

Rocks in the Street: Representation of Andorra's geodiversity

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In May 2007, the open-air museum "Roques al Carrer" (Rocks in the Street) was established in Andorra la Vella, the capital of the Pyrenean country Andorra, with the aim of promoting the values of global geodiversity [1] and the geological heritage of Andorra through the observation and study of elements belonging to our daily life.

This museum Rocks in the Street was divided into three parts: the Rock Garden, with big rocks of all types that can be found in Andorra, accompanied by explanatory panels; the Geological Itinerary, with more than thirty panels in several streets of the capital of Andorra, explaining the ornamental rock used in the facade of the different buildings and providing explanations related with geology; and the Granit Architecture Itinerary, showing ten buildings which represent the granite architecture and highlighting its key characteristics and its importance in the Andorran context.

In May 2024, the museum was completely renovated and updated:

- The Rock Garden [2] was moved to the Sorteny Valley Natural Park [3], a new location no longer in the city but in the mountains, with the same aim of offering in a single place a representation of all the rocks that outcrop in Andorra. The Rock Garden (figure 1) is currently located next to the botanical garden of the Sorteny Valley Natural Park, in the middle of an easy mountain trail within the Natural Park, which many tourists of different ages and backgrounds and even schools from the country access.
The Rock Garden is accompanied by a series of panels which will allow the visitor to learn more about rocks in general, rocks in Andorra and some of their uses. We have several examples in Andorra, such as Romanesque architecture or granite architecture. Another of the most significant examples in Andorra is the art of dry stone [4] that is illustrated in the Rock Garden situated in Sorteny (figure 2).
- The Geological Itinerary in the streets of Andorra la Vella (figure 3) was closed, as it was very difficult to keep up to date with the constant changes of shops and their facades. Despite this fact, it is an itinerary that can be adapted to other streets and cities of the country, in case of future interest of another city council.
- The Granite Architecture Itinerary [5] was maintained in the old town of Andorra la Vella (figure 3), since these are buildings that have not undergone any modifications, and the city council of the capital of Andorra wishes to continue to show this architectural style which began in the 1930s, lasted until the 1960s and was very important in Andorra.

Andorra Research and Innovation will continue to review and update the museum Rocks in the Street, currently formed by the Rock Garden in the Sorteny Valley Natural Park and the Granite Architecture Itinerary in the streets of Andorra la Vella, both designed to introduce people into the always interesting world of geology, and the Andorran geodiversity.



Figure 1. The current Rock Garden, located in the Sorteny Valley Natural Park, in Andorra.

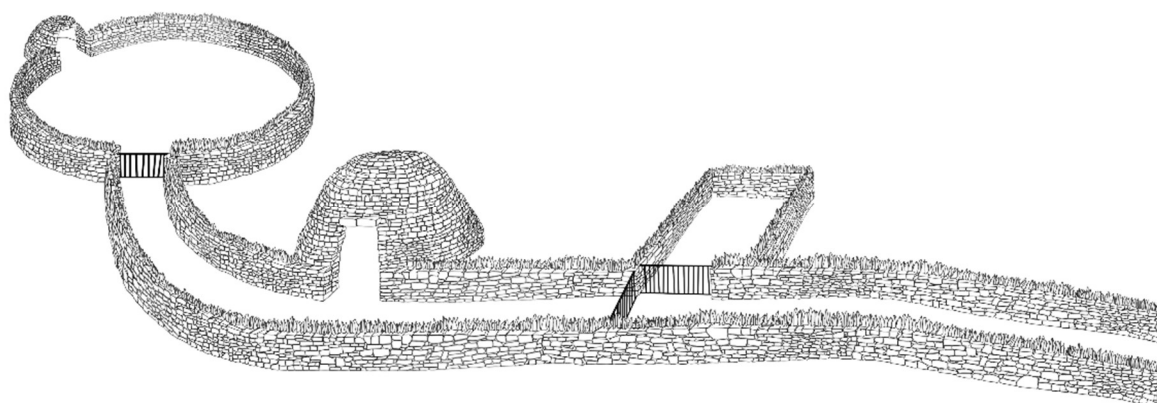


Figure 2. Illustration of an example of dry stone construction used for cattle breeding in Andorra.



Figure 3. Pictures of two panels of the Geological Itinerary, explaining geological concepts of the ornamental rocks of the facades of some buildings in Andorra la Vella, and of one panel of the Granite Architecture Itinerary, also in Andorra la Vella.

References

- [1] Unesco (2024), International Geodiversity Day, <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/geodiversity>
- [2] Andorra Research and Innovation (2025), Rock Garden website, <https://ari.ad/en/projects/rock-garden>
- [3] Municipality of Ordino (2025), Sorteny Valley Natural Park website, <https://www.sorteny.ad/>
- [4] Government of Andorra (2022), Dry stone in Andorra, <https://www.primeraPEDRA.com/setmana-de-la-pedra-seca-2022/> <https://www.govern.ad/ca/tematiques/cultura-i-esports/historia-i-patrimoni-cultural/patrimoni-immoble/pedra-seca>
- [5] Andorra Research and Innovation (2025), Granite Architecture website, <https://ari.ad/en/projects/granite-architecture>