

Visit to Salenys Gorges

Departing from the former Carrilet railway station passing via Font Picant, where the water is rich in carbonic anhydride, and the Maria Ribes springs, with normal water, towards Romanyà, in the Les Gavarres massif. Passing via the Panedes spring, with ferruginous water, we will see the Salenys Gorges and we will cross to the other side of the river using bridges and walkways.

ROUTE – POINTS OF INTEREST

The walk's route covers 10 km and takes around **3 hours**.

We will leave from the former narrow gauge CARRILET station in Bell-lloc. This train went from Sant Feliu de Guíxols to Girona. The route started up in 1892 and the line was closed in 1969. Currently the formalities are being processed to recover it as a bike track. The stop was called Bell-lloc – Font Picant and there was a restaurant, which is still open to this day. This station was built in 1890 and the restaurant in 1895.

The first visit will be to the FONT PICANT, with ferruginous water, and next to it, FONT DE MARIA RIBES, with normal water. In 1906, the water from Font Picant was first put on the market with reasonable success, but at the end of the 1960s it could no longer compete with new commercialisation techniques and it is no longer bottled.

We will take a path to get to the former train line and we will pass by the PEDRA RAMERA standing stone. In 1302 it became a landmark marking the border between Panedes, Solius and Bell-lloc. The stone had fallen and in 1991, a group of people from Santa Cristina and Sant Feliu de Guíxols raised it. We will follow the path and pass by one of the best preserved bridges along the Carrilet. We will reach the path which leads to the former and currently unused BOTTLING PLANT for Salenys water. It was very important in its day.

We will see the DE SALENYS spring, where the water comes out red and tastes of iron.

The path runs alongside the river and we reach the PLAT SPRING, located in the middle of the Salenys riverbed. This spring forms part of the set of Salenys springs. The water emerges by expanding through the cracks in the rock and accumulates in a small cavity. The Salenys riverbed was formerly called the Prunerres riverbed.

We will walk along the edge of the riverbed and after a while we will find the affluent of the Panedes stream. Afterwards, a hanging bridge takes us to the other side of the riverbed. We will cross it a couple more times to arrive at the first well called EL POU DE LES GORGES (Gorges well). Legend tells that it is a bottomless well.

Others say that a long rope was dropped down and it did not manage to touch the bottom. The stream of water which leads to this well is very narrow, with very vertical walls.

Then we will go back up the river on the right hand side helped by rails fixed to the rock and iron stairs bolted to the floor. A small bridge takes us over to the left hand side. We will pass via the second waterfall and cross the river again. A few metres away and returning to the left hand side of the riverbed, we will find the third waterfall. We will go up helped by a rail and steps fixed on to the rock and at the top we will cross the riverbed. During the ascent we will see several pools of standing water in the river. When we reach the waterfall, we will walk round it and return to the river via small steps cut out of the rock to compensate for the steep slope.

After a while we cross the river again and we are in the DEVIL'S STAIRS (ESCALES DEL DIABLE).

They will help us to get round the fifth waterfall which is 55 metres high. It is called the SALT DEL LLOP (wolf's jump). When the river brings water, it drops from the top and half way down it separates and drops down one side forming a horsetail.

The ascent is quite steep but it is worth the effort to see the surrounding landscape. Once on the top, a rail and a wooden walkway finish off the route around the Salenys Gorges in the Pregavarres area.

On the return journey we will stop at the spring FONT DE PANEDES, where in former times there was a small construction to fill bottles with this ferruginous water and then distribute it around the neighbouring villages with a cart. At the foot of the spring, there was a machine to seal the bottles.

We will take the path along the riverbed again which will return us to our vehicles.