

27 CANYA DE LA RABASSA-PLA DE SORTENY ROUTE

DON'T MISS...

the Cal Pal sawmill, where there are demonstrations on how to cut wood with hydropower during the months of July and August.

DID YOU KNOW?

A document called La Taba de Ordino regulates use of all the communal pastures in the parish. This council, which meets on the last Wednesday before Carnival, defines the routines and timetables by which large livestock (communal cattle and horses) and small livestock can enter and exit El Cortó de Sorteny.

TOPONYMY

Sorteny: this name comes from the Basque word *sorgin*, meaning "witch". Thus, its name might mean "Valley of the Witches" or "Plain of the Witches", according to Manel Anglada's book "Arrels d'Andorra" (Roots of Andorra).

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Sorteny farm



Yarrow
(*Achillea millefolium*)



Caraway
(*Carum carvi*)



Spotted orchid
(*Dactylorhiza maculata*)

The year 2010 marked Sorteny Valley natural park's 10th year anniversary, so it certainly is a good time to get to know the valley over this pleasant route, which is nearly 4 kilometres long with 200 metres of change in elevation. In some places, it even follows along the park trails.

The park has many, and livestock raising is considered an essential tradition for maintaining the beauty of high mountain pastures. By highly influencing the distribution and survival of some plant communities, this activity promotes biodiversity.

Another one of the most popular activities in the park is plant picking. With the exception of some medicinal or traditionally used plants like arnica (*Arnica montana*), caraway (*Carum carvi*) masterwort (*Peucedanum ostruthium*)

and striped hemlock (*Molopospermum peloponnesiacum*), you are not allowed to pick or cut plants in the park.

However, you can have fun picking edible fruits like blueberries (*Caccinium myrtillus*), raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*) and gooseberries (*Ribes alpinum*).

In any case, you'll begin your hike at Canya de la Rabassa, from where you'll be able to go on and discover all the wildlife typical of alpine and sub-alpine regions, including some species unique to both Andorra and Spain. Once inside the botanic garden, you'll be able to see about 300 specimens of plants, some of which are very rare in these mountains, such as English irises (*Iris latifolia*), forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and Pyrenean lilies (*Lilium pyrenaicum*), all them are stunningly beautiful.

ORDINO

27. CANYA DE LA RABASSA- PLA DE SORTENY ROUTE



ROUTE PROFILE



DATA SHEET



2H
+225 M
-225 M
4.900 M

YES

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 SORTENY VALLEY NATURAL PARK INF. POINT 1.780 m	-- (--)	--	N42 37.552 E1 33.113	This hike combines various park trails belonging to Sorteny Valley natural park, and is the best way to discover the unique animal and plant life in the area. The route begins in the Canya de la Rabassa car park, at the information point. 
2 GRAU DE LA LLOSA PATH 1.810 m	480 m (+30 m)	15'	N42 37.374 E1 33.213	Take the Sorteny Valley natural park forest trail, leaving the GRP towards Serrat (yellow and red marks) about 300 metres behind. At the first turn, next to the Sorteny river, you'll join the Grau de la Llosa path. 
3 BOTANICAL GARDEN 1.875 m	860 m (+65 m)	30'	N42 37.374 E1 33.213	Follow the Grau de la Llosa path, which runs parallel to the River Sorteny. You'll soon rejoin the forest track and reach the botanical garden, which houses more than 300 plant species, separated into different areas, and the "L'Estripagecs" sculpture. 
4 BIRDWATCHING ROUTE, LAKE ROAD AND ESTANYÓ PEAK 1.645 m	1.450 m (+35 m)	45'	N42 37.303 E1 33.593	Following the forest trail, you'll come to the pass. Some 150 metres on, you'll reach the path to Estanyó peak and lake. To follow the birdwatching route, follow the arrows with birds. 

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
5 SORTENY RIVER WOODEN BRIDGE 1.780 m	2.440 m (+40 m)	1h	N42 37.265 E1 33.894	The path crosses the Sorteny river, then goes over the Beços alpine meadow and enters a forest. When you come out, you'll descend and cross the Sorteny river again. 
6 GRP 2.005 m	3.090 m (+55 m)	1h 15'	N42 37.393 E1 34.090	Ascend to the Borda de Sorteny refuge. From here, take the bird-watching trails eastward and cross the sheepfold. Follow the arrows (birds) on the stone wall, which will lead you to the GRP route (red and yellow). The Sorteny shelter is a manned shelter where you can either spend the night or have a drink or a bite to eat at its bar-restaurant. (www.refugisoerteny.com) 
7 MARTA PATH 1.865 m	3.850 m (-140 m)	1h 45'	N42 37.380 E1 33.200	The GRP continues alongside the stone wall until Sorteny refuge, a shelter open all year round with capacity for 25 people. Following the GRP, the forest trail will link up with the Marta path below the botanic garden. 
8 CANYA DE LA RABASSA CAR PARK 1.780 m	4.900 m (-85 m)	2h	N42 37.552 E1 33.113	This path enters the forest (arrows with marten), where you head directly down to the forest trail. Once on the trail, follow along the right-hand side until the Canya de la Rabassa car park. 