

RIA, LLUGOLS and "the MAJESTIC PINE TREE"

Duration and ascent: 4h00;
550m

Photos : www.wikiloc.com



1 - START. Ria-Sirach *mairie* (town hall) (altitude 370m). From this point, we climb up towards the top of the old village - via the "*Rue de la Mairie*", then the "*Rue de la Lisse*" and then the "*Rue du Castell*". We go to the right, along the "*Rue du Castell*". On a corner wall by the junction of tarmac lanes, we look for a ceramic with the inscription "*Pujada Jacint Verdaguer*". We go up the lane ahead, then we turn left onto a path to climb to:



2 - The "Castell", on the top of a hill. From here, there is a good view over the Têt valley and towards the surrounding massifs. We go back down to the ceramic and we follow a paved path to the left of the

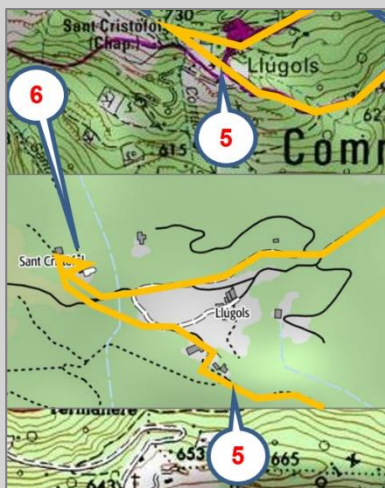
tarmac lane. The path seems to go through a private property, but it is a right of way. We cross another tarmac lane below, then we follow the unsurfaced path opposite, down to a car park. We go across the car park, then we cross the D26 road just beyond. We go down a lane immediately opposite and we cross a bridge over a river.

3 - At the "St Sebastià" oratory, we go to the left. A long climb towards Llugols begins here.



4 - Path bifurcation. Here, we turn to the left. (We return to this point towards the end of the walk.) The path climbs steadily, at first in the open, then in woodland.

5 - Entrance to Llugols. We go through a gate. We go to the right, between houses, then we go to the left. After the last house on the left, and after a few more metres on a track,



we take a path, slightly below, on the left. The path crosses a wider path*, then our path climbs to:

6 - The eleventh-century "*Sant Cristòfol*" chapel. From here, we retrace our steps down to the wider path (*). We go to the left, along that path for a short distance. On arriving at a bend in a wide jeep track, we go to left, along that track. It goes above and behind other houses in Llugols. Where other tracks join on the left and right, we go straight ahead. We leave Llugols.

7 - Track-path bifurcation. Here, we turn left onto the path, which zig-zags up a slope. We approach the top of the plateau. We go straight across a track and, after a short distance, we meet the main track along the plateau (the "*Pla de Vallensó*"). We go left, along that track, for about 100 metres.



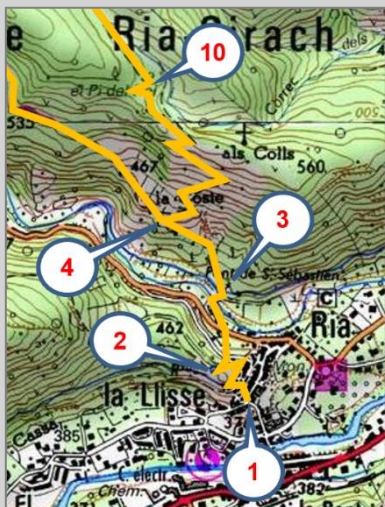
8 - Track-path bifurcation (altitude 780m). We turn sharp right onto the path, which is an ancient footpath known as the "*Route du Talc*". The wheels of wagons which were hauled by animals in years gone by have worn "chariot tracks" into the rocky surface of this path. We are now on a descent back to Ria.

9 - Path-track crossing. We go straight across the track. The path turns to the left. Shortly afterwards, the path goes to

the right. We follow the path as it descends into woodland.



10 - Path junction. We go the right, a short distance, to "el Pi del Rei", the "King's pine tree". This tree rises with unchallenged majesty above the surrounding Mediterranean vegetation. We return to point 10, and we go to the right... The path crosses a shoulder of the hill. We follow the path as it then winds down a steep hillside.



4 - Path junction. Here we re-join our outward route. We descend to the left. We follow our outward route back to start of this route in the centre of Ria.