

## STAGE 13: VIELHA – CONANGLES REFUGE

VIELHA – PÒRT DE VIELHA – SOUTHERN MOUTH OF THE VIELHA TUNNEL – CONANGLES REFUGE

**Time needed:** 6.50 h

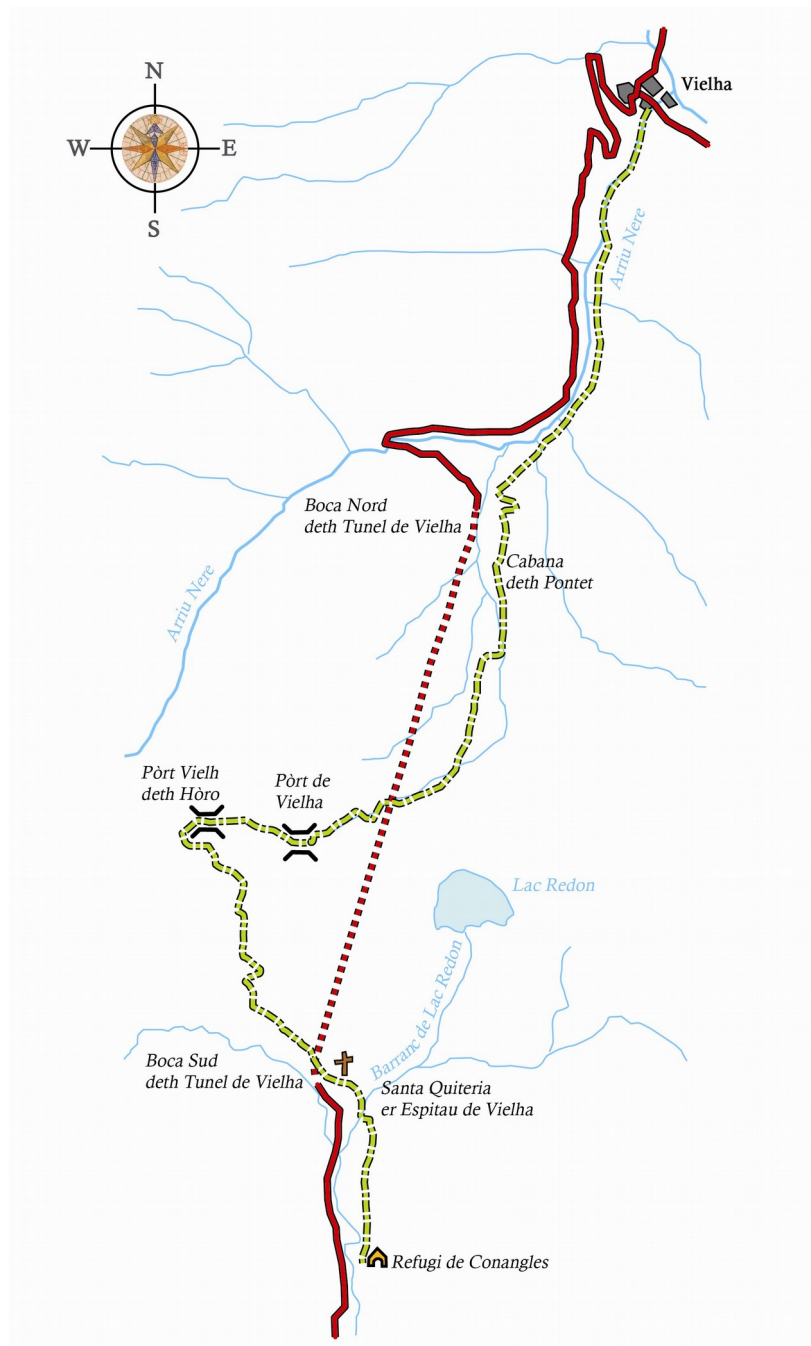
**Ascent/descent approx:** 1,605 m ascent, 920 m descent

**Distance approx:** 15,7 km

**Highest point:** 2,470 m

**Lowest point:** 1,000 m

**Map recommended:** *Val d'Aran*. Esc. 1:40.000. Editorial Alpina.



- 0 h **Vielha**, 1,000 m. We start by heading upwards alongside the Nere river, following the red and white GR markings. The river is on our left, and further up we go over a bridge, with the river then on our right. We follow the river upwards using Carrer Sarriulèra and go past a picnic area on the right. The street soon becomes a road with some sections of concrete under foot and others of asphalt. We carry straight on along it, heading upwards.
- 0.05 h **Crossroads**. To the left there's a narrow path which uses the GR 211-1 towards Arties, Gessa, Salardú etc. We carry on though, sticking to the road.
- 0.10 h **Large water tank** on the left. 1,060 m
- 0.25 h When we're 1.5 km out of Vielha, just past the Sant Esteve ravine, the concrete comes to an end and we carry on along a **track**. The road through the Vielha tunnel is high above us to our right.
- 0.30 h **Fork**. Here we go past the Serrahèra path and the Pontet track.
- 0.35 h We go past a trough and a track on the left, carrying on upwards.
- 0.40 h **Farm buildings** on the left. Straight away there's a fork in the track. The option on the right comes out on the A-14 road. We take the left option.
- 0.50 h **Fork**. We take the track on the right here, which immediately afterwards crosses the Serrahèra river via a bridge. We continue on the old path.
- 1.25 h The path comes out on an **intersecting track**, 1,422 m. There's a view point here and a bench. We cross the track and carry on from the other side. A right turn at the track would take us to the northern mouth of the Vielha tunnel and a left would take us to Era Tuca and Betren. As we carry on we come straight to a bend in the track, passing it on our right and carrying on upwards, straight ahead. This section of the path is very wide. We head up through fir tree woodlands.
- 1.35 h We come out on the **track** and carry on along it.
- 1.45 h **Cabana deth Pontet**, 1,566 m. The cabin has a fireplace and a mezzanine to sleep in. The path is grassy, but easy to pick out, tracing the relief in the terrain through the pastures.
- 2 h We cross the **mountain stream** from Hònt Herèda using a bridge. On the other side there's a red cross on top of a rock. We head upwards using the sun-facing slope, through high mountain pastures above the tree line. A little further up we go past a small lake in a dip, known as Hònt Herèda.
- 3.20 h Once we get past the rockiest section we get to the valley before the mountain pass. It's more open here, with loose stone slopes on both sides. The section through the middle is greener. The path takes the lowest point, through the grassiest section.
- 3.40 h The last section of the **loose stone slope** starts here. The slope has medium-sized black stones and the path becomes more vague here, making it a bit harder going.

- 4.05 h **Pòrt de Vielha**, 2,470 m. Great view of the Tuc de Molières and Aneto peaks and the Maladeta massif. The other side is much gentler and greener. From very high up we can already see the Senet reservoir and the main road. The path is well-preserved, with stone sections still intact in some places. This is a comfortable downhill stretch, skipping the large plain of Pòrt Vielh deth Hòro, which we leave behind us further up to our right.
- 4.40 h **Machine gun nest** to the right of the path. We carry on downwards through high mountain pastures.
- 5.20 h We cross a **stream**. At the rocky foot of the mountains on the left we can see entrances to various tunnels and mines. When the path gets above the hospital in Vielha there's a **section which is in very bad condition**.
- 6.10 h **Track**. We turn left here, heading down towards the hospital in Vielha.
- 6.20 h **Vielha hospital and the southern mouth of the Vielha tunnel**. 1,630 m. We go past the refuge the Sant Nicolau church on our right. Once past these buildings a grassy track starts, descending slightly at first. On the left we go past some narrow paths that lead to Pònt de Rius and the Restanca refuge. Following the red and white GR markings we carry straight on in the direction of the Conangles refuge (20 mins away) and the Pont de Salanques (1 hour). The track gets narrower, becoming a hiking path.
- 6.25 h Five minutes later we need to be paying attention as the more overgrown narrow path carries straight on towards Pònt de Rius and the Restanca refuge, but we get off the path to take a 90° turn to the right and start **heading down through a meadow** where the path is not so overgrown. We also follow GR markings here. We end up at the river, but without crossing it for the moment. We follow it instead, keeping it on our left until we come to a track which crosses our path. We turn left, crossing the river and staying on this track until we get to the refuge. Soon we enter a very pretty woods with beech trees, firs and other species. The stone here is half covered with moss and the ground covered with dead leaves.
- 6.50 h On the right, between the trees, we can see a house with a large slate roof. This is the **Conangles refuge**, 1,555 m. Carrying on slightly further we get to an asphalt road. A stone path from here takes us the short distance to the refuge.

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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