

Palau Robert

Counties: Priorat || **Difficulty:** Difficult || **Media Locomotion:** On Foot || **Distance:** 10.55 km ||
Ascent: 640.0 m || **Gradient Descent:** 640.0 m || **Signaling:** No || **Duration:** 3 h

Through Fraguerau ravine

From the bottom of the valley to the loftiest crests this route enables us to enjoy the contrasts of the landscape of the north side of the Serra de Montsant Nature Reserve, travelling through some of its most inhospitable and spectacular spots: Fraguerau ravine, Los Ventadors and Punta dels Pins Carrassers.

We need to be in good physical condition to undertake this walk which, along some stretches, seems like a high mountain route for its difficulty. The ascent, which is long and steady, and the descent, very steep at the beginning, require experience of the mountains to face the challenge this excursion poses without untoward events. The road, which is a path almost all the way, is easy to follow. The signposts enable us to find the route at moments of doubt; we only need to be careful when crossing the crests of Los Ventadors to proceed with safety.

It is advisable to take advantage of the facilities at the Sant Antoni chapel recreation area to have lunch and recover our strength. This route is suitable for any time of year. If we do it in summer, however, we should remember that we shall be very hot along the last stretch of the climb which runs along the sunny slope. The route should not be attempted in fog. Great care must be taken if the rocks are wet.

To reach the starting point from Falset we take T-740 to the NE and continue from Porrera on TP-7402 in the same direction as far as C-242, which we take to the left (NE) until, after the town of Cornudella de Montsant and Coll d'Albarca, we come to Ulldemolins.

From Ulldemolins we take a tarmac track SW as far as the chapel of Sant Antoni (km 0, 675 m), where we leave the car. We walk along the track to the Montsant river. We immediately come to a pond on the left, which we shall pass on the way back. The route takes short cuts at the bends of the track following GR-65-5 (white and red marks). When we come to Les Cadolles Fondes (km 1.68, 535 m, 25 min) we take the road to Margalef.

We enter Fraguerau ravine, passing on the left a path that goes to Punta dels Pins Carrassers (which we shall take later) and then, to the right, another to Racó de la Pastera. On the right is the Sant Bartomeu suspension bridge (km 3.58, 493 m). We cross it to reach the chapel of Sant Bartomeu de Fraguerau (km 4.33, 521 m, 1 h 10 min), one of the 13 chapels of Montsant and the most isolated. We return to the suspension bridge and keep on to the right (W) towards Margalef.

0.6 km further down, after 5.75 km (486 m) of route, we have to leave the road to Margalef and take another on the left that climbs steeply for the first 40 m. From here the road is easy to see and continues to the south, although here the vegetation will occasionally hinder our passage. After a steep climb we come to a zone of vegetation thinned out by the fire in 1994.

Climb up to the Cresta de los Ventadors. To go over the first rocks safely we have to go a little to the left of the ridge. The burned tree trunk (km 6.99, 781 m, 1 h 55 min) marks the spot with the way through to the ledge between the two upper sloping strata which we have to follow for a good way. The ascent over the stony ground is long and steady.

On the left we see L'Àliga cave. When we come onto the ridge of the Solans sierra the road becomes easier. We find a sign pole and continue in the direction of Punta dels Pins Carrassers (km 8.22, 1,061 m, 2 h 20 min). From the top of the pass, Coll de la Trona (1,039 m), we can admire the magnificent view on all sides. On the pass, between two rocks, we take a very steep path that goes down suddenly by Grau del Llop.

We come to a small pond and the remains of a couple of charcoal pits. The road descends steadily. We come to the pond at the beginning of the walk and shortly afterwards we return to the chapel of Sant Antoni.

Practical information

You are advised to carry a map of the surroundings. It is necessary to have suitable footwear and clothing, and an adequate food and water supply.

Directions

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Source

ACNA, S.L.