

# VILLAGE OF MONTSENY TO SANT MARTÍ DEL MONTSENY

Introduction: An attractive and surprising route leading from the village of Montseny to the oldest church in the valley, Sant Martí. A taste of nature along the banks of the River Tordera.



Sant Julià del Montseny: Historically belonging to the bishopric of Barcelona. First documented in 1079, and rebuilt in the 18th century. It was run directly by the bishop. This parish church is to be found within the village of Montseny itself, at an altitude of 500 metres. The Lombard belltower must have been built in the 11th century. It leans slightly towards the central nave. The tower has two stories and a rectangular base, with pillars with four arcades on each side. It is topped with misshapen windows and a four-sided pitched roof. On the main facade the arcade of a sealed-up doorway can be made out.

Sant Martí del Montseny: This is evidently a very ancient building, modified in more modern times, although there is no documentation to prove this. The oldest records available date from the years 1581 in 1586. In the mid-19th-century it was classified as a subsidiary parish church, responsible for the scattered dwellings of Montseny d'Amunt. The church still holds services, and is well appointed. The chapel has no Romanesque features but does have a primitive form of construction which could even be considered to be pre-Romanesque.



Time: 1 hour 20 minutes out and a similar time on the way back

Climb: 170 m uphill and 70 downhill on the way out, and the same in reverse on the return leg.

Difficulty: Low - Moderate

Sources of water: Spring in the village of Montseny.

Reference points: \* Village of Montseny - church of Sant Julià \* Can Manelic \* Can Vador \* Restaurant Can Besa \* “La Suïssa Catalana” housing development \* River Tordera \* La Llavina bridge \* River Tordera \* Sant Martí del Montseny - Can Bieló.



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Starting point: Village of Montseny accessible via the road linking Palautordera with El Coll Formic and Seva. Highway BV-5301.

Route: 0.00 h. Village of Montseny 500 metres. From the front of the church of Sant Julià, head down to the left along the road leading into the village.



0.04 h. Crossroads at the entrance to the village. Head across the main road and look for the tarmac track which runs downhill towards the base of the valley. GR sign.

0.05 h. Can Manelic. As you pass by the first house, leave the tarmac track which heads downhill, and take the level path leading off to the right. GR sign.

0.08 h. When you reach a slightly uphill path continue to the right, heading northwards.

0.10 h. The path leads to a tarmac section which is another level track. Follow this for a few metres to the left, and then leave the tarmac along a further branch of the earth track with the GR marking. You are now close to Can Vador.

0.16 h. Leave the path heading slightly downhill to take the track climbing sharply to the right. GR sign.

0.20 h. You are now back at the BV-5301 highway, which you should follow to the left, in other words northwards.

0.24 h. Crossroads at Can Besa (restaurant); leave the road and head diagonally left along the tarmac track heading to a property development known as “La Suïssa Catalana”.



0.27 h. At the first bend there are two branches leading off to the left from the same point. Take the lower of these. GR sign. A fairly level section through the woods begins here, with the occasional descent through.

0.32 h. Go past the branch heading down diagonally to the left, which leads to a private house. Continue straight ahead in a N-NW direction.

0.38 h. A further turning off to the left; ignore this and continue straight on.

0.40 h. You are now close to the River Tordera, at an altitude of around 450 metres, the lowest point on the route. Fork. Continue along the straight path, which now begins to climb (chain). You should not cross over the river here.

0.47 h. La Llavina bridge. The La Llavina farmhouse is visible up ahead. There is a fault after crossing the river. Take the right-hand branch which heads uphill alongside the River Tordera itself, in an eastward direction.

0.52 h. An unused track heads off to the left. Ignore this.

0.53 h. Fork on a bend in the path. Here you head away from the river, diagonally upwards to the left. GR sign.

0.59 h. You reach a larger path. Chain at the junction. Follow this new path to the right. GR sign.

1.01 h. Unused track branching off to the right (ignore).

1.04 h. Another unused track heads off to the right, leading to a group of cork oaks. Ignore this and continue climbing in a diagonal direction.

1.05 h. Paths merge. Continue heading to the right.

1.06 h. Leave the wide path behind and climb sharply uphill along a track heading off to the left straight through the woods. GR sign.



1.10 h. Cross over an unused track. Continue climbing up the track through the holm oaks.

1.17 h. You will now reach a wider track which you should take uphill to the right.

1.18 h. You are now drawing close to the BV-5301 highway. Continue along the right-hand side, and the church where the route began will come into view.

1.20 h. Church of Sant Martí del Montseny. 620 metres. The Can Bieló farmhouse is nearby.

Return: the same route in reverse.



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