

ITINERARY: CAPÇANES - CALÀS PATH - FORAT DE LA ROCA DE LLABERIA - SALT DE L'OLLA DEL GEGANT - LLABERIA - LA FOU - CAPÇANES

This route starts in front of the farming cooperative of Capçanes, at the entrance of the village. Follow the Llaberia street and when the row of houses finishes (1), take the concrete path (PR-C 91) into the valley of La Fou. At the signposted path intersection (2), take the path on the left. Keep walking up along the track until you see some vineyards and another signposted intersection (3). Continue on the path with yellow lines, which first goes along a firebreak. After a 30-minute short but intense climb you will be at the Forat de la Roca de Llaberia. Take the path on the left which leads to the peak (4). From there, go down towards the hamlet of Llaberia. You will find the gully of El Tortó (5) just after the descent (5). You should follow it down until you get to the Salt de l'Olla del Gegant (6), which is worth a visit. The route goes up the gully and then there is a path on the left which comes out from the torrent (7). Walk on until you find GR 7 (8). If you go to the left, the path leads to Llaberia. Continue to the right towards Capçanes and Tivissa. You will descend along the cobbled path of Portell del Tortó and cross the water course of the spring El Rodorall. At the path intersection (9), take PR-C 91 down to Capçanes. After the spring of La Mata, take the track (10) to the left. Further on, leave the GR (11) and continue to the right on the PR towards Racó de la Sendal and Capçanes. The path slowly descends before reaching a field of olive trees. Go through it and take the old path that leads to a concrete track (12). Take it to the right in the direction to Capçanes. After crossing the gully of La Vall, you will find the concrete path of Calàs (2) again, which you have walked in the beginning of the excursion. Follow it until you arrive at the village.

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**MIDE** (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	5 h	Harshness in natural environment	1
Accumulated ascent	812 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	2
Maximum gradient	501 m	Walking difficulty	2
Horizontal distance	16,5 km	Effort required	3
Type of route	circular	Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree Source: www.euromide.info	



## FOLLOWING THE STEPS OF GUERRILLA FIGHTER CARRASCLET

### CAPÇANES

#### THE GULLY OF LA VALL AND THE OLD HAMLET OF LLABERIA, A SCENIC EXCURSION TO SERRA DE LLABERIA

The route starts in Capçanes (Comarca del Priorat) and will take you from the cool valleys to the peaks of Serra de Llaberia, where you will enjoy splendid views over a vast land. Following the path of the guerrilla fighter Carrascllet, signposted as the PR-C 91, and other ancestral paths, you will ascend to the Forat de la Roca de Llaberia, a privileged vantage point over the cultivated plain and the mountain ranges surrounding it. You will descend to the gully del Tortó. From there, you can walk to the Olla del Gegant and see a waterfall coming through the rock wall, which is over fifteen metres high. You will also visit the hamlet of Llaberia, the old population area located just in the centre of Serra de Llaberia, which is uninhabited at present. You will then go down an old cobbled path towards the gully of La Vall and follow Carrascllet's steps on the way back to Capçanes.



## LA SERRA DE LLABERIA

Serra de Llaberia is part of the Serralada Prelitoral (Pre-Coastal Mountain Range), between Muntanyes de Prades and Vandellòs and Tivissa Mountains. It comprises the comarques (areas) of El Priorat, Baix Camp and Ribera d'Ebre, and has peaks which are more than 900 m high from sea level. At present, a part of the Serra de Llaberia is an Area of Natural Interest (Espai d'Interès Natural, EIN). The predominant vegetation is strictly Mediterranean, consisting mainly of scrubs of pine trees and holm-oaks, and communities of scrubby environments, with some dry oak woods and yew groves isolated in the shady sides (both are typical of Eurosiberian climate). The fauna is very rich and diverse. The presence of invertebrates stands out. They find refuge in the numerous caves and karstic ghylls.

The human settlement is located particularly in the surroundings of Serra de Llaberia, with an only population settled area in the rugged inland, the village of Llaberia. Due to the concerns of the people in the area, the town councils of Capçanes, Collejou, Marçà, la Torre de Fontaubella, Pradip and Tivissa set up the Consorci per a la Protecció i Gestió de l'Espai Protegit d'Interès Natural de la Serra de Llaberia in 2004. This organization aims at preserving, revaluing and managing the natural environment comprehensively. The Consorci has a technical team who have already carried out several studies and actions in order to promote its popularization, knowledge and conservation.

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Capçanes is a village in the region of comarca del Priorat. It has an area of about 22,21 square kilometres and about 400 inhabitants. The place where the village and the northernmost part of the municipal district are located is quite flat, in comparison to the South, where the foothills of Serra de Llaberia are.

It is the hometown of Pere Joan Barceló, known as Carrasclat, a guerilla fighter who fought against the Bourbons during the Guerra de Successió (war). When the war was over, he continued his resistance until he exiled to Hungary, where he died while he was fighting against the French Borbonic troops at the age of 61.

The origin of his nickname is *carrascla*, a type of coal made of holm oak wood that his father produced and he and his brother were in charge to transport to Reus and Falset.

The use of holm oak wood to make coal was quite common on Serra de Llaberia. In fact, the places where coal was made, the *carboneres*, can still be recognized nowadays. They are flat areas where grass does not grow and earth is still black. You will easily recognize one of them, forming a shelf, on the short but intense way up towards the Forat de la Roca de Llaberia.

The Forat de la Roca de Llaberia is a sheltered viewpoint located just below the peak of the mountain, as a consequence of the karstification of the lime rocks on the Serra. Mainly goats and trekkers use it now.

The itinerary will take you to the hamlet of Llaberia, a small settled area which belongs to the vast municipal district of Tivissa, in the comarca of Ribera d'Ebre. The 12-Century Romanesque church of Sant Joan Baptista stands out. Museu del Bast is also worth a visit. *Bast* (packsaddle) was an old method of transport that used draft animals to carry loads. From here, you can also go on a family hike up to La Miranda (this route has been published by the Consorci de la Serra de Llaberia), where the meteorological radar is.

Going by the Portell del Tortó, you will walk on a cobbled path with imposing borders made of dry-stone that help overcome the gradient with several bends. In the past, these paths were the basic network for communication and goods transportation. They are still preserved thanks to the playful use trekkers make of them.

When you get to the level of the gully of La Vall, you can walk to La Fou, a shady and cool spot in summer, where it is worth stopping and drinking from the spring La Mata. Further down are El Racó and Coves del Sendal, a humid place with plenty of vegetation, where water has shaped rocks in a very imaginative manner. The crop fields near the village remind us of the intense agricultural activity that Serra de Llaberia had in the past.

