



From Els Vernets de Ca la Marta 1 to Santa Maria 2

Leave by the path parallel to la Polleda stream and take the paved track to Vilanova de Sau, where you will be welcomed by the church of Santa Maria. Its reddish stone walls show the phases of construction: the central section from the 12th century; the north side chapel from the 16th century; and the neoclassical portal, the upper extension of the apse nave and the bell tower, from 1870.

From Santa Maria to Santa Margarida plain 3 and Sabaters pond 4

Leave the village by the path that coincides with roads GR 2 and GR 151 and after a few metres take care when crossing road N-141d.

The climb begins on a path between cultivated plots, which have a sprinkling of wild flowers and butterflies in spring. Over the panorama of the fields rise the crags of Vilanova, which have a reddish colour; this colour has always been a distinguishing mark of the origin of Vilanova de Sau's inhabitants, who are known as "camaroiqs" (red-legged in English) by the neighbouring towns.

Shortly afterwards, the path enters a forest densely populated by oaks, holm oaks, chestnut trees, Scots pines and maritime pines. The small cones of the Scots pine are the favourites of the squirrels, which we can catch by surprise, if we keep silent.

Suddenly, the dark, twisting rising path opens out onto a wide and sunny track. At our feet we no longer find red-coloured sand, but rather the layer of sandstone that lies on top of the latter. You can celebrate now you are at the top of the crag. Not far away, on the left, you will find Sabaters pond.

From Santa Margarida plain and Sabaters pond to Santa Margarida d'Ardola 5

Follow the path on the right and you will soon enter a forest densely populated with holm oaks, oaks and Scots pines, which guards the remains of the Romanesque shrine of Santa Margarida d'Ardola, first documented in 1064. According to oral history, in 1935 the midday-facing wall collapsed, and later, the entire roof. A year later, it was burned.

From Santa Margarida d'Ardola to Far hill 6

The last ascending section contains a path between large blocks of sandstone and caves, which must have provided good shelter for the former bandits of Vilanova de Sau. Much earlier, protected by these caves, an Iberian town was established, probably called Ardola.

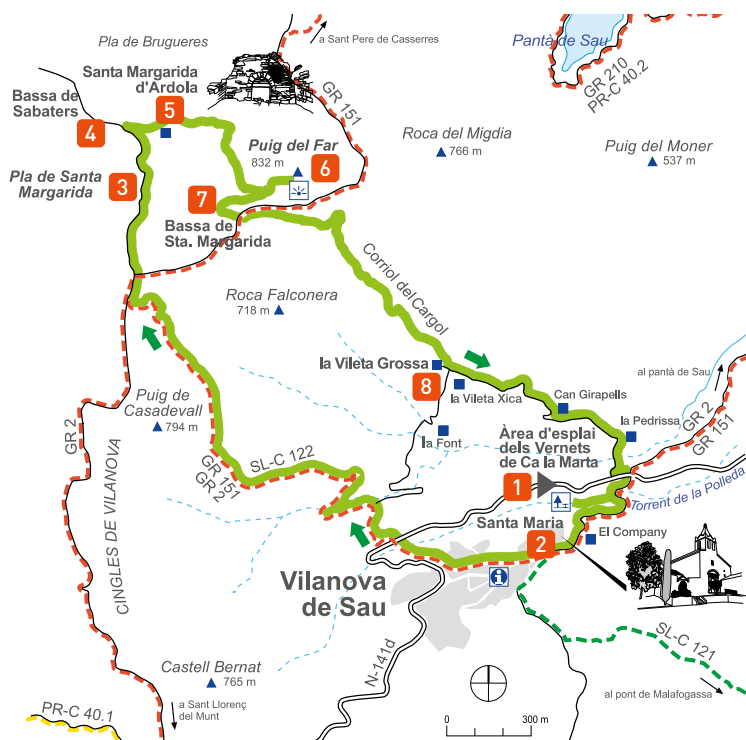
After a small climb between different rock shelters, you will come to the lookout of Far hill, a spectacular almost 360 degree vantage point at 832 metres above sea level. The lookout does not have railings, so don't venture too close to the cliff.

From Far hill to Els Vernets de Ca la Marta 1

Now you must descend a small path to Santa Margarida pond 7. A lovely spot to sit and listen to the Mediterranean tree frogs and green frogs croaking.

Further ahead you will come to the track of road GR 151, which you will soon leave to take the Cargol path, which was the former route for travel to Santa Margarida d'Ardola from Vilanova de Sau and which will take you to Vileta Grossa 8.

At the end of the paved track you must again cross road N-141d and, shortly after, you will come to the path that returns to the recreation area.



112
emergències

Distance: 7,800 m Duration: 3 hours

Advice:

- Wear adequate footwear and a hat and bring water and binoculars.
- The gradient is considerable, so assess your physical abilities and increase the estimated time if you are factoring in breaks.
- Respect the activity of the country houses and farms that you pass.
- Close the farm fences that you pass through.
- Take care when crossing the two paths across road N-141d.
- On particularly foggy days, consider an alternative route.
- Please, notify the Natural Area of any incidents that you discover.
- You may send your suggestions to: parcs.diba.cat

How to get here

By car. Take exit 187 (Calldetenes/Sant Julià de Vilatorrada/Folgueroles) off the Eix Transversal (C-25) and take road N-141d. A kilometre after passing Vilanova de Sau, you will find the recreation area of Vernets de Ca la Marta, the starting point of the excursion.

Nearest facilities and services

Oficina de l'Espai Natural de les Guilleries-Savassona
Guilleries, 5
Vilanova de Sau
Tel. 938 847 888