

34 PORT DE SIGER - ESTANY BLAU

DON'T MISS...

when you enter the town of Ordino, at the end of this route, notice the white house in Segudet village down on the right. This is the "Casa Blanca", one of Andorra's oldest manor houses, the initial owners of which were the Call family in the 13th century. At the end of the 16th century its name was changed to Cal Jaumet. This house currently remains virtually as it was in the seventeenth century.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Andorran people approved the country's first written constitution on 14 March 1993 and it was ratified by Andorra's co-princes, the President of the French Republic and the Bishop of Urgell.

BEHIND THE NAME

Ordino:
Urdinabe: it is likely that this place name comes from the Iberian-Basque term "urdin", which means "grey" and refers to the colour of the crag that overlooks the town of Ordino. The particle -be means beneath.

WALKING IN ANDORRA



Hundred-year Scots pine
(*Pinus sylvestris*)



Carnation
(*Dianthus deltoides*)



Cow slip
(*Primula veris*)



White house

This easy walk is in the vicinity of the town of Ordino.

Ordino is a parish located at the north-west end of the Principality, 1,298 metres above sea level. The municipal area covers 85 km², and in 2016 Ordino had a population of 4,398.

Historically, Ordino was famous for its forges and metal workshops. The importance of its metal industry is proven by the fact that most of the remains connected with this former activity found in the Principality are in Ordino. The Serrat forge, the Rosell forge (which is now a museum), and the Llorts iron ore mine, where the raw material was extracted, are just a few examples. The last operational forge closed at the end of the 19th century due to heavy com-

petition from the iron and steel industries that arose during the First Industrial Revolution.

Ordino is considered an important Andorran cultural centre, as it was in this parish that the Manual Digest was written in 1748; inspired by the Encyclopedie Française and Enlightenment thought, it describes how the Andorran state worked in the 18th century, as well as its history, practices and traditions. It was written by Antoni Fiter i Rossell, a native of Ordino.

Andorra's National Auditorium is also located in Ordino. A considerable number of shows and concerts are held there every year, including the renowned Narciso Yepes Festival, which is celebrated every October.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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- 2 H 30 MIN
- 1 H 45 MIN
- +611 M
- 59 M
- 4.450 M
- APPROXIMATE TIME

ROUTE SIGNAGE

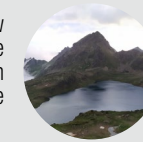
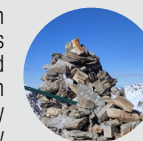
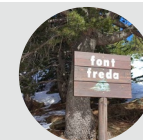
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- WRONG DIRECTION



PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 VALL DE SORTENY NATURE PARK CAR PARK 1.780 m	-- (--)	--	N42 37.576 E1 33.109	Take the CG3 towards the Ordino Arcalis ski resort. After the village of El Serrat, turn off towards the Parc Natural de la Vall de Sorteny. To reach the starting point from Andorra la Vella, take the CG-3, towards Ordino - Arcalis, to milepost "km 18". Shortly afterwards, take road CS-370 until you reach the Sorteny car park, site of the Vall de Sorteny Nature Park information hut.
2 PLETA DE RIALB METAL FENCE 1.868 m	562 m (+75 m)	15'	N42 37.713 E1 33.429	At the lower end of the car park there is a fountain and a panel with information about the Rialb valley. The trail penetrates the forest. Just a few yards after the picnic area, there is a small stone house. Continue parallel to the river to a metal fence. Cross the fence to reach the Pleta de La Rabassa.



PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
3 FONT FREDA 1.950 m	1.470 m (+92 m)	45'	N42 38.159 E1 33.626	The trail runs parallel throughout. The first stretch is virtually flat and little effort is required to reach Font Freda.
4 RIALB RE-FUGE METAL BRIDGE 1.980 m	1.880 m (+34 m)	55'	N42 38.355 E1 33.622	The trail levels off again and there is a small wooden gate, followed by a metal bridge and the Rialb refuge just a few yards higher up. Leave the path to climb to the refuge.
5 PLETA DE LES ROMES WOODEN BRIDGE 2.035 m	2.400 m (+61 m)	1h 10'	N42 38.620 E1 33.591	Cross the metal bridge and continue parallel to the river to reach a wooden bridge and an information panel. On the opposite bank of the river to the small shepherd's hut is the Pleta de les Romes.
6 CABANA DELS PLANELLS DE RIALB 2.100 m	2.730 m (+37 m)	1h 20'	N42 38.731 E1 33.517	After crossing the bridge the trail leads away from the Rialb river and the Portella de Rialb path. Climb a small slope to reach Planells de Rialb, where the trail crosses the Banyell path and there is a small shepherd's hut.
7 PORT DE SIGUER 2.395 m	3.950 m (+298 m)	2h 20'	N42 39.169 E1 33.817	The trail from this point onwards veers sharply northwards. Zigzag upwards and gain height to reach Port de Siger pass. This is the pass on the border between France and Andorra. There are exceptional views on both the French and Andorran sides, particularly of the Pic de Thoumasset above the Estany Blau.
8 LAKE BLAU 2.333 m	4.450 m (-59 m) +16 m)	2h 35'	N42 39.207 E1 34.113	Having entered France there are no yellow markings. Follow the small stone cairns to the Estany Blau. The French side is often misty in the summer. Leaving the path to reach the Estany Blau is not advisable.



ROUTE PROFILE

