

## STAGE 6: ÀREU – RIBERA DE CARDÓS

ÀREU – TUDELA PASS – BOLDÍS SOBIRÀ – BOLDÍS JUSSÀ – GINESTARRE – ESTERRI DE CARDÓS – ARRÓS DE CARDÓS – AINET DE CARDÓS – CASSIBRÓS – RIBERA DE CARDÓS

**Time needed:** 7.50 h

**Ascent/descent (approx):** 1,170 m ascent, 1,480 m descent

**Distance (approx):** 23.8 km

**Highest point:** 2,235 m

**Lowest point:** 900 m

**Map recommended:** *Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu*. Scale 1:50,000. Editorial Alpina.

**Description last updated:** June 2014



- 0 h **Àreu**, 1,275 m. To jump from the Ferra valley to the Cardós valley we have to climb to the top of the village of Àreu and carry on up a little till we find some signs. We continue to follow the painted red and white markings of the GR which follow a track to the top of Tudela pass. On the way we often come across shortcuts indicated by stone markers that cut out lots of bends.
- 1.15 h Grassy **meadow**, 1,657 m. The track descends a bit and looks as if it might end at the source of a spring. We leave the spring on the left, go down a bit further and the track narrows until it comes to an end.
- 1.20 h **Costuix bordes**, 1,691 m. We go between these farm buildings and start to go up a path. Immediately we leave behind a fork on the right that leads to the Pilanera bordes. We can zig-zag our way through the wood.
- 1.35 h **Ruin** to the right of the path. The climb carries on up to 2,200 m where we reach a large flank heading NW Views of Pica d'Estats, Sotllo and Montexo to the right.
- 2.35 h **Tudela pass**, 2,235 m. Grassy pass. There is an enclosure for farm animals. Marvellous views of the Cardós valley and the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park. Leaving the pass we cross a track and carry on straight down through the meadows. Immediately we see the villages of Esterrí de Cardós and Arrós de Cardós below. We could go straight down but we skirt round to get a better idea of the valley.
- 3.05 h **Spring** to the right of the path. We go down a slope covered in broom (*Genista purgans*) where the path sometimes disappears.
- 3.10 h **Track**, 1,966 m. We turn left, following the track. On either side we leave behind ruined buildings in the middle of the broom-covered slope. Soon, on the right, we see the villages of Boldís Sobirà and Boldís Jussà, where we are heading.
- 4 h **Bend**. On the left we leave a path that goes to Santa Eulàlia.
- 4.35 h **Boldís Sobirà**, 1,492 m. Not to be missed: a walk round the village streets, the church. We head down the road.
- 4.50 h **Boldís Jussà**, 1,342 m. Not to be missed: a walk round the village. We continue heading down the road. Just after the village waste containers, on the left, there are some paths that go to Ginestarre and Lladorre. From now on, until we reach Ribera de Cardós, we follow some painted yellow markings. As we leave the village we leave a small chapel dedicated to St Anthony on the left. We drop down so we can cross the millstone ravine via a concrete bridge.
- 4.55 h **Mola or Sant Miquel ravine and crossroads**. Going downhill to the right we would reach Lladorre in 55 minutes. But we go to Ginestarre taking the path to the left, which starts by climbing a little. The path immediately forks and we take the right fork, which goes down (a little further down we will find some well-worn yellow markings). We gradually gain height through a hazelnut wood. To the right, we leave behind the village of Lladorre, in ruins.
- 5.15 h 1,395 m Highest point between the villages of Boldís Jussà and Ginestarre. Now on the way down but continuing to skirt round we cross some scree with birch trees growing through it. To the right, at the bottom of the valley, we can see the village of Lladrós Once we have passed a poplar in the middle of some grassy slopes (the Cardaire poplar) we cross some uncultivated fields. After passing the Battle fountain and the old washing place, we reach the village.

- 5.50 h **Ginestarre**, 1,368 m. Not to be missed: a walk round the village, the handicraft fabric workshop. We go past the workshop on the left and go down to the foot of the village. We give the church a wide berth and go down by the access road.
- 6.10 h Bend above Esterri de Cardós. We leave the road to take what remains of the old path on the left that once united the two small villages.
- 6.15 h **Esterri de Cardós**, 1,212 m. (rural accommodation). Not to be missed: a walk round the village, the church with reproductions of the mural paintings. We make our way down through the centre of the village and, then, by the access road. Once past the waste containers and in front of the Xalet Sol, we take the old path to go down to Arrós de Cardós. At first we follow a track but immediately leave that and carry on under the pylons. We would come out on the track but leave it straight away to join the old path to the right. When we reach the road, we turn left and walk down.
- 6.40 h **Arrós de Cardós**, 1,085 m. (rural accommodation) Not to be missed: a walk round the village. After the white house we turn left to cross a bridge over the Esterri ravine. Once past the river, on the right, we take a track, then a little path that skirts between two fields. After a patch of scree we reach the end of a track that takes us straight down.
- 7 h **Road**. We turn left a few metres down the road. Before passing a bridge, we leave the asphalt to take a track on the left. The track runs parallel to the Noguera de Lladorre river, which is on our right.
- 7.10 h On the right, a **bridge** to reach **Ainet de Cardós**, 947 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural accommodation, campsite, shops.) Not to be missed: a walk round the village streets. We follow the track between the river and the fields. The way ahead is very flat. There comes a point where it turns into a path that joins the track further on.
- 7.25 h **Bend** in the road. We carry on a few metres up the road, to the left, and soon reach the next village: **Cassibrós**, 936 m. Not to be missed: the church, a walk round the village. We cross the village following the yellow markings and come out on a path heading south. We carry on ahead under the shade of the trees, till we are next to the Noguera de Cardós river, which is how this stretch of the river that descends to the bottom of the valley is known. After passing alongside a pipeline we cross a Romanesque bridge and come out on the road. We turn left and carry on a few metres along the L-504, passing the Borda del Pubill campsite on the right. Now we are on the final straight of the road and when we have Ribera de Cardós in front of us, we leave it and take a path to the left. It passes the sawmill on the right and ends behind the Ribera de Cardós church.
- 7.50 h **Ribera de Cardós**, 898 m. (Hotel, restaurant, campsite, rural accommodation, shops). Not to be missed: church, walk round the village, Joan Escolà exhibition of buildings in miniature.

IF YOU FIND ANY MISTAKES IN THE DESCRIPTIONS OR CHANGES TO PATHS, OR  
IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE, PLEASE WRITE TO

[info@ramatdecamins.cat](mailto:info@ramatdecamins.cat).

Support the '[Apadrina un camí!](#)' project and sponsor a footpath.

## Stage ascent/descent

