

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

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	
<b>Last Updated</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Mediodia circuit from Tormos	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Tormos Piscina car park	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	15	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	825	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	5.25hrs 6.5hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.7989, Long -0.0771	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Coming from the south (Orba) on the CV715 at the outskirts of the village turn L (signposted to Costera del Moll) into Calle Pozo. Take the next L (Carrer Val de Llaguart) and then take the 2nd turn on the RHS just after the bins. Drive to the end opposite a plaza and turn L into Avenguda Joan Carles I. Drive a few hundred metres along this past the playground and piscina and park on open ground 50m further on the LHS.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A walk around the flanks of this ridge with fabulous views and scenery all day. Undulating on scrappy paths in the morning in imposing surroundings with easier going all afternoon.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
Walk out of the car park, turn left, walk up the track passing a turn on the LHS with a pumping station.		
Follow it round as it curves round to the right past an old pumping station and up towards a water deposito (only visible when you make the detour to it!). You will pass a little bit of landslide material where the road has been eroded and just at a bend where there is obvious parking on the right and left hand side before the road sweeps up to the R to the deposito, just go straight ahead down a steep bank slightly to the left and drop into the barranco on the L.		720m 10mins

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<p>There is barely visible evidence of some old steps down to the barranco. Work your way to the right up the barranco a little before trending left and finding the obvious continuation of the engineered mozarabic trail that starts up just slightly on the left above the barranco.</p> <p>This zig zags back up slightly steeply and eventually reaches a plateau. Stick religiously to the line of the engineered path which is the leftmost of the lines which you will see and then go around a tree and up some shallow scree where there is a continuation of a clearer path crossing a small col soon with green paint markers to indicate the correct route.</p> <p>You follow this down one or two small bancales and then start trending right towards a ruined casa just near the head of a barranco. Walk through the ruins and follow a clear line into a barranco.</p> <p>There is a clear route up at the bottom of a small crag. Watch for this carefully as a cairn suggests that you go straight on. Go on to a wall and then turn left onto an overgrown mozarabic trail which is clear in some places and quite hard to follow in others.</p> <p>Keep following this up – it is marked reasonably generously with spots and cairns. This track is slightly difficult to follow and in one or two places it is easier to follow a more gentle line up (cairned) and doubling back than it is to stick to the route indicated by the green dots.</p>	1.3km 25mins
<p>In any event by judicious peering about for some quite magnificent cairns (subject to animal damage!) you will be able to follow the route as it reaches the end of a spur and turns quite abruptly right.</p> <p>Just around this spur drop a little indicated by cairns to reach a short section of eroded mozarabic path and then trend upwards on a fault line through broken rock again on a clear path.</p>	1.6km 35mins
<p>Go around the head of a second barranco still on a clear line and then wander through a fairly dense cactus garden with large cactus plants on either side, slightly uphill and look out for a boulder on the right which has a large red "T" on it. The stem of the T points uphill to a corralled cave, that is a cave with a wall round its entrance.</p> <p>This makes an interesting viewpoint – go and have a look at it then return to the path and continue through quite dense vegetation but still on a clear path going downhill now and working into a very large barranco on the right.</p>	1.8km 41mins
<p>Follow this track carefully as it descends generally but rises up once to round a couple of rocks – mind your head on some of these – and then descends again on a very clear line with both green circles and red dots to help you find your way. Lowish down take care where there is a junction where there appears to be a line going straight on. There is also one slightly up to the right – take this one - and it soon crosses a small ridge and drops down to a spectacular empty water deposito on the left and after a few metres a fuente on the right. Walk straight past this and you are now on a Y/W path.</p>	2.2km 47mins
<p>The path crests a small spur and then starts to drop downhill aiming steadily for a ruined casita. As you descend towards this look out for a cairn on the RHS (about 100m before the ruin) and turn R here back uphill and initially only a few metres away from your original path.</p> <p>Soon however it diverges to the L and climbs steadily towards a col high up on the LHS. This path is tricky to follow as the occasional tree obscures the correct line, but by</p>	2.5km 53mins

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diligence you arrive at the col as a second path joins from the RHS and the path then becomes much clearer.	
Drop down slightly across a "lawn" and as you arrive at some trees cross to the R a little in among what looks like a concrete wall – in fact composite boulders.	3km, 1hr 6mins
The path line here is initially clear and drops quite steeply down on scree to arrive at a ruin which you must pass with some difficulty on the LHS. Now trend R'wards and through some trees by a font with stone trough and once past this slightly uphill on a clear path into the trees.	3.2km, 1hr 11mins
Look ahead for a crag in front of you and keep going steeply uphill about 50m away from this where you will find an intermittent path.	
Once past the line of the crag you emerge on a small platform	3.4km, 1hr 19mins
where there are views off to the LHS and then aim rightwards again into the trees and on thin paths uphill.	
Soon this becomes clearer as you exit trees into scrubland and arrive on top of a spur where you turn R and descend a little into some trees again. As you pass a very large pine trend upwards a few metres to find a clear path where you turn L and level for a short while before climbing up across scree and boulders aiming towards a rocky corner of the mountain.	3.5km, 1hr 22mins
If you hit the right line here you will emerge from the trees with a steeply sloping path that zig-zags up in this corner.	
After several changes of direction you arrive at a cairn where a much clearer old mozarabic path takes off to the L. Follow this with difficulty as it wanders off across the slopes before commencing a series of zig-zags uphill.	
You are now aiming for the spur out to your L and above you is guarded by crags so do not go too high even if you lose the path.	
As you approach the spur end you must clamber up a few rocks just below the crags to find a path continuing on much clearer ground ahead.	4km, 1hr 36mins
Push your way through banks of palms for a few metres to emerge on a clear path going uphill to the R.	
Follow this as it passes a small landslip area and then arrives at a narrow rocky door just above what is very occasionally a waterfall off to the L. This area has been used as a small corral in the past and you descend for a few metres to cross the corral wall and cross the stream bed feeding the waterfall.	4.5km, 1hr 48mins
Here turn up L still on a clear path and follow this across a landslip area to find yourself on a clearer line with evidence that this was once a wider track.	
Reach a col, pass through a ruined fence and continue on a broader track soon trending downhill.	4.7km, 1hr 55mins
Follow this to a bend to the R where you descend to cross a barranco among cultivated terraces with a stone trough and well.	5.3km, 2hr 2mins

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Continue on this track until you reach a road (with concrete surface on the R). Turn R along this.	5.9km, 2hr 10mins
When you reach a finger post with sign to PRCV 53 towards Pego and Tormos, turn R and drop down hill	6.9km, 2hr 22mins
to reach a broader track also with finger post. Turn R towards Tormos.	
Follow the track uphill to crest a ridge	8.2km, 2hr 41mins
and drop down the other side. Zig R and then L on the track which is now on a much vaguer line and turn R at a cairn across a terrace to follow a footpath line. After the few metres across the terrace this mounts the slope on the RHS and rises briefly.	
Continue along this path now with Y/W markers along the northern side of the Mediodia ridge. There are fantastic views up the mountain through crags on your RHS and over Pego and the marshes on your L.	
The going here is straightforward and there is nothing for it but continue easily for a while.	
Occasionally you drop down a bancal wall requiring care and soon after the last of these you arrive at a short patch of scree where you are rising slightly. At a junction above this there are options.	10.4km, 3hrs 16mins
The most straightforward of these is to turn abruptly R doubling back on yourself and following Y/W markers as you push on over a col and drop to a ruin.	11km, 3hrs 28mins
(The alternative at this junction is to proceed ahead ignoring a Y/W cross and near this to turn L still on a clear path now descending. Now you pick up old Y/W markers again and after 30m turn abruptly R on a thinner line) This pushes through undergrowth and palms and soon you are in sight of a very large old ruin with collapsing roof. Just before this you turn T through palms and arrive at the front door. Pass to the RHS of the ruin still with Y/W markers and climb 50m or so uphill before trending R to arrive at a col with Cavall 1 on the LHS. Thread through this col rightwards and follow a clear path with both red dots and Y/W markers descending slightly to arrive at the ruin where you meet the other better path – <b><u>The GPS track shows this route</u></b> )	
Arriving over the col when you reach the ruin turn R along a clear path with Y/W markers. This becomes easy to follow although there are patches of palms requiring effort to push through.	
Descend briefly to arrive at a platform with baths old and new – one ceramic, and two old stone troughs.	11.4km, 3hr 37mins
Turn R here along a terrace with crags up above you on the RHS and soon start to descend.	
Near the end of the crag line arrive at a Y-jnc where you turn R and slightly uphill in zig-zags to arrive at a rock gate.	11.7km, 3hr 44mins
Pass through this and descend again until you reach a fingerpost where you could take a L turn towards Sagra. Instead take the R turn towards Tormos and rise a few metres to round the end of a spur.	12.3km, 3hr 58mins

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Soon you will be able to see Tormos in front and below you as we start to descend steadily.

At an indistinct junction aim L downhill along a heavily eroded path with fascinating rock scenery and soon arrive at the bottom with stations of the cross on a track. Turn R here.

Follow this as it turns into a road with houses either side and (disappointingly) climbs steeply. Continue to the top, turn L and drop downhill steeply.

At the bottom turn R and return to the car park.

13km, 4hr  
13mins

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Considerable navigation skills required for the first part of the route.



**Route followed is outlined in Red**

