

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps and Anna Ahmed	
<b>Last Updated</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Lliber to Castell d'Aixa circuit through secret valley	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Lliber On the LHS of the road between Lliber and Gata near some bins close to the Restaurant Vall de Pop.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	720	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5hrs 6hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	S/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.744589, Long:- 0.018029	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	The CV745 from Jalon leads to Lliber and from there take the the CV748 towards Gata. At the top of the hill before you start to descend take the L turn and immediately the second R track and park near the bins on rough ground.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A delightful mountain day top the summit of Castell d'Aixa with on good paths all day and with a beautiful valley to finish.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<div> <div> <b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b> </div> <div> <p>Start by continuing down the track past the bins and taking a R turn downhill for a few metres.</p> <p>As you pass between 2 houses with fences at the bottom of the house on the LHS is a footpath that leads off to the L. Follow this.</p> <p>This winds slightly downhill through some fire damaged forestry. After only a few metres take the L fork at a junction.</p> <p>Continue downhill on easy ground. Listen out for rushing water down below you which marks the outlet of the sewage plant and soon after this take a steep path downhill to join a track at the bottom of the hill.</p> <p>You can pass the sewage farm on either side. Either cross onto a field directly in front of</p> </div> <div> <p>460m, 5mins</p> <p>1.4km, 18mins</p> </div> </div>	

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you and work around the boundary of the plant on the LHS or alternatively turn R on the track and then L at the far end of the plant and walk along a track.

In either event at the fat side of the plant cross the river bed and follow a clear path into trees and continue almost level towards a ruin.

Here turn R uphill for a few metres at the far side of the ruin before turning R and continuing level again. For a few metres the path is vague but swiftly becomes clear again with yellow paint splashes.

Follow this around to the L to find a barranco on your RHS and continue ahead until you can cross this to a clear zig-zag path on the far bank.

2km, 29mins

Follow this up on zig-zags which are clear until they reach the ridge line.

2.4km, 37mins

Then they double back a little to the L and level before recommencing the ascent across a more complex line. The path has been eroded here and many people and animals have just gone straight up the hill, but by diligent observation you will be able to see the correct route that zig-zags less steeply upwards.

After turning through a rock gateway this turns L along a terrace to arrive at a ruin with a well just before it.

3.4km, 59mins

Turn uphill at the far side of the ruin on a clear path with no alternative now but to follow the line made by others as the engineered path seems to have been irrevocably lost.

Follow this up to a col at Penyes Blancas with views across to the L and the summit of Castell d'Aixa.

4.1km, 1hr 14mins

Turn L here along a Y/W path that is heading for the col directly below Castell d'Aixa. Once there turn R and up the zig-zags still indicated by Y/W markers to take you to the summit.

5.4km, 1hr 37mins

From the summit head immediately NE following cairns and Y/W markers, but be careful to look out for an abrupt change of direction after 100m 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.

6.1km, 1hr 51mins

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.

7.4km, 2hr 10mins

Pass an unmarked crossing of paths but continue ahead.

At the next path junction with fingerpost but no signs (in 2013) you are above a set of cultivated terraces on the RHS with a building to the L of them. Take this R turn which runs level into terraces with olive groves.

8.5km, 2hr 28mins

Follow this Y/W marked path around the head of a barranco and up over a small col on the RHS. Here continue straight ahead to find the path descending and running leftwards

9km, 2hr 35mins

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to reach a concrete track. Turn R here towards Fonts Cobertura and d'Aixa.	9.2km, 2hr 45mins
Follow this for 200m or so and turn R onto a footpath signed Font d'Aixa per aspres.	
Follow this path under some crags and around the head of a barranco and then uphill briefly to crest a ridge which you round to the R and then views of the Aixà valley open up below you.	10km, 3hr
Pass a renovated building on the LHS and follow a track down the valley floor where you meet a road. Turn L here.	10.7km, 3hr 10mins
Follow this down for several km to cross a river bed, walk uphill and meet the main Lliber to Gata road.	12.8km, 3hrs 40mins
Cross this directly and head uphill on the Camino Xaquiera on tarmac.	
Turn L onto a track with red, yellow and blue dots on a small rock on the LHS.	
Ignore 2 L turns and continue ahead on a footpath with yellow dots.	
This leads up the valley with impressive crags on the LHS. Further up the valley we reach a fork and keep L.	
Follow this as it turns steeply uphill between terraces and soon reaches a concrete road where we turn L.	14.4km, 4hrs
When you reach the tarmac road turn L and continue ahead ignoring driveways off on each side.	
Soon reach the main road again and your car park is directly across the road a few metres.	

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Limited parking – 10 cars.

**Route followed is outlined in Red**

