

Ger

Different itineraries to enjoy



TREKKING · NATURE · CULTURE · GASTRONOMY · CYCLING · HISTORY



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Edited:



Collaborate:



Joan Obiols, who is a Pyrenean writer, talks about Ger and its area in his book called *La gramola*. The narrator has cleverly explained facts, legends, idioms and characters that are important to reflect the possibly largest inhabited sunny area of la Baixa Cerdanya. His comments on Ger and the other villages nearby are very apt and to the point because they form a unique area between the river and the high mountains. Some examples can be a tree with its roots in the Segre River or the different branches around the sunny spot of Ger or the top of Puigpedrós Mountain. In this territory full of water, meadows, hostile places, pine forests, rocky and snowy areas, we can find a great cultural and natural heritage. We have inherited this natural and cultural treasure from past generations and our task is to preserve it not only for future generations, but also for tourists who want to understand who we are. We are the inhabitants of Ger, who would like to welcome you all and we wish you a very nice stay in our territory. Welcome home, please come in.

TREASURES FROM OUR FLAT AREA

At first sight, the place where Ger town is located is not really special. It is not up in a hill, nor next to a lake, and it does not have any river nearby. However, if we pay close attention to the site, we can see that it is a natural border between the fields at the bottom of the valley and the mountains at the top. It might seem that this is not a **strategic area, but it is indeed**, because it allows farmers to grow crops in these flat fields and, at the same time, it avoids living at the steep slopes of the mountain. Houses are arranged in different rows in order to prevent some of them from shading the others. That is why we can discover the different **forest paths which go down to the village**. We can also follow the river footpath which connects the whole region. It is in our town that the riverbank suddenly goes to the other side and embraces the **Segre River**.



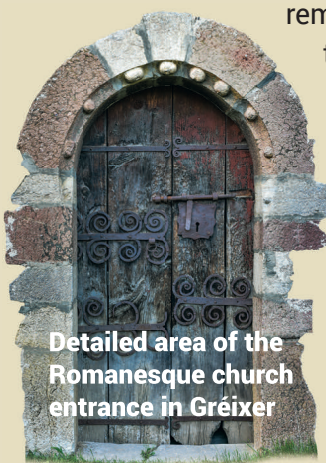
Detailed area of the Segre River

Itinerary 1 GOING FROM THE DROVEWAY TO THE SEGRE RIVER

Our town region reaches both sides of the riverbank along one kilometre. It is all included in the nature reserve Espai Natura 2000 Riberes de l'Alt Segre. The riverbank has 500 metres in width (taking into account both riverbanks) and **it is considered the best one in the Cerdanya area**. Walking down the droveway from Ger is an activity which can be done both in the morning and in the afternoon. Once we reach the river, there is a flat path of 420 meters long, which is suitable for families, and it allows tourists to discover its nature, its resources and the way it is handled.

HAVING A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENT VILLAGES

The inhabited villages of our area are Ger, el Molí de Ger, Gréixer, Montmalús, Niula and Saga. A book of Pyrenean architecture could be written by having a look at these villages, because they are an example of traditional building styles and, at the same time, they are a sample of new and modern housing techniques and holiday resorts. In this hypothetical book, Romanesque churches of Saga, Ger, Gréixer and Sant Pere should also be included. Although they have been remodelled over the years, they still preserve amazing details, such as different voussoirs made of marble from Isòvol. Threshing floors and façades in some houses of Ger, and a peculiar museum of watercolours are examples of attractive and remarkable buildings in this region.



Detailed area of the Romanesque church entrance in Gréixer

Itinerary 5 ART IN THE MOUNTAIN

The façade in a house of Ger



The village of Ger has got several **remarkable and unique buildings**, such as the Romanesque church of Santa Coloma (the Patroness of the village), the museum of watercolours from the 19th Century from Cal Sindreu, the stone façades in some houses and threshing floors. This itinerary can be completed on foot in one morning or in one afternoon.

REACHING 3000 METRES HEIGHT

More than a third part of our territory is located above 2000 metres height. The highest alpine point corresponds to the northern part of the village. It is the place where pine forests, high green pastures and rocky landscapes can be found. It is in this area that we can see **Mal Lake**, which is the liquid reminder of the last ice age in our mountains. Underneath the lake, there are big blocks of granitic rocks which show how powerful the glacier had been. Nearby, there is the **Fondal meadow**, which is a marsh that shows that it had previously been another lake. Almost at the top of the Campcardós mountain range, we can see Puigpedrós summit, which is 2915 metres height and it is the highest summit in the area (i.e. *Baixa Cerdanya*) and, thus, one of the most well-known places in the region.



Mal Lake

Itinerary 9 FROM FEIXA SHELTER TO PUIGPEDRÓS

Feixa shelter is a perfect base camp in order to reach Puigpedrós. After spending the night there, we need to start the excursion early in the morning. This itinerary goes through the pine forest, which is plenty of snow-roses or alpine roses in July. Once the forest is over, we can see Mal Lake and from this point onwards, it is plenty of chamois and rock ptarmigans. All this area is included in the nature reserve called **Natura 2000 Tossa Plana-Puigpedrós**.



Agroforestry Mosaic near Gréixer

Itinerary 2 GOING AROUND GER

The Valls torrent is, as well as the Montmalús torrent, one of the most important sources of vegetation which can be found in this sunny, but treeless area of Ger. Going through it on foot in a sunshine morning can be a **refreshing excursion**, you just have to follow the trail 170. We can have breakfast at the Peuet spring, just half kilometre away from Ger. If we want to continue, we can reach the isolated Coforn house, which is placed 2 kilometres high. From there, we can come back or we can visit the rebuilt village of Niula.

Itinerary 6 DO NOT MISS OUR FESTIVAL EVENTS

In spring or in summer, tourists have the chance to visit us and enjoy our festival events, such as the one in Saga, which takes place in mid-May; or the festival in Gréixer, which occurs at the beginning of June. The biggest festival event is in Ger. It is known as the Patron Saint Festival of Roser de Ger. It takes place in September, and it lasts for four days in order to say goodbye to the festive season.



Romanesque church of Saga

Itinerary 10 THE GREAT ASCENT

If we have two or three days off and we would like to trek, a nice itinerary is trekking from **the Segre riverbank to Puigpedrós summit**. 1859-meter-vertical climb is the steep slope from the bottom of the valley to the top of the summit. The different footpaths around the area will let us trek gradually in order to pay attention to the livestock landscape, the different mountains and the Feixa shelter as a strategic position.



Puigpedrós summit

COMING FROM A LIVESTOCK TRADITION

When we focus on our houses from the other side of the street, we can really appreciate the different details from the façade, the windows and the roof. If we pay attention to the mountains surrounding us, we can see **a landscape which has been modelled by livestock over the centuries**. Green pastures at the bottom of the valley and the ones in the high mountains, as well as the vegetable plots, huts for the shepherds and also the lack of forest in the area of Ger are elements which indicate that this region is based on a livestock tradition. When the weather is sunny and warm enough, the livestock is shifted from the valley to the high mountains, in order to take advantage of the different vegetable plots and to escape from the summer heat. At the beginning of the autumn season, the livestock is moved back again to the valley and to the different pens. This procedure has been repeatedly done for ages and it is established by the different saints and festival events, which let us live happily and cheerfully and they have also helped us to create our own identity over the centuries.



COOKING TRADITIONAL FOOD

Most towns and villages are famous for something special. Over time, this general feature ends up being an essential and social attribute. Idioms such as “Gent de Ger, gent de bé” (translated as “people from Ger, grateful people”) or “Els de Ger feu les coses bé” (translated as “those from Ger are the ones who act properly”) reflect how our values and entrepreneurial skills are acknowledged. It is in our cookery skills that these values are really well-expressed. In fact, Ger is famous for being a place **where you can eat delicious food**. Our restaurants, craftsmen and craftswomen cooks have become relevant from generation to generation. That is why there is a **cookery and food festival** every year and turnips from la Cerdanya are the best ingredient.



Itinerary 7 EXCELLENT CRAFTSMANSHIP

Our traditional livestock is the basis of several types of experiences in producing and selling **added-value food**. The best way to discover them is making an appointment with our cow and goat cheese producers; beef and foal meat producers and organic egg producers. Some of them can be visited by bicycle following the gravel road called *Camí Ral o de Sant Jaume*.

Itinerary 3 GOING TO THE SUNNY SPOT OF GER BY CAR

If you have half a day left, you can go around Ger by car. You can visit Gréixer and, from there, you can drive up the forest trail, which is in good conditions, to Montmalús. There is a traditional cheese shop in Montmalús and some uninhabited old houses which are worth visiting. 7 kilometres away from Montmalús, you reach **a livestock pen and the Cabanella pastures**. From there, the sightseeing is spectacular. From this point to Ger, the forest trail goes down.



El Coforn

Itinerary 4 CYCLING THROUGH THE SUNNY SPOT OF GER

If we want to **discover the livestock and the beautiful landscape around Ger by bicycle**, there is a circular itinerary which starts in the village of Ger. We can cycle from Sant Pere, then to Gréixer and up to Montmalús. From there, we can cycle to Coforn and Niula, where we can go down and back to Ger. The itinerary is 19 kilometres long with 550 meters of difference in height.



Cabanella pastures

Itinerary 8 A SAMPLE OF THE BEST RECIPES IN OUR AREA

From 1990 onwards, a **cookery and food festival with turnips from la Cerdanya** is celebrated in our village. It is an original festival because the different restaurants and cooks are met together and they all cook the most important ingredient in our territory: turnips from la Cerdanya. They cook them following different recipes, such as turnips with duck, turnips with pigs' trotters or turnips with meatballs. If you are interested in visiting this festival, you will spend all day long enjoying our recipes.



Capercaillie



ACCOMMODATION

CAL REUS	EL JAÇ
Quatre Cantons 6, Ger www.calleus.com T. 972 894 002	Andreu Xandri, Ger www.grupturistfic.com T. 972 894 291
CAL MARTRI	REFUGI DE LA FEIXA
Major 39, Ger www.hotelmartri.com T. 972 147 019	www.refugidelafeixa.com T. 666 137 088



RESTAURANTS

EL REBOST DE GER	EL PORTAL
Major Square 2, Ger www.rebostdeger.com T. 972 147 055	Major Square, Ger elportalger@hotmail.es T. 972 894 275
CAL PONS	CAL JET
Carretera Vella 2, Ger calpons@svt.es T. 972 894 110	Major 12, Ger T. 666 601 407



AGRO-FOOD PRODUCERS

CAL GRAUET*	MONTMELÚS*
Eco-friendly exploitation of beef and eggs Major 1, Saga T. 609 538 722	Goat cheese T. 630 283 971
MOLÍ DE GER*	RAMADERIA BERTRAN
Cheese and dairy products from cows Molí de Ger s/n T. 972 894 258 www.molideger.com	Lamb meat in-house exploitation Andreu Xandri 1, Ger T. 972 894 015
RAMADERIA CAL PUJOL	
Beef in-house exploitation Niula s/n, Ger T. 680 637 699	



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

GER CITY COUNCIL	CONSULTANT
Quatre Cantons s/n, Ger www.ajger.cat T. 972 894 001	Quatre Cantons, Ger T. 972 894 108
GER PHARMACY	CAL SINDREU MARRY MUSEUM
Carretera Vella, Ger T. 972 147 059	Collection of watercolours T. 667 522 647 www.calsindreu.cat



FESTIVAL EVENTS

ITINERARY 6	ITINERARY 8
3rd Sunday of May: SAGA FESTIVAL 1st weekend of June: GRÉIXER FESTIVAL 1st weekend of September: GER FESTIVAL	3rd weekend of November (variable): COOKERY AND FOOD FESTIVAL WITH TURNIPS FROM LA Cerdanya

* Guided tours. Prearranged visits must be booked in advance.

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LEGEND

- ▲ Summit
- ✛ Church or chapel
- ★ Interesting tourist sites
- ✛ Guarded hut
- 🏠 Rural tourism accommodation
- 🏨 Hotel
- 🍽️ Restaurant
- 🏛️ Museum or interpretation centre
- 🔧 Crafts
- 🏠 Pharmacy
- Road
- River
- Marked trails of the Cerdanya
- Network Natura 2000

Feixa shelter

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 🚫 Respect private properties. Do not walk on crop fields or hay meadows.
- 🚫 Lighting fire is not allowed, except in the suitable areas equipped with barbecues and spark arrestors.
- 🚫 Camping is prohibited. It is only allowed above 2,000 metres from 8 pm to 8 am. It is forbidden to pitch tents after 8 am. Use available mountain huts and campsites.
- 🚫 Traffic is prohibited except for tracks and roads open to public domain. Follow the signs.
- 🚫 Do not throw litter away. Take it and put it in bins in the villages nearby. If you recycle, the environment will thank you.
- 🚫 Make sure the dogs you take are leashed at all times, as they may threaten the livestock and the wildlife in the area.
- 🚫 Electric wire fences in footpaths and tracks must be closed once you have crossed them.

CATALUNYA > PYRENEES > Cerdanya > GER