

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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| Walk description originally prepared by:- | Ralph Phipps |
| Last Updated | 30 th December 2015 |
| Title of Walk | Castell d'Aixa horseshoe from Pedreguer |
| Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description) | Pedreguer |
| Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km | 16 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m | 960 |
| Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops | 5hrs 6hrs |
| Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system) | VS/B |
| Grid reference of start point (if known) | Lat:- 38.790971; Long:- 0.034053 |
| Directions to Start | Follow the CV720 out of Pedreguer towards Llosa and Alcalali. On the outskirts of the village there is a brown sign pointing to the L for the Ermita. Follow this road -initially Avenida Maria Lopez (and soon becomes Carrer del Migdia) around to the R and pass the Ermita. Ignore any side turns to the L slanting downhill. The road narrows a little, goes across a crossroads and then reaches a T jnc where you can only turn L or R. Turn R (Carrer Passatge) and park in ample parking at the foot of the mountain and barranco. |
| Short walk description | A wonderful mountain walk leading through complex terrain on good paths with a sense of remoteness. |
| Full Walk Description | <div> <div> <p>From the parking area, walk downhill a little(75m) and turn R into Carrer Meravelles. Walk to the end of this (100m) and just before a sharp LH bend there is a small footpath going up a ramp on the R. Take this path above and around the town and follow it carefully across bands of rock to emerge downhill onto a track going slightly downhill. At the bottom of this turn R at a T-jnc with the road</p> <p>and very shortly cross L at a Y/W mark on the road through an open picnic area and pass in front of a BBQ building. At the other side of the open area there is a finger-post at the start of a Y/W footpath which ascends in zig-zags. After a short distance of climbing there is a further finger post (L) which you ignore and continue upwards.</p> <p>At the ridge line you follow the ridge path along to reach a junction with signpost to</p> </div> <div> <p>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</p> <p>400m, 5mins</p> </div> </div> |

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| <p>"Font D'Enric" which you ignore. Shortly there is a second unmarked RH junction which you also ignore and then after this there is a finger-post with signs in both directions to Fonts. Turn L towards the Font Cobertura. The path descends in zig-zags to arrive at a picnic area with a dramatic roofed font and an information board about the area. Here turn R up the track.</p> | 2.8km, 49mins |
| <p>This surfaced track zig-zags uphill passing a cross roads with a large house on the RHS and an information board on the LHS</p> | 3.3km, 57mins |
| <p>and crests the ridge with views off to the L with a junction on the L with a fingerpost (Baranc de l'aigua-Font d'Aixa 2.28km). Take this track on the L for a few metres and watch for a Y/W footpath going off to the R by a cairn which we take.</p> | 3.8km, 1hr 8mins |
| <p>This contours gently along the LH flank of the mountain with expanding views down into the valley below, passes an indistinct path jnc. and reaches a clear junction where we take the LH descending path. This zig-zags down spectacularly with climbing crags down on the LHS to reach a terrace just above the valley floor. It turns across the barranco to the RHS and crosses a spectacular wall with well immediately on the R. (don't fall in!!)</p> | |
| <p>Beyond this it joins a track</p> | 4.7km, 1hr 18mins |
| <p>which we follow around to the R. At a sharp RH bend there is a footpath continuing straight ahead (option A) or we can follow the concrete road around to the R and downhill ignoring uphill side tracks (option B) and in either event we join the main surfaced road at the bottom of the valley and turn R and in a few hundred metres we reach Font d'Aixa – a large water deposito.</p> | |
| <p>From here we follow the Y/W path up the valley crossing to the L bank and then zig-zagging up a few bancales before arriving at an indistinct junction marked with a finger post - which points up the main path. You turn L and follow the indistinct path going steeply up on the LHS with tree debris across it. This path is occasionally marked G/W</p> | 5.8km, 1hr 32mins |
| <p>Push on up the hill where the path becomes clearer and at the top of the first slope thread your way through to the L to join a less clear path going up L along a gently rising bancal.</p> | 6.1km, 1hr 37mins |
| <p>Follow this till the bancal levels off and then turn R up on a band of rocks which you follow to the RHS of walls before turning up onto these and following an indistinct path steeply uphill. When you reach a scrubby area take care to follow the line of the path underfoot and swing around to the L where on exiting the scrub the path line ahead is more distinct.</p> | |
| <p>Crest a low rocky ridge</p> | 6.5km 1hr 49mins |
| <p>and immediately swing R and into a barranco where you rise a few metres and turn L following a clear cairned line uphill.</p> | |
| <p>When you reach a ridge turn R uphill and although it is difficult to make out the correct line of the old path by going up a few metres with cairns you arrive at a clearer path where you trend L and more level across the flank of the hill.</p> | |
| <p>Follow this generally level passing several subsidiary ridge lines off on your L until you arrive at a ruin. Pass up on the RHS of this and then back left and level before crossing a small area of scree and arriving at a level grassy terrace.</p> | 7.2km, 2hr 3mins |
| <p>Turn R across this and at the far side look for a clear path rising to the R away from a</p> | |

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| ruin below you on the LHS. | 7.4km, 2hr 7mins |
| Follow this now clear path marked with Y dots uphill to arrive at a col – Penyes Blancas. | 8.1km, 2hr 22min |
| Here turn L and join a Y/W path which passes along the RH flank of the ridge aiming always for a col which you can see in front of you. The col itself is wide and trodden by the feet of cattle brought up to graze on these slopes | 8.9km, 2hr 34mins |
| From the col turn to the R and mount the flank of Castell d'Aixa, the rocky summit directly above you, but by continuing to follow the Y/W path. As this starts to go up there is a distinct path going quite directly uphill while the Y/W turns to the R initially level and then rising. The latter is the better route and will minimise erosion. Reach the summit with trigonometric post and large pole! | 9.3km, 2hr 45mins |
| From the summit head immediately NE following cairns and Y/W markers, but be careful to look out for an abrupt change of direction as the path turns L to run under some crags to the SW. This then snakes down to reach a clear area and turns again more directly back to the NE and down to a shallow col with subsidiary summit on the LHS. There is a finger post here with a path running off to the R down beside a barranco. | 10.2km, 3hrs |
| Instead we continue ahead along the still clear path which rises up a little on the L flank of the ridge and then runs along the L flank of this for some time. | |
| Eventually we crest the ridge and the path starts to run along on the RHS of the ridge line and going downhill. About 100m after changing sides we encounter a cross roads with the path to the L going (initially uphill) down to Castell d'Ocaive and the one on the RHS being the one we take. It is a little overgrown in places but easily passable. | 11.5km, 3hr 21mins |
| This doubles back the way we have come from before rounding the head of a barranco and meeting a path junction. Turn L downhill and cross to the other side of the barranco to reach a col. Just before this there is a faint path on the LHS which we ignore and once at the col with cairn we turn L down a barranco with a clear path running down it and arrive at some cultivated bancales. Walk directly across the terrace to reach a path where we turn R following Y/W markers with a small rocky knob in front of us! | 12.7km, 3hrs 42mins |
| The path descends steeply with Y/W waymarks to reach a concrete road. | |
| Turn L slightly uphill on this. Ignore the first turn to the R which leads to large gates, but take the second very soon after and within 50m on the LHS there is a fingerpost for a Y/W footpath | 13.3, 3hrs 52mins |
| which descends to the L into and across a small barranco. The path then rises slightly over a small ridge and reaches a junction. The Y/W goes off down to the L and the other path is signed "Font D'Enric". | 14km, 4hr 4mins |
| Take this path and quickly leave it to the L to ascend with G/W markers to reach the top of a small summit. Crossing this the path is vague but if you continue in the direction you are going directly over the top then at the other side the line is clearer and again marked. | |
| This path descends to the L side of the ridge line, drops down some cat steps and continues along the flank for some time and soon begins zig-zag downhill towards the valley below. The houses of Pedreguer are now clearly visible ahead of you. | |
| Take care a little way down this path where a quite distinct line continues steeply | |

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downhill and the line of the G/W path turns R along a much better engineered line. Still further ahead there is a clear junction with the opportunity to go straight ahead on the G/W path or turn R on a less distinct line but still on engineered path. Either will do as they lead inexorably into the valley floor where you turn R to follow the Y/W path back to the parking area.

14.8km, 4hrs
20mins

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

None

Route followed is outlined in Red

