

# 32 ESBALÇAT LAKE

## DON'T MISS...

the Casa Areny-Plandolit Museum. This house belonged to one of Andorra's most distinguished families. Their importance in the social, political and financial spheres cannot be understated.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Between the 17th century and the first third of the 19th century, the Areny family was one of the most important families in the Valleys of Andorra, owning a quarter of all privately-owned land in the parish of Ordino. The family's social status is clearly reflected by their library. The oldest document is a treaty on canon law, printed in 1522 and titled Opera Fellini, Secunda Pars.

## TOPONYMY

**Esbalçat:** is the past participle of the verb *esbalçar*. Along with the *es* prefix (article) we find the noun *balç*, which comes from the Latin word *balteu*, meaning "ravine".

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Esbalçat pond



Ordino-Arcalis



View of the Peak of Font Blanca



Isard

This itinerary is in the north of the Principality of Andorra, near the Ordino-Arcalís ski resort. Although the route passes through high-mountain terrain, it's an easy walk and a perfect outing for the whole family. During the entire length of the route you'll have spectacular views of the peaks of Font Blanca (2,903 m), La Serrera (2,913 m), La Cabaneta (2,864 m) and L'Estanyó (2,915 m).

The parish of Ordino, which is in the northern end of Andorra, is built alongside the River Valira del Nord, which is the product of the confluence of the rivers Tristaina and Rialb. The main river, which is the central axis of the parish, whose source

is at Coma del Forat, more specifically, the ponds of Tristaina, which is the country's most famous group of ponds.

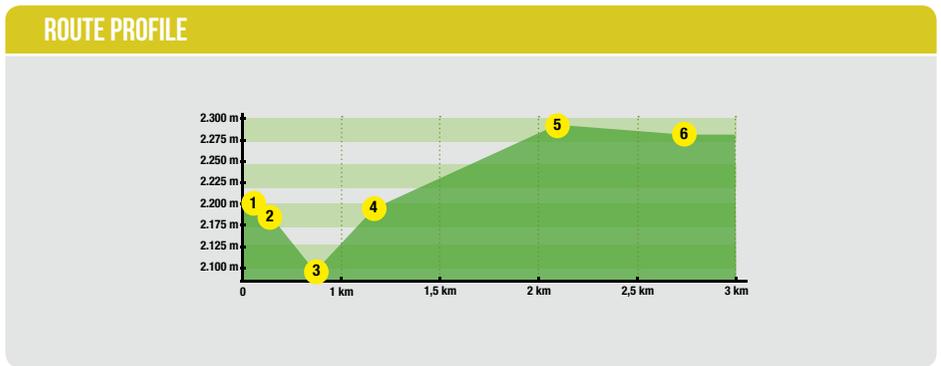
The vegetation around Ordino is majestic: there are large expanses of conifer forests and small forests of deciduous trees. The area that this route passes through, nonetheless, is mostly earth-coloured. At first glance it appears devoid of life, but in reality, it's full of all kinds of more subtle biological wonders. Siliceous Pyrenean grasslands such as *Festuca eskia*, *Festuca supina* and *Carex curvula* are a common sight all along the route. There are also several species of small flowers including Pyrenean gentians (*Gentiana pirenai-ca*) and Iberian sheep's bit (*Jasione crispa*).



**DATA SHEET**

- 1H 15 MIN
- 1H
- +220 M
- 115 M
- 2.670 M
- NO
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES
- ROUTE SIGNPOSTING**
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LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> MAP SIGN 2.200 m	-- (--)	--	N42 37.974 E1 29.391	Take the CG-3 towards Ordino. When you get to Ordino, stay on the CG-3 in the direction of Arcalis-Vallnord. When you reach the base of the ski resort, keep ascending along CS-380, towards La Coma. Before you reach the restaurant in La Coma, you'll find a sign with a map of the ponds of Tristaina. That's where this excursion begins.
<b>2</b> INFORMATION PANEL 2.190 m	130 m (-10 m)	2'	N42 38.031 E1 29.406	Walk down to the river (north-east). Cross it and you'll find an information panel that displays the direction to follow to reach Lake Esbalçat.
<b>3</b> PLETA DEL BRUIG 2.090 m	870 m (-100 m)	20'	N42 38.103 E1 29.819	The path keeps descending, following the course of the river, until it reaches Pleta del Bruig. To the left of the path you'll find a rock with a sign indicating the direction you're to follow.
<b>4</b> FLAT AREA 2.190 m	1.200 m (+100 m)	40'	N42 38.205 E1 29.908	At this point, the path begins to climb, heading north-east. After a short but intense hill you'll reach a small flat area where you'll have fantastic views 180° around you.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>5</b> PLETA DE LES PLANES 2.285 m	2.130 m (+95 m)	1h 05'	N42 38.360 E1 30.472	From here the path heads towards the east, climbing gently. You'll soon reach Pleta de les Planes, a plateau with a small pond.
<b>6</b> ESBALÇAT LAKE 2.280 m	2.670 m (+25 m / -5 m)	1h 15'	N42 37.745 E1 33.513	The path heads slightly uphill and then levels off and continues to Esbalçat lake.

