

MONESTIR DEL SULL

The monastery Sant Sebastià del Sull was built at the end of the 9th century to serve as a retreat for the priest Daniel, who also urged the construction of the second church of Saldes in 857 (from which there are no remains).

It's a unique example of the Catalan pre-Romanesque style due to the circular structure of the church, the oldest as far we know.

It consisted of a round church surrounded by different rooms and a small house. It appeared that at the monastery, while it was inhabited, that there lived a small community of one to 10 monks.



Picture of the outer wall of the church. On the floor, in the grass that you can see on the picture, still you can see some tomb.

In 1068 it was burned down by peasants of Saldes, in protest against the litigation concerning the use of lands which the monastery claimed as their own (after that, the Earl of Cerdanya obliged the peasants to give to the monastery the lands that it claimed). During the archaeological diggings from 1971 until 1977 they still found some traces of this fire.

The monastery passed to depend of the monastery of Bagà and appeared that it was more or less

inhabited until the 12th century.

The Ecclesiastical Confiscations (desamortización), that was a law of the 19th century that forced the Church to give back to the state many of its properties, especially monastic, it also affected the monastery of Bagà, scattering the community of monks and remained abandoned, also the monastery del Sull.

At the end of the 19th century, on top of the remains of the monastery, they build a country house called "la Casa del Monestir", and it was inhabited until 1910. Afterwards the house remained abandoned and with the time it became a pile of debris.

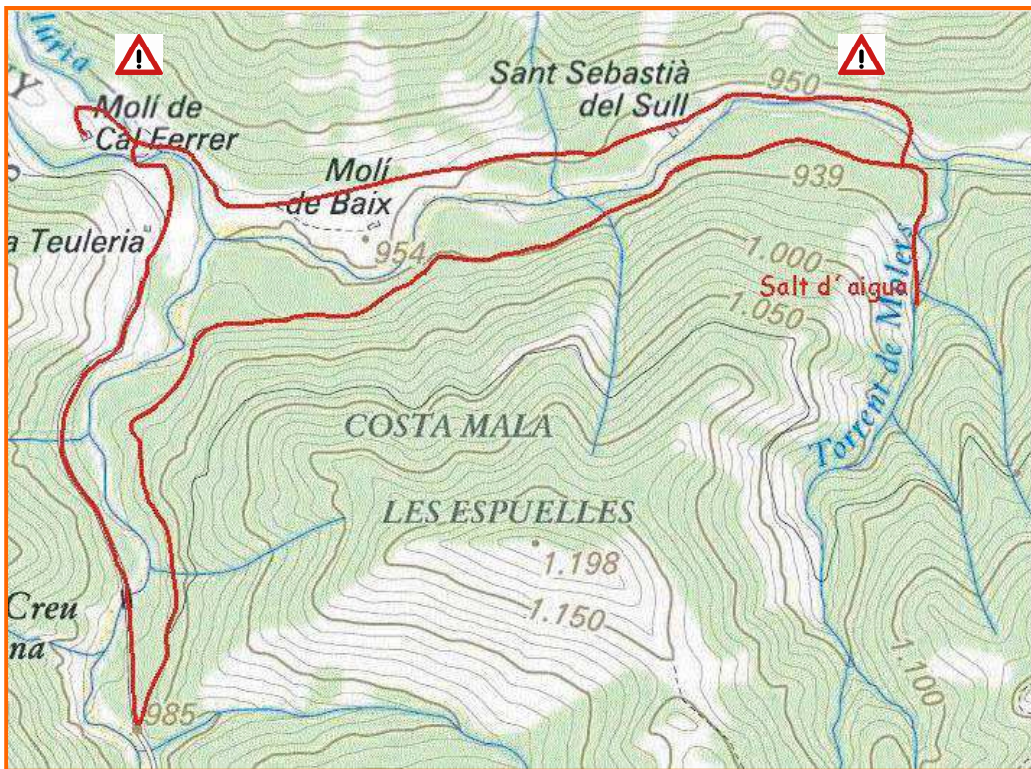
During the archaeological diggings between 1971 and 1977, they removed all the remaining related with the posterior house, leaving only the remains of the primitive monastery, they also dug the cemetery that surrounded the church and from which you still can see some tombs with tombstones.



General view of the ruins where you can see the baptismal font, made of hollowed out block of stone.



Hall annexed to the church. In the wall you see two inclined rows of flagstones in form of herringbone which is a type of construction used in the Romanic constructions.



CAL FERRER – CAL FERRER (Short walk along the stream Saldes)

Distance:	4.2 Km.
Ascent:	practically flat, with small ascents and descents, in total about 50 meters net.
Recommended age:	From 6 years.
Estimated duration:	Little more than 1 hour (that could stretch on if you enjoy the landscape and if you make some stops on the different points of the way)

Description of the excursion:


Leaving from the lodge *Refugi de cal Ferrer*, you cross the streamlet *torrent de Llúria* and you find a sign post and yellow marks which you follow.

You walk about hundred meters along the left bank of the stream *riera del Gresolet*, then you turn to the left, leaving on the right the ruins of *Molí de baix* (an old mill), you continue along the stream Saldes on its left bank and you reach the ruins of the more than thousand old monastery *Monastir Sant Sebastià del Sull*.

Once past the monastery the path gets narrower and passes at a certain height above the stream Saldes, there's a chain to hold on for protection, although the path is wide enough.

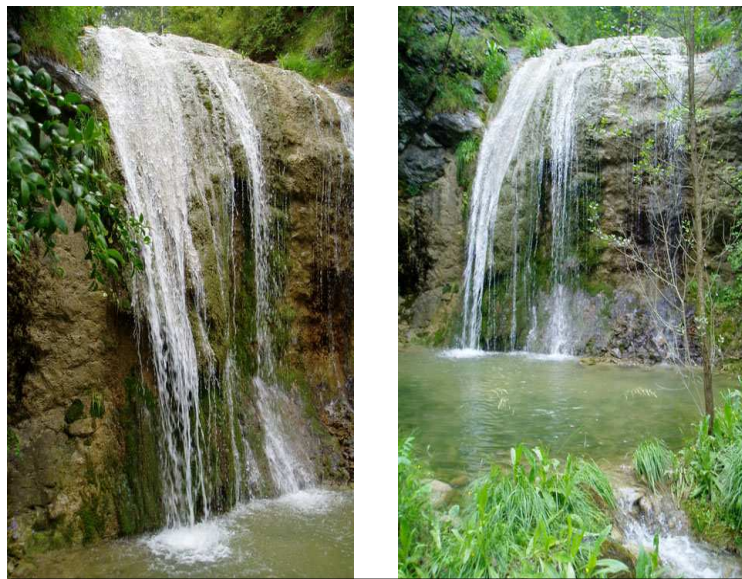
At about 400 meters from the monastery the path gets wider and enters in a Wood with grass, here you must be attentive, you have to take a small path with white/green marks that descends to the stream and continues on the other side. If you see on the other side of the stream a bridge that means you have passed it. Once you have passed the stream, you descend along the path that will lead you to a dirt track that runs on the right bank of the stream, this point is a bite difficult to find, as well at the descent as the ascent on the other side the path is a little bite overgrown.

If you continue ascending, you reach a dirt track that runs along the stream Saldes on its left bank, this dirt track you have to follow to the right, upstream, but before to do so, we recommend you to visit the waterfall of a considerable height. To reach it you follow the dirt track to the left and take a wide path on the right that you find a little before the bridge. Continue on this path and a few meters further there is a cairn and some white/green marks to guide you. The path follows now the streamlet *Torrent de Molers* and you continue along the streamlet until you reach the waterfall. Once your are back at the dirt track you follow it upstream for about a little more than a kilometer until you reach the main track that goes from Saldes to Gresolet and turning to the right you arrive back at the lodge Cal Ferrer.

 **ATTENTION:** This walk is not recommended after heavy rainfall, because this can cause a considerable rising of the water level of the streams and torrents.

Disclaimer: The council of Saldes cannot hold 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.



Two pictures of the waterfall

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