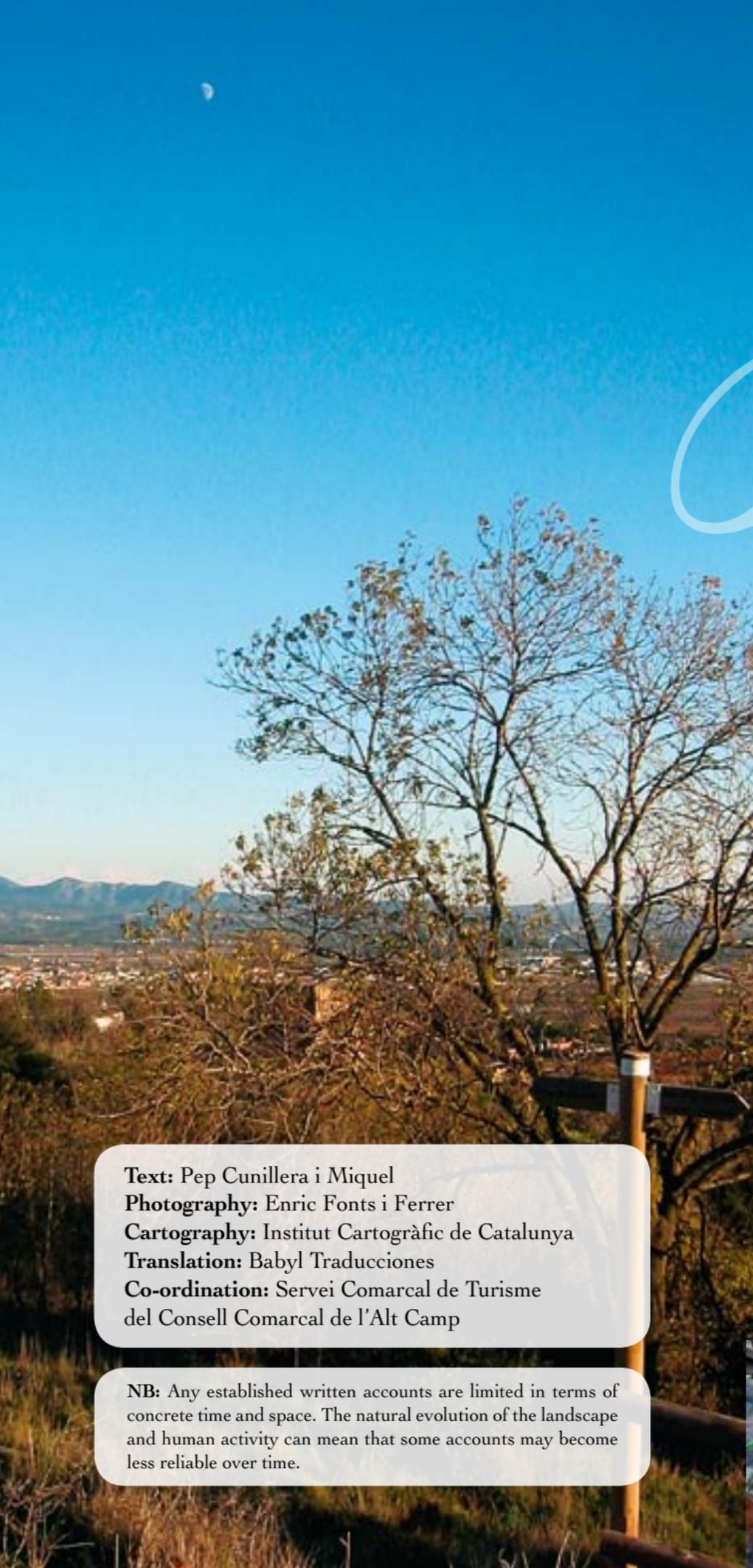


Hiking routes in Alt Camp

7



Hiking through
Jordà



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NB: Any established written accounts are limited in terms of concrete time and space. The natural evolution of the landscape and human activity can mean that some accounts may become less reliable over time.

7. Hiking through Jordà

On this long hike we will pass through an area of the Serra de Miramar known as Jordà, part of the Tossal Gros de Miramar, declared an Area of Natural Interest. We set off from Figuerola del Camp, a village perched on a hill attached to the foot of the mountain range. Rather like a watchtower, this attractive village overlooks the extensive plains stretching from Camp de Tarragona to the Mediterranean coastline.

Taking the sunny side, we make our way along a path shaded by a beautiful oak grove, until we come to Era del Caterí, on the top of the ridge. Wild boars have made themselves lords of this beautiful place. We will continue by the north side, taking a path, surrounded by a multitude of spectacular holly bushes, almost as far as Coll de Coloma. Here we can decide whether to return to Figuerola by the track or take the footpath which climbs up the crags to the highest mountain in the Serra de Miramar: the Tossal Gros, at 867m or the Tossal de Sant Jordi, commonly known as the Morrot. The climb is well worth the effort, equally for the view over the beautiful countryside as for the natural beauty of the place itself. We will make our descent facing the Castell de Prenafeta, as far as the hill of the same name, to then follow the track meeting up with the GR 175, la Ruta del Cister, and gradually levels out as it comes to Figuerola del Camp. Along the entire route, we will find strategically placed information boards on the nature trek detailing the vegetation, flora, fauna, geology etc.

Whatever path you chose to take, you are sure to be very pleasantly surprised by one of the best conservation areas in Alt Camp.





View over the Camp plains

7. Hiking through Jordà

Time

Distance

0:00
Partial



0:00
Total

0,000
Partial



0,000
Total

Figuerola del Camp. *A municipality of Alt Camp (480m) which extends across the southeast slopes of the Serra de Miramar and culminates in the summit of Tossal Gros also known as Tossal de Sant Jordi (864m). The area includes the village of Figuerola and the old village of Miramar. The district has been populated since times of old. From Neolithic times, there is the Cova del Gat, at the entry to Mas d'en Llop. There is also the torre de la Mixarda, which dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries, to be later reconstructed and fortified in the 15th century. Facilities here include accommodation, bar and grocery shops.*

We begin at the Font del Portal. We leave the village taking the street by the name of Carrer de la Mare de Déu de l'Esperança. The road Camí dels Horts sets off from in front of the Federico poultry farm, forming a boundary between the land belonging to Avellanars, to the left and that of Aiguablanc, to the right. It follows the brook where the water collects from the foot of the sierra, in former times made full use of, to irrigate the small cultivations alongside.

Hiking routes in Alt Camp

0:05 🕒 0:05

0,400 🧑‍🌿 0,400

Intersection and meter hut for the water culvert. We continue heading north towards the mountains. Here we are entering an area of great geological interest due to the presence of volcanic rocks.

0:05 🕒 0:10

0,200 🧑‍🌿 0,600

Intersection and meter hut for the water culvert. We continue making our way uphill, leaving a track on our right (if we were to take the track we would see some fine examples of dark volcanic rock, filled with cracks and holes). The conduit collects the water to supply Font del Portal and the village water tank.

0:13 🕒 0:23

0,600 🧑‍🌿 1,200

Track to the left leading to some buildings. We continue making our way uphill, the volcanic zone now behind us.

0:02 🕒 0:25

0,100 🧑‍🌿 1,300

Track to the right leading to a field of hazelnut trees. We continue to climb up towards the mountain. We can see from here, to the right, how the rocks we saw on the first crag rise up to create the summit of Tossal Rodó, the crags rising up but still continuing to be of the same thickness as the rest of the sierra. Above, we see an area of vegetation and higher still a second, higher, crag, which finally disappears.



The culvert collects the water to supply Font del Portal and the village water tank

7. Hiking through Jordà



Fern

0:10  0:35

0,600  1,900

The renovated Mas de l'Eusebio. Bosc del Faló woodlands. To our right we see the renovated *masia* buildings and to the left, the woodland filled with Holm oaks. The track continues to climb a little more.

0:02  0:37

0,150  2,050

End of the cultivations. Sharp right turn. Here we are at an altitude of 600m. The track soon becomes a footpath winding its way up to overcome the crags. We leave behind us the dark greyish shades of the slate and stone from the Palaeozoic geological period to find ourselves surrounded by the reddish clays and pale limestone of the Mesozoic period. In one of the crags, to the left, we can see some light grey rocks speckled with darker “worm-like” shades, these being the remains of fossils from a type of red seaweed known as fucoids and the rocks likewise, go by the name of calcareous fucoids.

0:14  0:51

0,700  2,750

Woodland track. End of the footpath. We finally reach an altitude of 690m after having overcome the crags. We find ourselves on the track from Sarills, which we take to the left.

This track provides a link, via the sierra's southern slope, between Cabra del Camp and Era del Caterí. Making our way along the track, we can clearly make out the wine coloured clay terrain constituting the strip of land between the two crags.

Hiking routes in Alt Camp

0:08 🕒 0:59

0,550 🚶 3,300

Era del Caterí (737m). A large plateau with intersecting tracks. We continue straight on heading west. Here the clay-like, reasonably impermeable ground results in water retaining puddles where wild boars roll around, to afterwards rub against the trunks of the pine trees.

The track to the right, heading north, takes us in only five minutes to Font del Teix, set in a depression. We come to a small plaza from where there is a good view over la Conca. A chain defines the boundary for this PEIN area (Plan for Areas of Natural Interest). A footpath to the left heads down a steep slope to the water font restored in the year 2000 by the local council or Ajuntament de Figuerola and the local ADF or Forest Preservation Society.

0:01 🕒 1:00

0,100 🚶 3,400

Fork. Path to the left. We continue to head west. We leave the wide track going down to Font del Bou, this water font also restored by the locals in 1999.

The path gradually levels out in the middle of the thick forest, more or less on the 730m mark. Here we find ourselves on the shady part of the mountain, with abundant vegetation amongst which are some magnificent specimens. We ourselves identified, amongst others, pines, holly, Holm oaks, black maple, hawthorn, rosemary, heather, broom, sarsaparilla, honeysuckle, holly, bramble, bracken, mosses...

We can also see how the valley has eroded out of the clay-like terrain, the northern boundary being the line of the crest, starting from Era del Caterí with a continuation of the same rock strata as that of the second set of crags and, looking south (left),

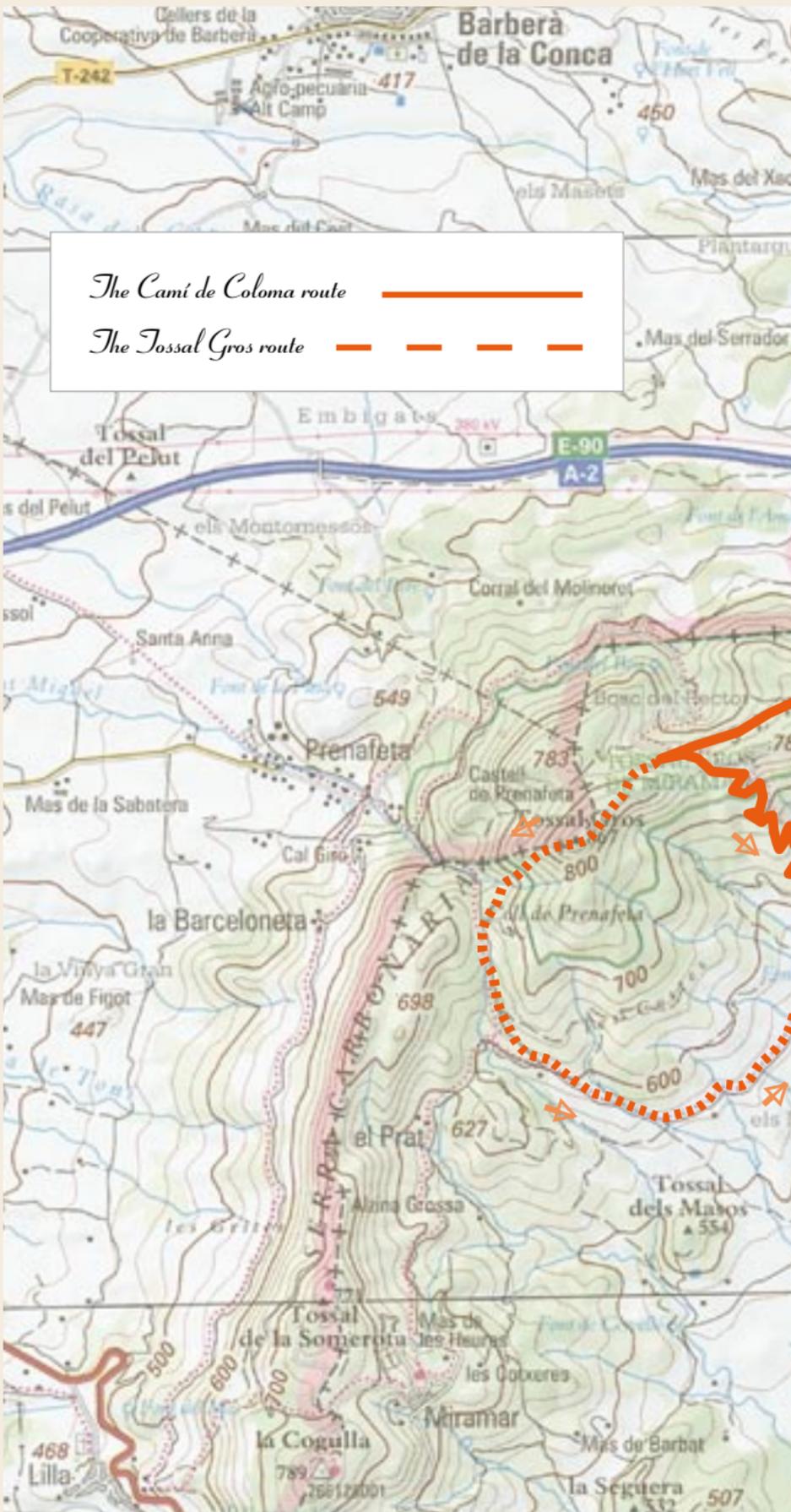
Information boards along the walk



Holly Bush



7. Hiking through Jordà



Time



2 h 47'

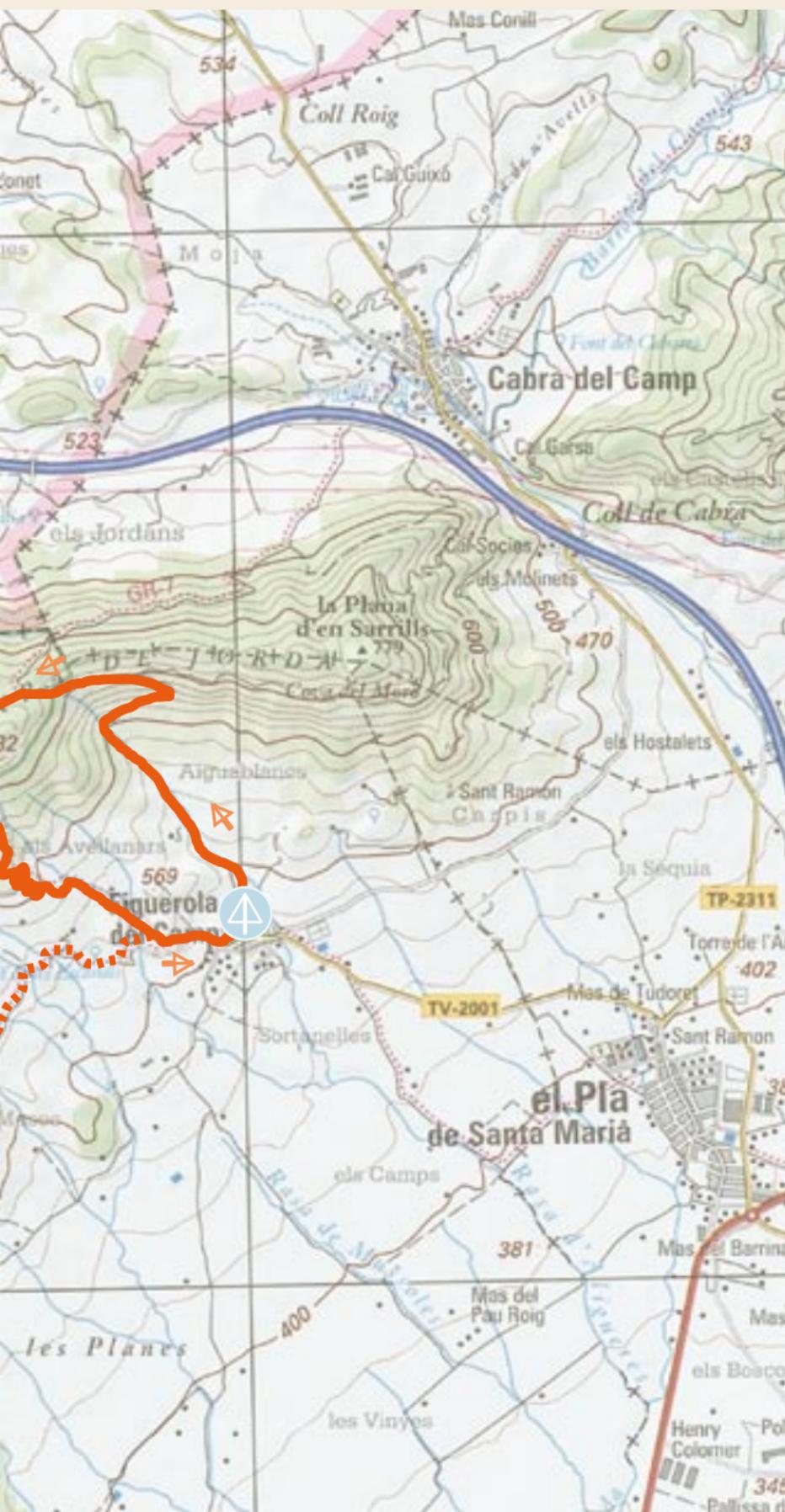
Difficulty



10 km



Distance



7. Hiking through Jordà

the same as the rock formation to the first set of crags. Curiously, the first set of crags, previously the lower of the two, has now risen to be higher than the second, which up to now and throughout the walk had been at the highest level.

0:15  1:15

0,750  4,150

End of footpath. Forest track. Deviation GR 175-1. We set off on the track and climb up to the left to make our way to Coll de Coloma. We join up with the GR 175-1 cycle route (Ruta del Cister, Santes Creus-Poblet). If we descend, we can make our way towards the ruins of the old village and Castell de Prenafeta by following the branch off to the left, further down the track. If we continue along the GR route we would pass by Font del Bou and would come to what is now the village of Prenafeta.

0:05  1:20

0,300  4,450

Coll de Coloma (770m). The start of the route from Tossal Gros. Coming to the brow of the hill opens up a fine panoramic view over Camp de Tarragona and la Conca. We find ourselves once again amongst the calcareous strata from the first set of crags, which we had previously left beneath us at the end of Camí dels Horts, but which now rises to a higher level. Here we can see the rocky strata as it slopes noticeably towards la Conca. If we are observant enough, we will see, just on the bend, the limestone fucoids. Taking the footpath off to the right we would continue to climb up to the line of crags forming the ridge and finally Morrot or Tossal Gros (867m), the highest summit in the Serra del Jordà.

THE CAMÍ DE COLOMA ROUTE

We continue along the track as it descends rapidly down towards Figuerola. We are now on the sunny side of the mountains and will have an excellent view over el Camp all the way down. As we descend, looking down and east, in front of us we have a new view of the line of crags together with the Replà de Sant Ramon or de Sarrils creating a plateau on the upper part of the highest crag. Curiously, what we see here, lower down, is actually the continuation of what we have here, to our left.

At this point, we leave the calcareous crags, this being the last time we will see them. Now the ground underfoot is a reddish clay base although, very soon, after the first turn to the right

Hiking routes in Alt Camp



The ground is based on sandstone and reddish conglomerates

we will find it changes to sandstone and reddish conglomerates. Shortly we come to an area with dark land matter such as the slate we came across at the onset of the Camí dels Horts walk.

As for the vegetation, at the start of the descent this begins with shrubs and evergreens, and further down in the slate zone, mainly Holm oaks with the occasional pine tree. Throughout the descent we also come across a fair amount of rock roses which we haven't seen up until now, in the shady part.

0:22  1:42

1,750  6,200

Fork and chain. We leave the path, which forks off to our right and, a little further on, we come to a new chain and an information board indicating us to be in the PEIN zone. We continue to make our way down.

0:18  2:00

1,050  7,250

Road from Figuerola to Miramar. Signpost. We join the road next to a barn and turn left towards Figuerola. In the right hand wall, just on the bend before we come to the main road, we see a sample of volcanic rocks, although not as black as the ones we saw at the start of the walk.

0:03  2:03

0,200  7,450

Road to the right. Signpost. We leave deviation 1 to join the main GR 175 route and return to the Tossal Gros itinerary.

7. Hiking through Jordà

0:03  2:06

0,200  7,650

Fork. Here the road becomes a surfaced track. We take the right fork, which descends steeply and passes between orangey ochre coloured slate-like substance which break up easily. We finally come to the village.

0:01  2:07

0,100  7,750

Figuerola. We enter the village by the Font del Viudet. We continue heading left along Carrer del Solar to the Font del Portal at the point where we leave the village.

THE TOSSAL GROS ROUTE

Coll de Coloma (770m). Start of the Tossal Gros route. We follow what is a spectacular route along the footpath which heads west, climbs up the ridge of the crest to follow the line of crags and finally on to the summit. The footpath is very narrow and in some parts passes through shrub-like vegetation.

0:20  1:40

0,850  5,300

Tossal Gros or Morrot (867m). From the top of this mountain, a magnificent panoramic view extends across a good part of Catalonia. To the south, we see the Camp de Tarragona plains with towns and villages surrounded by a mosaic of colours from the cultivated fields. The sight literally extends from beneath our feet to the blue Mediterranean.

Looking north, in the foreground, the remains of Castell de Prenafeta perched below, on the ridge of a crest running parallel to the one beneath our feet. This area begins to differentiate itself from Era del Caterí and eventually forms the same rocky strata as the second line of crags. The geological phenomena behind rock formation and land erosion means that here we can study the two lines of crags with their noticeably vertical strata, separated by the valley created from the clay erosion between the two. At the start of this walk we would have been able to see all of this, as well as the more horizontal strata, and in a more predictable order, that is to say, lower down, the lower line of crags, above these, the wine coloured clay substances and finally above that, the upper crags.

We can also make out Conca de Barberà, deep down in the hollow between the mountains. The *serres* of Tossal de Vallbona, Tallat and Forès restrict the view over the Ponent region but not



View from Coll de Coloma

towards the Pre-Pyrenees and the Pyrenean summits visible on the horizon.

Looking west, we see the Serra Carbonària, topped by the Cogulla de Miramar, the peak we can just make out in the southwest. According to geologists, the Francolí fault fractured and displaced sections of the Serra de Miramar as

much as 8km in relation to the pre-coastal mountain range. If we focus a while on the Muntanyes de Prades, which we must touch on, we can see this is effectively a much wider mountain range extending much further north than the one where we stand. In the background, we can also make out the mountain ranges of Llaberia, Colldejou... and so on.

Looking east, we see the Coll de Coloma and the rest of the Serra de Jordà, the Replà de Sant Ramon or de Sarrills, the Serra Voltorera and also that of Selmella. In the Alt Camp region, Formigosa and Montagut provide us with points of reference from which to see, on the horizon, the unmistakable profile of Montserrat. On the la Conca side, the conglomerates of Cogulló-Comaverd, Sant Miquel and Montclar are visible and, in the background the Serra del Castell de Queralt.

Towards the southeast, creating the dividing line between the Alt Camp and Penedès districts, the Serra de Montmell appears like a jaw from which a huge molar has been extracted.

From here, we have to take the very steep path down towards Coll de Prenafeta, heading west. We notice a markedly steeper inclination in the rock strata here.

Heather



7. Hiking through Jordà

0:15  1:55

0,500  5,800

End of the crest and into the oak forest. We follow the footpath which goes around and into the forest, leaving the crags behind. Looking north, on the other crest, we can see the different walls of Castell de Prenafeta, with which we are now on a level. In the midst of the forest, we will find a rock strata with both sandstone and a reddish conglomerate.

0:05  2:00

0,200  6,000

End of footpath. Track. The footpath transforms into a relatively wide track, which divides after only a few metres, we take the fork to the right, on a gradual downhill slope. Once again, we come across the dark substances such as slate, of which we spoke on Camí dels Horts, on the first part of our hike, and which will now accompany us all the way to Figuerola. As regards vegetation, the oak forest continues and we will also come across an abundance of broom which up until now we haven't seen.

0:03  2:03

0,250  6,250

Coll de Prenafeta (680m). GR 175 and GR 7. Small clearing. We continue along the two GR routes, which on this stretch coincide, and we make our way down towards the south. We pass a footpath on our right which goes north down to Prenafeta, and on the left we have a path which leads into the forest and is closed off with a chain.

0:10  2:13

0,850  7,100

Intersection and signpost. A signpost tells us we are leaving an area of natural interest. The GR 7, to the right, would take us on to Miramar. We continue straight on along the GR 175, continuing our descent. Soon we will come to some cultivations and the surprising land upheaval which has taken place to create a new olive plantation, which, apart from being new agricultural land, also serves as a fire break between the large tree covered areas.

0:08  2:21

0,650  7,750

Fork. After taking a pronounced bend, we continue to make our way along the main track, passing, firstly on our right, Camí de les Costes, straight to Miramar, and next, Camí dels Avellanars, which links up with the Camí dels Masos, and which would take us to Tomb de la Paella (N-240) and to Fontscaldes.

Hiking routes in Alt Camp

In the past, there used to be the Font de la Carbassa water font, now in a very bad state.

0:05  2:26

0,450  8,200

Bassa de Medi Natural and the old disused tip. We continue along the track with the pond to our left and a disused tip to the right. We will also pass numerous paths leading off to the cultivated fields.

0:14  2:40

1,300  9,500

Short-cut to the right. We leave the main track and follow Camí Vell de Miramar, to the right, which goes down to the Font dels Escanals, the water font renovated by the local council or Ajuntament de Figuerola and the ideal spot to picnic. We will be able to see tracks left by carts, clearly marked in the rocks on both of the depression's slopes. Once again, we come to an area of volcanic rock of the same type we found on Camí dels Horts.

0:02  2:42

0,200  9,700

Main track. Signpost. Here we meet up with the same track we left before. We take the track to the right and, at this point, we link up with the route making its way down directly from Coll de Coloma.

0:02  2:44

0,100  9,800

Fork. The track is surfaced from here and we take the steep fork off to the right. We pass by the middle of a wall made from ochre coloured slate and which would be easy to take apart. We finally enter the village.

Had we opted to take the left fork, we would enter the village from behind the church and would be able to see the wall behind the parochial building and the rose window which from the year 1194 (12thC). Both were restored in 1994 in commemoration of the eight hundredth anniversary of the construction of the first church.

0:03  2:47

0,200  10,000

Figuerola del Camp. We enter the village by Carrer dels Jardins and the Font del Viudet. We continue to the right along the street by the name of Carrer del Solar on to the Font del Portal and out of the village.



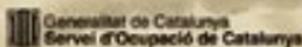
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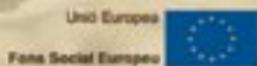
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Pacte de Santes Creus



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