

# 91 ITINERARI DE LA VALL DEL MADRIU

## DON'T MISS...

competing an ecotourism route in the capable hands of professional guides, like the Fontverd route. For more information visit, the Escaldes-Engordany Tourist Office.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Illa lake is found in the valley and is the reservoir of the dam that feed Engolasters lake and produces electricity.

## BEHIND THE NAME

**Madriu:** From the Latin *mater, matrix*, meaning "mother". In front of Conflent peak rises Padern peak (from the Latin *paternu*, "paternal"). The fact there is a mountain – Padern peak (*paternu*) – at the entrance to the Madriu valley (*mater*), gives us a good idea of the thinking of the prehistoric inhabitants of these valleys, who considered them to be symbols of fertility.

WALKING IN ANDORRA



Fontverd livestock pen



Farga cabin



Madriu river



Pla de l'Inгла

The diversity of habitats that make up the Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley contribute to the presence of a large variety of animal species, which have found it to be an ideal home. The mountain passes that connect neighbouring countries are also natural corridors that increase the biodiversity of the area.

el pelatge marró rogenc, amb el pèl de la cara blanc i una veta marró del musell a les orelles. El cabirol (*Capreolus capreolus*) és un altre mamífer que sol viure en aquesta vall. I també hi ha el mufló (*Ovis musimon*), espècie introduïda al 1991, que viu en prats i zones rocalloses i assolellades d'alta muntanya. Els mascles es distingeixen per les banyes recargolades i anellades. Altres animals que hi viuen són el

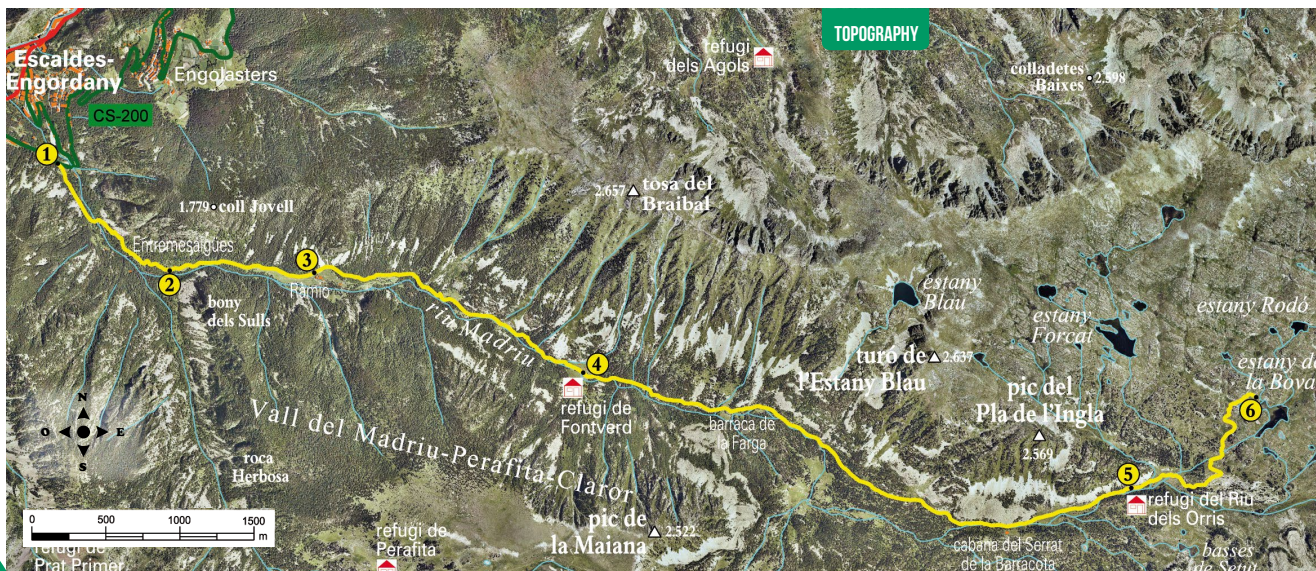
porc senglar, l'ermíni, la marmota, la guineu, la marta i el simpàtic esquírol, entre d'altres.

The Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley is home to unique colonies of animal species, such as the Pyrenean chamois (*Rupicapra pyrenaica*), a mammal with a pair of small straight horns, curved at the end, a ruddy brown coat and a white face with a brown strip from the nose to ears. You might also see the roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), which is known to inhabit the valley. The mouflon was introduced in 1991, and is now living in the sunny high mountain meadows and rocky areas. The males are distinguishable by their twisted and ringed horns. Some of the other species in the valley are wild boars, ermines, marmots, foxes, martens and the always-adorable squirrel.



# ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

91. ITINERARI DE LA VALL DEL MADRIU



\*You can return by following the same route.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



4H

3H

+1.180 M

13.600 M

NO\*

APPROXIMATE TIME

## ROUTE SIGNAGE

GR 7/11

WRONG DIRECTION



escaldes-engordany

PLACE	ALTIMITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1	<b>LA PLANA ROAD</b> 1.235 m	-- (--)	--	N42 30.253 E1 33.059	To reach the starting point, follow the Engolasters road (CS-200) from Escaldes-Engordany. Passing the 1 km mark, you'll turn right to enter La Plana road. You'll follow this for 100 metres until the starting point, where you will find some information signs. The entire route is marked as GR-7, and as GR-11 later on.
2	<b>ENTREME-SAIGÜES BRIDGE</b> 1.474 m	1.200 m (+239 m)	35'	N42 29.868 E1 33.616	On a paved path, hike through the lower part of the Madriu valley until you reach the Entremesaigües huts. At this point you'll continue straight on with the Perafita valley on your right.
3	<b>RÀMIO</b> 1.614 m	2.660 m (+140 m)	1h	N42 29.865 E1 34.328	Going back up through the Madriu valley, you'll come to a group of huts in Ràmio, property of the neighbouring cortalans (land owners) from Escaldes-Engordany. Continue up the valley in the direction of Fontverd.
4	<b>FONTVERD REFUGE</b> 1.880 m	6.180 m (+266 m)	1h 40'	N42 29.509 E1 35.661	You'll continue through the valley, altering between forested areas and clearings, passing alongside the Madriu river. Suddenly, you'll go over a walkway and reach the Fontverd area, where you'll find the cabin and refuge.



PLACE	ALTIMITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
5	<b>ELS ORRIS RIVER REFUGE</b> 2.230 m	11.260 m (+350 m)	3h	N42 29.106 E1 38.372	After the Fontverd refuge, you'll continue through the valley. Go by the cabins at Farga and Serrat de la Barracota, which can be very useful as shelters in case of storms. After the extensive Pla de l'Inglà (upland) you reach the Els Orris river refuge.
6	<b>BOVA LAKE</b> 2.415 m	13.600 m (+185 m)	4h	N42 29.441 E1 38.984	The path continues up the valley through some small passes before bringing you to the spectacular Bova lake, tucked high away in the mountains. Here you can find one of the most typical wetland plants, the cattail.



## ROUTE PROFILE

