

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps	
Last Updated	7 th March 2013	
Title of Walk	Beniali Circuit to La Carrotxa via Pintures Rupestres	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Beniali village on the CV700	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	12	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	600	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.5hr 4.5hr	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.821864, Long. -0.219893	
Directions to Start	Follow the CV700 from Pego up the Gallinera valley and park in the car park on the KHS on the outskirts of the village as you enter.	
Short walk description	Exploring the valley sides to gain good views of the Gallinera villages with a chance to add in the ancient cave paintings at the end.	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
From the car park walk into the village and take the first turning on the left hand side (Carrer Carrero). Walk up the hill past the Restaurant Jabali. Stick to the main tarmac road ignoring side turnings as it steepens leaving the village.	210m 3mins	
Turn up to the right on a concrete road with a wall on the left hand side with blue drain pipes for drainage poking through them.	555m 9mins	
The main track turns to the left to enter a finca through locked gates. Ignore these and step up ahead onto rougher going beside a water course on the right hand side.		
This follows a fence with evidence of its former stature as an engineered path in evidence underfoot. A little way up follow the fence on your left hand side as it turns left and levels out.	666m 11mins	
Follow this to the end beside a "shack" on the left hand side. Reach the end of the obvious path in undergrowth beside the end of the shack and step up to the right onto a		

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<p>terrace and follow the obvious line uphill reaching a better defined track going up to the R.</p> <p>This zigs to the left and then becomes even clearer as it flattens a little (ignore the left fork descending) before contouring around to join a road junction where you turn R.</p> <p>At the 20kph sign there is a road joining from the R. Turn slightly left and then turn up to the right on a concrete track. The concrete soon peters out and the broad track continues ahead.</p> <p>Continue over a small brow ignoring side tracks off to the left hand side.</p> <p>Ignore a second left turn on concrete. Our track contours and rises slightly with crags on the left hand side and extensive views up and down the valley and an early glimpse of the "Forat" - a large hole in the rocky ridge ahead.</p> <p>At a fork with a manhole cover in the middle of the track turn right and downhill for a few meters before reaching a T-jnc where you turn L.</p> <p>When you reach a spot with a "box" like structure on the right hand side and a steep ramp going ahead, there is also a track doubling back and continuing uphill to the L. Take this.</p> <p>After 70m this doubles back to the right and then after a further 150m back to the left and finally after only a few metres back to the right again for the final time before levelling out considerably and passing a manhole cover.</p> <p>When you reach a second manhole cover along this track you are at a junction with a path that goes left up to the ridge and right downhill. Take this and after a few metres turn left where the track widens.</p> <p>At a fork where the ground is quite open drop down slightly to reach a makeshift cage of poles which you pass on the right and continue ahead on a terrace. At the end of this terrace there is an obvious line back to the right and where this ends on a terrace turn back left and find a footpath continuing level for some time. (Possible obstruction across this path)</p> <p>This joins a larger path and we turn left uphill along a path with obvious signs of an engineered bed.</p> <p>After a short climb we reach a junction where the path either doubles back to the left and continues uphill or turns right and immediately descends. Take this route. There is some erosion and fallen trees (passable) along this path but the line is always clear.</p> <p>When you reach a track turn left and then right onto concrete and follow this in zig-zags down to the valley bottom. Soon it becomes tarmac and drops over the left hand side of a spur and down to the main road. Turn right towards the village.</p> <p>Pass the Meson Cueva (restaurant) and take the next turn on the left dropping downhill.</p> <p>This quiet country lane runs down the valley with the main road above us on the right hand side. Eventually it joins this main road and we turn L.</p> <p>Go around a bend to the right and join a footpath going down to the left (with sign).</p> <p>This crosses some terraces and then drops down a barranco where erosion has made the going tricky for 100m.</p>	<p>970m 17mins</p> <p>2.6km 40mins</p> <p>3.3km 53mins</p> <p>3.8km 1hr</p> <p>4.2km 1hr 2mins</p> <p>5.6km 1hr 35mins</p> <p>6.6km 1hr 49mins</p>
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<p>At the bottom of this join a track where you turn L.</p> <p>Ignore a left turn and continue down the valley.</p>	<p>7km 1hr 54mins</p>
<p>When you reach a round water deposito with a block building in front of it take a small path going beside the building with a small water channel beside it.</p>	<p>7.7km 2hr 3mins</p>
<p>This turns to the right and then crosses a very old ivy clad bridge. At the far side turn left on the only path and follow this to arrive at terraces where the obvious line leads you around to the right of some buildings.</p>	
<p>Follow the concrete track uphill and join a tarmac road where you turn left towards the village.</p>	
<p>At a fork go slightly downhill in the village, pass a fuente on the right hand side and continue ahead. Pass the church on your left hand side and a plaque to Estudio de Pintera (??). Go up a slight rise to reach some railing on the left hand side where you turn downhill.</p>	<p>8.1km 2hr 9mins</p>
<p>Keep ahead and steeply down to join a tarmac road where you proceed directly ahead further downhill and across a bridge over the river.</p>	<p>8.45km 2hr 14mins</p>
<p>Immediately past this turn right on a track past a corral and follow this initially beside the river and then climbing uphill a little.</p>	
<p>The route is signposted with occasional posts and purple and white paint flashes.</p>	
<p>At the end of the track just before a small casita on the right hand side there is a further post and paint flashes indicating a rocky route that goes over a small hill, down to cross a barranco and then uphill again a little way before reaching another marker post where you turn left to follow the clear path. (Marker A)</p>	<p>8.66km 2hr 17mins</p>
<p>This runs down into a barranco and then makes its way up the barranco generally on the left hand side and up some fearsome rocky ramps. These are easy to negotiate going uphill but would be hard going if descending.</p>	<p>8.97km 2hr 22mins</p>
<p>Take care to look out for the markers as after a few hundred metres of uphill you will be veering off more level to the right to drop back into the barranco. At this point you should be able to clearly see the gated cave directly above you on the right hand side of the barranco.</p>	
<p>As the path reaches the centre of the barranco it turns back uphill on the far side and after a few metres there is a further marker post sending you to the R. Take care with navigation here and watch your route carefully as you will find it more difficult to return.</p>	<p>9.5km 2hr 34mins</p>
<p>After a few metres there is a rocky step up to the left and then the path drops again briefly directly under the crag. At the end of this it turns uphill to reveal the end of the gated cave.</p>	
<p>After enjoying the cave paintings you need to retrace your steps back to the last marker post where you turn uphill (your inbound route came up from lower down) on a clear path which briefly makes its way up below the crags until there is a weakness where it can zig-zag up to cross the ridge above you.</p>	
<p>Now the path turns to start its descent to the village of Beniali and at times this path looks as if it might once have been the main road – so wide and well maintained it</p>	

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seems.

It soon joins a wall on the left hand side and then passes a signed threshing circle (era) on the right hand side and then a corral (de Tio Alberto) on the left hand side before zig-zagging steadily downhill to arrive at the finger-post (marker A) from which you started this circle.

11km
3hr 4mins

Turn left and follow your outbound route to arrive back at the tarmac road just after the bridge from Beniali.

Turn uphill to reach the railings. Cross these and continue straight ahead. After a few metres turn left up some steps and emerge on the main road where you turn left and follow this back to the car park without stopping at any bars for refreshment!

Route followed is outlined in Red

