

# 59 PERAFITA ROUTE

## DON'T MISS...

a chance to sleep in a refuge. The one found in Perafita is only one of the 29 Andorran refuges available to hikers, with capacity for 10 people.

## DID YOU KNOW?...

Cortons were communal lands for large livestock ranching. They were very prized as they offered a good way to make a living. Auctions would take place during a special parish meeting held in January.

## TOPONIMY

**Perafita:** Is a compound noun combining *pe-dra* ("rock") and *fita*, from the Latin *ficta*, meaning "stuck". The name refers to the rock stuck here in the earth to indicate the border between Andorra and Alt Urgell.

HIKING IN ANDORRA



Marmot den



Cabin



Mushroom



Claror i Perafita river

Perafita is located in the Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004.

The Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley is partly situated in Escaldes-Engordany. A symbol of the parish, it is undoubtedly important to local residents who have lived for years off the agricultural resources of these mountains.

This valley is the largest secondary river basin in the country. It is 12 kilometres wide from end to end, with an average altitude of 1,855 metres; the lowest point is very near the centre of Escaldes-Engordany (1,050 metres) and the highest point is Portelleta peak (2,905 metres).

In this valley very rare, and even endangered, animal and plant species can be found.

For many generations, local residents have intensely farmed and used the land for ranching. These activities have contributed to transforming the valley's landscape and have given it many of the values recognised by UNESCO.

High mountain pastures are still used today for grazing by cattle during the summer months. A good example to their importance during earlier times can be seen in the development of the prices of *cortons*, which were auctioned off by city councils to ranchers for ranching and farming.

# 59





**DATA SHEET**

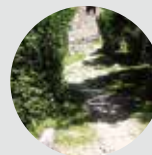
- ● ● ●
- 4H
- +965 M
- 965 M
- 8.493 M
- YES

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIMES

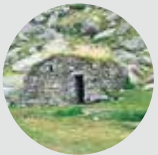
**ROUTE SIGNPOSTING**

- GR
- WRONG WAY

LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>1</b> <b>LA PLANA ROAD</b> 1.235 m	-- (--)	--	N42 30.253 E1 33.059	To get to the starting point, take the Engolasters road (CS-200) from Escaldes-Engordany. After the 1 km mark you'll see La Plana road (CS-101) on the right. Follow it for 100 metres until you reach the starting point, where you'll find information signs.
<b>2</b> <b>ENTREME-SAIGÜES BRIDGE</b> 1.465 m	1.200 m (+230 m)	35'	N42 29.868 E1 33.616	On a paved path you climb through the lower part of the Madriu valley, until reaching the Entremesaigües huts. At this point you need to turn right and after a slight descent you cross the Madriu river.



LOCATION HEIGHT	DISTANCE DROP	TIME	COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
<b>3</b> <b>PEDRES BALLADORES</b> 1.780 m	2.500 m (+315 m)	1h 10'	N42 29.213 E1 33.799	Climbing the Perafita valley, you'll pass by the Peixadera fountain. Up ahead, you'll exit the forest and pass by some scree. On the path beside the Perafita river, you'll pass by the pedres balladores ("Dancing rocks"), two large and surprisingly flat blocks of granite.
<b>4</b> <b>PERAFITA REFUGE</b> 2.200 m	4.900 m (+420 m)	2h 10'	N42 28.779 E1 34.688	As you continue upward along the valley floor, you pass by the Perafita cabin. Later, the road takes you up the left side of the valley into and through a forest, exiting into a clearing. You climb up a demanding slope to reach the Perafita plateau and, with the cabin on your left, continue on southeast until the Perafita refuge.
<b>5</b> <b>PERAFITA CABIN</b> 2.200 m	5.200 m (0 m)	2h 15'	N42 28.868 E1 34.533	On the way back, continue the route until you reach the Perafita cabin to head back to the communal road, where you must continue walking heading north-east until you reach Ròdol forest.
<b>6</b> <b>RÀMIO BRIDGE</b> 1.580 m	7.600 m (-620 m)	3h	N42 29.839 E1 34.127	In the forest, the path goes down an incline full of wet and dense vegetation, typical of a northern slope, until you get to the Ràmio bridge.
<b>7</b> <b>LA PLANA ROAD</b> 1.235 m	8.493 m (-345 m)	4h	N42 30.253 E1 33.059	After the Ràmio bridge, continue under a meadow until you reach the long-distance path (GR) and you continue on the left, down the valley until getting back to the starting point, La Plana road.



**ROUTE PROFILE**

