



Table of contents

04

—

A bit about Andorra

05

—

Andorra la Vella, the Town of Andorra

06

—

Andorra la Vella, a cultural capital

Architectural heritage

Sculptures in the street

The festival calendar and immaterial heritage

Cultural offering

Cultural routes

Other sites of interest



15

—

A natural capital

Madriu-Perafita-Claror: a World Heritage Site

The Obaga paths

The Solà paths

GR 7

Leisure spaces

21

—

A sporting capital

Sports facilities

Climbing routes

Cycle tourism

25

—

Andorra la Vella, a shopping capital

Shopping areas

Fairs and conferences

28

—

A hospitable capital

Accommodation

Cuisine

30

—

Practical information



A bit about Andorra

Andorra is a rather special country. Its unique history explains how this tiny nation has survived; its geographical borders and government have remained unusually stable over the years, dating back to the early Middle Ages. Andorra's independence originates from a feudal agreement signed in 1278, after a century of open conflict between two lords. Its unique political structure – with shared sovereignty between the Count of Foix (today, the president of France) and the Bishop of Urgell – has existed for centuries and was modernised by the 1993 constitution. Today, Andorra is a legal state, a parliamentary coprincipality and the 184th member of the United Nations.

Andorra is located at the heart of the axial zone of the Pyrenees. At 468km², it has the biggest surface area of all the European microstates, but only eight percent of this is urbanised. The rest is a series of peaks, lakes and rivers that make up a beautiful mountainous landscape. The average altitude in the country is around 1,900 metres. Ten percent of the country – the Madriu-Perafita-Claror area – has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, thanks to its exceptional cultural and natural value.

The country is divided into seven parishes, governed by the parish councils: institutions with medieval origins. Its population is 76,000. Catalan has long been the official language of Andorra. However, the diverse nature of the resident population means that other languages, such as Spanish, French and Portuguese, can be heard frequently on the streets.

Thanks to its commercial, business, sporting and cultural offering, Andorra has everything you need for an unforgettable stay.



Located in the central valley of the Valira River, in the centre of the country, Andorra la Vella is the ancient capital of the Valls, or “valleys”. In the Middle Ages, representatives from Andorra’s six historical parishes came together as the Consell de la Terra, the country’s first parliament. The name Andorra la Vella is relatively recent, from the late eighteenth century, and comes from the traditional name for the capital: the Vila d’Andorra, meaning “Town of Andorra”. Today, it is the country’s nerve centre, the political, cultural and commercial capital of Andorra, the most populated agglomeration in the Pyrenees. The parish of Andorra la Vella is also quite recent; it is the result of the division of the old parish of Andorra (which lent its name to the country) into two new parishes: Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. The new divisions are based on the old

quarts, an administrative body smaller than the parish. There are three denser population centres: La Margineda, Santa Coloma and Andorra la Vella, with its historical districts of El Pui and El Puial.

Andorra la Vella is the country’s engine room; it is a dynamic capital that is constantly being renewed and reconsidered. There is no best time to visit. In the winter, it is cosy and inviting; in the summer, it is limitless. At any time of year, you can find the perfect excuse to stay in our friendly capital: cultural and sports activities, a wealth of heritage, the most unique open-air shopping centre in Europe, and much more. Contemporary Andorra is modelled around welcoming visitors, in an updated version of the famous Pyrenean hospitality: the mountains’ ancestral roots, projected towards the future.

Andorra la Vella, the Town of Andorra



Andorra la Vella, a cultural capital

Andorra la Vella's heritage is rich and varied, with plenty of examples of its fascinating history, from the first settlers in the country to the present day. Great effort has been made to preserve and promote its monuments, which can be found both in the city centre and at the highest points of the parish. There is a plethora of ways to get to know these sites, from an organised tour to keeping an eye out on a casual walk.

The capital has an active cultural life, with activities throughout the year. From the calendar of traditional festivals – such as the Falles de Sant Joan, named on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list – to the regular seasons of music, dance and theatre. The calendar of events is a string of diverse proposals: a reflection of the city's lively, inclusive heart.



Architectural heritage

The most efficient way of exploring the parish's wealth of diverse monuments is the Arc Patrimonial, or "Heritage Arc", a route through the south of the parish, between Santa Coloma and La Margineda. It is a signposted route of around five kilometres (in its full version) which, in just a few hours of walking, takes us on a journey through twelve thousand years of art and history, visiting various heritage sites, from the late Palaeolithic period right up to the second decade of the twentieth century. The route joins up some of the essential monuments you must visit to understand Andorran heritage:

Santa Coloma Church is the country's most iconic church, with its pre-Romanesque nave and, in particular, its cylindrical bell tower, added in the twelfth century. The Casa dels Russos, at the edge of the village of Santa Coloma, marks the beginning of Andorra's contemporary architecture. Roureda de la Margineda is an impressive archaeological site: the remains of an enclosed medieval town that played a key role in the foundation of Andorra. In the south of the parish, over the Valira River, we find the Pont Nou de la Margineda, built in the late fourteenth century or early fifteenth century in the Romanesque style.



The country's capital also has a rich, diverse heritage. The centre of Andorra la Vella is home to the Sant Esteve Parish Church, which, despite its contemporary renovations designed by Modernista architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch, still displays the apse and various other elements from the original construction. It houses some outstanding altarpieces and, most notably, the famous *Quadre de les ànimes*, by Joan Casanovas. Andorra la Vella's other Romanesque church is Sant Andreu, a small building on the side of the old La Massana path.

From the fifteenth century, we find the Creu Grossa, a stone cross on the street of the same name, in the middle of Andorra la Vella. The original is located at the ground floor of the Casa Comuna, the parish council administrative building, on Plaça Príncep Benlloch.

The old town of Andorra la Vella is home to the country's most significant building: the Casa de la Vall. This large house, with defensive elements and murals inside, was built in 1580 by the Busquets family. The Consell General – the Andorran parliament, with roots in the Middle Ages and consolidated in 1419 – acquired it in 1702, to adopt it as its institutional headquarters. The Casa de la Vall hosted councillor meetings and Tribunal de Corts (criminal court) sessions. The Consell room houses the legendary Armari de les Set Claus, or “Cupboard of Seven Keys”, which can

only be opened in the presence of representatives from all parishes, each with a different key. The new Consell General building has been built next to the Casa de la Vall.

Traditional Andorran architecture can be contemplated in the villages of La Margineda and Santa Coloma. In the historic centre of Andorra la Vella, there are still buildings, built in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, that represent rural life in the area. One of the best-preserved examples, included in the general inventory of Andorran cultural heritage, is Cal Closca in the district of El Pui, Andorra la Vella. On Plaça Príncep Benlloch, we find the manor houses Casa Cintet, Casa Guillemó and Casa Molines.

In the twentieth century, Andorra's increasing exposure to the rest of the world was reflected in the adoption of new architectural trends, which still made the most of traditional elements. The result was a highly characteristic, authentically Andorran style, known as Granite Architecture. There are plenty of buildings in this style; the Casa dels Russos is a leading example. Walking along the first stretch of Avinguda Meritxell, in the centre of the capital, you will find several others: Casa Maestre, Clínica Vilanova, Casa Felipó and the old Vegueria Francesa, a historical building for the French ruler of Andorra.

Sculptures in the street

Part of Andorra la Vella's artistic heritage is the series of contemporary sculptures located all over the parish.

La Noblesse du Temps, by Salvador Dalí

This is a large, bronze piece that symbolises the passing of time. There is a melting clock, characteristic of Dalí's work, on top of a tree, with a crown that represents time's control over humanity. In 1999, it was passed on to the Andorran government by art collector and Dalí's friend, Enric Sabater. In 2010, it was installed at its current home, on Plaça de la Rotonda.

7 poetes, by Jaume Plensa

This is a set of sculptures made up of seven human figures, reminiscent of the Stylites of Constantinople. They can be considered a metaphor for the seven Andorran parishes. It is a representation of reflection amid the hubbub of the city. The poetes are found on Plaça Lídia Armengol in Andorra la Vella, in front of the parish council building and the new Consell General headquarters.

Prada Casadet interior garden

Just in front of the Prada Casadet car park there is a patio, open to the public during the day, with an excellent display of contemporary sculptures, owned by Grup Immobiliari Cierco. Among others, we can see the sculptures *Overflow*, by Jaume Plensa, *Mobili 2001*, by Miquel Barceló, *Doble Imagen*, by Manolo Valdés and *Robot en Suspensió*, by Paul Van Hoeydonck.



Casa de la Vall gardens

Around the Casa de la Vall, there are three sculptures closely linked to key events in Andorra's history: *La Morisca*, by Josep Viladomat, in homage to the Nova Reforma of 1866, *Setè Centenari del 1r Pariatge*, by Luigi Terruggi, and *Proclamació de la Constitució*, by Emili Armengol.

Other sculptures

From the southern entrance to the parish, on the Rotonda de la Margineda roundabout, where we are welcomed by Andreu Alfaro's *1r Congrés de la Llengua*, to the border with Escaldes-Engordany, there is a constellation of sculptures scattered all over Andorra la Vella. Pieces by Josep Viladomat, Sergi Mas, Roger Mas, Judit Gaset, Nerea Aixàs, Joan Canal, and many more. Every walk is a discovery.



The festival calendar and immaterial heritage

Contemporary and popular culture coexist and influence one another in Andorra la Vella. The present and the past, tradition and modernity live alongside and complement each other. The festival calendar is full of celebrations throughout the year.



Christmas in Andorra la Vella

Christmas celebrations begin with the installation of the Poblet de Nadal, or “Christmas Village”, and a wide range of activities, run by the Menairons, the Christmas elves who live on Els Meners Mountain in Andorra! On 24 December, Santa Claus arrives in the parish. On that day, when he comes out of Midnight Mass, he hands out coca bread and hot chocolate so that everyone can keep warm. On the evening of 5 January, the streets of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes are filled with excitement and magic for the most spectacular parade in the Pyrenees, organised to welcome the Three Kings.

Escudella de Sant Antoni

On the morning of 17 January, the members of the Confraria d'Escudellaires association get the fire going to prepare their delicious *escudella* stew which, in the afternoon, is given out to neighbours and passers-by.

Carnival

The parade, with its different groups and costumes, the public trial of King Carnestoltes and the traditional *botifarra* sausage eating at the end are the main elements of these few days of madness before lent. One of the most iconic events of Carnival is celebrated by the Consòrcia dels Casats, or “Consortium of Married Men”, a men's association founded in 1776.

Sant Jordi

On Sant Jordi's Day, on 23 April, the festival of books and roses is celebrated on Plaça del Poble, with book stalls, public readings and book signings by authors.

Les falles

On Sant Joan's Eve, on 23 June, the Fallaires of Andorra la Vella run through the streets of the Historic Centre with their spectacular *falles*, a kind of beacon made from birch bark, in an ancient ceremony of fire and light. This festival was named on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

The Festa Major and the Contrapàs dance

Andorra la Vella's annual festival, or festa major, takes place on the first weekend of August and involves three days full of activities and shows. On the Sunday, at one o'clock, a traditional, ceremonial dance, the Contrapàs, is led by the members of the Esbart Dansaire of Andorra la Vella, a group created in 1981 that acts as a cultural ambassador for Andorra.

Other festes majors

Over the summer, other *festes majors* are celebrated, including those of the El Puial neighbourhood and Santa Coloma, which take place in mid-June and on the penultimate weekend of August respectively.

Livestock Fair

Every 27 October, the Livestock Fair takes place: the contemporary version of the traditional autumn fair in which Andorran farmers traded cattle, mules and donkeys.



Cultural offering

Music and Dance Season in Andorra la Vella

Over the winter, the Music and Dance Season offers a high-quality programme with performances from renowned international artists. All shows take place at Andorra la Vella's Congress Centre.

Cirque du Soleil

Since 2013, every July, the Cirque du Soleil has premiered a new show on a large stage in the city centre. Tickets are free, and seats in the stands can be requested upon payment. The city's hotels offer packages that include accommodation and tickets.

Other seasons

The Theatre Season, a joint programme with Sant Julià de Lòria, offers tour shows and productions by local companies. In the early spring, the best saxophonists in the world meet at the Andorra Sax Fest, a week of concerts, competitions, master classes and street performances ("Walking Street Music"). Between January and July, French culture is everywhere in the capital, thanks to the Saison Culturelle Française. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in August, the Ritmes Capital Musical event takes place, with music in the street on Avinguda Meritxell. In June, Andorra la Vella's Historic Centre is the stage for Jambo Street Music, with performances by Andorran and international groups and a programme of children's entertainment.



Cultural routes

Historic Centre

Andorra la Vella's Historic Centre includes the neighbourhoods of El Pui, El Puial, Cap del Carrer, Barri Antic, Plaça Rebés and Plaça del Poble. Its urban layout has remained largely unchanged over the years, with narrow streets, squares and some old houses, which display traditional construction techniques. The Historic Centre has preserved its unique personality, despite the city's exponential growth. Plans are currently being made to invigorate the area and encourage traditional commerce. It acts as a stage for a host of displays of traditional Andorran culture.

Roques al Carrer

The Roques al Carrer Museum is a journey through Andorra's geological history, which we can explore while wandering around the city centre's streets. The route starts in the Parc Central.

Rec del Solà

The centre of Andorra la Vella is surrounded by two irrigation canals, dug in the nineteenth century: the Rec del Solà and the Rec de l'Obac, which have been transformed into footpaths, easily accessed from the centre. Both offer breathtaking views over the city and great geological and botanical wealth. The Anella Verda or "Green Ring" project helps us to understand the evolution of the parish through the interpretation of its cultural landscape.

It involves various low-difficulty self-guided tours, which can be followed throughout the year:

- The agricultural transformation of the valley.
- The growth and urbanisation of the valley.
- Human beings' adaptation to natural risks.

Visites teatralitzades

In the summer months, dramatised tours are available around the Historic Centre and Santa Coloma.



Other sites of interest

Bulevard de les Estrelles

The pavement on Carrer Maria Pla, in the Fener Boulevard shopping area, is adorned with plaques that pay tribute to notable personalities linked to the parish and to Andorra. Over time, it will become a space to recognise all those who have promoted the country.

World Champions Museum

Motorbike (and, more generally, motor sports) fans who visit the World Champions Museum will find a collection of unique pieces of F1 and MotoGP memorabilia, belonging to driver Jorge Lorenzo. There are also Formula 1 and MotoGP driving simulators and a bar and restaurant area.



A natural capital

In Andorra, our natural heritage always has a cultural side: the interaction between humans and their surroundings is constant. This is one of the biggest attractions of the country's natural scenery: the dialogue between the majesty of the Pyrenees and the efforts made by humans to be able to live in harmony with nature. In the parish of Andorra la Vella, various mountain routes of different difficulties are available. Below we will provide a sample, but the possibilities are almost endless:

Madriu-Perafita-Claror: a World Heritage Site

One of the entrances to the Madriu-Perafita-Claror natural site, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006, in the cultural landscape section, can be found on the shaded side of Andorra la Vella, on the well signposted paths that climb up Prat Primer and Coll de la Caülla, through the Palomera forests. The protected site, which is shared between four parishes (Sant Julià de Lòria, Andorra la Vella, Escaldes-Engordany and Encamp), constitutes an outstanding example of the natural and cultural surroundings of mountain ecosystems.

On Plaça Lídia Armengol, in central Andorra la Vella, you will find the Portal de la Vall, an information point where you can plan your visit and organise your first contact with the valley's wonders.



The Obaga paths

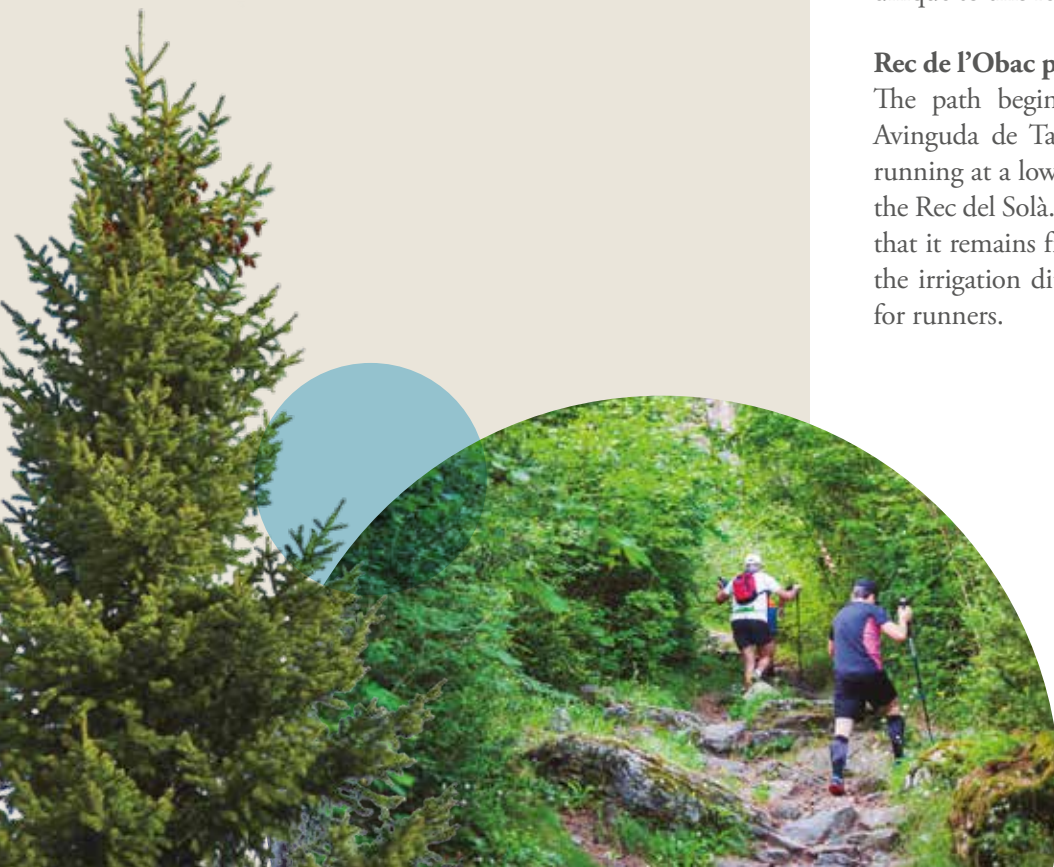
The tree-covered, shaded slopes of L'Obaga d'Andorra are criss-crossed by a network of paths, which can be used to make a tailor-made route and even connect with the paths that head into the Madriu-Perafita-Claror area.

Circuit de les Fonts

This short circuit, which starts at the La Comella picnic area (a great viewpoint over Andorra la Vella), runs past some of the fountains on the shaded side of Andorra la Vella, such as the Font de la Ruta. It is a humid area, with great botanical diversity and species unique to this region.

Rec de l'Obac path

The path begins at the diversion at Escaldes, on Avinguda de Tarragona, and ends at Els Serradells, running at a lower altitude than its symmetrical path, the Rec del Solà. In the summer, its orientation means that it remains fresh and shaded. The path is wide, as the irrigation ditch is covered. It is the perfect route for runners.



Estany de la nou

This circular circuit with over 1,000 metres of incline takes the visitor on a journey around the area of Claror-Perafit, within a National Park declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Some stretches follow the signposts of the GRP route.

From Prat Primer down to the Claror shelter, you might be able to hear and, with a bit of luck, see, some marmots. From there, the route follows the GRP along the Estany de la Nou path, where the Pic Negre mountain comes into view.

The Estany de la Nou is quite unusual as, unlike most lakes in the Pyrenees, river water flows there. It is fed by the phreatic waters that run underground and come to the surface as a stream near the Perafit River, which means that it always maintains its water level. It is the southernmost lake in the Principality and the warmest.

Prat Primer per Palomera

Located in the south east of the parish of Andorra la Vella, Prat Primer is a circular trail of a high difficulty level, due to its incline (more than 900 metres). It begins at the La Comella picnic area, then follows along the signposted path through the Palomera forest: a deciduous forest with downy oaks, boxes and common dogwood, as well as birds like the robin, blackcap, blackbird and blue tit.

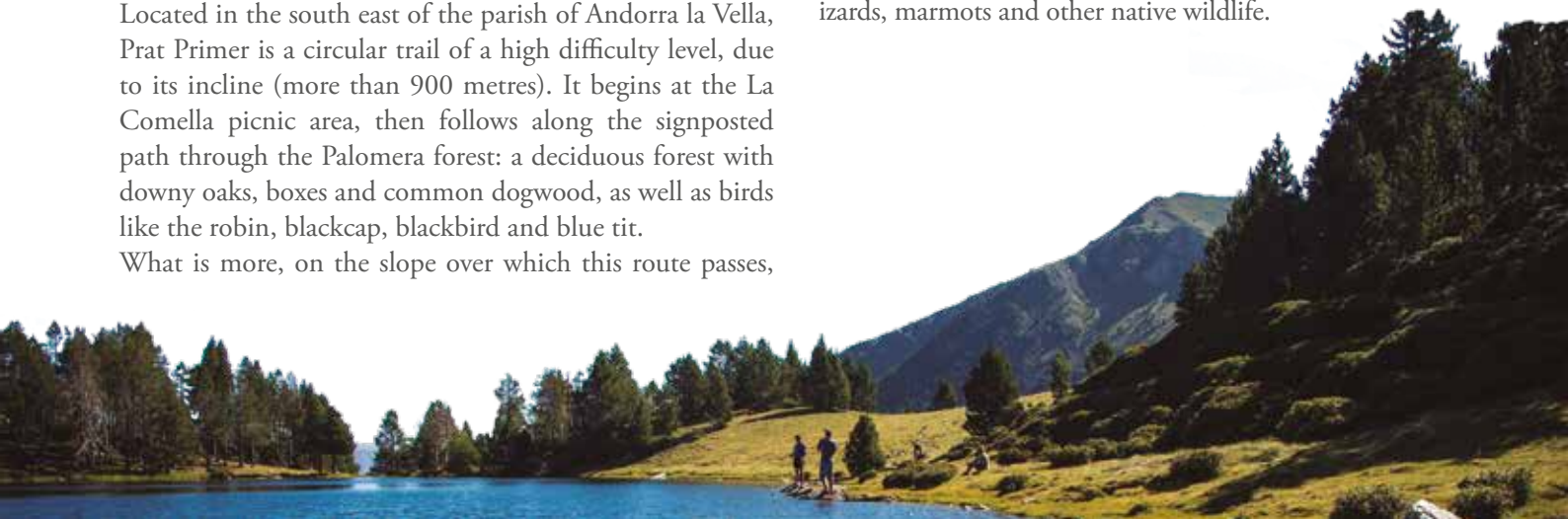
What is more, on the slope over which this route passes,

there are three rivers: the La Comella, the Forn and the Prat Primer, the latter of which runs through an incredible glacial valley. All of these watercourses are part of the basin of the Valira River.

Prat Primer trail and La Caülla forest

This circular route is ideal for discovering the wide variety of flora visible in the Andorran mountains and breathtaking scenery, as you walk along the mountain's shaded slopes and their beautiful forest, La Caülla.

This forest, just above Andorra la Vella, is a magnificent mountain pine forest on rough terrain, located on the north slope of the Calm de Claror peak. This slope is quite steep and shaded and covered by, not just a lush mountain pine forest, but also silver firs, birch trees, rowans and an understory dominated by rhododendrons. What is more, if you are lucky, you will see izards, marmots and other native wildlife.



The Solà paths

The Solà side of Andorra la Vella is dominated by the ruggedness of the Enclar mountains, which are steep and full of scree, with vegetation that clings to the rocks. Walking along the Rec del Solà path is the ideal way to enjoy the mountains' botanical and geological diversity, but there are other excursions available into the most accessible parts of the area.



Rec del Solà

The Rec del Solà is one of the two slopes of the Anella Verda and one of Andorra la Vella's green lungs. The Rec del Solà path, which is flat and of low difficulty, is ideal for a morning walk with family. In the middle of the route, there is a viewpoint and picnic area.

From the path, you can take in the mountain's botanical and geological diversity. If you follow the path towards La Massana, you will arrive at the Sant Antoni de la Grella Chapel and the Sant Antoni Romanesque bridge. There are three self-guided tour routes on this path, based around the agricultural transformation of the valley, the growth and urbanisation of the valley, and human beings and how we adapt to natural risks.

Vall d'Enclar

This route begins on Carrer dels Barrers in Santa Coloma then, along the scree, heads towards Collet de Sant Vicenç. The track then continues towards the left, past the pre-Romanesque Sant Vicenç Church and the archaeological area of Roc. On the right, the path continues straight towards the mountains, through a wild valley, ideal for spotting birds of prey and large local mammals: izards, European roe deer and wild boar.

The Enclar Valley is an Andorran region of great natural worth and home to the largest population of izards, in terms of both habitat area and number of animals.

Bony de la Pica from La Margineda

This is a nearly 25km trail, where you can discover the Enclar mountains, ascending via the sunny slope of Bony de la Pica up to the peak of Enclar, then descending the shaded Sispony side. You can explore the old trails that joined together the main Andorran urban centres until arriving back at the starting point: Santa Coloma. This route is for people in good physical condition who are experienced in long trails on irregular terrain with steep slopes.

Despite being a little-known and therefore little-frequented route, it is a trail with stark contrasts that passes along a stretch of the popular GRP route (which forms a loop all the way around Andorra).

The Enclar mountain range, located in the south west of Andorra, just above Andorra la Vella, is quite unusual in comparison with the other mountains that surround it. It is made up of mainly metamorphic rocks, especially schist, which give it its characteristic reddish tone. This colour contrasts with the block of green created by the evergreen oak forest that stretches out over its sunny slope.

GR7

The GR7 is a long hiking route, which crosses the Pyrenees from the east to the south.

The route is part of the E4 European Long Distance Path, which stretches from Greece to Gibraltar. The portion that passes through Andorra, the GR7, is around 40km long. It enters the country from France through the Portella Blanca (2,521m), then crosses the Principality towards Catalonia, leaving Andorra at Farga de Moles (850m).



Leisure spaces

Parc Central

The Parc Central is the biggest urban green area in the capital, an oasis where visitors can take a moment to escape the commercial area's hustle and bustle. Its 33,000m² total surface area is divided into various spaces, such as the children's, young people's and green areas, as well as a water area and skate park.

In the summer, it even boasts a beach volleyball area. Its services include a car park, toilets, public telephones and a bar-restaurant with terrace.

River path

Those who love outdoor sports can make the most of the path along the Valira River, which runs from Andorra la Vella to Santa Coloma. What's more, a stretch of it has been specially adapted for runners.

La Comella picnic area

With an area of over 16.500m², La Comella picnic area is the ideal location for a barbecue with friends or family, with the views from the sunny slope of Andorra la Vella as a backdrop.

La Comella viewpoint

La Comella viewpoint offers stunning views over Andorra la Vella's central valley. It is one of the most iconic and attractive locations in the parish: the ideal place to get an idea of the surrounding area's beauty and biodiversity. The backdrop formed by the mountains is really impressive: you can see some of the country's most characteristic peaks, such as the Pic de Carroi in the foreground (2,334 metres), the Pic de les Fonts (2,748 metres) and the Pic del Pla de l'Estany (2,859 metres).



A sporting capital

The parish's sports facilities, combined with its comfortable, competitive hospitality infrastructure, make Andorra la Vella a top-class international hub of sport. The sub-Mediterranean climate and the altitude of the Estadi Comunal stadium, Olympic pool and walking trails are ideal for training. The climatic conditions, along with just the right altitude for the body to adapt to the new environment quickly, are ideal for short sports trips or transitions from higher to lower altitudes. Andorra also hosts high-level competitions. What's more, just a few minutes from the city, you will find two of the biggest ski resorts in the Pyrenees and a cross-country skiing resort.

Sports facilities

Els Serradells sports centre

Els Serradells was built in 1991 for the Games of the Small States of Europe. It has three swimming pools (one Olympic pool, one for learning and one outdoor), a 45 x 23m indoor pavilion, three squash courts, an outdoor tennis court and five paddle tennis courts. It also has a weights room, four gyms, an artistic gymnastics room, a water and relaxation area and a shooting range. The premises even include a sports medicine centre, shops, a bar and a car park.



Estadi Comunal stadium

This stadium, located on Avinguda de Salou, is home to a six-lane athletics track, a 100 x 65m football pitch, two long jump, high jump and pole vault areas and a shot put area. It also includes a 40 x 20m multi-sport court and a 40 x 20m indoor pavilion. Its facilities include a car park and a bar.

Estadi Nacional stadium

The Estadi Nacional, next door to Andorra Sports Centre, was built in 1971, making it the oldest sports facility in the parish. On 22 November 2014, the new Estadi Nacional was inaugurated, with a capacity of 3,315 spectators and a football and rugby pitch. The stadium hosts international competitions.

Andorra sports centre

This multi-purpose space, located on Baixada del Molí, can be used for various team sports competitions (basketball, volleyball, futsal, skating, etc.) and individual sports, such as rhythmic gymnastics, judo or karate. In late September 2014, these facilities were renovated to fulfil requirements for the Liga ACB basketball league. The centre is home to the BC MoraBanc Andorra basketball team.

Joan Alay Pavilion

This indoor, multi-functional space, joined to the Andorra sports centre, is used for basketball, futsal and volleyball, as well as individual sports.



Climbing routes

Solà d'Enclar

This climbing area is found in Santa Coloma, at 1,100m altitude. It is perfect for climbing all year round. It has 4 climbing zones: Cementiri, Bigabloc, Esfinx and Santa Coloma.

Piràmide

This is an impressive 150m-high wall at an altitude of 1,200m in the south west of the country with an ideal orientation, so that you can climb all year round.

Llastra de l'Obac

This is a relatively flat rock in the north east. It offers just 3 climbing routes. It is recommended for dryer days, as it is surrounded by vegetation.

Roc d'Enclar via ferrata

At the bottom of the path that climbs up to Roc d'Enclar, accessible from Carrer dels Barrers in Santa Coloma, we also find the start of a 270m-long via ferrata, with all the necessary facilities to guarantee an exciting climb. A helmet, harness, energy absorber and appropriate footwear are compulsory.

- You take part in this activity at your own risk.
- Do not use the via ferrata during a storm.
- Before starting, check the weather forecast.
- Stay attached to the cable at all times.
- Avoid any build-up of people on vertical parts



Cycle tourism

More and more professional and amateur cyclists are choosing the roads of Andorra to train in the mountains.

The tough mountain passes, spectacular scenery, rich cultural and natural heritage and range of activities on offer in the country are the main benefits of cycle tourism in Andorra.

La Comella mountain pass

The Andorra Cycle Route 11 heads up the CS-101 until arriving at the top of La Comella, at 1,347 metres. It is a category 2 climb (accessible). This mountain pass has played a key role in the Andorran stages of the Tour de France and the Vuelta Ciclista a España.

You will find this and other cycle routes in the *Guide to Cycle Tourism in Andorra*.



Andorra la Vella, a shopping capital

Andorra la Vella is a capital city that was made for shopping. Its streets and avenues are an enormous outdoor shopping centre, where you can find the most exclusive items, the latest products on the market and local specialities at unbeatable prices. Andorra la Vella's retailers await your visit to offer you an unimaginable variety of products.



Shopping areas

Avinguda Meritxell

Avinguda Meritxell is the longest shopping street in the Pyrenees, and the backbone of the city. For years now, Avinguda Meritxell has attracted tourists from all around the world, thanks to its vast range of fashion, jewellery, perfume and electronic items by the most exclusive brands. You will also find large supermarkets with all the products you can think of, as well as hotels and restaurants.

Fener Boulevard

Right next to Avinguda Meritxell, Fener Boulevard is home to some of the most exclusive footwear, fashion, accessory, sport and homeware brands around. It has a large car park. Its restaurants and wide pavements make for a pleasant shopping experience.



Historic centre

The capital's Historic Centre is a hub for Andorra la Vella's traditional shops, with specialist, local family businesses that offer a personal touch. A little village in the big city. Its streets are also home to plenty of restaurants. Every first Saturday of the month from May to October, the Mercat de la Vall, which sells local and artisanal items, takes place.

Riberaygua i travesseres

Riberaygua i travesseres, near Avinguda Meritxell and focused around Carrer Bonaventura Riberaygua, has become a busy shopping area, with shops selling clothes, accessories and perfumes, department stores and plenty of cafés and restaurants.

Santa Coloma

Avinguda de Santa Coloma specialises in motoring goods. It is home to shops dedicated to car and motorcycle equipment and accessories. You can also get kitted out from head to toe in the latest driving gear.

Shopping hours

Andorra tends to be flexible in terms of time, so its shops generally have long opening hours.

Shops only close four days per year: 1 January, 14 March (Constitution Day) unless it falls on a weekend, 8 September (Meritxell Day, the national holiday) and 25 December.



Fairs and conferences

The Congress Centre

Andorra la Vella Congress Centre, located in an ideal position in the city's nerve centre, has become the perfect venue for business events.

Its 4,200m² surface area is split into various facilities, including an auditorium, five function rooms, a meeting room and a kitchen, for catering purposes. It also boasts a car park for event participants.

The Centre's team of professionals can guarantee the quality, creativity and commitment needed to offer services that will make the event a success. The audiovisual technology on site and the functionality of the venue ensure optimum results for any kind of event.

Andorra la Vella Fair

Since 1978, on the third weekend of October, the Andorra la Vella Fair has taken place in an enormous marquee in the Parc Central car park. Over an area of more than 12,000m², the Fair is home to around 150 stands, run by businesses and institutions from Andorra and its neighbouring countries. In a tent next door, over fifty of the country's associations present their activities at their stands.

At the same time, the Artisanal Market is held along the river, on Passeig del Riu, from Plaça de la Rotonda to the entrance to the Parc Central. This market is put on by over forty artisans from Andorra and the surrounding region who sell their wide range of food products and other items.



A hospitable capital

Accommodation

The parish of Andorra la Vella offers a first-class choice of accommodation, with a total of 6,000 beds in all kinds of establishments: hotels, aparthotels, tourist apartments and a campsite.

Andorra Center ****	(+376) 824 800
Andorra Palace ***	(+376) 873 601
Andorra Park Hotel *****	(+376) 877 777
Arthotel ****	(+376) 760 303
Aston ***	(+376) 804 265
Bellpí ***	(+376) 804 935
Cal Forner *	(+376) 866 880
City M28 ***	(+376) 820 636
Cèntric ****	(+376) 877 500
Cérvol ****	(+376) 803 111
Cisco de Sans **	(+376) 728 328
Diplomàtic ****	(+376) 802 780
Eurostars Andorra Centre*****	(+376) 886 800
Festa Brava ***	(+376) 820 741
Fonts (les) **	(+376) 821 393
Garden***	(+376) 747 400

Garcia *	(+376) 820 968
Hespèria ****	(+376) 880 880
Holiday Inn*****	(+376) 874 444
Hostal & Pub Barri Antic **	(+376) 845 969
Indalo **	(+376) 821 871
Isard (de l') ***	(+376) 876 800
Jaume I ***	(+376) 820 061
Màgic Andorra ****	(+376) 876 900
Mercure ****	(+376) 873 602
Novotel ****	(+376) 873 603
Pitiusa ***	(+376) 861 816
Plaza *****	(+376) 879 444
President ****	(+376) 877 277
Pyrénées ***	(+376) 879 879
Sant Jordi **	(+376) 876 200
Valmar **	(+376) 821 667

Aparhotels and tourist apartments

Domus *	(+376) 825 428
Fontverd **	(+376) 803 525
Moblats Maragall *	(+376) 827 062
Moblats JVZ Group	(+34) 618 164 582
Moblats P&C	(+376) 866 000
Moblats Vacances AFV	(+376) 860 850
Pisos a dies	(+376) 331 330

Campsites

Valira **	(+376) 722 384
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Cuisine

Andorran cuisine is simple yet delicious, and is based on traditional Pyrenean mountain recipes. Local products, including potatoes, vegetables, the famous Andorran beef and local wine (being made again on the country's sunnier slopes), are complemented by cosmopolitan, modern cuisine. Alongside delicious traditional dishes made by the older Andorran generations, we can find the most creative international chefs and restaurants.



Practical information



Police: Emergencies: 110 - (+376) 872 000
Urgent Medical Assistance : 116
Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell: (+376) 871 000
Mountain Rescue Group: 112



GMT time zone. Andorra is in the same time zone as its neighbours, Spain and France.



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Andorra has a Mediterranean mountainous climate. Long, intense winters, flourishing springs, relatively warm summers, brief, wet autumns...



The official currency is the euro.



Andorra is not part of the EU, so please remember to check your operator's roaming costs.



The country's location in the Pyrenees and its excellent police and customs services ensure that it is very safe, so visitors can spend time here with total peace of mind.



How to get here

Andorra's proximity to large urban centres in France and Spain and its geographical location mean it is easy to access the country via a vast transport network; trains and aeroplanes are a fast way of getting close to the country, then you can get to your final destination by bus or car.



Frequent buses connect Andorra with La Seu d'Urgell, Barcelona (and its airport), Lleida (and its high-speed train station), Tarragona and Toulouse, among other cities.



Various frequent bus services run between the parishes, with the main stops on the busiest streets of the towns. The Bus Exprés is the fastest, most frequent line that joins together the capital with Sant Julià de Lòria.



Associació de Taxistes d'Andorra: (+376) 863 000
Taxi Exprés: (+376) 812 345



Andorra la Vella offers over 4,500 parking spaces in the centre, spread out over 21 council and private car parks for the public.



Tourist office
Plaça de la Rotonda
AD500 Andorra la Vella

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www.andorralavella.ad



Comú d'Andorra la Vella