



The living mountain

Alinyà Mountain

How to get here

From highway C-14: between Coll de Nargó and Organyà, take the L-401 towards Sant Llorenç de Morunys, 4 km along the road is the entrance to the Alinyà reserve, and the village of Alinyà is 10 km along the same road.

From Sant Llorenç de Morunys: take the L-401 towards Organyà (a road with a lot of bends), and you'll reach the area as you enter the Alt Urgell region.



Facilities

The 'Rectoria', visitor center/agroshop of the Alinyà's Mountain. Open every Saturday, Sunday, Holiday and long weekend, since March to December, and everyday during the month of August, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm (August 7.00 pm)

Services:



Plaça del Ball Pla, Alinyà.
Tel. 973 058 991 | 608 055 666
info@alinyamuntanya.cat
alinyamuntanya.cat



Espai Natura

Space managed by:

**Fundació
Catalunya
La Pedrera**

Our commitment to society

Fundació Catalunya-la Pedrera, manager of Espai Natura Muntanya d'Alinyà, 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.

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

Alinyà Mountain

Year purchased: 1999
Area: 5,352 ha
Location: Figols & Alinyà (Alt Urgell)
GPS coordinates: E01°25'55,22" N42°11'14,28"

Between the Sierra del Cadí mountains, Port del Compte and Vall del Segre river, Alinyà Mountain is the largest private estate in Catalonia. Its more than 5,000 hectares, at altitudes from 500 to 2,380 metres above sea level and its rugged terrain offer a diverse range of environments. Pastures, rivers, forests, mountain peaks, cliffs and rocky crags make up an area of great scenic and ecological value, where the beautiful fauna of the Pyrenees live in harmony with the local population.

Offering impressive scenery and a home to emblematic species such as the chamois and the grouse, Alinyà mountain is located in the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees, the only region in Europe where all of the Old World's four species of vulture can be seen: the common vulture, the bearded vulture, the black vulture and the Egyptian vulture.



1. Black vulture

Aegypius monachus
Europe's largest bird. This bird nests in treetops, usually in large pines and cork oaks on inaccessible slopes. It became extinct in Catalonia in the early 19th century and is currently being reintroduced in the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees, with specimens released in Boumort and in the Alinyà Mountain area.

2. 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.

3. Egyptian vulture

Neophron percnopterus
The smallest of the European vultures. It is a migratory bird and spends the winter in Africa.

4. Griffon vulture

Gyps fulvus
The most common and widespread European vulture. It breeds in large colonies on rocky cliffs.

5. Chamois

Rupicapra rupicapra
Quick and agile, with short, brown hair and a pair of highly characteristic hook-shaped horns on both sexes. It spends the summer in small herds on the Pyrenean mountain peaks, while in the winter it moves down into the forests.

6. Asno catalán

Equus asinus
Large, powerful, with an energetic temperament and an excellent build, this is a breed of donkey with extraordinary qualities. It is in danger of extinction.

7. Mountain pine

Pinus uncinata
With its cone shape to withstand the snow, this is the pine tree of the high mountains. It has low branches and the trunk is normally straight and thick, although it may sometimes be twisting.

8. King of Saxifrages

Saxifraga longifolia
A plant endemic to the Pyrenees, living in rock fissures on calcareous substrates. It flowers between May and August. It has medicinal qualities, and is a popular remedy among shepherds for its abortion-inducing properties.

9. Phoenician juniper

Juniperus phoenicea
A very hardy bush or tree, which for that reason can be found at altitudes ranging from sea level up to 2,400 metres. The trunk is sometimes twisted and the top may be misshapen by the force of the wind. The wood is very strong and is used to build beams and furniture.

Flora and fauna

The geographical features, the sharp changes in altitude and the diversity of human interaction with the environment have created exceptional biodiversity. In the forests can be found fascinating species such as the grouse, the roe deer and the black woodpecker; in the meadows and scrublands are hares, rabbits and foxes; the rocky terrain is home to chamoises and snow voles; on the cliffs are the nests of the large birds of prey; the rivers are notable for their native trout and otters, and in the ponds and wetlands live the Pyrenean newt and the red frog. The wealth of plant life is quite extraordinary, with close to a thousand taxa of vascular plants identified.



Rural life goes on

The residents of Alinyà Mountain have kept up the traditional mountain activities of this region, such as extensive herding of cattle and sheep and the cultivation of "patatas del bufet", a much sought-after variety of potato cultivated at high altitudes, which is known locally as the "trunfo." These activities are perfectly compatible with the aims of conservation, and they need to be preserved and promoted.

The springs

Long associated with farming, herding and forestry, and as resting places for hikers, the springs represent a valuable feature of the region. Alinyà Mountain has two important springs with abundant and constant flows: El Aiguaneix and Codonyes.

Visiting throughout the year

Summer in Alinyà can be dry and very hot, and a little cooler at higher altitudes. In the autumn, the oaks, poplars and ash trees turn yellow. On higher ground, there is usually snow in winter. Spring comes early in the valleys, and then moves upward, covering the fields and pastures with flowers. Along the network of trails that crisscross Alinyà mountain and from vantage points such as the Sant Ponç and Santa Pelaia chapels, we can discover a mosaic of landscapes of great natural value.



Illustrations: Toni Lobet



- Main road
- Local road
- Asphalted road
- Forest track
- Side track
- Precarious track
- Restricted passage
- Path
- Narrow path
- GR
- Fundació Area
- Protected Natural Areas
- La Rectoria (Visitor Centre/ Farmshop)
- Car park
- Reserve access
- Village
- Baserrri
- Country house
- Lookout
- Church
- University Campus/ Classroom
- Mountain hut
- Peak
- Scenic/natural area
- Panoramic view
- Observatory
- Dry stone hut
- Monumental tree
- Tower
- Megalithic monument
- Spring

Recommended routes

1 Camí de l'Aiguaneix
 1h 10' +245 m -230 m 3,200 km

A circular route that takes you past the beautiful and abundant El Aiguaneix spring and around the Castellmic rock, offering a full view of the heart of the Alinyà valley.

2 Camí de l'Estret
 2h 20' +240 m -145 m 5,800 km

A circular route that runs along a stretch of the Camino Real from Solsona in la Seu d'Urgell, with some panoramic views, and the seldom taken Camí de l'Estret road.

3 Camí de Sant Ponç
 0h 40' +180 m -1,9 km

A short linear route, all uphill, leading up to the Sant Ponç chapel, passing by the Gavató spring. Particularly sporty hikers can climb up on the Sant Ponç rock using a short and easy via ferrata. On top of the rock some of the ruins of the Alinyà castle can still be seen.

4 Camí del tossal de l'Àliga
 3h +415 m -8 km

A circular route that leads to a summit located at the head of the Alinyà valley with a splendid panoramic view. It also passes by a series of beautiful spots around the Ramon farmyard, where the mark of the potato crops is clearly visible.

5 Camí de Jordanera
 2h 40' +410 m -7,950 km

Circular route that takes you around one end of the upper valley of the Jordanera ravine, which boasts highly-varied scenery and some interesting areas, such as Pistolet rock and Jordanera spring.

6 Camí de Portell
 5h 30' +850 m -810 m 15,6 km

A long circular route that takes you through the western half of the Alinyà valley. The first half runs along the flat lands of the Camino Real road and the Colleboix and Portell valleys; the second half leads up to the Sant Ponç chapel, a good lookout over Alinyà and its outlying baserris.

7 Camí de la Moixa
 1h 20' +100 m -100 m 4,400 km

A short circular route that combines a variety of landscapes with great panoramas, especially towards the Galliner rock and El Turp.

8 Camí del clot Fité
 3h 45' +465 m -775 m 10,800 km

A long linear route that runs through two quite long valleys - Colleboix and El Portell - and then leads up to Sant Ponç chapel.

9 Camí del roc Galliner
 2h 25' +690 m -20 m 6,700 km

A linear route that leads from Alinyà to the highest peak of the Roca de Galliner, a rocky range located in the heart of the valley, with a very good panoramic view.

10 Camí de la Planassa
 1h 50' +280 m -280 m 5,000 km

A circular route which, passing through the villages of Les Sorts and Llobera, turns back at the Cerro de Salamó, one of the rocky hills in this valley.

11 Camí de Tarrés
 2h +490 m -70 m 5,600 km

A linear route that mostly follows the old Camino Real from Solsona to Seu d'Urgell, passing through some spectacular spots and around the foot of the huge anticline of La Pena rock. Can be extended with route number 12, which takes you back from l'Alzina d'Alinyà to Alinyà.

12 La dreuera
 1h -365 m -3,300 km

A linear route between two valley towns along the old bridle path, which passes through the small core of scattered country houses in the El Mig valley, located on flat land surrounded by groves of Evergreen oaks.

13 Camí de Malhivern
 4.15 h +550 m -750 m 10,900 km

A long linear route leading from the Perles valley to the Segre valley, skipping over the rocky crests at the edge of the Roca de Galliner. The route ends with a climb up Balinyó hill, a visit to the Codonyes spring and the descent to Figols d'Organyà.

14 Camí Ral de Solsona a La Seu
 2.10 h +290 m -430 m 4,855 km

A linear route that leads from l'Alzina d'Alinyà to Ossera, a very picturesque village in La Vansa valley, through a variety of pretty spots. This route is especially good for bearded vulture sightings.

Level of difficulty (SENDIF classification)

Useful information

La Rectoria (Visitor Centre/Farmshop): Tel. 973 058 991
Alinyà Village Council: Tel. 973 38 31 00
Taxis: Lluís (de Cal Graell), Tel. 689 09 62 58
Chemist's: Coll de Nargó, tel. 973 38 33 86; Organyà, tel.: 973 38 21 93
Doctors' clinics: Coll de Nargó, tel. 973 38 52 52; Organyà, tel. 973 38 20 99
Primary Assistance Centre in Oliana: Tel. 973 46 30 22
Emergencies: Tel. 112

WHERE TO EAT
 Homestyle cuisine in the villages of Llobera, Alinyà and Cambrils dels Pirineus.

WHERE TO SLEEP
In Alinyà: Cal Celso, Tel. 973 37 00 92
In Llobera: Ca la Lluïsa del Perató, Tel. 973 37 01 81
In Organyà: L'Alberg, Tel. 670 44 78 96
 Hotel Dom, Tel. 973 48 90 27
 Càmping, Tel. 973 38 33 70
In Coll de Nargó: Hotel Betriu, Tel. 973 38 30 20
 Fonda Del Llac, Tel. 973 38 21 73
In Cambrils: Ca l'Agustí - Càmping la Comella, Tel. 973 48 90 27
 Casa Espunyes, Tel. 973 48 14 43
In Odèn: El Call d'Odèn, Tel. 689 47 75 90

- Recommendations for your visit**
- High mountain climate (intense sun during the day and falling temperatures especially at night)
 - 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.
 - Driving vehicles off roads and tracks is prohibited.
 - Do not leave the marked trails.
 - Camping in unauthorized areas is not permitted.
 - Lighting fires is totally prohibited.
 - Take your rubbish away with you.

Not to be missed

La Rectoria
 The Alinyà Mountain visitor centre is located in the former rectory, next to Alinyà church, and houses a farm shop specialising in local produce, as well as an exhibition area detailing key aspects of the valley.

The view from Santa Pelaia
 This Romanesque chapel located 1,262 metres above sea level offers some magnificent views of the valley.

Vultures' lookout
 A viewing point looking out over the region where the common and black vultures in the valley are usually found. It is also possible to see bearded and Egyptian vultures, as well as golden eagles, crows, kites and other birds of prey.



The Aguaneix spring
 This spring is a beautiful upswell of water surrounded by moss and a lush box hedging, making for a very pleasant spot. It can be reached via the bridle path that runs between Alinyà and Llobera. The people of these very villages drink the water from this spring, which is collected in a tank located downstream.

The "trumfo" holes
 In several places in the valley you will find some partially buried dry stone constructions which since time immemorial have been used for preserving and storing potatoes.



The timber industry and the preservation of the biodiversity of the forests

Forestry planning sets the boundaries of conservation areas where no felling activity can take place in order to preserve the most vulnerable species, while allotting other areas for tasks that enhance the quality of the forest, reduce the risk of forest fires and increase biodiversity. The wood obtained from tree felling is processed to produce biofuels for heating.