


This guide is for all those who love nature and the mountains (experts and amateurs), to provide in-depth information on our parish and encourage us all to appreciate our natural heritage.

We have selected 15 trails out of more than a hundred that we have on record that start from the parish of Canillo, and have divided them into different levels of difficulty: 7 easy, 5 medium and 3 difficult.
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## TRAILS

## 1. TOLL BULLIDOR WATERFALL

Starting point: Main road (CG), next to Molleres village.
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 33.234 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 35.303 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 860 m (one way)
Duration: 30 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 70 m
Max.- min. altitude: $1,410 m-1,340 m$
1.5 km from the village of Canillo, heading towards Andorra la Vella, you will find Molleres bridge on the right-hand side. A car park and a wooden sign mark the start of the Toll Bullidor path.

The scenery on this trail is spectacular, ending in a walkway from where you can see a magnificent waterfall. This attractive feature and the lush vegetation make it an ideal trail for families.

At the start of the trail is the first viewpoint, overlooking Meritxell village and cathedral. Soon after, you will come to the second viewpoint with views of Meritxell and the Molleres bordes (farm buildings).

The path leads from the Molleres bordes, next to Meritxell cathedral, to Toll Bullidor waterfall.

A visit to Meritxell cathedral is very interesting. The church was built by Ricard Bofill and inaugurated in 1976, his aim being to depict certain symbolic elements that highlight the special features of this unique location.

The sun inset above the altar was designed to represent the name Meritxell which, according to the philologist, Coromines, comes from the Latin word meridiem (midday); the two intersecting naves symbolise the intersection of the paths running from one frontier to the other, from the North Valira valley to the East Valira valley. Next to the cathedral is the old Romanesque chapel, which was made into a remembrance area after being destroyed in a fire in 1972.


TRAILS

## 2. CAMÍ DEL GALL OR CAPERCAILLIE PATH (CANILLO - SOLDEU)

Starting point: In Canillo: Santa Creu bridge.
In Soldeu: On the main road into the southern edge of town, on the right-hand side.
GPS coordinates:
In Canillo: $42^{\circ} 33.923 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 36.116 \mathrm{E}$
In Soldeu: $42^{\circ} 34.660 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 39.780 \mathrm{E}$.
Length: 7 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h 20 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 285 m
Max.- min. altitude: 1,805 m-1,535 m
This trail starts next to the entrance to Canillo cable-car car park, where there is a large wooden board providing all the information about the trail. You can also walk it in the other direction, from Soldeu, where it starts from the bend on the edge of town.

It is an easy walk, along the shady side of the East Valira valley, ideal for families. The signposts are marked with the capercaillie symbol.

All along the trail are numerous wooden signs indicating panoramic views, fauna and flora, as well as recommended resting points ( 9 in all). In the middle of the route is a Tibetan bridge over a small waterfall, which looks like an ice carpet in winter.

As for flora, there are mountain pine, Alpenrose and Old Man's Beard.
The most remarkable fauna are foxes, squirrels and the path's namesake: the capercaillie. They are difficult to spot but the sound of their singing and the traces they leave behind, such as food, faeces or tracks, alert us to their presence.



TRAILS
3. INTER-PARISH PATH FROM

SANT MIQUEL DE PRAT CHURCH TO
SANT MIQUEL D'ENGOLASTERS CHURCH
Starting point: In the village of Prats.
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 33.620 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 35.691 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 11.6 km (one way)
Duration: 4 h (one way)
Altitude change: 185 m
Max.- min. altitude: 1,650m-1,500 m
This trail starts from the village of Prats, where there is a signpost marking the path.
The path crosses the parishes of Canillo, Encamp and Escaldes-Engordany. Although it is 11.6 km long, it is virtually flat, so it is suitable for a peaceful family walk. The trail is marked with yellow spots and the letters Cl (Inter-parish path).

Note that the trail has been provided with resting and water points. You can either walk the whole trail or one of the sections.

This pleasant walk links the churches of Sant Miquel de Prats and Sant Miquel de Engolasters (a 12th-century Lombard Romanesque building, with the outstanding architectural feature of a square bell-tower with three floors of geminated windows), along the Canal path, the Pardines road, which has a botanical garden, and the Fonts circuit. The open areas with magnificent panoramic views across the valley alternated with woodland areas make it a very interesting scenic route.

In relation to flora, there are hay meadows all along the trail, while mountain pine, Scotch pine and birch are the most common trees. On the other hand, most of the undergrowth is box, bearberry and Alpenrose. As for fauna, you can often hear the song of the blue tit, a small wild bird.


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## 4. OBAC D'INCLES

Starting point: At the entrance to the Incles valley behind the buildings named Déu Sol.
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 35.238 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 40.048 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 2.6 km (one way)
Duration: 1 h (one way)
Altitude change: 68 m
Max.- min. altitude: $1,843 \mathrm{~m}-1,787 \mathrm{~m}$
This trail starts in the Incles valley, situated about one kilometre from the town of Soldeu, in the parish of Canillo.

At the beginning of the Incles valley road there are some blocks of wooden buildings next to the river; the path starts just behind these buildings.

The path follows the right bank of the Incles river through a mountain pine wood. The name "Obac" means "shady side" so the path runs mostly along the shady side of the valley, which is straightforward and fairly flat. Along the path are several farm buildings called bordes. Throughout the year and depending on the season, the trail may change significantly in appearance, due to snow, cold, mist and sun. In winter, if the snow is thick enough, you can take the trail with snowshoes, cross-country skis or mountain skis.

Among the most notable species of vegetation are fir, mountain pine, rowan and arnica.
As for fauna, you may well see a common vulture flying above, wild boar tracks, roe-deer, or with luck, the mythical capercaillie.

Essentially, the path follows the course of the river Incles which, from an ecological point of view, is in very good condition and full of typical species, such as trout and common grass frogs.



## 5. TOMB DE LES NERES INTER-PARISH PATH

Starting point: From Canillo take the Coll d'Ordino road to km 8
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 33.354 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 34.306 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 8 km
Duration: 3 h
Altitude change: 198 m
Max.- min. altitude: 2,029 m-1,831 m
This path can be started from several different points and walked in either direction, as it is a circular trail, although we recommend joining it at Coll d'Ordino, on the Canillo side, as it is more accessible there. Leaving the town of Canillo by car, you take the Coll d'Ordino road and drive up to the very top, past some wooden totems, until you reach a wide open expanse of ground with an orientation table. The path starts and ends right here. The beginning of the trail is signposted, with a map and key for the trail. The whole trail is marked with yellow spots and the initials Cl (inter-parish trail).

The path comes out in a leafy pine forest, with spectacular views of this and other parishes such as La Massana, Encamp and Ordino. The trail is uncomplicated, with few changes in altitude, and recommended for families, especially the first section as the whole trail is rather long.

You enter the parish of Canillo through the Tosa woods, ideal for gathering wild mushrooms, where there is a spring. If you are lucky, you may see a mouflon (mountain sheep) or roe-deer.

Carry on along the marked path past the Plana woods, now within the parish of Encamp. From here you can see incredible panoramic views. In this grove, there are trees bent into sinuous forms, like natural sculptures.
Continuing through these diverse woodlands, you reach the La Massana side, the Plana woods, where they become denser and full of Scotch pine and birch. The path leads to the Mallol spring where you can refresh yourself and take a rest in the picnic area, equipped with barbecues. Next you enter the Estall pass, a wide, open meadow where, they say, the councillors used to meet to discuss matters of importance. From here, you can see a forest track from which you can reach the Tomb de les Neres path.

Leaving the pass, you enter the woods of Coll d'Ordino, within the parish of Ordino. On this section, with a notable change in altitude, there are majestic firs, some 24 m high.

Finally, the path joins the GR route: you can either take this to reach the Navina Spring picnic area, with tables, barbecues and a spring, or stay on the path back to the starting point and orientation table.



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## 6. FROM CANILLO TO MERITXELL

Starting point: The chapel of Santa Creu de Canillo. GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 33.922 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 35.972 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 4 km
Duration: 40 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 50 m
Max.- min. altitude: 1,526 m (Canillo)
$1,565 \mathrm{~m}$ (Meritxell)
The path from Canillo to Meritxell begins in the town of Canillo, behind the Tourist Office, next to the river where the chapel of Santa Creu stands. There, the signposted path starts. You can also drive to the village of Prats and start out from the side of the village church, also signposted as the Ral or Meritxell path.

This is an old pilgrimage route with several wayside crosses marking the path to the Church. There are two on this path, first the Seven Arms Cross then, halfway along, the Charlemagne Cross. It is a fairly gentle walk, with hardly any change in altitude, through a lush forest of mountain pines with magnificent views over Canillo.

At the start of the path is a small waterfall and then a picnic area with tables and barbecues.

Finally, you reach the Cathedral of Meritxell, the patron saint of Andorra, built in 1976 and designed by the architect Ricard Bofill. We recommend a visit to the Cathedral and also the reconstructed old Meritxell church, which was destroyed in a fire in 1972.

It is a straightforward, easy route, with no major changes in altitude, ideal for a peaceful family walk.




## 8. VALL DEL RIU MOUNTAIN HUT

## AND LAKE

Starting point:

- Option A: In the village of Plans.
- Option B: From Canillo, take the Coll d'Ordino road about 2.5 km
GPS coordinates:
- Option A: 42³4.936N - 001¹37.984E
- Option B: 42³4.359N - 001³6.056E

Length: 6 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h 45 min. (one way)
Altitude change: 720 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,545 \mathrm{~m}-1,825 \mathrm{~m}$

## OPTION A:

Take the main road (CG2) towards France; before you get to El Tarter car park, take the secondary road (CS-260) up to Ransol. Then turn left on to the secondary road (CS-261) to Els Plans then immediately right, until you reach some stone houses with red windows. Here, there is an information board about the trail.

## OPTION B:

Take the Montaup road and at km 3.9 you will find a forest track with views over Canillo for one kilometre. You will reach the Armiana bordes (farm buildings) where there is a resting point with a spring and benches and where the marked paths start.

Follow the marked path up to an altitude of 2,650 metres, where you reach the Vall del Riu mountain hut, which sleeps 8 . If you carry on along this path, you will reach the Vall del Riu lakes within an hour.

The Canillo landscape was carved by glaciers which attained a thickness of 400 metres in the middle of the Quaternary period, as can be seen in the Quer rock. The vegetation is predominantly mountain pine and birch woods. Higher up the parish slopes are Alpine meadows, lower down, hay meadows. There are typical Andorran drystone walls along the path, with Pyrenean broom and dwarf juniper. There are mountain pine woods along the whole trail.

## OPTION A

## 8. VALL DEL RIU MOUNTAIN HUT AND LAKE <br> Starting point

- Option A: In the village of Plans GPS coordinates:
- Option A: 42³4.936N - 001¹37.984E

Length: 6 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h 45 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 720 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,545 \mathrm{~m}-1,825 \mathrm{~m}$

## OPTION B

## 8. VALL DEL RIU MOUNTAIN HUT AND LAKE

 Starting point- Option B: From Canillo, take the Coll d'Ordino road about 2.5 km

GPS coordinates:

- Option B: $42^{\circ} 34.359 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 36.056 \mathrm{E}$

Length: 6 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h 45 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 720 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,545 \mathrm{~m}-1,825 \mathrm{~m}$

COLL D'ORDINO ROAD


TRAILS
9. JUCLAR MOUNTAIN HUT AND LAKE

Starting point: The end of the Incles valley road.
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 36.120 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 41.251 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 4.5 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h (one way)
Altitude change: 465 m
Max.- min. altitude: 2,300 m-1,835 m
If you take the narrow Incles Valley road ( 3 km ) and cross the Baladosa bridge, there is a car park and the starting point at the end of the valley.

After crossing the Incles river, you continue along the forest trail. The path starts with a gentle slope surrounded by drystone walls, mountain pine and Alpenrose, which flower at the beginning of July. It is not hard to reach the Travenc crossroads, where signs mark the trail.

This is one route that should not be missed - your chance to climb to the largest lake in Andorra!

The Juclar lake lies in the north-east of Andorra, in the parish of Canillo, surrounded by the Siscaró and Escobes peaks. The lake is 21.3 hectares ( 0.2 km 2 ) in size, making it the largest in Andorra, and the intense blue water is worth a day's hike. The route is suitable for everyone. There are rock walls for expert climbers but also rambles for children or family groups. The trail also leads to Juclar mountain hut, which was provided with a caretaker in 2009 and sleeps 45 people. The amenities are very up-to-date with the latest in lighting, hot water, waste disposal, sanitation etc. As for fauna, you may see the Pyrenean newt, which only lives in very crystalline water, or a vulture flying overhead. As for flora, there are buttercups and sweet Alpine clover.


## 10. CABANA SORDA MOUNTAIN HUT AND LAKE

Starting point: Half-way along the Incles valley road (left-hand side on way up).
GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 35.700 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 40.403 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 2.8 km (one way)
Duration: 1 h 45 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 470 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,295 \mathrm{~m}-1,825 \mathrm{~m}$
The path to the Cabana Sorda lake is 1.5 km along the narrow Incles Valley road. Next to a water tank, a wooden sign marks this pleasant trail, which starts above the water tank. The path climbs along the side of the stream that flows from the Comellassos spring, which you cross for the first time. Further on, the path plunges into the Pinosa woods. Carry on diagonally towards the Cabana Sorda lake at an altitude of 2,290 metres, in one of the glacial cirques in the Incles Valley, within the parish of Canillo. The scenery is delightful, with large hay meadows and sub-alpine vegetation. Among the most remarkable flora to be seen in season are the irises.

It is remarkable that more than 100 species of fauna live in this valley, notably the palmate newt, the common grass frog, the Pyrenean lizard and the appealing marmot.

The trail is not very demanding, so it is popular, especially with families. Next to the lake is a mountain hut named after the lake, sleeping 20. The lake is used for fishing from April to September and also high mountain diving as it is deep (18 metres).


## 11. SISCARÓ MOUNTAIN HUT AND LAKE

Starting point: The end of the Incles valley road. GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 36.120 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 41.251 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 3.6 km (one way)
Duration: 1 h 45 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 500 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,325 m-1,835 m$
Take the narrow Incles Valley road ( 3 km ), between El Tarter and Soldeu, to the end of the valley, where you will find a car park and the Baladosa bridge. Cross it and carry on along the forest track on the right. 500 metres further on, on the right, the trail to the Siscaró lake and mountain hut starts. The beginning of the path is a gentle slope, surrounded by drystone walls, mountain pine and Alpenrose, which are in full flower at the beginning of July.

Further on, the path climbs along the side of the river, with waterfalls along the trail, up to the Siscaró pools. A wooden sign tells you when you are near the Siscaró cabin, which sleeps 12.

Skirting the pools, where there are orchids and other flowers typical of wetland areas, you begin to climb again to the Baix (Lower) lake, known as the Siscaró lake, one hectare ( $10,000 \mathrm{~m} 2$ ) in size, at an altitude of 2,325 metres, in the Incles valley, nestled in a landscape that was carved by glaciers in the Quaternary period.

Among the most common mammals are squirrels, roe-deer and marmots, the star of the screes around the Siscaró pools. These small animals live in family groups so you can see several of them at a time, especially when they emerge to eat. They have a characteristic whistle.

An unusual feature of the lake are the saltworth (siscall) reeds, which give a special shade of blue to the water and the name Siscaro to the lake.


## TRAILS

## 12. QUEROL LAKE AND SALAMANDRES POOLS

Starting point: On the Coma de Ransol road is a bridge called Mos, turn right there. Carry on to the end of the road

GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 35.045 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 39.151 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 2,920 m (one way)
Duration: 2 h (one way)
Altitude change: 600 m
Max.- min. altitude: 1,940 m-2,303 m (Querol);
2,342 m (Salamandres)
Go to the village of Ransol, 5 km from the town of Canillo.
Once in Ransol, take the road to La Coma, follow the road to Mos bridge and take the first turning on the right. Carry on 2 km to the end of the road where you will find the information boards and signs marking the start of the path.

The trail begins with a gentle slope which becomes steeper towards the end of the walk. The first lake you come to is the Querol lake, then, after a small slope, the Salamandres pools, named after the large numbers of salamanders living in their waters.

Often, when you are just about to reach the lakes, you may come across grazing horses and the tracks of wild boars.



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## 13. LA SERRERA PEAK

Starting point: The end of the Coma de Ransol road GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 36.724 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 38.269 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 4.7 km (one way)
Duration: 3 h 30 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 995 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,905 \mathrm{~m}-1,950 \mathrm{~m}$

Follow the main road (CG2) towards France. Before reaching the El Tarter ski resort car park, take the secondary road (CS-260) up to Ransol. Take the road on the right that climbs to Ransol pass. At the end of the road is a picnic area and the information boards about the trail.

The Serrera peak, at an altitude of 2,912 metres, is the fifth highest of the six Andorran summits that rise above 2,900 metres. It is the highest peak in the parish of Canillo.

It is a strategic point for surveying the Andorran peaks, such as Comapedrosa and, beyond Andorra's borders, Pica d'Estats and the Maladeta massif. Serrera peak is famous for its magnificent south wall and can be reached from the Ransol and Sorteny valleys.

Just before reaching the summit, you cross the Meners pass, one of the most important areas in Andorra for the mining of iron ore between the 17th and 19th centuries. The mine galleries cannot be visited because they are in an unstable, dangerous state, but you can visit the remains of the Llorts mine, where workers would come at the end of May or early June until mid-August to take charge of the mining, sorting and transport of ore. All along the trail, the relationship between the mines and the cultural landscape is explained: from how the landscape has been altered by the hand of man to details about the flora, geomorphology, ore or water.



## 14. CASAMANYA PEAK

Starting point: From Canillo take the Coll d'Ordino road to km 8

GPS coordinates: $42^{\circ} 33.361 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 34.362 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 3.7 km (one way)
Duration: 2 h 45 min . (one way)
Altitude change: 750 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,735 \mathrm{~m}-1,985 \mathrm{~m}$
From the town of Canillo, take the Montaup or Coll d'Ordino road as far as kilometre 8.9.
The starting point for this path is the highest point of the Coll d'Ordino pass, the centrepoint of Andorra's geographical territory, with a 360-degree view. The path starts off by heading north into the Airola woods, climbing steeply, then disappears and flattens out as far as the Vaques pass.

After crossing the Vaques pass, you enter the woods again, following a gentle slope marked with yellow spots to reach another clearing.

Along the first part of the path you cross a large mountain pine wood and close to the track you can see herbaceous plants such as fringed pinks. The local mineralogy is fascinating: there are calcareous rocks sculpted by the wind, which encourages the growth of Alpine calcic flora, and massive flanks.

The recommended season for seeing the flora and fauna is the end of spring and summer, although you can also climb up in winter using mountain skis or snowshoes.

At the summit you can see vultures and an occasional lammergeier, which use the mountain thermals to gain height. At 2,740 metres, this mountain offers a unique view over the whole country.



## TRAILS

## 15. CIRCULAR ROUTE AROUND THE PARISH OF CANILLO

Starting point:
Canillo: Santa Creu bridge.
Soldeu: The old village (next to Fat Albert's pub)
GPS coordinates:
Canillo: $42^{\circ} 33.922 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 35.976 \mathrm{E}$
Soldeu: $42^{\circ} 33.922 \mathrm{~N}-001^{\circ} 40.013 \mathrm{E}$
Length: 33 km
Duration: 8-12 h (circular)
Altitude change: 554 m
Max.- min. altitude: $2,000 \mathrm{~m}-1,446 \mathrm{~m}$
As this is a circular path, you can start and end it at any point on the route.
It is accessible to everyone but if you want to do the whole trail, you need to be fit, used to walking, know how to find your way around the mountain and take a map and compass. Note that you can do it in different stages and start or adapt it according to your own requirements.

We recommend starting from the towns of Canillo or Soldeu, where information boards have been erected. The path is marked with the symbol of a multicoloured flower, the parish tourism emblem.

The trail has two main zones: the shady and sunny sides. The sunny side has been exploited more by man, whereas the shady side is woodland.

All along the trail, you can enjoy the prettiest, most emblematic scenery of the peaks and valleys of this part of the parish. The views of the peaks of Casamanya, Estanyó, Juclar and Escobes, and the glacial valleys of Montaup, Riu, Coma de Ransol and Incles are outstanding.
The typical vegetation is mountain pine, broom, juniper, birch and Alpenrose, while the most notable fauna include vultures, capercaillies, lammergeier, isard and roe-deer. As the trail circles the whole parish of Canillo, you can see a wide variety of fauna and flora.




