

## ITINERARY 4: LA CREU DE MONTCABRER

### **Montcabrer**

*Montcabrer* is the emblematic mountain of Cabrils, both for its history and its natural beauty. It is a privileged viewpoint in our area because it is very close to the sea. From this viewpoint, the sight comprises Barcelona, Montnegre and Montseny. Throughout history this mountain has changed its appearance, from being just a mountain with vineyards without forest vegetation to becoming privately owned ground where the construction of houses are growing at an incredible rate.

Luckily, the greater part of this hill and its hillsides are protected by the *PEIN Pla Especial d'interès natural* ( special environmental protection plan ) managed by the *Consorci del Parc Serralada Litoral*.

### **The itinerary**

We begin the itinerary at Cabrils's church square

The church dates back from the year 1704 and the top spot is the *Santa Creu*. The organ, which was saved from being burned during the Spanish civil war, stands out.

We leave the square going up a very steep slope and soon we find ourselves in *Castell de Can Jaumar*. This was an old farmhouse called *Can Rafart*, but the Jaumar's family built a castle imitation as a holiday house in 1923. In the garden of this castle we can find different species of trees such as Palm trees, Plane trees, Eucalyptus, Fir-trees, Holm oak trees, Pine trees, etc. If we continue our way up we find the cemetery, built in 1858, where you can see the family Tolrà chapel built at the beginning of the XX century and two cypresses which are protected by the Catalan Autonomous Government and the local council.

After walking approximately fifteen minutes we will find the *Alzina Surera de les Planes* which is a symbolic border between Cabrils and Cabrera de Mar. From here on, we continue our way to the hill *turó de l'Infern*. Once we have reached the summit, we can appreciate the strategic location from this amazing viewpoint. This hill was already inhabited by Iberians settlers.

We will also find a landmark formed by four stones which show medieval gallows used in the XIV and XV centuries to hang local criminals and wrongdoers.

If we take the path on the left, we will find a huge stone called *Pedra de L'Elefant*. A few meters away will get the visual impact of TV booster stations.

Leaving them behind, we will get to the hardest part of the itinerary, which finally leads to *Montcabrer*.

A cross dating from the XVII century is at the summit of this hill. The first of May of 1707 a heavy storm destroyed all the crops of this area and a wooden cross, with the relics of the martyr saints of Vilassar de Dalt, was erected on July the 7 of the same year as a sign of protection against hail, rain, storms and other evil forces. Twenty years later a lightning destroyed it, and it was substituted by one made of iron. The relics were returned to their original place and the cross was taken away during the civil war. When the war ended the local people erected a new one which was again substituted by the current one erected in the middle of the 80s.

A few meters away from the cross we take a narrow path which is at right angles to the sea, we go down and in the middle of a rocky place we will find the cave *cova de les Bones Dones* that according to the legend, the witch who inhabited the cave would benefit the settlers of these places.

### **The Flora and Fauna**

Once we have walked about twenty five minutes from Cabrils's church square we will find the Holm oak tree *Alzina Surera de les Planes* protected by the Autonomous government of Catalonia and the Cabrils local council. From here on, leaving the centre of town behind

and continue our way having pine trees as companions. From this delicate side we can make out, on our left, the town of Cabrera and the mythical *castell de Sant Vicent de Burriac*. This walk offers the chance to admire the diverse nature spots. We go deep into a forest of Pine nut trees, shrubs, rosemary bushes, rock-rose flowers and finally heathers and wild Cherry trees. It is worth saying that although Pine trees abound nowadays in *Montcabrer*, last century this hill contained only vineyards. Animals such as squirrels, foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs, tawny owls, bats and jays among many other will accompany us throughout the walk if are respectful with them and their habitat.

**1. Outline of the route:** (schematic map)

**2. useful information:**

Starting and finishing points of the itinerary:  
Monastery of Sant Geroni de la Murtra (Badalona)  
Argentona

**3. Additional information:**

If you need any further information you can contact Parc Serralada Litoral association.

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