

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Geoff Hall and David Harbach	
<b>Last Updated</b>	Jan 2015	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Solana East Circular	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Lliber in the valle del Pop (commonly referred to as "Jalon valley" after its largest village, on CV720. Beside the two long blocks of apartments close to the river on the West (Jalon) side of the town.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17.5	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	810	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5hrs 6.5hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Grid ref.76104293 Using Terra Firma map Serra de Bernia 1:20000 Lat:- 38.744485,Long:- 0.003283	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	<p>From Benissa on the N332 at a very large roundabout at its north end, take a left turn signposted Senija and Jalon CV720 and continue to village of Lliber. On the west (Jalon) side of the village and at its very edge, there are two long blocks of apartments, turn into their drive and immediately drop down left into the concrete river bed. Park alongside the concrete wall on the right.</p> <p>Coming from inland, follow the CV720 running from Castell de Castells, and passing by the villages of Benigembla, Parcent, Alcalali and Jalon. Continue on to Lliber. To find the apartments before you reach the village.</p>	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A mainly circular route covering the east end of Sierra de Solana, which lies on the north side of the valley, with a short linear section at the beginning and repeated in reverse at the end.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
With your back to the road bridge walk north down the concrete surfaced road for 200m		

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<p>and cross the barranco on your LHS. Follow the track, which soon crosses back over the barranco, until it turns sharp R. On this bend another track joins and you take this and continue straight on. The track then becomes a path which takes you to the barranco. (sewage treatment plant on your RHS) (12mins, 1.05km)</p>	12mins, 1.05km
<p>Cross the barranco on this path and follow one of several paths through the pine wood, without gaining much height and without dropping down to the (smelly) water's edge. You soon reach a ruin on your LHS with a yellow mark. Continue straight on here. The path exits the wood and turns left into a valley.</p>	
<p>Cross the normally dry barranco at an obvious point and pick up a mozarabic trail, initially running up to the left. This zig zags up onto the shoulder, with a few cairns to help and continues uphill. Stick to the path if you can-it can be found with perseverance - but if you lose it, continue zig zagging uphill as best you can, following cairns where present, and watching for the area near the top, where the path moves to the left side of the shoulder, and continues to a flat area with a ruin and a well. (33mins, 2.00km)</p>	45mins, 3.05km
<p>There are often cattle here, and whilst not normally aggressive to people, they do not take kindly to dogs, and have been known to charge them, particularly if there are young, so if you have taken your mutt, put him on a lead and keep as far away from the big beasts as you can.</p>	
<p>Pass the ruin and continue uphill on an obvious path to a small col. (15mins, 0.74km)</p>	1hr, 3.79km
<p>Directly ahead over the col is the yellow and white waymarked track which is your return route from which you emerge at the end of the last climb of the day about 5 hours later. Ignore it for now and turn left onto a narrow path (also with Y/W) to a broad col and en route you may be able to pick out the ruins of Castel d'Aixa on the summit to its right which is where you are heading. (16mins, 0.80km)</p>	1hr16min,4.59km
<p>From the col, the short climb to the castle ruins is clearly yellow and white waymarked. There is a round concrete pillar on the summit through which the Greenwich meridian runs and then runs across the valley below (val del Pop ) to the summit of el Cao, the most distant summit on the south east side where there is another round pillar. To the west of it is the small craggy summit of Alt de Ample then Penya Talai, Col de Rates and the long whaleback shape of Carrascal de Parcent. Further west the summit of Cocoll is visible with a firewatch station on top. In the valley, from east to west lie the villages of Liber, Jalon, Alcalali (almost hidden) and Parcent. (12mins, 0.50km)</p>	1hr28min,5.09km
<p>From the castle ruins, head east onto a path descending on the left (north) side, past a well (km 5.71) and containers of water for the cattle. Herds of cattle and sheep are becoming fewer in this area and there may be no evidence of them by the time you do this walk. The path becomes flatter and reaches a junction where there may be a signpost (sadly they are often vandalised or stolen). (15mins, 0.70km)</p>	1hr43min,5.79km
<p>Take the left hand path running towards the ridge on your left, which it soon crosses to regain the north flank. A short section may be overgrown, but it soon becomes obvious and passes another well. The village of Llosa de Camatxo is below on the L and the Mediterranean is visible ahead. After 20 minutes, the path crosses to the right (north) side of the hill. You pass a clear path crossing it at right angles,(km7.30) which you should ignore, also ignore paths on RHS (km 7.86 and 8.09) and continue until you reach a signpost where you start the return leg. (40mins, 2.54km)</p>	2hr23min,8.33km
<p>Do a U-turn to the right signed "Font d'Aixa per Aspres 2.42km" to gain the return path and follow it to a small col ahead and slightly to the left. (ideal spot for lunch) Once reached, take the obvious path running away to your right and follow it downhill to a concrete road at which you turn right.(signed "Font d'Aixa 1.70km) (14mins, 0.70km)</p>	2hr37min,9.03km

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Ignore path on your RHS (km 9.24) and after several minutes, pass a building on your LHS and shortly after a large clear gravelled area on the right and continue to another clearing about 100m further on. (km 9.71) Turn right onto the track then after 20m right again onto a path Go L at a fork (km 10.23) and continue down to a new house on your RHS and another building on your LHS. Immediately after this second building turn L onto a path. (28mins, 1.79km)

3hr5min,10.82km

(If you would prefer to stay on the concrete covered track then ignore this path and continue to the road where you turn R and on to the Font)

Follow path down. After a short distance go R at a fork, cross a couple of terraces and leave on the LHS back onto the path. Go L at a fork (km 11.11) and follow this Y/W marked path down to a concrete covered road. (8mins, 0.60km)

3hr13min,11.42k

Turn R and continue up to a Font d'Aixa" (6mins, 0.45km)

3hr19min,11.87k

There is a water deposito and a picnic area. And beyond that, a path which you follow with Y/W markers. Be on the lookout for a stony path going off left across the barranco, and after crossing, follow the path uphill for a few metres then turn off it to the right on a path which initially is flat, then rises.

On reaching a signpost, turn L uphill signed "Castell d'Aixa". (10mins, 0.58km)

3hr29min,12.45k

Climb steeply, passing through some rock steps and an overhanging rock arch leaving little head room, and usually referred to as 'the squeeze' until you reach the small col through which you passed earlier on in the day. (29mins, 1.02km)

3hr58min,13 47k

You will probably feel relieved here because now the climbing is over for the day. From here on, you are reversing the initial ascent, so go straight ahead, (ignore Y/W cross) downhill to the ruin, and well. (6mins, 0.76km)

4hr4min,14.23k

Then following a terrace curving to the right, pick up the track which takes you onto the zig-zag mozarabic trail. As the descent becomes less steep, be on the look out for cairns which will guide off the shoulder to the right and to the rest of the descent to a small barranco. (25mins, 1.49km)

4hr29min,15.72k

Cross the barranco and turn immediately R on other side. Follow this path through the trees to a ruin on your RHS with a yellow spot on the wall. (4mins, 0.30km)

4hr33min,16.02k

Continue on the path to another larger barranco (sewage treatment works on opposite side so don't hang around!) (4mins, 0.22km)

4hr37min,16.24k

Cross barranco, bear R for about 40m to a path where you go R. This path soon becomes a track which joins another. (5mins, 0.38km)

4hr42min,16.62k

Turn R onto this track which runs alongside the barranco. At a fork go R, cross the barranco and, a little later cross it back and on to the cars. (7mins, 0.59km)

4hr49min,17.21k  
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There is a bar in the corner of the square which is quite friendly.  
Alternatively there are bars/cafes in Jalon opposite the tourist info centre and the rastro site where there is plenty of parking spaces.

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### Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Walk restrictions. Finding your way in bad weather could be a problem. Also you would miss out on some excellent views.

Too strenuous to do in the height of summer-June, July August and usually first half of September. Better done in the cooler months. The only place where there is safe (probably!) water to collect is at Font d'Aixa, just before the last climb, so take plenty, 2 litres minimum. Water from wells is definitely not safe for human consumption, but I often carry a jug on a long cord to collect well water for the dogs, who seem quite untroubled by it.

### Route followed is outlined in Red

