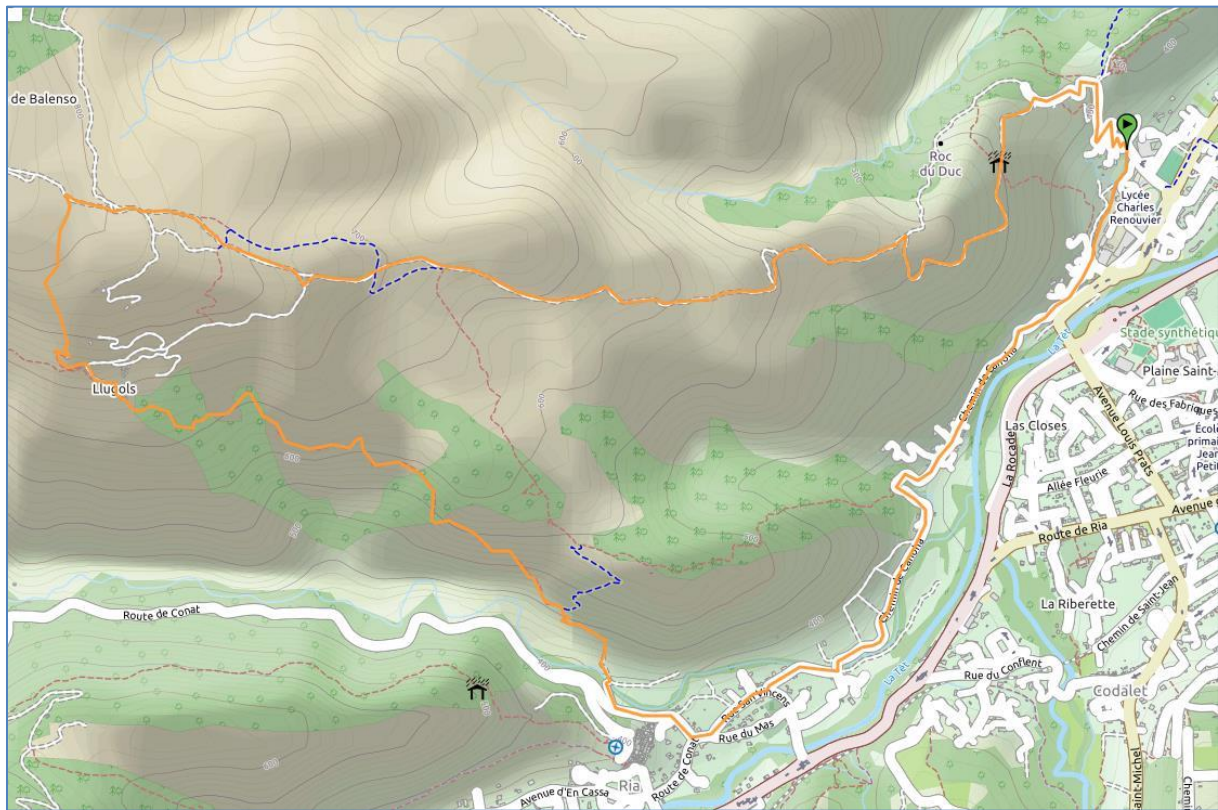


PRADES - RIA - LLUGOLS



We start at a car park on a lane (the *chemin de Catllar*) between the hospital and the *lycée* (college) in Prades.

We follow an irrigation canal which passes behind the *lycée*. We cross the *Rue des Oliviers* and we continue to follow the canal, as far as its junction with the *Chemin de Canoha*.

We follow the *Chemin de Canoha* (a quiet lane with little motor traffic) all the way to Ria.

In Ria, we turn right and we follow the *Rue Sant Vincens* to the church. We turn right again, onto the *Route de Conat*, and we pass through the village.

We go down a lane on the right which has a signpost for Llugols. We cross a river, then, at a bifurcation, we take a track on the left.

The track becomes a path, and we follow this path, uphill, all the way to Llugols. On the way, there are two bifurcations, and we go to the left each time, following the signs for Llugols.

Llugols is an ancient hamlet, but was almost abandoned in the fifteenth century. Several houses here have been renovated in recent decades.

We pass through Llugols and follow signs to the Saint Christophe chapel (to the left of village as we walk). The chapel has also been recently restored.

We follow a path behind the chapel which leads up to a great overhanging rock, from where there is a fabulous view towards the Canigou massif.

From the rock, we follow a faintly-marked path which follows a terrace on the right. After a short distance, the path turns to the left. The path becomes clearer, with occasional stone cairns, as it climbs the hill. Shortly after crossing a fence through a narrow gap, we enter open land and we approach the top of the hill. There is a farmstead on the right.

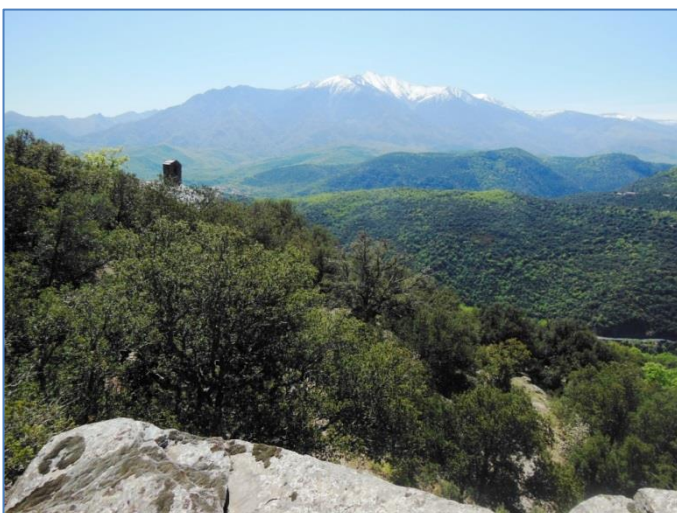
There are more fence crossings (narrow gaps). The final one, at the top of the hill, is a little on the left, at a fence junction.

We join a jeep track on the top of a plateau. We turn right, and we follow that track. Straight ahead, there is now a marvellous view towards Perpignan and the Mediterranean coastline.

The track descends towards Prades.

At a track junction, we follow a wide, recently-constructed track on the right. It gives us wonderful views over Prades and the surrounding countryside.

The track joins a tarmac lane near a pylon. We turn right and follow the tarmac lane downhill. At a col, we follow the lane to the right. It zig-zags down the hillside and it takes us back to the start of the walk.



Alan Mattingly
May 2016

More walks: www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu