

## Cabanes de Mataporc

Rated: Easy.

Duration: 3h.

Follow: Route No. 4

*Points of interest.* These are old refuges for the shepherds who once kept their flocks on the Albères Massif.

At the Church take the rue de L'Eglise which ends in a pathway up to the old mill (**Moulin de Pave**). Follow the path upwards to a spring (**Fontaine des Oiseaux**). The pathway then climbs upwards following a partly buried water pipe. This leads you to a small reservoir on the right hand and also to a signpost. Take the path indicated "Cabanes" which goes to the left. You pass a "Mas" on your right and continue on the path; always to the left. A yellow marker on your left indicates a spring below you called – "**Fontaine Malzac**".

A few metres further on you come to a pathway crossing which continues to the **Col de l'Ullat**. It is to your right; take it. Follow this until a further path branches off to the left. Take this new path which passes a water tank on the right; this leads you after a few metres to a small wire fence which goes up into the undergrowth. Passing through an area of vegetation, you go through some small oaks and then along a fence which brings you to a high track. Go left, through a barrier, then immediately right and the path climbs steeply. Continuing on this path, high up on your left there is a yellow marker by a cross chiselled in a rock.

Cross a small stream and to your right you will see some terraces which are still worked and have been cultivated for some 60 years. A little below you, you leave a small path on your right hand and follow the next to the right also. Climb up slightly and turn right to place you in front of the two first refuges.

Retrace your steps a little way, taking the main pathway below that you have just left and turn to the right. A few metres further on, and to the left, a footpath goes down into the forest; take it.

You reach an old pig enclosure (Cortal). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Refuge. Go around it and follow a descending path which is quite steep and which rejoins the path which cuts across. Take this path to the right and follow it to the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Refuge; then continue on this yellow marked pathway to the 4<sup>th</sup>. Refuge. You will see a little stone table and a small spring. Go up above the spring and follow the yellow path to the main route which you previously left to go down towards the pig enclosure (Cortal). Continue on until there is a track on your left; go through a barrier that you came through on the way up and follow this downhill track to the intersection with the way up to the **Col de l'Ullat**. Here you take the path to the right.

On the way down, you leave to the right the path that you took up. Continue downwards until you come to a path on your left; take this one and you finally come to your departure point.