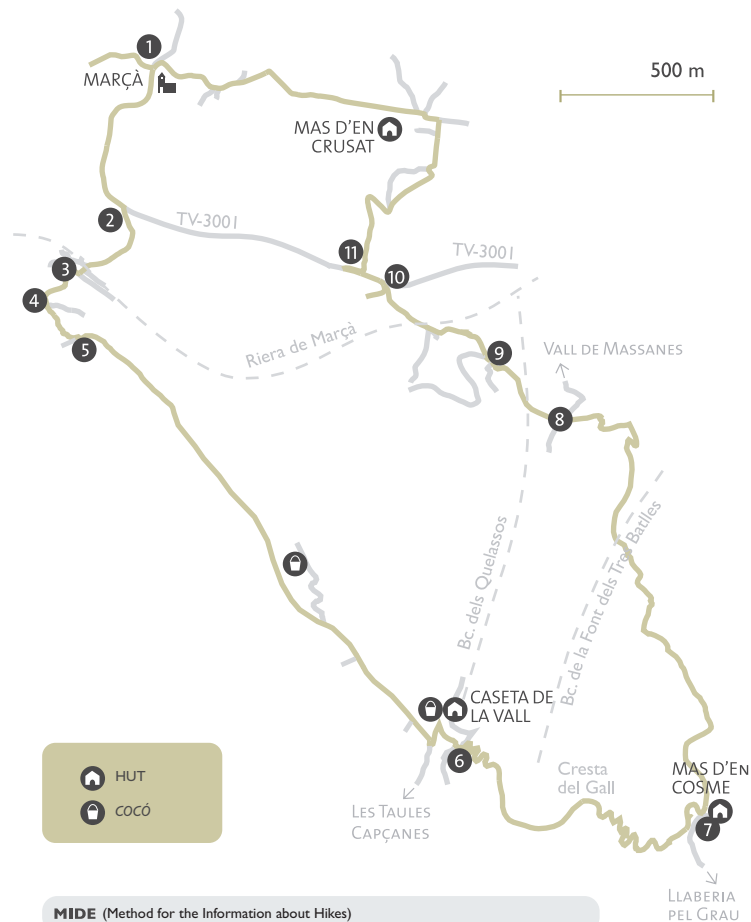


ITINERARY: MARÇÀ - LES TAULES CATTLE TRACK - CASETA DE LA VALL - MAS D'EN COSME - MAS DEL SEC - MAS D'EN CRUSAT - MARÇÀ

Start off at the Ajuntament square until you get to the road leading to Torre de Fontaubella (1) and continue to the right, walking down until you find a track on the right (2) which is parallel to the gully Els Ribassos. Follow the green and white lines of the local path. Cross the creek of Marçà and go up to the left (3) along a path which leads to an intersection (4). Continue walking along the path on the right up to the top, where the path is quite flat, as you move far from Marçà (5). You will walk along an old livestock track and go by a cocó (dry-stone water tank) until you arrive at Caseta de la Vall. This building also has a cocó and is surrounded by some vineyards. You have to go round these vineyards, which are still cultivated, and get to the other side.

At the intersection (6), take the path that goes up towards Cresta del Gall, in the direction to Mas d'en Cosme. After climbing to Cresta del Call, gradually descend, leaving a path, until you get to the country house. Go round it and continue walking down. You will eventually find a path intersection (8). Continue straight on along the local path which leads into a track (9). Take it down in the direction to Marçà until you get to the road (10). Walk along it to the left and then take the track on the right (11) to Mas d'en Crusat. Once there, follow the yellow and white lines of the PR path, which will take you back to the village.



MIDE (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	3 h 50 min	Harshness in natural environment	1	
Accumulated ascent	615 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	2	
Maximum gradient	422 m	Walking difficulty	2	
Horizontal distance	10,76 km	Effort required	3	
Type of route	circular	Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree Source: www.euromide.info		



THE CATTLE TRACK OF LES TAULES

MARÇÀ

THE CATTLE TRACK OF LES TAULES AND THE SCATTERED POPULATION IN SERRA DE LLABERIA

This route will take you to an old way, the cattle track of Les Taules, constructed for the livestock that were driven on their way to the village. The walls that delimited it can still be seen now. You can enjoy spectacular views from here on clear days.

Walking along these old paths you will reach some of the isolated farms in Serra de Llaberia, such as Caseta de la Vall - with vineyards that are still productive -, and Mas d'en Cosme - where the wood has sucked down the old cultivated lands.

Along the hike, you can understand and wonder at the hard work that our ancestors carried out in order to cultivate the mountain.

LA SERRA DE LLABERIA

Serra de Llaberia is part of the Serralada Prelitoral (Pre-Coastal Mountain Range), between Muntanyes de Prades and Vandellòs and Tivissa Mountains. It comprises the comarques (areas) of El Priorat, Baix Camp and Ribera d'Ebre, and has peaks which are more than 900 m high from sea level. At present, a part of the Serra de Llaberia is an Area of Natural Interest (Espai d'Interès Natural, EIN). The predominant vegetation is strictly Mediterranean, consisting mainly of scrubs of pine trees and holm-oaks, and communities of scrubby environments, with some dry oak woods and yew groves isolated in the shady sides (both are typical of Eurosiberian climate). The fauna is very rich and diverse. The presence of invertebrates stands out. They find refuge in the numerous caves and karstic ghylls.

The human settlement is located particularly in the surroundings of Serra de Llaberia, with an only population settled area in the rugged inland, the village of Llaberia. Due to the concerns of the people in the area, the town councils of Capçanes, Coldejou, Marçà, la Torre de Fontaubella, Pradip and Tivissa set up the Consorci per a la Protecció i Gestió de l'Espai Protegit d'Interès Natural de la Serra de Llaberia in 2004. This organization aims at preserving, revaluing and managing the natural environment comprehensively. The Consorci has a technical team who have already carried out several studies and actions in order to promote its popularization, knowledge and conservation.

ITINERARY: MARÇÀ - LES TAULES CATTLE TRACK - CASETA DE LA VALL - MAS D'EN COSME - MAS DEL SEC - MAS D'EN CRUSAT - MARÇÀ

The village of Marçà, in the comarca of Priorat, has an area of about 16 square kilometres and 662 inhabitants. Most of the municipal district is flat. The hill of la Miloquera stands out, which is very near the village. This name comes from *miloca*, a popular name used to refer to barn owls in rural areas, and which is often used to refer to other birds of prey that fly over the fields, such as owls. There are a few couples at present.

An outstanding element in this route is the cattle track of Les Taules, which allowed the livestock go through the old crop fields that covered vast areas of land but now are forest. At present, the livestock track is narrower, though the old dry-stone walls delimiting it can still be recognized. The main function of the walls was to prevent livestock from entering the crop fields and spoiling them. Next to the track of Les Taules is a *cocó*, a dry-stone construction for water storage which probably served to supply the livestock with water along the route.

From here, you will have the best views over the region. On clear days, you can even see the mountain ranges surrounding the plain on both sides of river Ebre.

An old path will take you deep into Serra de Llaberia, going by quite a big yew tree in a very cool hollow. Yew trees are more common in Eurosiberian climates and have a particularly slow growth. It is toxic - except for the fleshy part of its fruit - and was used to make and poison arrows in the past.

Along the route, you will visit three constructions linked to the agricultural use of Serra de Llaberia. Caseta de la Vall is a country house at the end of the livestock track, situated in a mountain pass where grape-vine is still cultivated.

Mas d'en Cosme, now in ruins, is located in the middle of Serra de Llaberia and can hardly be seen, as the forest has invaded it. The yard stands out, which is similar in size to the country house itself and is situated in a detached building. Mas d'en Cosme is one of most isolated country houses from population centres and belongs to the municipality of Capçanes, like Caseta de la Vall.

You will go round Mas d'en Crusat just before arriving at the village of Marçà. This country house is one of the oldest and most important in the village. It has its own chapel, dedicated to Saint Marià. There are cultivated fields around it, mainly of grape-vine, hazelnut trees and almond trees.



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