

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:- Ralph Phipps

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Title of Walk Murla Peña Roja long circuit

Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)

Murla

Sports Centre on outskirts of village

Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km 13.2km

Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m 662m

Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops 3hr 40min
5.5hr

Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system) S/B/Scr

Grid reference of start point (if known)

Directions to Start

Follow the CV719 to the village and just at the entrance to the village there is a sharp RH turn signposted to Polideportiu. Follow this to the Polideportiu (sports centre) and park here.

Short walk description

A demanding rocky ridge ascent and scramble with paths, tracks and country roads for the return.

Full Walk Description

Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far

From the car park at the sports hall walk back along the road towards Murla

After 150m turn right up a road directly opposite a large walled villa. 3 mins

At the end of the surfaced road where there is a driveway on the LHS continue straight ahead on an indistinct vehicle track across the groves. 5 mins - 460m

Follow this up 2 clear banks going up to the next walled level and then less clearly trend SW to find the next bank and shortly after this the track becomes more distinct again and emerges on a road where you turn R. 9 mins - 660m

Follow this around several bends and at a walled house – Casa de Las Almendras. – turn L on a concrete road (signposted Ermita Sant Sebastia). 12.5mins - 920m

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Follow this steadily uphill and after 7/8 minutes arrive at the ermita which you pass on the LHS. Immediately past it turn R and follow the signed route to the Cruz (you will be quicker than their claimed 43mins!) 26 mins – 1.7km

Follow this up with Y/W markings which pop up when you least need them! As it twists and turns and climbs up across scrambly rocks to reach a further signpost just where the slope finally relents and point you to the Cruz (L) or the summit (straight ahead). 37 mins – 2.1km

(The Cruz is a metal structure which you can easily see as you drive towards Murla on the road. There is nothing much to gain by visiting it, except of course the views of the town below your feet)

Now follow the red dots of the CBMW which in some cases have been overpainted by zealous officials with an excess of Yellow and White markers.

On a few occasions the path trends to the R to avoid the steeper crags, but if you feel adventurous you can stick rigidly to the crest, although you will not enjoy the benefits of a path up there.

There are several rocky obstacles to be overcome and most of these are easily passed, even though you may need to use hands as well as feet.

Near the top you pass through a narrow defile and then descend a little to the R before scrambling up a staircase of rocks to emerge on the first summit. 1 hr 3mins – 3.05km

Now you have a clear view of the second summit directly in front of you and guarded by some impressive rocky buttresses. You will avoid these by dropping down to the col – crossing a small crag of 1m as you do so – and then following an indistinct line to the L which does have waymarks. Essentially here you must keep below the crags without losing too much height and regain a shoulder which you can see in front of you. This you tackle from an easy corner where you follow up and around to the L. 1hr 11mins – 3.4km

From here you can ascend to the summit following a scramble up through the rocks with waymarks. But you will have to return to this point to proceed along the ridge.

Assuming that you do not go up the ridge then look ahead from the shoulder to see a small cairn marking the start of a steep descent on slabs. Keep to the rightmost cleft here sliding and scrambling down as you will until it levels just in front of a cliff. Here turn R and continue over broken ground until you reach a corner in front of you where you can descend a little and then continue to the R.

Shortly you come to an aided descent with bolts, metal steps and a rope to give you aid. If you are confident you will not need the rope at all and will curse the metal steps for getting in the way. However you achieve it once you are at the bottom you continue to trend R to arrive at a clear col. 1hr 18mins – 3.6km.

(There is a hidden cave here worthy of exploration if you can find it. Descend a little to the N from the col and look out for an indistinct path rising back up the hill to the R. Follow this up about 50m and it will lead you to the cave entrance. This can be threaded with care to emerge on the opposite side of the mountain amid big boulders and brambles and from here you can retrace your steps back to the col.)

Now continue along the main ridge following Y/W markings. The path starts by keeping to the R and avoids a large tooth of rock called the Pudding Stone. Then the ridge opens up in front of you and there are many twists and turns as the path tries to pick out the easiest line of attack along this complex ridge. The going underfoot is always tricky with lumps of limestone sticking up in places they shouldn't! Still by perseverance you will eventually arrive at a col just before the ridge line rises substantially towards a 1hr 50mins 5.2km

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distant summit. Here (in 2012) there is a finger post indicating the clear path that goes off to the RHS of the ridge (signed Benimaurell).

Take this path which rises slightly to being with before trending downhill in rough zig-zags.

Eventually the path becomes much more distinct with obvious walls at the RHS and soon it weaves in towards a fuente and then down to join a track which you continue to descend as it passed terraces on the RHS. A little before the first houses of the village there is an obvious track to the R. 2hr 10min
6.2km

Follow this as it descends gently for a few minutes and look out for a path on the RHS which we take as it ascends up towards some obvious crags and disappears into some trees with a plastic water pipe buried underfoot. 2hr 14mins
6.5km

As it levels off you will be able to see a casita above on your right and the path splits and one branch ascends to the R to reach the terrace of the casita and a track which continues your journey SSE. 2hr 19mins
6.9km

Follow this track for some distance as it gently descends to eventually join a slightly dishevelled road at a T-jnc. Here turn R. 2hr 31mins
7.8km

This road dises and falls a little but soon arrives at the fuente de XXX. 2hr 35mins
8.1km

5 mins further on there is a road jnc. On the LHS which we take. 2hr 40mins
8.5km

One minute further on, look out for a path descending steeply to the L with a cairn marking its departure from the road.

You shortly re-join a road and turn L here and after 100m look for a signposted route off to the R. Follow this down to cross a different road and continue down a path to emerge on a road yet again. 2hr 43mins
8.6km

Turn L here and after 50m look for a path going downhill to the R (not signed or marked) which descends through terraces to reach the road yet again.

Now turn R and follow this road without interruption down zig-zags until it reaches a T-jnc. Turn R on an even better tarmacked road. 3hr 1min
10km

After 200m turn R back on yourself and downhill on a track which meanders down a little and then ascends steadily to cross a col by a semi-ruined finca. 3hr 16mins
11.05km

Now the path swings to the L and descends more rapidly through zig-zags. Once on more level ground it takes a final swing to the L just before a small building (pumping station??) Before you reach this continue ahead across a wide terrace which swings to the R and stays level. Continue ahead on this through rough grass until it reaches a track where we turn L to shortly return to Casa de Las Almendras. 3hr 29mins
11.9km

Retrace your steps back to the car at the sports centre.

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Scrambling and a good for heights essential

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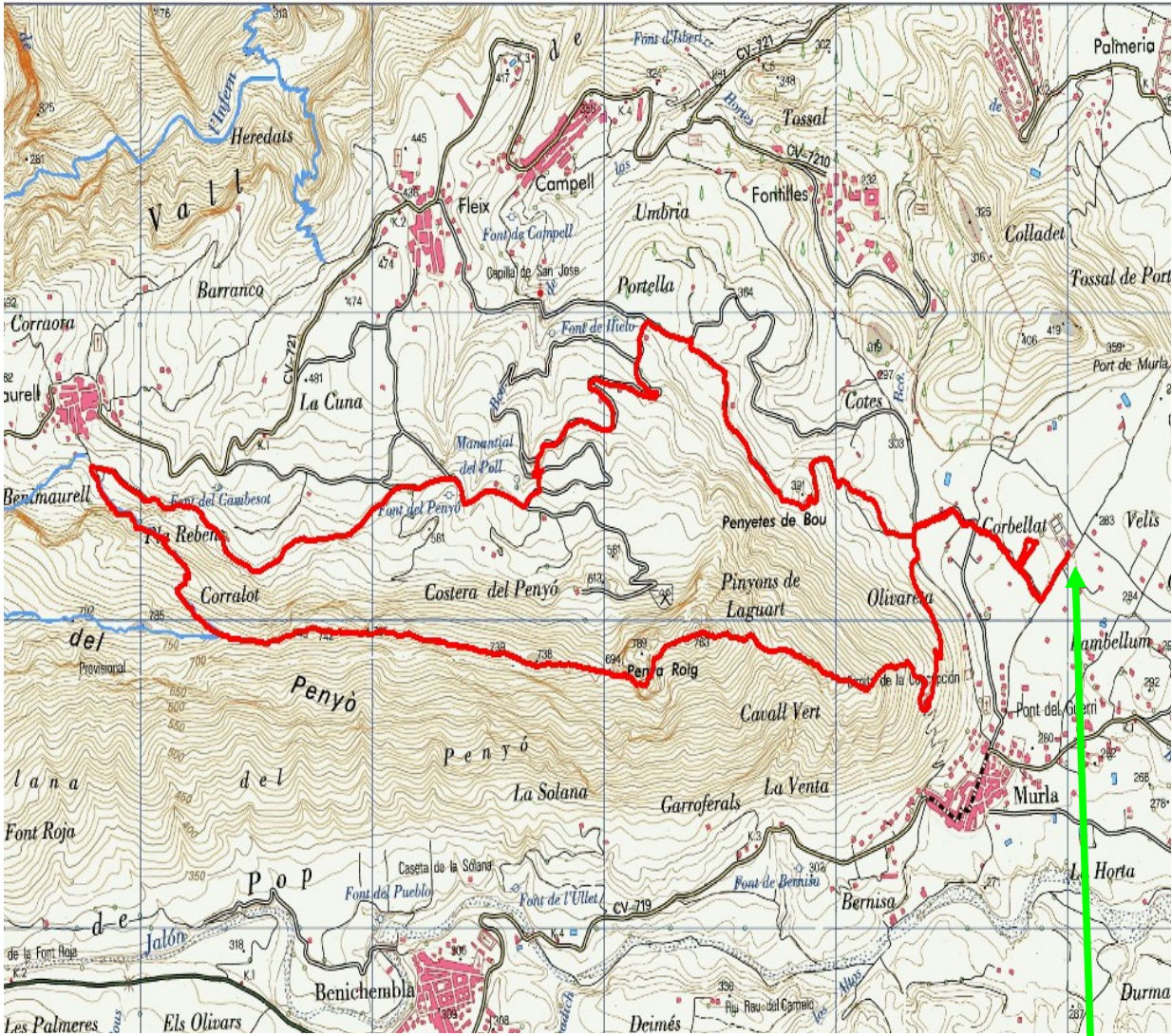
Hard Copy of map showing route attached:-

**Software copy of map showing route
attached (if appropriate):-**

GPS file of route attached (if appropriate)

Web link to GPS file (if appropriate)

Photos of walk attached



Park here at Polideportiu