

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Walk description originally prepared by:- [Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com](mailto:hallbobandjean@aol.com)

Last Updated Jan. 2012

Title of Walk **PLA DE LA CASA FROM THE SOUTH**

Location of Start Km.19.4 on CV70

Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km 7km.

Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m 625mtrs.

Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops 4hrs.
5hrs.

Key Statistics for walk - Grade S/C

Grid reference of start point 735992E 4287296N

Directions to Start Take the CV70 from Guadalest towards Alcoy. Go through Confrides until at approx Km 19.4 find a track off **R** and park.

Short walk description

Full Walk Description

Choose a clear day and the views are stupendous, climb amongst shear jagged cliffs and spires, look over precipices with the valleys spread below like a map, discover a verdant hidden valley, peer 13 meters down one of the largest neveras in all these mountains, write your name in the book on the summit and visit Font Roja with its cold water and mule track down to Quatretondeta. The penalties are some grueling climbs and descents on very rough paths often amongst scree. But interspersed with paths through pinewoods and good forestry tracks which provide welcome variety. Not for vertigo sufferers. The actual walking time is some 4hours 20 mins but roughness and steepness of paths necessitates, and stunning views warrant, frequent stops. So allow plenty of time.

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TO THE START

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THE START

Note that times quoted are walking time only. - no breaks.

Underlined letters are map references.

**Elapsed Walking Time/
Distance so far**

Walk up track for approx 400m to cross tracks. Turn **L** up steeply winding track for approx.700m. to where it ends
A. (20min. .6km) **20 min. .6km.**

Find cairn and yellow/white flash on bank on **LHS** marking start of path. Climb up bank and follow well marked path with many cairns. Look up to the ridge high up to the **NW** and see the well-defined notch of the Contador in the spikey ridge of Les Bardals. This is your first objective. The path zigzags steeply up bad ground ending in a short scramble to the Contador **B** to there reveal the verdant, forested, hidden valley between Les Bardals and Serrella with its sheep trough immediately below. (20min .4km) **40min 1km**

From the Contador turn sharp **R** before descending a path, which hugs the cliffs, through pinewoods and grassy slopes and offers access to the ridge with its vertiginous views. Follow path just below cliff until it turns **L** to arrive at an open flat area. Cross flat area to arrive at a sign to Pla de la Casa **C**. (30min 1.1km) **1h10min. 2.1km**

Take path going up **NNW** and slanting across the scree and after a strenuous climb reach the undulating open grass meadow of Pla de La Casa strewn with flowers in spring & early summer. Follow path passing the west and middle summits on your **R** to reach a **Nevera D** at the foot of the main summit (1379m). (35min 1.2km) **1h45min. 3.3km**

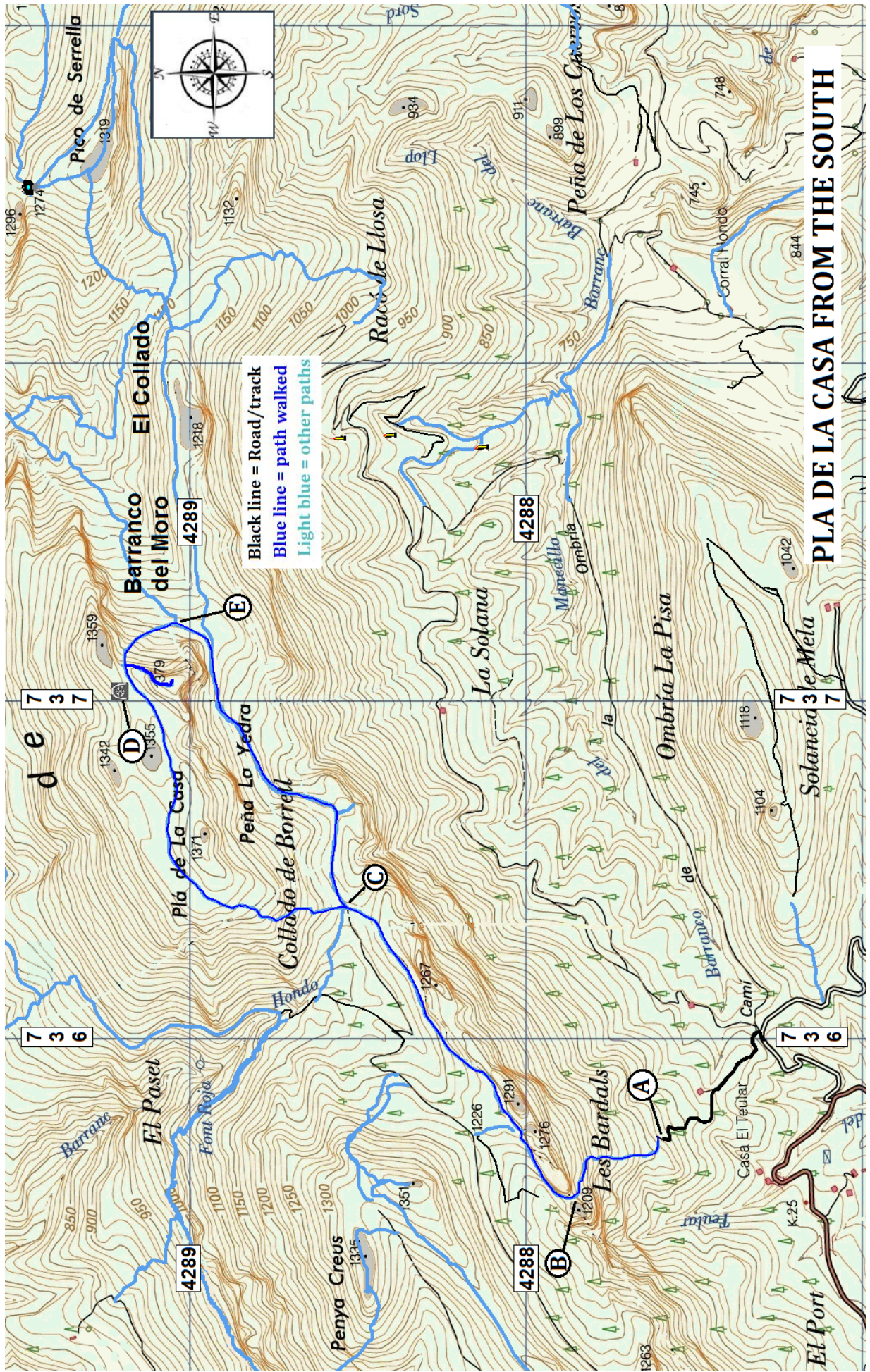
To climb the summit continue along the path a short way and before its crest take the path off **R** which end with a short scramble to the top with its cross and visitors book. The view alone is worth the effort. Return to the path and turn **R** over the edge. (30min. .4km) **2h15min. 3.7km**

Zigzag down this steep path across scree veering **R** to reach a signpost **E** at cross path. (15min.) **2h30min. 4.0km**

Take the path going **W**. it goes around Pla de la Casa on the **S**. After about 20 min it passes a path off **L** (which leads to a lookout). Continue to arrive at cross paths with a sign post. Turn **L** and after a few meters reach a clearing with a track going off **R**. (25min) **2h55min. 5.1km**

Go straight across the clearing and find a path going up (**S**). After a few minutes bear **R** and keeping below and close to the crags on the **L** head **W**. With the aid of animal paths after about 25mins look for yellow and white flashes to guide you to the **contador B** of Les Bardals. 30mins **3h25min 6.2km.**

Take it slow and careful down to the track and then retrace your footsteps to the cars. (40min.) **4h5min. 7.2km**



Black line = Road / track
 Blue line = path walked
 Light blue = other paths

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