

# TURÓ DEL SAMON FROM VILAMAJOR VIA THE PR-C139

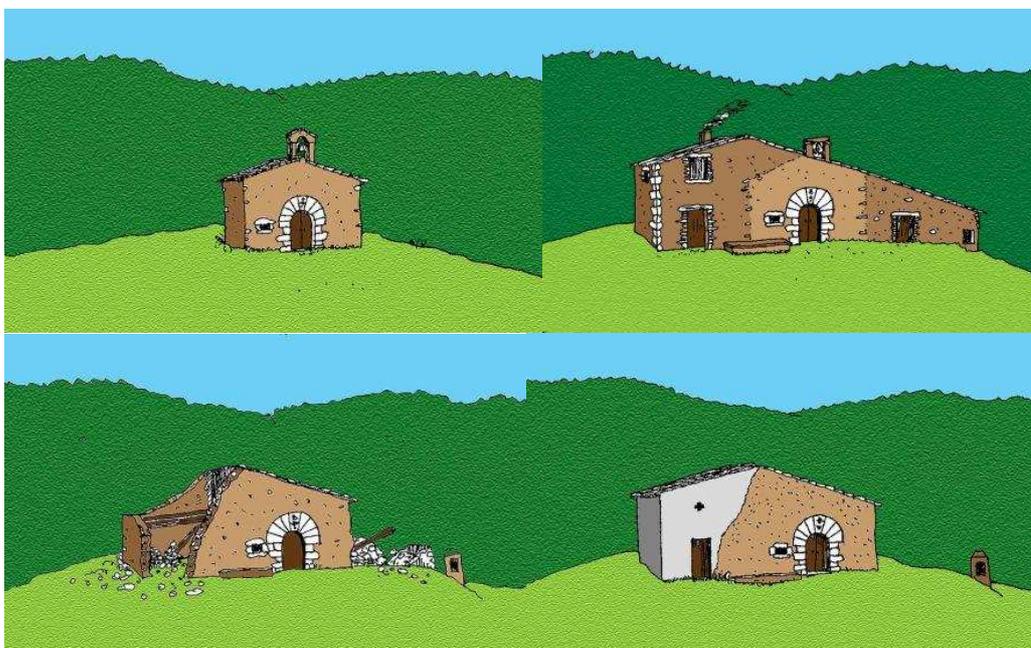
Introduction: A long ascent from the base of the valley itself to the heights of the eastern uplands of La Calma. The Turó del Samon is one of Montseny's most imposing summits, although the route does offer a number of shorter alternatives, such as for example by ending at the Turó de Sant Elies. It should be pointed out that for mountain enthusiasts, the most attractive and distinctive section is in fact the traverse between the peaks of Sant Elies and El Samon. The latter also offers a much broader panorama, with views from the summit itself of a section of the Pyrenees, centred on Puigmal.

Sant Elies Hermitage: The first chapel was a small construction comprising a single nave with a pitched roof, the ridge perpendicular to the main facade. At the far end was an apse holding the first image of the saint.

At the start of the 17th-century the hermitage was extended with a wing on either side, maintaining its symmetry. This was later distorted when an additional storey was added to the western wing. The ground floor had a hearth and oven installed, while the upper floor was used as a dormitory. The complex was extended with outhouses used as storerooms and yards for the livestock.

The last hermit left in 1914, by which time the building was in a dreadful condition.

The hermitage was in complete ruins by 1936, with only the nave of the chapel remaining. In 1945 it was rebuilt in the form seen today. The most recent restoration took place in 2008, when the brickwork vaulting in the nave collapsed a few days before the feast of the saint's day.



Different images of the hermitage 1: 15th century; 2: 17th century; 3: after the Spanish Civil War (1939); 4: 20th century restoration. Source: wikipedia.org

The legend: In the 15th century there was a terrible drought, followed by epidemics



suffered by the whole population of Sant Pere de Vilamajor and the surrounding area. The concerned elders of Vilamajor went to seek counsel from the Abbot of Santa Fe. He told them that it was a curse, and that only St Elias could save them. And so the elders of Vilamajor promised that if St Elias gave them his assistance, they would build a chapel atop the Turó de Sant Elies between the peaks of El Cortès and El Terrer, and would celebrate his day with a procession there each year. And so it came to pass. Over the years the chapel became a hermitage, and was inhabited up until 1914. The numbers joining in the procession have swollen and diminished over the centuries, with more locals taking part during periods of drought. The ascent to Sant Elies to appeal for rain has become the most eagerly awaited and cherished local festivity of the people of Vilamajor.

Time: 4 hours and 40 minuts for the ascent and 4 hours for the descent.

Climb: 1,092 uphill and 70 metres downhill on the ascent, and the same in reverse on the descent.

Difficulty: Moderate-High.

Sources of water: There are springs in the villages of Sant Antoni and Sant Pere de Vilamajor. The ascent passes within 700 metres of the Borrell spring (signposted).

Reference points: \* Church of Sant Antoni de Vilamajor \* Hermitage of Sant Lleir \* Sant Pere de Vilamajor \* El Pla \* Canyes Stream \* Can Llinars \* Can Ribes \* Canyes Stream \* Can Gras d'Avall \* Can Pau Filbà \* Can Panxa Plain \* Sot de Ferreres ravine \* Can Gras d'Amunt \* les Planes \* Can Sanz Pascual \* Can Perera \* Can Mongol \* Riera del Cortès \* Terra Blanca \* Can Planell \* Can Surell \* L'Alzina Rodona holm oak \* Hermitage of Sant Elies \* peak of Turó de Sant Elies \* Hermitage of Sant Elies \* Col of Sant Elies \* La Coma ridge \* Col of Turó de la Cova \* Col of El Prat Fondo \* peak of Turó del Samon.

Starting point: Sant Antoni de Vilamajor. Accessible from Llinars de Vallès on the BP – 5107 road.

Route: 0.00 h Church of Sant Antoni de Vilamajor, 245 metres. Located at the entrance to the village.

0.05 h Head through the town hall square, and in front of the town hall door you will see the first painted PR marking (yellow and white). Follow the road running parallel to the highway (Camí de Sant Lleir) northwards. Shortly afterwards leave the tarmac behind and continue straight ahead along an earth track, although there are still some buildings around.

0.09 h Deviation to the right to ignore. Straight down the track heading north horizontal.

0.12 h You are now at the Hermitage of Sant Lleir and should ignore a branch leading off to the right, continuing straight ahead northwards along the earth path. PR signs.

0.17 h A secondary path joins diagonally leading up from the right. The route here runs alongside the fence of a sports ground. Continue along the main track which leads straight onto the tarmac.



0.19 h Roundabout. Continue straight along the tarmac track, and at the first branch head down to the left along Carrer Sant Roc. PR signs. At the bottom cross over another road at right angles and continue along a pedestrian route which runs alongside some newly built properties, walking parallel to the highway on the left.

0.25 h Where the row of new houses ends, turn towards the left and walk alongside the highway. By this point you are in the village of Sant Pere de Vilamajor and the highway is named Avinguda Lluís Companys, before later changing its name to Carrer Sant Nonet. PR signs.

0.34 h You are now outside the church of Sant Pere de Vilamajor. Head up the steps, past the La Mongia information office and skirt around the church building.

0.38 h Having gone almost 360° around the church, head down Carrer Ripoll, where the tarmac almost immediately gives way again to an earth path. PR signs.

0.41 h Ignore the branches leading off to the right and left and continue along the main, central path. PR sign.



0.42 h El Pla. Back onto the tarmac. Turn right and pass by in front of the school complex (to the left), across the Canyes stream and continue straight on a longer the tarmac track as far as the second junction.

0.49 h Second junction.

0.54 h Cross over a roadway at right angles and continue north. PR sign. A fairly level section.

1.00 h Can Llinars. Ignore the branch leading up to the right and continue straight ahead. Shortly after this you will pass by Can Ribes on the left..



1.05 h Fork. Continue along the straight path marked as the Camí de Can Gras (although the signpost on the right is marked as the Camí de Sant Elies). PR mark. Continue northwards.

1.07 h A bridge crosses back over the Canyes stream.

1.31 h Can Gras d'Avall. Triple fork. The PR marks states that you should take the middle path, but this will take you straight onto private property and through the complex of farm buildings. It is better to skirt around them on the left-hand path, which goes past the farm and the pond, and then joins up with the central part of the far side of the buildings.

1.33 h Head past a further fork on the right-hand side, which leads to another private property by the name of Can Pau Filbà. Continue along the track following the PR markings, on a section which now begins to climb upwards towards the west.

1.35 h A track leads off the pathway to the right. This is the branch you should follow (marked with the PR sign).

1.40 h Head as far as the wide path which you should then follow towards the right.

1.42 h Can Panxa Plain. A major junction of tracks and paths. At this point you should leave the wide path and take the narrower track heading downhill into the woods on the right. PR sign.



1.47 h Head past the branch off to the right leading to the Can Gras d'Amunt farm, and continue straight on. You will soon see a beautiful little pond just off the pathway. Head past another secondary branch leading off to the left, alongside the fields of pasture to the right, known as Les Planes. From here there are partial views of the wooded hillside which you will now climb.

2.00 h Head as far as a wide path by a bend. Continue along the new track on the left, heading straight on, maintaining the same northerly direction.

2.03 h Ignore the branch leading off to the right towards Can Sanz Pascual. You should head along the left-hand side of the farm. You will soon see a large cork oak.

2.05 h A branch leads up diagonally to the left, and should be ignored. Continue straight ahead alongside Can Perera.

2.07 h You will now head past a third farm, on the left, by the name of Can Mongol,



before leaving the path to take a narrower track heading of eastwards to the right. This branch is marked with a PR sign. Shortly after you will cross over the El Cortès stream, and begin to climb upwards through the woods along a clear trail.

2.11 h Paths merge. Another path joins from the right. Continue climbing towards the left.

2.15 h Head as far as the wide path which you should then follow towards the left. PR sign. This section also includes occasional green and red paint markings.

2.17 h Terra Blanca. Tracks join in a triangular form. Ignore the branch to the right and continue climbing straight on and gently uphill northwards.

2.21 h Fork on a bend in the path. Ignore the branch leading off to the left (the track to Can Cortès).

2.26 h Head off the main path and climb up a track leading to the left more sharply uphill. PR sign.

2.30 h Fork. Continue along the diagonal uphill branch to the right.

2.32 h Two consecutive crossings of a disused track which bends around at this point. Continue straight ahead through the woods. PR signs.

2.36 h Here you will rejoin the main path which leads uphill towards the left. Shortly beyond this point is Can Planell. The farm is surrounded by some fine holm oaks and honeyberry trees.

2.43 h Secondary branch off to the left by a bend which should be ignored. Continue climbing along the main path.

2.52 h A further secondary branch off to the right to be ignored. This new track leads to Can Surell.

2.55 h A third disused secondary branch off to the left. Ignore this and continue climbing along the main path, which is quite clear.

3.00 h Fork. At this point, leave the path to take the narrow track leading upwards to the right. This branch is marked with a signpost. The same signpost states that to reach the Borrell spring you would need to follow the track for 700 metres, heading off the route of the PR. You should however continue along the PR towards the right.

3.01 h An additional track joins from the right. The route now begins to climb upwards to the left, heading NE-N through the woods. This marks the start of a section which includes lengthy uphill climbs.

3.15 h Cross over a track at right angles and continue along the path heading down towards the north. PR signs.

3.32 h Here you will reach a wide path where the route bends around. Follow this uphill to the left. Shortly after you will pass by the Alzina Rodona holm oak (signposted).

3.37 h Fork. Continue straight on, ignoring the branch heading downhill to the right.

3.39 h Head past the entrance to the car park and continue straight on northwards. At this point the wide path is blocked to vehicles by a barrier.

3.43 h You are now at the Hermitage of Sant Elies. To climb up to the summit itself take the track leading off southwards to the left.

3.45 h Summit of Turó de Sant Elies. 1,001 metres. To continue with the longer route, head back down towards the Hermitage of Sant Elies and take the path leading downhill to the north. PR sign and green markings.

3.50 h Col of Sant Elies, 931 metres. Head as far as a path which you should follow around to the left, leading slightly downhill.

3.52 h On the right-hand side of the path there is a track leading down into the woods. Green marks. Continue along this path northwards. Here you will be climbing a ridge known as the Carena de la Coma.

4.04 h A further shortcut joins from the left. Continue climbing up the back of the ridge, with its mixture of woodland and shrubs. At this point the green markings disappear, but the path to follow itself is quite clear.

4.15 h Col of Turó de la Cova. 1,090 metres. Cross over a path and continue along the track which now heads W-NW through the shrubs. The track is narrow but quite clear and well marked. Constant ascent.



4.28 h Cross over the small Col of Prat Fondo, 1.153 metres, and continue climbing towards the west.

4.40 h Turó del Samon (this peak is also known as the Turó de la Pleta or Pi Novell). 1,267 metres. The climb ends here.



(The Pi Novell is a different peak nearby) (I would not include this photo as it shows nothing)

Descent: the same route in reverse.



Associació  
d'Empresaris  
Turístics  
Montseny

Photographs: Pako Crestas

