

## STAGE 1: FONT DE LA FIGUERETA - BARO

LA FIGUERETA REST AREA – SANT PERE DE LES MALESES MONASTERY – EL SERPENT CAVE- SOUTHERN END OF THE MORRERES TUNNEL – ARGENTERIA OLD ROAD – MORRERES REST AREA – PUJOL – PERAMEA – GERRI DE LA SAL – MARE DE DÉU D'ARBOLÓ – BARO

**Time needed:** 6.45 h

**Ascent/descent (approx):** 626 m ascent, 775 m descent

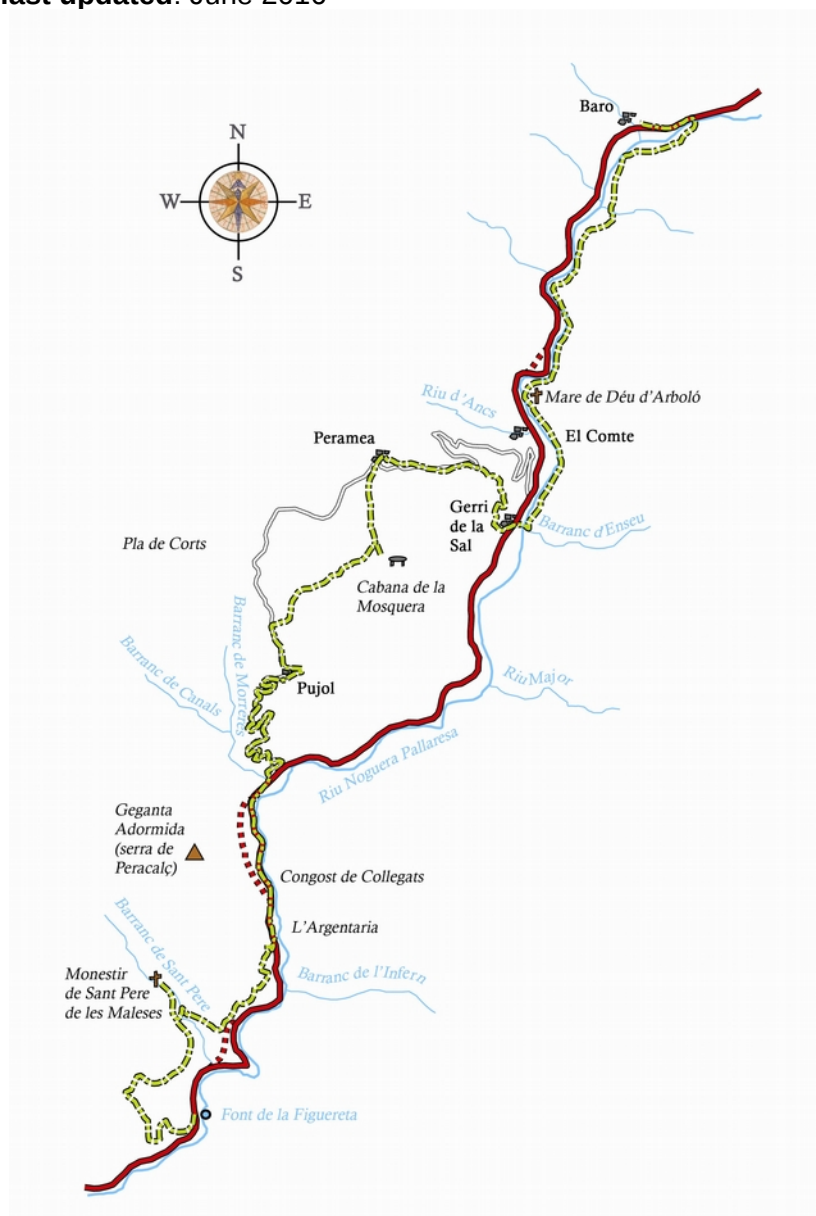
**Distance (approx):** 22.1 km

**Highest point:** 908 m

**Lowest point:** 548 m

**Map recommended:** *Ramat de l'Est*. Scale. 1:50.000. Mapa Guia Excursionista. Editorial Alpina.

**Description last updated:** June 2016



- 0 h **La Figuereta rest area.** Between Km. 301 and 302 of the N-260 road, 548 m. Two-tier wooden trunk and iron sculpture. Spring. Picnic tables. After crossing the road we turn left and head upwards on the other side until a few short metres away we find a narrow road leading up to the Gramuntill country house (*masia*). A sign shows which way to go to reach Sant Pere de les Maleses. We follow the path, some sections of which are asphalt, upwards for around 1 km, following yellow paint markings.
- 0.15 h **Sign, with a path to the right.** Leaving the road, we follow the path through rosemary bushes and scattered pines, heading north in the direction of the reddish-coloured walls of the Queralt rocks. Once we go past a large electricity pylon, to our right, we take on the last upward section. It's important to keep checking the yellow paint marks. We turn right, eastwards, when we get to the path going from the Masia de Gramuntill (there's a T in yellow paint here), passing some stone markers on the left and skirting the base of the vertical rock walls on the left as we enter woodlands.
- 0.50 h **Fork in the path (signposted).** Heading upwards to the left, it's a ten-minute walk to reach the Sant Pere de les Maleses Monastery. Lower down on the right is the Serpent cave. We recommend seeing the ruins first, which are reached via the woodlands. At this point we enter the gorge, finding ourselves between the Collegats rock walls.
- 1 h **Sant Pere ravine.** As soon as we cross the gorge, we come to a sheltered area under the rocks where the **Sant Pere de les Maleses Monastery** was built (650 m). Two apses are still standing on this site. We turn around here, heading back to the fork with the signpost.
- 1.10 h **Fork.** Now we take the path heading towards the Serpent cave, dropping down through woodlands with boxwood, pines and scrub.
- 1.15 h **Sant Pere ravine.** Crossing back over the gully, the path continues on the other side. Depending on the time of year, if water is running high in the ravine it may be difficult to cross. The woodland here is burnt and a little further on we can see the Noguera Pallaresa river and the old main road. The tunnel for the new road runs below the path we're using.
- 1.30 h **Large electricity pylon.**
- 1.32 h **Serpent cave,** 670 m. There are some small partition walls at the entrance and we can see smoke marks left on the roof of the cave. After the cave we head upwards until we reach the nearby electricity pylon. At the next, actually two instead of one, we start to descend again and we can hear the traffic noise and see the entrance to the Argenteria tunnel, which we head towards.
- 1.55 h **Main road,** 563 m. At the point where we reach the road there is often a car or two parked, normally belonging to rock climbers. Crossing very carefully to the other side of the road we have to go over the protection rail and towards the southern mouth of the Argenteria tunnel.

- 2 h **Southern mouth of the Argenteria tunnel.** Leaving the tunnel behind us to the left we follow the old main road, soon reaching the 'false' Argenteria rock. Metamorphic, gaudiesque, yet a modest prelude to the genuine thing just a little further on. It's easy to see which one is the real one as it's spectacular and there's a sign just in front of it with a photography symbol on it. On the opposite side to the old road we find a sculpture with the poems of song IV of the Canigó, devoted to this natural sight. The sculpture was installed in 1983, marking a century since Verdaguer went through the gorge, on 28 July 1883.
- Carrying on, we get to the other side of the Argenteria tunnel and looking up we can see some of the houses in the village of Pujol, which is where we're heading. First we must cross the road by going underneath a bridge.
- 2.25 h **Morreres rest area.** 576 m. Two-tier iron sculpture with a large wooden trunk base. A path leads off from the side of the rest area and is signposted with a cycling route marker *Volta al Pla de Corts*. We start off along this path. Leaving the rest area behind us to our left and just behind it, the Peracalç mountain range also dubbed 'Geganta Adormida', or sleeping giantess, due to its shape.
- 2.45 h We pass a track on our right which leads to the Tros de Sort dairy farm and cheese-making enterprise.
- 3.15 h **Fork.** We take the path to the right.
- 3.25 h **Pujol.** 842 m. (rural accommodation available) Following the approach road we get to the village, ignoring a track which leads off to the right.
- 3.35 h **Junction.** The road heading downwards to the left leads to Cortscastell, 20 mins away. We head past the signpost and a little further up turn right, getting onto a pleasant traditional track, off the road. We follow indications in yellow paint. Moss-covered stone lines a path which also features sections of stone under foot.
- 3.50 h **Change of municipality** to the left. From here we follow a path heading downwards, ignoring paths which lead off of it on both sides.
- 4.05 h **Crossroads.** Going straight over, Peramea is another 10 minutes' walk up the main road. Here we take a detour along a track to the right to go and see the Mosquera dolmen, just 5 minutes away. On the way there's a gate to the right of the track, with holm oak woodlands behind it. We have to get on the other side of the gate and follow the track which goes through the woods and leads to a large field. The dolmen is very close by, in the middle of the field. We may find it surrounded by blackberry bushes. The Geganta Adomida, or 'sleeping giantess' mountain range is in the background. Once we've seen the dolmen, we go back the way we came and walk the rest of the road to Peramea.
- 4.25 h **Peramea.** 908m. (rural accommodation, restaurant) Not to be missed: the visit to the medieval walled village, mass on the Day of the Innocent, a centenarian elm in the square, exhibitions at the Era d'Ortega centre. Once we reach the square with the elm in it, we head up Carrer de l'Era d'Ortega. Facing the village from the bar in the square, it's the street which is in front of us to the right. Just before the Era (now an exhibition centre), we turn right at some waste and compost containers and take the old path down towards Gerri de la Sal. Yellow markings indicate the path. Straight away we pass a modern house on the right (the first house in the village if approaching from Gerri de la Sal by road).
- 4.35 h **We come out on the road.** Turning left, we head downwards, ignoring a long track to the right, until we reach a tight curve to the left.
- 4.40 h The **old path** continues on the right, initially the same width as the track.

- 4.50 h We come out onto the **main road** again, crossing it and continuing along the path on the other side. Straight afterwards we have to cross the road again. The markings lead us to an electricity pylon. From there we can see some houses in Gerri, the salt mines and the Noguera Pallaresa river. We turn right at the pylon and head downhill.
- 5.15 h **Gerri de la Sal.** 600 m. (hotel, restaurant) Not to be missed: a guided visit to the salt mines and building, the Santa Maria Monastery, a dip in the river at the little beach under the bridge, the nursery with autochthonous plant species at the Enseu ravine, a stroll around the village. We come out in the upper part of the village, dropping down through some steep alleys as far as the main road, with fine views of the attractive Santa Maria Monastery all along the way. Once on the road, we take Carrer Major as far as the arched Sant Feliu square. From there we cross the bridge over the river. A signpost on the other side tells us it's a five-minute walk to the right to get to the Santa Maria Monastery, or, turning left, a little path takes us to the Mare de Déu d'Arboló hermitage. We take the second option, with yellow markings indicating the way. The path is well-used and runs parallel to the river, which is on our left. It's flat nearly all the way, although it gradually gains a little height, leaving the river a few metres below. The earth and the stone around it are red, the same colour as some of the stone in the walls of the Arboló hermitage. After a quarter of an hour, on the other side of the river the remains of the village of Comte can be seen. The village was destroyed to build part of the N-260 road. As soon as we go past some rock walls on the right, with small cavities in the lower section, the path gets very steep and very shortly, after a curve, we can see the hermitage.
- 5.40 h **Mare de Déu d'Arboló.** 635 m. Leaving the hermitage behind us to our right we take a path that heads down to the river and which is rocky in places. There are some benches on one side and a wooden hand rail on the left. In the middle of pine woodland the path drops. Passing a plank bridge over the river to our left, we follow a little footpath which stays close to the river, on the same level. Yellow markings show the way.
- 6.15 h The path becomes a **track**.
- 6.25 h We come to a turn, with an intersecting track. It's a 20 minute walk up to Arcalís on the right. We turn left, closer to the river. Shortly afterwards the track comes out onto another and we turn right.
- 6.40 h On the left, on the other side of the river, we can see the village of Baro. We have to carry on a little further to get to the bridge over the river. We can choose between the old plank bridge and the new bridge.
- 6.45 h **Baro.** 640 m. (hotels, restaurants, campsite, rural accommodation)

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

