

## Visit to the Iberian village of Plana Basarda

Departure from Mas Llaurador where we will leave the cars. We will take what is known as the eucalyptus path to the GR 92 which will take us to Plana Basarda. We will visit the remains of the former Iberian village, full of holes and steps cut into the rock. We can enjoy a splendid panoramic view of the whole valley (Vall d'Aro), Pedralta, the Carcaixells, Romanyà and the Pyrenees. In order to go down we will use a former cart track which covers the whole mountain range, where you can see the marks left by carts on the rocks as they passed by.

A look at the Roca Tuna or en Malallarga caves will bring us once again to the end of the excursion.

### ROUTE – POINTS OF INTEREST

The walk covers 6 km and takes around **2 and a half hours**.

We will start the route at Mas Can Llaurador. It is a country house in the neighbourhood of Sa Tuna documented since 1712. The GR 92 passes close by.

100 m from the house we follow the GR 92 which marks the way up to Montclar. The path nearly always passes through eucalyptus trees, to finally arrive at Plana Basarda, a clearly marked hill sloping off to the east.

The vegetation covers the whole area, making access difficult and covering a lot of the remains of the old village. A path gives us access to a small cave excavated in the rock, with many stones which formed part of the surrounding wall whose foundations can still be seen.

Pathways lead us to different passageways where there are holes or storerooms, excavated in the rock, some of which are full of water and others are partly ruined. Some are clean and can be seen clearly, but others are hidden in the thick vegetation. The most probable explanation for their use is to hold water, although some believe that they were to store grain.

In several excavations Iberian ceramic objects have been found and some from the Roman period which can be seen in the museums in Llagostera and Sant Feliu. In the highest part of the mountain it is possible to see steps cut out of the rock.

Also in many parts which surround the village it is possible to see rounded holes, which seemed to have been used to hold poles to close off the village.

At the start, life in these settlements was very simple. They worked the low land and also lived from hunting, the two main means of survival. During the night and in the event of danger, they closed themselves inside the village, where they could survive for some time if they were attacked by another tribe. When the Romans invaded, they took over all these villages.

Towards 1700 this land was called "les planes d'en Basart", property of the Mas Basart country house in Santa Cristina and later belonged to Mas Calvet; but it always had the same name. It is certainly possible to believe that this is where the name "Plana Basarda" came from ('Basarda' means fear in Catalan).

The descent is mainly done along the ridge, using an old cart track where cart marks can be seen on the rock. On one side we can see the Carcaixells and on the other, the Can Creixell mountain and the Pedralta range. The path is obscured in some areas, but in others you can see magnificent panoramic views of all the different surrounding valleys.

Almost at the end of the track we find a rocky area called Sa Tuna, where facing north-east we find the entry to the Roca Tuna cave. Known by many as the en Malallarga cave, referring to someone who lived in it for a long time, it is a man-made cave, cut out of the rock. Its entry, measuring 70 cm, is completely round and has sufficient height inside for several people to stand up. The rock is made of granite and it is in the shape of a silo lying down. Its origin is probably a grave, which could be from the Bronze Age, around 3000 years ago. The mouth of the entry presents a 10 cm latch to fit the covering stone. In the surrounding area, remains have been found of stone axes, flint and ceramics.

Almost at the bottom of the valley we find the Can Llaurador standing stone. The first signs of this date from 1677. This type of stone is graphite biotitic granite and it is not found in the surrounding area, showing its great importance as it must have been transported from elsewhere.

It serves as a terminus between Solius and Santa Cristina, and in books it appears as "the lying standing stone of Can Llaurador" due to the proximity of the country house with the same name and because it was lying down for many years.

It was stood upright on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1994 thanks to work by Albert Gironès and with the collaboration of a group of volunteers. A commemorative plaque at its foot recalls the date and the fact it was raised.

[www.santacristina.net/turisme](http://www.santacristina.net/turisme)

[www.costabravacentre.org](http://www.costabravacentre.org)