

Sot de l'Infern (‘The Pit of Hell’)



Starting at La Plana del Coll, follow the yellow waymarks, taking the path that descends through a shady holm oak wood until you reach the entrance of the Fontmartina campsite ①. From here, you are rewarded with great views of El Turó de l'Home.

View of El Turó de l'Home

At 1,706 metres, El Turó de l'Home is the highest peak in the Montseny range. At the top, you can see the old weather observatory hut and the antennas on Puig Sesolles.

Take the narrow path that starts near the campsite entrance until you reach some centuries-old chestnut trees ②.

The old chestnut trees (Castanyers vells)

Here, you'll find a group of outstandingly large chestnut trees.

The route continues along a track. Between the holm oaks ③, you can glimpse the remains of the dry stone walls that supported the crop terraces that, after being abandoned, have been occupied by the wood.

The holm oak wood (L'alzinar)

The holm oak, a slowly-growing tree whose wood is highly prized as a fuel, is an evergreen.

Cross the upper part of the Sot de l'Infern, where most of the water runs underground. The presence of water in the lowest levels of the ground means that ash trees can flourish here. Continue along the track until you reach a plantation of young chestnut trees ④.

The chestnut tree plantation (La perxada)

The chestnut tree plantation is for the production of wood for beams, wine barrels, furniture, etc.

A few metres further along, you will find some experimental plots used for research into chestnut blight, a disease that affects many plantations. On the left, you can see cut examples that are re-sprouting from their stumps and, on the right the stumps of trees killed by the blight. The track leads to the shadiest side of the “pit”, or ravine, to El Pla de la Pomera, where you will find a reconstruction of a charcoal burner's shelter ⑤.

Charcoal burner's shelter (Cabana de carboner)

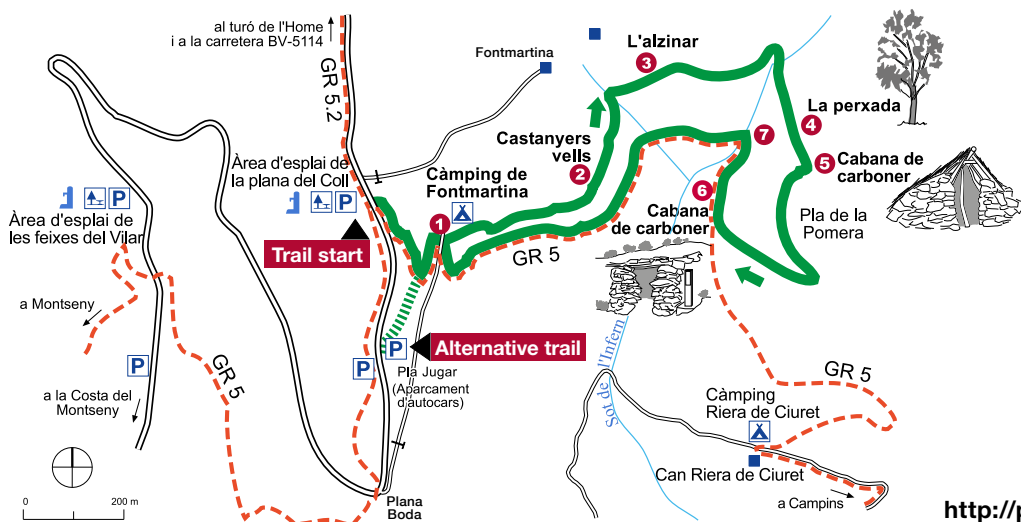
Using holm oaks for charcoal making was until recently an important economic activity in these hills.

Leaving the track to your left, go down a narrow path through chestnuts, holm oaks and some oak and scots pine trunks. Alongside the track, you can see a second charcoal burner's shelter ⑥. The path reaches the lowest point of El Sot de l'Infern ⑦.

Sot de l'Infern

The damp, shady conditions of the “pit” encourage the development of riverside woodland.

The path moves away from the ravine and once again enters the holm oak wood. Staying in the wood, the trail climbs until you return, next to the campsite, to the path you took at the start.



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How to get there

By car

Take the C-35 road from Granollers to Girona, and come off at the Sant Celoni exit. Follow the signs to Santa Fe de Montseny and take the BV-5114 road. At the roundabout at kilometre point 4, take the BV-5119 towards Mosqueroles. When you reach La Costa del Montseny, turn onto the Fontmartina track until you reach the La Plana del Coll recreation area.

<http://parcs.diba.cat/web/montseny>

Distance: 3.17 km Time needed: 1 hr 10 minutes

The route is over paths and tracks waymarked with bright yellow painted markers.

Wear proper footwear and take water.

Chestnuts are a food source for many animal species and are a resource for the woods' owners. Pick sparingly and always with the owner's permission.

You can send any suggestions you may have to: <http://parcs.diba.cat/bustia-de-suggeriment>

Nearest amenities and services

El Montseny Natural Park Office

Masia Mariona

Ctra. BV-5119, km 2,5. Mosqueroles

08470 Fogars de Montclús. Tel. 938 475 102

p.montseny@diba.cat

Fontmartina Campsite

La Costa del Montseny

08470 Fogars de Montclús. Tel. 627 678 462

p.montseny.camping@diba.cat