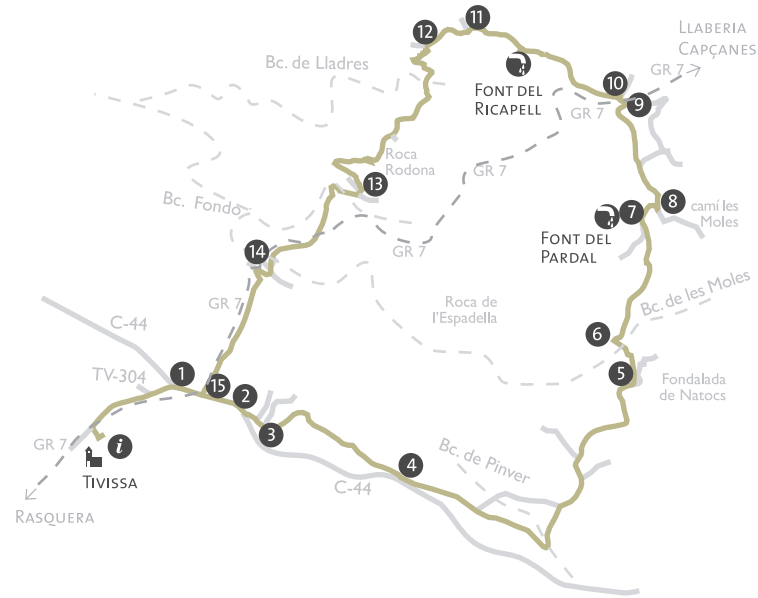


ITINERARY: TIVISSA - HOLLOW OF NATOCS - LES MOLES - RICAPELL SPRING - FONDO CREEK - POU DE LA NEU - TIVISSA

Start off at Tivissa's Tourist Information Center and walk towards C-44 road (1). Cross it and follow it to the right in the direction to Vandellòs. After 300 metres, take a signposted path on the left (2) which will lead you to Les Moles. A bit further on, leave the track and take the one on the right, which soon forks. Take the path on the right (3), which blurs as it goes around a crop field. Walk by the house and a big holm oak, towards some crop fields. Walk around them until you get to the road (4) again. Continue straight on a concrete path, going through several fields, mostly with hazelnut trees and olive trees. Do not take any of paths to the country houses on both sides. You will reach a point where the track goes up into the wood (5). Do not take the path on the right. Walk up until you get to the highest part of a field with hazelnut trees and a hut (6). Take a path to the right that will lead you to some fields (some are still farmed, others have been sucked down by the wood). When the path finishes, take the track (7) to the right. Here is the water spring of El Pardal. Some meters further on is a path intersection (8). Take the path on the left, towards Les Moles, until you find GR 7 (9). Take it to the left for a while until you get to another intersection (10). Leave the GR and continue on a less defined path. You will walk by a small dry-stone well frequented by wild boars. Continue on the path until you find an old path (11) on the left which goes down to Tivissa. Take it. 200 meters further down (12), take a path on the left which zig-zags down. You will get to a bend of a concrete track (13) which you take to cross the Fondo gully. Continue down the track. You will eventually find GR 7 (14). Take it up towards the road, going through fields with cherry trees (15). Cross the road and follow it to the right. A tree-lined avenue will take you back to Tivissa's Tourist Information Centre.



- INFORMATION CENTER
- SPRING

100 m

MIDE (Method for the Information about Hikes)

Walking time	2 h 15 min	Harshness in natural environment	1
Accumulated ascent	346 m	Level of difficulty to find one's way	2
Maximum gradient	191 m	Walking difficulty	2
Horizontal distance	7,6 km	Effort required	2
Type of route	circular	Rank from 1 to 5 from a lesser to a greater degree Source: www.euromide.info	



THE CULTIVATED GARDEN OF TIVISSA

TIVISSA

A TREK TO LES MOLES VISITING NATOCS AND ROCA RODONA

This is an interesting itinerary, most of which goes through fields of hazelnut trees, grape-vines, olive trees, almond trees and cherry trees. Some really beautiful stretches stand out, which have been recently recovered. Along the route, as fields become more inaccessible, cultivated fields give way to the abandoned ones, keeping the charm of the work carried out by several generations of farmers which shaped the land throughout Catalunya.

Spring is one of the most suitable seasons to undertake this hike when the flower blooming of almond trees and cherry trees fills the mountain with energy and colour. As the season advances, the vineyards and hazelnut tree fields also start filling up with life, as the green of new leaves covers their bare branches. The low water season and the subsequent weather cooling will reduce all these fruit trees to a skeleton of trunks and branches, waiting again for the fair weather of spring to arrive.

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: TIVISSA – HOLLOW OF NATOCS – LES MOLES – RICAPELL SPRING – FONDO CREEK – POU DE LA NEU - TIVISSA

Tivissa is a village with a vast municipal district, of 209.4 square kilometres, which also comprised the villages of Capçanes, Els Guiamets and Vandellòs in the past. They became independent villages during the first half of the 20th Century. Tivissa has 1.905 inhabitants, distributed among the village of Tivissa and the areas of Darmós and Serra d'Almos. The village of Tivissa, located in the eastmost part of the municipality, has no permanent inhabitants.

The origin of Tivissa is quite old, as shown by its many cave paintings. It has one of the most important Iberian culture archeological sites, Castellet de Banyoles, located on a plain on the banks of river Ebre. The so-called Tresor de Tivissa (Tivissa treasure) was discovered in this archeological site in 1927, which consists of several Iberian votive pieces (unique in Catalunya) dating from the 3rd Century B.C.

This route goes deep into the hollow of Natocs, an area which was probably controlled by these first settlers. The cultivation of hazelnut trees is the main farming activity in the hollow, although there are some fields with olive trees and almond trees. The access tracks to the farmed fields give way to the paths going through fields that were cultivated in the past. These paths, recovered thanks to the effort of the village inhabitants, allow trekkers to admire the *aigüeres*. These structures divert water to prevent the erosion of the path.

The water spring of El Pardal, which is just before the path to Natocs leads to a track, on the left, is a good place to cool down a bit. The water is said to come from a water mine located further up, half forgotten by disuse. Once on the plain of Les Moles, you will see more farmed fields, with grapevines and hazelnut trees. The view widens from here and, particularly when you leave the GR, you can admire the Montalt –with the distinctive small wood of holm trees at its top–, the mountain ranges of Pas de l'Ase and El Montsant, as well as several villages located on the basins of the rivers Montsant and Siurana.

You will go deep into the wood again, where you will discover a small dry-stone well that fills with the eroded surface materials of the soil, which is very clayey. Wild boars love this place, as this is a good pool for them to wallow in the mud and get rid of parasites. A winding path will take you back to the village. The route finishes after going through a beautiful field with cherry trees on the so-called Pou de la Neu (well of the snow) path. This wide path, which is partly a concrete path, probably got its name from one of the snow storage places which built up one of the most lucrative economic activities from the 17th to the 19th Century.



* **ADHOC**
sostenibilitat ambiental

Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Medi Ambient
i Habitatge

