

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	3rd November 2012
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Punta de la Gavarrera
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	La Senia Ermita de Pallerols a few km to the N of the village
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	12.4
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	460m (810m descent)
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4hr 5.5hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/C/X
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	40.677839, 0.283306
<b>Directions to Start</b>	<p>Take the Carrer de Tarragon through the town to the north. At the northern end there is a small roundabout at which you turn half R onto Cami de Cementeri a Pallerols. At a Y jnc follow around to the R on the Cami de la Bassa Omedes and ascend a small rise. At a complex jnc turn half L onto the Cami de Pallerols. This runs down hill and crosses a number of "fierce" concrete drains which run across the road. Follow this road as it rises up the mountain on zig-zags. At the top of the hill it continues a little way on the LHS of the ridge to arrive at a large public shleter/BBQ area. The Ermita de Pallerols is a 50m further on the rough track.</p> <p>The route descends to a different point – Hotel Moli Abad on the CV105 to the north of La Senia. You will need a car here to prevent a long and arduous climb back to your start point.</p>
<b>Short walk description</b>	<p>A rewarding mountaineering day with a horseshoe route with different start and finish points over high mountains. Initially there are good paths, but for the second half of the walk the going is very rough and where there are paths there are many scratchy bushes. The views, the scenery and the remote country make this a very worthwhile outing.</p>

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### **Full Walk Description**

### **Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far**

With your back to the BBQ and shelter continue up the track past the Ermita on your RHS with (usually) permanently burning candles. A little beyond this your Y/W path rises a little above the track and is more pleasant to walk on.

It continues almost flat into a corner from where it rises steadily to pass close to the Casa Bernarda – a large ruin - and to the R of a rocky summit.

26mins  
1.6km

Now we descend again a little along the ridge line and down to a col with an imposing summit ahead of us. We pass around to the RHS of this along a clear mozarabic trail which climbs steadily to reach a vantage point with stupendous views a little beyond the main summit (La Gotellera). Pause to take in the scenery!

51mins  
3km

Now continue along the ridge with the main ridge line generally to your RHS. Although there is some tree cover there are also some fantastic views as you thread your way along this ridge.

Now you need to take particular note of exactly where you are. The map of la Tinenca de Benifassa from el Tossal Cartografies is very helpful for keeping a grasp of your position.

Pass the summit of Los Tombadots on your RHS.

1hr 2mins  
3.7km

Contour around to the L a little before rising up to a small rocky knob with a tree clad summit ahead of you and pass to the RHS of the ridge line here. The summit directly above you is La Carenera.

1hr 11mins  
4.3km

Now pass along in the trees with the ridge line on your LHS. The summit is a little way above you but within a few minutes the ground drops to almost meet your path and the ridge to you L is only some 5m above you. This is a critical point because here you are going to leave the easy path. You are now directly below the Punta de la Gavarrera only some 50m to the N but there is little merit in struggling up to it as the views that you will enjoy almost immediately are much the same!

Step up onto the ridge and look to your R. You can see some indications of a path dropping away down the slope and heading due E around the head of a corrie. Make your way slightly downhill as you start to cross this largely pathless terrain. You will need to pick a path quite carefully to avoid the worst of the scrub and scree, but you have 2 clear objectives. The first is a buttress which juts out along your route as you round the corrie and the second a little further off is a clear ridge running down from R to L in the middle distance with a very clear house (ruined) under a crag. It is this ridge that you must gain.

Be vigilant in your study of the track ahead. Although it is slow going after a little while the regularity of cairns increases and there is better evidence of a clear path as you have the summit of Morral Llampat ahead and up to the RHS of your path.

1hr 45mins  
6km

You must avoid going too low to cross the clear barranco under this summit and instead look for good traces of the path with cairns. This runs true towards our desired ridge line and soon the path is very clear although it pushes through spiky bushes.

On the map mentioned above this shows as a clear path – but although it may have

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been in the past it now requires great care to find. You arrive at a small summit on this ridge (at 1022m) – Mola de Castellar. 2hr 2mins  
6.9km

Now you are on the desired ridge and ambling along pleasant grassland through interesting scenery before starting to descend into the trees and along terrace walls. It is better to stay on the LHS of the ridge and look ahead for a clear line running up a sloping wall and avoid going up to the top of this summit. You can see the ruined house nestling under a crag in front of you and it is difficult to understand how you can reach it.

But pushing on along this line you reach a small plateau and directly ahead of this is a rocky descent to the ruin. 2hr 23min  
8km

Now you must thread your way down below this and turn R along a terrace with a very large wall above you. This slowly becomes a clearer path although it continues to be plagued by scratchy bushes.

At last now the path is clear and it continues out along the ridge generally to the LHS of it although sometimes it switches to the other side. There are occasional side paths waiting to ambush you although the main line is generally obvious and you should stick to it closely avoiding all shortcuts that cut corners as they will lead you astray.

Progress is at least easy now and continues that way until you reach the point on the map at 723m elevation.

Now the descent becomes steeper and almost inevitably the path becomes more eroded and more difficult to follow. However diligence will be rewarded because lower down there could be a lot of floundering around in bushes and trees if you have lost the path. 3hr 5mins  
10km

The most difficult part to follow is directly above a small crag where the path has become very eroded. Essentially what is required is to double back to the NW along the flank of the ridge to get down this and then continue in this general direction for some 100m or so and the true line of the path remains clear. 3hr 30mins  
11.2km

Now you will be in the trees and if you are on the correct line there will be no problems as it zig-zags down losing height to finally emerge at a clearing with a track continuing downhill to emerge on the main road (CV 105) almost opposite the Moli Abad.

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Only experienced mountaineers should tackle this route equipped with the El Tossal Cartografies map of La Tinenca de Benifassa.

Route followed is outlined in red

