

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Visit www.walksinspain.org for more walks descriptions in Spain

Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	1 st November 2012
Title of Walk	Puntal del Morrul, El Parat dels Oms & Alt de la Manzaneda
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Tormos, Public piscina car park in Avenguida de Juan Carlos
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	15.5
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1030
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5hrs 6.5hrs
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/C/X/Scr
Grid reference of start point (if known)	38.799174, -0.07654

Directions to Start From the CV715 at the S end of the village, find brown signs to Costera de Moll. Turn up this street and take the first L., then the second R and then the next L into Avenguida de Juan Carlos. Follow this a few hundred metres up to find the car park on the LHS.

Short walk description A demanding mountain day reaching 3 rarely visited summits on the often overlooked Mediodia ridge over rough ground with better paths for the return route.

Full Walk Description

Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far

From the car park return down the road a few metres past the piscina and turn L up the Carrer de Fontilles.

At the top of the steep rise follow the road around to the R.

If you are brave enough then after about 50 metres of gentle ascent you can cut across rough ground above you to find a mozarabic trail above you. But it will be easier on your first visit to continue down the road until you find a rough open area on your LHS just above the cemetery (cementario). 7mins
500m

Here there are 2 paths. One rises slightly W of N and the other sets off almost due W. Take the path to the W. It is a little vague at first, but can soon be seen as a footpath.

A little above you the path has been degraded by the actions of wild boar and heavy tramping feet but by constantly sniffing the wind and watching carefully you will be able

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

to find the correct route. It's better to take time to find the right route – being off track will slow you down much more than spending time looking!

After a few minutes the path becomes clearer and continues up the hill.

Having continued slightly S of W for some minutes, the path swings quite abruptly to the N and continues in that direction. 15mins
760m

A little way up here you pass under some crags with small caves and then continue around the corner to see a large barranco opening up on your LHS. A few minutes up this and you will be able to see on the other bank of the barranco a large gated cave with early cave paintings, although our route does not take us to this spot. 30mins
1.5km

Finally the good path drops down into the barranco bottom and seems to terminate. You will be on much smaller paths for sometime after this and in some parts on no paths at all, so brace yourself! 36mins
1.8km

2 or 3 metres up the barranco bottom a thin path on a steep bank exits to the RHS and quickly turns to the L and continues to climb. Follow this thin path up as it drops down into the barranco and crosses to the other side. The path is very thin – but not invisible - so you need to keep your eyes open. You stay quite close to the barranco bottom for some time and then cross to the LHS and rise significantly above the barranco bottom.

Through dogged determination you can follow intermittent green paint splashes and emerge after a good dose of ascent at a small plateau. 1hr 5mins
3km

From here the faint path continues across the grassland and into some woodland where it rises again up a few bancales to arrive at a walled cave on the LHS with chair, straw mattress and bucket for use at a nearby well.

Follow the continuing path for about 30m and look for side paths going up to the L. Take any of these to cross rocks and emerge on the ridge line with fantastic vistas. 1hr 9mins
3.2km

From here strike up the ridge line directly by leaping from rock to rock or threading a path between obstacles. There is very occasional evidence of animal tracks, but little else. Nevertheless when you arrive at the summit you will be greeted by a rough cairn indicating that other stalwarts have been here! 1hr 17mins
3.5km

After taking in the view you will need to get off this rocky lump and the best way to do this is to follow a path slightly S of W. There are some rough paths, but they tend not to connect up and you will have to rely on your own resources to link them. Avoid erring too far to the N. This looks to be the most direct line to an easy col, but in fact it leads into very prickly and dense gorse. Instead stick to your line and when close enough to the edge of the summit plateau you will be able to peer over and into a shallow valley and see where the gorse runs out (to the SW) and then descent to join this better area. 1hr 21mins
3.7km

Now turn SW and follow an increasingly obvious path initially down and then into a grassy and bushy area where it rises slightly to reach the beginning of a subsidiary ridge. Just as you reach the initial part of this a path continues to drop off the LHS of the ridge and descend across some ruined bancales and down in the direction of your next obvious summit – El Parat dels Oms. 1hr 24 mins
3.9km

Descend to a dividing col and walk across to the start of the rocky ridge. Now scramble up this to the summit in any way that suits you. 1hr 39mins
4.4km

To get off this summit you need to retrace your steps for some 50m or so to a small col

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

from where you can descend with care to the W and, after walking round a large boulder, descend back to the E.

Thread your way across boulder fields and past thickets of hawthorn steadily downhill and back into the valley bottom. Once there it's best to cross the valley bottom and find a track on the far side which descends roughly to the W. 1hr 49mins
4.8km

As you have descended across this rough ground you will have seen a ruined finca down the valley and on the opposite bank at an intersection of several dry stream beds. This is your next objective. The path steadily drops towards this and near the bottom you have the choice of either dropping below a line of crags and then reascending back to the ruin or turning back to the R to cross the dry stream beds and clamber along to the ruin. Either way, take a well deserved rest! 1hr 58mins
5.3km

From here you can see an obvious col so the SW and your next objective – Alt de la Manzaneda – rising above it. The nearest end is guarded by crags, but from the col there is an easy line which continues SW to an intermediary col and then directly to the summit. To reach the initial col from your resting place pass the ruin on your L and then descend to cross a dry rocky river bed. Move almost level up the far bank and find a path rising up a couple of bancales before levelling out and following a direct line towards the col. It is forced to rise a little but soon reaches the col where you can cross a barbed wire fence or move a little to your L through a gate. 2hr 7mins
5.7km

Follow the fence up to just below a crag line and then turn to your R and make your own line aiming for an intermediary col and thence to the summit. There are no paths here, but if you look ahead you will be able to follow lines that offer least resistance. 2hr 20mins
6.2km

There is now the small problem of getting down. Immediately to the W there is initially a line of small craggy tops (which is the highest?) and to the N – unseen from here – there is a line of 50-100m high crags which will prevent descent this way. The best route is to continue initially W and then after about 3 mins NW. You will quickly be able to see the track/road below you and a building on the opposite side. You can decide the best line of descent but one way or another you need to descend to this track/road. 2hr 38mins
6.8km

The underfoot conditions now take a permanent turn for the better and from here until your arrival back at your cars there are no real problems of stumbling about or crashing into rocks!

Turn R on the road (some parts of it are surfaced and others are not) and follow this for 1.6km (about 20mins) until you reach a signed turn to the R for a footpath to Tormos. 3hr
8.4km

Follow this path down to reach a track where you turn R. 3hr 6mins
8.8km

Follow this as it rises a little to reach an obvious col. It descends the other side through zig-zags at the head of a barranco and if you look across the other side of this you will be able to pick out our intended (and clear) path. Towards the bottom of the zig-zag there is a very large cairn indicating that you should walk directly across the terrace and find the start of the good path at the other side. 3hr 22mins
10.1km

Now follow this along the north (sometimes shady and damp) flank of the Mediodia ridge whose summits you earlier explored and enjoy the views down onto Pego and the marshlands. Other more distant summits stand out to the N. Along this route there are a couple of tricky descents down a terrace wall, but the path line is always obvious.

Finally just after you have walked over a small area of scree there is an unsigned path going back up a wall to your R. Take this and you will soon find Y/W signs to reassure you. This rises a little to cross a col and descend to a ruin at Pla de Les Poets (The 3hr 47mins
11.8km

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

Poets refer to wells not poets!!).

Arrive at the Pla.

3hr 53mins
12.2km

Just by the ruined building look for the path turning sharply to the R and continuing obviously ahead. At times you can see the cobbling used for this path and at other times it is in a more ruinous state, but either way it is clear and easy going. Eventually down to your L you will be able to see the village of Sagra,

In general now this path descends quite rapidly although you do reach one point where it rises again briefly and zig-zags rapidly to pass behind a craggy boulder.

4hr 4mins
12.9

A little further on there is a junction where a path descends rapidly (L) to Sagra and our path continues straight ahead to round the end of the Rensingles ridge and turn to the SSE now with Tormos in view.

4hr 16mins
13.6km

Ignore an indistinct path going straight ahead and follow round to the L (E).

4hr 25mins
14.2km

Shortly you will be able to see the cemetery below you and it is a simple matter of following the (slightly ruined now) path down to the road.

4hr 35min
14.8km

Retrace your steps back to the cars.

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Text on this side of the table please

Hard Copy of map showing route attached:-

Yes

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

GPS file of route attached (if appropriate)

Yes

Web link to GPS file (if appropriate)

Photos of walk attached

No

