

Natural area of the Mare de Déu de la Roca

The natural area of the *Mare de Déu de la Roca* has been included in the PEIN – Area of outstanding natural beauty of the *Generalitat* - thanks to its unique relief and its botanical interest. It is also a present landscape in the work of the universal and Catalan artist Joan Miró, adopted son of Mont-roig.

It is ideal to do an excursion with the family or as starting point from where you can discover some hiking and mountain bike trails, which will allow us to enjoy Mont-roig's land from another point of view.

From Mont-roig, we recommend you the experience of walking through the Hermitage's Old Path, the most traditional (average difficulty, 25/30 minutes' walk) where, a few meters before the path starts rising to the mountain, you will find the legendary *Pedra dels Àngels* (Stone of the angels) - "if you want to hear the angels, a well *mont-roigenc*, will make them sing", tells the popular wisdom.

Ermita de la Mare de Déu de la Roca

The hermitage is integrated in the red mountain of la Roca, which stands out because of its oddly shapes that the erosion has drawn on its cliffs. A spectacular place where nature, landscape, faith, history and legend join together in balance. Actually, it was a populated area already in the prehistoric times.

In the hermitage is venerated a black Mother of God, the Mare de Déu de la Roca. She is the patron saint of Mont-roig, a village where many women are named Maria de la Roca or Roca. In a historic point of view, the hermitage is documented for the first time in 1230 in a testament. Its origins get lost in the legend, which places in 1153 the find of the image of the Mare de Déu de la Roca by a shepherd. The hermitage has undergone the incidence of various wars and has been profaned several times.

Ermita de Sant Ramon de Penyafort

This little hermitage – which is so remarkable for seeming to challenge gravitation law- crowns the mountain of the Roca. You can access the site by a picturesque path from the square of the hermitage of the *Mare de Déu de la Roca*, which is linked with. Documented in the XVI century, it has been linked with the seafaring world because the image of Sant Ramon de Penyafort was found by fishermen. For many centuries, it has been the point of orientation for fishing boats. From its little viewpoint, you can view the whole area of Tarragona.



D.L.: T 1043-2015



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