

# 28 ROUTE THROUGH CANYA DE LA RABASSA

## PLA DE SORTENY-EL QUER PLATEAU

### DON'T MISS...

a visit to the nature interpretation centre (Centre d'Interpretació de la Natura), housed in an old hut belonging to the Rossell family in the centre of La Cortinada. The complex is architecturally compelling enough for a visit, but it also has a permanent exhibition that shows the different landscapes throughout the country via interactive panels and audio tracks.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During the month of August there is an act to bless livestock, which brings more people together for a feast.

### TOPONYMY

**Quer:** From the Iberian word *kar*, or the Basque *karr*, which became a place name meaning "rock; that which stands out for its likeness to a rock".

**Canya de la Rabassa:** The word canya is a dissimilation of the word *caulla* or *cabana*, understood here to mean "hole" or "lair" (from the Latin *cavu*). The word *rabassa* refers to the lower and thickest part of a tree trunk. This is where spruce wood was obtained, in order to make spruce oil.

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Pyrenean lily  
(*Lilium pyrenaicum*)



Columbine meadow-rue  
(*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*)



Wind flower  
(*Anemone narcissiflora*)



Arnica  
(*Arnica montana*)

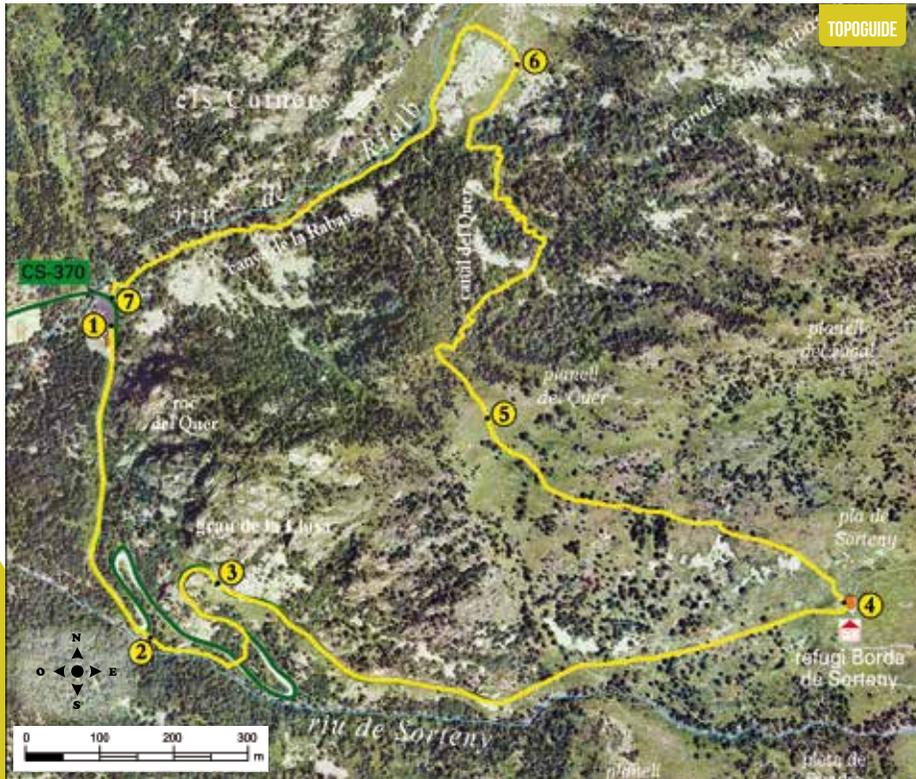
Sorteny Valley natural park is unique not only from a scientific, historical and educational perspective, but also in terms of aesthetics, landscape and recreation. Although Sorteny Valley natural park is limited in surface area (1,800 hectares), it actively participates in conserving biodiversity and in promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the Pyrenees abroad.

This route is actually a variation of the one offered between Canya de la Rabassa and Pla de Sorteny, with more change in elevation (270 m) and almost the length (3.8 km). Even so, it is still accessible to any hiker regardless of their physical condition.

This is the best option if you want to enjoy the flora and fauna unique to this area, while simultaneously gazing upon panoramic views only found in the high mountains. Once you have finished the hike through the trails of Sorteny Valley natural park and have visited its interesting botanic gardens, the best idea is to keep hiking! Head off from the refuge towards the El Quer plateau, where you'll discover incredible views of both sides of the Sorteny and Rialb valleys.

While you may be a little tired at the end of the route, don't worry, as the return trip is quite easy. You'll only need to descend towards la Rabassa and you'll arrive directly at the car park.

# 28



TOPOGUIDE

DATA SHEET

- 2H
- +280 M
- 4.400 M
- YES
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- GRP
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> SORTENY VALLEY NATURAL PARK INF. POINT 1.785 m	-- (--)	--	N42 37.552 E1 33.113	Start the route in the Canya de la Rabassa car park, at the Sorteny Valley natural park information point. Where you can also pick up all types of information.
<b>2</b> GRAU DE LA LLOSA PATH 1.495 m	480 m (+25 m)	15'	N42 37.327 E1 33.155	Take the Sorteny Valley natural park forest trail. At the first turn, just next to the Sorteny river, is the Grau de la Llosa path.
<b>3</b> PEDREGAR (Bank of shingles) 1.616 m	860 m (+60 m)	30'	N42 37.367 E1 33.221	The Grau de la Llosa path ascends alongside the course of the River Sorteny and then rejoins the forest track. You'll soon reach the botanical garden, which houses more than 300 plant species, separated into different areas, and the "L'Estripagecs" sculpture.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>4</b> BORDA DE SORTENY REFUGE 1.970 m	1.900 m (+100 m)	50'	N42 37.357 E1 33.841	Following the forest track for approximately 400 m you'll reach an opening surrounded by hundreds of flowers. Follow the GRP until Pla de Sorteny, where the staffed Borda de Sorteny shelter is located. ( <a href="http://www.refugisorteny.com">www.refugisorteny.com</a> ).
<b>5</b> EL QUER PLATEAU 2.055 m	2.700 m (+85 m)	1h 15'	N42 37.488 E1 33.486	The path continues above the fountain heading northwest (see sign). You'll hike up a moderate slope on the sunny side. Once on the El Quer plateau, you can't help but notice the fantastic views: to the north, Siquer pass; to the south, Estanyó; to the east, La Serrara peak and to the west, Fort Blanca peak.
<b>6</b> MILKING STALL 1.860 m	3.600 m (-195 m)	1h 40'	N42 37.745 E1 33.513	You hike through the plateau heading northwest until you enter the forest. Here you will find a gate for livestock. As you head down the path towards la Rabassa, you'll enjoy the beautiful views over the Rialb valley. To the northeast is the milking stall.
<b>7</b> CANYA DE LA RABASSA 1.785 m	4.400 m (-75 m)	2h	N42 37.573 E1 33.114	Pass alongside the milking stall and continue through some scree in the direction of the river. When you reach the Rialb path you'll need to turn left. The path continues through the forest until you reach the Canya de la Rabassa picnic area.



ROUTE PROFILE

