

ITINERARY: LA TORRE DE FONTAUBELLA - PLA DE LA FEMADA - LES CASOTES - ROAD T-322 - LA TORRE DE FONTAUBELLA

From the village of Torre de Fontaubella, follow the watercourse of Fontaubella creek. You will go by the old washing place. Continue on the wide track, going by two big-size oak trees. The stretches which have the highest slope are paved. This path is parallel to Fontaubella creek and goes around some farmed fields. After a while, the path gains height as it separates from the creek. When you get to an intersection (1), leave the path, which leads to PR-C 53 and Falset, and take the cobbled path to the left, which goes up to Pla de la Femada and Fontaubella water spring. You will walk through fields that used to be cultivated and dry-stone walls until you get to the highest part to a path (2). Take it to the right and then to the left towards Les Casetes, which was the first location of the populated area of Torre de Fontaubella. Go back walking on the flat path and enjoying the views over the village, leaving a path on the right which descends to Fontaubella waterspring and the path of Massanes. Walk on the same path for a while, leaving a dry-stone hut on the left (3), until you get to T-322 road (4), which connects Torre de Fontaubella with Colldejou and Mont-roig. Follow the road downwards. After a sharp bend you will find a path on the left (5) which will take you back to the village, going by the municipal cemetery and crossing a paved track.

www.serrallaberia.org

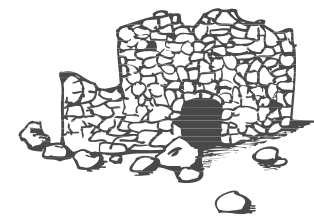
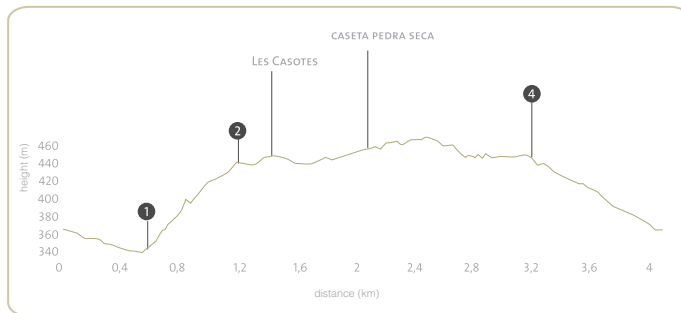


100 m



MIDE (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	1 h	Harshness in natural environment	1
Accumulated ascent	130 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	1
Maximum gradient	130 m	Walking difficulty	2
Horizontal distance	4,1 km	Effort required	1
Type of route	circular	Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree Source: www.euromide.info	



A TASTE OF THE VILLAGE

LA TORRE DE FONTAUBELLA

DISCOVERY OF THE OLD POPULATED AREA AND THE VILLAGE SURROUNDINGS

An easy route that will take you to the surroundings of the village and near the first location of the village of Torre de Fontaubella. You will walk on an old cobbled path that gradually ascends to Pla de la Femada. During the hike, you will often have views over the Torre de Fontaubella and the mountain ranges surrounding it. The impressive and lush shady sides of Mola de Colldejou stand out, which burst with colour in autumn, with the presence of deciduous vegetation, like for example maples.

The omnipresent existence of the dry-stone walls and the fields, some of which are still farmed, contrasts with a different use of the natural resources of the Serra, the wind farm of Trucafort, which dominates the landscape with almost one hundred windmills.



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.

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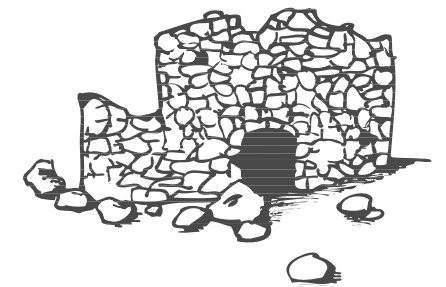
Torre de Fontaubella is a small municipal district of the region of comarca del Priorat. It has 7.1 square kilometres and about 140 inhabitants. Despite its small size, the fact that it is located next to the riera de Marçà (creek), a natural way that connects river Ebre with Camp de Tarragona region, has allowed it to have a long history of its own. According to some studies, there might have been a Roman camp in the very same place where the village is now.

The first populated area was located in Les Casotes, which you will visit on this route and is situated on the valley slope of Punta de la Font del Pi. Today you can only see the remains of dry-stone walls of some constructions. Later, the village was moved to its current location, where the Torre de Rafolí was. This tower is thought to have been built during the Moorish invasion but it might have an older origin. After the change of location, people started to refer to it as the Torre de Fontaubella. Fontaubella probably comes from *albella*, which means underground water course. In fact, an underground river flows beneath the village.

Along the itinerary, once you have reached Pla de Femada, you will walk on quite a flat track for a while, which goes through wooded lands and farmed fields. There are some dry-stone huts, one of them on one side of the path. You will enjoy the splendid views over the village and the orographic elements surrounding it.

To the north, you will see the mountains of Les Soleies. They are a group of small hills that border with Falset. To the south, you will see the impressive shady sides of Mola de Coldejou, with an average height of 900 metres. Lush vegetation covers the shady sides up to the feet of the lime vertical crags which are characteristic of La Mola. Although it seems impenetrable and inaccessible, the channels of El Mig and El Corb allow to get to the its peak after an intense climb.

Amidst a markedly rural landscape, with fields near the populated areas, which are still productive, and other more remote fields, which have been sucked down by the wood, the huge wind farm of El Trucafort stands out. It has 91 windmills arranged in rows. Its total installed power capacity is 30 MW. When the wind farm was built, it was meant to generate 80.000 MWh/year, which is the approximate amount of electricity consumed by 25.000 families.



* **ADHOC**
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