

## COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Siggi Palsson and Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2013	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Tarbena circuit to Font d'Olbis and Castell dels Moros	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Tarbena Car park	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	17	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	870	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4.33 6	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.6955, Long -0.103793	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From the North, take the CV715 from Parcent, over the Col de Rates and onwards towards Tarbena. Pass the turning to Castell de Castells and at the outskirts of the village on a bend continue straight ahead and uphill into Avenida Eusebio Signes. At the top of the rise, turn sharp right and park.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A circuit through the hills around Tarbena providing exquisite views and scenery all day. Considerable climb after lunch.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>From the car park continue uphill ignoring turnings off to the L and ascending a concrete track steadily climbing.</p> <p>At a junction on the ridge line continue ahead and slightly downhill for a few metres with stunning views across to the rocky spurs around the Tancat gorge and Bolulla castle. Reach and follow a cairned and paint marked path going off to the R after only a few metres of descent and just after an electricity pylon.</p> <p>Descend in zig-zags crossing a track until you reach a path descending L into a barranco with a "Privado" sign turn R across a level terrace wall with Y/W signs.</p> <p>Join a track where you drop down L a few metres before turning R uphill on a concreted track.</p>		545m, 7.5minds

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At the next junction go straight ahead downhill, still on concrete.	
Further ahead turn R onto a rough track with Y/W markers.	1.1km, 16mins
At a fork keep L and level and walk into a barranco.	
Work up steeply in zig-zags and when the track levels trend slightly R to arrive at a plateau.	1.9km, 28mins
Here follow a path slightly R across a terrace to arrive at a fantastic viewpoint looking out across an immense drop into the depths of the Tancat gorge.	
Retrace your steps from this viewpoint and where you meet the track turn abruptly L (due N) to follow a footpath.	
Follow this uphill and around towards the head of a barranco. As you approach this you can see the continuation of your path contouring around to the RHS of the barranco. Drop down a few zig-zags and continue around to the R.	2.5km, 38mins
Follow this path with great views until it meets a tarmac road where you turn abruptly L.	3.1km, 46mins
Continue over a col and soon after starting to drop the tarmac runs out and you are on a rough track. Continue ahead.	
Reach a junction where a secondary track continues ahead and you turn R and go slightly uphill.	4.4km, 1hr 3mins
At a fork a few hundred metres ahead, keep R.	
Reach a minor tarmac road and turn L to reach a major tarmac road within a few metres.	5.3km, 1hr 15mins
Turn L along this for 150m to reach a rough parking area on the RHS with 3 picnic benches.	
Now continue ahead (N) along a rough track and at a fork keep R to reach a second junction where you turn sharp R onto a concrete track.	5.9km, 1hr 24mins
Zig around to the L and continue uphill on concrete.	
Where the track starts to level reach a further fork and continue R zig-zagging around several barrancos.	
Pass a small house on the RHS and a few metres further on reach Font d'Olbis – a large water trough with a flowing water pipe entering on the L. The water is delicious.	7.1km, 1hr 40mins
Continue on the track past the trough and it soon turns R downhill on the LHS of a barranco.	
Pass a couple of ruins on the LHS	7.5km, 1hr 45mins
and then zig-zag R and L taking care to pick out the correct line as the track diminishes in stature. There is a small rocky ridge on the RHS which you see as you pass down past it.	
Reach a footpath junction where we turn sharp L on rough rocky ground before zigging back to the R.	

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<p>Pass a ruin on your RHS and continue ahead through palms to drop down into a barranco. Make your way down this for a few metres before exiting L with a blue paint splash on a large boulder. Follow the obvious path ahead and generally uphill.</p>	7.9km, 1hr 52mins
<p>Reach a second barranco and again turn R to cross it exiting as before beside a boulder with blue paint mark.</p>	
<p>Now work up steeply on a clear path and pass a small rock buttress before climbing again to reach a level terrace (ignoring side turnings) which we follow ahead to join a track.</p>	8.4km, 2hr 2mins
<p>The track runs into concrete and we continue ahead on the major line dropping to eventually reach the main road.</p>	9.5km, 2hr 16mins
<p>Turn R and in 50m turn sharp L onto a concrete road with Y/W markers.</p>	
<p>At a fork keep L and descend out on the LHS of a small spur until you reach a small breeze block building where there are 2 painted arrows to the L. Take this LH footpath which we follow in zig-zags.</p>	10.2km, 2hr 24mins
<p>Reach a very substantial ruin on a spur where we keep to the L following Y/W markers to a tarmac road where we turn R.</p>	11.3km, 2hr 39mins
<p>At a junction keep ahead, passing the high walls guarding a hotel on the RHS.</p>	
<p>Near the end of this wall there is a complex junction with a signboard "Foia del Saboig" where we turn L and walk up a steep concrete track.</p>	11.5km, 2hr 42mins
<p>Continue on this until the concrete runs into an old mozarabic trail with stone paving continuing ahead to reach Font Benisallim with a big tank on the RHS and pipe on the LHS.</p>	12.5km, 2hr 59mins
<p>Continue L up the concrete track until you reach an area where the views open up to the LHS and you pass a pylon and can see off to the LHS a large crag. Immediately past the pylon turn L (opposite to a track on the RHS)</p>	12.7km, 3hr 3mins
<p>and work your way up 2 terrace walls to join a rough track and then continue ahead uphill.</p>	
<p>When you reach a junction with the main crag high up above you turn L and walk slightly downhill.</p>	13.1km, 3hr 9mins
<p>When the concrete runs out continue ahead and level on a rough track. Pass a house on the RHS and continue.</p>	
<p>Reach a cairn on the RHS and follow this path uphill in a few zig-zags before moving L across a level terrace towards a large tooth of rock in front of you.</p>	
<p>When the terrace runs out turn R uphill in zig-zags in order to gain enough height to pass to the RHS of the tooth of rock. The path is thin and difficult to follow here, but the intent is to drop into the space next to the "tooth" and then continue ahead, admiring the climbing bolts secured into the face of the boulder.</p>	13.8km, 3hr 19mins
<p>The path is complex here as you thread through several small "teeth" and finally see a cairn on the LHS which shows the start of a much clearer footpath moving level briefly before starting to descend away from the crags.</p>	

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<p>Emerge by a large round tower with fenced enclosure and turn R along the fence on a rough footpath.</p>	<p>14.2km, 3hr 29mins</p>
<p>Pass a ruin on your LHS with a fantastic terrace (worth a pause) and then continue down towards the valley. Reach a concrete track and continue ahead passing houses on your LHS.</p>	
<p>Before you reach the main road turn R steeply uphill on a concrete track.</p>	<p>14.7km, 3hr 37mins</p>
<p>Walk behind a house under construction and then steeply up to the first terrace and directly ahead.</p>	
<p>Before you reach the next house look out for a set of stone steps leading up to the top of the terrace wall directly in front of a ruin and turn L to continue. Immediately past the house clamber up the terrace wall in front of you and continue ahead.</p>	<p>14.9km</p>
<p>Work out L and uphill to first find a thin "hunter's" footpath and then as you gain height you intersect a better footpath where you turn R.</p>	<p>15km, 3hr 44mins</p>
<p>Follow this steadily uphill with a view of a ruin on the top of the hill which is our objective. As you approach the ridge line, turn L at a junction more directly aiming for the ruin.</p>	
<p>Once you have examined the ruin, its water tanks and the threshing circle lower down on the NW side and enjoyed the view N over the cliff edge, retrace your steps.</p>	<p>15.6km, 3hr 57mins</p>
<p>When you pass the "hunter's path" ignore this and continue ahead on the clear footpath</p>	
<p>Emerge on a concrete road beside Poble d'Alt 9 and continue ahead passing restaurant Ca s'Pelut.</p>	
<p>Just after a small rise turn L towards the main road, but just before you reach this turn L again steeply downhill on a concrete road.</p>	<p>16.5km, 4hr 11mins</p>
<p>Reach the main road and turn R passing a convenient but scruffy bar on the RHS before arriving at Avenida Eusebio Signes where you turn L to reach your car.</p>	
<p><b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b></p>	<p>Endurance!</p>



Route followed is outlined in Red

