

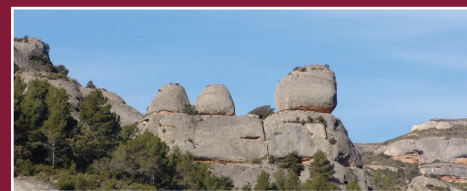
### Natural landscape

The trail over the **Congost de Fraguerau [2.2]** is unique for its rocks and surprising for the abundance of riverside vegetation. The Montsant river brings life to the plants that need a permanent water supply. The animal life that can live here thanks to the presence of the water is not only aquatic, and for this reason a large part of this spot is a Wildlife Reserve. The interaction between the rocky conglomerates and the eroding agents has resulted in a high concentration of unusual rocks and caverns. Among the most significant, in order of appearance along the route, are: Roca Balladora (The Dancing Rock), Els Tres Juradets (The Three Judges), El Cap de Mort (Death's Head), El Camell (The Camel), La Cadira (The Chair), El Bisbe (The Bishop), etc. Among the caves, there are: Cova del Moliner (The Miller's Cave), Cova Llarga (Long Cave) and Cova del Sapo (The Cave of the Toad). **Els Ventadors [2.3]** form part of a unique geological formation that is the inclination of the strata of the conglomerate. On the **Grau del Llop [2.4]** (Wolf's Slope), so-called because at the end of the 19th century the last wolves seen in Montsant were seen here, you are reminded of the leafiness of the shady vegetation that in its highest parts is made up of deciduous trees more usual in Euro-Siberian areas.

### Cultural heritage

Ulldemolins is situated at an altitude of 652 m, on a small hill that stands above the wide depression known as «Vall del Silenci» (the Valley of Silence). Of Mediaeval origin, it is known to have existed since the 12th century, with its land forming part of the county of Prades. The parish church of Sant Jaume is built in the Renaissance style.

The **chapel of Sant Antoni [2.1]** is a simple building that dates from the 15th Century. An older pointed arch has been conserved in the interior. The abundant spring that flows here is credited with curative properties.



Tres Juradets of the Congost de Fraguerau. Joan Ferran.



## TRAIL 2 ULLDEMOLINS

Ermita de Sant Antoni  
Congost de Fraguerau  
Els Ventadors  
Punta dels Pins Carrassers  
Grau del Llop

Initiative: Parc Natural de Montsant. Contents: Casa d'Oficis, Senders de Montsant, Carrissa. Writing, coordination and control: Pedagogia Pedagògica Ambiental.





From the valley floor to the highest ridges, this trail invites you to enjoy the contrasts of the landscape on the north side of Montserrat. Good hiking training is a must for this walk, which in some stretches can seem like high mountain trekking due to the difficulty. The long, sustained ascent and the downhill stretch, which is very steep at the beginning, require experience in the mountains to be able to meet the challenge of this excursion without the odd shock.

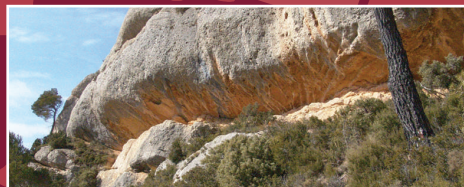
The trail, which follows a path almost all the time, is easy to follow. The signs help us to keep to the route when in doubt, and real care is only needed on climbing the ridges of Els Ventadors in order to advance safely.

This excursion can be completed in a morning if enough time is allowed. It is highly recommended that the most be made of the facilities with barbecues and tables at the chapel of Sant Antoni to get your strength back with a good lunch. The hermit can provide some extras to accompany your sandwiches and everything you need to light a fire, if you wish.

This route is suitable for any time of year. When doing it in summer, be aware that the final stretch of the ascent, which crosses the sunny slope, is extremely hot. The trip should not be made in fog. Great care should be taken if the rocks are damp.

**Technical description**

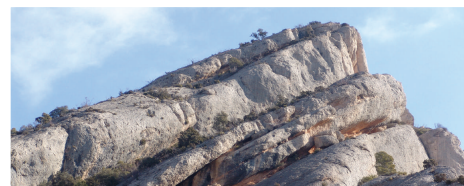
- TOTAL DISTANCE:  
**9 km**
- TOTAL TIME:  
**3 h 40 min** (rest stops not included)
- DIFFICULTY LEVEL:  
**HIGH** (not suitable for children or people with vertigo)
- TOTAL ASCENT:  
**500 m**



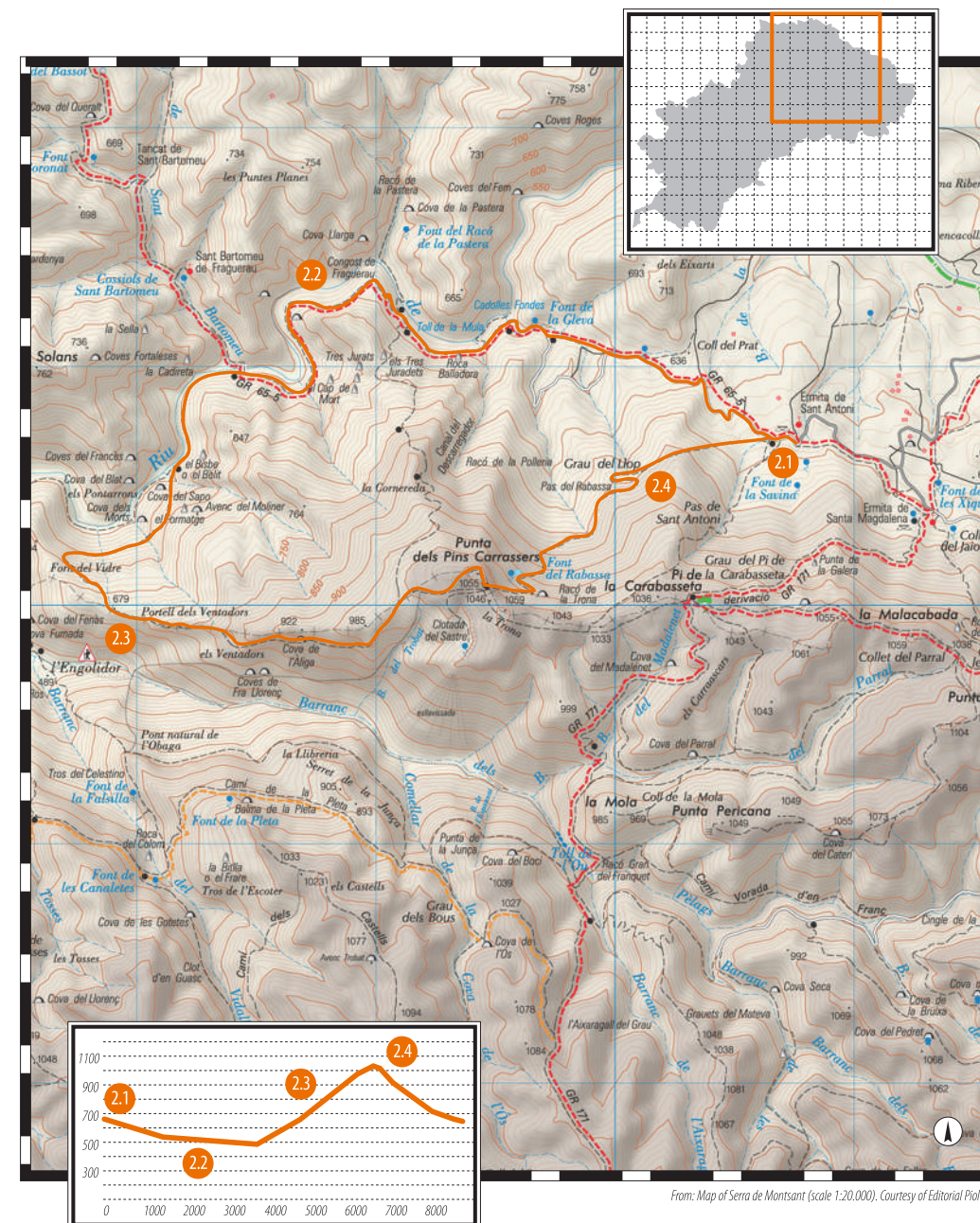
Cova de l'Àliga. Joan Ferran.

**Trail description**

Follow the asphalt track to the **chapel of Sant Antoni [2.1]**, where vehicles can be left in the car park. The walk starts on the track which leads down to Montserrat river. To the left is a pond, and here you should turn as though heading back. Take a short cut, following the GR (long hike) signposted trail (red and white markers) to avoid the twists in the track. On reaching Cadolles Fondes take the route to Margalef. You will now come to the gorge **Congost de Fraguerau [2.2]**, leaving to the left a path leading to the Austrian pinewoods and then on the right the path leading to the Racó de la Pastera. To the right you will see the bridge of Sant Bartomeu. You will come to a crossroads, where you should take the path going left, which is marked with yellow paint. From here onwards the path is easy to follow, although occasionally the vegetation can make it difficult to pass. Following a steep ascent, you will reach an area where the vegetation thins out noticeably, a result of the forest fire of 1994. Climb up the ridge of **Els Ventadors [2.3]**. To pass the first rocks safely, keep to the left of the ridge. The burned trunk of a tree marks the spot where you will find the path leading to the ledge between the two sloping upper layers that we have to follow for quite a while. The ascent up the rocky slope is long and continuous. To the left you will see the Cova de l'Àliga (Eagle's Cave). On reaching the crest of the Serra de Solans, the path becomes easier. There you will see a signpost, and you should continue towards the Punta dels Pins Carrassers. From the hill downwards there is a spectacular view on both sides. Continue in the same direction and after a short while you will come to the sign for the **Grau del Llop [2.4]**. Go between the two rocks and the path begins a steep downward slope. You will pass a small pool and the remains of a couple of coal mines. The path continues downwards, leading to the pool and then the hermitage of Sant Antoni.



Start of the climb to Els Ventadors. Ramon Minguez.



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