

CÀNOVES AND SAMALÚS – RESERVOIR AND FORTIFIED HOUSE OF VALLFORNERS

Introduction: A route which is very easy to follow, as the path is a wide one throughout. Particularly suitable for mountain bikes.

Vallforners is a deep valley of dark hollows where Mediterranean woodlands dominate the landscape, and owes its name to the manor house to be found at the heart of the valley itself. It is a sparsely populated valley, with no centres of habitation which amount to more than a few scattered houses. There are no churches (except for Sant Salvador de Terrades at the lower end), and very few farms survived the mass exodus of the 1960s and 70s.

It is a valley with its own charm. A different side to Montseny. The reservoir gives it a different tone.

According to legend not so many years ago a hermit lived inside the great chestnut tree of Cuc. He had decided to spurn all social contract, living in the bosom of nature listening to the sounds of silence. According to the tale no one had ever heard him speak, and he would communicate only through the language of the blind.



Time: 1 hour and 5 minutes for the ascent, and around 50 minutes for the descent.

Climb: 270 metres up and the same distance back down.

Difficulty: easy

Sources of water: Close to the fortified house of Vallforners is the Font Freda spring, although the flow is generally fairly weak, and it is in need of maintenance. An unreliable source. It is better to head out carrying all the water you will need for the outing.

Reference points: * Car park at Sot de la Font de la Closa - Dos Torrentons * Vallforners Reservoir * Baga d'en Cuc stream * Vallforners Creek * Font Freda spring * Sot de la Font de Masdèu ravine * fortified house of Vallforners



Starting point: Car park at the Sot de la Font de la Closa ravine, at a site known as Dos Torrentons. 440 metres. Accessible on an earth track in good condition from the village of Cànoves (signs in the village indicate the route leading to the Vallforners reservoir). The track could in fact be covered in a vehicle, but access is restricted to local residents and park services. The car park is large and well signposted.

Route: 0.00 h. Car park at the Sot de la Font de la Closa ravine, at a site known as Dos Torrentons. 440 metres. There is a fork right at the start of the track as it climbs uphill. Take the right-hand branch, which is wider and ascends.



0.12 h. Vallformers reservoir. Here you are alongside the dam to the left, the revetment fully integrated into the landscape. Fork. Ignore the track heading off to the right, and continue northwards alongside the reservoir. Green Meridian markers.

0.29 h. A few minutes after leaving the reservoir behind you will reach another fork. This is the Baga d'en Cuc stream. Once again ignore the branch heading off to the right and continue straight along the broad path, which crosses over the waters of this little stream.

0.37 h. A track branches off to the left, heading down to the Vallformers Creek, which is close by. Continue along the broad path, which is perfectly easy to follow.



0.48 h. Paths fork. Continue to the right. A constant incline begins at this point.

1.00 h. Font Freda spring, on the right-hand side of the path. Continue along the straightforward wide path. You will soon be crossing the Sot de la Font de Masdèu ravine.

1.05 h. You are now at the fortified house of Vallformers, at 710 metres, the end point of the

descent.



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