

## Walking routes around the Baix Pallars

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### 1. Route around Pla de Corts

**Departure point:** Peramea.

**Arrival point:** Peramea.

**Route:** Peramea - Cortscastell - Masia d'Enjaume - Peramea.

**Duration:** 2 h 2 min.

**Elevation difference along main route:** 125 m.

**Length of main route:** 7.5 km approx.

**Difficulty:** level 2 (walks of moderate distance and elevation differences, below 14 km and less than 500 m elevation difference).

**Description:** Circular route around the fertile plateau of Pla de Corts. Downhill from Peramea to Cortscastell then back uphill to Peramea via Masia d'Enjaume.

**Recommendations:** This route can be followed at any time of the year. In summer, however, hiking is not recommended during the hours when the sun is strongest (between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.).

1. GERRI DE LA SAL (600 m). Before leaving Gerri, heading towards Sort, we take the fork to the left and follow the local tarmac road some 4.5 km to the village of Peramea. Once in Peramea, cars can be parked in the square with the fountain.

2. Village declared a "Cultural Asset of National Interest" owing to the important and varied heritage preserved there. In the square where cars can be parked, highlights are the centuries-old elm and the public washing trough that is still used today. Around the village itself other highlights include: its mediaeval structure in the form of a closed town (the exterior facades of the houses act as the area's surrounding walls), the covered street of Sant Cristòfol, the church of Sant Cristòfol (14th century), the Roca del Castell above the church (the rock upon which the old castle stood and which offers a sweeping view of the Pla de Corts and surrounding area), the forge, the Portal de Llevant gateway (13th century) and some of the houses on Carrer Major (Casa Parramon and Casa Agnès); a visit to the first of these is especially recommended, it is an authentic rural house.



*Peramea and the Pla de Corts*

2.1. Also worth a visit are the *eras* or threshing sheds (places where cereals were beaten in order to separate the grains), especially the Era d'Ortega, on the village outskirts. These sheds are closed by brick block walls with wooden frames of a considerable size, known as *estisores* (scissors) which support the tiled roof.

2.2. TORRE DELS COLOMERS. From the square where cars are parked, runs a street in a south-western direction. About 100 m along it is the foot of the Tower, which lies on the right. The Tower is an old fortified site dating from the 12th-13th centuries, situated on the opposite side from where the castle of Peramea stood, and it offers attractive views of the Pla de Corts.

3. From the same square, we leave Peramea via the road that leads to Bretui. Immediately on the right is the historical road that leads to Balestui. Some 3 minutes later, there is an exit from the main road along a cart track on the left. A route indicator appears here. Further on, we pass an old road on the right and continue along the same cart track which winds around to the left with views of the Peracalç mountain range.

4. 13 min. FOUNTAIN OF SANT CRISTÒFOL (890 m). One of the troughs is an old sarcophagus and it is said that the old church of Sant Cristòfol stood here. The pasture meadows with different farms make up the dominant landscape and to the north-west we can see Bretui and Montcortès further to the left. Below there is another fountain, after this we pass a farm and then a road off to the left.

5. 18 min. Crossroads at the Dolmen de la Mosquera (to the left) where there is a route indicator.

5.1. We take the road to the left which passes through a common-oak grove. Further on, on the right-hand side is a holm-oak grove surrounded by a metal fence with a gate. We go through, taking care to close the gate and continue to the right along another track that leads deeper into the holm-oak grove.

5.2 (4 min) DOLMEN DE LA MOSQUERA (907 m). After leaving the wood, standing in the middle of a field is the dolmen, a megalithic funeral monument dating from the Bronze Age. The return back to the main route is along the same track.

6. The route takes a right hand turn towards the village of Pujol. After a while we pass alongside a large reservoir that is being built and some metres above there is a road off to the right. Four minutes later there is another road that descends off to the right.

7. (30 min) LES ESPLANES (920 m). In the midst of a holm-oak grove with a few common oaks, we leave the cart track behind and take another turn-off to the right; at this turn-off there are some large stone blocks. Further up, we pass underneath a small electricity line. This is the old bridle path to Pujol. On the right, on the stone wall, a rustic-style district boundary cross can be seen which dates from the year 1622. The front shows the face of Christ and the back, that of the Virgin Mary. We descend the old road among common and holm



*The silhouette of the Geganta Adormida*

oaks. Further down, we pass two paths leading off down to the left. A few metres further on, the road widens into a gentle downhill slope. After a short time a path appears on the left and further on, another on the right that comes from a field of crops. We continue along the route on the left; the view to the south-west is of the silhouette formed by the peaks of the Peracalç mountain range, known as Geganta Adormida (the Sleeping Giantess). Shortly after, we link up to another forest trail that comes from a field of crops on the left, from which an electricity pylon emerges. From this crossroads, the route again takes the bridle path which continues to the right among stone borders. It passes underneath an electricity line and the forest track appears once more which has to be followed to the right. We reach the road that leads to the village of Pujol.

8. (43 min) ROAD TO PUJOL (860 m). We follow the road to the left until we come across a route indicator. The route continues along the road to end up in Pujol.

8.1. (12 min) PUJOL (830 m). Going to the lower part of the village, on the right-hand side of the square, there is a good panoramic view of the entry to the Collegats gorge.

8.2. From the square, the route returns along the main road to the route indicator.

9. From the indicator, we take the Cortscastell road along a broad forest track that descends to the right. When the track ends, there is a common-oak grove on the right and a holm-oak grove on the left. After a minute, the route passes a track that leads to a field of crops along a path off to the left. The route leads under a high voltage line just as it reaches a cart track to be followed on the right; there is an electricity pylon in the middle of a field of crops with some farmhouse ruins on the left. Then we reach the local road that leads to Cortscastell.

10. (1 h.) ROAD TO CORTSCASTELL (820 m). Continuing to the left, the route reaches Cortscastell.

11. (1 h 8 min) CORTSCASTELL (805 m). On the left is the old cheese dairy owned by the only family living in the village. Very nearby is the 12th-century church of Santa Anna. The building, with a single rectangular nave, has undergone numerous alterations. The route returns to the local Cortscastell road and we follow it to the Gerri de la Sal road at Pobleta de Bellveí.

12. (1 h 23 min) ROAD FROM GERRI DE LA SAL TO POBLETA DE BELLVEÍ (863 m). The route continues along the road towards the left and after some 350 m passes by a path to the right. Following the main road, some 300 m further on, we take the right-hand turn to the track leading to Mas d'Enjaume.

13. (1 h 38 min) MAS D'ENJAUME (900 m). We cross the access road to the farmhouse, passing alongside the fountain, drinking trough and washing trough and pass by another road off to the right. From here, there are panoramic views of Peramea. A little further on, we

pass by another track that is another access to the farmhouse. Four minutes later, the route leaves this road to continue along another to the left until it links up with a forest trail that we must follow to the right. On the left there is an access to some crop fields.

14. (1 h 47 min) After passing under a major power line, the route passes the old road off to the left that leads to Balestui. There is an indicator at the turn-off. The route continues towards Peramea and we pass by the Baell creek which crosses the Pla de Corts (830 m). We leave the cart track and continue towards the left along the old bridle path. Further up, this crosses a cart track; the Font Vella (old fountain) lies off to the left some 25 metres further up. We pass in front of a gate and continue along the bridle path.

15. (2 h 2 min). On reaching Peramea, we access the square on the left.

**Cart track:** Track allowing carts to pass.

**Bridle path:** A path that allows the passing of pack animals loaded with panniers and tools, but not the passage of carts.

**District boundary cross:** A monumental stone cross placed near to the entrance of some towns or some monasteries or along roadsides.

## 2. Route around Pla de Corts

**Departure point:** Cortscastell.

**Arrival point:** Cortscastell.

**Route:** Cortscastell - Montcortès – Bretui – Cortscastell.

**Duration:** 2 h 5 min.

**Elevation difference along main route:** 270 m.

**Length of main route:** 7.4 km approx.

**Difficulty:** level 2 (walks of moderate distance and elevation differences, below 14 km and less than 500 m elevation difference).

**Description:** Circular route around the fertile plateau of Pla de Corts. From Cortscastell the route ascends to Montcortès, from where the Montcortès Lake can be reached. The return route goes from Montcortès to Bretui and from here descends once more to Cortscastell.

**Recommendations:** This route can be followed at any time of the year. In summer, however, hiking is not recommended during the hours when the sun is strongest (between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.).

1. From Peramea the journey can be made by car to Cortscastell, where the route begins. The village is reached by taking the road that leads to Pobleta de Bellveí. Between Peramea and Bretui there is a very well-signed crossroads that indicates the road to Cortscastell.

2. CORTSCASTELL (805 m). The village is inhabited by a single family that previously crafted sheep's milk cheese. From the square, the bridle path is taken which passes alongside the church of Santa Anna, built in the 12th century. The building, with a single rectangular nave, has undergone numerous alterations. The route passes a road on the left and takes a path that goes uphill in a north-west direction. Another path is passed on the left. The ascent has several bends and then continues next to a stone border alongside abandoned fields.

3. (12 min) FONT DEL CAÛC (930 m). A spring on ground level that floods the surrounding area which is quite damp. Further on, an old oak indicates the path to follow. Afterwards, within a common-oak grove, a small path appears on the left. The route descends to the stream which we have to cross then turns to the right, leaving behind a path to the left. A steep ascent follows and we pass another path on the left. On arriving at a cart track, the route continues to the left through the oak trees. Four minutes later, we leave the cart track behind to continue along a path to the right. Another stream between stone walls is crossed and beyond, the village of Montcortès can be seen nearby.

4. 38 min. MONTCORTÈS (1050 m). After passing a footpath on the right, we enter the village reaching a small square with a fountain, a drinking trough and a washing trough. Continuing uphill along the street, we reach another small square that has a sign to the village of Bretui. From Montcortès we can visit the lake of Karstic origin of the same name.

4.1. The route continues to the left along a cemented roadway towards the Montcortès lake. When we reach the main road, we continue to the left.

4.2. (12 min) Crossroads (1,050 m). From here, there are panoramic views of the lake. The route continues along the asphalted main road on the right and passes by a viewpoint. We continue along the main road which we leave upon reaching a fountain with some tables. We then continue along a path on the left which descends among orchards to the lake.



*Montcortès Lake*

4.3. (22 min) MONTCORTÈS LAKE (1025 m). The route reaches one of the lake's jetties. We continue along a path on the right, always bordering the lake until it reaches a broad forest track, at a crossing by the lake's southern bank. Here there is a picnic area with a fountain and a place for camping. The area surrounding the lake is covered in reeds where some aquatic birds breed. The route then returns to the village leaving the trail on the right. We reach the main road to Montcortès and continue right towards the village. The entrance to the village is along the same road taken to the lake.

5. From the square, we follow the sign indicating Bretui, passing alongside the church. Back on the main road, (1065 m), we take a path that descends to the right. After leaving behind the last houses in the village, the route follows an old path on the left. Later we pass alongside two centuries-old oak trees and afterwards another path from the right joins the route then leaves once more, also on the right. The route continues along the bridle path on the same level and between stone walls.

6. (1 h 10 min) BRETUI (1060 m). Main road next to a farmhouse (1050 m) which we follow towards the right. After passing by a spring that is just below the road and next to some poultry yards, it passes the road that leads to Bretui on the left.

7. We continue along the main road and having passed Bretui, on the right a route direction sign appears that leads to a bridle path originating in the Vallfosca. This path was used by traders from all over the Pyrenees to reach Gerri de la Sal in search of its famed white product.

8. (1 h 25 min) When the asphalted road is again reached, we continue along it (some 1.5 km) towards Peramea until we reach the crossroads of the track that leads to Cortscastell.

9. We take this track to the right and it leads us (2 h 5 min) to CORTSCASTELL (805 m).

**Cart track:** Track allowing carts to pass.

**Bridle path:** A path that allows the passing of pack animals loaded with panniers and tools, but not the passage of carts.

**Footpath:** Path only wide enough for one person to pass after another.

### 3. Camí de la Sal (The Salt Route)

**Departure point:** Gerri de la Sal.

**Arrival point:** Sant Antoni Salt Beds.

**Route:** Gerri de la Sal – Sant Antoni Salt beds – Gerri de la Sal.

**Duration:** 17 min.

**Elevation difference:** 30 m.

**Distance:** 1 km approx.

**Difficulty:** Level 1 (short walks or walks that can easily be shortened, with little elevation difference and without difficulties).

**Description:** Linear excursion that crosses the main road and leads deep into the salt beds area of Sant Antoni.

**Recommendations:** Excursion suitable for everyone. The elevation difference is minimal and the distance short. It can be followed all year round.



*The Alfolí (salt warehouse)  
at Gerri de la Sal*

1. PLAÇA DEL MERCADAL (614 m). The main building on this square is the salt warehouse or Alfolí; the small annex building on its right was the stall where salt was sold to the public. The square also offers a broad panoramic view of the Gerri valley with the Santa Maria church in the background. The route begins on Carrer Sant Sebastià where joined buildings comprising a threshing shed, dwelling and straw loft can be seen. A little further ahead, there is another threshing shed with a straw loft and poultry yard. At the end of the road, on the right, lies the Baix Pallars town hall and carrying straight on, the main road is reached.

2. (3 min) N-260 MAIN ROAD (607 m). We cross the road in the direction of Pobla de Segur to reach a small clearing surrounded by trees. We cross this small wood and a small abandoned path appears that leads to the Sant Antoni salt beds and along which salt was formerly taken to the Alfolí using draught animals.

3. (8 min) SANT ANTONI SALT BEDS (585 m). The path runs through vegetation that has recolonised the terrain. Some 150 m along the path, we reach a crossroads. Following straight on leads to the old extension made to the path to allow an engine-driven trailer to pass. The route continues along the original path which makes a 180° turn. On the right the salt beds, now abandoned and covered in grass, can be seen, and in the background is the riverside forest. Some 175 m further on, the journey ends at the salt beds themselves.

4. The return to Gerri is along the same path.

#### 4. El Roser Salt Beds route

**Departure point:** Gerri de la Sal.

**Arrival point:** El Roser Salt Beds.

**Route:** Gerri de la Sal – El Roser Salt Beds – Gerri de la Sal.

**Duration:** 32 min.

**Elevation difference along main route:** 40 m.

**Length of main route:** 1.9 km approx.

**Difficulty:** Level 1 (short walks or walks that can easily be shortened, with little elevation difference and without difficulties).

**Description:** Linear excursion that follows the course of the Noguera Pallaresa.

**Recommendations:** Excursion suitable for everyone. The elevation difference is minimal and the distance short. It can be followed all year round.

1. PLAÇA DEL MERCADAL (614 m). The main building on this square is the Salt warehouse or Alfolí; the small annex building on its right was the stall where salt was sold to the public. The square also offers a broad panoramic view of the Gerri valley with the Santa Maria church in the background. The route takes Carrer de La Pau, at the end of which is the Torre de la Presó (12th C. prison tower) which lies among houses and farmyards. If we follow on to the very top, we reach the Torre de Guaita Sud (Southern Watch Tower) which has walls of a considerable size.

2. (1 min) TORRE DE GUAITA SUD (Southern Watch Tower) (625 m). From here we can observe the network of narrow streets, the staggered arrangement and superposing of the houses and their façades. The route descends once more along Carrer de La Pau until it reaches a wall over the main road, i.e. to Carrer del Mig, where a building can be seen to emerge as a prolongation of the wall, against which it is built. Its arcade is a public communication route that links Carrer de La Pau with Carrer del Mig. The route continues along Carrer del Mig and reaches the main road.

3. (3 min) N-260 MAIN ROAD (602 m). We follow the main road upriver towards the Raval del Roser area but if we cross the road and head directly towards the river, we enter the walled town, originally the centre of the village. Immediately following this we reach the entrance to the village car park.

4. (6 min) VILLAGE CAR PARK ENTRANCE (599 m). From here, looking upwards and northwards, we can see the Torre de Guaita Nord (northern watch tower) which projects out above the houses on Raval del Roser and which dates back to mediaeval times.

4.1. A path exits the car park entrance in an upriver direction and leads to the southern area of the old El Roser salt beds. This path was used to take the salt from the salt beds to the Alfolí (salt warehouse).



*The El Roser salt beds and the Mola (power station) in the background*



4.2. (1 min) EL ROSER SALT BEDS, SOUTHERN AREA (592 m). Here we can contemplate the different features of the salt beds that are still preserved today: the spring and the saltwater pump, the reservoirs, the irrigation ditch and channel, the retaining walls of the river on the opposite bank, etc. The return journey around the salt beds has a total length of some 500 metres.

4.3. The return back to the car park entrance is along the same track.

5. The route continues up the main road towards Sort, passing the southern area of the El Roser salt beds on the right. After some 180 metres, a road appears on the left that leads to Peramea, but we do not take it. Instead, we continue along the same road towards Sort. After another 180 metres, the building of la Mola can be seen on the left.

6. (12 min) LA MOLA (598 m). In former times, the mini-power station inside this building supplied Gerri and other villages with electricity. The route leaves the main road and takes a road on the right that leads to the river bank and to the northern area of the El Roser salt beds which lie on the right. In the year 2000, Sr. Felipe produced salt here for the last time. The path we have taken was also used to take salt from the salt bed to the Alfolí (salt warehouse).

7. (16 min) FELIPE SALT BEDS (593 m). At a certain point the path makes a sharp 180° turn and ends a little further on.

8. The same route is taken back to the departure point.

## 5. Enseu Gorge Route

**Departure point:** Gerri de la Sal.

**Arrival point:** Gerri de la Sal.

**Route:** Gerri de la Sal – Enseu Gorge – Gerri de la Sal.

**Duration:** 25 min.

**Elevation difference along main route:** 45 m.

**Length of main route:** 1.4 km approx.

**Difficulty:** Level 1 (short walks or walks that can easily be shortened, with little elevation difference and without difficulties)

**Description:** Excursion that follows the main road to Reig, passing by the Santa Maria church. Without turning off, it goes around the El Cabanot mountain and reaches a bridge that crosses the Enseu tributary. The return to Gerri is along the stream's banks.

**Recommendations:** Excursion suitable for everyone. The elevation difference is minimal and the distance short. It can be followed all year round.

1. GERRI DE LA SAL (600 m). Village declared a "Cultural Asset of National Interest" owing to the important and varied heritage preserved there. Around the village itself highlights include: The mediaeval structure of the village in the form of a walled town, the Sant Feliu or Morisques square (central hub of the walled town) the Prison tower (13th C.), the northern and southern mediaeval watch towers, the salt warehouse and some of the village houses.

2. From the Plaça de Sant Feliu, which has some notable buildings, arcades, arches of different sizes, splendid balconies with wrought iron railings and tiled gable roofs, we begin the descent, passing through a gateway (tunnel) and leading to the bridge of mediaeval origin (11th C.) which has been repaired on numerous occasions. Today, it is the only access route to the Santa Maria church from Gerri.

3. (1 min) MEDIAEVAL BRIDGE (596 m). Once we have crossed the bridge, the route follows the road upwards towards the old nursery in Gerri, whose purpose was to reforest the area's basins, passing on the right a small wood that covers the final section of the Enseu tributary.

4. (4 min) GERRI NURSERY (600 m). Once we reach the nursery we must take a right turn, crossing the stream via a small bridge and reaching the nursery entrance. Today, the nursery is an "Information Point on the Natural Areas in the Pre-Pyrenean Mountain Ranges of the Pallars" and it shows the main fauna, botanical and botanical-cultural elements of this region.

4.1. From the nursery entrance it is possible to start a route that ascends the right bank of the Enseu tributary. On the right of the path, of low difficulty level, we can visit the nursery's useful plants garden. On the left of the path we can see the final part of the immense engineering work carried out to correct the water course and forestry of the Enseu gorge in the early 20th century.

4.2. A little further up, some dark magmatic rocks rise up on the right, these are ophitic rocks, also known as el Cabanot. On these rocks are the recreations of 5 large birds typical of this region: the bearded vulture, the black vulture, the Griffon vulture, the Egyptian vulture and the golden eagle.

4.3. (5 min) On reaching the upper part of the route a rest area can be found.

4.4. The return to Gerri is along the signed path that descends the other bank of the stream.

5. Following the road (main road to Reig), a gentle ascent begins that affords a view of the Santa Maria church (12th C.) looking back, along with the valley that is home to Gerri de la Sal.

6. (11 min) The route reaches a crossroads (637 m) where the right turn-off leads to Baén. We must take the left turn-off. This point offers very good views and is a place where the salt workers of Gerri extracted clays to repair different elements of the reservoirs.

7. Some metres further on another crossroads appears and here the left turn must also be taken.

8. From here on, the road begins a gentle descent. Following the same path, the El Cabanot mountain can be seen opposite. Some 120 m further on, on the border of the path, we can observe the set of marls, clays and gypsums of varied colours called Keuper.

9. After some 5 min. (16 min) we reach another crossroads.

9.1. If we continue to the right, the path leads to the village of Enseu (760 m) which lies less than 2 km away. This is a very flat forest trail that leads upstream along the Enseu stream and runs through spots of great beauty.

9.2. The return to the crossroads is along the same path.

10. We take the road on the left which leads to the nearby small bridge that crosses the Enseu stream. This place was also a point for clay extraction. On the right, up the mountainside but very nearby, there is a clear view of a rocky limestone formation.

11. SMALL BRIDGE (626 m). The small bridge is crossed and a waterfall that feeds the stream can be seen opposite.

12. The return to the Reig main road is along one of the stream's banks. En route, on the left, we can see the other face of El Cabanot and the useful plants garden.



*The church and the valley of Gerri de la Sal*

13. (21 min) ROAD TO REIG – GERRI NURSERY (600 m). The return to Gerri is along the same path as at the start.

## 6. Mare de Déu d'Arboló Sanctuary Route

**Departure point:** Gerri de la Sal.

**Arrival point:** Mare de Déu d'Arboló Sanctuary.

**Route:** Gerri de la Sal – Arboló – Gerri de la Sal.

**Duration:** 1 h 10 min.

**Elevation difference along main route:** 60 m.

**Length of main route:** 4 km approx.

**Difficulty:** Level 1 (short walks or walks that can easily be shortened, with little elevation difference and without difficulties). Signposted route.

**Description:** Linear excursion that follows the course of the Noguera Pallaresa.

**Recommendations:** Excursion suitable for everyone. The elevation difference is minimal and the distance short. It can be followed all year round.

1. GERRI DE LA SAL (600 m). Upon leaving Gerri, the route begins just after the bridge of mediaeval origins.

2. Here, there is a sign that indicates the way to the Santa Maria church (12th C.), 150 m on the right, and the Mare de Déu d'Arboló sanctuary, on the left.

3. After a brief visit to the Santa Maria church, we follow the latter path. It borders the river in a northern direction among riverbank vegetation of varying density.

4. (35 min. approx.) MARE DE DÉU D'ARBOLÓ SANCTUARY (640 m). A building of Lombard Romanesque style from the late 12th and early 13th centuries, located on a vantage point over the Noguera Pallaresa with views of the Arboló ravine.

4.1. The route can be lengthened 250 m further to the north, by descending to the hanging wooden bridge (604 m) which leads to the N-260, upriver of Gerri.

5. The same route is taken back to the departure point.



*Mare de Déu d'Arboló  
Sanctuary*