

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Kees Andriessen CBMW, March, 2014	
Last Updated	23 rd March 2014	
Title of Walk	Morrón de Alhama via caracol from El Berro	
Location of Start	El Berro – Sierra Espuna	
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	21	
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	850	
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	5hrs 35mins 7.5hrs	
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	VS/B	
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat:- 37.888047, Long:- -1.49279	
Directions to Start	Walk starts at entrance to car park in El Berro	
Short walk description	A delightful walk along an open ridge with a stiff climb up a fire break followed by an enchanting track up towards the summit of the ridge. Return via woodland tracks and a simple barranco back to the village	
Full Walk Description		Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
Turn L out of car park and R at first road junction. (1min, 100m)		1min, 100m
After 30m turn L onto R/W marked path. Continue through gate and up a path at the bottom of a barranco. (the barranco is like a gravel drive most of the way with the path leaving now and again on either side to cut corners and find the easiest route). Another small barranco, which also acts as a path, joins from the LHS which you take. (20mins, 1.32km)		21mins, 1.42km
Continue up this barranco to where the valley widens and the path forks. The L is marked R/W and the R continues up terraces keeping to the RHS. Both paths then converge and continue to the LHS out of the valley on a more substantial path that soon becomes a narrow track. Ignore two tracks that join on your RHS at km2.53 and 2.75 and press on until you join a wider track. (26mins, 1.99km)		47mins, 3.41km
Turn L onto this track then R onto a Y/W path signed "Sender del Dinosaurio" (5mins, 0.34km)		52mins, 3.75km
Continue through the trees over rope bridge with a sign on the far side that reads		

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<p>"Pasarela barranco del Leyva" and on past a sign on your RHS about a natural reservoir. Ignore a path that joins on your LHS (km4.02). A track that runs parallel on your LHS nearly converges with your path but stay on the path for a short distance until you reach a fire break and turn R here and steeply up hill (8mins, 0.66km)</p>	<p>a</p> <p>1hr 4.41km</p>
<p>The path levels for a while with good views of your intended struggle ahead up a steeper slope. Follow this until unexpectedly you come across a clear path going from R to L across your route. Take this to the R. (28mins, 1.06km)</p>	<p>1hr28min,5.47km</p>
<p>Follow this past 3 zigs to the L and then when approaching what might have been a 4th zig to the L the path continues ahead through a breach in the rock, round a spur and drops a little.(10mins, 0.50km)</p>	<p>1hr38min,5.97km</p>
<p>Keep ahead on this path as it moves across the slope rising steadily to reach a viewpoint of the final set of zig zags up a rocky gully – named el Caracol. (22mins, 1.10km)</p>	<p>2hrs, 7.07km</p>
<p>Take these and arrive at a spur which the path crosses and drops briefly with the continuation of our path clear above us on a spur in the distance. Take care when you reach a rocky spur to find the continuation of the path turning L at a patch of scree and stones. (19mins, 0.90km)</p>	<p>2hr19min,7.97km</p>
<p>Continue to follow up in zig zags gently making your way into a barranco that separates the main ridge from the summit of Morron de Alhama.</p>	
<p>At the top of the barranco turn L where you will see a clear path going across to the peak from R to L on a rising line which does not appear to be going to the top. This is because you need to clear 2 small scramble crags.</p>	
<p>The first is very short and after this the path climbs quite steeply for a few metres to reach the second crag line.</p>	
<p>This is easily surmounted by working up the middle for a few metres and then taking to a sloping ramp up to the R to emerge on easier ground which you follow to the summit building.</p>	<p>2hr 42min, 9.71km</p>
<p>Retrace your steps down both scrambles and down to the first col where you rise up directly ahead to soon meet the clearer path.</p>	<p>3hrs, 10.07km</p>
<p>At the plateau with the main ridge in front of you keep to the path and follow this as it drifts R away from the ridge line And then starts to descend.</p>	
<p>Follow this faithfully at first descending very gradually and then more steeply to cross a barranco and some steeper scree. As you round a corner to the L there is a dramatic rocky fin jutting out away from the easier ground and we pass above this. (38mins, 1.60km)</p>	<p>3hr38min,11.67k</p>
<p>And continue around a spur on a less clear path. Now below and on the RHS we can see a clear track and building.</p>	
<p>Follow the cairns down a rocky spur and search for the cairns at the RH edge of this as it descends to a plateau with scattered boulders.</p>	
<p>Continue ahead looking for a clear "channel" that weaves through the rocks on the RHS of the ridge and beyond this look for a less well defined path that threads under a large bough (like an arch) of a pine tree and descends steeply in the direction of a track.</p>	
<p>Just before reaching this turn R on a clear path with Y/W markers and follow this down</p>	

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on the RHS of the barranco,	3hr45min,12.57k
Pass a ruined nevera and on to where the path joins the main track.	4hr10min,14.17k
Continue down this and take the first turning on the LHS. (You're now returning back to El Berro the way you came earlier) (33mins, 2.64km)	4hr40min,16.81k
Stay on this track (later to become a path) down into the valley where the path forks. (27mins, 1.91km)	5hr7min,18.72k
Take the R path. The paths then come together again and a barranco begins. The path continues down this barranco until it joins another (7mins, 0.46km)	5hr14min,19.18k
Turn R into this barranco (which is like a gravel drive most of the way with the path leaving now and again on either side to cut corners and find the easiest route) and continue to where the path leaves on the LHS up to a road. Turn R down this road then, after 30m, go L onto another road and you're back. (21mins, 1.39km)	5hr35min,20.57k
Walk Recommendations or restrictions	None

See map below.....

Route followed is outlined in Red

