

68 LA MARGINEDA-PIC BONY DE LA PICA-SISPONY-LA MARGINEDA



68

DON'T MISS...

Visiting the Margineda Archaeological Site. The main archaeological site on the history of Andorra, dating back to the Pareatges period (1278-1288), documents on which the independence and hegemony of Andorra has been based over the centuries. We can boast having survived more than 700 years without a single military conflict.

DID YOU KNOW...

That close to the start of the route you can see the Torres dels Russos, a building designed by Cèsar Martinell, built in a contemporary style with touches of Noucentism and which represents one of the most important pieces of granite architecture.

BEHIND THE NAME

Bony de la Pica: According to the book "Arrels d'Andorra" (Roots of Andorra), the word 'pica' is used when the peak is made up of two twin peaks or when the peak is shaped in the form of a small cut-shaped crest. Etymology: feminine form of the word *Pic*.



Aconitum Napellus



Rhododendron Ferrugineum



Andorran brown cow



Santa Coloma church

This demanding yet breathtaking circular route will provide you with the chance to discover the Enclar valley. Declared as the first hunting preserve in 1987, this area is home to fauna of exceedingly high value, such as the largest population of chamois in the Principality, both in extension and in number of specimens.

Its diverse vegetation allows visitors to observe the different species as they pass through the different areas. The mountainous area is where you can find red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), common box (*Buxus sempervirens*) and downy oak (*Quercus humilis*). The subalpine zone is home to the Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and as you come closer to the alpine zone this is replaced by mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*), the last species before reaching the alpine pastures.

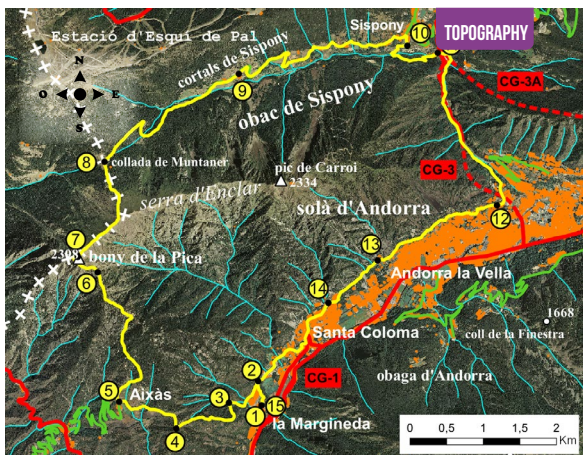
In these areas, close-by the town, visitors often see Eurasian crag martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestres*), common swifts (*Apus apus*), black redstarts (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) or European serins (*Sernus serinus*). The rocks are home to a vast number of Iberian wall lizards (*Podarcis hispànica*) and in the cooler parts, there are common wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis*).

When on route it is essential to look towards the sky every so often, given that this route is one of the best areas in Andorra for observing large birds of prey.

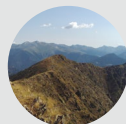
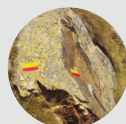
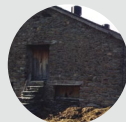
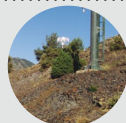
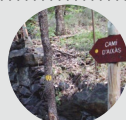
The return route will pass through the Sispony pens, where you can enjoy the agricultural landscapes and the good preservation of its farm buildings. Take the Rec del Solà path to enjoy its unique views over the capital's urban centre to end the route.

ANDORRA LA VELLA

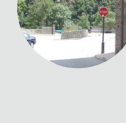
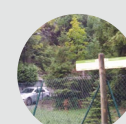
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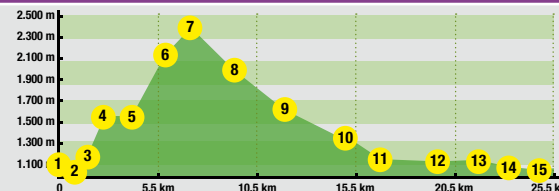
PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
1 LA MARGINEDA (-)	--	--	N42 29.201 E1 29.465	To reach the starting point from Andorra la Vella, head southbound along the CG-1 until you reach the Margineda roundabout. Take the road that heads up to the town of Margineda, where you will find the Santa Coloma cobblestone path.
2 AIXÀS PATH	400 m (+15 m)	5'	N42 29.376 E1 29.421	Follow the GRP path, after a few metres you will pass by the Margineda secondary school and then you'll reach the Aixàs path.
3 L'ESQUEROLA FOUNTAIN	980 m (+106 m)	25'	N42 29.227 E1 29.141	A demanding trail from the very start which includes the Canal del coll de l'Obac. This water basin and its humanisation up until present days, conceals traces of the ancient irrigation system. Taking a few detours you'll reach the Font de l'Esquerola water spring.
4 COLL JOVELL	2.540 m (+441 m)	1h 40'	N42 29.023 E1 28.622	The trail continues southbound. With a few detours you'll overcome the steep slope that leads to Jovell hill, where you'll reach a weather station.
5 AIXÀS	3.680 m (-26 m)	1h 55'	N42 29.221 E1 28.030	The trail eases off until reaching the town of Aixàs, where you can view the Roman church dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.
6 SERRA DE L'OBAGA D'ENCLAR	6.120 m (+661 m)	4h	N42 30.186 E1 27.819	The route continues northbound, with constant steep slopes until reaching the Portell de les Comes. Then, meander around the mountain until you reach the Bony de la Pica triangulation station, which borders the Spanish territory.
7 BONY DE LA PICA PEAK	6.670 m (+206 m)	4h 30'	N42 30.290 E1 27.624	This is the start of the most alpine and technical part of the route. Over the last few metres, the trail will head north-east until reaching the Bony de la Pica peak.



PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
8 COLLADA DE MONTANER	8.980 m (-306 m)	5h 30'	N42 30.977 E1 27.864	The GRP continues along the face of the mountain until reaching the Enclar peak. A few metres further on take a north-westerly direction until descending to the forest. You will soon come across the Collada de Montaner mountain pass.
9 CORTALS DE SISPONY	11.890 m (-420 m)	6h 30'	N42 31.633 E1 29.193	Leave the GRP to continue along the communal trail (yellow dots) heading north-east. The trail runs into the forest. You should then continue along a forest track. Before reaching Cortals de Sispony, you will have to cross the River Hortons.
10 LA QUERA PATH	15.080 m (-340 m)	7h 30'	N42 31.865 E1 30.878	Following the forest track you'll reach the CS-320 road, walk along it until reaching the town of Sispony. Before reaching the Casa Rull museum, turn right and just a few metres below you'll reach La Quera path.
11 RAL PATH (CG-3)	16.210 m (-132 m)	7h 50'	N42 31.803 E1 31.175	Take the path on the right and after a few metres you'll cross the River Muntaner. Follow the path and you will come to the main road.
12 REC DEL SOLÀ	19.370 m (-85 m)	8h 20'	N42 30.711 E1 31.832	The trail continues southbound alongside the river. After a few metres you'll reach the Sant Antoni de la Grela hermitage, then cross the river over the Sant Antoni Roman bridge and cross the river once again to reach the Rec del Solà uptake. A metal staircase will allow you to cross the road structure of the Grau de la Sabata tunnel. You'll have to take the Pont Pla path to return to Rec del Solà along the Llobatera path, where you should follow the water course until you come to a viewpoint over the central valley.
13 SOLÀ PATH	21.340 m (+2 m)	8h 40'	N42 30.245 E1 30.559	Leave behind the orchards, the exceptional panoramic view of Andorra la Vella old town and the entire valley. Continue along the Solà path, accompanied by the torrents, vegetation and rocky walls.
14 NEW CEMETERY CAR PARK	22.680 m (-84 m)	9h	N42 29.957 E1 30.105	The route continues amidst blocks of granite where you will find several chains that can help you advance and then you'll reach the new cemetery car park.
15 LA MARGINEDA	25.400 m (-38 m)	9h 20'	N42 29.199 E1 29.458	Following the GRP, continue downwards along the road until Janer school, turn right and continue until the end of the road where you will find a flight of stairs to your left. Walk down the stairs and continue straight ahead until you reach the main road. Turn left and go through the gateway until you reach Santa Coloma church. Then a wide cobblestone road will take you to La Margineda starting point.



ROUTE PROFILE



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- 10H 30 MIN
- +1431 M
- 1431 M
- 25.400 M
- SI
- APPROXIMATE TIME

ROUTE SIGNAGE

- GRP

