



## STAGE 3: SORT – RIALP

SORT – PUJALT – OLP – SANT JOSEP HERMITAGE – ALTRON – BERNUI - SEURÍ – LLESSUI – SORRE – LA MOLA DE SALL – RIALP

**Time needed:** 7.35 h

**Ascent/descent (approx):** 1,125 m ascent, 775 m descent

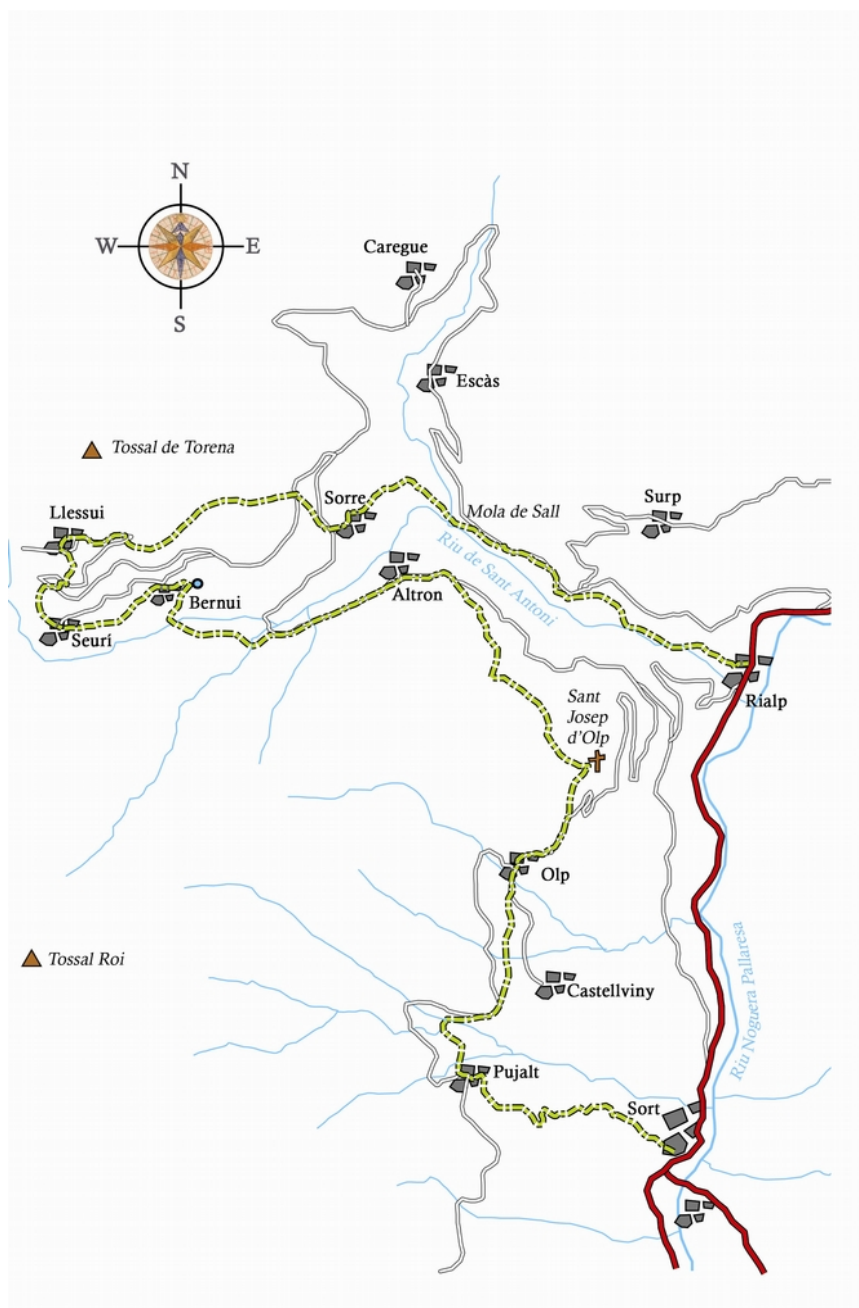
**Distance (approx):** 21 km

**Highest point:** 1,400 m

**Lowest point:** 685 m

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

**Description last updated:** June 2014



**SHORT-CUT AVOIDING THE ÀSSUA VALLEY.** Anyone wanting to skip the Àssua valley can go directly from Sort to Rialp using the Triago path and going past the Canerilla spring. This option cuts the time needed for the stage by 5.50 h. See the variant at the end of the stage description.

- 0 h      **Sort**, 685 m. Heading up through the streets of Sort we reach the street above the castle, where a sign shows the way to Pujalt. The route is marked with yellow circles with a black dot in the middle. Shortly we cross a track and carry on along the same path on the other side, passing by the Boixadera rock. The path includes various traditional drip-groove stone slabs underfoot.
- 0.10 h      **Crossroads.** A right turn would take us to Olp, but instead we take a left and head towards Pujalt. Soon there's a track leading to the Beta country house but we ignore this, skirting it and passing it to our right as we re-join the old path.
- 0.25 h      We come back to the track, skirting it again but without crossing it. We pass another path on our left, with a signpost showing it leads to Bressiu. Straight afterwards we pass Clot d'Arenyó on our right. Further up we pass an old limestone oven on our left. Now in oak woodlands we walk past dry stone walls with rugged moss-covered stones on top.
- 1 h      Further up we can see the first houses in Pujalt. We take the section of the path known as the Costa de Sant Pere.
- 1.10 h      We come out at a track crossing our path and head downwards before re-joining our path on the left. Straight after that we'll see the Rossinyol spring on our left.
- 1.25 h      **Pujalt**, 1,160 m. Old communal washing areas and drinking troughs. There are fine views of the valley below from here and worth noting are the houses in Pujalt built on top of the rocks (services: hostel). The church and a stroll around the village streets. We head upwards as far as the road into the village and take the signed path from behind the church, heading towards Olp. Following a track which starts to descend until we get to a horseshoe-shaped path, normally with water running down. Once past the sodden section left by the water, we come out on a wider path forming a T-junction. We turn right to get onto the old path. On our right we can see the village of Pujalt, where we have just come from.
- 1.50 h      Coming out on the main road we head downwards to the right a short distance until we reach another sign leading us back onto the old path. This point is of particular interest as in the distance we can see the peaks of Monteixo, Noris, and further in the background, the three peaks of the Pica d'Estats, covered in snow for much of the year.
- 2 h      **Crossroads.** Turning right would mean a 10-minute walk to Castellviny. We go straight on though, until we come to a path that crosses the one we're on. There's a sign marking the path here. We turn right.

- 2.10 h We come out on the main road, just before Olp.
- 2.15 h **Olp**, 1,080 m. Not to be missed: a stroll around the village, including public washing tanks.
- As we enter the centre of the village we cross the square by the church, passing the spring and a trough on our right and leaving the village via its approach road. Straight after that we turn left along the road towards Pujalt, Llarvent, Enviny etc. About a hundred metres later we get off the road and take a track to our right, with signposts for the nature path to Sort and the Àssua valley. We follow this track to the Sant Josep d'Olp hermitage, and then onto Altron. Just before reaching a house on our right, there's a fork in the track, where we take the track on the left. Once past the house we get off the track and take a pretty traditional path on the right. There's a slight descent to begin with, followed by a section with wooden rails. Further on we get to the beautiful image of Sant Josep d'Olp.
- 2.30 h T-junction. Turning left would lead to Altron but we recommend a slight detour to the right to visit the **Sant Josep d'Olp hermitage**, 1,080 m. Afterwards it's on towards Altron, following the yellow paint markings along a wide path with a dry stone wall along the right hand side.
- 2.45 h **Hikers path** in woodlands. On the left there's a small path with a post to indicate it.
- 2.50 h **Hikers path** in a shady spot. Gradually we get away from the side of the mountain known as Batlliu and enter the Àssua valley. The village of Surp is up ahead. We use a hiking path to skirt around it along the side in the sun and when we get to a track that leads to some fields we turn left, heading upwards.
- 3.10 h **Main road**. Turning left we head upwards to Altron.
- 3.15 h **Altron**, 958 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural accommodation). Not to be missed: a visit to the Peça d'Altron cheese enterprise; the Pedra del Penjat; chapels at the access points to the village, a stroll around the village streets. This is the heart of the Àssua valley. Further up from Altron we can see the village of Sorre, while on the other side of the valley there are the villages of Caregue, Escàs, Surp etc. We leave Altron and follow the road upwards.
- 3.30 h Once past the **Xalet del Torb**, at a shady turn to the left in the main road, we find a signpost indicating the way up to Seurí, Bernui and Llessui via the Mata del Llop path. We cross a bridge over a stream and start heading upwards along a shaded woodland path.
- 3.45 h **Crossroads**. Bernui is downhill, while Seurí is further up. We head downwards so that we can cross the Pamano gully using a wooden bridge. On the other side we quickly gain height again as we head back up.
- 4.05 h **Spring** on the left of the path. We come to a track forming a T-junction and from here we can see Bernui to the left.
- 4.15 h **Bernui**, 1,190 m. (restaurant, rural accommodation). Not to be missed: the church with its sculpture. We go through the village and on the approach road we'll find a sign showing the way to Seurí. Heading down a track we leave the village behind us and can see Seurí. After a five minute walk out of Bernui there's a point where we leave the track and head upwards to the right onto the old supply path. This section is flat and takes us over a bridge.

- 5 h **Track.** We keep heading to the right, the track leading us up to Seurí.
- 5.05 h **Seurí**, 1,230 m. (rural accommodation). Not to be missed: a stroll around the village streets. We come out in the upper part of the village, just up from the church. The path starts with a track. Further up we can see some of the houses in the village of Llessui, which is where we're heading next. Slightly further up we leave the track and turn left onto the old path.
- 5.15 h Coming out onto the **road**, we carry on downwards a short distance and re-join the old path on the left.
- 5.25 h We come out on the **road** again, crossing it to head upwards a little to the right until we come to a track. We head up here almost immediately turning off to the right to re-join the old path.
- 5.30 h At a **T-junction in the path** we turn right and shortly after we're at the foot of the village of Llessui.
- 5.35 h **Llessui**, 1,400 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural accommodation). Not to be missed: Ecomuseu dels Pastors and information point for the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park. We leave Llessiu using the approach road, heading downhill and following yellow paint markings with a black spot in the middle.
- 5.40 h First sharp bend in the **road**. We get off the road surface and take the old path towards Sorre, passing the Santa Llúcia hermitage on the left. The path comes out at a sharp bend in a track but we carry on to the left using the old path.
- 6 h **Fork.** Carrying straight on, we come to a point where tracks cross each other again, but the path continues straight ahead.
- 6.05 h We come out at a track and turn right, heading downwards five or six metres and re-join the old path again on our left. Hikers path. Crossing the road we get back on the path again. At the bottom of the valley we can see some of the buildings in the town of Rialp.
- 6.15 h **Road.** A minute later we get to the village of Sorre.
- 6.16 h **Sorre**, 1,095 m. Not to be missed: a stroll around the village streets. We go through the village and on the other side take the path that heads down towards Escàs, the old Mola de Sall hydro-electric power station and Rialp. Passing a small chapel on our left we carry on downhill along the track.
- 6.20 h We need to keep an eye out here as at a given point we get on to the **old path** on the right, with dry stone walls on both sides. Straight away it crosses the track for the first time and shortly afterwards it does so again. We head slightly further down and re-join the old path on the right.
- 6.25 h The path coincides with the **track** for a third time. We head down a little further and at a sharp turn we come to a fork in the path. Ignoring the path to Escàs we head down towards the Mola de Sall and Rialp. This is a pretty section, with moss-covered stone.
- 6.30 h Coming out onto another **track**, we carry on downwards. After a couple of bends we re-join the old path.
- 6.35 h We cross the **track**, passing a shepherd's hut in the rock wall on the right before coming out on the track again. Heading downwards we can re-join the old path again.

- 6.45 h **Crossroads at the Mola de Sall.** There are paths here leading to Surp, Rialp, Altron and Sorre. Our route takes us towards Rialp. Crossing the Sant Antoni river over a bridge we carry on along a track, passing the Mola de Sall on the right.
- 6.55 h The track comes out on a **road**. We turn right and head down it.
- 7.05 h At a sharp bend in the road we re-join the old path on the right. We can see Rialp from here, further down and still some way off. We continue downwards through holm oak woodlands.
- 7.15 h We cross over a **track**.
- 7.20 h When we get to a junction where a flatter **path** crosses our own, we turn left and carry straight on towards Rialp.
- 7.30 h The path comes out onto a **track**. There are some buildings here.
- 7.35 h **Rialp**, 745 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural accommodation, shops, garage, chemist's). Not to be missed: the castle ruins, a stroll around the streets of the town.

## SHORT CUT AVOIDING THE ÀSSUA VALLEY

**Time needed:** 1.45 h; **Ascent/Descent:** 180 m ascent, 60 m descent. **Distance:** 4.7 km

Alternative route	0 h	<b>Sort</b> , 685 m. The path starts in Passeig Fluvial de la Noguera Pallaresa, next to the bar and restaurant Lo Pont. There's an information panel at the start indicating the fauna and woodland vegetation to be found.
	0.05 h	We go past another <b>information panel describing traditional cultivation at the Santa Anna ravine</b> and leave the street, turning right and climbing some wooden steps. We come to a track straight away, in the middle of some buildings, and turn left to cross the gully over a bridge. On the other side there are signposts for the Camí Natural de Sort and the Vall d'Àssua, which will take us to Rialp.
	0.15 h	<b>Fork in the track.</b> We carry on using the lower track as the upper one leads to a private house.
	0.25 h	On the right we go past a hiking path which leads to <b>an old limestone</b> oven. We stick to the lower path, next to the river.
	0.45 h	<b>Dilapidated wall.</b> Turning right sharply we start to ascend.
	0.55 h	<b>Fork on a loose stone slope</b> , 350 m. We carry on along the lower path here. On the other side of the river we can see the garage in Rialp.
	1 h	<b>Metal fence</b> across the path. Dropping downwards, keeping the fence on our right and staying close to the path we come to an angular turn in the fence and follow it upwards to the right until we come out on a road.
	1.05 h	<b>Narrow road</b> leading to the private property which the metal fence belongs to, 350 m. Signpost. Rialp is 1 km away. Turning left we head down the road.
	1.15 h	The road leads to the <b>Rialp water treatment plant</b> . A sign shows the way to Rialp using the Canerilla path. We pass the treatment plant and the Noguera Pallaresa river on our left.
	1.30 h	<b>Font de la Canerilla</b> on the right. Picnic table. The Hotel Comtes del Pallars de Rialp is on the other side of the river.
	1.40 h	<b>Iron and wooden bridge</b> after a short distance downhill, having turned left.
	1.45 h	<b>Rialp</b> , 345 m.

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).

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## Stage ascent/descent

