



# Sant Aniol d'Aguja

## Alta Garrotxa Protected Natural Area

Sadernes, Pont d'en Valentí, Resclosa del Gomarell, Sant Aniol d'Aguja

Generalitat de Catalunya

Diputació de Girona



Route that runs along the **Sant Aniol** stream, from **Sadernes** to **Sant Aniol d'Aguja**. The route starts at the hermitage of **Santa Cecília**, goes towards the imposing limestone walls of **Sespasa Castle** and crosses the **Pont d'en Valentí** bridge to reach the hermitage of **Sant Aniol d'Aguja**. From here, we will discover **Salt de la Núvia**, from where there is a magnificent viewpoint looking over the **Sant Aniol valley**.

TECHNICAL DATA	distance	14,9 km	difficulty (SENDIF)	<b>demanding</b>
	elevation gain	567 m	equipped pathways	<b>no</b>
	estimated time	5h 10'	recommended period	<b>all year round</b>
	route type	<b>round trip</b>	signage	<b>banners and green and orange paint</b>

**How to get there** (DIGITAL VERSION) **Track** (DIGITAL VERSION) **Regulated parking with prior reservation**

**By private vehicle**

From the village of Montagut, follow the paved road to the neighbourhood of Sadernes. Motorised access is regulated and prior reservation is necessary for much of the year. Find out more about the regulation periods at [www.altagarrotxa.org](http://www.altagarrotxa.org).



**By bus**

From the Olot bus station, take the Teisa line that travels to the town of Montagut.

The **Alta Garrotxa Protected Natural Area** is an extensive territory (32,865 hectares) which, due to its **diversity and uniqueness**, is undoubtedly the most significant area of the Eastern Pre-Pyrenees. Among the most characteristic features are **the cliffs and valley floors, which make up a landscape of great beauty and natural value**.





### 1 Santa Cecília de Sadernes

We start the route in front of the hermitage of Santa Cecília, a 12th century Romanesque building that belongs to Sales de Llierca. It has a single nave with a semicircular apse, where the arrow loops are preserved. The original Espadanya bell tower was converted into a fortified tower, with a four-sided roof, with the aim of defending against possible attacks and theft.



### 2 Sespasa Castle

After the Pas dels Aures bridge, to the left of the Llierca river, rises the cliff on which are located the remains of what used to be a castle in the municipality of Sales de Llierca. This spectacular slab of calcareous rock has a high ecological interest for the nesting of different species of birds of prey.



### 3 Pont d'en Valentí

We arrive at the Pont d'en Valentí bridge, built with limestone; it has two semi-circular arches made with very well-cut ashlar stones. The presence of this very important bridge tells us that, in the past, this was a highly populated area frequented by coal miners, woodcutters, porters and even smugglers.



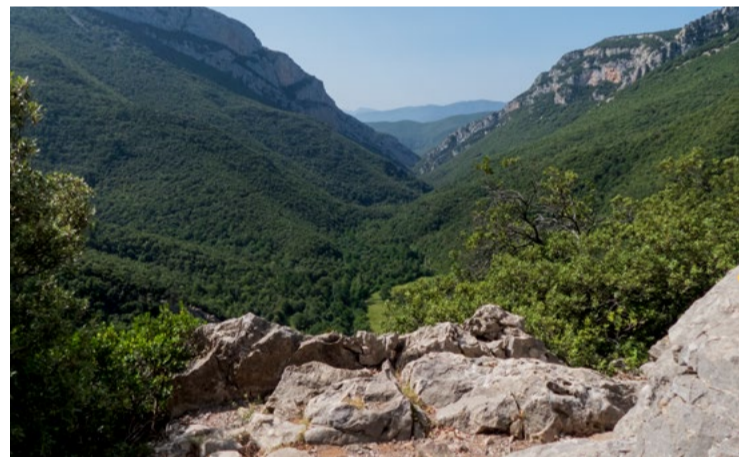
### 4 Resclosa de Gomarell lock

We cross the Sant Aniol stream using the Pont d'en Valentí bridge and follow the path until we reach the Resclosa de Gomarell lock. This lock acts as a catchment point for drinking water for the municipalities of Montagut and Oix, Tortellà and Argelaguer. For this reason, it is forbidden to bathe there.



### 5 Hermitage of Sant Aniol d'Aguja







After crossing the stream by the suspension bridge of Clarioles, we arrive at the hermitage of Sant Aniol. Dating from the middle of the 12th century, it is one of the oldest churches in the Alta Garrotxa area. In the present day, it consists of a rectangular nave with a barrel vault and a two-sided roof, a semicircular apse and a small bell tower, where the Corali bell is located. On the facade, we find a latticed rose window with a cross. Next to the hermitage, there is a fountain and the rectory, which is now in the process of being renovated.










### 6 Salt de la Núvia (Bride's Leap)

Returning from Sant Aniol along the left bank, we arrive at Salt de la Núvia. Legend has it that they wanted to marry the daughter of the manor of Sant Aniol to the heir of the Talaixà blacksmith against her will. As they climbed the path that leads to Talaixà, she cried inconsolably. At the steepest bend in the cliff, to avoid the wedding, the girl let herself fall from her horse into the void. Despite this sad story, from this point on the mountain ledge, there is a magnificent view of the entire Sant Aniol valley.

#### SAFETY ADVICE

-  Check the weather conditions before setting out.
-  Always let us know where you are going and when you will be back.
-  Plan the activity; consult the guidebooks and the route map. Respect the signage.
-  Use appropriate material and equipment. Take your mobile phone with you and make sure you have sufficient battery. In case of emergency, call 112.
-  Ensure that you hydrate often and eat energy-dense foods.
-  Set reference points along the route to orient yourself.

#### REGULATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

-  Do not light a fire or set up camp.
-  Collect your rubbish.
-  Follow the marked paths.
-  Keep dogs on a leash.
-  Respect private property and livestock.
-  Do not make unnecessary noises or loud cries.
-  Take care of animals and plants.

