

SANT ESTEVE DE PALAUTORDERA – TOUR OF THE CASTLES OF FLUVIÀ AND MONTCLÚS

Introduction: An interesting and lengthy combination of tracks in a squarish formation, exploring a number of different areas of the lower part of the Palautordera valley. The initial and intermediate stretches, as far as Santa Magdalena, are marked with signposts reading "Camí". From Santa Magdalena all the way back to Sant Esteve you should follow the signs marked "Clar de Lluna".

The star attraction on the route is the castle of Montclús: This ruined fortification rose to prominence in the 13th century, and is surrounded by the remains of an ancient Iberian settlement.

Guillermó, son of Guillem Umbert and Ramona, took the name of Guillem de Montclús. His son, Riambau, inherited the castles of Montclús, Miravalls and Les Agudes. Around 1277 Riambau de Montclús transferred his lands in Montseny and the Tordera basin to his uncle and patron Ramon de Cabrera. Montclús Castle, known as the "Castro Montecluso" had its own chapel and notary. Montclús was owned by the Cabrera dynasty until 1445. The castle building was renovated in 1508. In 1739 the Chapel of Santa Margarida was transferred to the fields in Parellada, where it now stands, as by this time the castle had already fallen into disrepair.



The castle reveals two quite separate sections. A circular tower was initially erected, and this would undoubtedly have had a hall measuring at least 5.5 metres wide by 6.2 metres long protruding from the northern side. This initial phase of construction would have taken place around the 10th century.

The second stage involved the ground floor fortification, more or less square in shape (22.5 m x 25 m), and this was built in the early Middle Ages. The construction is highly reminiscent of the city walls of Hostalric, suggesting that it was built in the 13th or 14th centuries.

The castle has two enclosures, upper and lower. The former houses the residential part and castle amenities, while the latter includes the defensive walls, with the loopholes and battlements.



Time: 2 hours 50 minutes

Climb: 180 metres up and the same distance back down.

Difficulty: Low - Moderate

Sources of water: You should set out carrying as much water as you need. There is a spring in Sant Esteve de Palautordera.

Reference points: * Sant Esteve de Palautordera * Sant Esteve de Palautordera cemetery * stream (the Reguissol)of Vallmanya * Can Benosi * Can Cruixent property development * Can Cisteller - Can Justina * Can Felip - Ca l'Encís - Can Jais * Reguissol stream * Mas Prat * Santa Margarida Plain * Fluvià Castle * Can Noguereta * Can Bonamic - Ca n'Auleda * Can Vila Nou * River Tordera * Montclús Castle * Ca n'Albert de Dalt * Santa Magdalena * Santa Magdalena Plain * Cal Picolí * Serra de Can Vilatorrt * Circ Cric * River Tordera * Sant Esteve de Palautordera.

Starting point: Sant Esteve de Palautordera. The square in front of the church, where the tourist information office stands. The village of Sant Esteve is right next to Santa Maria de Palautordera, accessible via the BV-5301.



Route: 0.00 h. Church of Sant Esteve de Palautordera. 210 metres. With your back to the church you will be facing the town hall. Head up the road running in parallel to the highway, to the left, a pedestrianised thoroughfare known as Carrer Major. Here you will find the first signs marked “Camí”. Where the flagstone section of Carrer Major ends and the road heads

downhill, then you should head over to the highway, cross this and continue on the left down "Carrer Joan Baixas", heading W-SW.

0.10 h. The street soon becomes a wide and entirely level earth path. “Camí” signs.

0.16 h. Head past Sant Esteve de Palautordera Cemetery . Continue along the path W-SW. You will soon be crossing over the Reguissol stream.

0.21 h. Fork. Take the right-hand branch, heading N-NW.

0.23 h. A track merges from the left. Continue along the wide path, heading N-NW.

0.30 h. Pass by a group of houses Can Benosi on the left. Here there is a further tarmac section. Continue straight on through the Can Cruixent property development .

0.33 h. Beyond the last of the houses the tarmac road ends in a T-junction. Head left, back onto the earth path.

0.37 h. Another path joins from the left: ignore this. Continue straight on, heading NW. “Camí” markings”.



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0.39 h. Another branch joins from the left. This should also be ignored.

0.40 h. Here you pass by the entrances to two private estates: Can Cisteller and Can Justina. Continue along the clearly visible, wide path marked "Camí".



0.41 h. Here you cross a tarmac highway at right angles.

0.43 h. A double fork on either side of the path, first to the right and then to the left. Ignore these turnings. In this section you will head past the old stone farmhouses of Can Felip, Ca l'Encís and Can Jais.

0.45 h. Cross over the Reguissol stream.

0.49 h. Mas Prat. Continue past the branch heading off to the right at a right angle. Continue straight on. This is an open section offering fine views of the surrounding farmland and the hillside of the Turó de l'Home in the distance.

0.52 h. Another branch joins the path at right angles from the right. Continue straight ahead. The path here enters the woods.

0.54 h. Fork. A track forks off in a "Y" to the right. Follow this, but on the left-hand side, in other words in the opposite direction. "Camí" markings.

0.56 h. Santa Margarida Plain. Here the route crosses over a tarmac highway, and continues on the other side. There are two parallel tracks heading into the woods. Take the one on the left, which is also marked "Camí". The two tracks nonetheless join up again further on.

0.57 h. A branch off to the left which should be ignored. Continue through the woods, heading northwards.



1.00 h. Fork. Head past the track off to the left, marked as leading to the reservoir ("pantà"). You should head right, following the path markings "Camí".

1.06 h. Branch off to the right. Ignore this.

1.09 h. Here you will reach a new track. Fluvià Castle is up ahead. Continue off to the right. "Camí" markings".

1.14 h. Can Noguereta. The wide, level earth path crosses over the C-743 highway and continues straight on over the other side, in an E-NE direction.

1.19 h. Cross through the houses of Can Bonamic and Ca n'Auleda ignoring the paths leading off to private properties. "Camí" markings.

1.24 h. A track joins the path diagonally from the left. Continue straight on along the main path, which now heads SE. You will once again pass by the entrance to a number of properties, each with their own tracks, one of which leads to Can Vila Nou which has numerous horses.

1.32 h. Fork. Continue off to the left. Here a short and steep descent leads down to the river.

1.33 h. Cross over the River Tordera. There is no bridge, so jump from stone to stone, taking care as this can be hazardous and should be avoided in heavy rain. Right on the other side of the watercourse is a fork. Take the right-hand branch.

1.36 h. Fork with signpost. Take the left-hand track heading gradually diagonally uphill. Not far along you will reach a track heading off to the right directly uphill through the eucalyptus trees. Leave the path behind and follow this track. "Camí" markings.

1.41 h. You will now rejoin the wide path, continuing uphill to the right, around the last few bends leading up to the castle.

1.45 h. Montclús Castle. 310 metres. An unmissable stopping-off point. Continue along the track heading NE up through the woods along a kind of earthen ridge, with a number of vertical cuttings on the right-hand side over the Sot Gran ravine.

1.54 h. Ca n'Albert de Dalt. Here you will see a disused path alongside a spring. Continue along the uphill track towards the right.



1.55 h. A branch drops down to the right. This should be ignored. You will soon reach a tarmac roadway.

1.57 h. Santa Magdalena. 390 metres. The highest point on the route. Skirt around the chapel on the tarmac track, and at the first fork continue along the earth track to the right. The "Clar de Lluna" mountain bike route signs begin here. The track heads S-SW and begins a very gentle descent. Cross the Pla de Santa Magdalena Plain.

2.02 h. Fork. Continue straight on past Can Jeroni (marked on the facade as Can Coll). Continue along the wide path which is easily made out.

2.11 h. Fork heading off at right angles to the right. Ignore this.

2.13 h. Head past Cal Picolí. There is a fork off to the left which should be ignored. Continue along the clear, wide path straight ahead.

2.18 h. Just past a small vineyard there is a double fork off to the left which should be ignored. This area is known as Serra de Can Vilatort.

2.19 h. A secondary branch heads off to the right. Ignore this and continue straight ahead along the wide path. A gentle descent begins here.

2.22 h. A further secondary branch off to the right, to be ignored: continue straight along the wide path. The gentle descent continues.

2.24 h. A third secondary branch off to the right, to be ignored: continue straight along the wide path. The gentle descent continues.



2.29 h. Head past the electricity pylon, following which a smaller track joins diagonally from the right.

2.33 h. A fork of wide paths. Take the right-hand branch, which bends and continues downhill. There is a signpost at the junction.

2.36 h. At the bottom, alongside the fields, a track joins from the left. Continue straight along the main path heading N-NW.

2.39 h. You will now have reached Circ Cric. Fork. Continue off to the left.

2.42 h. Cross back over the River Tordera, this time via the ford. Head up a short incline and you will reach the first few houses of the village.

2.50 h. Here you are now back at the church of Sant Esteve de Palautordera, bringing this long and comprehensive tour of the valley to its conclusion.



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