

# 22 MONTMALÚS LAKE AND REFUGE

## DON'T MISS...

lunch at the “Refugi del Llac dels Pessons” restaurant, located at the foot of the Circ de Pessons, when you finish the hike. The region's most typical dish is mountain-style rice.

## DID YOU KNOW?

you can also follow this route in winter: not only is the path signposted, but the ski resort offers guided cross-country outings. An unmissable experience.

## TOPONYMY

**Montmalús:** according to the book “Encamp, toponímia” (Encamp, toponymy), the name of this town is connected to the town of the same name in the region of La Cerdanya (the town of Ger, in Catalonia, Spain). Its origins are unclear.



Montmalús refuge



Encamp



Marmot

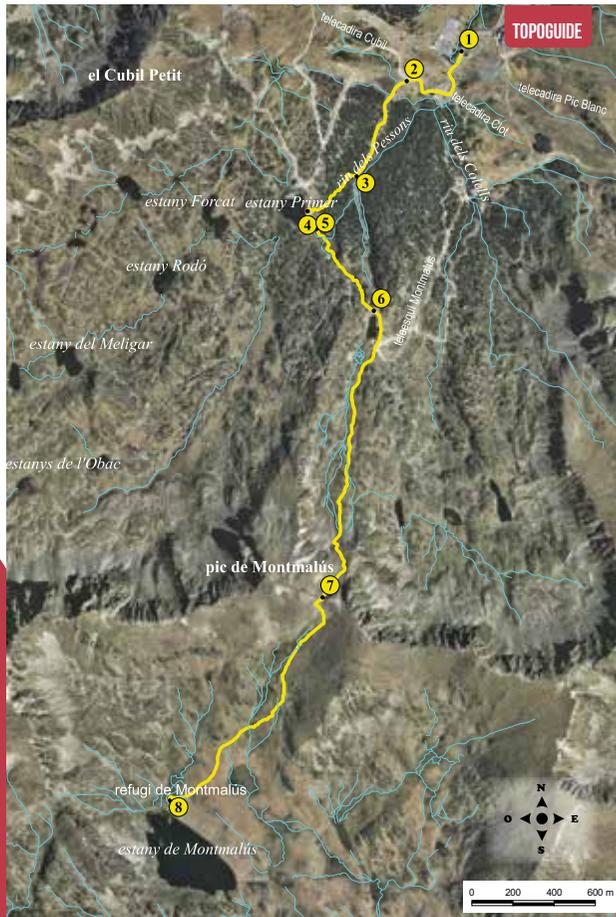
The route to Lake Montmalús and its shelter is located in the parish of Encamp, at the edge of the Spanish-Andorran border. It makes for a fairly accessible route with no technical difficulties. Once you've overcome the mountain pass, you have the option of hiking up to the peak of Montmalús, extending the route a bit further. The lake is in a breathtaking, rural setting, and even boasts a real beach on its north side.

High in the mountains of the parish of Encamp, Lake Montmalús is surrounded by the peaks of Montmalús (2,781 m), Colells (2,746 m) and Ribuls (2,810 m), and is located amidst the Circ de Pessons—a series of 40 glacial ponds that is unique in Andorra.

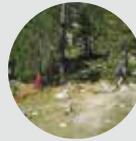
Vegetation-wise, this area owes its invariable green to the conifers of its high-altitude valleys. The predominant species is mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*). As far as vertebrate species go, the most common species are the common frog (*Rana temporaria*), which can measure up to 9 cm long and is usually reddish-brown and has a characteristic black spot behind its eyes, and the Alpine marmot (*Marmota marmota*), which can reach 57 cm in length and weigh up to 4 kg, and is easy to spot and hear (owing to the loud whistles they emit as a warning sign) near the screes by the path.

# ENCAMP

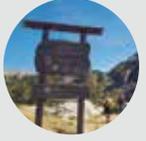
## 22. MONTMALÚS LAKE AND REFUGE



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> START OF THE FOREST TRACK 2100 m	-- (--)	--	N42 31.909 E1 41.856	Take the CG-2 towards Canillo-France. When you reach kilometre 22 you'll find the Grau-Roig turn-off to your right. Follow road CS-280 until you reach the car park in Cubil. The route begins at the start of the forest track.
<b>2</b> TRACK CROSS-ROAD 2.138 m	500 m (+38 m)	30'	N42 31.831 E1 41.662	Take the forest track and follow signs for Estany de Pessons. You'll soon reach a crossroad.
<b>3</b> BEGINNING OF CAMÍ VELL 2.200 m	1.080 m (+62 m)	25'	N42 31.581 E1 41.487	Turn left and follow the forest track southward. The path will begin to gain altitude as you head towards the Camí Vell de Pessons (Old trail to Pessons). A blue arrow marks the way.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>4</b> PRIMER DE PESSONS POND 2.300 m	1.480 m (+100 m)	45'	N42 31.490 E1 41.314	Deviate from the forest track and take the path to your right, which heads uphill to the west. It then passes through the Peu dels Pessons forest until it reaches Primer de Pessons pond.
<b>5</b> MONTMALÚS SIGN 2.300 m	1580 m (+0 m)	47'	N42 31.443 E1 41.346	Take the GRP southward for a short while. Follow the path round the left side of the lake until you reach a sign indicating the direction of the peak and lake of Montmalús.
<b>6</b> COMASTREMERERA POND 2.386 m	2.150 m (+86 m)	1h 10'	N42 31.232 E1 41.552	From here, continue upward along the GR7 until the pond of Comastremera.
<b>7</b> COLLADA DE MONTMALÚS 2.704 m	3.870 m (+318 m)	2h 10'	N42 30.484 E1 41.378	Pass round the left side of the pond until you reach a signpost. At this point, leave the GR7 behind and continue southward towards the Collada de Montmalús mountain pass. The path is hard to miss. To your right you'll see the Peak of Montmalús, which is quick and easy to conquer.
<b>8</b> MONTMALÚS LAKE AND REFUGE 2.446 m	5.360 m (-258 m)	2h 45'	N42 29.952 E1 40.841	The way down is easy to follow, as the lake is in sight the entire way there. When you arrive, you'll find a mountain refuge next to the lake.



### ROUTE PROFILE



### DATA SHEET

- ● ● ●
- 🕒 2H 44 MIN
- 🕒 2H
- ⬆️ +604 M
- ⬆️ -258 M
- 📏 5.360 M
- 🚫 NO
- ⚠️ APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

### ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- ● ● ●
- 🏠 LANDMARKS
- 🚶 GR

