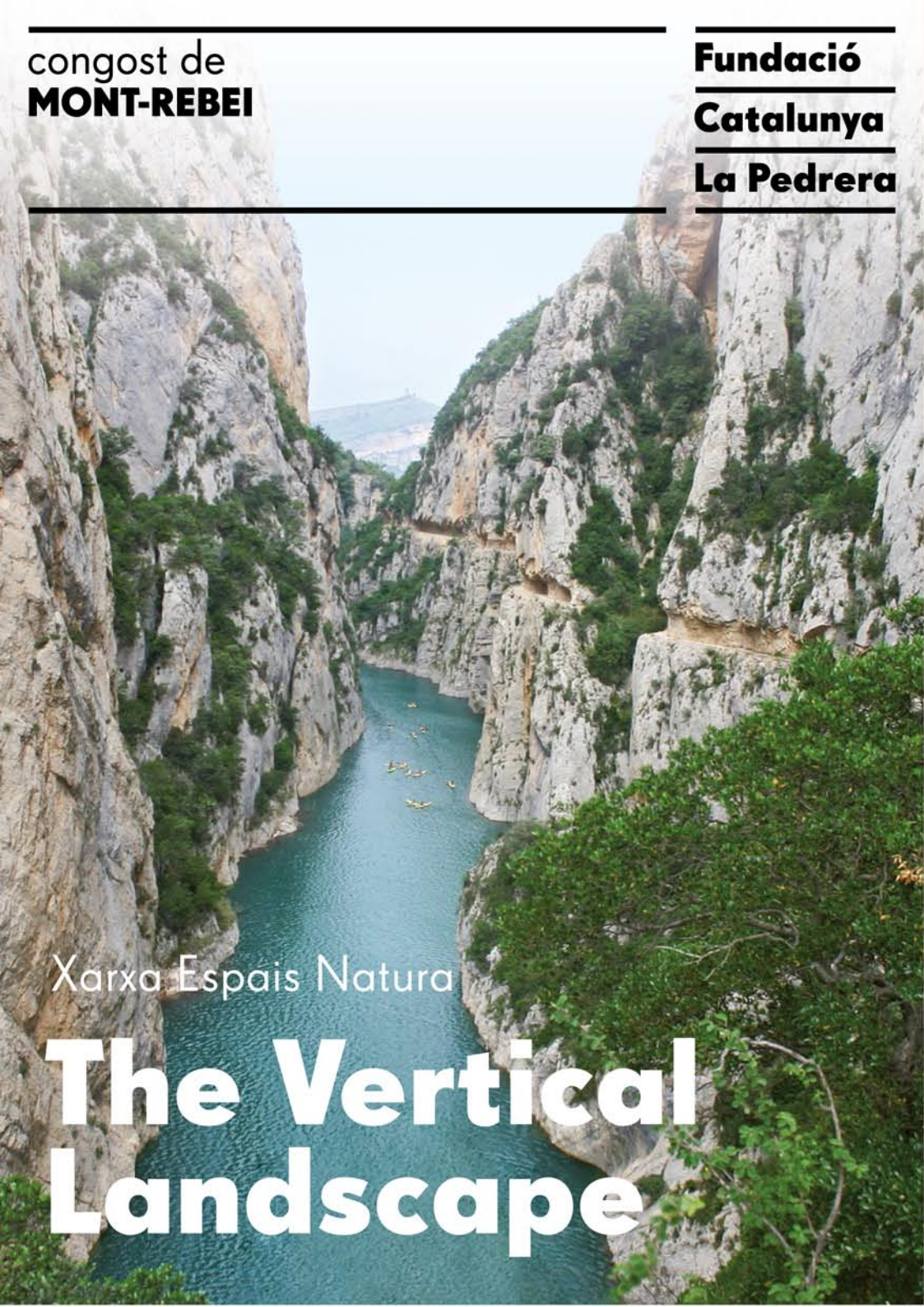


Congost de MONT-REBEI

Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera



Xarxa Espais Natura

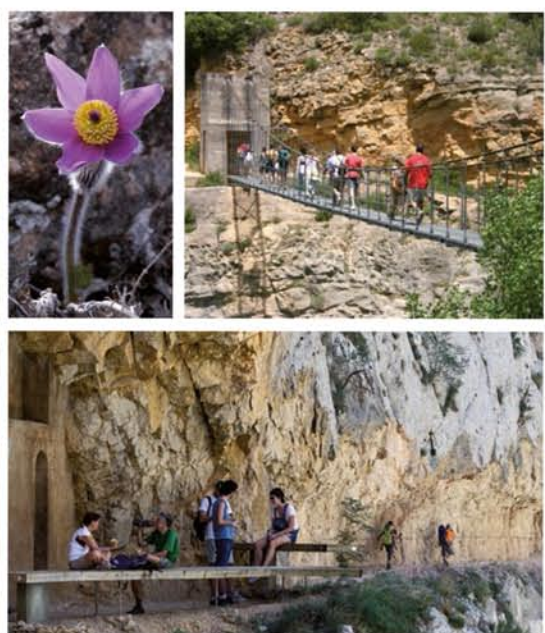
The Vertical Landscape

Mont-Rebei gorge

Year purchased: 1999
Area: 598,71 ha
Location: Sant Esteve de la Sarga (Pallars Jussà)
GPS coordinates: N42°05'47,61" E00°41'49,40"

Situated between Aragon and Catalonia, the Mont-rebei gorge divides the Montsec range, the first major formation of the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees, from North to South. The Fundació Reserve protects almost 600 hectares on the Catalan side: the gorge itself as well as the riverbanks (home of the river otter), the cliffs (habitat to large birds of prey), and part of the oak-covered, shaded side of the Montsec d'Ares.

As it cuts across the Montsec range, the Noguera Ribagorçana river forms an immense series of vertical walls known as the Mont-rebei gorge, which opens on the South into an amphitheater of stunning cliff faces.



A gorge unlike any other

As it passes through the Mont-rebei gorge, the Noguera Ribagorçana river runs through the depths of a canyon that reaches heights of 500 metres, with a span that narrows at points to less than 20 metres. It is the country's last great gorge that remains in a nearly pristine state but that is also easily accessible to visitors. It is crossed only by a bridle path that has been cut into the rock, allowing visitors to enjoy the spectacular scenery.

Cliff-dwelling birds

The cliff faces are dotted with the nests of birds of prey such as the Peregrine falcon, the common vulture, the Egyptian vulture, the golden eagle and the Eurasian eagle-owl, along with noisy yellow- and red-beaked jackdaws. The most threatened of our raptors, the bearded vulture, nests along the cliff faces of the Mont-rebei. Here one can fully appreciate the majesty of its flight, as its golden body and black wings cut a splendid figure against the sky and its shadow falls on the limestone walls as it seemingly skims the rocks in flight.

Mont-rebei gorge

How to get there?



GPS coordinates:
N42°05'47,61" E00°41'49,40"

Facilities

La Masieta, information center in the gorge. Open from February to mid-December, all Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and long weekends. From mid-July to mid-September, every day.

Opening hours

From February to mid-March 8.30–17.00 h
From mid-March to mid-September 7.30–20.00 h
From mid-September to mid-December 8.30–17.00 h

Services:



La Masieta s/n, Sant Esteve de la Sarga

info@congestdemontrebei.cat

www.congestdemontrebei.cat



With the collaboration of:



Space managed by:

Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera

Our commitment to society:

Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera, manager of Espai Natura Congost de Mont-rebei, helps people to build a better and fairer future. Therefore, we offer opportunities to people in need, we promote talent, creation and education and we preserve natural and cultural heritage.



1. Bearded vulture

Gypaetus barbatus
Large and slim-framed. It feeds mainly on bones, which it swallows whole or breaks by dropping them from great heights.

2. Golden eagle

Aquila chrysaetos
A large eagle that lives in craggy, mountainous regions. It is both a hunter and a carrion bird. It can attain speeds of up to 240 km/h in flight.

3. Egyptian Vulture

Neophron percnopterus
The smallest European vulture; feeds on leftovers and small carrion. It is a migratory bird and spends the winter in Africa.

4. Palmate Newt

Euproctus asper
It lives in the cold, oxygen-rich waters of mountain streams, where it creeps along the streambed in search of food.

5. European otter

Lutra lutra
A carnivorous mammal that feeds on fish, frogs, and other aquatic animals. A superb swimmer that can remain submerged for up to six minutes without coming up for air.

6. King of Saxifrages

Saxifraga longifolia
A plant endemic to the Pyrenees and the Pre-Pyrenees, living in rock fissures on calcareous substrates. It flowers between May and August.

7. Pyrenean violet

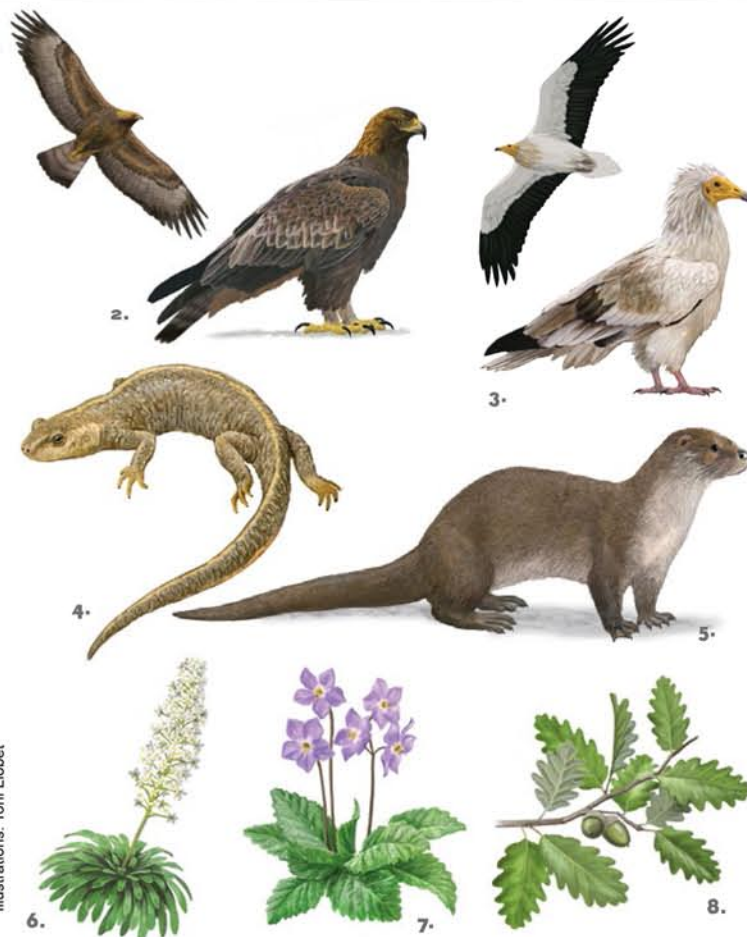
Ramonda myconi
It grows in the cracks between shaded rocks in the Pyrenees and mountainous regions of the eastern half of Catalonia. It blooms from May to July, taking on various violet hues, and then shrivels before sprouting again with the autumn rains.

8. Downy Oak

Quercus pubescens
A deciduous tree that can grow up to 25 metres high and in Catalonia is found in highland forests. As the Latin name suggests, its new shoots and the underside of its leaves are downy.

Flora and fauna

The walls and crags of the narrow gorge make up some of the most unique habitats in the area, hosting unusual plant life such as the Pyrenean violet and the "corona de rey" saxifrage, and offering nesting sites for raptors such as the bearded vulture, the golden eagle and the common vulture. In addition to the cliff faces and the river, where otters can sometimes be seen, there are other ecological niches that vary according to the orientation of the mountainside. Dense oak groves are found on the shaded slopes, while the sunny slopes are dominated by Mediterranean vegetation such as Holm oak, stands of boxwood, and scrublands. The dry, windswept Montsec crest is covered with dry meadows and scrublands. Rounding out the extensive biodiversity of the region are its caverns and pit caves, home to bats and other subterranean fauna.



Illustrations: Tomi Lobet

By purchasing this guide you are contributing to the environmental preservation and protection of this area.



- Main road
- Local road
- Asphalted road
- Forest track
- Side track
- Precarious track
- Restricted passage
- Cavern / pit cave
- Church / chapel
- Ruins of church / chapel
- Ruins
- Path
- Narrow path
- GR
- Fundació Area
- Natural areas protected
- La Masieta (Information Centre)
- Car park
- Reserve access
- Village
- Church
- Peak
- Historical monument
- Panoramic view
- Mountain hut
- Tower
- Monumental tree
- Picnic area
- Forest
- Bridge
- Gorge
- Archaeological Site
- Montfalcó walkways

Recommended routes

Not to be missed

1 Alsamora Trail
 3h 15' | +310 m | -220 m | 4,8 km | Medium (one-way)
 A linear route offering access to an interesting and little-known section of the forested area on the shaded side of Montsec d'Ares, cut through with deep gullies, and offering panoramic views towards the Pyrenees.
 Note: hikers should be in good physical condition. There are some steep climbs.

2 Gorge Trail
 1h 45' | +125 m | -90 m | 3,5 km | Easy (one-way)
 Until the second Montfalcó walkway
 2h 45' | +250 m | -100 m | 5 km | Medium (one-way)
 A linear route making it possible to cover the entire length of the spectacular Mont-rebei gorge following the left bank of the Noguera Ribagorçana.
 After leaving the path excavated on the cliff, it is possible to continue following the path until La Pertusa or taking the right detour to the Montfalcó walkways, passing through the Congost del Seguer bridge.
 Note: the narrow part of the trail cut from the rock must be taken very slowly and carefully. Persons who suffer from vertigo are advised to avoid this route.

3 Altimiris Trail
 2h 10' | +510 m | -70 m | 3,4 km | Medium (one-way)
 A linear route that leads along a wooded crest to the ruins of the Altimiris settlement, a window into the transition period between antiquity and the High Middle Ages. This route also offers magnificent panoramic views of the Mont-rebei reserve.
 Note: There are some steep climbs. Take care not to disturb our archeological heritage.

4 Obaga Gran Trail
 2h 30' | +570 m | -70 m | 4,7 km | Medium (one-way)
 A linear route leading into the shaded slopes of the Montsec, broken up by multiple gorges and gullies. The oak groves of Obaga Mitjana and Obaga Gran are very interesting, and the Mont-rebei plain viewpoint offers a look back over the trail just covered.
 Note: expect some difficulty crossing the Sant Jaume gorge. Hikers should be in good physical condition.

The otter lookout
 A panoramic view of the entire reserve can be had from the natural lookout point at the bend of the Noguera Ribagorçana river, leading to Alsamora just before arriving at Masieta, where the river's rapids can be seen before entering the defile itself, with the Mare de Déu del Congost chapel and the Xiriveta castle.



The Altimiris settlement
 Situated atop one of the buttresses that dominate the North face of the Mont-rebei gorge is this pre-Romanesque site from a little-known era of Spanish history, between the fifth and ninth centuries, linking late antiquity with the High Middle Ages. The site consists of a settlement and chapel that evoke Peru's Machu Picchu. The Fundació works closely with the University of Barcelona to study this and other archeological sites within the reserve, such as the Colomera cave and the Mort cave.

La Masieta
 The remains of an old farm work to host the large amount of visitors of the Gorge. A place you will find when you arrive and where you will get all the information you need. Besides, you will get a touch of the values and highlights offered by this natural spot.

Monumental trees
 Although the reserve is in a relatively dry region that has been worked by settlers for centuries, there are still some immense trees of special interest to nature lovers. Especially notable are some very large oaks (*Quercus cerrioides*), particularly in the Obaga Mitjana and along the banks of the Canelles reservoir, between the Masieta and the Sant Jaume gorge. Also worthy of mention are the Holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) at the Carlets country house.

- Recommendations for your visit**
- Bring warm clothes, sun protection, sunglasses and cap/hat or similar, as well as water and comfortable footwear and clothing suitable for walking.
 - Binoculars and guides for observation of flora and fauna are recommended, if you have them.
 - No vehicles are allowed beyond the parking area.
 - Do not leave the marked trails (this is especially dangerous on the Obaga del Montsec trails).
 - Dogs must be kept on a leash.
 - Camping in unauthorized areas is not permitted.
 - Lighting fires is totally prohibited.
 - Take your rubbish away with you.
 - Don't take any mineral nor fossil with you.
 - Don't take any plant with you.
 - We remind climbers that they share the walls of the Mont-rebei defile with vultures and other birds, and that their laying period is from December to June; for this reason we recommend avoiding climbing at this time.

- WHERE TO EAT**
 Restaurants in Pont de Montanyana, Cellers, Àger and Guàrdia de Noguera
- WHERE TO SLEEP**
La Clua
 Casa Blasi. Tel. 973 25 22 44
 Casa Sidro. Tel. 616 80 28 09
 El Casalet de la Clua. Tel. 650 276 169
El Pont de Montanyana
 Hostal Isidro. Tel. 974 54 21 55
 Hostal Condes de Ribagorza. Tel. 974 54 21 94
Collmorte
 Cal Soldat. Tel. 620 415 536
Castissent
 Terra del Congost. Tel. 609 335 909
To get more information about lodging visit: www.pallarsjussa.net

- Useful information**
- La Masieta** (Information Centre):
Sant Esteve de la Sarga Village Council: Tel. 973 65 33 77
Pallars Jussà Regional Council: Tel. 973 65 01 87
Noguera Regional Council: Tel. 973 44 89 33
Tremp Tourist Office: Tel. 973 65 00 05
Taxis: Tel. 654 93 22 74 (Xavi Bergua)
Chemist's: In Areny de Noguera, Benavarri, Àger o Tremp.
Pallars Regional Hospital (Tremp): Tel. 973 65 22 55
- RECREATION AND SIGHTSEEING**
Tremp Tourist Office: (Epicentre):
 Tel. 973 65 34 70. www.pallarsjussa.net
Kayaking Mont-rebei: Tel. 654 93 22 74. www.kmr.es
Montsec Astronomical Observatory:
 Tel. 973 45 52 30. www.oadm.cat
Mur Castle: Tel. 677 70 18 20. www.castellmur.cat
Montanyana Medieval Site

Did you know...

Since 2005, the Mont-rebei gorge has been classified as a **Wildlife Refuge**.

The archeological digs at the Colomera Cave are now yielding data on prevailing environmental conditions over the past 7,000 years, shedding light on climate change.

A tour through Mont-rebei is like a stroll through 170 million years of the Earth's history. You can observe sediments accumulated over this time period, and

even identify the moment in time when the dinosaurs became extinct; you might even spot some of their footprints.

The Mont-rebei gorge is the last great gorge in Catalonia that has not suffered the effects of any transportation infrastructure, and has remained virtually intact, unscarred by a single road or power line.