

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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| Walk description originally prepared by:- | Ralph Phipps |
| Last Updated | 8 th March 2013 |
| Title of Walk | Castells circuit East |
| Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description) | Castell de Castells car park. |
| Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km | 16.5 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m | 760 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops | 4hr 5.5hrs |
| Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system) | S/A |
| Grid reference of start point (if known) | Lat:- 38.723827, Long: -0.194761 |
| Directions to Start | Take the CV720 through Pedreguer and Parcent to reach the village of Castells. On entering the village the car park is on the L at a T-jnc. Turn into calle Jose Antonion and drop down a ramp into the car park. |
| Short walk description | A walk partly in forest on the slopes of Aixorta with extensive views and a fabulous rock arch before crossing to a delightful mozarabic path descent back to the village. |
| Full Walk Description | <div> <div> Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far </div> <div> <p>From the car park walk back out onto the main road and turn L. Proceed along here for 200m to a T-jnc and turn L here immediately passing a fuente with picnic table down on your L. Cross to the RHS of the road and walk along the pavement. When this ends there are 2 turns to the R. Take the second signed Castell.</p> <p>Walk up this road and at a T-jnc go straight ahead dropping briefly to cross a barranco and then rising steeply for a while.</p> <p>When you reach a building on the RHS cross the rough gravel area towards it and then take the track going uphill to its L.</p> <p>Follow this with several zig-zags to the L until on the ridge line it runs into a rough gravel area with a clear footpath continuing ahead.</p> </div> <div> <p>610m 7mins</p> <p>1.2km 15 mins</p> </div> </div> |

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| Follow this as it zig-zags up and to the L to run alongside a barranco on the L before climbing in zig-zags to emerge at a wide track. | 2.4km 41mins |
| Turn L here and immediately round a spur to continue ahead with a wide barranco below you to the L. Follow this as it rounds the barranco head and meets a concrete road coming uphill from the L. Turn R and follow this uphill to reach first a complex junction and immediately afterwards a col with extensive views down into the Guadelest valley. | 3.4km 53mins |
| If you take in these views then retrace your steps a few metres and turn R onto a rising track (L if you arrive and decide not to visit the col!). | |
| Follow this up steadily up zig-zags and reach a viewpoint on the L immediately after which the track descends a little for a few metres. | |
| Beyond this you will arrive at a wide zig back to the R and just past the apex of this bend there is a clear footpath going steeply uphill which you can take to avoid a long loop out and back on the main track. | 4.9km 1hr 17mins |
| If you follow the footpath it is steep going for a couple of hundred metres but you soon emerge at the track once more and after getting your breath back cross this and continue again on a footpath that bridges another loop and arrives one more at the track where you turn R. | |
| This immediately bends around to the L and after a few metres the slope eases and the views open as you contour around towards a small farmed enclosure. Here the track swings leftwards and you ignore a track going off to the R | 5.3km 1hr 25mins |
| and continue ahead to reach a col with impressive views all around and a speed limit sign to your L!! | 5.7km 1hr 31mins |
| Take the track with the speed limit sign and take care to soak in the views before it descends rapidly. Ignore all side tracks and continue ahead on the main line sometimes on concrete. | |
| After wandering slightly leftwards the track turns R across the slope once more and rises slightly to reach a junction where a broad footpath/track strikes steeply uphill. Ignore this and continue ahead. | 7km 1hr 48mins |
| This continues North for a while before swinging out to the East and then round a bend where it drops more steeply to the West than before on concrete to reach bend turning back to the East. Ignore this bend and instead continue westwards on a clear footpath. | 7.7km 1hr 57mins |
| After 50m at a fork take the R fork and emerge on a rocky promontory with fantastic views of a rock arch down below you. | |
| Once you have sated your need for views continue ahead on a thinner path and rejoin the forked path that you left 50m before. | |
| Now there is a steep descent – the most difficult of the day -which required care as it turns under some crags. In only a few hundred metres it joins a much clearer path running out to the arch and here you turn R away from the arch. | 8km 2hr 1mins |
| This is now Y/W marked and generally level. It reaches a set of terraces and crosses them to the L before turning right now on a track. Follow this about 100m and at a junction turn L now going slightly uphill. | 8.6km 2hr 11mins |

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| Pass a newly restored finca on your R and then crest a small rise before descending again to a cross roads. | 9.3km 2hr 20mins |
| Here go across the broader tracks to go slightly R on a clear but less eroded track (which turns L soon). Follow this steadily until it emerges on the road.(CV752). Turn R and in a few metres drop down to the L on a smaller tarmac road. | 10km 2hr 28mins |
| As this levels out there is a second track visible joining us from the L and before we reach the actual junction there is a small footpath bridging the gap between the 2. Take this and turn L on the track heading slightly north of W. | 10.2km 2hr 30mins |
| A little way along this with a cairn there is a footpath going straight ahead as the track veers slightly L. Take the footpath and in a few metres it is re-joined by a track from the L. Follow this ahead and stick to the footpath as the track turns off rightwards. | |
| After a short uphill section between walls you emerge at a track junction at a col. (By goin straight ahead on the Y/W route you can cut your day short!!) Here turn R on a track which soon starts going steeply uphill. | 10.9km 2hr 40mins |
| It turns to the W before rising still more steeply and then as it turns back to the North it finally levels out and reaches a col. | |
| Stick with this track now and ignore a junction to the R going back uphill and in a while as you continue more or less North you will notice a building in front and down below you to the L. You are aiming for this and at the next junction you turn L to soon arrive at the building. | 13.5km 3hr 13mins |
| Pass this by a few metres and turn L on a less well defined track and this soon becomes a clear footpath running ahead and down on zig-zags. This is delightful walking but it ends eventually when you cross a barranco, climb a short concrete ramp and emerge on a road where you turn R. | 15.1km 3hr 38mins |
| Pass a large house with diesel generator and satellite dish on your R and as you descend a drainage ditch is evident on your LHS with pipes as crossing points. At the second of these there is a blue dot on a stone on your L indicating the start of a path which you take out across a terrace and this soon becomes a clear track descending increasingly southwards and into the village. | |
| Turn L up calle San Vincent. Follow this around to the R and past the museum. Ignore the first turn R and at a fork take the R and descending route. Turn R and then immediately L into calle Jose Antonio and back to the car park. | 16.5km 4hr |
| Walk Recommendations or restrictions | None |

Route followed is outlined in red

