

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	John E. Mail
Last Updated	28 th July 2021
Title of Walk	Pessons Lakes and Valleys
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Soldeu, Grau Roig Ski Centre, Andorra
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	7.6km
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	440
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 4 hours plus time at restaurant
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 42.5318, Long: 1.69674
Directions to Start	From Andorra la Vella, take CG2 passing Encamp and on to Soldeu. Continue towards Pas de la Casa but after passing roundabout to tunnel entrance, turn right signposted to Grau Roig. Park as closely as possible to the barrier placed to prevent unauthorised traffic going further up the valley.
Short walk description	An easy to navigate circular walk passing numerous picturesque lakes with stunning mountain backdrops. Some climbing is steep and requires the occasional handhold. Maximum altitude 2,512m
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Leave the car park by the broad unpaved track passing the vehicle control barrier following the signpost to Restaurante & Llacs de Pessons. This track is used by buses to ferry non-walkers up to the first lake....You can use the bus if you want an easier day!	0km, 0 min
At junction with broad track to the left (no vehicles allowed) turn left and continue to climb. There is a signpost here to Llacs de Pessons.	560m, 10min
After a gentle climb you will reach a signpost directing you sharply right. From here the path is narrow and climbs steeply.	1.1km, 21min
At the top of the climb you will reach your first lake (Estany Primer) and a tee junction with footpath GR7 /(GRP). We turn left here but there is a bar/restaurant to your right	

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which could be open for a coffee or snack to reward your climbing of nearly 200m!	1.5km, 34min
Follow the path around the lake to a junction. At the signpost take the right hand path (GR7 – marked with red and white flashes) and cross the stream (stepping-stone style)	1.6km, 36 min
You will now follow this red and white marked path up the valley for 2.3 km. The path is well defined with regular red/white marks. If you do not see a mark for more than 50m then you probably have strayed off the proper route. At times there are parallel path options, especially where there are rocky sections to climb – but most options reunite after the obstacles.	
After heading west to the south of the first lake you will cross another stream feeding the lake. The path now turns sharply right and starts to climb.	2km 45 min
After climbing about 50m the path crosses the stream again and you continue up the valley to pass a lake (Estany Forcat) to your right.	2.1km, 49 min
After passing the lake the path crosses the watercourse for the last time. The remaining lakes will now be on your left-hand side.	2.3km, 55 min
Pass by a very a small lake.	2.4km, 57min
The path then turns sharply right then left climbing approx 20m and reaches a bigger lake (Estany Rodó).	2.6km, 1hr 1m
Follow the path to the right of the lake and then it will be another 700m or so before the next lake (Estany del Meligar) and a climb of 55 m. This lake has some good locations for a picnic break!	3.3km, 1hr 19m
Pass by the right-hand side of the lake, crossing some boulders and then the path rises another 40m to the next lake.	3.6km, 1hr 29m
Pass by the right-hand side of the lake and continue up the valley until you reach a junction with a path to your right. 100M or so further up the valley is the next lake (Estany de les Fonts) which you might want to visit – but our route turns right at the signpost to head back down a different valley to the Restaurant Pessons and Grau Roig. This return route has more gentle slopes than the way up.	3.9km, 1hr 35m
At the signpost we leave the red and white marks of GR7. The new path is marked with a succession of yellow dots.	
The path climbs to start with to reach the highest point on the walk 2,512m before descending into a valley of yet more lakes all of which we pass by to our left.	4.2km, 1hr 42m
The first lake we pass on our return path is quite small.	4.4km, 1hr 48m
We pass close to a much larger lake which has several other linked lakes close by.	4.9km, 1hr 57m
Our last lake to pass in this valley (Rin Pessons) stands alone and is larger than the others. From time to time we have had glimpses down the lakes that we passed on the way up. Now we shall loose height fairly quickly as the descent steepens.	5.2km, 2hr 3m
To our right, below us is the second lake (Estany Forcat) which we passed by on the far side on the way up. After a steep descent we turn sharply left.	5.7km, 2hr 15m

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We descend, following and crossing the watercourse to arrive at the Restaurant Pessons.	6.3km, 2hr 29m
At the broad track turn right, go past the restaurant and turn left down the drivable ski piste towards Grau Roig. This is the route used by the minibus shuttles.	
You can short-cut the ski piste down a narrow path, but it can get muddy where this path crosses the stream bed.	
Return to your car. There is a cafe/bar available for refreshments in walking seasons. Otherwise the nearest hostelrys are in Soldeu	6.9km, 2hr 40m
	7.6km 2hr 56m
Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional	

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

	A walk up to 2,500m so allow extra time if you are not used to the altitude. Parking might be a problem in very high season. Snow and ice can be encountered in Spring/early summer. Shuttle bus to the first lake only runs July/August. Area is used by mountain bikers – watch out for them!
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see map below.....

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Route followed is outline in Red

