

# 05 THE TOLL BULLIDOR PATH

HIKING IN ANDORRA



# 05

## DON'T MISS...

returning to these valleys in winter to enjoy the activities offered at the Grandvalira ski resort, the Soldeu-El Tarter area and the El Forn area, such as mushing, snowmobiling, etc.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our Lady of Meritxell (From the Latin *meridiem*, meaning “mid-day”) is the patron saint of Andorra. The day reserved for the saint is 8 September.

## TOPONYMY

**Mollera:** From the Latin *molliare*, “to soften”.  
**Bullidor:** From the Latin *bullire*. This is said of a place where a fluvial stream becomes tumultuous because of the form of the bed, as if the water were boiling.



Meritxell



Elder-flowered orchid  
(*Orchis sambucina*)



Path handrail



Basilica Sanctuary Nostra Senyora  
of Meritxell

This route runs through the parish of Canillo and begins very close to the town of Meritxell. As its name indicates (toll is Catalan for “pool”, and bullidor means “boiling”), the route passes by an impressive waterfall. The path takes us from the huts of Molleres, located beside the Sanctuary of Meritxell, to the Toll Bullidor waterfall.

You will likely be interested in visiting the Basilica Sanctuary of Meritxell. Built by Ricardo Bofill and opened in 1976, this temple aims to reflect some symbolic elements highlighted by the particular connotations of this unique site: the inlaid floor in front of the altar is intended to signify the name Meritxell, which, according to the philologist Coromines, comes from the Latin word *meridiem*, meaning

“mid-day”; the two crossed naves are meant to evoke the confluence of paths and roads going from one border to the other and from Valira del Nord valley to Valira d’Orient valley; the walls, cut horizontally at the top, suggest the fire that struck the temple; and the uncovered cloister symbolises the protection of the Blessed Virgin, who watches over the skies of Andorra.

Beside the sanctuary is an old chapel of Romanesque origin that was turned into a memorial after being destroyed by a fire in 1972.

A little farther on, you can enjoy views of the Valira d’Orient river and the surrounding plant life, such as the mountain orchid (*Orchis sambucina*).



# CANILLO

## 05. THE TOLL BULLIDOR PATH



TOPOGUIDE

### DATA SHEET

- ● ● ●
- 30 MIN
- 30 MIN
- 70 M
- 860 M
- NO
- APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

### ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

- ● ●
- WRONG WAY



LOCATION	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> <b>MOLLERES BRIDGE</b> 1.410 m	-- (--)	--	N42 33.236 E1 35.294	Descending from Canillo via the main road (GC), after the cemetery and before the Meritxell roundabout, you'll turn right, where you'll see the Molleres bridge. A wooden sign will point the way to the start of the Toll Bullidor path. 
<b>2</b> <b>VIEWPOINT</b> 1.405 m	450 m (-5 m)	15'	N42 33.047 E1 35.317	Just after setting off, you'll come to the first viewpoint, from where you can see the pretty village and Sanctuary of Meritxell. You can then move on to the second viewpoint where, in addition to the views of Meritxell, you'll see the huts of Molleres. 
<b>3</b> <b>TOLL BULLIDOR VIEWPOINT</b> 1.340 m	860 m (-65 m)	30'	N42 32.869 E1 35.441	Skirting the Valira d'Orient river, you'll come to a handrail that can be very useful for descending to the viewpoint platform for watching the toll Bullidor waterfall if the ground is wet. 

### ROUTE PROFILE

