

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps, 9 th January 2013	
Last Updated	13 th December 2017	
Title of Walk	Tormos to Isbert's dam via Pla de Costera	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Tormos on CV715 between Orba and Sagra	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	470	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 10mins 5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.7989, Long:- -0.0771	
Directions to Start	Coming from the south (Orba) on the CV715 at the outskirts of the village turn L (signposted to Costera del Moll) into Calle Pozo. Take the next L (Carrer Val de Llaguart) and then take the 2nd turn on the RHS just after the bins. Drive to the end opposite a plaza and turn L into Avenguda Joan Carles I. Drive a few hundred metres along this past the playground and piscina and park on open ground 50m further on the LHS.	
Short walk description	A delightful walk along the flanks of the Mediodia and then into the heart of the Llaguart valley before returning on tracks through forestry and river bed.	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Walk out of the car park, turn left, walk up the track. Ignore a junction to the L.</p> <p>Follow it round as it curves round to the right up past a pumping station. When you reach a bend doubling back to the R where there is obvious parking on the right and left hand side before the road sweeps up to the deposito, just go straight ahead down a steep bank slightly to the left and drop into the barranco. (cairn)</p> <p>There is evidence of some old steps down to the barranco. Work your way to the right up the barranco a little before trending left and finding the obvious continuation of the engineered mozarabic trail that starts up just slightly on the left above the barranco.</p>		<p>720m 10mins</p>

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This zig zags up slightly steeply and eventually reaches a plateau. Stick religiously to the line of the engineered path which is the leftmost of the lines which you will see and then go around a tree and up some shallow scree to the L where there is a continuation of a clearer path crossing a small col soon with green paint markers to indicate the correct route.

1.3km
25mins

You follow this down one or two small bancales and then start trending right towards a ruined casa just near the head of a barranco. Walk through the ruins and follow a clear line into a barranco.

There is a clear route up at the bottom of a small crag. Watch for this carefully as a cairn suggests that you go straight on. Go on to a wall and then turn left onto an overgrown mozarabic trail which is clear in some places and quite hard to follow in others. (cairns and paint markers)

Keep following this up – it is marked reasonably generously with spots and cairns. This path is slightly difficult to follow and in one or two places it is easier to follow a more gentle line up (cairned) and doubling back than it is to stick to the route indicated by the green dots.

In any event by judicious peering about for some quite magnificent cairns (subject to animal damage!) you will be able to follow the route as it reaches the end of a spur and turns quite abruptly right.

1.7km
35mins

Just around this spur drop a little indicated by cairns to reach a short section of eroded mozarabic path and then trend upwards on a fault line through broken rock again on a clear path.

Go around the head of a second barranco still on a clear line and then wander through a fairly dense cactus garden (dead in Dec 17) with large cactus plants on either side, slightly uphill and look out for a boulder on the right which has a large red "T" on it. The stem of the T points uphill to a corralled cave, that is a cave with a wall round its entrance.

1.9km
41mins

This makes an interesting viewpoint – go and have a look at it then return to the path and continue through quite dense vegetation but still on a clear path going downhill now and working into a very large barranco on the right.

Follow this track carefully as it descends generally but rises up once to round a couple of rocks – mind your head on some of these – and then descends again on a very clear line with both green circles and red dots to help you find your way. Lowish down take care where there is a junction where there appears to be a line going straight on. There is also one slightly up to the right – take this one - and it soon crosses a small ridge and drops down to a spectacular empty water deposito on the left and after a few metres a fuente on the right. Walk straight past this and you are now on a Y/W path.

2.6km
56mins

The path crests a small spur and then starts to drop downhill aiming steadily for a ruined casita.....

2.9km
1hr 3mins

and from there it crosses to the right hand side of a subsidiary ridge and drops down to a large pine tree.

3.1km
1hr 7mins

From here it goes almost directly down the slope on the L for a few metres before traversing back further left and zig zags where you have to be careful just to follow each of the bends on the zig zags.

Follow the Y/W down the zig zags aiming for a ruined casita down on the left on a spur

3.7km, 1hr

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

with a finger post. Once the path emerges by the ruined casita on a bit of a spur plateau go straight ahead on a vehicle track. At a T-junction turn right even though there is a Y/W cross and follow this down a hill as it zigs round to the left with another track coming in from the right.	22mins
Continue downhill and at the valley bottom there is a major T junction. Just opposite and on the right are a couple of poly tunnels. You turn right on the track that wends it way round past those.	4.3km 1hr 32mins
Keep going on this track ignoring R and L turns, eventually past a cattle farm on the RHS and then past a very imposing rock crag on the right. The concrete road now follows deep into the valley and very soon you reach a water pumping station which marks the end of the track and you pass this on the left and drop into the barranco, cross it and emerge on the LHS on a wider track after you have scrambled up a short bank.	5.7km 1hr 50mins
Turn L up a clear track that was used in the building of the dam which is further up the barranco. (you can explore up to it if you like) This track leads into a tunnel. Go through the tunnel where you don't have to have a light but it is helpful if you do. It is pretty flat on the bottom and generally not wet. Emerge on the other side and walk up a slight hill past a large white house on the LHS.	6.3km 1hr 58mins
At a track junction in front of a second house double back R on to an uphill track. Go up this track a little way and when the main part of this track turns L on to a bancal (terrace) there is a subsidiary one which continues very steeply up the hill. Go up this to a T junction with a Y/W cross on the L and take this path.	
Follow this through a marshy area and under a bamboo tunnel (Dec 17) and then along a path past a landslip to reach a concrete farm track going uphill to the R. After the concrete has given out and been replaced by gravel there is a turning doubling back on the R (concrete) which you ignore. At the top of a small crest there is another track descending steeply straight ahead. Ignore this and go uphill to the R to arrive at a second crest with a further concrete track doubling back to the R and our footpath continuing ahead and slightly downhill.	7.1km 2hr 13mins
Follow this down ignoring all side turnings and 5m before a large telegraph pole at the main road there is a path going off to the L and level across a terrace strewn with rubbish and plastic bottles which you can take or if you miss this then 5m beyond the telegraph pole there is a steeper (but clearer) path down to the L and this continues as an engineered path downhill.	7.4km 2hr 18mins
50m further ignore the turning off to the L and swing a little around to the R to arrive at a large concrete domed well.	
Take the track R and out to the road. Turn L down the road for some 60m and look out for the Y/W marked path leaving this to the LHS and going more steeply downhill.	
At a road go straight across and down a broad track downhill for 30m and find a continuation of the engineered path off L again also with Y/W. This soon joins a wider track which you follow downhill ignoring a turn to the R and arrives at the valley bottom.	8km 2hr 28mins
Cross the river (sometimes dry) and turn R and then keep level to the R near to the valley bottom, ignoring a steeper track going uphill.	
Walk past a small finca on the LHS used as a stud with a fenced enclosure beyond it with horses normally in occupation. At the end of the fence cross the river and continue	8.6km

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

ahead on the other side of the river bed.

2hr 36mins

Take a slight L fork and re-cross the river, go up a short bank and turn R, ignoring all tarmac to continue ahead on a rough track beside the river.

Soon after a L turn onto a flat terrace look out for a steep ramp going uphill crossing 4/5 terraces (just before the track ends)

9.3km
2hr 44mins

and turn L onto a track between terraces until you reach the end at a T-jnc where you turn R. Now you are heading directly towards the village of Tormos.

Once this becomes tarmac you drop down to cross a barranco and once up the other side of this you reach the first houses of the village on the RHS and just before them a fenced enclosure on the LHS with large "Solvia" sign. Turn L directly across some gravelly terraces and head straight up crossing a small wall with water pipe and as you see the large wall of stones marking the wall of the car park move L to reach a clear track ahead to the road and your car.

12km
3hr 10mins

Tormos to Isbert's dam via Pla de Costera – red line indicates route followed.

