730 m (-70 m)	3h 50'	N42 36.635 E1 32.292	The path goes by the forge bridge and carries on parallel with the Valira del Nord river until Les Salines. Here you will find a local fish farm.
11 LLORTS MINE 1.425 m	11.400 m (-40 m)	4h 15'	N42 35.980 E1 31.932	Take the path that follows alongside the river until it reaches the CG-3. Cross the road and hike up 50 metres or so until the Llorçs mine, which can be visited in summer.
12 LLORTS 1.425 m	12.200 m (0 m)	4h 30'	N42 35.764 E1 31.602	Follow the Iron route for a few metres and you'll find the Ferro fountain ("iron fountain"). Now cross the Les Moles bridge into the village of Llorçs. Here you can visit the church of Sant Serni de Llorçs.
13 LA CORTINADA 1.335 m	15.200 m (-130 m)	5h	N42 34.600 E1 31.082	Now you have to go back down to the Les Moles bridge. A few metres ahead, you'll see the sculptures on the Iron route. Before you reach Arans, you'll go through some hay fields. When you reach La Cortinada, you can visit the church of Sant Martí, as well as the sawmill at Cal Pal.

ROUTE PROFILE

