

Hike

11 In the footsteps of Trabucayres

MAUREILLAS-LAS-ILLAS

One town but three villages with Las Illas and Riunoguès, each with its character and riches of all kinds: an exceptional heritage and nature leisure activities characterize the three villages.

Maureillas, built in the Middle Ages around a «Cellera» and the Church of Saint Etienne. Las Illas, near the border with Catalonia, nestled at the bottom of the wild valleys. Riunoguès, in the middle of the Subéraies, ideally placed on the «Voie Verte» (cycle lane) between Maureillas and Le Perthus.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TRABUCAYRES

After the death of King Ferdinand VII of Spain, his young daughter Isabella ascended the throne. The King's brother, Don Carlos, invoked the Salic law to rule in her place. He did not succeed and a civil war broke out. The «Trabucayres» who were «Carlists» and supporters of Don Carlos fled to las Illas, this little village close to the Spanish border where they lived off banditry and pillage committed mainly in Spain. Later on, they were arrested and tried. Their misdeeds marked the population for several generations. The name «Trabucayre» comes from the Catalan word «trabuc», which means in French blunderbuss, an old-fashioned gun with a wide mouth used by the bandits.

TO DISCOVER

Ruins of Castell de Cabrera.

A very beautiful view of Spain.

Hermitage of Salines with its cave and shelter.

Chapel of Notre-Dame du Remède at Mas de la Selve.

ONLINE MAP



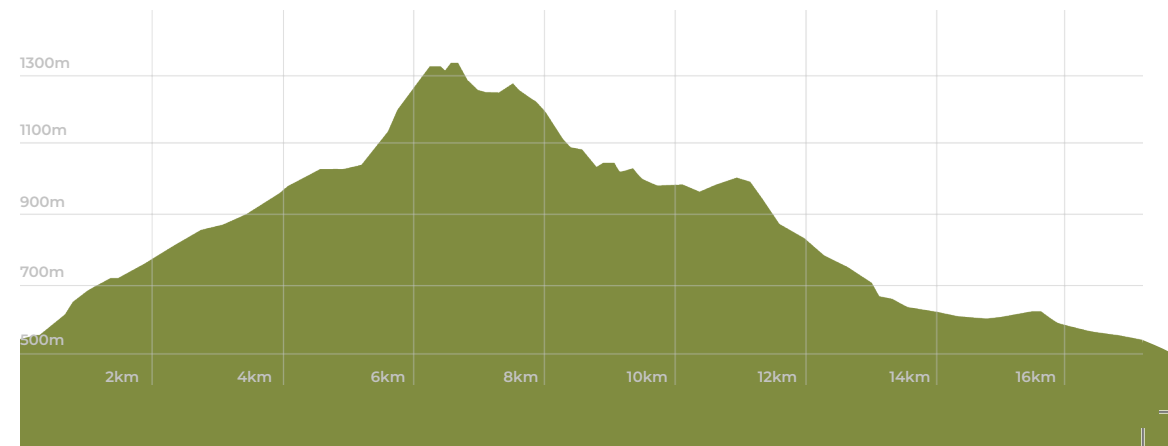
LAS ILLAS

880m d+



DIFFICULTY

5h30 - 17,5 km



**Departure : From Maureillas go to Las Illas.
Go through the village and park near the restaurant.**

0 min : Follow the path on the left of the restaurant. Cross the fence and at the first fork take the left.

10 min : The trail leads to a track. Follow on the right for about 30 meters then take the path that goes up to the left. At the following two forks take the left.

1 **25 min :** Coll de Lli and memorial plaques to the 'Retirada'. Go through the fence and go up on the track to the right.

2 **50 min :** Cross a cattle grid. If you want you can go and return in about 20 minutes to see the Castell de Cabrera and the view of the village of Maçanet and the Dam of Boadella. Whereupon the itinerary resumes, back on the main track.

1h20 : At the crossroads with the signs take the small path to the right that winds through the forest. Cross the stream and after a few meters turn right and climb further up towards the Hermitage and the fountain Salines.

1h40 : Behind the 'Chapelle des Salines' follow the steep path towards the 'Pic des Salines' up to the crest.

2h : At the peak continue to ascend on the right.

3 **2h10 :** Summit of the Pic des Salines (1,333 m), panorama views on the Roussillon plain over to the sea, Canigou and the Albères. Take back the same path that you followed on the crest.

2h30 : Coll del Pou de la Neu. Follow the GR10 markings (red and white).

3h30 : At the fork take the right. If you want you can go and return to the fountain of Fontfrède in 30 minutes. If so continue straight ahead.

4 **3h40 :** Coll des Cirerers. Take the left in the direction of Las Illas and there follow the red and white markings of the GR@10.

5 **4h30 :** At a building, turn right and join the paved road (really few traffic). Follow this road on the right till Las Illas.

5h30 : Arrive at the car park.

