

45 ROUTE ALONG CIRCUIT DE LES FONTS

DON'T MISS...

la visita al pont medieval de la Margineda, a pocs metres de la rotonda de la carretera general, per on passava l'antic camí ral que condueix a Andorra la Vella i prop de la parròquia de Sant Julià de Lòria. Té un únic arc amb una amplada de nou metres i mig.

DID YOU KNOW?

That the silver birch (*Betula pendula*) is the raw material used for creating the traditional monuments that were burnt in the old quarter on the eve of Sant Joan, a festivity of national interest and which forms part of the Summer solstice fire festivals in the Pyrenees, declared a UNESCO intangible cultural asset in 2015.

TOPONYMY

Font: The word "font" (spring) comes from the Latin "fons" (water that springs from the ground). In the high Pyrenees mountains and, in general, where the high mountains have glaciers, there are usually a large number of water springs. In Andorra, more than 150 have been identified, mainly ferruginous water springs..



45



Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)



Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)



Palomera intersection



Bridge across the path

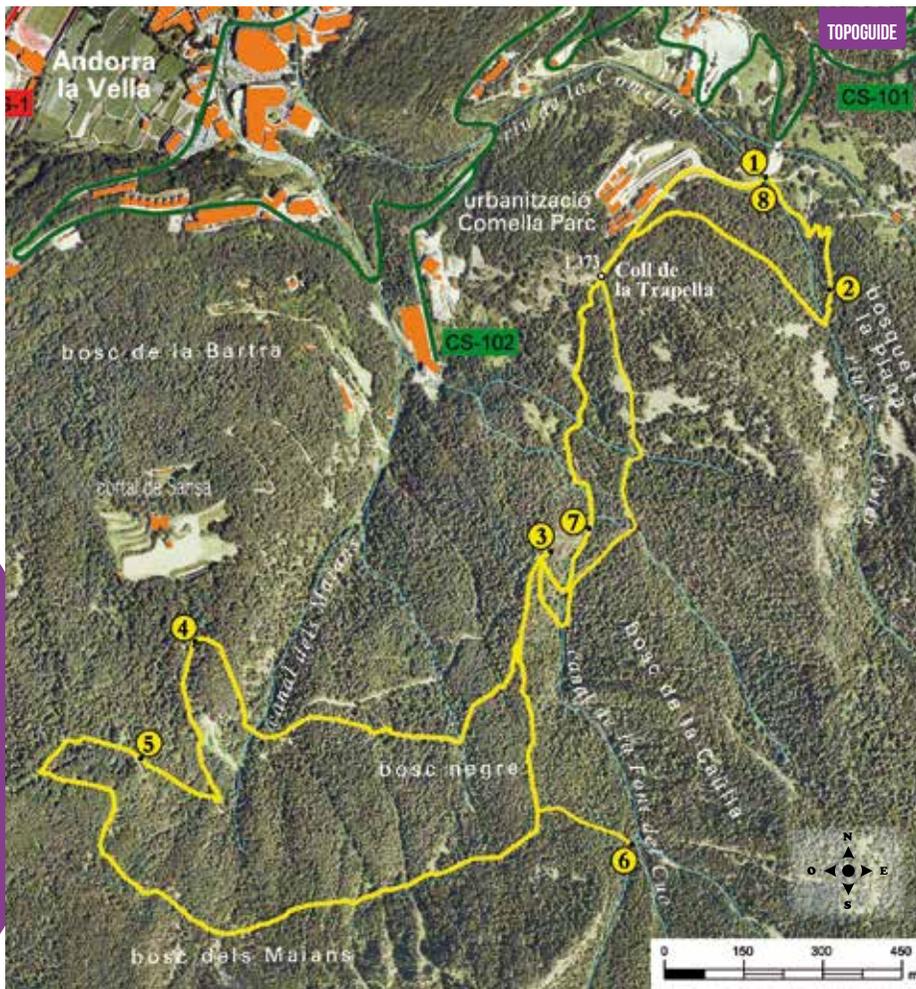
The start of the route runs through the Prat Primer valley, where the vegetation is predominantly made up of common hazel trees (*Corylus avellana*) and red raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*). The path gains altitude and the presence of Scots pine trees (*Pinus sylvestris*) becomes more evident, with greater presence than any other species of woody vegetation. This species stands out thanks to its orange-coloured trunk. We also come across some goat willow or great willow (*Salix caprea*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). A few metres further up you come to Font de La Ruta water spring, in a diversion to the right of the path. This is a very damp area, of dense vegetation, with aspen (*Populus tremula*), which owes its Catalan name (*trèmols*) to the quivering of the leaves when the wind blows, as well as a few wild service trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), rowan or mountain-ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and fir trees (*Abies sp.*). The aspen is one of the trees mainly used by the black woodpecker for building its nests. Along this path, the excrements of red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) indicate the presence of this beautiful animal.

The forest is thick, with Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and common box (*Buxus sempervirens*), which accompany visitors along most of the route. Before reaching the intersection with the Palomera

path, along the forest track you will come across the Sansa water spring. The route continues towards the left along the Palomera path.

This is an ideal spot for watching or listening to the bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and the Eurasian jay (*Garulus glandarius*). In a very short time you'll reach the limestone rocks of Palomera, home to a particular species of Saxifrage (*Saxifraga catalaunica*) and the Pyrenean-violet (*Ramonda myconi*). From this point, visitors can enjoy the splendid views. At the end of the climb, you'll reach the Palomera fields, which is now a dense forest of Scots pines with holes in their trunks made by black woodpeckers (*Dryocopus martius*) and signs of rummaging by wild boars (*Sus scrofa*).

The path runs through the Bosc Negre forest and, in just a moment, you reach a path on the right-hand side, where there sits a Scots pine with two branches. This path leads to one of the three Font del Cuc water springs. The only difference is the path you're on, the Maïans path, Bosc Negre path and the Collet de la Trapella path, the last of which runs behind the last Font del Cuc water spring coinciding with the Font del Ferro water spring, providing a unique mixture of water due to the different, transparent and reddish colours of these two springs.



DATA SHEET

- 3H 30 MIN
- +343 M
- 343 M
- 8.570 M
- YES
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

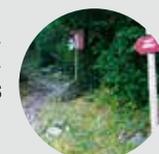
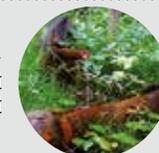
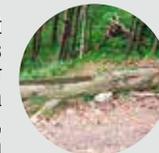
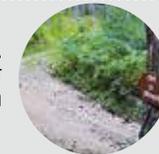
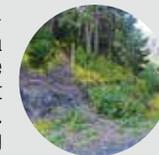
ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

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-
-
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 LA COMELLA PARK URBAN AREA 1.335 m	-- (--)	--	N42 29.909 E1 31.816	To reach the starting point, take the Comella road (CS-101) from Andorra la Vella and continue past the 4 km point. Soon you will see an intersection on the right and a place to park your vehicle.
2 ROUTE FOUNTAIN 1.415 m	440 m (+80 m)	10'	N42 29.797 E1 31.911	From the car park, follow the Prat Primer path until you see a sign pointing to the route fountain, which appears on the right-hand side of the path. The fountain is just a few metres further along.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
3 LA TRAPELLA HILL 1.445 m	1.910 m (+30 m)	40'	N42 29.808 E1 31.595	Continue along the forest track until reaching the hill named Collet de la Trapella and continue towards the bottom of the valley, heading in the direction of the Font de Ferro and Font del Cuc water springs. Continue the path upwards until reaching the forest path and head back towards the Bosc Negre path.
4 BLACK FOREST 1.475 m	3.070 m (+30 m)	1h 25'	N42 29.537 E1 31.530	Continue along the Font de Sansa path. You'll reach the water spring and further on you'll come to the intersection with the Palomera path.
5 COM D'AIGUA WATER SPRING 1.610 m	4.580 m (+135 m)	1h 50'	N42 29.313 E1 30.964	Continue along the Palomera path as it gains altitude within the forest and pass by the Font l'Astrell water spring. Further on you'll come to a viewpoint with a characteristic limestone outcrop. Finally, you'll reach the Planells de la Palomera area, where there is an intersection. Turn left and continue along the Maians path until reaching the Palomera water spring.
6 FONT DEL CUC 1.678 m	5.740 m (+68 m)	2h 20'	N42 29.232 E1 31.645	The path is level as you enter a Scots pine forest in a gorgeous setting. Suddenly you'll reach an intersection, and you'll need to continue climbing until you arrive at the pretty spot where the font del Cuc ("Worm fountain") is located.
7 FERRO FOUNTAIN 1.390 m	7.450 m (-288 m)	2h 55'	N42 29.553 E1 31.583	Walk back along the same path until returning to the intersection, then turn right and descend until reaching the forest path, and the Comella viewpoint.
8 LA COMELLA STARTING AND ARRIVAL POINT 1.335 m	8.570 m (-55 m)	3h 30'	N42 29.909 E1 31.816	Continue along the forest track until reaching a barrier and an urbanisation. Continue along a road for about 100 metres until reaching the starting point.



ROUTE PROFILE

