

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKS

BENICHEMBLA. EAST COCOLL—VAL DE ALMADIC

J12

CIRCUIT. ALMADIC-COLLADO DE MIRABO-COCOLL-POUET DE LA PENYA BLANCA-ALMADIC.

WALK STATS: DISTANCE 11.2km – **WALKING TIME** 3 ¼ hrs. – **ASCENT** 575mtrs. – **GRADE** MS

(Walking time only – add time for breaks and lunch)

WALK DESCRIPTION BY: Jean & Bob Hall hallbobandjean@aol.com **VERIFIED** Jan. 2015

LEGAL NOTICE: Although we strive to make descriptions as correct as possible, use at your own risk.

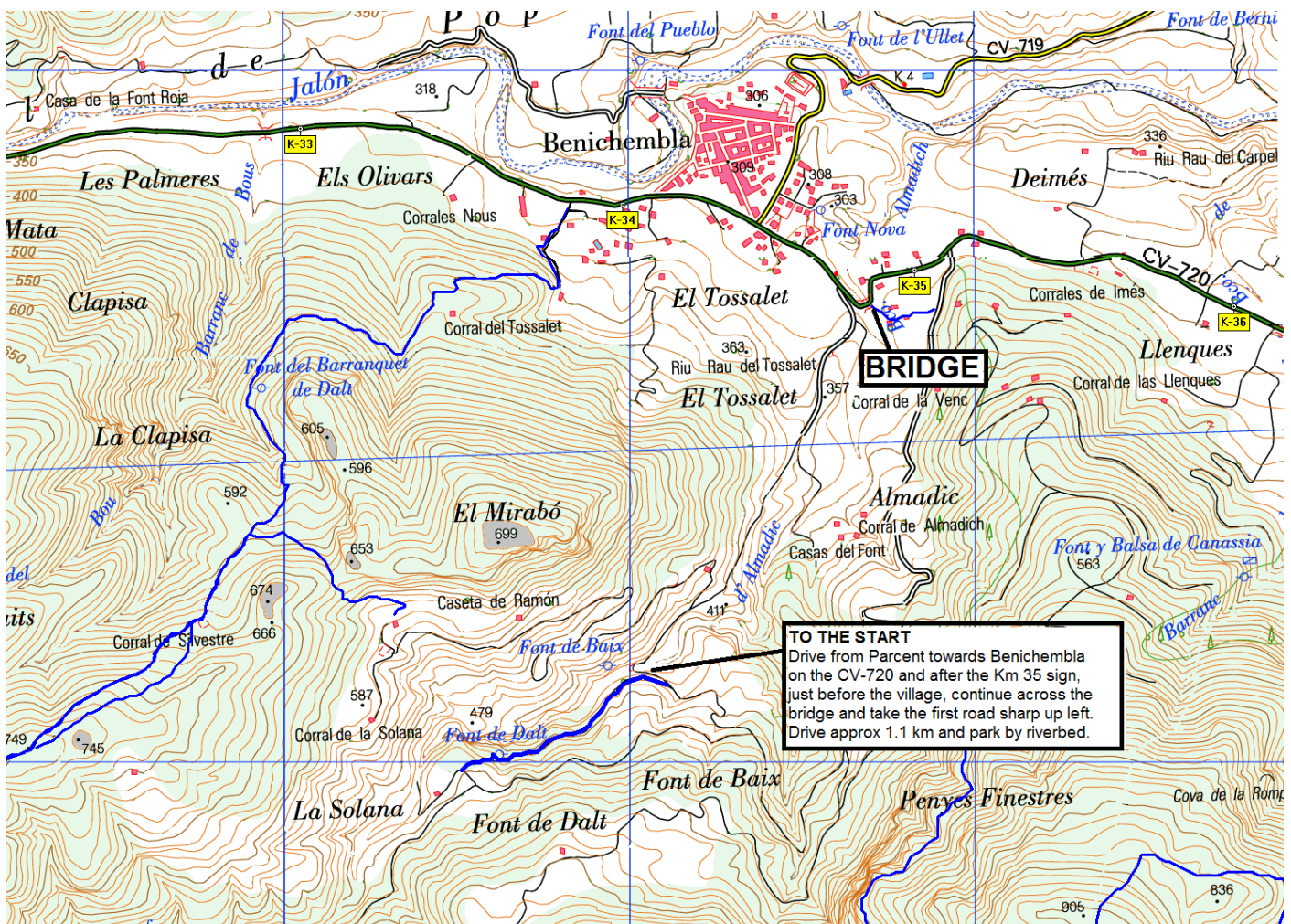
WALK DESCRIPTION

The Val de Almadic, South of Benichembla, is relatively undiscovered and still has a feel of remoteness and peace. It is bounded on the S.E. by a massive, craggy, escarpment rising nearly sheer some 600 meters and cut by several dramatic “cleft” barrancos, which, after an exceptional downpour, would create waterfalls. To the **NW** the mountain rises less steeply and levels out to the “hill like” summit of Cocoll, (1048m), which only reveals its mountainous nature by its stupendous cliffs descending 600 meters into the Barranco de Dalt, to the West.

This walk takes you up the gentler **N** side of the valley to the Collado de Mirabo and then on a path with constant views of the escarpment to the South and on to the Airstrip just below Cocoll summit. This is followed by a rough path down the head of the Barranco Almadic and a welcome relaxed walk along a good track ending with a short mule path, pretty fuente and a good straight path back to your start.

The walk verges on hard, certainly if the ascent of Cocoll is included.

50% paths sometimes rough, 40% tracks. 10% roads. Muddy after heavy rain.



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THE WALK.

Note that times quoted are walking time only - no breaks.

Underlined letters are map references.

**Total distance and
% of walk completed
based on total time**

Walk back up road and take the surfaced road up L . (3min 0.2km)	0.2km 2%
Zig Zag up road, which becomes a track, to small flat area with minor track off R . (30min 2.1km) <i>This can be identified by a ruin on the LHS corner and a white casita some 50 m up minor track.</i>	2.3km 17%
Walk up the minor track past the casita to a large boulder A on your LHS . (3min 0.2km)	2.5km 19%
Go L around the boulder. Follow the track to the end where it becomes a path. (3min .1km)	2.6km 21%
Take this path up to the Collado de Mirabo. Follow red and pink markings. From the Collado the path descends to arrive at a small ruin B with a blue dot on the corner. (10min 0.4km)	3km 26%
From the upper side of the ruin take the path going up which soon divides and you continue along the lower path to a sign post C . (2min 0.1km)	3.1km 27%
You continue up L(SW) following Y/W waymarkers to a ruined finca D (Corral de Silvestre). (7min 0.3km)	3.4km 31%
Continue up following the waymarked path to reach the top of the ridge. (12min 0.6km)	4km 37%
The path levels out for a short distance before starting the climb up to Cocoll airstrip. The square watch tower on the summit of Cocoll is clearly visible for a while but then disappears from view. This does not matter because the path is very clearly waymarked. Arrive at airstrip. (31min 1.8km)	5.8km 53%
From the airstrip the optional ascent of Cocoll, (1048m), is up the track. (Allow an extra 45 minutes walking time return and 125mtrs. ascent)	
Our way continues from the lower (SE) corner of the airstrip and follows a faint path, (Aim for a clump of large trees), ending with a short scramble, down to a ruin and "fields" of the collado El Cocoll (<i>distinguishable by many bathtubs</i>). (11min .5km)	6.3km 59%
Cross to the far side of the field and bear L until you pick up a path marked by red and white dashes. Follow this path to arrive at a cairn E where the path turns down L to descend to the barranco. (<i>The path straight ahead is marked by a red and white cross</i>). Carefully follow the red and white dashes which lead down the barranco. The decent is exciting but take care as it can be very slippery after wet weather. Arrive at the track near the Font de la Penya Blanca F . (30min 1.3km)	7.6km 75%
From the font you can enjoy a relaxed walk following the main track some 2.6 km to reach some small neat olive bencales and two boulders, one marked with blue and yellow dots, on your LHS . (35min 2.6km)	10.2km 93%
Turn L and follow minor track for a few meters to a ruin on the RHS . From near corner of the ruin find a mule path zig zagging down to a clearing where a small path goes off L . You go R and pass the Font d' Alt. Continue on path to reach a surfaced road. Turn L to arrive back at the concrete dam and your car(s), (13min 1km)	11.2km 100%

