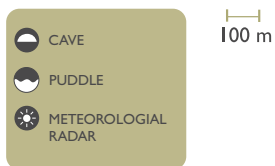
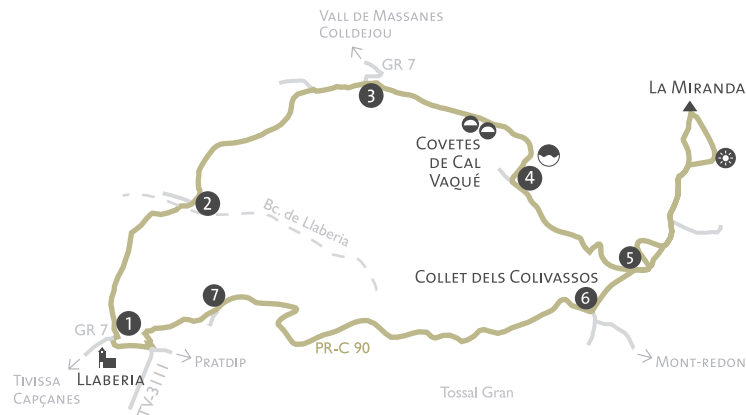


Once you are in the village of Llaberia, make your way to St. Joan Baptista church. Just before getting there, go down Colldejou path (1), following GR 7, which is flat at the beginning. Short after crossing the gully of Llaberia, you will find a path intersection (2). Take the one on the right up to Portell de Llaberia.

After walking on some flat rocks, you will reach another path crossing. Leave GR 7 (3) and continue straight up in the direction to La Miranda, at the top of which is a meteorological radar. You will go past the Covetes del Vaqué. The dry-stone walls can still be seen, sheltered under the rocks that were used to keep the flock and as a shelter for the shepherd. Walk up past a puddle where water accumulates, and some metres farther on is a track in bad condition (4). Go up until you get to a path in better condition (5) which zig-zags up to La Miranda. This hill is the highest point of the Serra de Llaberia and, thus, a privileged viewpoint. Go back to the track. You can take a short-cut to the Collet dels Collivassos, where there is a signposted path intersection (6). Take the path on the right, which gradually descends in the direction to Llaberia, following PR-C 90. Before getting to the village, where a fence starts, leave the path and take the one on the right (7), following the yellow and white marks of the PR. At the football pitch, take a cemented track and, just before entering an area of bungalows, take the path that leads to the road, some metres before the village.



MIDE (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	1h 50 min	Harshness in natural environment	1
Accumulated ascent	264 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	1
Maximum gradient	252 m	Walking difficulty	2
Horizontal distance	6 km	Effort required	2
Type of route	circular		

Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree
Source: www.euromide.info



WEATHER PREDICTION ON THE SERRA DE LLABERIA

LLABERIA

LA MIRANDA AND THE METEOROLOGICAL RADAR, A HIKE TO PREDICT THE WEATHER ON SERRA DE LLABERIA

The route begins in the old village of Llaberia, which is uninhabited for most of the year. You will walk along its ancestral paths up to La Miranda, the top of Serra de Llaberia, where the fourth radar of the Servei Meteorològic de Catalunya is located. The truth is that the prediction of weather is an aspect human beings have been concerned with since immemorial times. Such interest has given rise to a wide variety of lexicon and expressions.

From La Miranda, you will have amazing views to contemplate on clear days: the Serra del Montsant, the impressive Mola de Colldejou and the Camp de Tarragona plain to the north, as well as the vast sea of mountains comprising the Serra de Llaberia, the Tivissa-Vandellòs Mountains and other more distant southern mountains. On clear windy winter days you can even catch sight of some part of the Ebre Delta.



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: LLABERIA – LES COVETES DE CAL VAQUÉ – LA MIRANDA – COLLET DELS COLLIVASSOS - LLABERIA

Llaberia is a small medieval-like hamlet situated in the Serra de Llaberia, and inhabited mainly during the summer. It is located at the easternmost edge of the township of Tivissa (region of the comarca of Ribera d'Ebre), to which it belongs. The Romanesque church of Sant Joan Baptista stands out. It was built within the walls of an old fortress in the 12th Century. It was restored in the 1980s, when a silo was discovered in the centre of the nave, which showed that the building had had a double use: as a place of both worship and storage.

During the 18th Century, the church was also the field hospital of Carrasclat, a guerilla fighter known for his resistance to the Borbonic invasion. You should also visit the Museu del Bast, a unique monographic museum of the packsaddle as a transport method in Catalonia, near the entrance to the village.

Another relevant fact is that the village stocks up on energy by means of a photovoltaic power plant, which forms part of Llaberia's landscape. You can join the guided tours that Tivissa's tourist office offers if you want to know how it works.

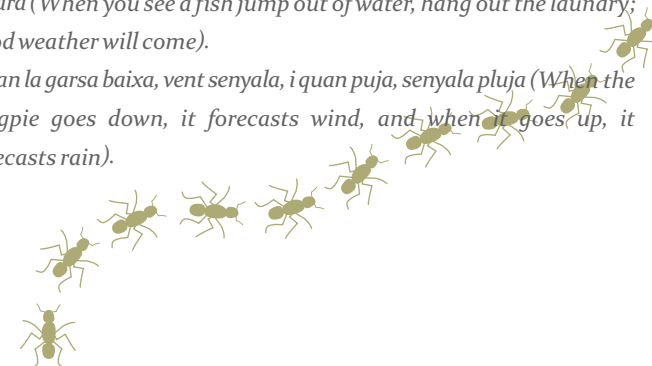
The old inhabitants of Llaberia farmed most of the land surrounding the village, penetrating to the unfriendly mountain and reaching impossible places. They also looked after flocks. This is still an economic activity at present. One of the testimonies of grazing on these mountains are the Covetes del Vaqué, which are next to the path, just before getting to La Miranda. You can still see the remains of the dry-stone walls sheltered under the rocks that were used to keep the flock and as a shelter for the shepherd.

At the top of the privileged viewpoint of la Miranda, the meteorological radar stands out, an immense white metallic ball which protects the aerial, and which is placed on a concrete pedestal. It was inaugurated in September 2008 and belongs to the four-radar network that supplies most of the country. It mainly provides information about the storms which may reach Catalunya from the South and South-East, which often cause heavy rains. With such technology, the prediction of weather is more and more reliable. However, we should not forget that nature is unpredictable. Therefore, it is advisable to know how to interpret weather signals and to get acquainted with proverbs so that we can trespass the limits of technology. Below is a list of sayings for both adults and children to refresh our memories:

Quan la formiga treu terra del niu, adoba la gotera i fuig del riu. (When the ant takes earth out of its nest, fix the leak and flee from the river)
Per Sant Benet (4 de abril) cada cucut canta en son indret i, si no canta, és mort de fred (On Saint Benet's day (4th April) every cuckoo sings in its nesting place, and if it does not sing, it is dead with cold).

Quan vegis el peix a l'aigua saltar, estén la bugada que el bon temps vindrà (When you see a fish jump out of water, hang out the laundry; good weather will come).

Quan la garsa baixa, vent senyala, i quan puja, senyala pluja (When the magpie goes down, it forecasts wind, and when it goes up, it forecasts rain).



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 **CATALUNYA**