

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps, 13 th April 2014	
Last Updated	11th April 2017	
Title of Walk	Forada ridge and circuit from Al Patro	
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Al Patro in the Gallinera valley	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	14	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	800	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	4hrs 6hrs	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.820476,Lat:- -0.26291	
Directions to Start	From Pego take the CV700 westwards through the Gallinera valley to arrive in the village of Al Patro. As you leave the village there is a turning on the R signed CV714 to Llombai and Benissili. Follow this down a fw zig-zags and turn R into Carrer de Joan Fuster. Park at the side of the street.	
Short walk description	A fabulous ridge walk easily accessed by good valley roads and tracks with varied rock scenery, a castle and a Forat – a hole through the mountain!	
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far	
Return to the CV714 and turn R initially slightly downhill.		
Continue gently uphill until you reach a sharp LH bend and here continue straight ahead up a narrow concrete track.	700m, 8mins	
Emerge again on the road and turn R, continuing along the CV714 until you reach the outskirts of Benissili.		
As you arrive at the second village sign on a post look out for a concrete track going steeply uphill to the L and marked with the green notice board showing the 8 villages route.	1.5km, 19mins	
This leads onto some steps and at the first junction turn L. Follow the road around and keep a fuente (source of water) on your L.		

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<p>Pass the church and turn slightly L and continue ahead on a concrete track leaving the village between terraces. This has G/W paintmarks.</p> <p>Continue on this as it diminishes in size and eventually becomes a footpath at the side of a field.</p> <p>At a junction turn L uphill on a concrete track.</p> <p>Continue ahead on this as it levels a little and passes country casitas to emerge on a tarmac road where you turn R.</p> <p>At the Stop sign 100m further on turn L and make your way around a zig-zag bend.</p> <p>Just before a large walled house turn up R beside the house on a rough footpath to emerge on the main road which you cross directly to continue uphill on a tarmac road.</p> <p>Follow this as it turns L and then sharply R and levels for a while. Continue on the main concrete and tarmac road uphill ignoring side tracks which are drives to individual houses and access to terraces.</p> <p>Finally you arrive at a stone wall on the RHS and a set of gates set in this and as the road ends a footpath continues directly ahead and initially level.</p> <p>This rises and falls a little to cross a barranco and then continues to join a footpath rising up to meet you from the L. Continue ahead here below some imposing crags.</p> <p>As you round a corner under the crags the path starts to climb more steeply and soon pass a walled lime kiln.</p> <p>Looking up from here you can see some of the ruined castle walls and a gantry that has been installed to help with renovation (a long process!!)</p> <p>Keep going up the zig-zags ignoring the first junction straight ahead which leads to the metal gantry and instead taking the zig to the L and when you arrive at a partially restored building turn L again here to quickly reach a shallow col where the path is a little vague.</p> <p>There are opportunities to go to the R here and explore the back of the castle, but once done you should continue across the col slightly W of S to cross a level terrace and pass by a water tank with water flowing into it from above.</p> <p>The path continues ahead and after a few metres continue across rough stone where the path is unclear to reach a clear footpath in a few metres which rises beside the L bank of a barranco.</p> <p>A little way up the path crosses to the R bank of the barranco and continues steeply ahead to soon reach a col with fantastic views in all directions. In front of you to your L is the Serella ridge line and to the R in the far distance is the castle on a small hill above Cocentaina and to its R in the background the ridgeline of the Mariola with Montcabrer as its highest rocky top.</p> <p>Once exhausted from viewing turn L and walk uphill along a small ridge to cross a small top and then move slightly L to continue uphill to the highest point on the ridge with a cross – unnamed at 908m.</p> <p>From here turn L and walk to the NE down a ridge line with some slippery stone and slabs to find a weakness slightly to the R of a small crag wall where you can step down</p>	<p>2.1km, 27mins</p> <p>2.4km, 32mins</p> <p>2.6km, 35mins</p> <p>3.5km, 49mins</p> <p>4.3km, 1hr 5mins</p> <p>4.6km, 1hr 12mins</p> <p>5km, 1hr 23mins</p> <p>5.3km, 1hr 30mins</p>
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easily to reach a breach in the ridge.	5.5km, 1hr 33mins
From here keep ahead on the RHS of the ridge line rising slightly to re-join the ridge at some rocky steps and then follow around to the R and work your way downhill with an obvious path line appearing in front of you to the L and on the RHS of a barranco.	
Follow this down and reach a plateau area where you must take care to follow the cairns. These lead NE across the shallow plateau to emerge on the LHS of a ridge line but above and to the R of a line of crags.	6.2km, 1hr 45mins
Follow this thin path gently down and take care to find just before a small rocky knoll the path turning to the R and descending to a broad col with terraces on the RHS.	6.6km, 1hr 51mins
From the col make your way directly ahead and steeply uphill and then follow the path as it trends R and up below some crags on the LHS.	
Continue on this line until you pass the last of the crags on the L and then turn L uphill to reach the summit in 250m.	6.9km, 2hrs
Walk over the summit and continue NE down a ridge to a saddle and then uphill again almost due E to reach a summit with a concrete column as trig point on the top.	7.7km, 2hr 14mins
From here it is necessary to retrace your steps a short way before going off across rough ground downhill to the SE in order to avoid the crags that guard the summit directly to the E. After 200m of rough going the path becomes clearer and continues slightly N of E.	
Generally the going is easier on the next section down on the RHS of the ridge line where the rocky going on top makes for slow progress.	
A small top is passed on the RHS by dropping down from a col (with cairns)	8.4km, 1hr 29mins
and continuing on a clear path to arrive directly below the summit of the Forat.	8.9km, 2hr 38mins
If you are brave enough – think very brave!! - then you can continue ahead to reach some very exposed rocks where you can scramble OVER the hole in the rock and down the other side.	
Mere mortals however will want to climb just a little and then traverse around to the R to reach a large flat area below the Forat.	
From here descend on a Y/W marked path to continue along the ridge E.	
At a junction keep L overlooking the crags on the L and shortly looking ahead you can see a ruin in front of you still on the Y/W path.	
At a second fork keep L again to crest a rise and then drop to find the beginning of your descent path doubling back to the L at a T-jnc. (If you look to your R here you will see a section of crag with a walled enclosure. If you make your way along the Y/W towards it you can enter the house built at the crag edge and see the interior of this cave house. Time for this is NOT included)	10.1km, 2hr 56mins
Follow this intricate path (quite worn) down and in front of you you will see a junction at the base of the crags on the L with a thin path going straight ahead tight under the crags. This is our route.	10.5km, 3hr5min

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Follow this as it rises again and then descends to a junction where we keep straight ahead and descend steeply to join a tarmac road below.

10.8km, 3hr
11mins

Continue ahead (turning L) on the road and in 100m as it starts to descend take a slightly overgrown track with cairn on the LHS which soon becomes just a footpath.

Follow this ahead to cross 2 eroded barrancos and then reach a T-jnc with a track where you turn L.

11.3km, 3hr
19mins

Go uphill for a few metres and then ignore a further L turn which goes steeply uphill and instead follow the major track to go level and then soon downhill.

When you reach a concrete road turn R steeply downhill.

11.9km, 3hr
26mins

This soon becomes tarmac with many side turnings off which you ignore.

After passing a small tower with an Aquas Potables sign and date you run along a concrete block wall on the LHS, turn through a zig-zag and run downhill beside a small concrete wall with fence above it and in front of you a sight of the village and a green painted house with chimney pot.

13.1km, 3hrs
41mins

Pass immediately to the L of the garden fence of the green house and this leads into a set of zig-zags that pass down beside the cemetery and to the main road opposite your driving route down to the parking area.

Retrace your steps back to your car.

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Cherry blossom excellent during mid April

Route followed is outlined in red

