

09 INTER-PARISH PATH

(FROM SANT MIQUEL DE PRATS TO SANT MIQUEL D'ENGOLASTERS)

HIKING IN ANDORRA



09

DON'T MISS...

a visit to the hydroelectric path, where you can learn all the secrets of a hydroelectric plant while travelling through time and strolling through nature at the same time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Engolasters lake currently has a dam to generate hydroelectric power (15% of consumption in the country). The lake receives waters from the Valira canal, coming from Ransol, and the Madriu canal, coming from Ràmio.

TOPONYMY

Meritzell:
From Mereig (from the Latin *meridiem* "mid-day", "sunny").

Engolasters:
From the Latin *in aquale aster*, meaning "irrigation channel".



Our Lady of Ecology



Oxlip
(*Primula elator*)



Tunnel in Canillo



Tunnel in Les Pardines

The inter-parish route passes through the parishes of Canillo, Encamp and Escaldes-Engordany. Even though it is 11.6 km long, it is practically flat, making it highly advisable for a calm walk with the family. It should be mentioned that this route is equipped with resting places and water points, and that it can be completed whole or in stretches.

This pleasant stroll connects the churches of Sant Miquel de Prats and Sant Miquel d'Engolasters (a 12th-century Romanesque Lombard-style building whose most characteristic architectural feature is its square-shaped bell tower with three floors of twin windows) and passes through the Canal path, Les Pardines road, which has a botanic garden, and the fountain circuit.

The alternation of open areas with magnificent panoramic views over the valley and wooded areas makes it very interesting from a landscape perspective.

In terms of plant life, you will see grassy meadows throughout the route, with the most dominant trees being the mountain pine, the Scots pine and the birch. The more substantial vegetation of the understory is made of boxwood, bearberry and alpenrose.

As for wildlife, it is easy to hear the singing of the blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*), a small, 11-cm-long bird with a sky blue head and wings and a yellow breast, and the common wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), a wild relative of the dove. Grey in colour with white spots on its sides, this bird is about 40 centimetres long.



TOPOGUIDE

* You can return by following the same route, or by taking the Escaldes-Engolasters parish bus. For more information contact the Escaldes-Engordany Tourist Office.

DATA SHEET

- 4H
- 4H 30 MIN
- +110 M
- 185 M
- 11.800 M
- NO*

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

ROUTE SIGNPOSTING

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-
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- CI
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
1 PRATS 1.575 m	-- (-)	--	N42 33.621 E1 35.629	Leave the roundabout in the centre of Canillo, take the road on the right, and after approximately 1 kilometre you'll see the Romanesque church of Sant Miquel de Prats in the town of Prats.	
2 FIRST VIEWPOINT 1.640 m	550 m (+65 m)	15'	N42 33.431 E1 35.670	On the road, about 200 metres ahead, you'll see a small wooden bridge. Cross it. On the right-hand side will be Meritxell path. This is where the first viewpoint is located.	
3 SECOND VIEWPOINT 1.645 m	1.200 m (+5 m)	30'	N42 33.120 E1 35.638	There is a tunnel before you reach the second viewpoint. From here you can see the town and the Sanctuary of Meritxell. On the other side of the road, you'll see the huts of Molleres.	
4 HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD SCOTS PINE 1.635 m	2.350 m (-10 m)	50'	N42 32.607 E1 35.791	You'll pass by a third viewpoint. Up ahead, on the right, you'll see Els Solans path, in the middle of which stands a hundred-year-old pine tree.	
5 ELS CORTALS ROAD 1.650 m	3.950 m (+15 m)	1h 20'	N42 31.984 E1 35.893	Cross Els Cortals river over the wooden bridge. Further along, on the left, you'll take the Allau path. Soon you'll come to Els Cortals road.	
6 LES PARDINES PATH 1.630 m	4.460 m (-20 m)	1h 30'	N42 31.812 E1 35.926	Descend along the Els Cortals road (CS-220) for about 700 metres until you come to an intersection. You'll have to follow the road, on the left, until you reach Les Pardines path.	

LOCATION	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION	
7 ORIENTATION TABLE VIEWPOINT 1.635 m	6.300 m (+5 m)	2h	N42 31.711 E1 35.148	You'll pass through a large tunnel. Continue ahead to Montuèll river and La Molina river. You'll come upon the orientation viewpoint, where there is an unforgettable view of the parish of Encamp. Opposite is Our Lady of Ecologia.	
8 ENGOLASTERS LAKE 1.625 m	7.620 m (-10 m)	2h 20'	N42 31.345 E1 34.340	After observing the plants in the botanic garden, you'll come to a picnic area. The path continues to Engolasters lake.	
9 ELS MATXOS PATH, FOUNTAIN CIRCUIT 1.630 m	9.280 m (+5 m)	2h 50'	N42 31.050 E1 34.256	Follow the forest trail from Engolasters lake until you reach a road on the left. Continue to the intersection, where you'll turn to the right. Go down a few metres and take the Els Matxos path.	
10 SCULPTURE COMMEMORATING THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF ESCALDES-ENGOLASTERS 1.645 m	9.800 m (+15 m)	3h	N42 30.856 E1 34.064	The fountain circuit swerves to the right. Follow straight ahead until Les Ordigues fountain. The path continues on the righthand side over a little climb. On the left, you'll find a sculpture on which you can read a quote from Jacint Verdaguer.	
11 INTERSECTION COMING DOWN FROM ENGOLASTERS 1.630 m	10.160 m (-15 m)	3h 20'	N42 30.528 E1 34.198	Follow the circuit to Les Molleres fountain. On the left, you'll find some steps. The path continues alongside a construction without walls until the intersection.	
12 LA CLOSA FOUNTAIN PICNIC AREA 1.520 m	11.100 m (-110 m)	3h 45'	N42 30.576 E1 33.885	Afterward, you'll have to go down through the forest until coming to another picnic area and La Closo fountain.	
13 CHURCH OF SANT MIQUEL D'ENGOLASTERS 1.500 m	11.800 m (-20 m)	4h	N42 30.701 E1 33.624	Take the forest trail on the right until you reach the road, where you'll turn to the left. Continuing down, you'll reach the end of the inter-parish path and the church of Sant Miquel d'Engolasters.	

ROUTE PROFILE

