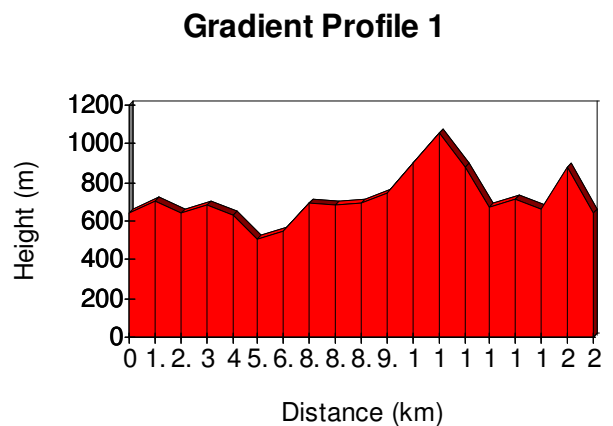


## Route One “Ridge Walker”

This route is not for the faint hearted, your day will start at 639 meters in the picturesque square of Vernet Les Bains. Here there is a great market every Monday, Thursday and Saturday if you want to pick up some local delicacies and great fresh fruit from the surrounding area relatively cheaply.

The initial tarmac climb from square is up towards Sahorre on the D27. This section flies by and suddenly you're up onto and riding along the ridge towards Corneilla du Conflent. Instead of a right into Corneilla at the Dolmen you take a left down the hillside, this track is wide, stony and thoroughly enjoyable.

At the bottom of the track you meet the road where you take a left, heading up the valley, for Veinet la Mig. As you enter this quaint little village you will see a church, which is your turn off for the steep and partly technical climb on the opposite ridge. Here through the trees is yet more climbing, but more fun on the gravel, which brings you up to the Col de Fins. From here you have a great view of the Forest Dom Du Conflent.



From here you have further uphill shaded by thick pine forest taking you to a viewpoint at 1056m. Here the view of the Canigou and surrounding mountains are superb, even the sea can be made out in the distance on a clear day. Fast gravel track then takes you down to Thorrent leading to a fast double track downhill over 3.5km into Sahorre.

Out of Sahorre up the D27 and up past the Col de Vernet by fire track, before a downhill that is any biker's dream, take the walkers path encompassing fast and technical tracks over rock, root and boulder. This leaves you fully exhilarated before easing back down to Vernet for a cold drink in the place.