

# 36 TOMB DE PUNTAL-RIALB-SORTENY

## DON'T MISS...

the Ferro route ("Iron route"), which invites you to discover the resources related to the process to extract, transform and market iron from the 17th to 19th centuries.

## DID YOU KNOW...

During the 19th and 20th centuries, these mountains were supply routes to France. All types of products were transported, such as cereals, iron ore, wool cloth, linen fabric, salty fish, etc.

## BEHIND THE NAME

**Rabassa:** Name with various meanings. Slightly rounded base of a large mountain. Semantically it is the same as *Tossa* ("hill"), which may come from the Roman word *pausia*, thus leading to "rabassa".

WALKING IN ANDORRA



Rialb refuge



Spring gentian  
(*Gentiana verna*)



*Cariofillata montana*  
(*Geum montanum*)



Mountain pine  
(*Pinus uncinata*)

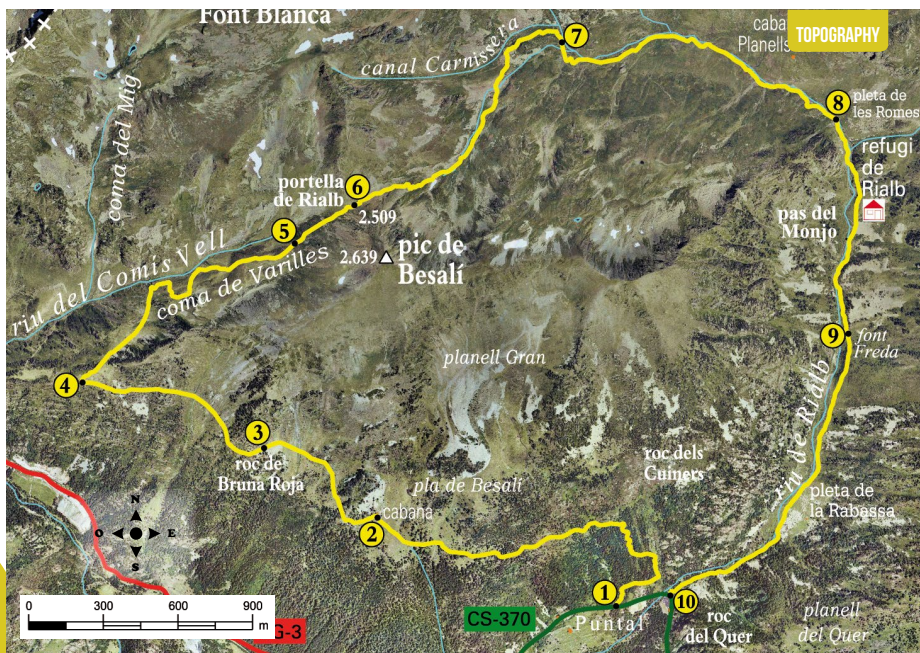
The route from Puntal to la Rabassa is one of the best ways to enjoy the breathtaking views of Ordino pass. There is also Sorteny Valley natural park, which is known to inspire awe among visitors.




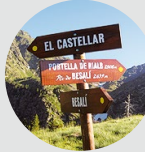
This route is a bit more challenging, with almost 11,5 kilometres of hiking and a change in elevation of 740 metres, but it is still accessible to almost any hiking enthusiast. Heading out of Puntal in the direction of Rialb, you'll find a landscape rich in fauna, especially in birds and small mammals. Animal husbandry was very intense in this mountain region, which can be

seen with all the milking stalls and cabins you'll find along the route.





A bit higher up are some alpine meadows where you can enjoy fantastic views of Arcalís peak (2,776 m), also known as the sun mountain. You will also be able to trace out the Verdaguer route, made by the priest Jacint Verdaguer during his journey through the Andorran valleys.

During the descent to la Rabassa, you'll follow the course of the stream that crosses the valley. During the summer, the banks are full of blooms, offering a true feast for the senses.



PLACE	DISTANCE	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
ALTITUDE	ASCENT/DESCENT			
<b>1</b>				
<b>PUNTAL TO BESALI PATH</b>	-- (-)	--	N42 37.549 E1 32.954	The route begins in Puntal on the Sorteny road (CS-370). From the car park, you'll descend about 400 metres just before the house on the road. In the forest, you'll find the sign for the Besali path.
1.770 m				
<b>2</b>				
<b>BESALI CABIN</b>	1.850 m (+305 m)	1h	N42 37.736 E1 32.248	The path starts parallel to the road and goes up into the Ascobar de Puntal forest. As you leave the forest, the path levels out until the Besali plain.
2.075 m				
<b>3</b>				
<b>BRUNA ROJA ROCK</b>	2.580 m (+85 m)	1h 30'	N42 37.885 E1 31.910	The path levels out, heading northwest until Bruna Roja rock. From here you'll have the best views of Hortell peak, and behind it Arcalis peak, the sun mountain.
2.160 m				
<b>4</b>				
<b>CASTELLAR AND PORTELLA DE RIALB PATH INTERSECTION</b>	3.490 m (+15 m)	2h	N42 38.025 E1 31.372	Hike across the flat and sunny side of la Verdú until you reach an intersection. Here a wooden sign indicates the Castellar path, which leads down to the CG-3 and the Portella de Rialb path.
2.175 m				

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

-    
-  5H 30 MIN
-  +755 M
-  -720 M
-  11.350 M
-  SI
-  APPROXIMATE TIME

**ROUTE SIGNAGE**

-   
-  WRONG DIRECTION



PLACE	DISTANCE	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
ALTITUDE	ASCENT/DESCENT			
<b>5</b>				
<b>BESALI PEAK PATH</b>	5.090 m (+250 m)	3h	N42 38.332 E1 31.995	Head northeast over a moderate slope which will get steeper as you cross a few streams. Next you'll pass by the Comis Vell river, and 100 metres further on you'll come to the Besali peak path.
2.425 m				
<b>6</b>				
<b>PORTELLA DE RIALB</b>	5.440 m (+80 m)	3h 20'	N42 38.416 E1 32.170	With your eyes on the Portella de Rialb, you should keep a look out for high mountain fauna. On the ridges of Font Blanca peak you might see a chamois, the emblematic animal of the Andorran valleys. As you continue on, you'll come to the Portella de Rialb.
2.505 m				
<b>7</b>				
<b>RIALB RIVER</b>	7.230 m (-325 m)	4h	N42 38.776 E1 32.778	The path leads into the Rialb valley. As you lose altitude, you'll pass a stream and some scree and then come to the Rialb river. To the northwest, you'll see the Carnissera canal.
2.180 m				
<b>8</b>				
<b>LES ROMES GRAZING AREA</b>	8.720 m (-160 m)	4h 30'	N42 38.613 E1 33.590	The road runs parallel to the river. When you reach the alpine meadows of Rialb, there will be a hut on the other riverbank, and two more in the Les Romes grazing area, standing testimonies to the history of livestock raising in the valley. There is also a sign and panel indicating the location of Siguer pass.
2.020 m				
<b>9</b>				
<b>FREDA FOUNTAIN</b>	9.890 m (-85 m)	4h 45'	N42 38.147 E1 33.632	A little further down, you'll once again cross a bridge over the river and come to the Rialb refuge, which is open all year round with capacity for 8. Not much further ahead, you'll come to Freda fountain.
1.935 m				
<b>10</b>				
<b>LA RABASSA CAR PARK</b>	11.350 m (-150 m)	5h 30'	N42 37.573 E1 33.114	Continue down the valley until you reach la Rabassa grazing area, where you'll see a milking shed in the middle of some scree. Next, the path enters the forest and exits at the la Rabassa car park.
1.785 m				

**ROUTE PROFILE**

