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The Pyrenean country's history is shown on cultural trails, at interpretation centres and in national museums

## **Andorran industrial history trail**

**Andorran history is linked to its industrial past. The Pyrenean country began its journey to modernisation at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This historical journey is shown at interpretation centres and national museums where the lifestyles of Andorran ancestors are exhibited alongside the importance of small industry for the country's development.**

Andorra's geographical conditions, surrounded by mountain valleys, centred inhabitants' activity on rural life, but also led to benefits being taken of natural resources for producing iron. This metal process can be understood on the ground thanks to the Iron Trail. This route invites visitors to uncover the resources linked to the process of obtaining, transforming and marketing the mineral, from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Mines, coal bunkers, forges, mining and metal setting are just some examples on the trail running through a high mountain cultural and natural landscape and can be seen on foot or horseback. The Iron Trail brings visitors closer to other interesting spots such as the Rossell Forge (iron interpretation centre), Llorts mine, muleteers trails and the Iron Men trail, Sant Martí de la Cortinada and the Areny-Plandolit Home Museum.

The Rossell Forge is one of the last active forges in Andorra and an example of the country's small industry. The audiovisual and onsite mineral transformation into iron ingots at this iron interpretation centre explains the industry using old tools, including the recently restored watermill.

This period of splendour for the Principality was marked by the Areny-Plandolit family – one of the country's most influential and only aristocratic family. The Areny-Plandolit house is one of the country's most emblematic ethnographic museums and shows the lifestyle of an economically powerful family, thanks to their activities in the iron industry. The furniture and household items show the social status of the family who lived in the Ordino municipality until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Selling tobacco to postal communication**

The Reig tobacco factory was a major industrial player in Andorra for nearly 50 years (1909-1957). Growing and producing tobacco changed habits for Andorran people and communities who saw the sale of this product as a way of life. The Tobacco Museum offers visitors the chance to discover the processes behind tobacco production and distribution through a multimedia exhibition. The Reig Factory still preserves its original aromas and equipment.

The first road linking Andorra and Spain was built in 1914, specifically Seu d'Urgell, and the section to Pas de la Casa on the French border was completed in 1933. The creation of road links led to the appearance of the first cars in the Pyrenean country.

Some examples of these can be found at the National Automobile Museum where visitors can discover how the motor vehicles were used to transport people and goods. It is one of the most important collections in southern Europe and shows the historical development of these vehicles up to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The museum is home to 80 cars, 60 motorbikes and around a hundred bicycles.



**Andorra Turisme**

Another example of the country's development is postal communication. The Spanish government established a postal service with Andorra in 1928 and did the same with France three years later. Postal communication contributed to the transformation of lifestyles in the Andorran valleys. The Postal Museum is located in the restored Raser *borda* and introduces visitors to the postal world as a communication method in the country, housing Andorra's stamp heritage.

While the postal service was a revolution for the country, the arrival of the electricity network allowed Andorrans to change their habits. The first electricity facilities were installed in Escaldes-Engordany and started to function in 1934. This historical review at the Electricity Museum offers visitors the chance to experience and discover different laws of electricity through educational workshops. An illustrative way to discover Andorra's recent history! In addition, there are also other activities that show the Pyrenean country's historical and cultural heritage.

**Further information:**

[www.andorra.ad](http://www.andorra.ad)