

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Ralph Phipps
Last Updated	10 th October 2013
Title of Walk	Pic d'Amitges from Puerto de la Bonaigua
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Baquiera A few kilometres to the SE of Puerto de la Bonaigua on the C28. There is a large car park for the ski area on the W side of the road. Park here
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	15.2
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	1182
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5hrs 8.5hrs
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/Scr/C
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 42.654059, Long:- 0.999535
Directions to Start	From Vielha drive E on the C28. Drive over the Puerto de la Bonaigua and descend to where there are some severe bends with a large car park on either side of the road. Park in the lowest of these on the W side of the road at 1900m. Drive to the end of the car park nearest the ski lift.
Short walk description	A demanding walk and scramble to a pyrenean summit in amongst dramatic and beautiful scenery.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
<p>Walk down along the edge of the buildings to find 2 small stream bridges which you cross to find a footpath heading south along the flank of the mountain. There is an info board headed Aigues Tortes and a fingerpost to the Estany de Gerber at 1.5hrs and Refugio de Mataro at 3hrs. They do not lie!!</p> <p>Follow this footpath slightly upwards and along the flank passing some patches of bouldery scree on better ground as it heads towards a corrie falling from the mountain on the RHS.</p> <p>Soon we turn uphill in zig-zags to crest a spur and drop a little to the first lake – Estany Gerber. This is a very picturesque location worth lingering at for a few minutes.</p> <p>Now carry on past the front of the lake and then head L up the rocky path.</p>	1.8km, 38mins

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Now we pick up green and orange paint splashes as our markers as we cross a second spur to drop a little again.

Swivel around to the R and find your way up some rocky slabs and then resume the upward march as you encounter all sorts of rocky encumbrances some of which resemble simple steps.

Reach a fingerpost

2.7km, 53mins

where we turn L downhill a little and then soon reach a viewpoint over our second lake. Pause for photos!

Now work around the L side of the lake on a clear path to reach a rocky staircase which we ascend to soon reach the third, bigger, better and arguable even more beautiful lake - Estany de Gerber.

3.5km, 1hr 4mins

Pass this on a rocky ramp and quickly start to climb on the LHS across varied terrain. As you reach the end of the lake down below you on the L there is a tricky gully to climb filled with large boulders. At the top of this you quickly pass an old metal fingerpost and then a more modern wooden equivalent just beside a small lake.

4.4km, 1hr
20mins

Work initially along beside the lake and then follow carefully the green and orange waymarks (and cairns) as the path climbs steeply at times and meanders around knolls and watercourses in the direction of the refugio.

Finally the refugio comes in to view and you must work around to its right to find the best way of ascending to its lofty perch.

5.8km, 1hr
44mins

Admire the sleeping accommodation and the fortitude of those who built and equipped this emergency shelter. **NB – the map below does not show the refugio in the correct position.**

When refreshed if you wish to proceed to the summit of Pic d'Amitges there is at least an hour and a half of hard work remaining!

Take care to find a yellow dotted route leading due south off the refugio knoll which at its foot turns W to descend down difficult terrain to the banks of a small lake.

Work south along this on the E side – still following yellow dots – and at the end of the largest lake cross through a large boulder field to find easier going at the other side and a path which climbs steeply to the Col de Lac Glacat.

6.6km, 2hr 5mins

Now you must turn L up the ridge line still finding yellow dots and cairns to mark your way.

As you progress up this a second col above and on your R comes in to view. We do not reach this but crest the ridge line above and to its L.

If you reach this point - the col d'Amitges with its own finger post - then the summit of Pic d'Amitges is above and to your L.

7.3km, 2hr
21mins

However it is a difficult proposition to reach the summit from here as there is a field of colossal boulders guarding its summit.

Instead return a little way until you can find a line on easier turfy ground going up

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towards the summit. This crests a small ridge and then there is nothing for it but to take to the boulders for a little while moving upwards and rightwards to find the easiest going off the boulders as soon as you can.

Continue moving up to reach the summit guarded by still more gargantuan boulders!

Now all you have to do is to re-trace your steps to your car!!!

7.6km, 2hr
27mins
(NB – 3hr 40
elapsed!)

Walk Recommendations or restrictions

Only for experienced navigators and mountaineers

Route followed is outlined in Red – part 1



Route followed is outlined in Red – part 2

