

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Jon Lyons
<b>Last Updated</b>	26/02/13
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Caballo Verde circuit from Benichembla
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Beside Bar Bon Aire on the CV720 at Benichembla
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	10.6
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	640
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	3hr 8mins 4hr 45mins
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/C
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.754, Long:- -0.111837
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Pick up the CV 720 along its route through Pedreguer and Alcalali and follow it to Benichembla where you park on the outskirts of the village on the way towards Castell de Castells.
<b>Short walk description</b>	A tough mountain ascent and rough ridge with wide panoramas and great views.
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>From the parking by Bon Aire, walk down calle Bon Aire with the barranco on the LHS. Turn R at the bottom and immediately L. Pass a small square on the RHS and then at the end of the road turn R and L past the medical centre. At the end of this street turn half L past a sign that says Carrer La Font and walk past the bakery (Horno) straight ahead and down a ramp on the LHS near a parking area with a sign saying Font del Poble.</p> <p>At the bottom of the ramp go L to cross the river valley and up the other side on tarmac. There are extensive views over to the L of Cocoll and Almadich.</p> <p>At a T-jnc 60m further on turn L staying just above the river bed.</p> <p>At the next junction where a tarmac road doubles back downhill to the L ignore this and continue straight ahead.</p> <p>22 minutes after the start you arrive at a sharp bend to the L with 2 large carob trees on the RHS and a rough track continuing straight ahead steeply uphill. Take this track.</p>	<p>340m 4.5mins</p> <p>1.7km 22mins</p>

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100m up this a track goes off L which we ignore and continue ahead beside some terrace walls on the RHS.

Where these end and the track swings L there is a thin path going through the vegetation straight ahead and marked with a yellow paint splash. Follow this. There are intermediate paint marks and cairns now all the way to the ridge line but care is required to spot them and follow the correct route.

After going up a line of rocks there is a large yellow paint line on a wall that indicates where you turn and follow the wall to the R and almost level towards some trees. Once through the trees and at an open area turn L more steeply uphill again.

When you can see some crags only about 50m above you then you continue to work to the R and round a bluff where the path is a little indistinct for a few metres but cairned once you are around the corner.

Keep working rightwards with some cairns uphill with the aim of cresting the ridge across some easier rocks.

Once on the ridge (hopefully at a cairn)

turn R and pick up a very clear path with Y/W waymarks. Follow this for some time enjoying the views and easier going.

Eventually you reach a large rock outcrop on the RHS (called the Pudding Stone) with a sloping (and sometimes slippery) rock ramp for you to descend and immediately as you pass this the imposing top of Penya Roja is visible in front of you looking completely impregnable.

When you reach a col you follow the path around to the RHS of the ridge initially level and then soon climbing up through an area of rockfall with cairns to reach a roped crag with a short 2/3 metre climb.

Beyond this tread carefully gently uphill and around to the R around a spur being careful with the exposure to reach a corner that goes up with slabs on the RHS. Follow these up to reach much easier ground at the top from where a Y/W signed route takes off either to the summit (left) or - our route - around a spur and then down a little following the Y/W marks towards the col between the peak that you have walked around and the next one on the main ridge line. This is a little vague on the ground but the objective is to reach the col between the 2 peaks and then walk up scree to the second summit.

From here move ahead slightly to the R of the ridge line for about 50m and then drop down a short steep scramble section on the LHS for a 15m before continuing ahead and back up 5 or 10m to round a large boulder and start a more sustained descent. The path is waymarked Y/W but takes care to find. There are generally no penalties for losing it briefly but it is best to seek it out if you do.

After following this for some time (???) you reach the final small peak on this ridge before it plummets earthwards in a more determined fashion.

Here you take to the L of the ridge line and reach a fingerpost just below you. This points to the Cruz on the RHS and back up the way you have descended! The Cruz (cross) is a metal structure – not very exciting! - on a small knoll way above the village of Murla and visible from some distance away.

2km  
27mins

3.1km  
1hr 1min

4.7km  
1hr 30mins

5.3km  
1hr 45mins

6.2km  
2hr 5mins

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Whether you visit it or not you must return to this junction and then move off leftwards and downwards following a clear path on the ground with Y/W waymarks which have been designed for the ascent and so care will be needed to see them when descending.

This path is open and with little vegetation to begin with but reaches a patch of juniper and then a little lower enters the trees. It swings to the R to round the spur and drops becoming clearer all the time to arrive on a much clearer path at an Ermita (small chapel).

Keep to the RHS of the terrace in front of the Ermita and leave on a very clear path descending towards the village of Murla in zig-zags. At the concrete track with the stations of the cross continue downhill to reach the main road.

6.7km  
2hr 16mins

Cross this and continue directly ahead on a broad partly tarmacked track which continues below (and L) of some quite new terraced houses.

7.3km  
2hr 26mins

Pass a large ruined finca (once a restaurant) and cross the valley bottom to climb up the bank on the other side – now on a rough track – and turn R at the top of the rise.

7.9km  
2hr 33mins

At a Y-jnc turn R to stay near the river bank.

As this ends there is a marker post with a sign for mountain biking (yellow triangle with 2 circles) and here you step up to the first terrace and follow an obvious path ahead.

Where this turns uphill there are alternatives but the easiest is to continue ahead on the top of the bancal (terrace) with a broken water pipe beside it. You can continue on this with the going varying from straightforward to rougher with pebbles. But there are still waymarks to confirm that you are on the right route. If all else fails along here the valley bottom is OK, but there are better tracks generally on the LHS.

At a cane thicket drop into the valley bottom, walk across to the other side and join a track on the opposite bank.

8.7km  
2hr 43mins

When this ends cross again to the LHS and work up a bancal to find a good track on the LHS which you follow until you reach the bridge just below Benichembla.

9.6km  
2hr 55mins

Follow the track uphill on the LHS to emerge on the road which you follow to the first zig-zag bend to the L. Here you leave the road and find a cairned path above you that turns more steeply uphill (L).

This levels off and aims towards the village joining a track and with the church steeple as your objective.

At the end turn L on tarmac and then R past Casa Llopis. Reach the railings which mark your point of departure at the start of the route and turn L and keep straight ahead to the church where you turn slightly R. At the T-junc turn R and then the road swings back to the L and then you are in Calle Bon Aire which brings you straight back to the bar where you have parked.

**Route follow red line on map**

