

## STAGE 15: BARRUERA – EL PONT DE SUERT

### BARRUERA – PONT DE SUERT

**Time needed:** 4 h

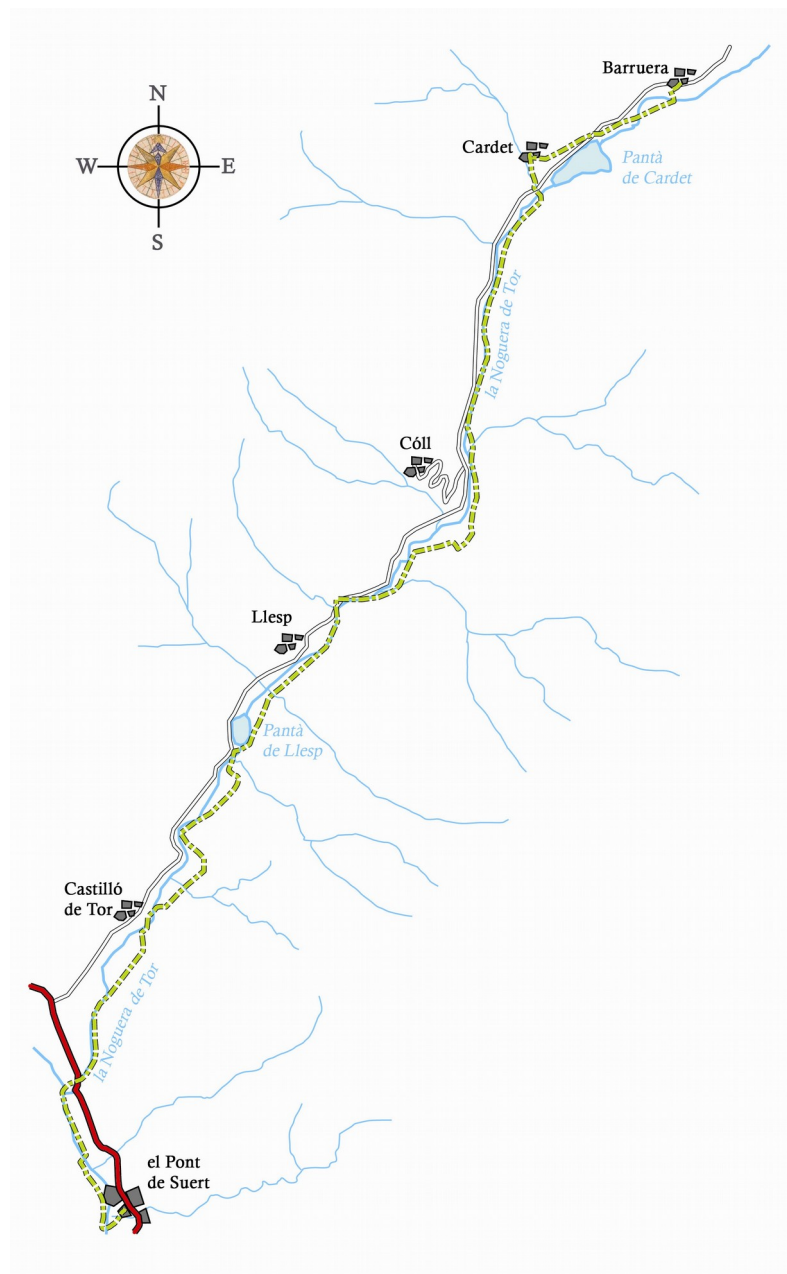
**Ascent/descent (approx):** 265 m ascent, 300 m descent

**Distance (approx):** 16.5 km

**Highest point:** 1,100 m

**Lowest point:** 854 m

**Map recommended:** *Alta Ribagorça*. Scale 1:50,000. Mapa Comarcal de Catalunya. Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya.



- 0 h We leave **Barruera** passing the river on the right and go to the next footbridge. There we cross the river and follow the avenue, passing it on the left. On the right we pass a football pitch, a picnic area, etc.
- 0.10 h **Junction**, 1,090 m. We have two options: go straight on by Salencar or take the alternative Cardet route, a detour of 20 minutes. We are going to explain both.

Alternative route

**CARDET DETOUR (an extra 50 minutes, climb and descent included):** As the sign shows, to climb to Cardet you have to cross the asphalt. On the other side there is a rough path which gradually draws closer to the village. It is a quite well-trodden hiker's path that advances over a narrow terrace and zig-zags across the middle of the slope. The steepest parts are under the shade of hazel trees, oak trees and bramble, among other species, and the more slippery parts are laid with stone. As we gain height, the sound of the river and the road become muffled. It's worth turning round to admire the wet zone of Arenal, a plain of wetlands where grey herons, cormorants and drakes are to be found, along with other migrating species that stop there. About 25 minutes after leaving Barruera we find ourselves below the Romanesque apse of Santa Maria de Cardet, one of the churches listed by UNESCO. Immediately you see the belfry. We come out on the Roquetes road, from where there is a marvellous view of the whole valley.

**Cardet** (1,174 m) (rural house.) Not to be missed: a walk round the village. After passing the church on the right, we leave the village by the other side and gradually drop down till we cross a stream. Soon we come out on a bend in the road that goes up to Cardet. We cross the road and, on the other side, there is a continuation of the old path, which will come out on the road from the bottom of the valley. We turn left, as if we were going back to Barruera, go over to the other side and rejoin the path that goes down to El Pont de Suert, parallel to the river.

- 0.10 h **Salencar path.** From the motorhome rest area we follow a path straight ahead, on the other side of a chain that prevents vehicles going that way. Up to the right we can see the Cardet church belfry. After a few minutes we come to a tight bend. To the left the river broadens out and forms some pretty wetlands. We turn right to cross a wooden bridge over a patch of reeds. The road is on our right and Salencar on the left. After a wooden ramp we reach the road.
- 0.20 h We go down the **road**, with the asphalt on the right. Soon we turn left to cross an iron bridge over the river. At km 15 on Camí de l'Aigua we pass Les Cabanasses, a country house on the other side of the river. The path goes through the wood, among riparian, chestnut and box trees. The river is on our right.
- 0.55 h We come out on a **track** and pass a bridge on the right. Going straight on, we immediately rejoin the old path, which crosses a very pretty wooden bridge to avoid a ravine. Then we go under one road and come out on another, narrow road. We turn right and follow it.
- 1.05 h We take a track on the right, at the start of which there are a few buildings. This is where you can take the path up to Sariais. Soon there is a fork in the track and we take the lower option. Next to a meadow we pick up the old path again. It comes out on a slightly wider track. We turn right and follow that for a few metres till we link up with the old path again on the left. Straight away we come to a track crossing it and, turning right, we follow that track, leaving it just before crossing a ravine. We make a sharp, 90° turn to the left to take another narrow path that goes up towards Iran through some hazel trees (1 h). We come out on a narrow road, turning right and heading up it.

- 1.25 h At a **bend in the road** we turn right to rejoin the old path at km 12 on Camí de l'Aigua. We cross a pine wood. On the right, in the middle of the wood, there is a watering trough. We go down through the wood as if we were going to the river
- 1.45 h We cross a **wooden bridge** over a ravine. Gradually we get closer to the river, passing through some heavily shaded spots. It is an easy path and quite flat. We will come out on a track with meadows either side. The houses of Llesp are on the other side of the river.
- 2.05 h We pass a bridge on the right which leads to the road and carry straight on along the **track**. At a given moment we take a path which runs along the edge of the river. We pass the dam built in 1951 to supply the Pont de Suert power station with water. Once again we are on the old path. It goes up and down in the middle of the wood.
- 3 h **A wooden bridge** and a big oak tree on the right. We carry on along a narrow path.
- 3.05 h We go past the past the **stone bridge** and **Remei hermitage** on the right and, on the other side of the river, the village of Castelló de Tor. From here on we gain a little height. We pass a house in ruins on the left and come out on a track. Here we turn right and follow the track uphill, still in the wood, although we soon lose height.
- 3.20 h We come to an intersecting track known as the **Reganxo path**. We turn left, following the track. The Pont de Suert industrial estate is on the right.
- 3.30 h We reach the **road** and cross it in front of an industrial building and then, on the other side, we follow the Reganxo path. We leave behind some of the estate's warehouses on the left and the Noguera Ribagorçana river on the right.
- 3.45 h **First houses in El Pont de Suert**, 854 m. We turn right to cross a metal bridge with wooden planks and then turn left, still on the Camí de l'Aigua. Going right after the bridge leads to the Ronyó fountain the Castarné path, while going left as we do takes us on the Reganxó path to the capital of the Alta Ribagorça. We leave an urban development behind us and, to the left, the modern building of the Catalan Mountain Sports School. Either side of the path there are rows of poplar trees
- 3.55 h In the **Arragó neighbourhood** we skirt the bridge on the left and carry on till we get to the school. There we turn left and cross a bridge that will take us into the centre of El Pont de Suert.
- 4 h **El Pont de Suert centre**. (hotel, apartments, restaurants, campsite, chemist's, service station, shops). Not to be missed: a walk round the village, the church, the Sacred Art collection and the Wildlife Centre.

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.