

15 DE CANILLO A MERITXELL

WALKING IN ANDORRA



DON'T MISS...

a visit to the Meritxell Sanctuary and the ancient chapel found at the end of this route.

DID YOU KNOW...

in the past, children of unknown parents were given the surname Santacreu, the name of the chapel at the beginning of the path.

BEHIND THE NAME

Canillo: pre-Roman root Can, which means 'whiteness'.



Oratory



Signpost



Oratory



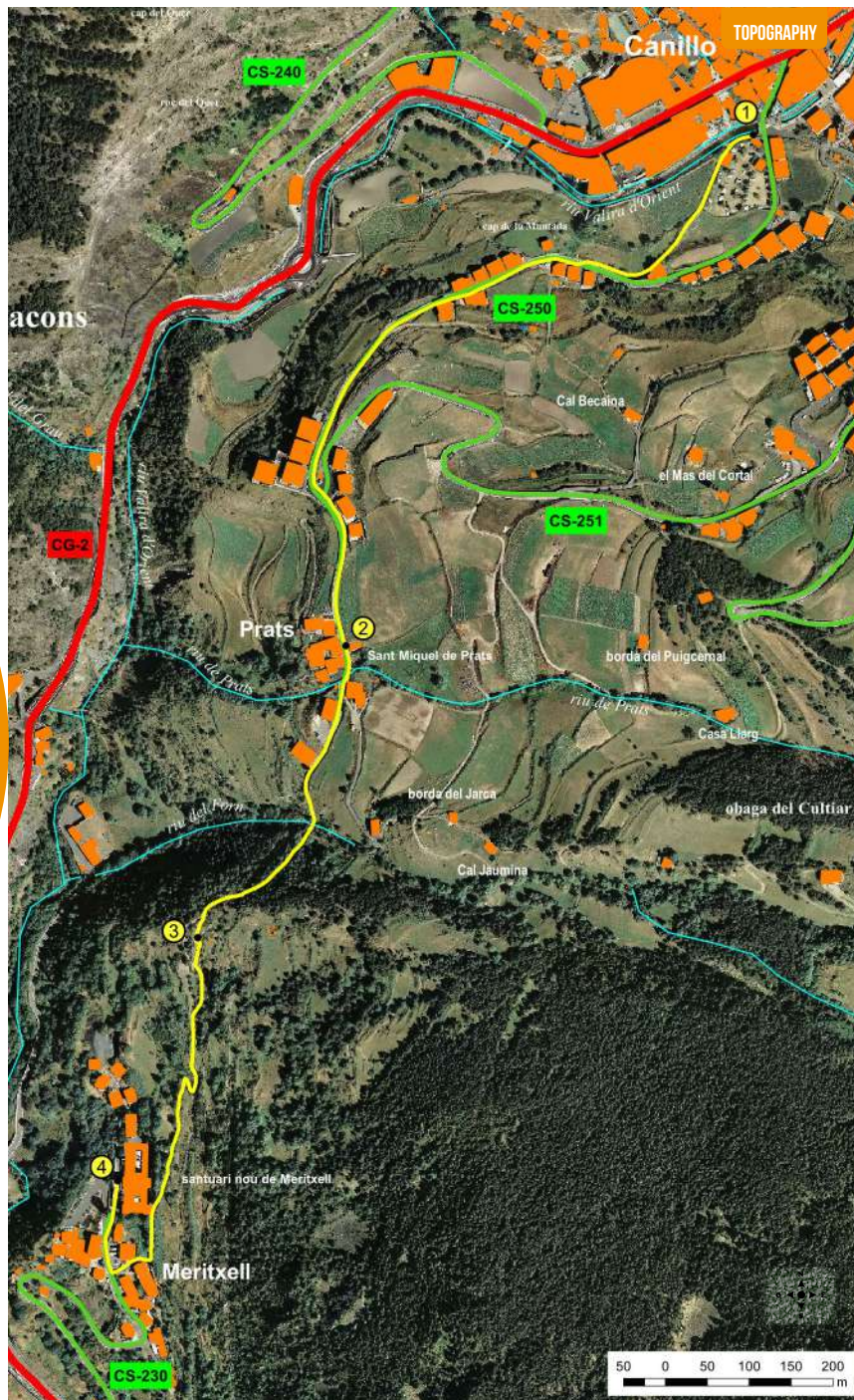
Sant Miquel

The path from Canillo to Meritxell is a short and pleasant route, ideal for families. The old royal road passes through Prats. Along the path, you'll encounter Romanesque churches, crosses, oratories and legends. It is a very pleasant two-kilometre route.

The path begins in the chapel of Santa Creu, a church dating back to the late 17th or early 18th century, restored in 2004. The church marks the beginning of the path to Prats and stands out for its wide porch, which at Christmas is used as the birthplace in the Canillo nativity scene. Continuing towards Prats, on the left you'll find the Cross of the Seven Arms (or Cross of the Seven Branches, Cross of the Seven Horns or White Cross). This monumental cross dates back to 1477 (according to the inscription in Roman numerals) and is the only one in the world of its type. Today, only six arms remain. On the same

path is the church of Sant Miquel, a 12th-century Romanesque chapel with a Gothic cobblestone door, unique in Andorra.

The path on the right continues along the main road that goes down to Meritxell. After the bridge over the Forn i les Barreres river (a very straight area), already with views of Meritxell, perched on a pedestal on a rock, you'll find the Creu de Meritxell (now also called Creu de Carlemany). Dating back to the 16th century, the cross was a port of call for travellers and pilgrims going to the sanctuary. Its primitive shrine burned in the fire on the night of 8th September 1972 and has now been rebuilt as a museum. The new shrine, declared a minor basilica in 2014 and attached to the Marian Route, is the most visited monument in Andorra.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION



40 MIN

+60M
 -113 M

APPROXIMATE TIME

ROUTE SIGNAGE



PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
1 SANTA CREU 1.534 m	-	-	N42 33.955 E1 35.980	Take the CG-2 towards Canillo. Behind the Canillo Tourist Information Office, you'll find the chapel of Santa Creu, the starting point for the route.	
2 SANT MIQUEL DE PRATS 1.580 m	980 m (+54 m -8 m)	20'	N42 33.623 E1 35.629	Take Cami Mossèn Ramon towards Meritxell. Reach the Prats main road, continue up the CS-250 towards Meritxell. Pass by the Cross of the Seven Arms and continue along the main road until you reach the small village of Prats, where you'll find the beautiful church of Sant Miquel de Prats.	
3 CROSS OF CARLEMAN 1.558 m	1.415 m (+5 m -27 m)	25'	N42 33.434 E1 35.502	Continue straight on without deviating and, past the village of Prats, take a wide mountain path that goes down towards Meritxell. Pass a small bridge and, shortly after, turn off onto a small path that goes up to the left towards the Cross of Carlemany.	
4 MERITXELL SANCTUARY 1.480 m	2.015 m (-78 m)	40'	N42 33.276 E1 35.434	Return to the wide path and resume the descent until you reach the village of Meritxell. A few metres higher, you'll find the Sanctuary of Meritxell, the work of the prestigious Catalan architect Ricard Bofill.	

