



**RAMAT
DE CAMINS**

STAGE 10: ESTERRI D'ÀNEU - SALARDÚ

ESTERRI D'ÀNEU – VALÈNCIA D'ÀNEU – GERDAR DE SORPE – MARE DE DÉU DE LES ARES – TREDÒS – SALARDÚ

Time needed: 9.40 h

Ascent/descent (approx): 1,540 m ascent, 1,585 m descent

Distance (approx): 25.4 km

Highest point: 2,070 m

Lowest point: 959 m

Map recommended: *Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu*. Scale 1:50,000. Editorial Alpina; *Val d'Aran*. Scale 1:40,000. Editorial Alpina.

Description last updated: July 2016



- 0 h **Esterri d'Àneu**, 959 m. To take the old path up to València d'Àneu we go to the square, Plaça de la Creu. Facing this monument, we need to go up the cobbled street to the left, Carrer de València. The horseshoe path starts on Carrer del Castell de València and is signposted. It is very well-trodden and gradually gains height, offering pretty aerial views of Esterri and the Àneu valley plain.
- 0.15 h **Little chapel** to the right. We carry on along the horseshoe path to the first València d'Àneu buildings
- 0.35 h **València d'Àneu**, 1,084 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural accommodation, shops.) Not to be missed: a walk round the village streets and the castle). We go past the detour to the València d'Àneu castle archaeological complex, which is just five minutes away, and continue straight ahead to the road via Carrer de Sant Cosme. We cross the road and stay on the old path to the new village council hall, passing in front of it before turning left and heading uphill. Passing the old village hall on our left we then take Carrer de la Mata. We will go past a restaurant, La Raclette d'Àneu. At the end of the street there is a track where we start our climb to the Bonaigua pass. We pass the Casa Manresa chalet on our right. The track narrows to a small path which the gas pipes run along (indicated by yellow signs). Soon we reach the road. We have to turn left till we come to a junction with the C-28, the road to Vielha.
- 0.40 h **C-28 road**. At the crossroads, we turn to face downhill and to the left, and immediately cross the road. There's a yellow post marking the start of a path that climbs parallel to the road. Soon we go past a building on our left. Carrying on uphill for a few metres, we come to the junction with the road to Son del Pi.
- 0.50 h **Junction** with the road to Son del Pi. We turn right, going down the Son road, and immediately see a sign indicating the path to the Gerdar refuge. Upwards we go, under the shade of some hazel trees that form a kind of tunnel.
- 1.15 h **Intersecting path**. We turn right and, as the path forks, taking the left fork uphill. At first it is very narrow.
- 1.20 h We come out on a **track** where there is an electricity pylon. Crossing over, we carry on along the other side, where another track replaces the old path we were on. Soon the track bends left. Leaving it here we go straight ahead along the old path, which passes under another hazel tree tunnel.
- 1.35 h **Clearing** from where we have a very clear view of the fork between the Noguera Pallaresa valley and the Bonaigua river valley. Borén village is visible through the trees. Just after the clearing the path from Son del Pi, indicated by a sign, joins our path from the left. From here we follow the yellow-painted stakes.
- 1.40 h We cross a **track** and climb gently in a leafy tunnel.
- 1.50 h We cross another **track**. Now we start to see more pine trees.
- 1.55 h We come out on the **track**, 1,475 m, and follow that to the end.
- 2.15 h **Wooden enclosure to the left**. The track immediately forks and we take the options below. At first, it loses a bit of height but then flattens out at about 1,550 m.
- 2.50 h The track comes to an end but before then, to our right, we will see a stake that makes us drop down as we follow a very straight but awkward, narrow path among the fir trees. We ford a small gully.

- 3 h **Crossroads.** Straight ahead would take us to the Cabanes valley. We turn right to go down to the Gerdar refuge. This is a beautiful stretch through the Mata de València wood.
- 3.10 h We cross a wooden **bridge** over the Cabanes river before gaining height and coming out on the road..
- 3.20 h **Gerdar refuge car park**, on a bend in the old Bonaigua pass road. We carry on down the road a few metres to the refuge, which is on our left.
- 3.25 h **Gerdar refuge**, 1,510 m Just to the left, facing the refuge, there is a small esplanade. That's where the path that will continue taking us to the Bonaigua pass starts from. It is indicated by a yellow stake. The path passes over the refuge, to our right, and carries on through the fir trees.
- 3.35 h Paths **cross** in the Gerdar wood. We ignore the path on the left and carry on straight ahead.
- 3.40 h We cross a log **bridge** over a little gully and go up through the wood with some meadows.
- 3.45 h In a clearing at 1,553 m we cross the **road**. We continue climbing on the other side, also under an open sky. Soon we come out on the road again, at 1,576 m, as well as the start of a track that we follow towards the Gerber waterfall. For a while we can hear the river on the bank and the cars going by on the Bonaigua pass road. When we come out in a clearing we can see the line of electricity pylons going up to the pass, as well as the road. The path then continues in the wood.
- 4.10 h We pass a **cabin** on the right, 1,612 m. Higher up we can see the Mare de Déu de les Ares sanctuary.
- 4.25 h We pass two wooden bridges over the Bonaigua river and, after that, some footbridges. Next we go through the wood. Later on we pass some more footbridges to the other side. After a while we reach the foot of the Gerber waterfall. Some steps with a handrail take us up to the viewing point.
- 4.35 h **Waterfall viewing point** on a wooden platform, 1,645 m.
We go down the steps and just at the start of the handrail, on the left, we take a narrow path through the wood which crosses some scree, passes over some wetlands where some wooden footbridges have been installed and, five minutes later, comes out on a bend in the road going up to the Bonaigua pass.
- 4.40 h **Road**, 1,770 m. Further up we can see the Mare de Déu hermitage, which is where we are heading. Until we reach the old path again, we follow the road up to just below the hermitage, where we will find a shortcut that takes us there.
- 5.30 h **Mare de Déu de les Ares**, 1,790 m. Passing the church there's a restaurant on our left. A sign tells us we still have 2.20 h to Tredòs and 2.30 h to Salardú. We follow the old path, which continues diagonally across the sun-facing slope of the valley. It is a few metres higher than the tall electricity pylons protected from avalanches by stone walls, climbs through the meadows, passes the road on the left and continues gaining height through the meadows. Finally it will come out on the road again, in the Peüllà or Glot Gran car park.
- 6.05 h **Peüllà or Clot Gran car park**, 1,902 m. We cross the road and, once in the high-mountain meadows again, we look for a ridge below the road.
- 6.50 h We pass some **sunken pools** and then cross a track. Ahead of us we have the Canadencia chalet-refuge, now turned into a restaurant. A little higher up we pass some wetland on the left and go between that and the road.

- 6.55 h **Car park, cafeteria, Bonaigua restaurant at the Baqueira ski resort**, 2,070 m. We follow the road downhill a little, go under a ski bridge and a chair lift and turn left to find the old path again. Soon we pass a small pile of stones again like the ones we came across on the way up. Grassy slope of slender pines. Then we are in the wood.
- 7.25 h **Old water tank** to the right of the path, 1,918 m.
- 7.30 h **Bend in the road**. We follow the road down for a few metres. When the bend finishes and the road broadens out we take the old path again.
- 7.35 h We go down a few steps and reach the **road**. After crossing it we carry on along the other side.
- 8 h We come back out on the **road** at Km 41 of the C-28, and carry on down through the wood. Here we come across a wide path that descends gently towards the big buildings of Baqueira, which are now visible at the bottom of the valley.
- 8.25 h The path will come out in a **gravel pit**, 1,538 m. We turn right and flank it, passing below it to our left. We follow the access track to the gravel pit.
- 8.35 h The track forks. We avoid the right fork uphill and take the lower one towards the Ruda valley and Saboredo cirque. Soon we cross the Ruda bridge and climb up a track that comes out on another intersecting track. We turn right, towards Salardú, following the GR211-4. There are still 4.3km to Salardú. The track carries on through a tunnel of hazel trees. We pass the Ruda valley development, which is on the right,
- 9.05 h We pass a path on the right and carry straight on.
- 9.10 h **Watering trough** to the left of the track.
- 9.15 h We start to find the **stony paved path**.
- 9.20 h We cross the **Ressèc bridge** over the Aiguamòg river. Immediately we come to a point where two paths cross. If we took the one to the left, we would go to Banhs de Tredòs and the Aiguamòg dam, while the higher one would lead to Aiguamòg, but we will take the one below, which has had concrete laid on it and leads to Tredòs and Salardú. We will come out on Carrer Calamars by some houses in Tredòs.
- 9.25 h **Tredòs**, 1,340 m. (hotel, restaurant, rural house, shops.) Not to be missed: church, spa, a stroll round the village. We go down Carrer Calamars, cross a bridge over the river and, as soon as we can, turn left. The Camin Reiau (trekking route) to Salardú starts here as we pass the Ruda river close by on the left. We follow the GR markings. The path is asphalted.
- 9.35 h **Golf course** on the left. We turn right and go along an asphalt street until we come out on the C-28 road.
- 9.40 h **Salardú**, 1,260 m. (hotel, hostel, refuge, restaurant, village house, apartment, shops, chemist's.) Not to be missed: the church, the old grindstone, a stroll round the village.

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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