

The Alta Ribagorça houses one of the most important collections of Romanesque churches in Europe. This group of buildings is particularly noteworthy on account of the unity of its architectural style. The churches, which were originally constructed during the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries following models typical of the north of Italy (Lombard Romanesque), are characterised by their carefully worked masonry, their slender bell towers and the external ornamentation of their blind arcades and pilaster strips. The murals on the walls of the churches of Sant Climent, Santa Maria de Taüll and Sant Joan de Boí merit special mention, as do all of the woodcarvings produced by the Taller de Erill.

UNESCO has recently recognised the exceptional importance of this example of Romanesque architecture by including the Romanesque churches of the Vall de Boí on its list of World Heritage Sites.



1 L'Assumpció de Còll

Church with a single nave, altar and semi-cylindrical apse.

Sculptural ornamentation in the form of blind arcades that follow the whole upper part of the building's perimeter.

Square bell tower, two upper tiers decorated in Gothic style.

Facade decorated with a double set of columns, sculpted capitals, archivolt with intricately worked Romanesque chequered design ornamentation and monogram of Christ.

Medieval wrought iron door bolt.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: On the outskirts of the village of Còll.
Opening hours and guided visit service: Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic.
Tel. 973 696 715
Patronat Vall de Boí.
Tel. 973 694 000



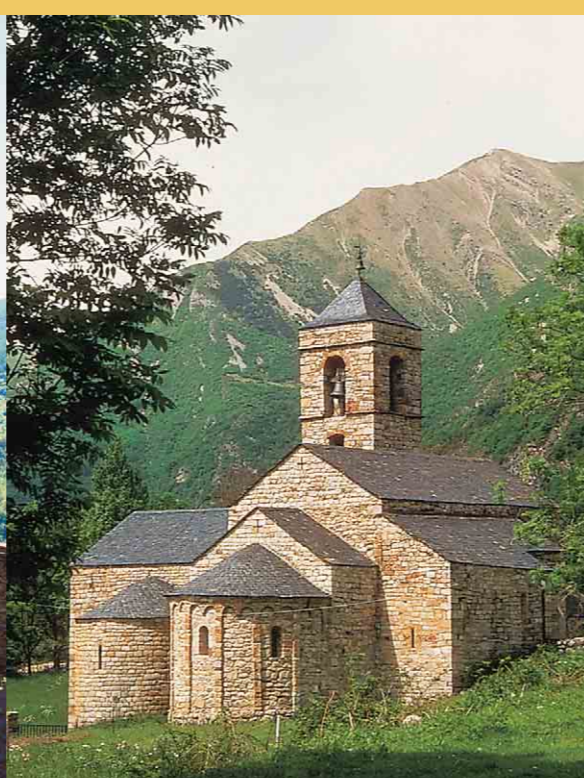
2 Santa Maria de Cardet

Church with a single nave, altar and semi-cylindrical apse with sculptural ornamentation in the form of arches, saw tooth motifs and pilaster strips.

Bell tower with belfry
It is interesting to observe how the building has been adapted to the pronounced mountain slope on which it was built. The slop has been used to advantage in the location of the crypt.

The Medieval wrought iron bolt is of particular interest.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: On the outskirts of the village of Cardet.
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3 Sant Feliu de Barruera

Church with a single nave, altar with two semi-cylindrical apses, exterior sculptural ornamentation in the form of arches and pilaster strips.

The bell tower is adjoined to the south wall, with the first two tiers in Romanesque style and the upper tiers corresponding to reformation work carried out during the 16th century.

The church has been subject to a series of transformations, with modifications to its arcade, chapels and Gothic style facade.

Medieval wrought iron bolt.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: On the outskirts of the village of Barruera.
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4 La Nativitat de Durro

Church with a single nave, which no longer conserves its original altar and three apses. Covered by a barrel vault roof.

The square bell tower is adjoined to the north wall, altar, with Lombard ornamentation in the form of arches and saw tooth motifs.

Chequered pattern frieze and arches on the upper part of the north and south walls.
Arcade protecting the facade
Sculptural ornamentation on the facade with columns and capitals, archivolt with Romanesque chequered design ornamentation and monogram of Christ.

Medieval wrought iron bolt.
Baroque altarpieces dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Technical file
Date of construction: 12th century
Location: At the entrance to the village of Durro.
Opening hours and guided visit service: Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic.
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Tel. 973 694 000



5 Sant Quirc de Durro

Building consisting of a single nave and altar with semi-cylindrical apse, covered by a barrel vault roof.

Gabled slate roof.
Bell tower with belfry.

Inside it is possible to see a copy of the frontal of the Romanesque altar, the Gothic style image of Santa Julita and San Quirc and the Baroque altarpiece.

Technical file
Date of construction: 12th century
Location: 2 kilometres from the village of Durro.
Opening hours and guided visit service: Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic.
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6 Santa Eulàlia d'Erill la Vall

Church with a single nave, altar with semi-cylindrical trefoil apse.

Adjoining six-tier bell-tower with geminated windows, sculptural ornamentation in the form of blind arcades and saw tooth motifs.

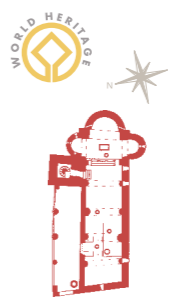
Porch with arcades and pillars.

Inside it is possible to see a copy of the Descent, formed by seven wooden carvings.

The originals are conserved at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) in Barcelona and in the Museu Episcopal de Vic (MEV).

Inside the church a space has been specially prepared to house a permanent exhibition providing information about the history of the building.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: At the entrance to the village of Erill la Vall.
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7 Sant Joan de Boí

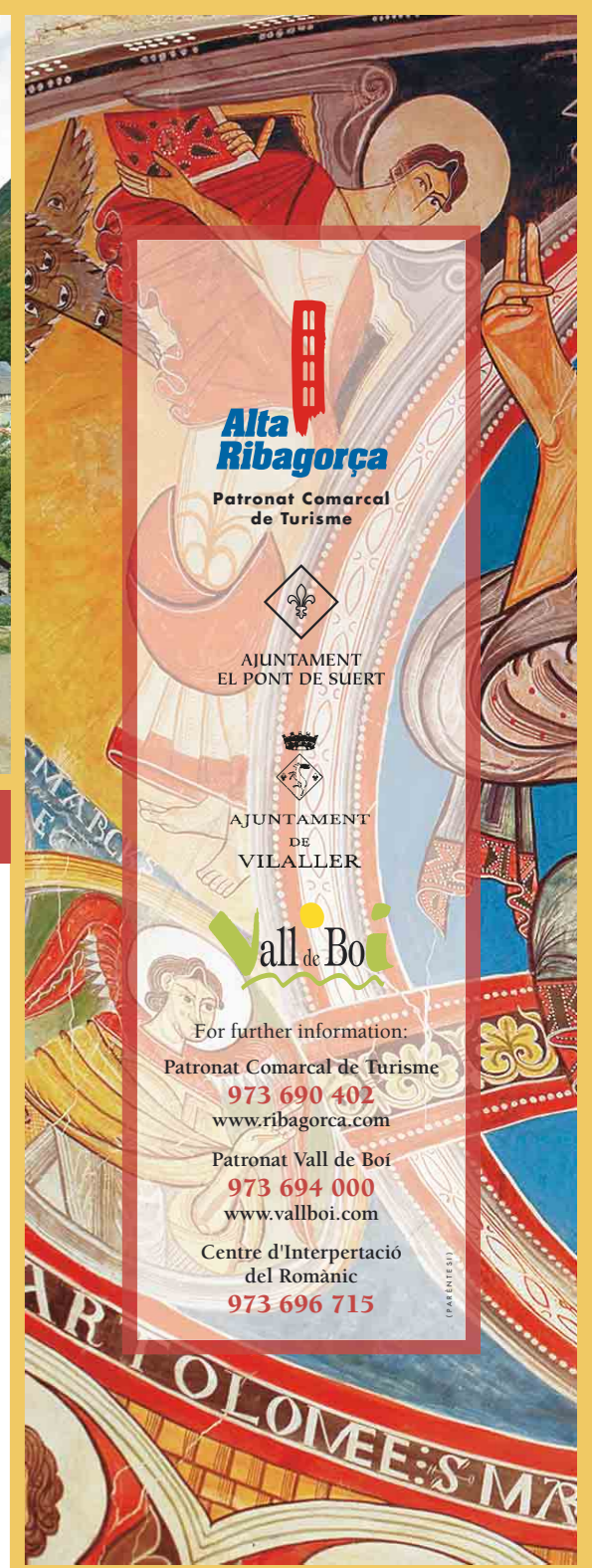
Church with a basilica style layout, with three naves separated by columns.

Headed by three apses, the central apse has been modified and the lateral apses are semi-cylindrical. Square bell tower adjoining the southern facade, the top tier has been subject to modifications at a later date.

The original murals were removed between 1919 and 1923, copies have now been made of the murals on both the interior and exterior walls.

Among the murals, those depicting the Bestiary repertoire, the stoning of Saint Stephen and the scene showing musicians and jugglers are of particular interest.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: At the entrance to the village of Boí.
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Patronat Vall de Boí.
Tel. 973 694 000



Alta Ribagorça
Patronat Comarcal de Turisme

AJUNTAMENT EL PONT DE SUERT

AJUNTAMENT DE VILALLER

Vall de Boí

For further information:

Patronat Comarcal de Turisme
973 690 402
www.ribagorca.com

Patronat Vall de Boí
973 694 000
www.vallboi.com

Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic
973 696 715



10 Santa Maria de Viu de Llevata

Church with a single nave with a barrel vault roof, supported by two arches resting upon half-columns adjoined to the lateral walls. Entrance door with sculpted and ornamented archivolt and capitals. Monogram of Christ above and on the circular window. Square based bell tower adjoining the north wall of the church.

Technical file
Date of construction: 12th century
Location: In the centre of the village of Viu de Llevata.

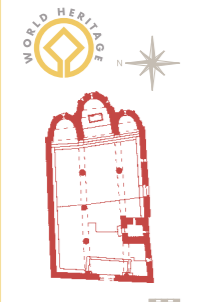


8 Santa Maria de Taüll

Church with a basilica style layout, with three naves separated by columns. Headed by three semi-cylindrical apses. Square bell tower, forming part of the main building. Sculptural ornamentation on the exterior of the apses and bell tower with saw tooth frieze, blind arcades and pilaster strips. The whole interior of the temple was originally decorated with painted murals, but these were removed between 1919 and 1923, and are now conserved at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) in Barcelona. Copies of the original paintings can be seen in the central apse. The scenes depicting Judgement Day and Hell and those in the central apse showing a standing figure of the Virgin and Child, the Apostles and the animals of the Bestiary, are all of particular interest. The church was consecrated on 11th December 1123.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: In the square in the centre of the village of Taüll.

Opening hours and guided visit service: Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic. Tel. 973 696 715 Patronat Vall de Boi. Tel. 973 694 000

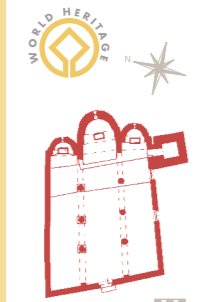


9 Sant Climent de Taüll

Church with a basilica style layout, with three naves separated by columns. Altar with three semi-cylindrical apses. Adjoining square six-tier bell tower. External sculptural ornamentation on the apses and bell tower with saw tooth frieze, blind arcades and pilaster strips. The important murals at the altar merit particular attention, especially the paintings showing the sitting figure of God, the Evangelists and the Apostles. The originals are conserved at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) in Barcelona, while in situ it is still possible to see other restored and reproduced fragments of the originals. The church was consecrated on 10th December 1123.

Technical file
Date of construction: 11th to 12th century
Location: In the square in the centre of the village of Taüll.

Opening hours and guided visit service: Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic. Tel. 973 696 715 Patronat Vall de Boi. Tel. 973 694 000



The Romanesque route

Taking Pont de Suert as our starting point, we must travel 2 km by road along the N-230 until we arrive at the junction with the L-500, which leads to the Vall de Boi. It is here that we find the most well known and outstanding of the Romanesque monuments that were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 30th November 2000.

We find the first site that we can visit, the church of Santa Maria, in the village of Còll, located off to our left and 3 km from the L-500. Following the main road, then turning off to the left, just before reaching km 10, we come to the village of Cardet and the church of Santa Maria. Continuing along our route, at km 12 we reach Barruera, where we find the church of Sant Feliu.

From there we have to go off to the right and follow a secondary road for 3 km that takes us to the village of Durro and the church of the Nativitat de la Mare de Déu. Also in Durro, and a little further up the road, we find the hermitage of Sant Quirc, which we also recommend for the views it offers of the surrounding landscape.

In order to see the majestic church of Santa Eulalia, we must return to the main road and continue as far as km 15.5. There we must take the left-hand fork and go on to the village of Erill la Vall. We must then go 2 km further up the road and branch off to the right to reach Boi, where we can see the church of Sant Joan. After that, it is just another 3 km to Taüll, which houses the two best known artistic monuments in the valley: the churches of Santa Maria and Sant Climent.

The Centre d'Interpretació del Romànic offers guided visits to all nine of these monuments. This service is available by contacting Tel. 973 696 715. Apart from this route, it is also possible to visit other places of great interest in the Alta Ribagorça area. These villages are also indicated on the map provided.

Other visits of interest

12 Santa Maria de Corroncui
 Built with parts taken from the western facade of the old church of Corroncui, and located on top of a hillock near the village. Building comprising a single nave covered with a barrel vault roof in the general style that enjoyed a remarkable diffusion during the first half of the 12th century.

13 Sant Sadurn d'Esperan

Located at an altitude of 1,400 m on the right hand side of the Vall de Esperan. The building consists of a single nave with its apse at a lower level, the ground plan was later enlarged with the addition of two south-facing chapels. Its facade is crowned by a single window and a bell tower with a double arched belfry. The building dates from the 12th century.

14 Sant Bartomeu d'Erta

Located in the upper part of the village of Erta, the building has a single nave with a semicircular apse, its lateral chapels and vestry constitute later additions. The apse houses a Baroque altarpiece dating from 1714. The building dates from the 11th to 12th century.

15 Sant Climent d'Iran

Located in the small village of Iran, at an altitude of 1,288 m. Building consisting of a single nave covered by a barrel vault roof with a semicircular apse. The walls are built of carefully cut and placed stone blocks. There is a circular window in the middle of the western facade, under the bell tower and double arched belfry, one of the arches has been half-filled.

16 La Mare de Déu de les Neus d'Irgo

Located on the outskirts of the village of Irgo at an altitude of 1,380 m. The building is formed by a single nave with a barrel vault roof, the arcade shelters the door which is in the form of a semicircular arch and the bell tower completes the south-east corner of the building. The building has no ornamentation, but its construction otherwise follows Lombard tradition.

17 Ermita de Sant Salvador d'Irgo

The building is located 500 m. outside the village of Irgo. The original building, which has been subject to considerable transformation, has a single nave covered with a barrel vault roof that was later extended towards the east, where a door was opened in the new facade. We could perhaps regard it as a crude construction dating from the 12th century.

18 Sant Marti de Llesp

A re-constructed church in which advantage has been taken of many elements from the original Romanesque temple, especially the north wall, to which the original semicircular Romanesque arch with archivolt, decorated capitals and monogram of Christ have been transferred. It may date from the end of the 12th century.

19 Sant Romà de Casós

Building dating from the 12th century. Located to the very east of Casós, in the nucleus of Vilaller. Building of a single nave with a barrel vault roof and altar and semicircular Lombard-style apse in its eastern part. Door with a traditional Romanesque wrought iron bolt and embossed with archivolt. Bell tower with double arched belfry.

20 Sant Esteve de Ventolà

Church located in the village of Ventolà at an altitude of 1,050 m. The building has a single nave with a semicircular apse. It has two rectangular chapels. Part of the apse and a broken window are all that remain from the original construction. The building dates from the end of the 12th century.

21 Ermita de Santa Margarida de Peranera

Located at an altitude of 1,600 m on rocky outcrop in the Vall de Peranera. Small building consisting of a single nave, altar and semi-cylindrical apse. The cut stone blocks of the nave's vault are well worked and the bolt is of wrought iron. The building dates from the 11th century.

22 Ermita de Sant Nicolau

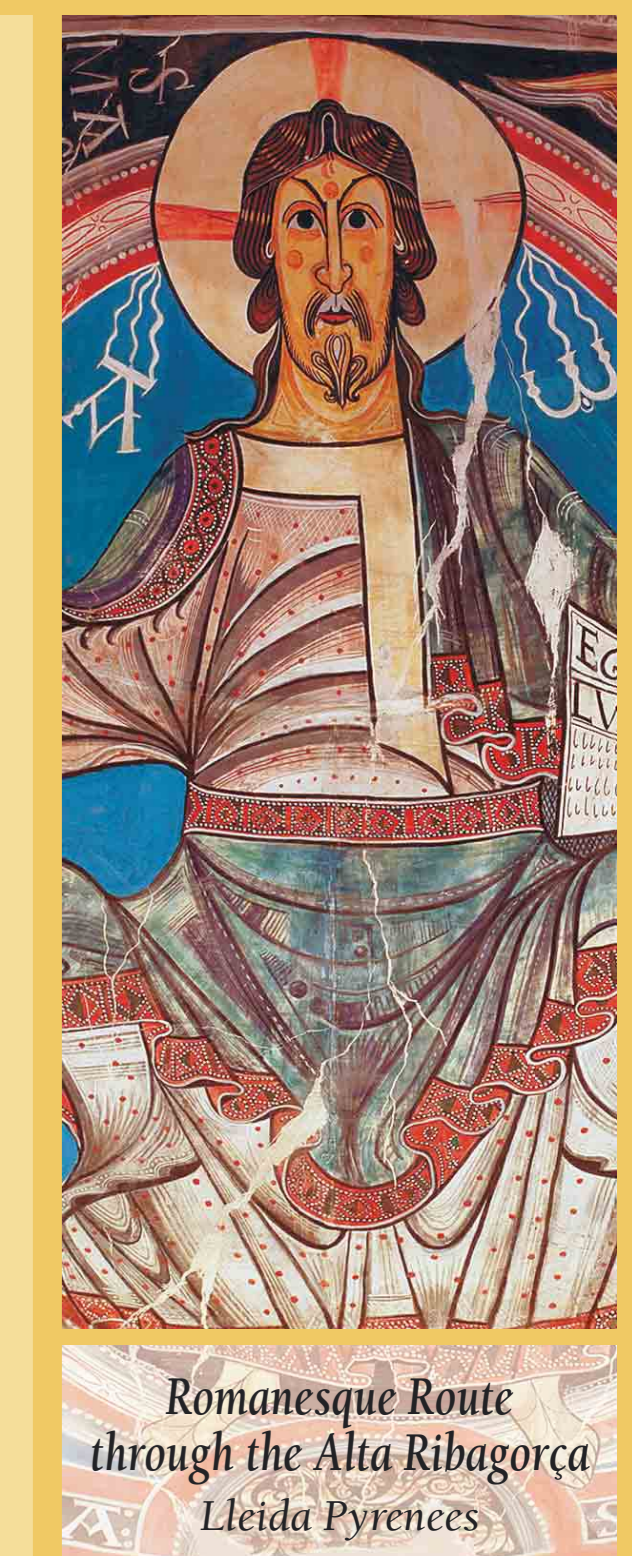
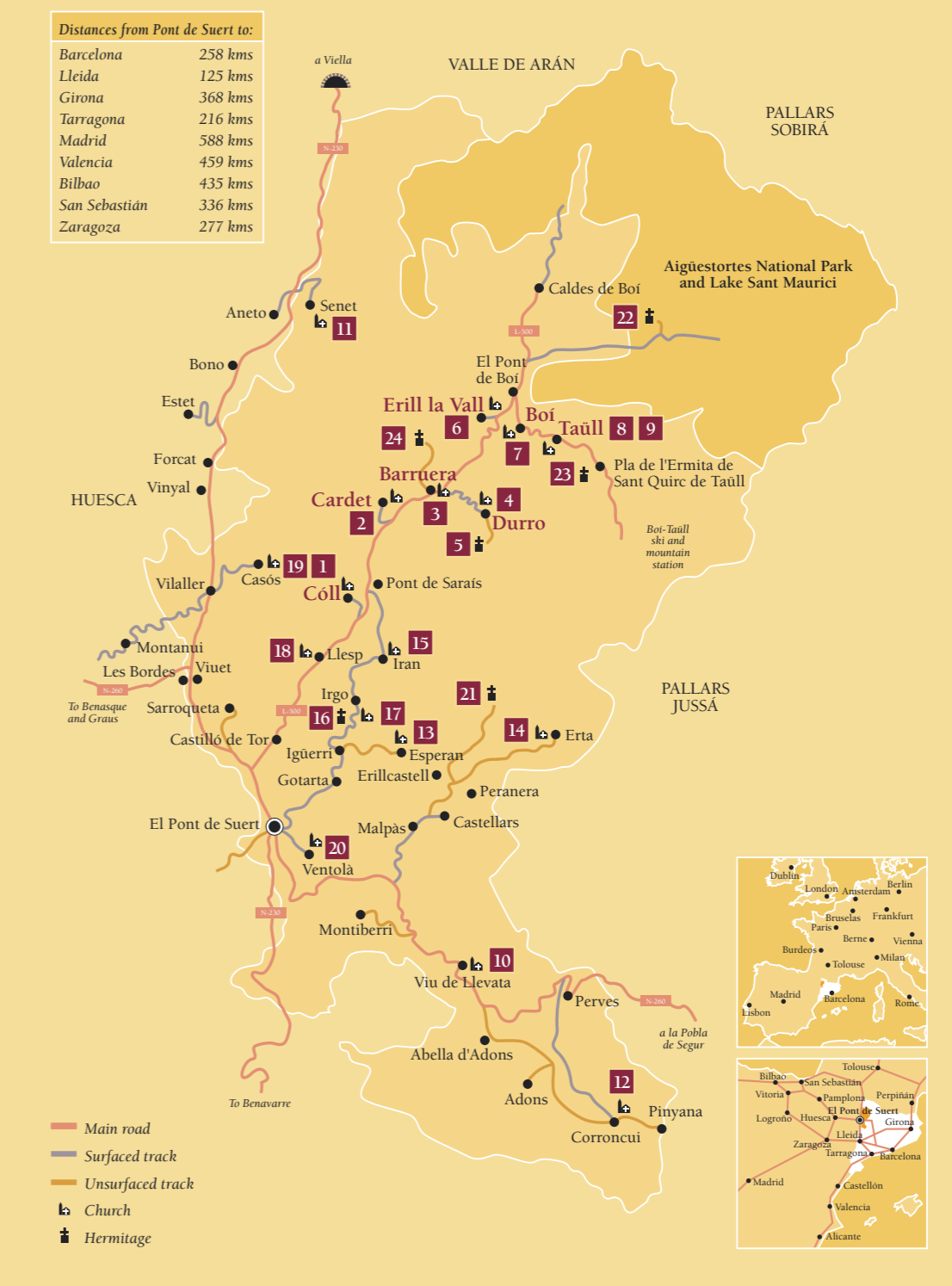
Located in the Aiguestortes and Llac de Sant Maurici National Park, it can be reached by following a path leading off to the left from Lake Llebrera. Hermitage of Romanesque origin with a nave and altar with an apse. It has been considerably transformed. Covered by barrel vault with a gabled slate roof.

23 Ermita de Sant Quirc de Taüll

Located on the Pla de l'Ermita, 2 km. from Taüll. There is a sign-posted path from the hotel complex. Romanesque hermitage dating from the 12th century, with a nave and altar with a semi-cylindrical apse. The building was restored in 1992.

24 Ermita de Sant Salvador de Barruera

Located in the mountains of Barruera, an hour's walk from the village. The building was initially in ruins, with only part of its apse and the lower part of its nave walls remaining. Reconstruction work was carried out by builders from the local village and financed by public donations. At present it has a nave, an altar with a semi-cylindrical apse and a bell tower with belfry.



Romanesque Route through the Alta Ribagorça Lleida Pyrenees