

# 29 EMPORTONA I MELIGAR DES DELS CORTALS D'ENCAMP

## DON'T MISS...

the Orris Route, which includes Vall dels Cortals to the west, the Cubil sector in the centre and the Encenerera area to the east, then connecting with the Pessons cirque hiking route.

Ask for further information at the Encamp tourist information office. Ask for further information at the tourist information office

## DID YOU KNOW...

the Orri d'Emportona is very well-preserved, with a central fold and a narrow mound on its side.

## BEHIND THE NAME

Emportona: Name of unknown etymology. It could be a derivative of 'take' or it could be a name formed by the toponymic prefix en- ( Encamp) plus a derivative of porta or esporta 'basket'.

WALKING IN ANDORRA



Alpine pasqueflower  
(*Pulsatilla alpina*)



Aconite  
(*Aconitum napellus*)



Meligar lake

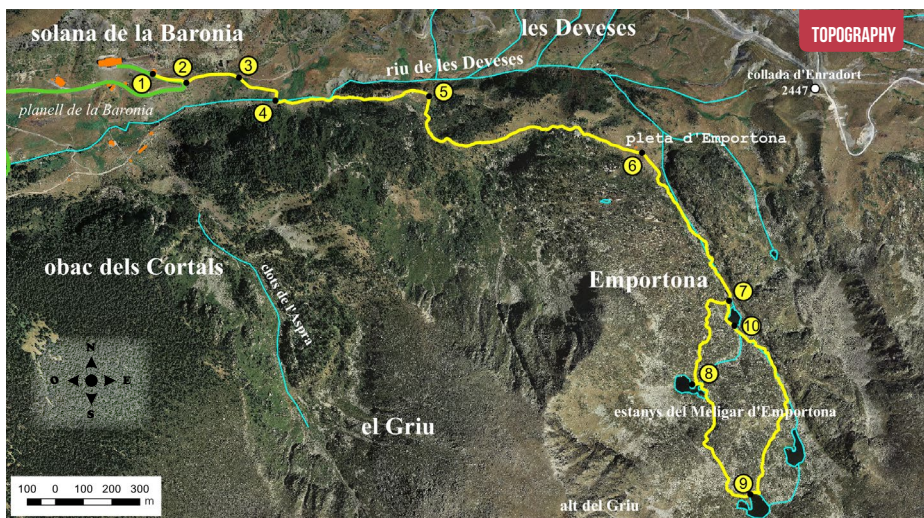
Vall dels Cortals, where this excursion begins, is located in the great Encamp valley. It's a steep valley, but with vehicle access, which receives water from the small but attractive secondary valleys that run from south to north: Emportona, Ensagenets, Coma dels Llops and Agols.

The abundance of lakes is the most important factor in the parish of Encamp and dates back to ancient times. A million and a half years ago, the snow that fell didn't melt on the Pyrenean valleys as it does now. Instead, the snow piled up at the headwaters of the higher valleys. The

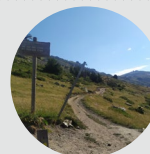
glacial lakes found along this route are largely frozen between December and June. Plants and animals that have managed to establish themselves despite the conditions are usually phytoplankton as higher plants and zooplankton as invertebrates, as well as some vertebrates resistant to cold water and food scarcity.

Granite dominates the highest part of this route and you should be able to easily spot Northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), water pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) and black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*).

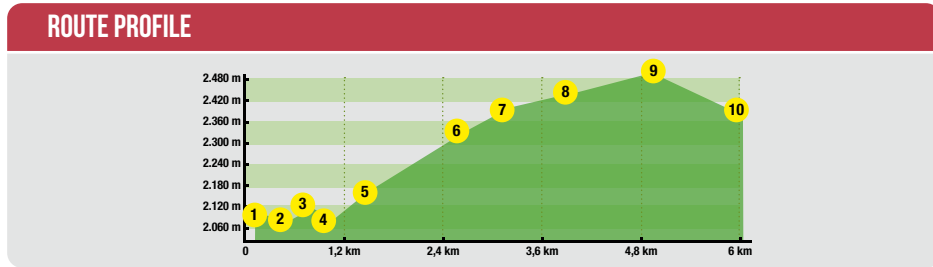
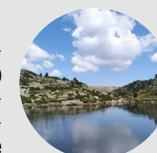
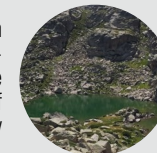
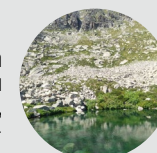




PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> CORTALS D'ENCAMP 2.087 m	-- (--)	--	N42 32.365 E1 37.961	To get to the starting point, you have to take the main road that passes in front of the Funicamp gondola in the parish of Encamp. Go up the CS 220 main road to the top, where you'll find the Funicamp mid-station, at the top of Cortals d'Encamp.
<b>2</b> CAMÍ DE LA COLLADA D'ENRADORT 2.082 m	100 m (-5 m)	2'	N42 32.347 E1 38.054	Descend about 100 metres along the main road until you find Camí de la Collada d'Enradort.
<b>3</b> CAMÍ DE LA RUTA DELS ORRIS 2.095 m	421 m (+13 m)	5'	N42 32.358 E1 38.191	Take the wide path and, in a few metres, you'll find a wooden door and then the Camí de la Ruta dels Orris on the left.
<b>4</b> RIU DE LES DEVESES (PONT DE FUSTA) 2.079 m	636 m (-16 m)	10'	N42 32.318 E1 38.287	Go down the narrow path towards the River Deveses, crossing it via a wooden bridge.
<b>5</b> MUR DE PEDRA SECA 2.140 m	1.378 m (+61 m)	25'	N42 32.318 E1 38.287	The path then runs gently parallel to the river. Continuing east, you come to a dry stone wall.



PLACE ALTITUDE	DISTANCE ASCENT/DESCENT	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>6</b> PLETA D'EMPOR-TONA 2.311 m	2.478 m (+171 m)	1h	N42 32.231 E1 39.225	Continue south, where the path climbs sharply, gaining metres of altitude with ease. After the small pass, you'll reach the Pleta d'Emportona grazing area.
<b>7</b> PRIMER ESTANY DE MELIGAR D'EMPOR-TONA 2.386 m	3.369 m (+65 m)	1h 15'	N42 31.922 E1 39.485	Leave Camí dels Orris behind. The path gains height, making detours parallel to the river, continuing in a south-easterly direction. After leaving behind an area of scree and a small lake, you'll reach the Primer Estany (first lake).
<b>DIFFICULT SECTION. THERE IS NO COVER.</b>				
<b>8</b> SECON ESTANY 2.447 m	4.029 m (+65m)	1h 40'	N42 31.777 E1 39.371	Continuing in a south-easterly direction and deftly passing granite blocks, you come to the Segon Estany (second lake), where the pristine clear waters will surprise you.
<b>9</b> TERCER ESTANY 2.488 m	5.031 m (-46 m +87 m)	2h	N42 31.567 E1 39.524	Next, cross an imposing scree slope with granite blocks. Following a southerly direction, you reach the top of the scree slope. You'll then lose a few metres of altitude as you get to the Tercer Estany (third lake).
<b>10</b> PRIMER ESTANY 2.386 m	6.029 m (-102 m)	2h 20'	N42 31.890 E1 39.479	Descend in a northerly direction. As a reference, you'll have the Cortals d'Encamp sector of the Grandvalira ski resort. Parallel to Estany de Meligar, pass some granite blocks. After leaving the huge scree slope behind, you'll reach the Primer Estany again. Go down the same path you ascended by from Primer Estany de Meligar d'Emportona to Cortals d'Encamp.



**TECHNICAL INFORMATION**



(DIFFICULT WITH TURN AT THE LAKES)

- 1H 15 MIN**  
(2HR 20MIN WITH TURN)
- 50 MIN**
- +317 M**  
(+468 M - 169 M WITH TURN)
- 3.369 M**  
(6.029 M WITH TURN)
- APPROXIMATE TIME

**SENYALITZACIÓ DEL RECORREGUT**

- WRONG DIRECTION**



encamp  
el pas de la casa