

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Geoff Hall	
<b>Last Updated</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2013	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Solana West Circuit	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Alcalali Start at alcalali cemetery.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	15	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	700	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4hrs (est) 5hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/C	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.752799,Long: -0.041338	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From Jalon on CV745. From Pedreguer on CV720. Arriving at Alcalali from the direction of Jalon, Turn right at the T-junction at the top of the bypass, in the direction of Pedreguer. Almost immediately, turn left, just before two tall gate posts and the cemetery is on the left. From Pedreguer on reaching the edge of Alcalali, and shortly before the Jalon turn off look out for the two tall gate posts on the right of the road. Turn in here and park.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A tough wander to remote summits with an easier return through quiet countryside.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>	
<b><u>This description can be improved by the addition of timings, map or gps track. If you do the walk please add whatever of these details you can and forward to the webmaster of WalksinSpain – Thanks.</u></b>		
<p>It is necessary to start by walking on the road for a short distance. Turn right onto the main road then left onto the Jalon road. Take the first left after 150 mtrs, pass a dark red house standing on its own then turn right between 2 small concrete posts with a yellow dot, onto a broad track, marked with yellow dots.</p> <p>Continue in the same direction, crossing a bco, then a field, to reach the bottom of an urbanisation. Take the right hand road uphill, with houses on both sides, and just after the road turns left, turn right along the far side of a house (very overgrown) until you</p>		

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are almost at the end of the fenced garden then scramble up over rocks to reach and pass a ruin.

Yellow dots will lead you to the start of a short traverse across old terraces, and the bottom of a forestry track. Follow this to the quarried area and cave marked with a cairn and red dots. The cave is well worth a visit, even without a torch, because part of the wall has collapsed, and there is a chimney, both of which admit light. There are some impressive stalagmites and stalactites which unfortunately have been vandalised.

Continue uphill to a ruin and an era ( a flat, circular area which was once used for grinding grain) and some ruins. Cross this onto the terraces behind, then traverse the terraces until you see red dots leading up a steep eroded corner, and follow red dots steeply to the summit ridge. If you lose the dots, simply continue uphill wherever the vegetation is least dense.

The ridge at this point is quite sharp, with good views of the Llosa valley and the village of Llosa de Camatxo ahead and the Jalon behind, valley which you have just left. Towards the coast, Montgo with its line of crags below the summit is clearly visible, and there are good views out to sea.

As you descend to the east keep to the left near the top of the crags, because there is a bit of a track here tho' somewhat overgrown, to reach the col clearly visible below. From the col, ascend again briefly in an easterly direction, then descend slightly to a col, avoiding a waymarked track off to the right past a small building towards Jalon.

The next ascent directly ahead is trackless and strenuous, but is followed by a short relatively flat section before the final rocky ascent to Castell d'Aixa. The weary can traverse around this to reach the col where cattle graze, below the hill Tossal Gran. Castell d'Aixa is very much a ruin with very little left standing, but it is a good viewpoint. It was probably one of the many built during the wars between the Christians and the Moors.

Those who ascend to the castle, will pick up a waymarked track on the far side of it, which runs away to your right and zig zags down to the cattle col.(where those more weary than you await you!) which is clearly visible below, and with the peak of Tossal Gran on its far side. You do not need to ascend Tossal Gran, but as an alternative, take a traverse path clearly visible and running along its flank leftwards to a flat area where a path runs off to the left to Font d'Aixa, or off to the right towards Lliber.

Take the path to the right where the obvious track descends very little at first then more steeply to reach a ruin and another flat area where cattle graze. These cattle can be aggressive towards dogs, so keep well clear if you are accompanied by your 4 legged friend.

Pass the ruin and a well and pick up a reasonably clear terrace contouring away to the left on the flank of the hill. This becomes a mozarabic trail, which is waymarked, but the track is eroded in parts by the cattle, and it needs a little concentration to follow. Eventually, it conducts you down a long flat shoulder with a deep valley on the right. As the shoulder flattens out, the mozarabic trail disappears, but continue across this flat section to look for a way off to the right, soon after an obvious burnt tree.

Look for some cairns and paint marks, but cairns do not always last long when there are cattle around. You may not pick up the descent track immediately but if you keep descending into the steep sided valley you will pick it up, and there are a few waymarks where it is obviously mozarabic.

After crossing the bco., at the bottom of the descent, follow the track through a small

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wood then keep traversing towards the sewage works. Head for the right hand end or the sewage works fence where there are plenty of boulders on which you can hop across the stream.

Follow the fence to the left, to a forestry track in the valley bottom and turn right until you reach the Jalon Lliber road, you can either cross the river bed just before the bridge if there is not too much water or cross the bridge and drop down onto a track which runs along the right side of the Jalon road, to emerge under a bridge, onto the Jalon bypass.

Turn right and continue to the rastro site, used as a car park except on Saturdays when the very large rastro (flea market ) is in session. On the opposite side of the road to the rastro, there are some cafes and bodegas (wineries) which are worth a visit. The last of the bodegas, and the biggest is popular because you can sample the wines for free, but not all are worthy of praise!

Proceed under the road bridge after the last bodega onto a roughly tarmaced road, which initially runs alongside the river. It is a quiet and pleasant road which passes through vinyards and orchards of olives, almonds and oranges. At a road junction, keep to the right, and after another km., you reach the Alcalali-Parcent road.

Turn right over the bridge to reach Alcalali village in 300 mtrs.. The cemetery is on the far side, on the road to Pedreguer, but it is well worth a diversion into the village past the cam bank and under the arch into the square. There are three bars here, all of which serve food. Two are closed on Mondays, and the other on Wednesday.

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Parts of the walk are very overgrown, and trousers rather than shorts are recommended. Also because in places, there may not be obvious tracks to follow, the walk is recommended for experienced mountaineers only.



**Outline of route taken – not accurate for navigation.**

