

35 PERCANELA-LES FONTS-PLA DE L'ESTANY PATH (COMAPEDROSA NATURE PARK)

DON'T MISS...

The Comapedrosa Interpretation Centre (CIC), whose explanatory signs provide extensive information on the flora, fauna and geomorphology of the park.

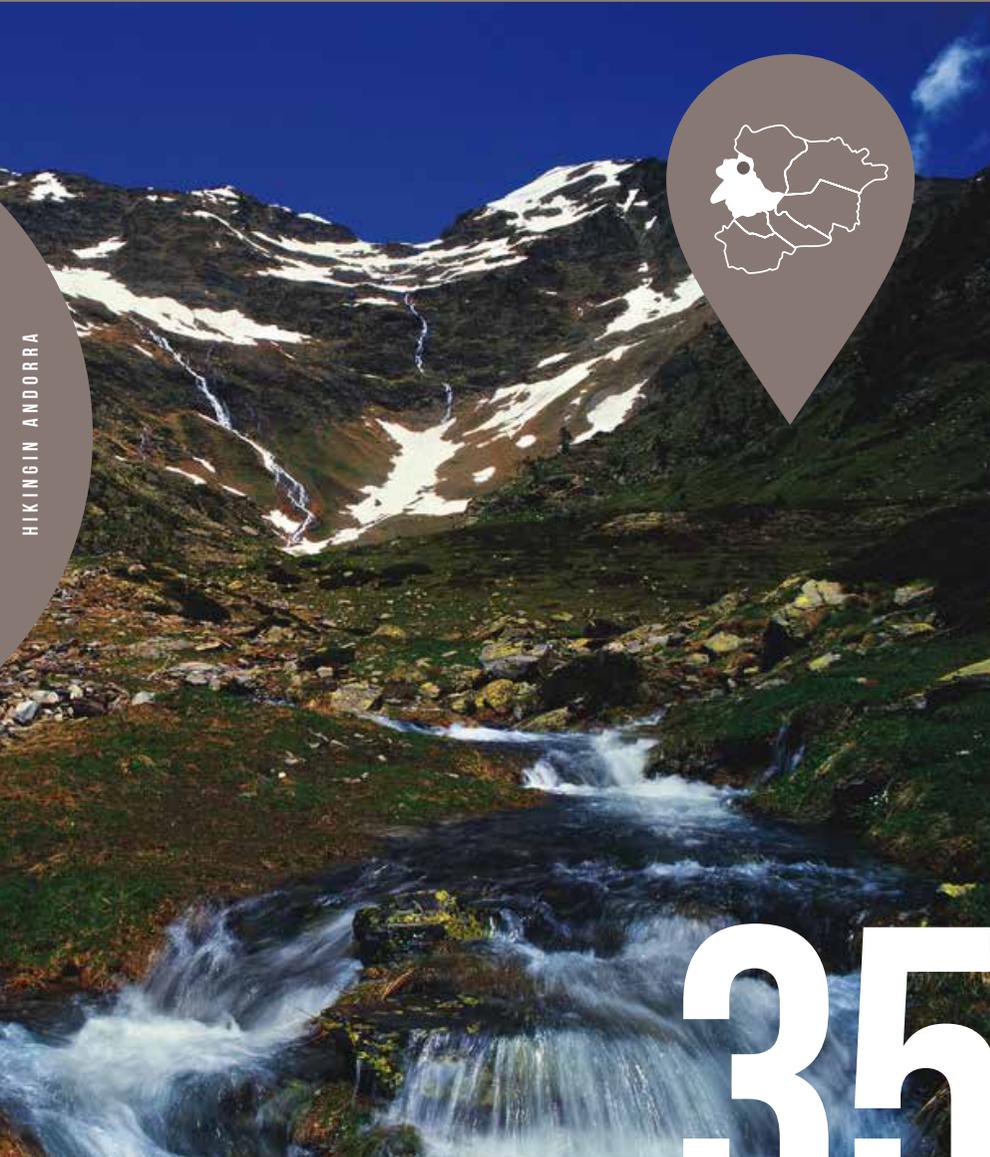
DID YOU KNOW?

the national hymn of Andorra, which is sung with great honour and enthusiasm, is the work of Father Marfany, a native of Sant Julià de Lòria, and was performed for the first time on 8 September 1921 in Meritxell (Canillo).

TOPONYMY

Percanela: From the Latin *cannella*, meaning "small cane". It could be a compound form of *pedra*, meaning "stone", and *canela* or *canella* ("fountain spout").

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*)



Wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*)



Arinsal valley



Silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*)

This excursion begins in the old quarter of the town of Arinsal. In winter, it's one of the Vallnord ski resort's direct access points (directly from the town via the cable car); after snowmelt, it becomes an entry point for hikers wishing to visit the Comapedrosa Nature Park.

The parish of La Massana, whose population is approximately 9,500, is in the north-west corner of the country. It covers an area of 65 km². Its north and west edges border France and Spain. To the south are the parishes of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany and to the east, the parish of Ordino. The town of la Massana is 1,230 metres above sea level.

In terms of culture, la Massana is brimming with Romanesque gems like the architectural ensemble of Pal, which is comprised of the Romanesque church of Sant Climent de Pal (12th century), the Romanesque Andorra Interpre-

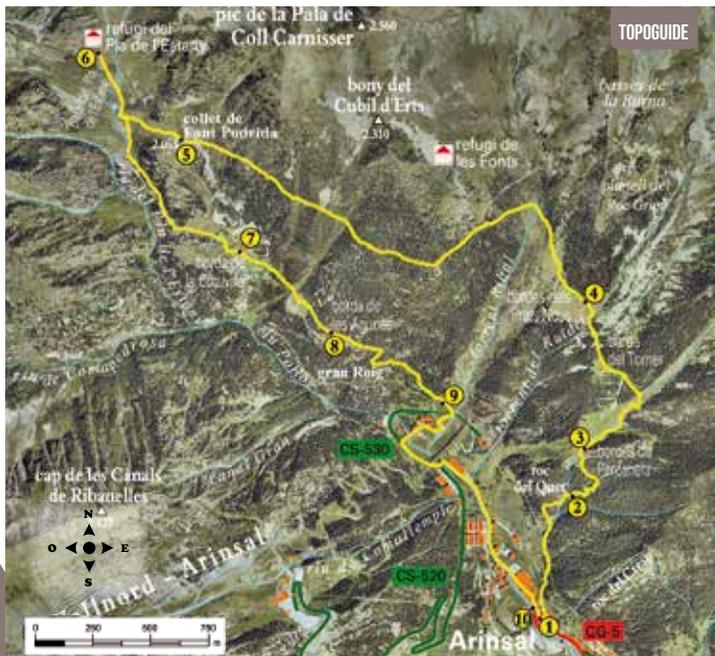
tation Centre and the Church of Sant Cristòfol d'Anyós. Other important sites include Casa Rull, the Farga Rossell forge and the Iron Interpretation Centre.

The vegetation found in this parish varies depending on the altitude: at lower altitudes, there is an abundance of herbaceous crops, deciduous trees and forests of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*). At higher altitudes, you'll find forests made up of scots pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) and mountain pines (*Pinus uncinata*).

The fauna of the area is mostly comprised of common wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis*), which mostly inhabit the Valls del Comapedrosa Nature Park, rock ptarmigans (*Lagopus muta*), Pyrenean newts (*Calotriton asper*), which only inhabit clean and pure waters, and bearded vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*), which fly over the highest points of the parish.

LA MASSANA

35. PERCANELA-LES FONTS-PLA DE L'ESTANY ROUTE



* You can return by following the same route.

DATA SHEET

- 4H 30 MIN
- +585 M
- 590 M
- 9.120 M
- SI*

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- GRP
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 PERCANELA PATH SIGN 1.475 m	-- (-)	--	N42 34.337 E1 29.047	The starting point is in the middle of the village of Arinsal. Take the road that begins in front of the gondola and, after climbing about 50 metres, you'll see a small sign indicating the start of the route.
2 SCOTS PINE 1.655 m	708 m (+180 m)	35'	N42 34.620 E1 29.145	You'll continue for a few metres through the old centre of Arinsal until the stone path gives way to a narrower mountain path where you'll find two wooden signs pointing you to the correct path. Follow the route, leaving the village behind until you reach a fine example of a Scots pine.
3 HUTS OF PERCANELA 1.790 m	1.050 m (+135 m)	1h	N42 34.731 E1 29.182	The path gains altitude as you walk through the forest until you pass by an intersection with an information sign. You should go up toward Les Fonts and Pla de l'Estany until you come to the typical Andorran huts of Percanela.
4 HUTS OF ELS PRATS NOUS 2.005 m	2.040 m (+215 m)	1h 45'	N42 35.072 E1 29.180	From this point, the path rises with a less abrupt slope along the canal of the Costa de l'Avier. You'll cross some meadows and dry stone walls. Shortly before reaching 1,900 metres above sea level, you'll turn to the west and enter the forest, passing over the farm at El Torner until you reach the huts at Els Prats Nous.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
5 FONT PODRIDA PASS 2.060 m	4.370 m (+55 m)	2h 45'	N42 35.437 E1 27.897	At this point, the path joins up with a stretch of the GRP. Afterward, you'll cross the high plains and Ribal stream and continue westward toward Les Fonts. Leave the path that climbs toward Les Fonts refuge on the right and continue level through a mountain pine forest until you come to the Font Podrida pass.
6 PLA DE L'ESTANY REFUGE 2.050 m	4.990 m (-10 m)	3h	N42 35.636 E1 27.633	Begin the descent towards the River Pla de l'Estany, following the yellow marks of the GRP. Not far into the route, you'll come across an impressive view of the cirque glacier of the same name. Cross the sheepfold, heading northward, until you reach the Pla de l'Estany/Joan Canut mountain shelter, at 2,049 m above sea level. From the shelter, you can also walk to the Forcats and Montmantell glacial lakes.
7 HUTS OF LA CORUVILLA 1.880 m	6.250 m (-170 m)	3h 30'	N42 35.179 E1 28.086	To return, cross the Pla de l'Estany grazing area again until you reach the river. Take the GR-11, which descends on the right, leaving Font Podrida pass on the left. Next, you'll take the communal Rec d'Areny path, which goes from the left and swerves onto the trail that you'll have to take down to the huts at La Coruvilla.
8 CANADIAN BRIDGE 1.800 m	6.820 m (-80 m)	3h 45'	N42 34.993 E1 28.377	The route follows the communal path and passes over the trail. On the left, leave a path going up. Go down the path until you arrive at the hut of Les Agunes, where you'll cross the Canadian bridge.
9 MOVEABLE BARRIER 1.610 m	7.600 m (-190 m)	4h 05'	N42 34.833 E1 28.732	From this point, continue heading southeast down the path until you come to a moveable barrier and the beginning of the forest trail.
10 ARINSAL GONDOLA 1.470 m	9.120 m (-140 m)	4h 30'	N42 34.361 E1 29.024	Follow the path, downhill. Pass through a tunnel and follow the paved road for 1.5 km until you reach the end of the route.



ROUTE PROFILE



La Massana

