

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	25/09/13
Title of Walk	Vielha to Salardu
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Vielha Ayuntamiento
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	13.7
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	560
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 50mins 5hr 10mins
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/A
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 42.701677, Long:- 0.795429
Directions to Start	Find the main square with the church in the old part of the town. Looking up the hill from the bridge crossing the small river Carrer Major is the street to the RHS of the river. We take the street on the LHS of the river when looking up the hill.
Short walk description	A walk along the valley with the opportunity to explore the towns that line its banks.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Walk up the street past the Ayuntamiento and the tourist info office and continue ahead. (Carrer Sarriulera)</p> <p>After a little while this reaches an area with a sign board and views across the river with a more pastoral feel. The road now diminishes to a concrete track and continues uphill.</p> <p>As the track briefly levels off there is a finger post indicating a footpath going steeply uphill and signed to Betren, Escanhau and Arites. Take this.</p> <p>Ignore the fork reached in a hundred metres which is only a short cut (better to go straight ahead) and continue uphill.</p> <p>At a small plateau there are a number of large masts where we join a track trending slightly right and downhill and shortly ignore a footpath going uphill to the RHS. Continue towards Garros, Excanhau and Betren.</p>	<p>630m, 11.5mins</p> <p>880m, 19mins</p>

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When we reach a zig-zag track turn slightly uphill to the RHS.	1.2km, 26mins
At a small plateau with a house on the LHS the track turns sharp R and views open up ahead into the valley.	2km, 39mins
At the next junction keep left and shortly after this take a less defined track going downhill to the L through woodland. (signed)	2.4km, 44mins
Pass a small concrete obelisk on the RHS and cross a stream bed before the track deteriorates to a footpath with a small wall on the RHS (soon almost level).	
Join a track at a grassy open alp like area and then start to descend again.	3km, 55mins
Pass a stream bed where the track becomes concreted in part and zig-zags down to the village of Escanhou.	3.9km, 1hr 10mins
Just before the church turn L and follow the road down around to the L before arriving at a junction beside the Hotel Eth Petit turn R along Carrer San Sebastian.	
Reach the main road and walk up this about 10 metres before crossing to find a track. Walk down this and slightly rightwards to move up beside the river and enter the village of Casarilh.	4.6km, 1hr 20mins
Reach a T-jnc and turn L and follow this down towards the river where (in Sep 13) a rudimentary bridge crosses the river bed.	5.1km, 1hr 28mins
At the other side turn R and walk alongside the river bed for a few metres before rising steeply uphill on a footpath heading for a pylon.	
After climbing for a while you can look back and see traces of the damage caused by the floods in June 2013 and the works in place to shore up the banks. Continuing ahead we reach a wider track along a grassy terrace. When you reach a concrete road turn R along it.	
Dog leg around the church and then continue ahead ignoring a turn R. When you reach the main square a few metres further on turn R into Carrer Poladeres.	6.5km, 1hr 55mins
Follow this downhill and trending leftwards before reaching the main road which we cross and continue across an old bridge. At the other side of this turn L along a level gravel track.	6.8km, 2hrs
After a km or so ignore a track going more steeply uphill to the R.	
When you reach the church in Arties (sometimes open for visits) turn L slightly downhill and then follow around to the R to cross a small bridge at the Hotel Besiberri.	9.4km, 2hr 39mins
When you reach the plaza with the large metal bull in the middle turn R and walk along with the river on your L.. Stay on this side of the river and pass below some blocks of flats and a cage with captive bears as part of the re-introduction programme in the Pyrenees. There was much damage to this road in 2013 but you should continue ahead to zig up to the R., reach a tarmac road and turn L.	10km, 2hr 50mins
Follow this across the river and uphill to the first bend where you will see a set of steps across the road leading you up to the main road.	
Cross this directly and find a footpath heading slightly uphill.	10.4km, 2hr 56mins

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Join a paved road above a new development and continue ahead for 50m before turning L up a track running across a field. This reaches a bridge which we cross and immediately turn L uphill to reach a cross roads with a large ornamental chimney in the middle of the junction. Turn R here.	11.3km, 3hr 12mins
Take the first turning on the L to go steeply uphill.	
At the top turn R into Carrer D'espolha signed towards Unha to reach a rougher track with a No Entry sign. Continue ahead.	11.4km, 3hr 14mins
This track runs level across meadows with fantastic vies both up and down the valley.	
On reaching Unha the road runs downhill and passes a trough on the LHS just before a junction where you turn L.	12.7km, 3hr 25mins
This road passes a turreted house (1580) on the LHS and shortly after this bends steeply around to the R and crosses a river.	12.9km 3hr 38mins
Follow this as it rises ahead and joins a bigger road where you turn R and quickly start going downhill.	
Follow this to a tourist info booth at a car park on the RHS and just after this turn R into the village of Salardu. Keep ahead to a major junction where you can turn L down to the plaza and bars!	
Just below this a set of steps runs down to the main road and the bus stop for a return to Vielha.	

Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None
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Route followed is outlined in red.

