

The Baix Priorat (Lower Priorat) is land of mining. It has been this way for many centuries. It seems that the first miners were the prehistoric inhabitants of Puig Roig del Roget in El Masroig and El Calvari in El Molar

Nevertheless, the mining activity at Bellmunt and El Molar Lead Mines has been documented in a historical sense until the middle of the twentieth century when the mines closed for good. These trails are an invitation to people to walk the villages, which are so close to the county of Ribera d'Ebre. Here, the Siurana River is on its way to join the larger, Ebre River, where vineyards and olive groves have shared the stage with lead mines and galena for centuries.



1. Museu de les Mines de Bellmunt del Priorat (Bellmunt del Priorat Lead Mines and Mining Museum)

Tel.: (+34) 977 830 578
Tel.: (+34) 626 384 706
www.minesbellmunt.com



2. Puig Roig del Roget Prehistoric Settlement

From El Masroig, take the paved road from Les Pinyeres Hermitage and at 2.8km along the road, take the cart track on the right for 1.8 km

Ajuntament del Masroig
(El Masroig Town Hall)
Tel.: (+34) 977 825 126
www.masroig.altanet.org



3. El Calvari Prehistoric Settlement

From El Molar, take the paved track signed El Calvari near to the crossroads with La Figuera and El Lloar. Follow it for 550m.

Ajuntament del Molar
(El Molar Town Hall)
Tel.: (+34) 977 825 127
www.molar.altanet.org

Photos: Consell Comarcal del Priorat - Rafael López-Monné / (1) Consell Comarcal del Priorat - Joan Capdevila Vallvé / (2) Ajuntament del Masroig - Joan Capdevila Vallvé (3) Laura Salvadó Fuentes / Design: Simbolic.cat



Consell Comarcal
del Priorat



Ajuntament
del Masroig



Ajuntament
de Bellmunt del Priorat



Ajuntament
del Molar



www.turismepriorat.org

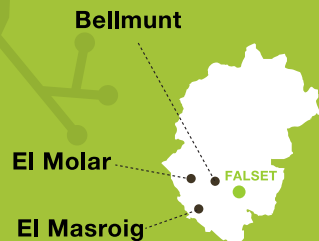
ENG



Ways of Miners and Farmers

EL MASROIG > BELLMUNT DEL PRIORAT > EL MOLAR





From El Masroig to Bellmunt, on to El Molar and then returning to El Masroig

The trail starts besides **Celler el Masroig winery** and continues down Carrer de les Pinyeres (Pinyeres Street) ① until **Barranc de la Vila** (village ravine). Here, we take a right turn and continue along the path which follows the ravine upwards ②. The path crosses the ravine on three occasions. Before crossing it for the fourth time, we take a little snicket or ginnel ③ on the left which is parallel to it. We skirt along the edge of a vineyard until we leave it by taking a farm track lined by olive trees which leads us to a farmhouse and from this point we take a smaller path ④ which continues up a steep bank until it joins a footpath. Continue along this footpath very close to a pylon (electric) ⑤ and continue to the left. The path continues until it almost reaches the top of **the Sarrai mountain** ⑥ and then descends until it joins a farm track ⑦ which leads to a crossroads ⑧. Turn right and you will reach the **Museu de les Mines de Bellmunt** (Bellmunt Lead Mine and Museum) ⑨.

From **Bellmunt to El Molar**, the trail is less than 8km and 170m gradient uphill which takes less than 3 hours to walk. Return back the way you have come until the last crossroad ⑧ and continue on the main track. This track leaves the wood and descends through vineyards and olive groves. On the left, a former bridle path drops down to the dry river bed ⑩, ascends a small hill and then drops down again to reach the old cart track ⑪. This track leads to the prehistoric settlement of **Puig Roig del Roget** ⑬.

Near to the settlement ⑫ you will take a path which descends towards the river until it reaches a fruit tree plantation. From here you can turn left ⑭ and ford the river a little further on or turn right and cross the river using stepping stones ⑮. In both cases, you will reach the paved road near to De Muller winery ⑯. From here, you cross the road and continue along the dirt path which leads through vineyards towards the mountains. You will pass by a forkin the path leading off right ⑰. Continue straight on towards the wood.

The path veers left and continues to ascend. You pass by a water tank for fire extinction on your right ⑱ and you will reach the flat plains at the top. Leave the path which leads off to the left and continue straight on between vineyards and olive groves. After this, you will reach the ruins of the Mas de la Nadala (Nadala Farmhouse) ⑲. The path descends here and on the left, joins the narrow path which becomes the former bridle path.

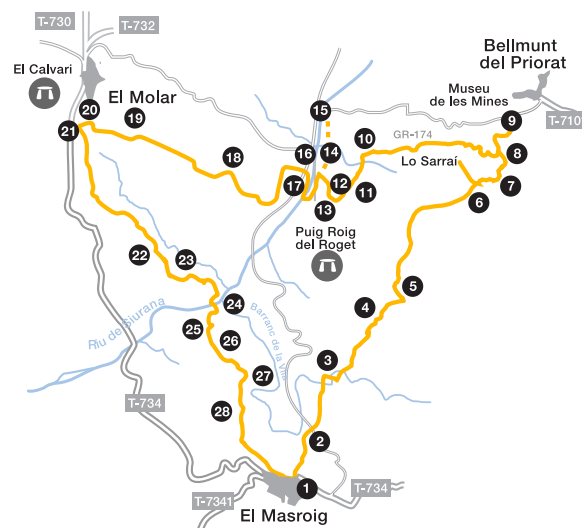
The path crosses the dry river bed and continues uphill and comes out at Rocalda ⑳ near the village.

It will take 6km and a 160m gradient uphill and about two hours of hiking from **El Molar to El Masroig**. From Rocalda ⑳, you descend to the left and take the concrete cart track until you reach the road ㉑.

This is where **the old way from El Masroig** begins and passes through olive groves and vineyards. Further on, you leave the old way near a winery building ㉒ and you take a left turn ㉓ climbing slightly before descending to the river along the farm track. Once at the river, you will be close to the old Moli del Coco (Coco's Mill). You will need to find the best spot to ford Siurana River here.

On the other side of the river, you will find the old bridle way ㉔. Continue along the wide cart track ㉕ which takes you through vineyards. This track skirts around the little hill. Keeping the uncultivated land always to your right, leave the more beaten track to your right and take the path which climbs upwards ㉖. As you almost reach the top, do not take the path which leads off to the left, but continue straight on until you reach the bridle way again. Leave this on a cart track which runs along the mountain ridge ㉗ and continue right towards **El Masroig**. Further on you will reach a fork in the trail ㉘. Both tracks lead you within sight of **El Masroig**, as you continue through cultivated land.

The paths of the Priorat Hiking Paths Network are painted with yellow waymarkers except for those which coincide with parts of GR (European Hiking Network Long Trails) and PR (Short Trails). On these paths, the FEEC (Catalan Rambling Club Federation) waymarkers are used.



Level: A demanding route, for experienced hikers

Time needed: 7 hours

Ascent: 590 m

Distance: 20 km

Map: Camins del Priorat 1:30.000
Editorial Piolet

Suggestions:

This circular route can be started in any of the three villages which are virtually all equidistant from one another. It can also be followed in either direction. To avoid steep climbs (and enjoy more downhill) El Masroig village has been chosen as the starting point and the route continues towards Bellmunt. This section is less than 6km and 260 m gradient uphill, a two hour walk without taking into account time for enjoying the scenery from the top of Sarrai mountain for example.

Nature Guides:

Catsud T. (+34) 626 684 917

El Brogit Guiatges T. (+34) 689 006 199

GPS track at www.turismepriorat.org