

61 PIC DE MEDACORBA (COMAPEDROSA NATURE PARK)

WALKING IN ANDORRA



DON'T MISS...

eating in a typical Andorran restaurant, where the local cuisine will introduce you to traditional Pyrenean and Andorran dishes.

DID YOU KNOW...

that Comapedrosa Park is part of the 3 Nations Park.

BEHIND THE NAME

Medacorba: name of the stone. Resemblance to the Roman 'meta', a column or ancient landmark stone.



Bancal Vedeller



Sign



Cairn

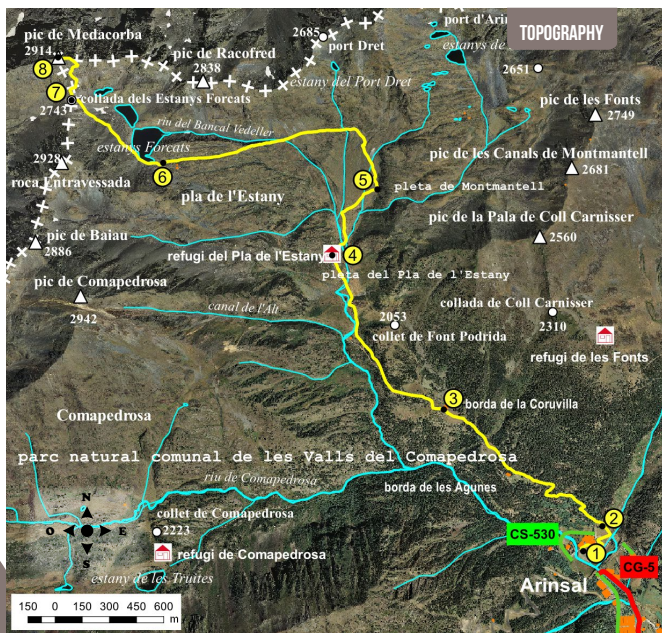
The Pic de Medacorba route is a high-mountain hike in the parish of La Massana in the north-west of the Principality of Andorra.

The hike starts at the end of the village of Arinsal and goes through high-mountain terrain. Warm up your engine as you get going, because from the beginning of the road you'll get started on some steep slopes. The path takes you to discover huts such as Borda de les Agunes or Borda de la Coruvilla, and springs such as Font del Moixó. This hike has a degree of technical difficulty in the last section, where you'll need to help each other along.

In this last section, you also need to watch out for the stone cliffs that mark the way to the peak, as there's no other type of signage and

the route is quite hard to make out in this easy, but exposed terrain. This is the most technical and gripping peak over 2,900 m in the Principality of Andorra. The ascent to the Collada dels Estanys Forcats col is what really makes this hike complete.

The Comapedrosa Natural Park is part of the Three Nations Pyrenees Park, a natural space made up of four protected natural parks located in Andorra, Catalonia and France. These are the Natural Park of the High Pyrenees, the Regional Natural Park of the Pyrénées Ariégeoises, the Natural Park of the Comapedrosa and the Natural Park of the Sorteny Valley. The Pyrenees Three Nations Park covers more than 428,700 hectares.



ROUTE PROFILE



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

-
- 4H 30 MIN
- 2H 45 MIN
- +1,344 M
- 6.180 M
- APPROXIMATE TIME

ROUTE SIGNAGE

- GR
- up to the Collada dels Forcats col
- up to the summit

PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 ARINSAL (PARC NATURAL DEL COMAPEDROSA CAR PARK)	-- (--)	--	N42 34.754 E1 28.657	Going up through Vall d'Arinsal, pass the avalanche containment dike and on the right you'll find the Parc Natural de Comapedrosa (Comapedrosa Nature Park) car park. This is where the route starts.
2 CROSSROAD CAMÍ DEL PLA DE L'ESTANY	340 m (+45 m)	8'	N42 34.842 E1 28.728	After a steep first section of the track, you find a barrier and a path that goes to the right on a steep slope. Follow it up past two crossroads where the signs indicate the way to go, always to the right going up.
3 BORDES DE LA CORUVILLA	1.650 m (+316 m)	1h	N42 35.191 E1 28.084	You'll arrive at the <i>bordes</i> across meadows. It's an enchanting spot with a lot of interesting scenery, where you can take a good look at some dry stone walls.
4 PLA DE L'ESTANY REFUGE	2.860 m (+481 m)	1h 30'	N42 35.648 E1 27.620	After crossing the Pla de l'Estany basin, you'll reach the refuge of the same name, also known as Joan Canut.

PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
5 CROSSROADS OF CAMÍ DE MONTMANTELL	3.380 m (+592 m)	1h 50'	N42 35.841 E1 27.798	At the crossroads, turn left up the grassy slopes and turn right onto Camí de la Vall de Montmantell. Going up the great glacial cirque diagonally, cross the bank. Pay attention to this stretch and tread with care to avoid a fall.
6 BARRACA I ESTANYS FORCATS	5.050 m (+1.028 m)	3h 15'	N42 35.912 E1 26.951	Going up the valley, you come to a plateau with the Barraca dels Forcats hut and, a few metres further on, the Estanys Forcats lakes. The landscape becomes basically mineral as you enter more alpine terrain. As the path flattens out, flank the Estanys Forcats on the left-hand side.
7 COLLADA DELS ESTANYS FORCATS	5.710 m (+1.133 m)	3h 50'	N42 36.095 E1 26.574	A final, steeper ascent takes you to the Collada dels Estanys Forcats col, where you'll spy the view to the west over the Vall Ferrera, with the beautiful Pic del Monteixo in the distance. From here, the route changes and passes through indefinite terrain without signs. You'll also cover sections of steep slope with some crags, where you'll need to use your hands at times and be very careful. If you're not used to this type of terrain, we recommend, for safety, finishing at the col. The Medecorba is the most difficult and exposed peak over 2,900 m in Andorra, making it a very gripping excursion.
8 PIC DEL MEDECORBA	6.180 m (+1.344 m)	4h 30'	N42 36.231 E1 26.517	On the way down, pay careful attention to follow the stone cliffs that mark the way to the Collada dels Estanys Forcats col, and then return along the same path you came up on to the starting point in Arinsal. You'll need to manage your energy well, as this is a long descent.

