

54 FRANCOLÍ ROUTE



54

DON'T MISS...

la visita guiada de l'Home a guided tour of "People and materials: humankind doubles components and materials to ensure their existence, but also as a form of expression." For centuries, Sant Julià de Lòria, a small mountain town, has taken advantage of the many water ducts in the valley to make them points of contact in their religious, social and domestic lives. Besides water, stone and metal speak of their subordination to people, always in need of useful vessels and always in need of the expression that sculpture provides.

DID YOU KNOW?...

Catalan is the official language of Andorra. Outstanding works written by Andorran writers include *Manual Digest*, by Antoni Fiter i Rossell, and *Polítar andorrà*, by Antoni Puig. The first book printed in Catalan in the country, *Relació sobre les Valls d'Andorra*, was written in 1838.

TOPONYMY

Francolí: Gallinaceous bird of the species *Francolinus francolinus* (black francolin), which resembles the pheasant. Considered a delicacy, it used to populate said place. Today, it is extinct everywhere.



Small pool of water



Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)



Huts de Servellà



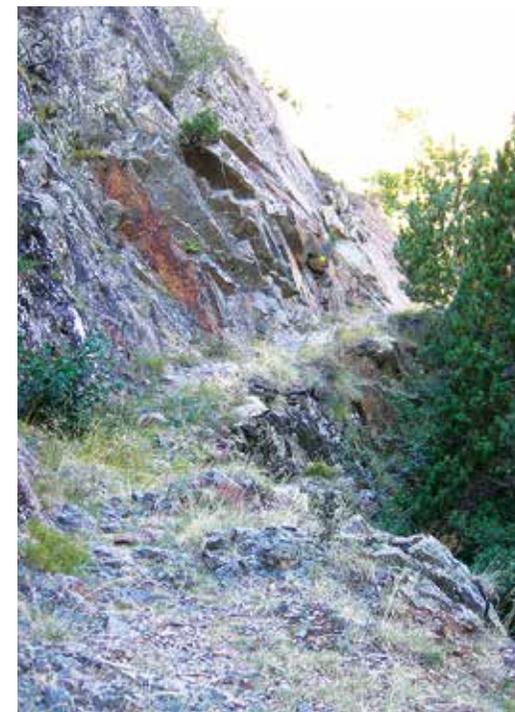
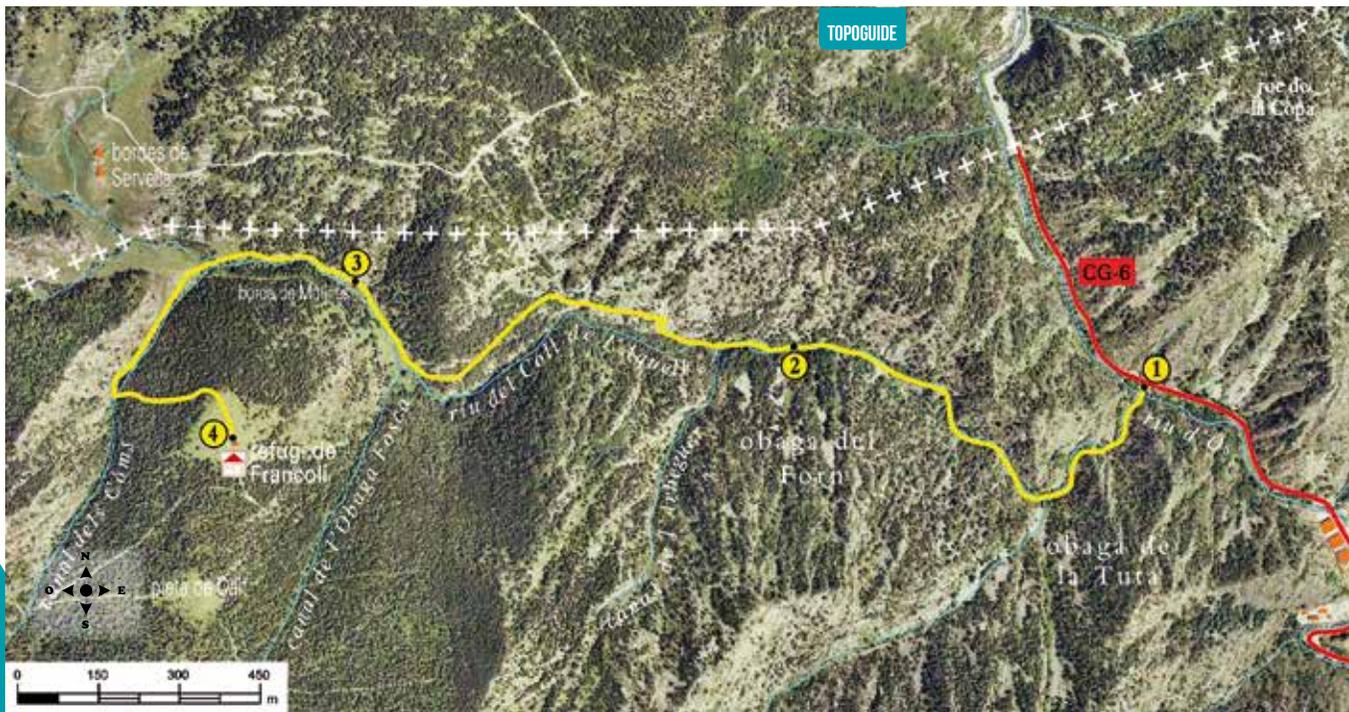
Waterfall

Sant Julià de Lòria is the southernmost parish in Andorra. To the north and northeast, it is bordered by the parishes of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. On the east, south and west, it shares a frontier with Spain. It has a population of around 9,600 inhabitants.

The Lauredian cultural offering is rich and varied: the Museu del Tabac ("Tobacco Museum"); the sanctuary of Our Lady of Canòlich, the patron saint of Sant Julià de Lòria; the Romanesque church of Sant Cerni de Nagol (11th-12th centuries); and the possibility of taking guided tours through the town, such as *the People and materials* and *Lauredian stroll routes*.

The most frequent vegetation in the parish is quite varied, due to its geographical situation and its topographical and geological diversity. The lower part, at about 850 metres above sea level, is dominated by Mediterranean plant life (*basement floor*). Forests of downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) and especially Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) predominate at higher altitudes.

At the end of the hike, you'll arrive at the Francolí mountain refuge, with capacity for 6 people, located at 1,865 metres above sea level, to the right of the stream on the sunny side of Els Llimois, on the plain known as Pletiu de Més Avall.



DATA SHEET

- 2H 40 MIN
- 2H
- +580 M
- 3.300 M
- NO*

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

-
-
-
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	LOCATION HEIGHT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
1	OS DE CIVIS ROAD (CG-6) 1.280 m	--	--	N42 29.463 E1 26.805	To get to the starting point, follow the CG-6 from the Aixovall roundabout until the 5.5 km mark. The route begins at a picnic area, on a small bridge over the Os river, on the left-hand side of the road.
2	POND NEAR THE RIVER 1.430 m	950 m (+150 m)	1h	N42 29.499 E1 26.331	Marked with yellow dots, the route follows the Coll de l'Aquell river along a narrow and fairly tricky stretch during which you should take care not to slip on the wet rocks. The path is not very straight, so pay attention to the yellow markings.
3	HUT IN RUINS 1.700 m	2.240 m (+270 m)	1h 50	N42 28.328 E1 28.442	Keep walking along the valley floor in a tricky stretch that you should negotiate carefully. Climb up the sunny side after crossing the river. Twisting and turning, you'll go up a sustained incline. Turn to the right, heading west, and walk level until point 3.



LOCATION HEIGHT	LOCATION HEIGHT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
4	FRANCOLÍ REFUGE 1.860 m	3.300 m (+160 m)	2h 40'	N42 29.402 E1 25.573	Continue walking level along the bottom of the valley, passing by some strikingly beautiful pools. Cross the river and you'll arrive at a large grassy meadow where you'll turn to the left, going back up the meadow heading south. Follow the Fosca canal on the shaded side and turn left, up into the woods. A final climb over a meadow will bring you to the destination, Francolí refuge. Notable is the view of La Pica spur, with Casamanya peak in the background over Muntaner pass.



ROUTE PROFILE



* You can return by following the same route in the opposite direction, but descending carefully, in line with the trickiness of certain stretches. Another option is to provide for a 4x4 vehicle at the refuge, which you can get to from the town of Os de Civis via a forest trail.