

SALT DEL ROURE

Fact sheet:

Difficulty: Low

Distance travelled: 1,500 m

Highest and lowest points: 740 and 680 m

Duration: 1 h

Route:

-The starting point of this route is the town of Joanetes, which you leave following the road that leads to Coll de Bracons. It is recommended to do this journey by car.

Three minutes after passing Joanetes, approximately at km 4.5 of the Bracons road, and having left the Roqueta stream behind, you will see a new road to the left. You will see that it is closed with a chain and a sign saying «Prohibit el pas excepte veïns i personal autoritzat» (Prohibited except neighbours and authorised personnel). You can leave the car at this point.

- Follow this paved road that goes downwards. You will pass over the Bracons tunnels until you reach an opening where you will see a recent building on the left and a farmhouse, Santmateu, on the right.

- Before reaching the Santmateu farmhouse, take a path to the left, where there is a sign, to not go in front of the farmhouse. In a few metres you will come across the hermitage of Sant Mateu, surrounded by meadows in very pleasant surroundings.

- Follow the path that passes by the side of the hermitage to now go into the woods above the Joanetes stream. The forest is dense and with a wide variety of species. You are in an exceptional area. Without realising you will reach the impressive Salt del Roure, and here you will enjoy the noise of water, the song of birds and both varied and exuberant vegetation.

Notes:

- Ideal to do with the family.
- It is worth visiting the old town of Joanetes.
- It is not recommended to swim in the pool under the waterfall as it is difficult to access it.
- This route is not signposted but you can download the Natura Local application for mobile devices, where you will find the route in GPS format. (Enter the Natura Local QR)

The attractions of the route

The Salt del Roure, located in the Joanetes stream, is one of those little corners of the area that sometimes locals do not even know. This is a deciduous forest landscape that is typical of our region, with strong contrasts of vegetation and climate between the seasons, and that is why it is still surprising to find, at the end of the route, that small area of permanent shade, with a lot of humidity and vegetation.

The waterfall, about 35 m in height, has, in addition to generating a humid microclimate, left a trace of sediments and a deep pool of cold (and treacherous, it is said) water, that puts people off bathing even at the height of summer.

The cove that has formed at the lower part suffers from frequent rock landslides, and it looks as if on times its shape allowed one to pass behind the waterfall without getting wet.

During winter, after a few days of temperatures below zero, long ice formations come about, building columns on the pond, that is also frozen, and there is a creation of short-lived and ephemeral beauty that quickly disappears when the temperatures rise.

If you are nature lovers, both in the silence and quietness of a frozen landscape and in the exuberance of green, the Salt del Roure will not leave you wanting.