

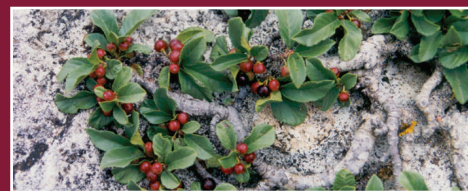
Natural landscape

The trail described follows the southern slopes of Montsant, an abrupt landscape of interesting rocks, dominated by the grey of majestic cliffs and the green of scattered pine and oak woods alternating with thickets and scrubland of rosemary and winter heather. Looking up, it is not difficult to spot the flight of birds of prey.

Grauel Carabassal I1.11: The height of the first cliff used to be climbed by using the trunk of a variety of oak known locally as carabassal. **Roquera dels Grèvols I1.21:** Between the rock faces we can find specimens of the protected holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). **Roca del Xollat I1.31:** A large unique rock that owes its name to a former landowner of La Morera de Montsant. **Racó dels Boixets I1.51:** A semicircle guarded to the east by a square rock, El Dau (dice), and to the west by the Roca de les Onze. The vegetation here is very dense, with oak and box.

Cultural heritage

La Morera de Montsant is situated at an altitude of 743 m. It is the highest village in El Priorat and has a panoramic view to the foot of the majestic cliffs of Montsant. The settlement is thought to date from the time of the Moorish domination. Agriculture is the main economic activity, offering high quality products such as wine of DOQ (Qualified Designation of Origin) Priorat. The **parish church**, dedicated to the Nativity of the Mother of God, has a Romanesque portal. **Mas de Sant Blai:** The old convent of Bonrepòs. **Arab ruins:** The old watchtower of the castle of Siurana. **Grauel Carrasdet I1.41:** Legend has it that the mythical Carrasdet slid down this slope when surrounded by his Bourbon pursuers during the War of Succession. **Cova Cabrera I1.61:** A cave surrounded by a dry stone wall. Back cover



Rhamnus pumilus.



TRAIL 1 LA MORERA DE MONTSANT

Camí dels Fareus
Grauel Carabassal
Serra Major
Cingle Major
Grauel Carrasdet

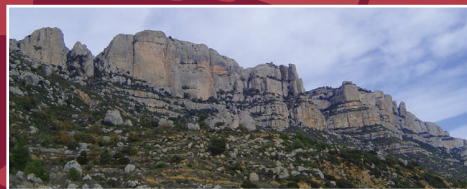
Iniciativa: Parc Natural de Montsant. Començs: Casa d'Oficis Sersers de Montsant i Camalau. Writing, coordination and control: Pedrenca Pedagoga Ambiental



A trail along the south side of the Serra de Montsant, recommended for those who want to contemplate the countryside and take spectacular photographs. On the way up, we follow a gentle path which passes the foot of the rock faces of Cingle Major (Large Cliff) and allows the walker to see them from below, appreciating their full grandeur. The second part of the walk again follows the cliffs, this time along the upper part. The entire landscape of El Priorat region unfolds before your eyes. Finally, the return to La Morera follows one of the most vertical and spectacular downward slopes. This hike can be completed in a morning if enough time is allowed. The difficulty of the descent can prolong the walk a great deal, particularly if it is done in a group. This route is especially suitable for doing in autumn or spring. The long hours of strong sunshine make it unadvisable in summer. The excursion should not be done in case of fog. Great care should be taken if the rocks are damp.

Technical description

- TOTAL DISTANCE:
6.2 km
- TOTAL TIME:
2 h 30 min (rest stops and ascents not included)
- DIFFICULTY LEVEL:
HIGH (not suitable for children or people with vertigo)
- TOTAL ASCENT:
400 m



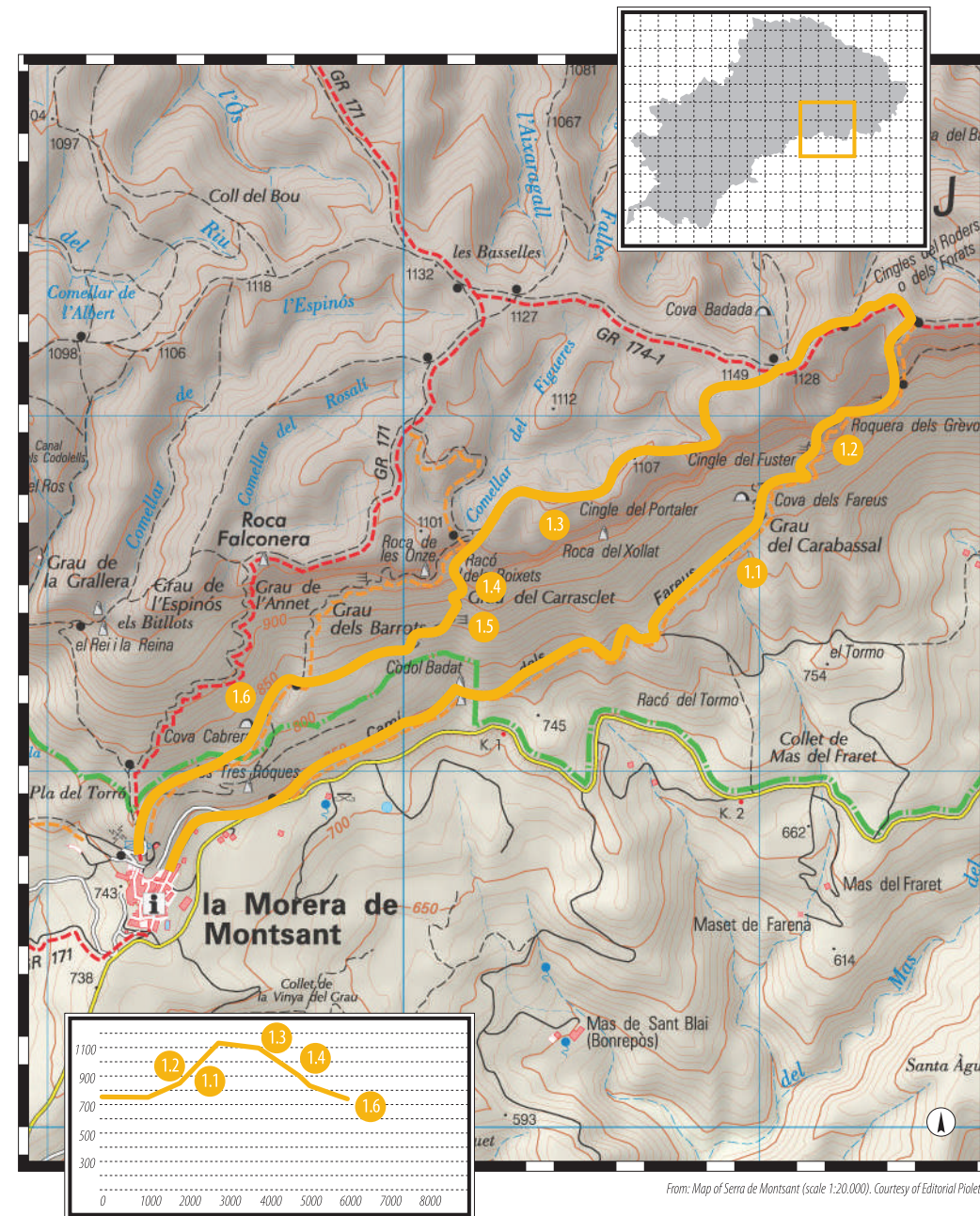
Cingle Major, Vila-real.

Trail description

Leave La Morera de Montsant on the TV-7021 road, towards Cornudella. When you reach a rock with a metal cross, take the path on the left hand side that is marked by a signpost. This is known as the Camí dels Fareus (Fareu's path). This will take you to Serra Major and is well marked with short trail marks (PR, yellow and white) and milestones. The start of the walk slopes gently upwards for over an hour. When there is a change in direction, bringing the path nearer to the cliff and climbing by the **Grau del Carabassal [1.1]** the ascent becomes steep. Once you have passed the Cova dels Fareus or Fumada to the left, cross the two outcrops with the help of the pins embedded in the rock. Above the cliff is the **Roquera dels Grèvols [1.2]** and all that is needed to get from here to the Serra Major is a steep ascent up a rocky slope. At the top there is a signpost. Take the GR 174 trail (red and white markers) in the direction of Cabacés. After following this for some two hundred metres, take the track that leads off to the left, which passes in front of the cliffs of El Fuster and El Portaler. To begin the descent, once you see the **Roca del Xollat [1.3]**, follow the path until you come to a narrow pass between two rocks, which leads just in front of the **Grau del Carrascllet [1.4]**. This is equipped to enable the walker to manage an entirely vertical elevation gain of some 15 m. After reaching the **Racó dels Boixets [1.5]** follow the path which descends quite sharply until the signpost indicating the direction of the Grau dels Barrots. Continue to the left, descending by the well-trodden path, to a mound of pebbles. A milestone indicates the path, which leads off to the right. Once past the **Cova Cabrera [1.6]**, the path takes us straight down to the village.



Bonelli's eagle, Toni Borau.



From: Map of Serra de Montsant (scale 1:20,000). Courtesy of Editorial Piolet.