

Natural landscape

This trail is a transition between the southern slopes and the easternmost edge of Montsant. The giant cliffs and the rocky landscape of the sunny side and the topmost part of the mountain range give way to lush, shady woodland. The scrubland with scattered woodland areas becomes a forest of oak and Austrian pine.

Clot del Moloner [5.3]: Karstic in formation, in the past this was a pasture area for herds of sheep and goats. Until the first third of the 20th Century, cereal crops were grown on these plains. **Cova Santa [5.4]:** Legend has it that this cave was inhabited by the first hermits of Montsant. It is a cave with formations of calcium carbonate and several halls. **Roca Corbatera [5.5]:** The name is reminiscent of the name of one of the large bird species of Montsant (corb, or raven), which are easy to see. This is the topmost point of the mountain range, and on it there is a monument in memory of the mountaineer Artur Osona and a trig point.

Cultural heritage

Sant Joan del Codolar [5.1]: (750 m) A hermitic spot in the Serra de Montsant in which people dedicated to prayer and meditation have settled since Mediaeval times, seeking isolation from the outside world. Beside the small shelter used as a hermitage, the Carthusians built a chapel in around 1499. **Chapel of Sant Joan Petit:** A small chapel on the access track. **Grau de Montsant [5.2]:** The old drove road, often used by the people of Cornudella. **Font del Manyano [5.6]:** Hidden between box shrubs, this spring has been used as a watering hole for herds of animals, and a wooden basin is still visible. **Grau Gran [5.7]:** Today, a track passes here that has made the old drove road that climbed to the Serra Major and led from Albarca to Cabacés disappear. **Camí de la Llisera [5.8]:** Path which traces a route above a stratum of rock.



Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Josep Gener.



Iniciativa: Parc Natural de Montsant. Comenys, Casa d'Oficis, Serenades de Montsant i Cornudella. Writing, coordination and control: Pedrenca Pedagogia Ambiental.

TRAIL 5 CORNUDELLA

Sant Joan del Codolar
Grau de Montsant
Cova Santa
Roca Corbatera
Pla del Grau
Grau Gran
Camí de la Llisera



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Medi Ambient
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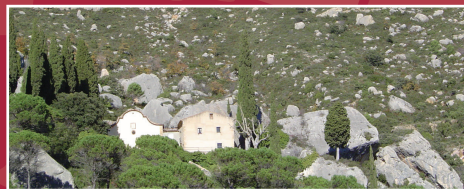
A trail on the southern slopes of Montserrat, recommended for those who want to contemplate nature and take spectacular photographs.

The chapel of Sant Joan del Codolar is the departure and return point for a circuit which takes the walker on a route through the towering cliffs that surround it. The ascending stretch follows some of the traditional access routes to the Serra Major. After that, the walker can appreciate the powerful nature of the cliffs of Sant Joan from above and reach the highest point, the Roca Corbatera (1,163 m). The return journey takes in a good part of Camí (path) de la Llisera, one of the most spectacular, which, taking a route exactly like a contour line, follows the skirt of the mountain above the same rock stratum for several kilometres. This excursion can be completed in a morning and is suitable for all types of walker, although on some parts of the trail those who are not accustomed to walking in the mountains could suffer.

The walk can be done at any time of year. If you choose to do it in summer, it is best to avoid the sunniest hours of the day. In summer, the walk can be started early in the morning, or from mid-afternoon onwards. Not to be done in case of fog. To visit the Cova Santa (Holy Cave), a torch is required. Take care if the rocks are damp.

Technical description

- TOTAL DISTANCE:
7.1 km
- TOTAL TIME:
3 h (rest stops and recommended visits not included)
- DIFFICULTY LEVEL:
HIGH
- TOTAL ASCENT:
410 m



Chapel of Sant Joan del Codolar. Mireia Vilamala.

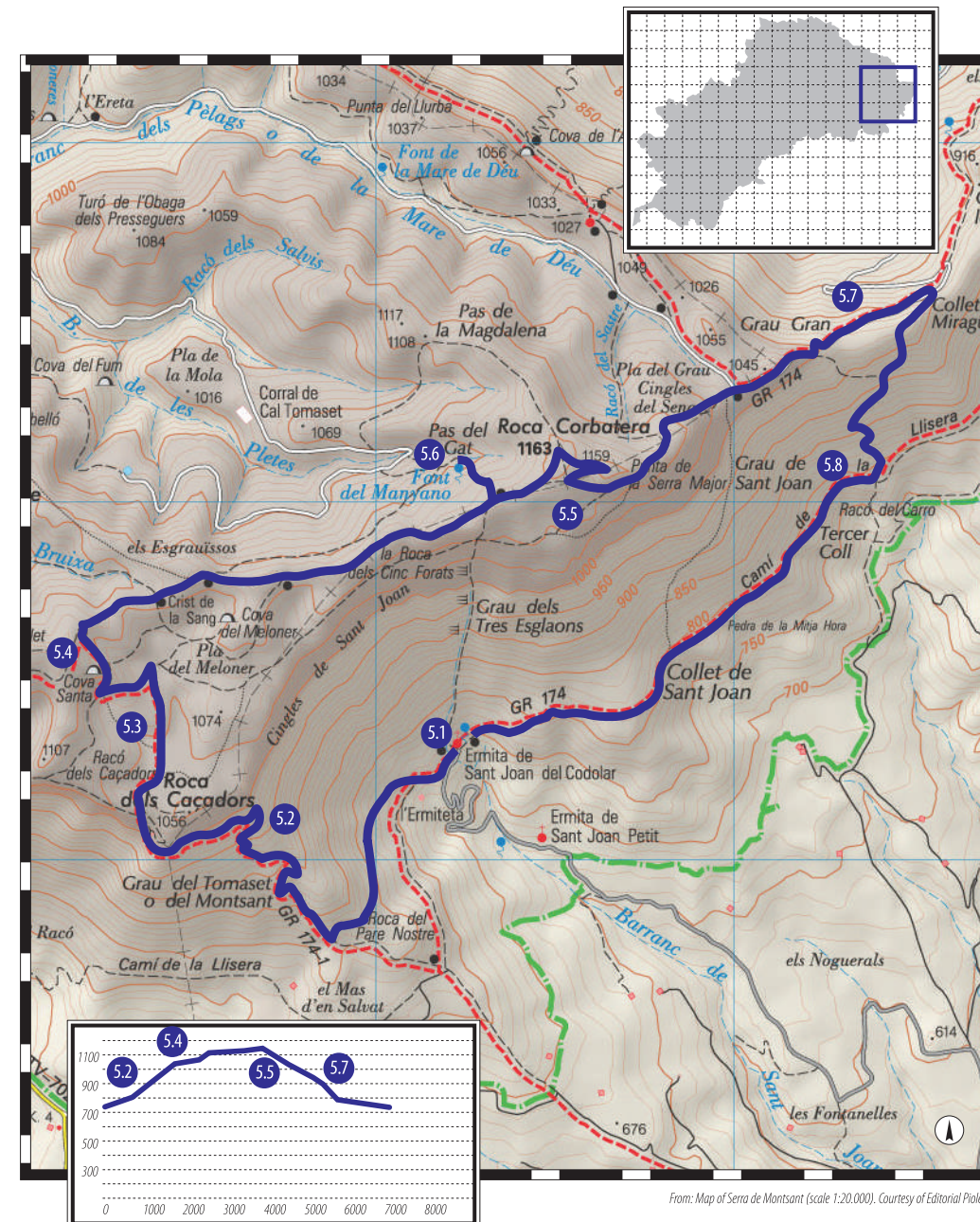
Trail description

The departure point is the **chapel of Sant Joan del Codolar [5.1]**, which can be reached by car from Cornudella along a cement track.

A GR (long hike) trail (red and white marks) leaves from the bottom of the car park area. After a short while there is a fork in the track, at which point you should leave it and continue to the right in order to find the path, also a GR route (GR 174-1), of the **Grau de Montsant [5.2]**, where the easy-to-follow ascent begins. On entering the **Clot del Moloner [5.3]**, a path branches off to the left that climbs up to the Grau del Carabassal: leave this path behind. Walk further into the valley, always taking the most-trodden path. In sight of the **Cova del Moloner**, follow a path that goes off to the left. After a short while, around half way up, you will see in a very well-used space the half-hidden entrance to the **Cova Santa [5.4]**. To reach the Serra Major, climb a little further and then the path levels out to the right. Once at the top of the ridge, continue to the right as far as the first signpost. Continue along the spine of the hill. Before arriving at the **Roca Corbatera [5.5]** you will come to a signpost indicating the path to the **Font del Manyano** (spring) [5.6]. Take the path to the left in order to reach the topmost point. To descend, return to the scarp and follow the track that leads above the rock and then descends to the **Pla del Grau** plain. From here, follow to the right the indications for the **Grau Gran [5.7]** until you reach Collet de Miragüelos, where you can see an iron cross on the hill. There, a pile of stones on the right, on top of a small, bare slope, marks the beginning of the path that links up with **La Llisera [5.8]**. Care must be taken not to miss this last path, which is visible from some distance, but at the turnoff is almost hidden by vegetation. After a fair stretch, you will come to the end of the trail.



Cliffs of Sant Joan Mireia Vilamala.



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