

Andorra

People may tell you Andorra's nothing but skiing and shopping. They might add that Andorra la Vella, its capital and only town, is a fuming traffic jam bordered by palaces of consumerism. (Fact: Andorra has over 2000 shops – more than one for every 40 inhabitants.)

They're right to a point, but also way off course. Shake yourself from Andorra la Vella's tawdry embrace, take one of only three secondary roads in the state and discover some of the most dramatic scenery in all of the Pyrenees.

A warning though: this may not be the case a few years from now. Greed and uncontrolled development risk spoiling those side valleys. Already the pounding of jackhammers drowns out the winter thrum of ski lifts and threatens the silence of summer.

This minicountry wedged between France and Spain offers by far the best skiing in the Pyrenees. In the last five years, its resorts have invested over €50 million in mountain cafés and restaurants, chairlifts and gondolas, car parks and snow-making machines. And once the snows have melted, there's great walking in abundance, ranging from easy strolls to demanding day hikes in the higher, more remote reaches of the principality.

FAST FACTS

- **Area** 468 sq km
- **Capital** Andorra la Vella
- **Currency** euro (€); A\$1 = €0.60; ¥100 = €0.67; NZ\$1 = €0.50; UK£1 = €1.48; US\$1 = €0.78
- **Famous for** skiing, shopping, smuggling
- **Phrases** *hola* (hello); *adéu* (goodbye); *si us plau* (please); *gràcies* (thanks)
- **Official Language** Catalan
- **Population** 76,900
- **Telephone Codes** country code ☎ 376; international access code ☎ 00



HIGHLIGHTS

- Shush your way over the snowfields of **Grandvalira** (p50).
- Tramp a sample of the walking trails that thread through the principality, especially those above **Ordino** (p51) and **Soldeu** (p50).
- Steep yourself in the warm mineral waters of the space-age **Caldea** (right).

HISTORY

From the Middle Ages until 1993, Andorra's sovereignty was vested in two 'princes': the bishop of the Spanish border town of La Seu d'Urgell and the French president (who got the job from France's pre-Revolutionary kings). Nowadays, democratic Andorra is a 'parliamentary coprincipedom', the bishop and president remaining joint but nominal heads of state. Andorra is a member of the UN and the Council of Europe, but not a full member of the EU.

PEOPLE

A mere 36% of Andorra's inhabitants are Andorran nationals, a percentage equalled by the number of Spanish residents. The official language is Catalan, which is related to both Spanish and French. Most inhabitants speak a couple of these languages and most younger people, especially those in the capital and in ski resorts, can manage more than a smattering of English as well.

ANDORRA LA VELLA

pop 22,900 / elevation 1030m

Squeezed within the Riu Gran Valira Valley, Andorra la Vella (Vey-yah; literally 'old') is both the capital and sole town of this tiny principality. A small historic quarter remains but the place's main preoccupation is retailing electronic and luxury goods.

ORIENTATION

Andorra la Vella is strung out along the main drag, whose name changes confusingly from Avinguda del Príncep Benlloch to Avinguda de Meritxell to Avinguda de Carlemany along its length.

The town merges with the once-separate villages of Escaldes and Engordany to the east and Santa Coloma to the southwest.

INFORMATION

HOW MUCH?

- **Midrange hotel** €30-50
- **Restaurant meal** €15-35
- **Loaf of bread** €0.50
- **One-day ski-lift pass** €27-37
- **Cup of coffee** €1.25

LONELY PLANET INDEX

- **1L petrol** €0.90
- **1L water** €0.60
- **Small beer** €1
- **Souvenir T-shirt** €10-15
- **Medium pizza** €6-8

Internet Access

E-Café (Carrer l'Alziranet 5; per hr €2.40; ☎ 7.30am-11pm Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm Sun)

Future@point (Carrer de la Sardana 6; per hr €2.80; ☎ 10am-11pm Mon-Sat, 10am-10pm Sun)

Medical Services

Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell (☎ 871 000; Avinguda Fiter i Rossell)

Post

Correus (Correos) i telègrafs (Carrer Joan Maragall 10; ☎ 8.30am-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1pm Sat) Spanish post office.

La Poste (Carrer de Pere d'Urg 1; ☎ 8.30am-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) French post office.

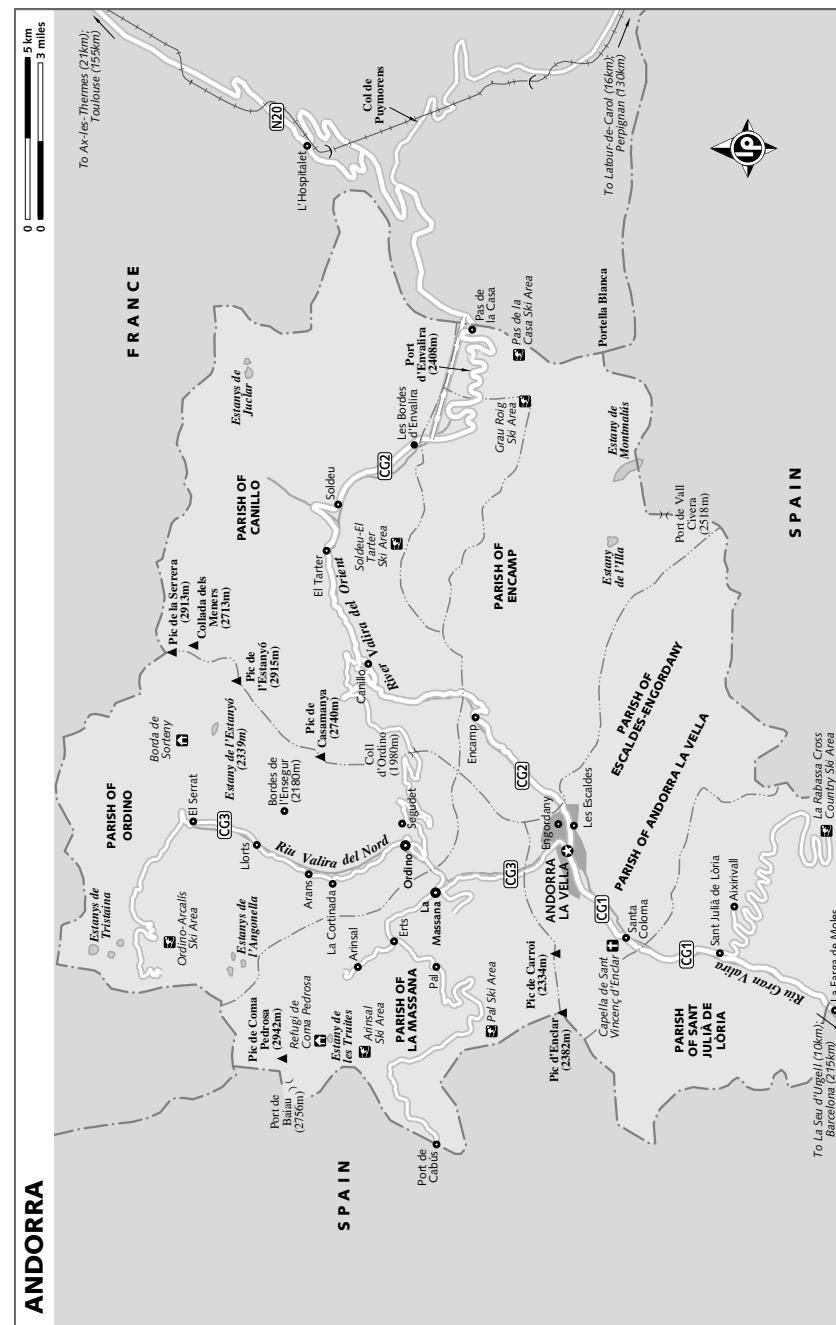
Tourist Information

Municipal tourist office (☎ 827 117; turisme@comuandorra.ad; Plaça de la Rotonda; ☎ 9am-1pm & 3.30-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun Sep-Jun, 9am-9pm daily Jul & Aug) Also carries pan-Andorra information.

National tourist office (☎ 820 214; sindicatdinitiativa@andorra.ad; Edificio Davi, Local C, Carrer Doctor Vilanova 13; ☎ 9am-1pm & 3-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-1pm Sun Jul-Sep, 10am-1pm & 3-7pm Mon-Sat Oct-Jun)

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Pamper yourself at **Caldea** (☎ 800 999; www.caldea.ad; Parc de la Mola 10; adult/child €29.50/22; ☎ 10am-11pm, last entry 9pm) in Escaldes, just a 10-minute walk upstream from Plaça de la Rotonda. Looking like some futuristic cathedral, Caldea is Europe's largest spa



ANDORRA LA VELLA

INFORMATION		DRINKING	
Correus (Correos) i Telègrafs.....1	F2	Cerveseria l'Albadia.....22	C2
E-Cafè.....2	C1	La Borsa.....23	E3
French Consulate.....3	D1		
French Embassy.....4	D1		
Future@point.....5	E2		
Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell.....6	G1		
La Poste.....7	E2		
Municipal Tourist Office.....8	E2		
National Tourist Office.....9	C2		
Spanish Embassy.....10	D2		
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		TRANSPORT	
Caldea.....11	H1	Bus Station.....24	E3
Casa de la Vall.....12	C2	Buses for Pal, Ordino, La Massana, Arinsal, Canillo, Soldeu, El Tarter & Pas de la Casa.....25	C2
El Tribunal de Corts.....(see 12)		Buses for Santa Coloma & Seu d'Urgell.....26	C2
Plaça del Poble Public Lift.....13	C2		
Sala del Consell.....(see 12)			
SLEEPING			
Hostal del Sol.....14	C1		
Hotel Costa.....15	D2		
Hôtel de L'Isard.....16	D2		
Hotel Florida.....17	C1		
Hotel Pyrénées.....18	B2		
EATING			
Borda Estevet.....19	B3		
Papanico.....20	C2		
Pyrénées Department Store.....21	D2		

TOGETHER WITH THE MAP:

- INFORMATION:** To Camping Valira (7.8km); Spain (10.8km)
- DRINKING:** To CG1: Santa Coloma (1.2km); La Seu d'Urgell (21km)
- SLEEPING:** To CG1: Santa Coloma (1.2km); La Seu d'Urgell (21km)
- EATING:** To CG1: Santa Coloma (1.2km); La Seu d'Urgell (21km)

complex, and its lagoons, hot tubs and saunas are fed by warm thermal springs.

The small **Barri Antic** (Historic Quarter) was the heart of Andorra la Vella back when the principality's capital was little more than a village. Built in 1580 as a private home, the **Casa de la Vall** (House of the Valley) has served as Andorra's parliament building since 1702. Downstairs is **El Tribunal de Corts**, the country's only courtroom. The **Sala del Consell** (tour reservations 829 129; tours 3-6.30pm Mon, 9.30am-1.30pm & 3-6.30pm Tue-Sat May-Oct, 9.30am-1.30pm & 3-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-1.30pm Sat Nov-Apr), upstairs, must be one of the cosiest parliament chambers in the world. The free guided tours are available in several languages, including English. Book at least a week ahead in summer to ensure a place – though last-minute individuals can often be squeezed in. The narrow cobblestone streets around the Casa de la Vall are flanked by attractive stone houses.

The **Plaça del Poble** occupies the roof of a modern government office building. With good views, it's a popular local gathering place, especially in the evening.

SLEEPING

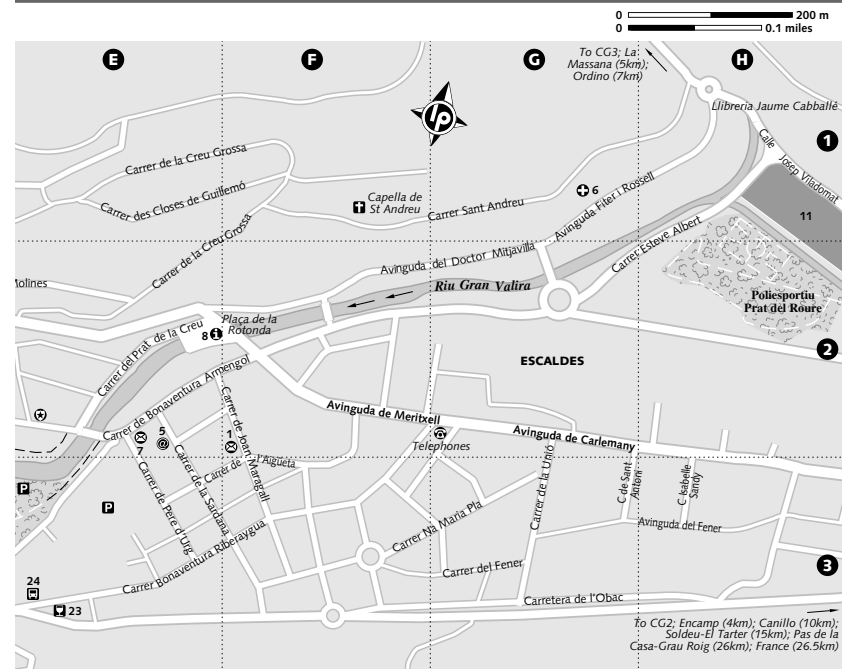
Most hotels, excluding budget choices, hike their prices by 20% or more during the high season (August) and around major Spanish and French public holidays.

Camping Valira (☎ 722 384; campingvalira@andorra.ad; Avinguda de Salou; camping €5.35; 🚰) Just west of town and open year-round, this place has a small indoor swimming pool. You'll have to find a space between the resident caravans.

Hostal del Sol (☎ 823 701; fax 822 363; Plaça de Guillemó 3; s/d with shared bathroom €14/28) This friendly, family-run place has 12 spruce, excellent-value rooms. It's set back on the northern side of a semi-pedestrian square so noise is no problem, and there are several cheap eateries just below. Sadly, it may be closing down at the end of its lease.

Hotel Costa (☎ 821 439; fax 824 867; 3rd fl, Avinguda de Meritxell 44; s/d with shared bathroom €17/32) Hotel Costa has 26 clean, no-frills rooms. Badly signed at street level – you'll need to crane your neck to see the sign way up high – its entrance is in the shopping arcade.

Hotel Pyrénées (☎ 860 006; www.hotelpyrenees.com; Avinguda del Príncep Benlloch 20; s/d from €35/56, half board



per person €69; 🚰 🚰) Constructed in 1940 and speaking style, Hotel Pyrénées ranks among Andorra's few venerable buildings. Its 70 attractively furnished rooms have plenty of appealing dark woodwork. During the high season, half board is compulsory. Its restaurant (menu €15, mains €9 to €14) serves French and Spanish cuisine amid sparkling chandeliers and two-tone tablecloths. Parking costs €12.

Hotel Florida (☎ 820 105; www.hotelflorida.ad; Carrer de la Llacuna 15; s/d incl breakfast from €37/45) This welcoming modern hotel sits on a quiet side street. Relax in the sauna and *hammam* (Turkish bath), free for guests, or tone yourself up in the minigym. Rooms vary considerably in size – ask for one of the larger ones.

Hôtel de L'Isard (☎ 876 800; www.hotelisard.com, in French & Spanish; Avinguda Meritxell 36; incl breakfast s €56-80, d €71-110; 🚰) Behind the attractive stone façade is a comfortable, family-run hotel. Ask for a room at the rear, overlooking the valley and mountain beyond. It also runs a good restaurant (menu €15, mains €10 to €14.50). Parking is €15.

EATING & DRINKING

In the heart of Barri Antic you'll find a few good restaurants specialising in local cuisine. Keep an eye out for the menu, a value-for-money option that usually comprises a three-course meal and (sometimes) drinks.

Pyrénées department store (Avinguda de Meritxell 21; salad/mains/platos combinados €4.95/4.65/7.25) The top-floor cafeteria and restaurant of this megastore offers great fare at reasonable prices. Pile your salad plate high at the self-service buffet and follow it with the dish of the day, or select from one of the *platos combinados* (mixed plate). One floor down is a well-stocked supermarket.

Papanico (☎ 867 333; Avinguda del Príncep Benlloch 4; mains €9.50-13) This cheery place does tasty tapas from €2.95 and a range of sandwiches and mains.

Borda Estevet (☎ 864 026; Carretera de la Comella 2; mains €14.60-18.50, menu €35.50) Here's a place for meaty mountain fare. Try its *graellada de muntanya*, a selection of meats and sausages sizzled on hot slates. Among the chef's many accolades and commendations is the intriguing Golden Cock Award.

La Borsa (Stock Exchange; ☎ 827 657; Avinguda de Tarragona 36; ☎ 11pm-3am Tue-Sun) Like a drink and the chance to dance? Enjoy a little flutter? Here you can indulge in all three. The price of each drink varies according to the night's consumption so far, so keep an eye on that electronic, computer-controlled screen.

Cerveceria l'Albadia (☎ 820 825; Cap del Carrer 2) This place, with over eight classics on tap and many more bottled, is for serious beer drinkers.

SHOPPING

With prices around 25% less than those in Spain and France, you can get big savings on things like sports gear, photographic equipment, shoes, clothing and electronic goods. Head to Avinguda de Meritxell and its eastern and western continuations.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

Long-distance buses leave from the main **bus station** (Avinguda de Tarragona). Buses run hourly to La Seu d'Urgell (€2.50, 45 minutes) in Spain, calling by the stop on Plaça Guillemó.

Andorra la Vella is a traffic nightmare. If you're driving, stick your vehicle in the huge open-air car park just north of the bus station. To order a taxi call ☎ 863 000.

AROUND ANDORRA LA VELLA

SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

Here, 6km south of Andorra la Vella, is the splendid **Museu del Tabac** (☎ 741 545; Carrer Doctor Palau 17; admission €5; ☎ 10am-8pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2.30pm Sun). Occupying a one-time tobacco factory, it recalls the pleasurable sins of tobacco and smuggling. Three rooms are furnished with the trappings of tobacco cultivation, and cigarette and cigar making; there's an optional English audio accompaniment and a 15-minute film. Allow at least an hour.

CANILLO & SOLDEU

Canillo (1500m), 11km northeast of Andorra la Vella, and Soldeu, a further 7km up the valley along the CG2, share a helpful **tourist office** (☎ 751 090; www.vdc.ad; ☎ 9am-1pm & 3-7pm Mon-Sat, 8am-4pm Sun), on the main road at the eastern end of Canillo.

Activities SKIING

In the winter of 2003, after decades of jealously eyeing each other's slopes and fortunes, the five ski resorts of eastern Andorra agreed to install a short, umbilical lift and join forces. Soldeu-El Tarter and Canillo are at the heart of the combined snowfields of **Grandvalira** (☎ 801 060; www.grandvalira.com; 1-/3-day lift pass €37/97.50), with 193km of runs and a combined lift system that can shift 96,000 skiers per hour.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

In July and August, the Canillo and Soldeu **telecabins** (cabin lifts; adult/child €8.50/7) whisk you up to the higher reaches, from where you can walk or hire a mountain bike and whiz down.

Canillo offers canyon clambering, four *via ferrata* (iron way) climbing routes and a climbing wall. There is also the year-round **Palau de Gel** with an ice rink and swimming pool (plus a good restaurant and a bar with free wi-fi), guided walks and endless possibilities for hiking including **La Ruta del Gallo**, an easy 6.5km signed nature walk that follows the valley downstream from Soldeu.

You'll find a week's worth of walks around Canillo and Soldeu in Lonely Planet's *Walking in Spain*.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Santa Creu (☎ 851 462; camping_santacreu@yahoo.com; camping €3.50; ☎ mid-Jun-Sep) The greenest and quietest of Canillo's five camping grounds.

Hotel Roc de Sant Miquel (☎ 851 079; www.hotel-roc.com; half board per person winter €30-68, summer €27-45; ☎ Nov-Apr & Jun-Sep) This relaxed, laid-back Soldeu hotel – the owner also plays lead guitar in a local band – hires out mountain bikes to guests and can arrange nature walks and hikes.

Hotel Bonavida (☎ 851 300; hotel.bonavida@andorra.ad; Plaça Major; per person incl breakfast Dec-Apr €40-59, Jun-Oct €34-40; ☎) Most of the rooms at the Bonavida, right beside Canillo's *telecabin*, have balconies overlooking the river and mountain beyond. The copious buffet breakfast includes real espresso coffee.

Cal Lulu (☎ 851 427; Canillo; pizzas €7.50-10.35, menu €13.60, mains €16-18; ☎ daily high season, Wed-Sun low season) Divided into small booths, intimate and often packed to the gills Cal Lulu serves

large portions of excellent Catalan and French dishes.

Hotel Bruxelles (menus €11.10-20.30) A cheerful hotel restaurant on Soldeu's main drag with a small terrace, well-filled sandwiches, whopping burgers and tasty menus.

Getting There & Around

Hourly buses run from Andorra la Vella to Soldeu (€2.50) via Canillo till 8pm. In winter hourly ski buses (free if you flash your ski pass) also cover the same route.

ORDINO & AROUND

Despite ongoing development Ordino, 8km north of Andorra la Vella on highway CG3, is a charming village with most buildings constructed of local stone. At 1300m, it's a good starting point for summer-activity holidays. The **tourist office** (☎ 737 080; www.ordino.ad; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun Jul-Sep, 8.30am-1.30pm & 3-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun Oct-Jun) is within the Centre Esportiu d'Ordino sports complex beside the CG3.

Sights & Activities

Museu d'Areny i Plandolit (☎ 836 908; adult/student €2.40/1.20; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9.30am-1.30pm & 3-6.30pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Sep-Jun), in a 17th-century manor house, offers half-hour guided tours, in Spanish or Catalan, of its richly furnished interior.

In the same grounds the **Museo Postal de Andorra** (adult/student €2.40/1.20; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9.30am-1.30pm & 3-6.30pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Sep-Jun) is fun, even for non-philatelists. It has a 15-minute audiovisual presentation (available in English) and set upon set of stamps issued by France and Spain specifically for Andorra.

There are several excellent walking trails around Ordino. Pick up *Thirty-six Interesting Itineraries on the Paths of the Vall d'Ordino & the Parish of La Massana* (€2) from the tourist office. Walk descriptions are altogether more taut than the title.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Borda d'Ansalonga (☎ 850 374; www.campingansalonga.com; person/tent/car €4.80/4/4; ☎ mid-Jun-mid-Sep; ☎) This large, grassy option enjoys an attractive valley site just outside the village.

Hotel Santa Bàrbara de la Vall d'Ordino (☎ 738 100; www.santabarbara-hotel.com; Plaça d'Ordino; s/d

€45/60; ☎) Above the main square and facing the church, this 21-room, family-run hotel with a small, attractive bar is excellent value. Its two large split-level rooms (€96) are ideal for a family or two couples.

Casa León (☎ 835 977; menu €12.50-18.50; ☎ Tue-Sun) This restaurant offers a wide range of tapas and plentiful à la carte meat and fish dishes (€9.50 to €15).

Bar Restaurant Quim (menu €10) Next door to Casa León, this place is friendly and more snacky than its neighbour, with plenty of tapas and a filling midday menu.

Getting There & Away

Buses to/from Andorra la Vella (€1) run every half hour from 7am to 9pm.

ARINSAL & PAL

In winter Arinsal, 10km northwest of Andorra la Vella, has good skiing and snowboarding and a lively après-ski scene. It's linked with the smaller ski station of Pal, in turn part of the **Vallnord complex** (www.vallnord.com; 1-day lift pass low season/high season €27/32). They have 63km of pistes with a vertical drop of 1010m.

In summer Pal has a wealth of activities including mountain biking, horse riding, go-karting and archery. From Arinsal, a good departure point for many a mountain walk, a trail leads northwest then west to **Estany de les Truites** (2260m), a natural lake with a staffed mountain hut that has beds, refreshments and meals.

Sleeping & Eating

Camping Xixerella (☎ 836 613; www.campingxixerella.com; camping €4.95; ☎ Nov-Sep; ☎) Between Pal and Arinsal, this large, well-equipped site has plenty of shade and greenness.

Hotel Coma Pedrosa (☎ 737 950; hotelcoma.pedrosa@hotmail.com; d €40, half board per person €30; ☎ Apr-Nov) The new owners of this welcoming place have brightened the rooms up. Most have a bathtub, there's free public parking and you can relax in the cosy bar. In winter, it's fully occupied by ski tour operators.

Refugi de la Fondue (☎ 839 599; dishes €14) As a change from the plentiful snack and sandwich joints, dip a fork into cheese or meat fondue dishes. In summer it puts on outdoor barbecues.

Restaurant el Moli (☎ 835 281; pasta & pizzas €7.50-9.75) Billing itself as Italian, Restaurant

AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Hostal Poblado (☎ 835 122; sti@andorra.ad; B&B per person €30, with shared bathroom €22.50; ☒ Dec-Oct; 📺) Hostal Poblado sits right beside the *telecabin*, handy for skiing in winter and for taking off on summer day walks. It's friendliness itself and a great place to make contact with other skiers or walkers. There's a lively bar with an Internet point (€3 per hour) and you couldn't be more at the heart of the action.

el Moli indeed offers the usual staple pastas and pizzas. However, the chefs are Argentinian and also offer more exotic fare such as Thai green coconut chicken curry (€12). Both restaurants are located on the main drag.

Getting There & Away

Nine daily buses leave Andorra la Vella for Arinsal (€1.50) via La Massana. There are also at least nine local buses daily between La Massana and Arinsal (€0.90) and four buses between La Massana and Pal (€0.90).

ANDORRA DIRECTORY**ACCOMMODATION**

Tourist offices stock a free booklet, *Guia d'Alotjaments Turistics*, but it's not comprehensive and, while the rest of the information is reliable, the prices it quotes are merely indicative.

Outside Andorra la Vella there are few budget options for independent travellers. To compensate there are plenty of camping grounds, many beautifully situated. During the high season (December to March, July and August) some hotels raise prices substantially, won't take independent travellers and may insist upon half board.

For trekkers, Andorra has 26 off-the-beaten-track *refugis* (mountain refuges), all except one are unstaffed and free; ask at tourist offices for the free *Mapa de Refugis i Grans Recorreguts*, which pinpoints and describes them all.

Unless otherwise noted, prices quoted for accommodation in this chapter include private bathroom.

ACTIVITIES

Above the main valleys you'll find attractive lake-dotted mountain country, good for skiing in winter and walking in summer. The largest and best ski stations are those of the Grandvalira complex (p50). Those within Vallnord (p51) in northwestern Andorra are cheaper but can be colder and windier. Downhill ski-gear hire costs around €10 per day, while snowboards go for €17.50 to €20 per day.

La Rabassa, nudged up against the frontier with Spain, is a great little cross-country skiing centre with 15km of marked forest trails.

In summer, you can rent mountain bikes from some resorts for €15 to €18 a day.

BUSINESS HOURS

Banks are open from 9am to 1pm and 3pm to 5pm Monday through Friday, and from 9am to noon Saturday. Restaurants open their doors from 1pm to 3.30pm and 8pm to 10.30pm. Shops are generally open from 9.30am to 1pm and 3.30pm to 8pm Monday to Saturday then from 9.30am to 1pm on Sunday.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES**Andorran Embassies & Consulates**

Andorra has embassies in both France and Spain.

France (☎ 01 40 06 03 30; place d'Andorre 1, 75016 Paris)

Spain (☎ 91 431 74 53; Calle Alcalá 73, 28009 Madrid)

Embassies & Consulates in Andorra

France and Spain maintain reciprocal missions in Andorra la Vella.

France (Map pp48-9; ☎ 736 730; Carrer de la Sobrevia 7, Andorra la Vella)

Spain (Map pp48-9; ☎ 820 013; Carrer del Prat de la Creu 34, Andorra la Vella)

INTERNET RESOURCES

Two useful websites are www.andorra.ad, the official site of the Ministry of Tourism & Environment, and www.turismeandorra.com, run by the local hotel association.

POST

Andorra has no postal system of its own; France and Spain each operate separate systems with their own stamps for Andorra (you can't use regular French or Spanish stamps).

It's swifter to route international mail (except letters to Spain) through the French postal system. Tourist offices sell stamps.

TELEPHONE

The cheapest way to make an international call is to buy a *teletarja* (phonecard), sold at tourist offices and kiosks for €3 to €6; ring during off-peak hours (9pm to 8am Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday).

TRANSPORT IN ANDORRA**GETTING THERE & AWAY**

Unless you trek across the mountains the only way to reach Andorra is by road from neighbouring Spain or France. If you're driving, top up your tank when you get there; fuel in Andorra is about 20% cheaper than in Spain and a good 30% cheaper than in France.

Spain

Alsina Graells (☎ 826 567; www.alsinagraells.com)

Four buses daily to/from Barcelona's Estació del Nord (€20, 3½ hours).

Autocars Nadal (☎ 805 151; www.autocarsnadal.com,

in Spanish & French) Six buses daily to/from Barcelona's airport (€26, 3¾ hours), calling by the city's Sants train station (€21, 3¼ hours).

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, fire, ambulance ☎ 112

Autocars Novatel (☎ 803 789; www.andorraybus.com)

Five buses daily to/from Barcelona's airport (€26, 3½ hours).

La Hispano Andorrana (☎ 821 372; www.hispanoandorrana.com) Hourly buses between Andorra la Vella and La Seu d'Urgell (€2.50, 40 minutes).

Viatges Montmantell (☎ 807 444) Four buses daily to/from Lleida (€17, 2½ hours) to connect with the Madrid-bound high-speed AVE train. Services stop outside La Caldea.

France

Autocars Nadal Twice each Friday and Sunday to/from Toulouse's bus station (€21, 3½ hours).

Autocars Novatel Two minibuses daily to/from Toulouse's airport and train station (€29, 3½ hours).

GETTING AROUND

Six bus routes run by **Cooperativa Interurbana** (☎ 806 555) radiate out from Andorra la Vella along the three main roads. Tourist offices carry a free leaflet with timetables.

The speed limit is 40km/h in populated areas and 90km/h elsewhere. Two irritations while at the wheel in Andorra are the recklessness of local drivers and Andorra la Vella's horrendous traffic jams – bypass the latter by taking the ring road around the south side of town.

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