

13 ENGOLASTERS LAKE

DON'T MISS...

the electricity route organised by the museu de l'Electricitat ("Electricity museum"). It will let you in on all the secrets of Engolasters lake.

DID YOU KNOW?

The dike at Engolasters lake is 178 metres long

TOPONYMY

Engolasters: This word could come from the Provençal *estier*, meaning "canal" or "stream", and which originally comes from the Latin word *aestuarium*. It may also come from the Latin word *aquale*, meaning "pot of water", which would have been Romanised to give the sense of a "trickle" of water.

HIKING IN ANDORRA



El Cresper path



Farm at El Cresper



Pink
(*Dianthus hyssopifolius*)



El Cresper path

In the parish of Encamp, you'll find Engolasters lake, fed by the Engolasters river, which itself is a tributary of the Valira river. Legend has it that there was a town full of unfaithful here that was flooded over by the waters. At night, witches met secretly here to bathe naked in the lake. Men from Engolasters would sneak out to spy upon these witches, all the while knowing that if they were caught they would be turned into a black cat. It is said that witches disappeared around the beginning of the 20th century, coinciding with the installation of the antennas for Ràdio Andorra and the construction of the FHASA hydroelectric dam, which opened in 1934.

To build the Engolasters dam, FHASA built a penstock, which starts in the lake and goes down to the hydroelectric plant (built along the CG-2). This penstock takes advantage of the largest of the three existing elevation drops in Andorra, and therefore is capable of producing more electricity. The penstock flows out of a 158-km² basin, with 27 belonging to the Madriu river and 10 to the Perafita river. The combined flows of the Valira and Madriu rivers join in Engolasters, where the water pressure is lowered via a 1,250-metre pipe connected to the hydroelectric plant.



DATA SHEET

- ● ● ●
- 1H 15 MIN
- 45 MIN
- +350 M
- 1.900 M
- NO
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- GR 11
- WRONG WAY



| LOCATION HEIGHT | DISTANCE DROP | TIME | COORDINATES | DESCRIPTION | |
|---|---------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1 STARTING POINT 1.250 m | -- (--) | -- | N42 31.967 E1 34.654 | This route begins in the village of Encamp, next to the terres Primeres car park and in front of the Museu Nacional de l'Automòbil ("National Automobile Museum"). Here you'll find a wooden sign indicating the beginning of the path to Engolasters lake and Blanc river. | |
| 2 DETOUR SIGN IN ENCAMP 1.275 m | 123 m (+5 m) | 5' | N42 31.904 E1 34.655 | Head southward along a paved path until you reach a road. Go past the detour sign for Encamp, and on the other side of the road you'll see a wooden sign that shows the path to follow. | |
| 3 EL CRESPER INTERSECTION 1.410 m | 647 m (+135 m) | 30' | N42 31.698 E1 34.555 | The path continues on the right past some gardens, all the while following the indications of the GR-11. You'll go over the Blanc river, and a bit further on you'll come to an intersection. | |
| 4 FARM AT EL CRESPER 1.505 m | 1.090 m (+95 m) | 50' | N42 31.601 E1 34.531 | Leave the El Cresper path on your right and continue on the left-hand side in the direction of Engolasters lake. The path climbs, following the GR-11. Keep going up until you come to a fork in the road. Leave the El Ferner de l'Olla path on the left, and in no time you'll come to the farm at El Cresper. | |
| 5 ENGLASTERS LAKE 1.620 m | 1.900 m (+115 m) | 1h 15' | N42 31.302 E1 34.238 | From this point, the forest opens up a bit and you'll keep ascending through a Scots pine forest until you finally reach the end of the path. Now you'll take the path that descends to the right, which leads you to Engolasters lake. | |

ROUTE PROFILE

