

Track 2. THE LARGE ROCK.

We are standing in front of the Large Rock, a great mass formed of red sedimentary rock, known here as “rodano” (slate), which has a volume of 832 m³, and weighs approximately 2,163 tons. It sits on an incline of 34°.

Legend says that the inhabitants of Vilafamés wanted to drag this large rock to the plain because they feared being crushed by its great weight. They tied a long rope around it and began to pull hard. The rope broke, but the mass did not move. The result was that all the inhabitants fell to the ground, dirtying their backsides with red dust. Since then they are known as “culrojos”, which means “red bottom”.

The shape that it has now is not only due to natural phenomena, but also to human activity, since it was used as a stone quarry to extract material for the construction of houses, among other things. In the early XX century there was a proposal to buy the rock in order to make curbstones for the side of the roads that were being built at that time in the region. This, fortunately, did not happen.

Traditionally, the houses were white because they were whitewashed for hygienic reasons. The exception was the stately homes, which used dressed stone for the construction of the façades.

Interestingly enough, this large rock is what is most photographed by visitors to the town.

If we look above the large rock, we can see one of the side façades of the church of the Parish of the Assumption.

This is the end of the large rock. You can continue to the 3rd point QR, The Walls – Portal de la Font.