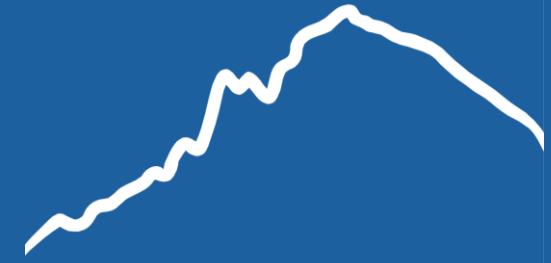




Glacier of the month February 2024

ANETO GLACIER



mountainwilderness

International



1986 Courtesy of Jordi Camins



2002 Courtesy of Jordi Camins

Characteristics:

Aneto is the highest mountain in the Pyrenees and in Aragon, reaching a height of 3,404 m a.s.l. It stands in the Spanish province of Huesca, within the Posets-Maladeta Natural Park, just 6 km south of the French border. It forms the southernmost part of the Maladeta massif, which accounts for more than half of all glaciers in Spain, all located in the Pyrenees.

Its northern side holds the largest glacier in the Pyrenees, covering $<0.5 \text{ km}^2$ in 2022. The Aneto glacier is shrinking rapidly due to rising summer temperatures and reduced winter precipitations over the 20th century: it covered 1.067 km^2 in 1981 and 0.79 km^2 in 2005. It is estimated that it has lost more than half its surface area in the last 100 years, and that it may disappear around 2050.

Glacier surface loss in the Pyrenees is remarkable: there were 52 glaciers in 1850 and only 21 in 2020, with an area of 20.6 km^2 and 2.3 km^2 respectively, representing a loss of nearly 90% of the glaciated area.