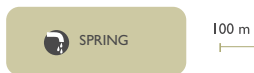


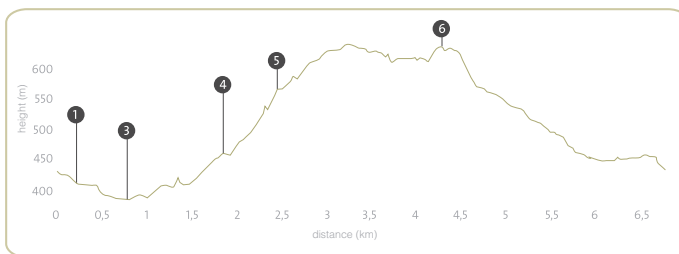
ITINERARY: COLLDEJOU – SALT DE LES SOQUES – BULLIDOR SPRING – GUIX MOUNTAIN PAS - COLLDEJOU

This route starts in the Església square. From here, take the street that leads to the road (1). Go down some metres along the road until you find a path on the left (2). Follow it downwards walking through some crop fields. Cross the gully of Font del Noguier until you get to the road, again (3). Cross it and continue on a path surrounded by hazelnut tree fields, towards the shady side of Serra de Llaberia. After walking a stretch of the gully of Les Estellades, take the PR track (4) to the right. The PR has two shortcuts to avoid two track bends. Take them and once you are on the track again (5), there is a good viewpoint next to a big pool on a terrace. Leave the PR and continue on a track in the direction to the Guix col, towards the Mola de Colldejou (gutte). There is a path intersection at the Guix pass (6). Take the GR 7 to the right, which will take you back to the village. Follow the signposts that show you the way along the GR, going by several tracks on both sides. You will enter the village from the highest part. Leave the main street until you arrive at the Església square.



**MIDE** (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	2 h	Harshness in natural environment	1
Accumulated ascent	307 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	1
Maximum gradient	256 m	Walking difficulty	2
Horizontal distance	6,8 km	Effort required	2
Type of route	circular	Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree Source: www.euromide.info	



## THE SHADY SIDES OF SERRA DE LLABERIA

### COLLDEJOU

#### DISCOVERING THE AREA SHELTERED UNDER SERRA DE LLABERIA

This route will take you deep into the shady sides of Serra de Llaberia, protected by the highest peaks of the Serra, particularly by La Miranda, with the meteorological radar located at its top. The ancient paths of communication between the villages are below it, including the one that joins Colldejou with Pratedip (now PR-C 96) and the GR-7 stretch that connects Colldejou with Llaberia.

As you penetrate the foothills of the Serra, the thick fields of hazelnut trees give way to the crops that have been sucked down by the forest, where you still can see the walls and trenches built to channel water. The many branches of the gully of les Estellades cross this valley, known as Tallada Vella, and dominated by the hill of El Perpinyol. The progressive climb offers spectacular views over Camp de Tarragona plain. On clear days you can see Mare de Déu de la Roca hermitage, which is built on a mountain top, protected by Muntanya Blanca and Muntanya de l'Areny.

## 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, Colldejou, Marçà, la Torre de Fontaubella, Pratedip 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: COLLDEJOU – SALT DE LES SOQUES – BULLIDOR SPRING – GUIX MOUNTAIN PAS - COLLDEJOU

Colldejou has a very mountainous municipal district. It has about 14.48 square kilometres and 187 inhabitants, all living in the village centre. The complex orography of the village comprises mountains which are the point of reference in Camp de Tarragona area: the magnificent Mola de Colldejou (gutte) and the peaks of La Miranda, La Creu and El Cavall Bernat. All of them are on the Western part of the municipality. This imposing relief determines the economic activity of the area. As a consequence, most of the municipal district is not very suitable for cultivation. However, in the past agriculture *domesticated* such a rough land. Only the vestiges of wall-stone construction remain of its past agricultural activity: walls, trenches and small constructions, all of which can be seen along this route.

The karstic nature of these mountains has given rise to a wide variety of shapes and relieves, including not only the ones mentioned above, but also many water springs where chalky soils are in contact with materials that are more impermeable. One of them is the spring of El Bullidor, which feeds a big pool in a terrace that can be a good viewpoint over Camp de Tarragona.

Another reference point is the Guix pass, located in a strategic place where the paths that communicate Colldejou with Llaberia, La Mola, La Miranda and Pratedip are situated. The name *Guix* (gypsum) comes from the gypsum strata that appear in the region and where restharrow (*Ononis tridentata*) often grows as an indicator of their presence. Restharrow is a kind of woody shrub having pink flowers and adapted to high concentrations of gypsum in the soil. Here, it often grows with other species which are typical of the rosemary scrub. Another interesting habitat is the black pine wood (*Pinus nigra* ssp. *salzmannii*), which was the object of a project of preservation and conservation carried out by the Consorci de la Serra de Llaberia. This pine tree species is highly valued for its wood, since its trunk is usually very straight and they can be made into posts, beams, etc.

From the Guix pass you can quickly access Mola de Colldejou, possibly one of the best-known and most visited places in Serra de Llaberia. This imposing lime gutte stands out on the Northwestern part of the village. If you watch it from far away, it seems to be the feet of a big giant sleeping, that is, Serra de Llaberia. The rest of the giant's body is drawn by all the peaks between Mont-redon and La Miranda, both inclusive.

