



Many people know el Pedraforca and many also know the Ensija range, but what is in between those two is relatively unknown. This is a circular way and it is an opportunity to know this very interesting area, which has a lot of history, with top of the hill the adventure park of la Pleta de la Vila and the ruins of the mediaeval village of Palomera.

Description

Leave the village of Saldes, cross the main road and take a path that leads to the river. First you go down in the middle of meadows with some view on the old mining infrastructures of Saldes, closed not so long ago. On the other side of the river, the forest impresses and, as you go up, the path wins in category, and very well treaded and passes now and then by stone walled fields. You arrive at a little house called Mas Fred (its name, "cold", says everything) and afterwards a little road. Dating from the 40's from the last century, when they build the first roads in this area, there was a bifurcation in Maçaners. One of the roads went to Saldes and the other, this road, continued by the shadow area to Gósol, from there its actually name: carretera de l'Obaga ("shadow").

You cross this road and you enter again between some abandoned lands. After a trail stretch, you take a path that goes straight up to the south. It was a path that was used to lead livestock, especially sheep to pasture. There are two hints that shows you its identity: first, its width and, second, the rows of stone on both sides to avoid that the animals entered in the fields. At your back you have some spectacular views on Pedraforca and behind it Cadí. The path crosses a trail; it goes under a high-voltage line and continues to the south. You find again some indications of fields and we enter in a young forest. After the last ascent, you arrive at a big plain with some vast terraces – without any doubt sign that this was a cultivation area: this is el Pla de l'Espinal. Although it's away from this route, at the outer end of this plain, there are some ruins of pens to keep livestock. The fact of these simultaneously uses make us think that they didn't cultivate every year – we are at an altitude of 1.400 meters and on the north face! – After one year of cultivation, probably they left the earth to rest during some years and left the sheep to pasture so they fertilized the land with their excrements.

The way follows forest trails and shortcuts to connect with one of the scenic route of Palomera. The trail crosses a ravine and continues by a smooth ascent. You reach a plain: on the right, some stones indicate some structures that there are some ruins of other pens and of a cabin of some antiquity; on the left, some lands. Again can be seen that simultaneously use, but on a smaller scale.

At the end of the trail, you rise again on a new steep path. This is part of the same scenic route. You reach another plain with a magnificent viewpoint look out on the ranges in the north, including Pedraforca. The path passes close to some remains of a cabin; it's another little cultivation area. The path, finally, arrives above, turn left following the marked way through the forest and, in 10 minutes, you reach la Pleta de la Vila.

Like its name it indicates (pleta means "pen"), its traditional use has been to gather the livestock. There was a shepherd shelter and large pens. Nowadays, a part is dedicated to a more recreational use: an adventure park, open from Eastern until mid October, and a small bar. To go to the area of Palomera, you have to follow a signpost on the left of la Pleta de la Vila. First the path coasts and there appear walls on your left, also pens, but much older. On the other side of the Cliff, you see la roca de Palomera, with some constructions clearly of mediaeval origin. The path descends until the feet of Palomera and a path a little lost ascend to the village. If you go up, please, respect the stones! On the right there is a narrow ravine with some little caves of which they take profit, building small walls, presumably also to enclose animals. To continue the walk, you have to go back up to la Pleta de la Vila.

You resume the walk passing behind the pens of la Pleta and, in front of another viewpoint; you start the descent with the typical zigzag by an old path. You're still following the scenic walk. You reach a trail and we cross a river by a funny and recently build suspension bridge. At the end of the trail, leaves a path and you enter in the area of the "graus". It's maybe, the most emblematic part of the walk. You enter in an area of big rocks and stones with strange forms. On the right, you see an authentic chaos of rocks. You pass a rock that looks like a finger and the path goes to the left. Nevertheless, if you go to the right by a more precarious path, you reach another viewpoint, with magnificent views on Pedraforca and Moixeró. Continue the descent to the left, and

you connect again with the walk. Lower, if you look to the ground, it seems like that they took advantage of the loose stones to pave the path and to make it stronger. You also can see parallel paths interweaving with each other, another sign of livestock ways.

The way marks of the scenic route continue to the left, but our walk goes to the right. Continue flat through the forest. You can distinguish the chaos of rocks at the right. Finally, you start to see fields and the path joins a trail. Beneath there are some ruins of other pens and, a little further, a signpost of "Font del Bullidor" (spring), that rises of the rocks, and where you can fill up your canteen if you want. From here, the trail goes descending to join the road "la carretera de l'Obaga" turn left and follow this road until to return to Mas Fred and to take the same path to return to Saldes.

Distance	11 Km.
Ascent	580 m.
Start point	Plaça Pedraforca Saldes.
Area	Saldes
Estimated time	4,5 h.
Way marks	Yellow marks on all the way (route 8)
Parking	Parking areas of Saldes.
End point	Plaça Pedraforca Saldes.
Maximum altitude	1596 m.
Maps	Mapa Moixeró Editorial Alpina 1:25.000
Source	Consorci de Turisme de l'Alt Berguedà.
Observations	

Neither the Consorci de Turisme de l'Alt Berguedà nor the council of Saldes cannot responsible for accidents or damages caused to users during the accomplishment of this route nor for the way marking defects that occasionally there may be.

However, with respect to any kind of deficiencies that you could find, please notify us. Respect private property and cattle fences. Please, inform us of any problems you encounter.

