

STAGE 2: BARO - SORT

BARO – MALMERCAT – TORNAFORT – SAVERNEDA – SORT

Time needed: 5.15 h

Ascent/descent (approx): 840 m ascent, 600 m descent

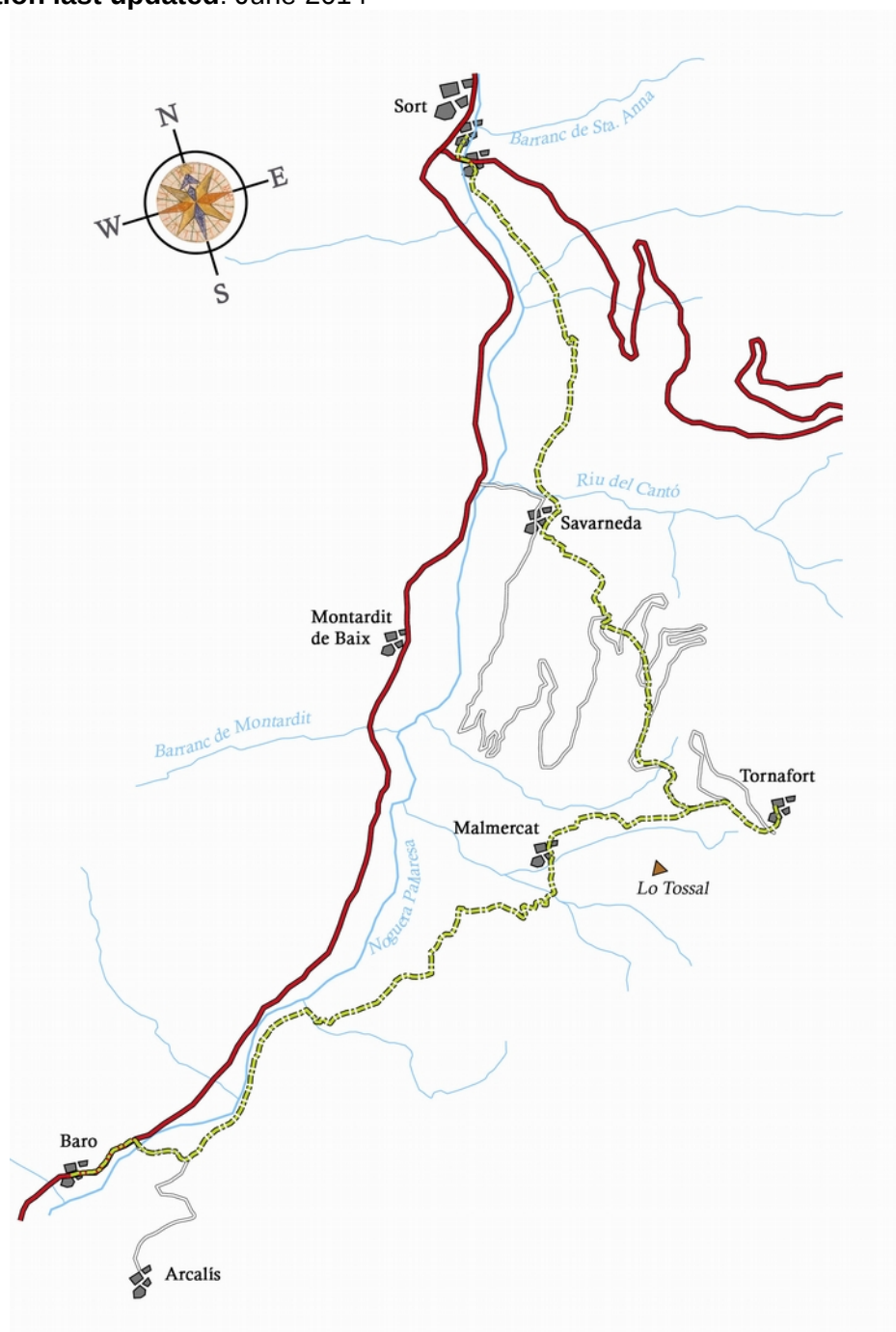
Distance (approx): 12.6 km

Highest point: 1,250 m

Lowest point: 640 m

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

Description last updated: June 2014



0 h **Baro**, 640 m. From the village of Baro, we take the bridge over the Noguera Pallaresa river and follow the road up towards Arcalís. Shortly afterwards we pass a sign on the right indicating the way up to Arcalís on the old path. To get to Malmercat, Tornafort and Sort, we need to go a little further past the main road. Yellow paint markings indicate the way. Ignoring two or three tracks leading off to the left and after five minutes, at the point where the main road turns sharply to the right, there's a track off to the left which we follow. There is no sign here but there are yellow paint markings to follow.

0.15 h We need to pay attention at this point because we're about to leave the track and follow a **small path** off to the left, heading down towards the river.

0.25 h Turning left off the track, very soon we come to a narrow path leading towards the fields and leaving the Menal barn behind us to our right. The path comes out on a track, crosses a small ravine which is dry during some periods of the year and beyond that takes a 90 degree turn to the right. It's important to keep following the yellow paint markings. We enter pine woodlands and 200 metres later we come to a fork. Taking the path on the left we start to gain height and find ourselves on a narrower path through woodlands.

0.45 h **Crossroads in holm oak woodlands**, 720 m. Signpost. Sort is to the left and Malmercat is to the right, which is where we are heading.

Alternative route

SHORT CUT, AVOIDING THE SIARB VALLEY. Anyone wanting to skip the Siarb Valley can head directly from Baro to Sort, taking in the Saverneda country house along the way and meaning 2.15 h less walking. For details see the short cut at the end of this itinerary.

1.10 h **Gully.** Between the trees we can see Batlliu, with the villages of Montardit de Baix, Llarvén and Enviny. In the distance we can hear the traffic on the N-260.

1.30 h Through the trees we can see the village of Malmercat, with the Sant Andreu church at its foot. The village is at the same height as we are, but we need to go downwards to first to get to the other side of the Santinant de Sallent ravine, a cool north-facing spot. After the ravine we head upwards again until we get to the village. We come out at the bend in a track, just before the village, with a bench and a sign indicating 'El Racó del Pallars'.

1.50 h **Malmercat**, 967 m. Not to be missed: church, communal washing areas and drinking points, Casa Macareno, the medieval castle. We head up through the village to the upper access point and then down to the main road. Straight away there's a sign on the right showing the way up to Tornafort, while turning left leads directly to Sort. We head upwards along a little path, very steep at first. Shortly afterwards we pass the Jepet barn to the right, below the path. We carry on upwards through field, making sure to follow the paint markings.

2.30 h Soon we come to a track. Turning right, we're back on the old path again very shortly, on the left. Following the path upwards we cross over the track again straight away and after passing between two rock walls we come out on the main road, which we cross. Back on the old path we turn right and carry on until we reach the road again. Heading up the road there's a tight turn after fifty metres, On the right there's a sign indicating a path, which we head up under the shade of the trees. When the path splits and carries straight on we take the left-hand path which leads up to the village. We go through a little tunnel before arriving.

- 3 h **Tornafort**, 1,250 m (rural guest house and apartments available). Not to be missed: views from the top of the church tower, multipurpose hall which often holds exhibitions, communal washing areas and drinking points, a stroll around the streets of the village. Leaving the village we head towards Sort, using the little tunnel under the main road. After a downhill slope on a wide and rocky path we get to a footpath which crosses the path we're on. Turning right, we carry on downwards as far as the approach road to the village.
- 3.10 h Carrying on down the road we come to two houses next to each other, known as **Cal Portaler**. The old path goes through the house on the left and carries on along the road above, entering a small wood and dropping until it reaches the road again. A few metres further down, on the other side of the road, we re-join the footpath, which from here on descends through woodlands.
- 3.35 h Crossing the **road**, we leave it behind us and carry on down the path.
- 3.36 h We cross back over the **road**.
- 3.40 h We come out on the **road** again, out of the woodlands now. Turning left we head downhill and re-join the footpath again shortly on the left, initially a wide path which appears to lead towards a field, although keeping the field on our right we enter the woods again.
- 3.45 h Back on the road, we head downwards until we come to the first tight curve. The old path heads away from here, with no further interruptions by the **road** and consistently heading into pine woodlands.
- 4.30 h **Crossroads above the Saverneda country house (*masia*)**, 705 m. Keeping the path from Malmercat to Baro on our left, we turn right and take a wide path which passes above the Saverneda country house. Rather than heading down to the house we pass some stone-built water tanks on our right and the Saverneda *masia* on our left. The track leads us to a meadow with a cone-shaped stone column in front of it. Instead of entering the meadow we turn left along a wide path with stone walls and water on either side until we come to the Cantó river. We get to the other side of the river using a wooden bridge, following a stream leading off from the river. On the other side of the stream there's a sign showing the way to Sort. We can follow the path nearest the river or another which is further from the water. Both paths run alongside meadows and are very flat. After passing the industrial estate we get to Sort.
- 5.15 h **Sort**, 685 m. (hotel, apartments, campsite, restaurant, shops, service station, chemist's, primary healthcare centre). Not to be missed: Comtes de Pallars castle, temporary exhibitions at the Arxiu Comarcal del Pallars Sobirà, Museu de la Llibertat, tourist office, famous lottery sales outlet, guided tour of the Tros de Sort cheese enterprise.

SHORT CUT AVOIDING THE SIARB VALLEY

Duration: 1.30 h. **Ascent/Descent:** 290 m ascent, 250 m descent. **Distance:** 6 km

Alternative route

- 0 h **Crossroads for paths in the middle of holm oak woods**, 715 m. The woods vary as we progress, meaning we pass through pines, boxwood, holm oak, the path rising and dropping again as we go along.
- 0.25 h From a hilltop we can see the village of Montardit de Baix ahead of us, with the houses of Enviny further up.
- 0.35 h **Crossroads**, 700 m. Coming out of the Salinant de Sallent gully there's a path that cuts across it. We turn right and head upwards, using a ford to cross the water and ascending via a small path that soon becomes a track. A little further on we reach a junction with another track, in better condition. Turning left we follow the track, with a private house to our right.
- 0.50 h **Track T-junction**. Turning left, the track heads upwards. Two minutes later we come out at a curve in the road between the villages of Tornafort and Malmercat. We turn left down the road for a short distance.
- 0.55 h **Indication on the right of the road**, 745 m. Getting off the road, we follow this path in the direction of Sort. The path forks very soon but we carry on straight ahead, ascending slightly, leaving a path below us to our left which leads into a field. The path forks again straight after this. One path leads straight on among some oak trees but we opt for a path which heads further upwards along a rock wall to our right. We pass the ruins of an old barn on the left and when we reach a large oak on the right of the path we start heading upwards.
- 1.10 h **Crossroads after a steep climb**, 800 m. Malmercat is a 35-minute walk off to our right, while it's a 50-minute walk to our left to reach Sort, with some of its houses visible as soon as we go past the sign. Shortly afterwards the ground turns white. The area is known for the chalk which came from Saverneda, where people from local villages would go to get chalk for building houses.
- 1.30 h **Crossroads above the Saverneda country house**, 705 m. Turning right would take us up towards Tornafort, 1.45 h away. We go straight on, passing the country house on our left. From here on we follow the main instructions for this stage until we reach Sort.

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.

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PATHS SPONSORED ON THIS STAGE

Camí vell de Tornafort a Sort



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Thanks to all our collaborators!

This project is carried out jointly with the association **A plaeret**.

Stage ascent/descent

