

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	15 th April 2013
Title of Walk	Orba castle, Castellet and Fontilles circuit from Murla
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Car park on northern outskirts of village reached from CV719.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	11.6
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	600
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3.33hrs 4.66hrs
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	S/B/Scr
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 38.762357, Long:- -0.082113
Directions to Start	Take the CV719 from Alcalali or Parcent and on arrival in the village proceed until you reach a 90degree L turn. Turn R here into Calle Cruz and immediately L. Follow this around to the R and turn R into the car park. There are "P" signs to this.
Short walk description	A demanding walk and scramble to rarely visited minor summits with unusual paths in places.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Leave the car park and turn R uphill to arrive beside a building with a legend "Ayuntament de Murla".	300m, 5mins
Pass this and continue slightly downhill on a track and when you reach a fork turn half L slightly uphill to continue level on a terrace.	
At the end of this it opens up as a track and meets a concrete road. Turn R here and follow this down to join a tarmac road.	800m, 11mins
Continue straight ahead on this until you see a pylon below you on the RHS. Turn R on a track down past this	960m, 13mins
and see a black water pipe on your RHS below a bancal wall. Drop down 2 bancales and at a footpath junction turn L.	
Follow this around to the R and drop down a couple of bancales to aim off half left	

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through a field of vines aiming for a large wall with "turret" which you reach by moving up a small slope. Follow the wall for a few metres as the path opens up as a track and follow this around to the R as the track continues to widen.	1.2km, 16.5mins
Turn L at a T-jnc and then in 50m turn R away from the wall (and avoiding a steep hill!) Continue straight ahead at the next junction and then curve around to the L. Turn R at the next junction and quickly arrive on tarmac.	1.4km, 18mins
Walk down to the crossroads and turn L. Follow this gently uphill until the tarmac runs out and the track drops a little and then ends at a parking area.	1.9km, 25mins
Keep to the RHS of this as you walk off the open area and almost immediately find a footpath going up through the rocks on the RHS with G/W paint flashes.	2.6km, 33mins
Concentration is needed to follow this as it weaves up through very rocky terrain and at one point crosses the ridge line to the other side (not continuing directly ahead as you might imagine) as it continues broadly up towards the rocky summit with its castle.	3.2km, 51mins
Once you have gained the summit and admired the ruins you need to retrace your steps a little before turning off to the L steeply downhill with assorted paint flashes and soon some G/W flashes as well.	
This difficult descent needs care to stay on the correct path and after a while it moves slightly L and continues down to the LHS of a small flat spur. Walk out on the LHS of this and then turn L and down towards the trees.	3.8km, 1hr 6mins
After a few level metres of path you arrive at a track where you turn L uphill.	
When this track ends turn R steeply downhill and quickly cross a small landslide continuing steeply downhill. This path veers around a little but essentially you keep to the RHS of a steep barranco which you can see on your L.	4.7km, 1hr 22mins
When you meet a track turn L continuing on the RHS of the barranco and steeply downhill.	
Go around to the L level for a few metres and then continue across broken terrain where you meet a track and turn L with a G/W marker post.	
When you reach a fingerpost on the track at the top of a bank turn R.	
At the next junction turn L and enjoy the views back up to the LHS.	
At a small building turn L on the track and as this ends continue on a footpath across a level area (sometimes marshy) and cross small concrete bridge, move L a few metres and then R level across a terrace.	5.3km, 1hr 32mins
After climbing 2 bancales ignore a path going uphill to the L across rough ground and instead continue slightly R across a sometimes flowery terrace.	
Cross the river valley aiming for a small concrete building and then follow the clear footpath up the R back uphill towards a wall. Step up onto this and turn L on a track.	5.6km, 1hr 37mins

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Follow this around to the R for 200m and pass one tarmac road on the LHS and take the second almost immediately afterwards.	
Turn L at the main road.	6.1km, 1hr 44mins
Walk up this until you reach a bend doubling back to the R and instead go off ahead on a much steeper road going up on the RHS of a barranco.	6.6km, 1hr 50mins
Follow this around a zig-zag bend (R then L) and as the road levels off you pass a medium size building on the LHS and then a large bush beyond which is a boulder with paint marks - "356".	6.9km, 1hr 57mins
Step up L here onto a feint path with cairns which turn slightly R and uphill in a few zig-zags before trending more directly up the ridge line slightly on the LHS.	
You reach a level stretch of path between 2 small walls and from here the line of the footpath is more obvious as it is joined by a barranco coming up from the LHS although it can be overgrown with small weeds and bushes involving avoidance action!	7.5km, 2hr 5mins
There are some lovely stretches of path here and these move on gently towards the summit. You arrive at a level plateau with some large piles of stones and a slightly astonishing building – a small hut or animal enclosure.	7.7km, 2hr 11mins
From here move ahead up the ridge line with some undergrowth to arrive just below the mast and move left along terraces to reach the summit with small amount of ruins – the Castellet.	8.2km, 2hr 23mins
From here the going is quite difficult heading due W and needing a scramble down steep rocks with red paint marks indicating the way.	
Soon this levels a little and you move slightly L to join a much clearer and obvious footpath at a T-jnc where you turn R and quickly reach the road.	8.5km, 2hr 30mins
Turn L here, stay on the main road to drop a little, pass a turning on the L to Fontilles and continue uphill for 150m to reach a turning on the L which we take.	8.9km, 2hr 37mins
(Just before this and on the opposite side of the road if you walk out onto the terraces you will see below you spanning the river a very old stone bridge. No motorist passing here will ever see this – you are privileged!)	
Follow the road uphill and around a sharp bend to the R and a more gradual bend to the L and 150m after this look out for the large wall – the boundary of the Fontilles sanatorium – on the LHS. Drop down to this and follow it downhill to join a concrete track after some 300m.	10km, 2hr 52mins
Continue ahead on this rising steeply but briefly uphill and passing some grand houses on the LHS and soon re-join the tarmac road and continuing ahead.	
When you reach a ceramic plaque on a wall on your RHS – Casa Los Almendros – keep straight ahead on a concrete track, follow this around to the R as it rises uphill and then take a clear track off to the L.	10.8km, 3hr 3mins
This rises slightly and then more steeply to reach the Ayuntamiento de Murla building on the RHS and then on tarmac drop downhill to reach the car park on the LHS.	
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	Good navigational skills and scrambling skills required

Route followed is outlined in red

