

EN



Persecuted and saved



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AUTHENTIC

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MARTINET

Printer: Graphic arts department of the Diputació de Lleida. DL L 780-2018 - Front page: Path to Liri. Colour photography and front page: Anselm Ros. Texts by Josep Cabot.



HOW TO ARRIVE

BY RAIL
Estació de Lleida Pirineus
Ave i Renfe Rodalies
Pl. Ramon Berenguer IV s/n
25006 Lleida (el Segrià)
TEL +34 902 432 343
renfe.com

How to get to the Lleida Pyrenees by train:
Via the FGC (Rail service of Catalonia) Lleida-Balaguer-La Pobla de Segur. At La Pobla de Segur, it is necessary to transfer to the ALSA coach in order to reach the local districts of the Pyrenees.
lleidalapobla.fgc.cat

BY AIR
Aeroport de Lleida - Alguair
Ctra.del Aeroport, s/n,
25125 Alguair (Lleida)
TEL +34 973 032 700
aeroportlleida.cat

La Seu d'Urgell Airport - Andorra Aerodrome of the Pyrenees - La Seu d'Urgell
25711 Montferrer (Lleida)
TEL +34 973 355 324
aeroportlaseu.cat

BY COACH
Bus/coach station of Lleida
Saracibar, 2
25002 Lleida
TEL +34 973 268 500

Bus/coach station of Tàrraga
Migdia, 4
25300 Tàrraga
TEL +34 902 422 242

Bus/coach station of la Seu d'Urgell
Bisbe Benlloch, 1
25700 la Seu d'Urgell
TEL +34 902 422 242

Bus/coach station of Solsona
Ctra. de Bassella, s/n
25280 Solsona
TEL +34 973 481 571

MOTORWAYS
Autopistes de Catalunya
TEL +34 902 200 320

AP-2: Motorway of the North-East Zaragoza-Lleida-El Vendrell where it connects to the motorway AP-7 to Barcelona

A-2: Madrid-Zaragossa-Lleida-Barcelona

N-240: Huesca-Lleida-Tarragona

N-230: Lleida-la Val d'Aran-France

N-260: El Pont de Suert-Puigcerdà

Eix Transversal: from Girona to Cervera.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Camping Association of Lleida
campingsdelleida.com

Federation of Rural Tourism of the Lands of Lleida
lleidarural.info

Hostelry Association of Lleida
hostaler.org

Citizens' advice
From Catalonia
012
From parts of Spain outside Catalonia
902 400 012
From abroad
00 34 902 400 012

TRANSLATION

Riu: River
Val: Valley
Serra: Mountain range
Congost: Gorge
Parc Nacional: National Park
Parc Natural: Natural Park
Pantà: Reservoir
Estany: Pool
Refugi: Mountain shelter
Port: Mountain pass
Font: Spring

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Make sure that you are fit enough, be aware of your limitations, and use your common sense.
- Go with experienced colleagues who have similar technical and physical capacities to you.
- Take appropriate equipment (comfortable clothes and footwear, light clothes, including a cagoule ...)
- Make sure that you have sufficient information about the area, know where to find accommodation along the route, take emergency telephone numbers...
- Check the weather forecast.
- It is advisable to let a friend or member of your family know your intended route.
- You are advised to carry a flask full of water and to continuously refill it at public fountains in villages along the way because the weather can be very hot in summer.
- If you get lost, the best solution is to go back to the previous signpost.
- As well as following the signposts, trekkers are advised to carry a compass and a map of the area.

LEGEND FOR THE ROUTES

- On foot
- Snow-shoes
- By bicycle
- by car
- By 4x4
- Distance
- Difficulty
- Calendar
- Car park

Don't miss it!

THE VAL D'ARAN

www.visitaldaran.com

01



© Mikael Helsing. Photo ceded by Foment Torisme Val d'Aran.

This is the only valley in the Spanish Pyrenees with an Atlantic climate and offers breath-taking glacial lakes, kilometres of routes running through virgin territory and a culture and gastronomy all of its own. The cultural heritage blends in perfectly with the natural landscape, making it possible to discover the region's history through its routes.

AIGÜESTORTES AND ESTANY DE SANT MAURICI NATIONAL PARK

www.gencat.cat/parcs/aiguestortes

02



© Getty Images. Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park with the Encants in the background.

The only National Park in Catalonia can be found in the heart of the Lleida Pyrenees and includes territory in the local districts of El Pallars Jussà, El Pallars Sobirà, L'Alt Ribagorça and the Val d'Aran. The spectacular scenery can be enjoyed all year round, on foot, on horseback or by snowshoe. Other options include night routes and MTB rides; there are many activities through which it is possible to discover the extraordinary scenery of this exceptional natural setting.

RAFTING ON THE RIVER NOGUERA PALLARESA

www.pallarssobira.info

05



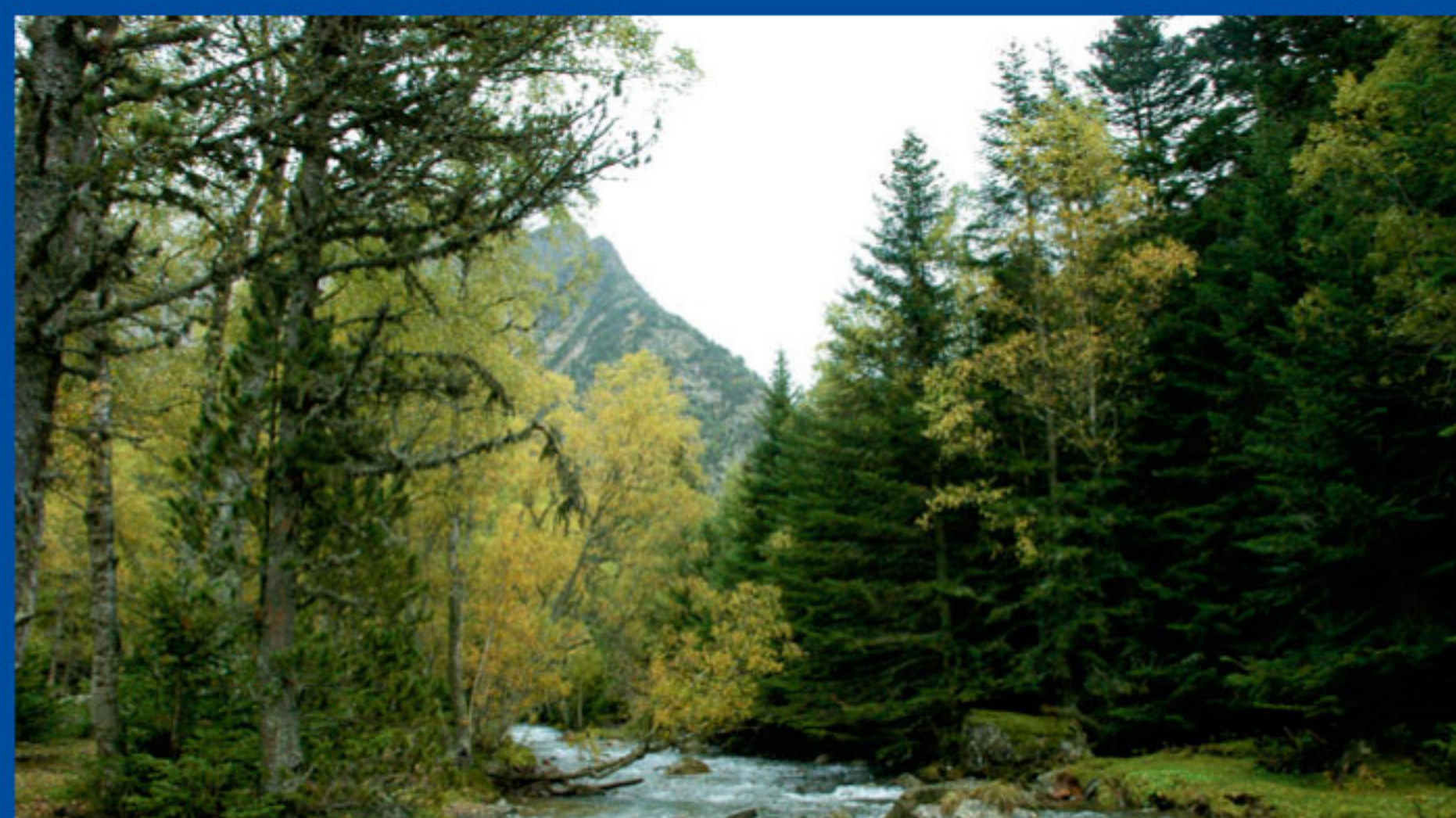
© Gran Pallars. Rafting. El Pallars.

This is the best river in Europe for enjoying white-water sports, with 60 km of navigable waterways open to everyone. It is possible to enjoy rafting: the king of adventure sports, and also activities such as canyoning, river canoeing, kayaking, bus-bob, hydrospeed and canoeing, etc.

THE ALT PIRINEU NATURAL PARK

www.gencat.cat/parcs/alt_pirineu

06



© Marc Garriga. (Alt Pirineu Natural Park Archive)

Located in El Pallars Sobirà and L'Alt Urgell, the Alt Pirineu Natural Park, which covers an area of 70,000 hectares, is the largest natural park in Catalonia and offers a great diversity of scenery and culture. It also includes the Pica d'Estats: the highest mountain in Catalonia (3,143.5 m). This is both a space of outstanding natural beauty (based on its geology, ecosystems, habitats and animal and vegetable species) and one of great historical value. It has a long history as a scene of human activity and this has shaped the local countryside and explains why it has such a rich archaeological and architectural heritage and such a long tradition of primary sector activity, including livestock farming.

THE ROMANESQUE CHURCHES OF THE VALL DE BOÍ

03

www.centreromanic.com



© Francesc Tur. Romanesque style church of Sant Climent de Taüll, Vall de Boí. L'Altra Ribagorça.

The maximum expression of Romanesque art and architecture in Catalonia stands out on account of the concentration of such a large number of churches of the same architectonic style in such a reduced space and the fact that it has stood the test of time without any major changes. The group, which consists of eight Romanesque style churches and a hermitage, has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

THE MONT-REBEI GORGE

04

www.pallarsjussa.net



© Selbach, Arthur F. Mont-rebei Gorge, Montsec d'Ares. El Pallars Jussà.

The Mont-rebei gorge is a narrow passage formed by erosion as the River Noguera Ribagorçana carved its path through the sierra of El Montsec. The route follows a path cut out of the rock face and which is free from intrusive infrastructure. The result is a natural space of great ecological value and a point from which it is possible to observe the wildlife that brings this unique, untamed, pre-Pyrenean landscape to life. The walls of the gorge stand up to 500 metres high, with almost sheer drops, and there are points where its minimum width is only 20 metres.

THE CADÍ-MOIXERÓ NATURAL PARK

07

www.gencat.cat/parcs/cadi



© Oriol Clavera. The Cadí sierra, with the village of Arsèguel. L'Alt Urgell.

With a total surface area of over 40,000 hectares, this park includes territories in the local districts of L'Alt Urgell and La Cerdanya. The two great sierras of El Cadí and El Moixeró are united by the Tancalaporta pass and form an imposing 30 km-long mountain barrier whose altitude ranges from 800 to 2,648 metres. The park also includes Pedraforca, one of the best-known mountains to Catalan mountaineers and a symbol for trekking in Catalonia. The park has more than 400 km of signposted footpaths which include GR-4, GR-7 and GR 107 (The Good Men's Way).

THE BUNKERS OF MARTINET

08

www.bunquersmartinet.net



© Bunker Park of Martinet i Montellà

This is a well-signposted, outdoor, route and provides all the most essential information. Accompanied by a guide, visitors can discover the secrets of these constructions which formed part of Line P but were never used or even completely equipped. The route allows people to visit a total of eight different bunkers, but the first contact with the site, its history and significance takes place at the centre for attention to visitors. There, a series of innovative audio-visual presentations set the scene and recreate the atmosphere that surrounded the world of bunkers.

ROUTE 01: VAL D'ARAN -ALTA RIBAGORÇA

ITINERARY A: PÒNT DE REI - EL PONT DE SUERT
PONT DE REI - CANEJAN - BAUSEN - LES - BOSSOST - ES BÒRDES
VILAC - VIELHA - - SENET - VILALLER
EL PONT DE SUERT

ITINERARY B: VIELHA - BAQUÈIRA
VIELHA - BETREN ESCUNHAU - CASARILH - GARÒS - ARTIES
SALARDÚ - UNHA - TREDÒS - BAQUÈIRA

ITINERARY B1: BAQUÈIRA – BERET PLAIN- MONTGARRI
ITINERARY B2: BAQUÈIRA - LA BONAIGUA PASS

Val d'Aran - Alta Ribagorça

The Val d'Aran was one of the main entry routes for refugees, both via the customs office at Eth Pònt de Rei and the mountain paths leading from the French departments of Haute-Garonne and Ariège which took them to Es Bòrdes, Bossòst, Bausen, Les, Canejan or Montgarri. They then headed southward via the Bonaigua pass or walked to L’Alta Ribagorça.



© Xavier Gómez. The Kateria Pool, Aiguestortes National Park.

SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Pont de Rei

The customs office at Eth Pònt de Rei became a point of arrival for those seeking to enter Spain with all their papers in order. After passing the police control, they headed for cities from which ships could take them to the countries to which they wished to emigrate. From the middle of 1940 onwards, this was the point from which dozens of Jews captured in Aran and El Pallars Sobirà were expelled from the country. After November 1942, and until the liberation of the south of France in August 1944, German border guards replaced the French gendarmes guarding the frontier.

Luchon that passed through the Portilhon and Còth de Baretjapasses. In 1943, more than 600 escapees were detained in the Portilhon pass alone; many of them were Jews.

Es Bòrdes

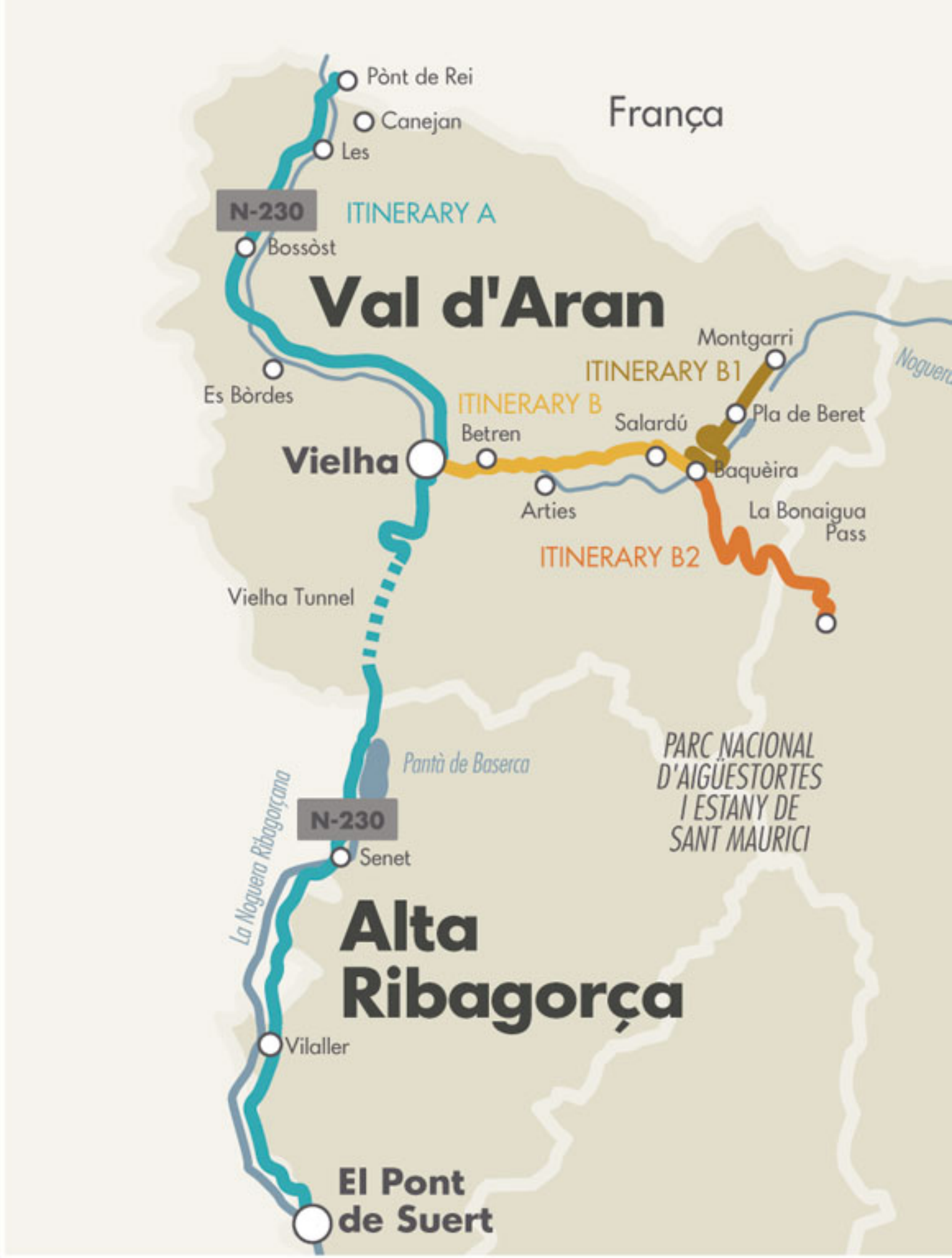
Various routes from Haute-Garonne arrived at Es Bòrdes via the mountain passes of Benasque, Dera Picada, Escaleta and Montjòia. These paths between France and Aran had served by local citizens for centuries and had also been used as smuggling routes. The chapel of Artiga de Lin was one of the places where refugees could remain hidden and escape the attention of the Guardia Civil.

The Bonaigua Pass

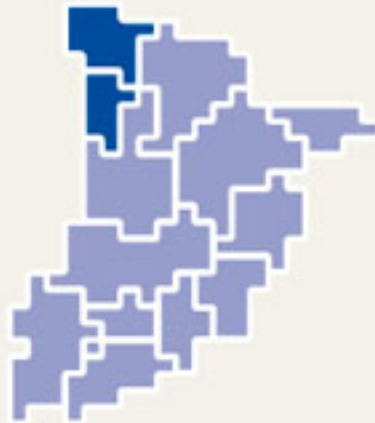
The only road leading out of the Val d’Aran to the south ran through the Bonaigua pass. It was along this route that detainees were transferred to Lleida, usually making a stop at Sort along the way. The only road leading out of the Val d’Aran to the south ran through the Bonaigua pass.

The Vielha Tunnel

Although the two ends of the Vielha tunnel were connected in 1941, it did not officially open until 1948. Some refugees managed to secretly cross the tunnel with the aid of those working on it. Although the route taking the detainees to Lleida crossed the Bonaigua pass, the Guardia Civil sometimes forced groups to cross the tunnel to Vilaller on foot before continuing the journey to Lleida.



Val d'Aran - Alta Ribagorça



GPS Route

Canejan

Hundreds of people arrived at Canejan by different paths leading from the French department of Haute-Garonne. In 1943 alone, about 500 refugees were detained by the Guardia Civil; many of them were Jews.

Les

Les was the main point of arrival for escaping Jews, whether they came via the customs office at Eth Pònt de Rei or had secretly crossed the neighbouring mountain passes (Còth de Fontfreda and Passada de Tres Corts) to get there. Les housed the police station responsible for checking passports and merchandise. Many escaping Jews received the help and solidarity of the local people, some of whom took them into their homes, while others were allowed to stay at the Hotel Franco-Español.

Bossòst

Bossòst had a particularly special role as a point of arrival for the different routes from the French village of Bagnères-de-

Montgarri

Despite its isolation as a result of winter snows, Montgarri received many expeditions of Jews fleeing along the paths that led from Ariège. In 1944, various groups of young Jews reached Montgarri having crossed the mountains through the area near Mont Valier.

Vielha

Most of those detained in the Val d'Aran were transferred to Vielha and then held in the small prison of the local judicial district. Others were accommodated in the Internacional, Serrano and Turrull hotels. At the Hospital of Vielha, they were treated for injuries suffered in mountain accidents and/or for symptoms of frostbite caused by the cold and snow.



View of Lin from the village of Les.

Senet

Some groups of refugees reached Senet after secretly abandoning the Val d'Aran on foot, via the Vielha pass.

Vilaller

The Guardia Civil concentrated some groups of captives at Vilaller after crossing the Vielha tunnel on foot. They were then transferred to Tremp and Lleida.

El Pont de Suert

The refugees who were captured in L'Alta Ribagorça and those who were transferred from the Val d'Aran used to be taken to El Pont de Suert, from where they were taken to Lleida by a coach service which charged for the trip.

EXHIBITION SPACE

Museum of Aran

Carrer Major, 26. Vielha.
25530 Vielha
Tel. 973 641 815
info.museu@aran.org

The Museum of Aran has a small exhibition space which explains the role played by the Val d'Aran in the evasion of hundreds of Jewish refugees who fled to the Iberian Peninsula from France in order to escape from the war.



ITINERARY A
→
108 km

ITINERARY B
→
16.2 km

ITINERARY B1
→
15.4 km

ITINERARY B2
→
9.4 km



02

Gireta Pass

ROUTE 02: BORDES SUR LEZ - ALÓS D'ISIL

SECTION 1: MONTGARRI - GIRETA PASS - MONTGARRI

SECTION 2: MONTGARRI - PEROSA BRIDGE -
EL FORNET MOUNTAIN SHELTER - ALÓS D'ISIL

Gireta Pass
(VAL D'ARAN - PALLARS SOBIRÀ)

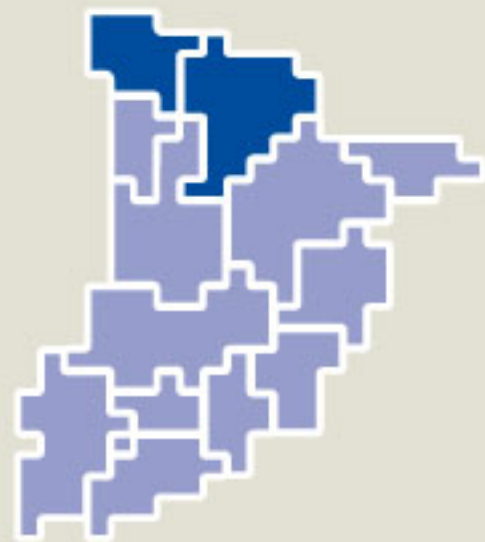


One of the most popular escape routes was the one that ran between the French department of Ariège and the Val d'Aran, via the Gireta pass (2,593 m). In 1944, it facilitated the escape of several groups of Jews who managed to reach Catalonia thanks to the help of the escape networks created by the French Resistance in the South of France.

The route started from near Saint-Girons (Ariège) and ran down to Montgarri, after crossing the Gireta pass. The refugees then continued on towards El Pallars Sobirà, following a path running parallel to the River Noguera Pallaresa, first arriving at the rural shelters of Perosa and then at Alós d'Isil.



© Historic source, Audio-visual Service of the IEL. Outskirts of Esterri d'Aneu (1922).





GPS Route

SECTION 1



Total 7h30
~4h30 ~3h



6.95 km



SECTION 2



Total 5h



17.7 km



SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Montgarri

Located at an altitude of 1,645 metres, and isolated for much of the year, this small settlement, which has a Romanesque-style shrine. It had a small hostel where those escaping could rest and regain their strength after long days walking through the snow and suffering the cold and persecution of the German police.

Perosa Bridge

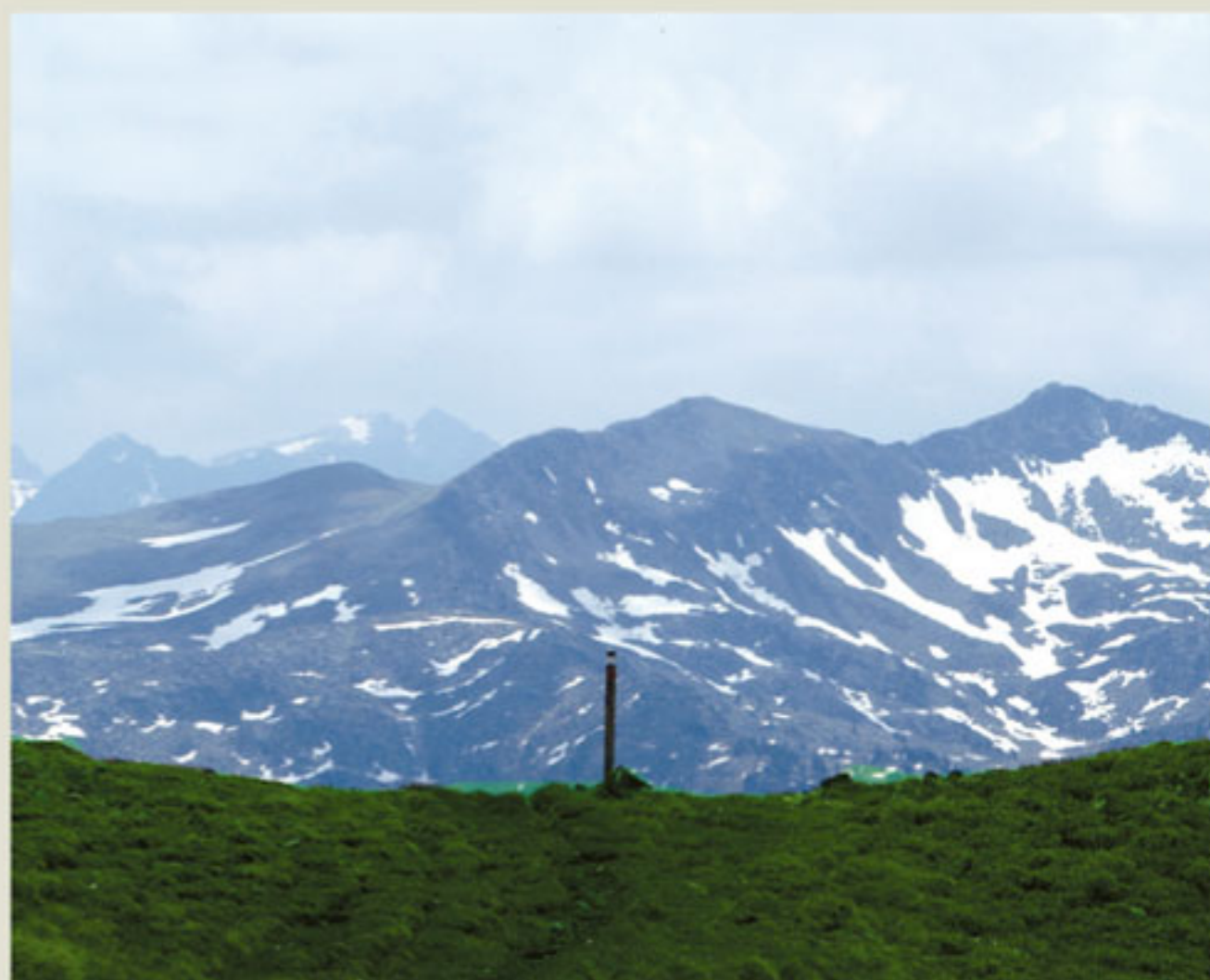
At this point, expeditions could make contact with other groups that had entered El Pallars Sobirà directly via the Pala de Clavera Salau passes. Those fleeing rested in rural shelters near the River Noguera Pallaresa before going on to Alós d'Isil.

El Fornet mountain shelter

A point half-way along the route between Montgarri and Alós d'Isil.

Alós d'Isil

The majority of those trying to escape were caught by members of the Spanish Guardia Civil who patrolled the mountain paths; they were then taken to the barracks at Alós d'Isil. They usually spent a couple of days there before being moved first to Esterri d'Àneu and then to Sort, where they were either kept in the judicial district prison or housed in hotels.



© Anselm Ros. French mountains from Greta



© Anselm Ros. Greta Pass



© Anselm Ros. Rural shelters of Isil.



© Anselm Ros. Montgarri

MUSEUM SPACE

Path to Freedom Prison-Museum

Plaça Sant Eloi, 8. Sort.
Tel. 973 620 010
turisme@sort.cat

The refugees detained in the mountain passes of El Pallars Sobirà and the majority of those who had been captured in the Val d'Aran were driven to Sort before then being transferred to prisons in the city of Lleida. Sort had two prisons: one for men and another for women, both of which were small in size. They both suffered problems of overcrowding and a lack of adequate hygiene, with the prisoners receiving very little food. Between 1939 and 1944, around 2,660 prisoners who had been detained while trying to secretly cross the frontier passed through Sort; many of them were of Jewish origin. The women, who were often accompanied by very young children, were locked up in the women's prison, which used to hold about 150 detainees at a time in those years. After spending a few days at Sort, they were all transferred to Lleida, although some groups also passed through the prison of the judicial district of Tremp.

The prison, which had once been a gothic-style chapel, has been conserved just as it was at the time of the Second World War. This is the only heritage site in Spain that maintains the memory of this historic phenomenon. Since 2007, a small museum space has been prepared to publicise these events and to pay tribute to both those who escaped persecution and those who helped them to obtain their freedom via the mountain passes of the Pyrenees.

03

Salau Pass

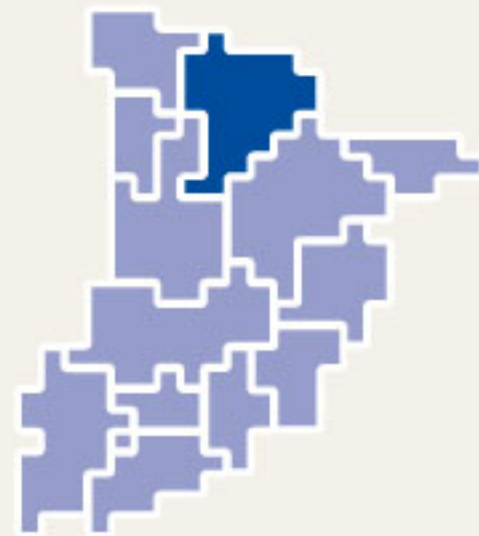
ROUTE 03: SALAU - ALÓS D'ISIL

SALAU PASS -EL FORNET MOUNTAIN SHELTER - ALÓS D'ISIL

Salau Pass

(PALLARS SOBIRÀ)

The Salau pass was, in secular terms, the epicentre of communications between L’Ariège and El Pallars Sobira. In May 1938, it facilitated the escape to exile for republicans following the occupation of this local district by the Francoist army. From 1939, it was also the road to refuge in Spain for those fleeing from Nazism. At times, refugees rested at the farm shelters of Perosa before carrying on with their journey, following the course of the River Noguera Pallaresa on its way to Alos d’Isil and Esterri d’Aneu.





GPS Route



SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Salau Pass

Taking advantage of the fact that the slopes of the Salau pass are gentler than those of the neighbouring passes, this became one of the busiest mountain routes used by those fleeing from the war in Europe. This also meant that German troops of occupation established a presence there, in November 1942, placing this area under con-

stant surveillance. In 1943, a German soldier died after an armed skirmish with guides leading a group of refugees.

El Fornet mountain shelter

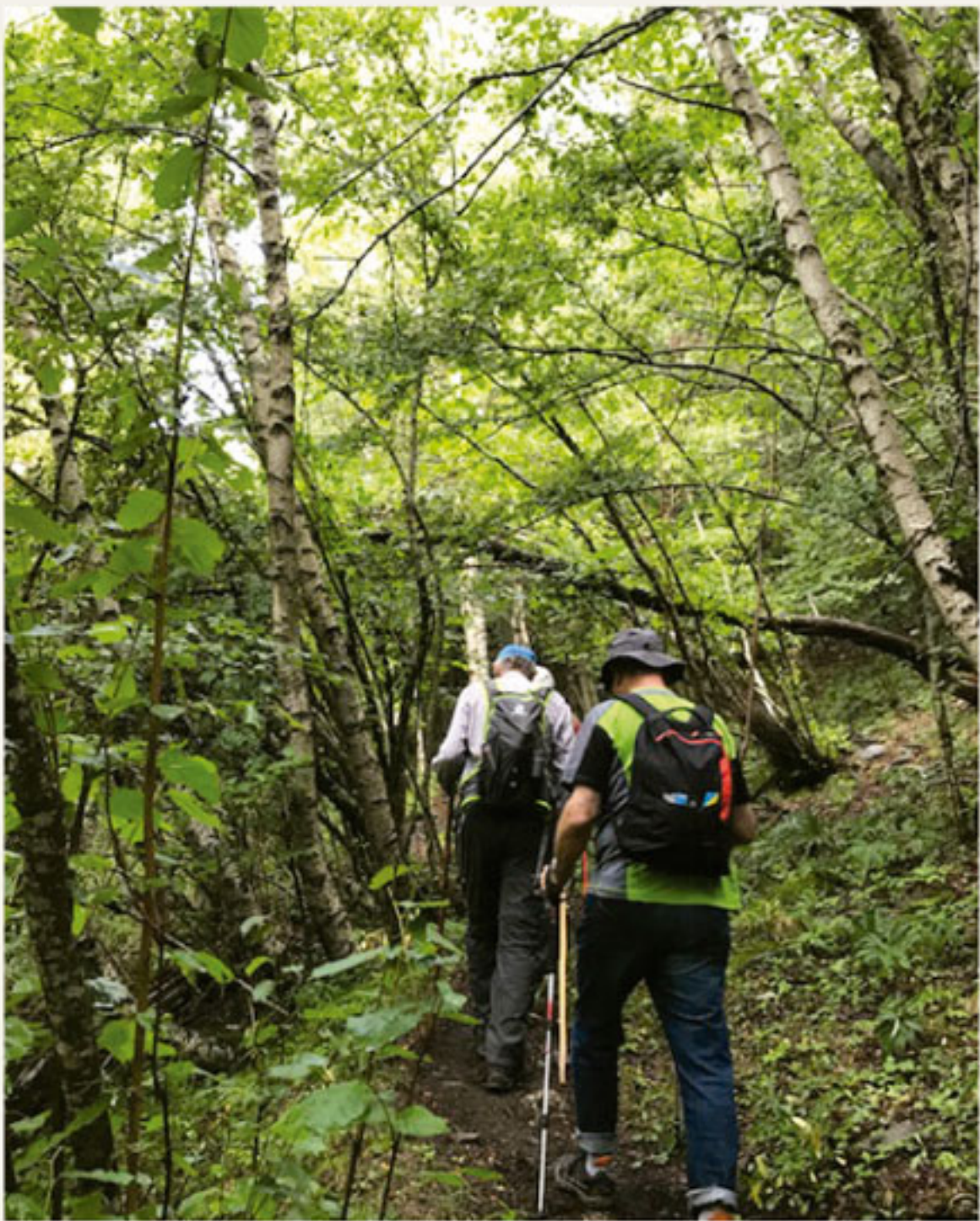
This was located at the half-way point along the routes leading through the Bonabé valley from the Gireta and Salau passes.

Alós d'Isil

Alós d'Isil was the first inhabited nucleus along this route and where Spain's Guardia Civil had a base for patrolling the paths running through the local area. The majority of the refugees were caught and taken to the barracks.



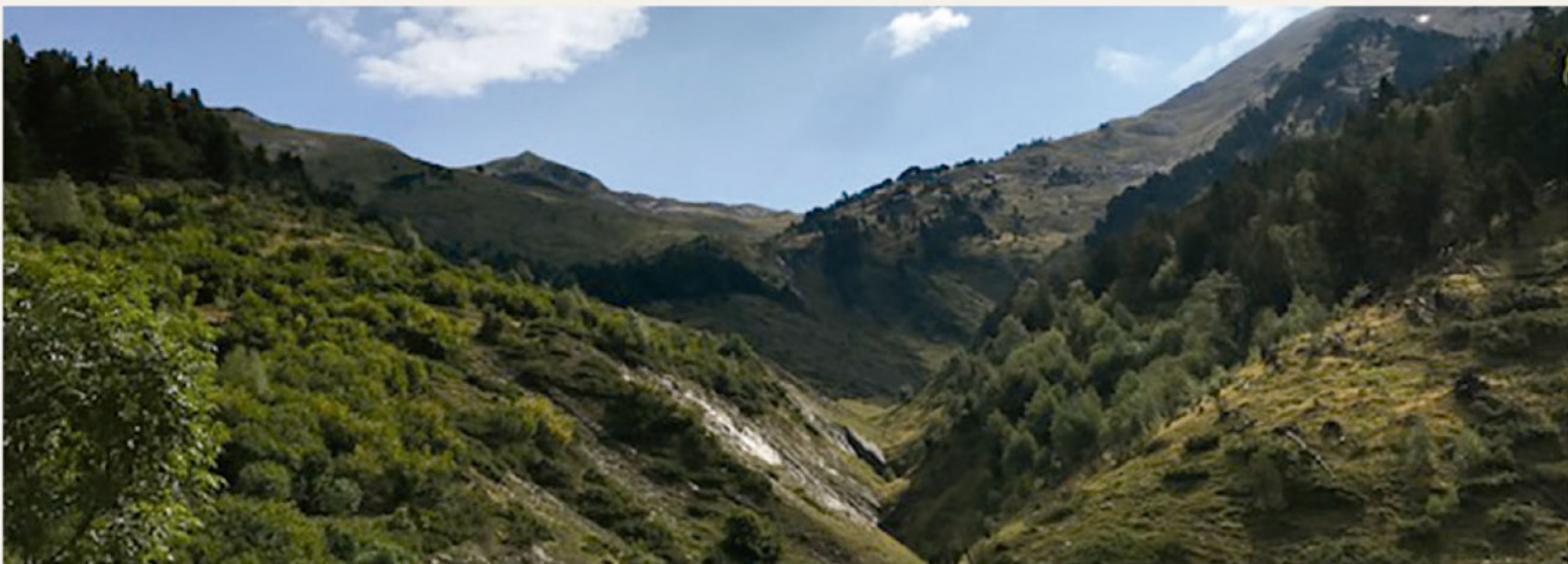
© Jaume Leon / Jordi Torner



© Jaume Leon / Jordi Torner



© Jaume Leon / Jordi Torner



© Jaume Leon / Jordi Torner

MUSEUM SPACE

Path to Freedom Prison-Museum

Plaça Sant Eloi, 8. Sort.
Tel. 973 620 010
turisme@sort.cat

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04

ROUTE 04: CABANES D'OSSÈSE - SORT

CABANES D'OSSESE – TAVASCAN PASS -
DE LA COSTA SPRING- BORDES DE GRAUS - TAVASCAN
RIBERA DE CARDOS - LLAVORSÍ - RIALP - SORT

SECTION 1: DE LA COSTA SPRING - TAVASCAN PASS - DE LA
COSTA SPRING

Tavascan Pass

(PALLARS SOBIRÀ)

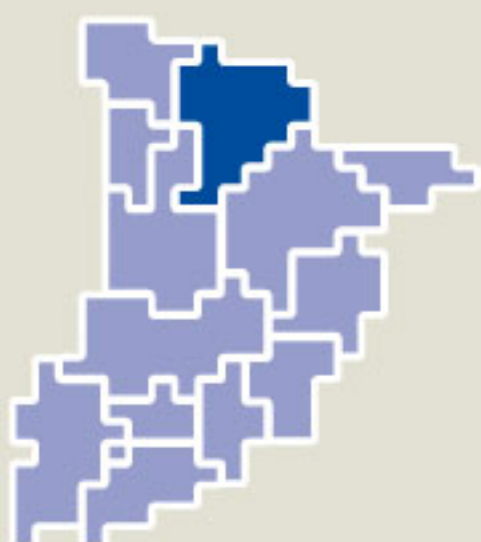


The Cardós Valley was one of the escape routes from the French department of L'Ariège via the Tavascan, Colax, Guiló, Lladorre, Artiga and Boet passes. The route, which runs through the Marterat or Tavascan pass (2,217 m), was very busy because this was a relatively easy and direct path. The escape route often started from Aulus-les-Bains and the final section of the itinerary began at the farm shelters of Ossèsse.

After crossing the pass, the route ran down to the Port and Xic pools, before reaching De la Costa spring, from where the descent to the village of Tavascan began.



© Josep Jové Calvera Furd. Photographic Archive of the IEI



SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST



GPS Route

SECTION 1



Total 2h 45
~1h 45 ~1h



Tavascan -
De la Costa spring



5.6 km



De la Costa spring



De la Costa spring

A parking area between the Tavascan pass and Tavascan. From this point, it is possible to walk to the farm shelters of Noarre, where the refugees used to rest after the long descent.

Tavascan

Tavascan was the first village on the Catalan side of the route which began in the Garbet valley, in L'Ariège. The majority of the refugees were caught and spent several days at the village barracks before they were transferred to the prison at Sort.

Ribera de Cardós

Some of the groups of refugees who managed to reach the Cardós valley with the help of guides stayed at the local hotel.

Llavorsí

Given its strategic location within El Pallars Sobirà, at the junction of the roads from the Vallferrera, the Cardós valley and Esterri d'Àneu, Llavorsí became an assembly point for the different groups of detainees who were to be transferred to Sort.

Sort

Several hotel establishments in Sort (such as Hotel Pessets and Fonda Martí Cases) provided accommodation to tens of Jews who had been transferred to Sort. La Croix Rouge et l'American Joint Distribution Committee se chargeaient des dépenses de leur séjour dans l'établissement. Ce séjour fut plus tranquille que celui de ceux qui furent internés dans la petite prison de la municipalité.



Pla de la Borda.



Climb up to the Estany de Roureda de Dalt pool



© Photo ceded by the Local District Archive of El Pallars Sobirà. Sort Prison. El Pallars Sobirà.

MUSEUM SPACE

Path to Freedom Prison-Museum

Plaça Sant Eloi, 8. Sort.
Tel. 973 620 010
turisme@sort.cat

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EXHIBITION SPACE (PALLARS JUSSÀ)

Epicentre

Centre de Visitants del Pallars Jussà
Pg. del Vall núm. 13, Tremp
Tel. 973 653 470
epicentre@pallarsjussa.cat

The Epicentre visitors' centre of Tremp has a small exhibition space which explains the role played by the Val d'Aran in the evasion of hundreds of Jewish refugees who fled to the Iberian Peninsula from France in order to escape from the war. The prison of Tremp housed several groups of refugees who had arrived from L'Alta Ribagorça and Sort before they were transferred to Lleida.

05

Cabús Pass

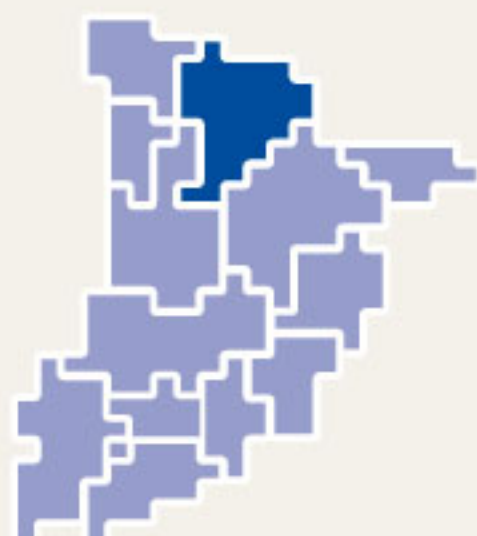
ROUTE 05: CABÚS PASS - ALINS

ALINS - TOR - CABUS PASS - TOR - ALINS

Cabús Pass

(PALLARS SOBIRÀ)

The Cabús pass was one of the main mountain passes connecting the Ferrera valley to the Principality of Andorra. It was a path used for the movements of those living in the local area and also by smugglers. During the Second World War, it facilitated the escape of those persecuted by the Nazis who had taken refuge in Andorra. Although it was more direct to reach Barcelona via the Cadi sierra, some decided to enter Spanish territory by following the route through the Ferrera valley.





GPS Route



From Alins



36km



SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Cabús Pass

Via the Cabús pass (2,302m), it was possible to reach El Pallars Sobirà from the Andorran parish of La Massana. The work of the smugglers operating in the area facilitated the escape of some refugees to the principality. Once at the pass, they then walked down to Tor, Norís and Alins.

Tor

Tor was the first inhabited settlement where refugees could rest and eat after days of walking through the mountains. The presence of a Guardia Civil barracks meant that a good number of the refugees were caught and transferred to Sort, where they were then imprisoned.

Alins

The valley of the River Noguera de Tor leads to Alins. This village was also a concentration point for refugees who had arrived via the mountain passes in the local area. The presence of agents of the Guardia Civil made it difficult for those fleeing to move further south and resulted in frequent detentions.



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MUSEUM SPACE

Path to Freedom Prison-Museum

Plaça Sant Eloi, 8. Sort.
Tel. 973 620 010
turisme@sort.cat

The prison, which had once been a gothic-style chapel, has been conserved just as it was at the time of the Second World War. This is the only heritage site in Spain that maintains the memory of this historic phenomenon. Since 2007, a small museum space has been prepared to publicise these events and to pay tribute to both those who escaped persecution and those who helped them to obtain their freedom via the mountain passes of the Pyrenees.

06

Pimés Pass

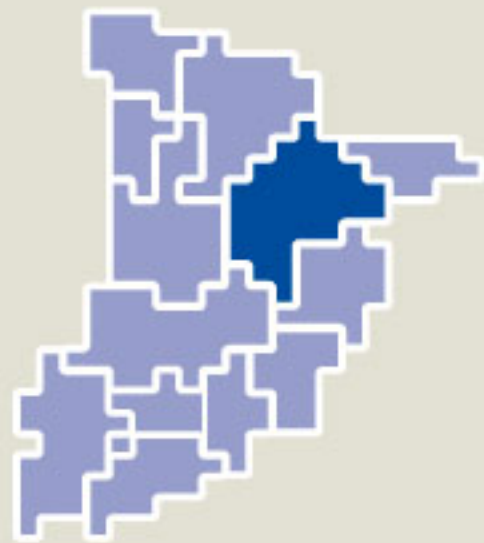
ROUTE 06: PIMÉS PASS - LA SEU D'URGELL

ST. JULIA LORIA - PIMÉS PASS - BESCARAN - ESTAMARIU - LA SEU D'URGELL

SECTION 1: PIMÉS PASS – BESCARAN

Pimés Pass
(ALT URGELL)

L'Alt Urgell was the main escape route for Jewish refugees from the Principality of Andorra who followed the mountain paths that led to what is now the municipality of Valls de Valira. Andorra was one of the main passing points for refugees who sought to reach Barcelona either by crossing the Cadí sierra or via La Seu d'Urgell and various evasion networks operated there to great effect. Several different escape routes were used and the one that runs from La Rabassa to Bescaran via the Pimés pass and the rural shelters of Pudovern has now been signposted. It then goes on to Estamariu before arriving at La Seu d'Urgell via the neighbourhood of Sant Antoni.



Bordes de Pudovern (Bescaran)



GPS Route



5.8 km



SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Bescaran

Bescaran was the first Catalan village that refugees reached. It had a Guardia Civil barracks that was responsible for policing the paths that led from the Principality of Andorra.

Estamariu

The refugees who managed to avoid arrest reached Estamariu, from where they used to go through the Cadí sierra and then head on to Barcelona. Others followed

the route via La Seu d'Urgell and the River Segre valley.

La Seu d'Urgell

La Seu d'Urgell was the town to which those detained in L'Alt Urgell and part of La Cerdanya in Lleida province were driven. Once there, they were held at the prison of the judicial district, which was housed in the former convent of Sant Domènec, until they were transferred to the city of Lleida. Some refugees were able to stay

at the Andria and Mundial hotels and therefore avoid imprisonment. Those who arrived with symptoms of physical exhaustion, who had suffered accidents along the way, or who were suffering from frostbite due to the cold and snow, were attended to at the Sant Hospital. Others secretly remained in La Seu d'Urgell until they were able to travel to Barcelona with the help of the evasion networks.



© Historical source. Audiovisual Service of the IEL. Area around La Seu d'Urgell.



Roca de Pimes (Andorra)



Llir



© Plancholit. La Seu - Avenue - Hotel Andria

EXHIBITION SPACE

Espai Ermengol

carrer Major, 8
25700 La Seu d'Urgell
Tel. 973 353 057

The Espai Ermengol has a small exhibition space which explains the role played by L'Alt Urgell in the evasion of hundreds of Jewish refugees who fled to the Iberian Peninsula from France in order to escape from the war.

07

ROUTE 07: PERAFITA - MARTINET

ESCALDES ENGORDANY – PERAFITA MOUNTAIN PASS - LA PERA POOLS - ARANSA - LLES - MARTINET

ITINERARY 1: PERAFITA MOUNTAIN PASS - LA FONT DE LES POLLINERES MOUNTAIN SHELTER

ITINERARY 2: LA PERA POOLS - MARTINET

ITINERARY 3: LA FONT DE LES POLLINERES MOUNTAIN SHELTER – MARTINET

Perafita Mountain Pass

(CERDANYA)

Hundreds of Jews secretly arrived in La Cerdanya from the Principality of Andorra, via the mountain passes of Claror, Perafita, La Portella and Vallcivera. Their objective was to reach Barcelona via the sierra of Cadí, La Seu d'Urgell or the River Llobregat valley.

The route which starts from Escaldes Engordany (Andorra) and crosses the Perafita pass has now been signposted. Once in Catalonia, it runs down to the La Pera pools and then on to Arànsers, Lles, Travesseres and Martinet. This was the shortest route between Andorra and La Cerdanya and crossed large areas of forest, which made it easier to pass unseen.

SIGNPOSTED POINTS OF INTEREST

Aransa

Located at an altitude of 1,470 metres, this is the first settlement after crossing the frontier pass.

Lles

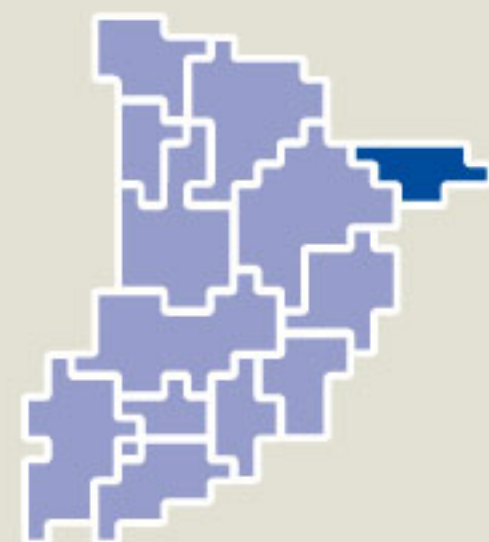
Lles was the point where several different routes from the Principality of Andorra converged in La Cerdanya. They were often used by

smugglers, but during the Second World War they were extensively used as escape routes by those who had been persecuted in Europe during the war.

Martinet

Martinet was the place where refugees started the second part of the escape journeys that were to take

them to Barcelona via one of the different routes that followed the rivers Segre and Llobregat or which crossed the sierra of Cadí. There was also a Guardia Civil barracks there, to which those detained by the guards patrolling the paths near the Andorran border were taken before they were transferred to the prison in La Seu d'Urgell.



GPS Route

ITINERARY 1



Total 3h30
~2h ~1h 30



La Pera Pools - Fornet
Mountain Pass



6,4 km





ITINERARY 2



La Pera Pools -
Martinet



19 km

ITINERARY 3



Font de Pollineres -
Martinet



Mountain meadows of Lles de Cerdanya.



Large pool at La Pera.



Gran Planell weir.



© Lluís Marià Vidal i Carreras. Martinet viewed from the path to the Arojol plain.

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larutadelcister.info

Conselh Generau d'Aran
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Alguaire
Lleida-Alguaire Airport
Tourist Information Office
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Arbeca
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C. Lleida, 32
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turismearbeca206@arbequina.coop
arbeca.cat

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visitvaldaran.com

Balaguer
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25600 Balaguer
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Information Point of the Convent of St. Bartomeu
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25250 Bellpuig
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Bellver de Cerdanya
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25721 Talló (Bellver de Cerdanya)
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bellverecoturismecerdanya.cat

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lasegarra.org

Coll de Nargó
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ofturisme@parc-cretaci.com
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ajuntament@llavorsi.ddl.net
llavorsi.ddl.net

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Tourism Office of Catalonia in Lleida
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TEL +34 973 238 446
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INFORMATION POINTS IN THE PARKS

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Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park
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High Pyrenees Natural Park
Centre for the High Pyrenees Natural Park
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gencat.cat/parcs/cadi

Persecuted and Saved

During the Second World War (1939-1944), thousands of Jews crossed the Pyrenees, fleeing from the persecution to which they were subjected in Nazi-occupied Europe. The Holocaust affected six million European Jews. Many of those who escaped from Germany, Austria, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France crossed the mountain passes of the Lleida Pyrenees. In these epic escapes, they had to evade surveillance on either side of the French-Spanish frontier, defy the harsh climatic conditions, which included year-round snows, and overcome the rugged terrain along the way. Their objective was to seek refuge far from Europe. Until 1943, those escaping were mainly families who had initially taken refuge in France and who now sought to escape persecution by France's Vichy regime. In 1944, they were

mainly young Jews, young children who had been hidden in France by Jewish organisations and children whose parents had been deported to extermination camps. For all of these refugees, the Lleida Pyrenees were the penultimate obstacle separating them from freedom.

The **"Perseguits i salvats"** (Persecuted and Saved) project highlights the value of the cross-border spaces and paths of the Pyrenees as cultural and historic memory routes, with the aim of publicising their role as escape routes for those fleeing persecution during the Second World War. At the same time, it also promotes the values of helping others and the solidarity that the local people of these territories showed towards those refugees.

www.perseguitsisalvats.com

Persecuted and saved video



Unió Europea

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Regional

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PS



Diputació de Lleida